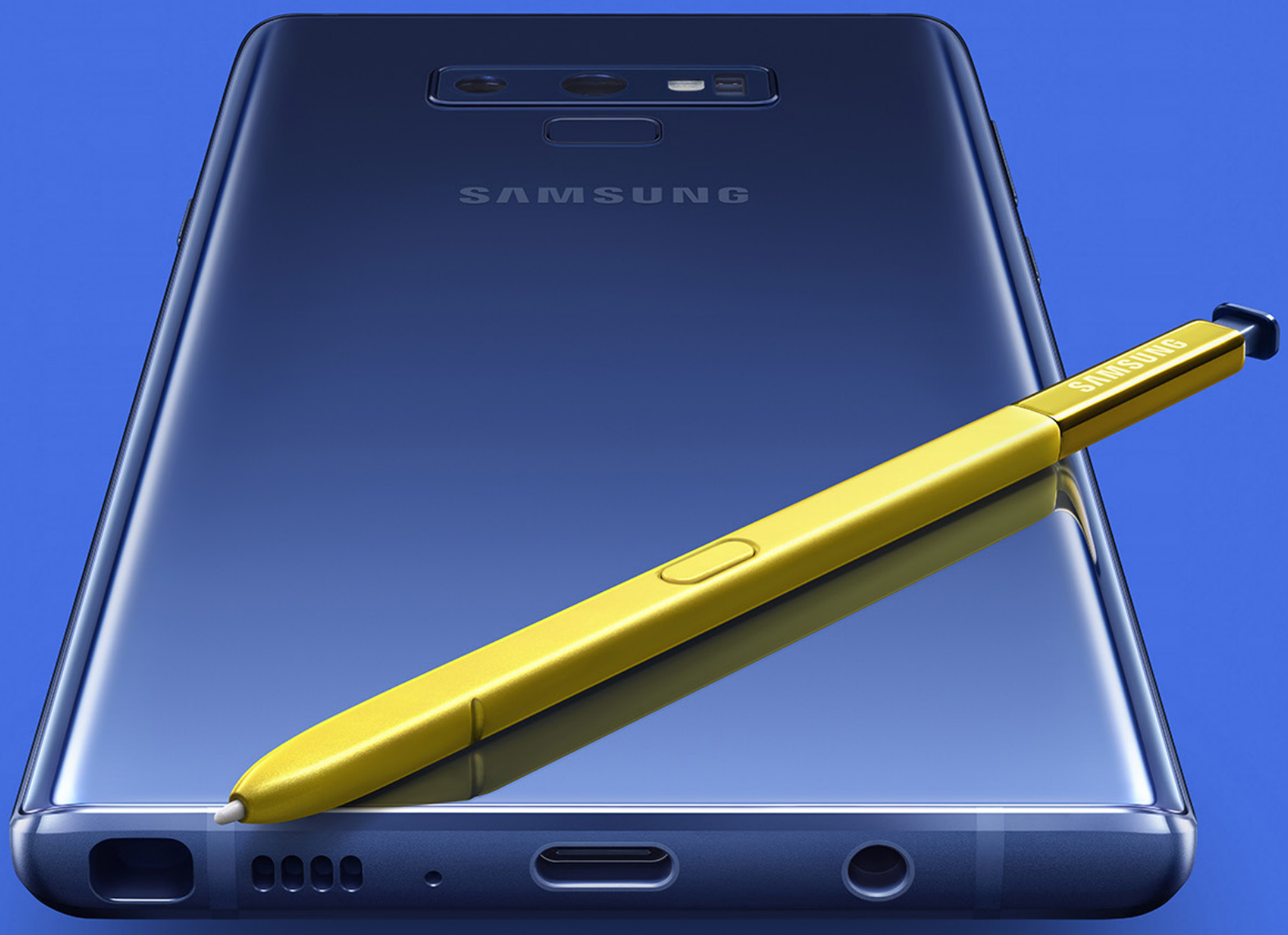

Galaxy Note 9

Special

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Index

Click to jump to the page

Samsung Galaxy Note 9 hands-on: Return of the ‘true’ Note flagship?

