

# Make the smart choice and hang on

## Don't be tempted to upgrade phone too often

**URGE TO UPGRADE:** Keen gamers and photography fans may see some benefits in regularly upgrading their phone - if they have the cash

It is the question that tech-savvy millennials mull over to no end - upgrade now or hang on for the next new smartphone? But is spending Dhs3,000-plus on an upgraded version of the model you already have worth it?

Well, according to one survey of 6,000 users, firms like Samsung and Apple bring out too many models each year.

Greenpeace, the environmental campaign group, said a majority of respondents to its poll would prefer to hang on to their handsets for longer, and see phones recycled or repaired to lengthen their lifespan.

7DAYS spoke to retailers and reviewers who said that image, work requirements and the sheer need to have the latest gadget all come into it.

Ashish Panjabi, Chief Operating Officer of electronics chain Jacky's Retail, believes that with the decline of a number of brands, consumers have fewer

**7DAYS.ae poll of 848 readers: How many times have you changed your phone in the past year?**

Zero	<b>63%</b>
Once	<b>26%</b>
2-4 times	<b>6%</b>
More than 5 times	<b>5%</b>

reasons to try out new models and are more likely to stick with what they have.

Panjabi, who has two phones, said: "On average, I replace each one once a year. In a particularly active year, I may switch between the two phones.

"I think I used to switch more often probably about two years ago, when there were many more relevant brands and operating systems." Having the latest model is more about style than any technological benefit, he

added. Panjabi said: "Image plays a big part for many people and the urge to change can be driven by image more than utility at times."

But he added: "Battery life does degrade over time, so a newer device will normally give you back that advantage."

Apple has a major refresh every two years - the iPhone 7 is set to arrive next month - and an S version refresh 12 months into that cycle.

Samsung also alternates its upgrades for the Galaxy S and Galaxy Note lines in Winter/Spring and Summer/Autumn every year.

Nick Rego, Senior Editor at the Dubai-based tech review website tbreak.com, said such 'refresh' models boast few improvements.

He said: "Unless your phone is falling apart or

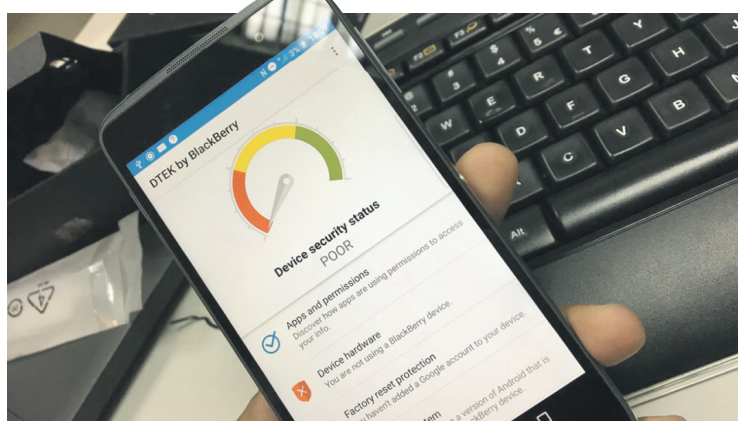
is damaged, there's no burning desire to upgrade your phone, especially if it's just an incremental upgrade in features. It just turns out to be an unnecessary waste of money."

Tech video blogger Mohsin Khan, known as Emkwan, disagreed and said the refresh models tend to have better security, better cameras and can run graphics more smoothly.

He said: "Latest operating systems are most likely to be able to run the most recent versions of apps, have better camera technology, have longer battery life - and look better".

So if you're a hardcore Pokemon Go fan with dirhams to spare, that could be the game changer for you.

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## Safe and smart - but not geared up for games

When you live your life through your phone - paying bills, buying goods and even tracking your children - you want to know you're safe. But many of us presume we're the only ones looking at that 5in screen, whereas the reality could be different.

Enter the BlackBerry DTEK50, the Canadian firm's second security-focused model, that, it claims, is the safest on the market. The DTEK is the cheaper alternative to the BlackBerry

Priv. It has a price tag of about Dhs1,100 compared to the Priv's Dhs2,500.

This means it's competing more in Samsung J series territory. The Priv itself has struggled to compete with the Samsung S and iPhone. The main attributes of the DTEK are security settings for every individual app. This means apps can't use the internet, contacts or location without your approval.

It also features a real-time display of how at risk you could be (pictured

left) - useful given the trend to use free Wi-Fi.

The 5.2-inch DTEK also has a 13-megapixel camera, is light and has good build quality, but struggles with graphics, and games lag noticeably. Given BlackBerry's shift into software and government security, it appears they know what they're doing. But, as CEO John Chen said, the firm is exiting the phone market, so you feel recent models are an afterthought.

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