Samsung Galaxy Note 9 price and release date

Galaxy Note 9 price on Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint

Samsung Galaxy Note 9 official specifications

Specs comparison: Samsung Galaxy Note 9 vs Galaxy Note 8

Specs comparison: Samsung Galaxy Note 9 vs Galaxy Note 5

Galaxy Note 9 launched with intelligent camera, 4,000mAh battery and new S Pen

Bixby on Galaxy Note 9 is more powerful and conversational

Software updates: One big reason to buy a Galaxy Note 9 over the Galaxy Note 8

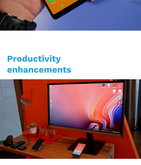
Samsung Galaxy Note 9 hands-on: Return of the 'true' Note flagship?

Samsung's latest flagship phone, the Galaxy Note 9, is like a sleeper agent. At the outset, you can't really tell what is different here compared to the Galaxy Note 8, but there are more than a handful of upgrades under the hood, including the S Pen that resides in its slot at the right side of the phone. We recently went hands-on with the Galaxy Note 9 in New York City, so let's talk about our early impressions of Samsung's new flagship.

Design and feel

Picking up the Galaxy Note 9, we noticed the increased width but not the higher thickness. The phone is thick thanks to the bigger battery (4,000 mAh), but it's hard to really tell the difference in the hand. The same goes for the slightly bigger screen (0.1 inches more than the Note 8's). The phone has diamond-cut edges to make it appear slim and a matte finish for the metal frame, the same as the Galaxy S9 and Galaxy S9+, so it looks quite classy, especially the Metallic Copper model. There's a matching S Pen on all models except the Ocean Blue model, which has a yellow S Pen with a blue top.

The front, as we said earlier, is quite similar to the Galaxy Note 8, but the back has two important changes. The first is the fingerprint sensor, which has been placed below the rear camera. It's still not the perfect position and is a bit too high. The dual cameras, meanwhile, are set up horizontally as they were on the Note 8, but Samsung has decided to make the area around the camera lenses match that of the rest of the back, a minor change that goes a long way in improving the phone's look. Overall, the Galaxy Note 9 feels solid and as premium as we have come to expect any Samsung flagship.



Productivity enhancements

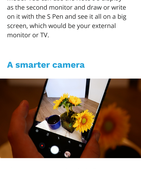
The user interface on the Galaxy Note 9 didn't feel any different to us compared to the Galaxy Note 8. But it felt smooth in operation and the changes should be apparent to us as we get to spend more time with the device. Even Bixby 2.0 was nowhere to be seen. The one new feature on the software front is called S Pen Remote, which can be toggled on or off. The S Pen on the Galaxy Note 9 has a low-energy Bluetooth chip inside that lets you use the stylus to take pictures (or switch between front and rear cameras), control presentations, and perform functions in apps like YouTube and Gallery (such as skipping a video or sifting through images).

Samsung will offer an SDK so third-party apps can take advantage of the Bluetooth S Pen, allowing them to assign functions to single or double presses of the S Pen button. If you're worried about the S Pen's battery, you shouldn't be. Thanks to a capacitor that powers the Bluetooth chip, the stylus can be charged for 200 clicks of usage in approximately 40 seconds of charging when it is resting in the slot. Of course, you can choose to not use the remote functions at all, in which case the S Pen works as well as it did on the Galaxy Note 8.

Samsung should also be proud of the new inbuilt DeX mode. The Note 9 can be connected to an external monitor with a Type-C to HDMI adapter to enable DeX mode, without needing the DeX Pad. The phone has a water cooling strip inside to help it keep temperatures under control in DeX mode. The best part about DeX mode? You can use the Note 9's display as the second monitor and draw or write on it with the S Pen and see it all on a big screen, which would be your external monitor or TV.

A smarter camera

The rear camera on the Note 9 is exactly the same as the Galaxy S9+, but Samsung has built in artificial intelligence to recognize the type of scene and optimize pictures. The feature is called Scene Optimizer and it matches each scene with 20 different presets, and so our eyes the images came out way richer. However, the scene optimizer didn't always work, which may be due to unfinished software.

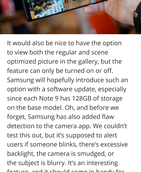


It would also be nice to have the option to view both the regular and scene optimized picture in the gallery, but the feature can only be turned on or off. Samsung will hopefully introduce such an option with a software update, especially since each Note 9 has 128GB of storage on the base model. Oh, and before we forget, Samsung has also added flaw detection to the camera app. We couldn't test this out, but it's supposed to alert users if someone blinks, there's excessive backlight, the camera is smudged, or the subject is blurry. It's an interesting feature, and it should come in handy for the selfie fanatics.

Conclusion

All in all, Samsung seems to have nailed it with the Galaxy Note 9. What makes it extra special is that it's an excellent upgrade even for those who own the year-old Note 8. The phones look similar, but there are plenty of differences in areas that matter. The S Pen is also much more useful now. It's odd how Samsung never thought of bringing Bluetooth functionality to the stylus on the Note smartphone lineup before this. Perhaps the company did it now because it was running out of ideas, but we're not going to complain.

Of course, the overall user experience is something that we would only be able to comment on after living with the Galaxy Note 9 for a couple of weeks. If you are interested in the Note 9 but aren't sure if you should buy it, you should wait for our official review, which will dive deeper into aspects such as performance, battery life, and just how well some of the new software features work.



Samsung Galaxy Note 9 price and release date

The Galaxy Note 9 is now official as Samsung's most feature-packed flagship yet. The company has thrown in everything it could think of, including an S Pen with Bluetooth control and a huge battery, alongside everything we saw on the Galaxy S9 and Galaxy S9+. That includes stereo speakers, the latest silicon, and a camera that can switch between two apertures and take 960 fps slow-motion videos. What will all of this cost you, the consumer, and when will the Galaxy Note 9 release?

Galaxy Note 9 price starts at €999

The Galaxy Note 9 brings a lot to the table compared to even the Galaxy Note 8, but Samsung has decided to go with a similar price tag for its new device. The Galaxy Note 9 will be available for €999 in Europe for the base variant, which comes with 128GB internal storage. The 512GB variant, meanwhile, will cost €1,249. The pricing will be similar in non-European markets, or around $950. From August 9 to August 23, Samsung will take pre-orders and offer €100 for trading in an old smartphone. If you hand over a Note device, you will get €200 instead, which should make the upgrade less heavy on your pockets.

As for the release date, the phone will – you guessed it – hit retail shelves on August 24 in Ocean Blue, Midnight Black, and Lavender Purple. The 512GB model will only be available in Midnight Black. European markets are also expected to miss out on the copper color option. Not all color options may be available in other regions, either, and we will only get to know as and when Samsung divulges pricing and release information for each country.

Galaxy Note 9 price on Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint

Samsung has officially unveiled the Galaxy Note 9 today and its carrier partners in the United States have now confirmed how much the device is going to cost and when it's going to be available. Pre-orders open in a couple of days and August 24 has been confirmed as the Galaxy Note 9 release date.

Verizon

Verizon confirms that it will start taking pre-orders for the Galaxy Note 9 on August 10 at midnight, ET. The handset will be released and available in stores on August 24. The 128GB Galaxy Note 9 will be available for $41.66 per month for 24 months on the device payment plan. The 512GB model will cost $52.08 per month for 24 months. The full retail price is $999 and $1,249 respectively.

AT&T

AT&T has announced that customers can pre-order the Galaxy Note 9 from the North American carrier starting tomorrow. The phone will hit retail shelves on August 24, and the lowest price comes up to $33.34 for 30 months on an AT&T Next plan. New connections will also be able to get the phone for free by receiving credits over the course of 30 months, effectively bringing the price down to zero for the device itself. Color options will include Lavender Purple and Ocean Blue.

T-Mobile

T-Mobile is taking pre-orders for the Galaxy Note 9 starting tonight at 9:01 pm PT. It will also release the device on August 24. The 128GB and 512GB models cost $999 and $1,249 respectively at full retail. The 128GB model is $30 per month for 24 months on T-Mobile's 24 month EIP plan and $40 per month for 18 months on its JOD plan. The 512GB Galaxy Note 8 is $30 per month for 24 months. It's not available on the JOD plan.

Sprint

Sprint opens pre-orders for the Galaxy Note 9 on August 10 and expects to deliver devices as early as August 22. It's offering customers 50 percent off the device with Sprint Flex Lease or $20.84 per month on an 18 month lease with a new line of service. With its Galaxy Forever program, Sprint customers will be able to the latest Galaxy after 12 Sprint Flex payments.

What's new in the Galaxy Note 9 S Pen

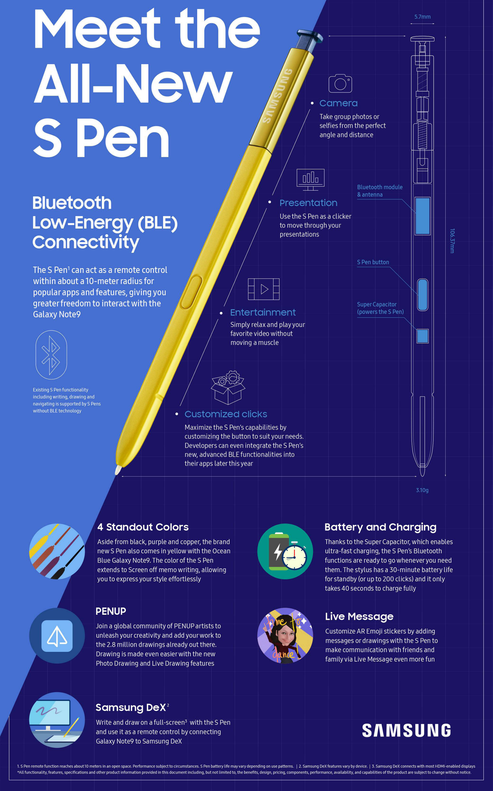
The S Pen has received its biggest update ever with the Galaxy Note 9. It's the first time that the stylus has got Bluetooth support. This enables the S Pen to perform a wide variety of features that were just not possible before.

Some of you must be wondering what's new in Galaxy Note 9 S Pen. The important thing to note (pun intended) is that all of the features that S Pen users already know and love are still there. This includes screen off memo, the Air Command menu and more. Even when it's not charged, the S Pen can still perform all of those features.

The new S Pen has a Bluetooth Low-Energy module and antenna which enables it to act as a remote control within a 10-meter radius of the device. It can be used as a shutter button for the camera, as a clicker during a presentation or even as a remote to play and pause video.

There's a Super Capacitor built inside the S Pen which can charge it fully in 40 seconds. It will last for 30 minutes on a full charge and that Super Capacitor will ensure that your stylus never runs out of charge since you're always going to put it back inside whenever you're done using it.

Check out the infographic posted below to find out in detail what's new in Galaxy Note 9 S Pen. Don't forget to read our Galaxy Note 9 hands-on for additional details about the stylus.



Samsung Galaxy Note 9 official specifications

Samsung has finally unveiled the Galaxy Note 9 in New York City today, but the company didn't exactly have enough to surprise us with thanks to all the leaks and rumors. We have already published our hands-on experience with the device and compared its specs with its predecessors. For the complete specs of the Galaxy Note 9, our device page has all the details you need, but if you wanted to look at Samsung's official spec sheet, you can do so in the table below.

Specs

Galaxy Note 9
Display
6.4-inch Quad HD+ Super AMOLED, 2960×1440 (516ppi) *Screen measured diagonally as a full rectangle without accounting for the rounded corners *Default resolution is Full HD+ and can be changed to Quad HD+ (WQHD+) in Settings
Camera
Rear: Dual Camera with Dual OIS (Optical Image Stabilization) – Wide-angle: Super Speed Dual Pixel 12MP AF, F1.5/F2.4, OIS – Telephoto: 12MP AF, F2.4, OIS – 2X optical zoom, up to 10X digital zoom Front: 8MP AF, F1.7
Body
161.9 x 76.4 x 8.8mm, 201g, IP68 (BLE S Pen: 5.7 x 4.35 x 106.37mm, 3.1g, IP68) *Carrying an IP68 dust and water resistance rating. Based on test conditions of submersion in up to 1.5 meters of fresh water for up to 30 minutes
AP (Processor)
10nm 64-bit Octa-core processo (Max. 2.7 GHz + 1.7 GHz) 10nm 64-bit Octa-core processor (Max. 2.8 GHz + 1.7 GHz) *May differ by market and mobile operator
Memory
6GB RAM (LPDDR4), 128GB + MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) 8GB RAM (LPDDR4), 512GB + MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) *May differ by market and mobile operator *User memory is less than the total memory due to storage of the operating system and software used to operate the device features. Actual user memory will vary depending on the operator and may change after software upgrades are performed.
SIM card
Single: one Nano SIM and one MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) Hybrid: one Nano SIM and one Nano SIM or one MicroSD slot (up to 512GB) *May differ by market and mobile operator
Battery
4,000mAh Fast Charging compatible on wired and wireless Wired charging compatible with QC2.0 and AFC Wireless charging compatible with WPC and PMA *May differ by market and mobile operator
OS
Android 8.1 (Oreo)
Network
Enhanced 4×4 MIMO, 5CA, LAA, LTE Cat.18 *May differ by market and mobile operator
Connectivity
Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac (2.4/5GHz), VHT80 MU-MIMO, 1024QAM, Bluetooth® v 5.0 (LE up to 2Mbps), ANT+, USB Type-C, NFC, Location (GPS, Galileo*, Glonass, BeiDou*) *Galileo and BeiDou coverage may be limited.
Payment
NFC, MST
Sensors
Accelerometer, Barometer, Fingerprint Sensor, Gyro Sensor, Geomagnetic Sensor, Hall Sensor, Heart Rate Sensor, Proximity Sensor, RGB Light Sensor, Iris Sensor, Pressure Sensor
Authentication
Lock Type: Pattern, Pin, Password Biometric Lock Types: Iris Scanner, Fingerprint Scanner, Facial Recognition Intelligent scan: Combines iris scan and face recognition for convenient unlocking and in some cases provides enhanced security for certain authentication services

Specs comparison: Samsung Galaxy Note 9 vs Galaxy Note 8

Last year, the Galaxy Note 8 brought the Note lineup into the modern age following the Galaxy S8 and Galaxy S8+. In addition to the Infinity display, the Galaxy Note 8 was also the first Samsung flagship with dual rear cameras. Thanks to the fact that the Galaxy Note 7 was taken off the market, the Galaxy Note 8 came off as a huge upgrade for Galaxy Note 5 or Galaxy Note 4 owners.

Samsung has now unveiled the Galaxy Note 9, and you are probably wondering how it compares to its predecessor as far as specs are concerned. Well, it comes off as quite the upgrade even over the Galaxy Note 8, as the Note 9 gets the best of both the Galaxy Note 8 and the Galaxy S9+. You have stereo speakers, the biggest battery yet of any Samsung flagship (not counting the Galaxy S Active smartphones), 8GB of RAM, a Bluetooth-enabled S Pen, and more.

Spec comparison

Galaxy Note 9	Galaxy Note 8
Display	
6.4-inch Quad HD+ (2960×1440) Infinity, Super AMOLED, 18.5:9, 516 ppi	6.3-inch Quad HD+ Infinity, Super AMOLED, 18.5:9, 521 ppi
S Pen	
Yes, 4,096 pressure levels, Bluetooth control	Yes, 4,096 pressure levels
Processor	
Exynos 9810/ Snapdragon 845 Octa-core, 10nm, 64-bit	Samsung Exynos 8895/Qualcomm Snapdragon 835, 64-bit, 10nm
Ram	
6GB/8GB	6GB
Rear Camera	
12-megapixel primary, Dual Aperture (F1.5-F2.4), Dual Pixel, OIS 12-megapixel telephoto secondary, F2.4, 2x optical zoom, OIS	12-megapixel primary, F1.7, Dual Pixel, OIS 12-megapixel telephoto secondary, F2.4, OIS, 2x optical zoom
Front Camera	
8-megapixel autofocus, F1.7 aperture	8-megapixel, autofocus, f/1.9
Storage	
128GB/512GB internal, microSD slot (up to 512GB)	64GB/256GB internal, microSD slot (up to 256GB)
Software	
Android 8.1 Oreo, upgradeable to Android 9.0 Pie	Android 7.1.1, upgradeable to Android 8.0
Battery	
4,000 mAh, fast wired and fast wireless charging	3,300 mAh, fast wired and fast wireless charging
Connectivity	
Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, MU-MIMO, LTE Cat.18, Bluetooth® v 5.0, ANT+, USB Type-C, NFC, GPS, Galileo, Glonass, BeiDou)	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, LTE Cat.16, MU-MIMO, Bluetooth® v 5.0, ANT+, USB Type-C, NFC, GPS, Galileo, Glonass, BeiDou
Security	
Fingerprint sensor (rear), iris scanner, facial recognition, Intelligent Scan (iris + face)	Fingerprint sensor (rear), iris scanner, facial recognition
Other Features	
Samsung Pay (NFC+MST), Bixby 2.0, IP68 water resistance, heart rate sensor, AKG earphones, stereo speakers, Dolby Atmos, DeX mode, AR Emoji, Super slow-mo (960 fps)	Samsung Pay (NFC+MST), Bixby, water resistance, heart rate sensor, AKG earphones
Dimensions	
161.9 x 76.4 x 8.8mm, 201g	162.5 x 74.8 x 8.6 mm, 195g

Specs comparison: Samsung Galaxy Note 9 vs Galaxy Note 5

The Galaxy Note 9 has been officially announced today. Samsung fans have long been looking forward to this new device as it was expected to bring some great new improvements. It has the largest battery ever for a Galaxy flagship, the first S Pen with Bluetooth support and even 512GB of onboard storage. Thus a Galaxy Note 9 vs Galaxy Note 5 specs comparison goes to show just how rapidly the technology has advanced in the past couple of years.

Spec comparison

Many Galaxy Note faithful who stuck with their Galaxy Note 5 will now be particularly interested in this specs comparison and there certainly is a world of difference between the two devices. The Galaxy Note 9 has a noticeably larger and higher resolution display, a more capable S Pen, powerful internals, double the RAM (in the 512GB variant) and a significantly improved camera. The 4,000mAh battery is a particularly noteworthy addition.

It's unquestionably a viable update for Galaxy Note 5 owners who now want to upgrade their devices. Many will be ready to do that, particularly owners in the US, who may no longer have contract constraints restricting them from upgrading. Do check out the full Galaxy Note 9 vs Galaxy Note 5 specs comparison down below to get a better idea of how these two devices stack up against each other.

Galaxy Note 9	Galaxy Note 5
Display	
6.4-inch Quad HD+ (2960×1440) Infinity, Super AMOLED, 18.5:9, 516 ppi	5.7-inch Quad HD (2560×1440), Super AMOLED, 16:9, 518 ppi
S Pen	
Yes, 4,096 pressure levels, Bluetooth control	Yes, 2,048 pressure levels
Processor	
Exynos 9810/ Snapdragon 845 Octa-core, 10nm, 64-bit	Exynos 7420, 64-bit, 14nm
Ram	
6GB/8GB	4GB
Rear Camera	
12-megapixel primary, Dual Aperture (F1.5-F2.4), Dual Pixel, OIS 12-megapixel telephoto secondary, F2.4, 2x optical zoom, OIS	16-megapixel, F1.9, OIS
Front Camera	
8-megapixel autofocus, F1.7 aperture	5-megapixel, F1.9
Storage	
128GB/512GB internal, microSD slot (up to 512GB)	32GB/64GB, no expansion
Software	
Android 8.1 Oreo, upgradeable to Android 9.0 Pie	Lollipop, upgradeable to Android 7.0 Nougat
Battery	
4,000 mAh, fast wired and fast wireless charging	3,000 mAh, fast wired and fast wireless charging
Connectivity	
Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, MU-MIMO, LTE Cat.18, Bluetooth® v 5.0, ANT+, USB Type-C, NFC, GPS, Galileo, Glonass, BeiDou)	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, MIMO, LTE Cat.6/Cat.9, Bluetooth® v 4.2 LE, ANT+, USB 2.0, NFC, GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou
Security	
Fingerprint sensor (rear), iris scanner, facial recognition, Intelligent Scan (iris + face)	Fingerprint sensor (front)
Other Features	
Samsung Pay (NFC+MST), Bixby 2.0, IP68 water resistance, heart rate sensor, AKG earphones, stereo speakers, Dolby Atmos, DeX mode, AR Emoji, Super slow-mo (960 fps)	Samsung Pay (NFC+MST), heart rate sensor
Dimensions	
161.9 x 76.4 x 8.8mm, 201g	153.2 x 76.1 x 7.6 mm, 171g

Bixby on Galaxy Note 9 is more powerful and conversational

Samsung had promised that it would showcase Bixby improvements with the Galaxy Note 9. The improvements were previously referred to as Bixby 2.0. While the company isn't branding it as such, its digital assistant is now more powerful and conversational than ever before.

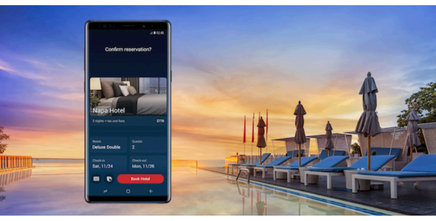
There's an all-new interface for Bixby Voice. The improvements that Samsung has made to its assistant aren't just cosmetic. It's better at processing natural language and thus has quicker response times. It can even understand the user's habits and offer a more personal experience, so it's also more powerful.

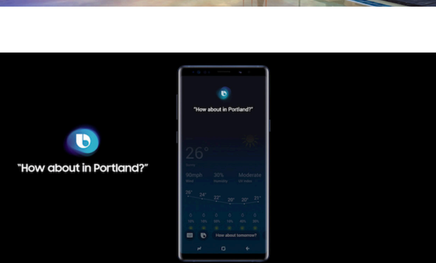
During the demonstration at its event today, Samsung showcased that it's now possible to have more natural conversations with the assistant. For example, if you ask Bixby about concerts in Brooklyn over Labor Day weekend and follow up with a question like "What about the first weekend in October?" Bixby will remember that you previously asked it about concerts and it will surface the relevant results. There's no need to remind Bixby of what you were talking about before.

Bixby is even better at making recommendations based on the user's preferences. If you ask it for restaurant recommendations, Bixby will surface options that are related to the places where you have made reservations in the past. If you decide to make a reservation, it will also autofill the number of people in your party and preferred time based on those previous reservations.

Samsung has also improved Bixby's integration with other apps. It can pull up directions from Google Maps at the touch of a button and can even let users call an Uber with just voice commands.

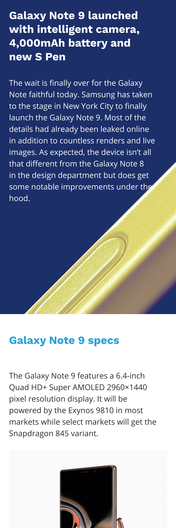
Many Samsung fans have long been frustrated with Bixby but the company will be hoping that it addresses their concerns and gets them to give its assistant another chance with this latest update. Whether or not Bixby on Galaxy Note 9 succeeds in doing that remains to be seen. Since these are software-based improvements, it's unclear as yet when these Bixby improvements will be released for existing devices like the Galaxy S8, Galaxy S9 and Galaxy Note 8.





Galaxy Note 9 launched with intelligent camera, 4,000mAh battery and new S Pen

The wait is finally over for the Galaxy Note faithful today. Samsung has taken to the stage in New York City to finally launch the Galaxy Note 9. Most of the details had already been leaked online in addition to countless renders and live images. As expected, the device isn't all that different from the Galaxy Note 8 in the design department but does get some notable improvements under the hood.



Galaxy Note 9 specs

The Galaxy Note 9 features a 6.4-inch Quad HD+ Super AMOLED 2960×1440 pixel resolution display. It will be powered by the Exynos 9810 in most markets while select markets will get the Snapdragon 845 variant.

The rumors about the memory and storage options have turned out to be accurate. The base model now has 128GB of storage and comes with 6GB of RAM. Samsung will also sell a model with 512GB storage and 8GB RAM. Both feature support for external expansion via microSD card up to 512GB.

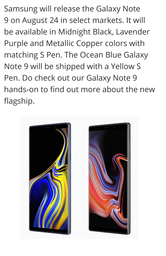
The Galaxy Note 9's 6.4-inch Super AMOLED display will be great for content consumption. It will be aided by AKG-tuned stereo speakers to deliver Dolby Atmos immersive audio. YouTube has actually named the Galaxy Note 9 as a Signature Device to deliver "best-in-class" YouTube experience.

The new flagship has a whole host of other features and improvements. It supports fast wireless charging, Samsung Pay, Samsung Health, has IP68 water and dust resistance, a fingerprint scanner at the back, iris scanning and facial recognition capabilities. Android 8.1 Oreo will be pre-installed on the device.

Largest battery ever on a Galaxy flagship

Rumors had also suggested that the Galaxy Note 9 would feature a 4,000mAh battery. Samsung confirmed this today. It's the largest battery ever on a flagship Galaxy smartphone and will let users play games, watch movies, talk, and text from morning to night. To ensure that everything works as it should, the Galaxy Note 9 also features a Samsung-developed Water Carbon Cooling system and an on-device AI-based performance adjusting algorithm to balance powerful performance with stability.

Variable aperture dual camera with intelligent software features



The Galaxy Note 9 has the same variable aperture 12-megapixel f1.5/f2.4 + 12-megapixel f2.4 dual camera system with 2X optical zoom at the back as the Galaxy S9+. It has developed some software features to let users get more out of the camera. The Scene Optimizer uses intelligence to identify elements of a photo like the scene and subject. It then automatically classifies into one of 20 categories and instantly optimizes settings to provide the best possible shot. Flaw Detection will let users know if the subject blinked or the image is blurry so that they can easily take another picture without losing the moment. There's also an 8-megapixel f/1.7 front camera.

DeX-compatible without needing a dock

The handset is also capable of powering a PC-like experience when hooked up to an external monitor through Samsung DeX. It doesn't need a dock for it anyone much like the recently launched Galaxy Tab S4. It will be possible to use DeX with the Galaxy Note 9 using HDMI adapters. When it's connected to a monitor, the Galaxy Note 9 can run a virtualized desktop and can also double as a fully-functional second screen. The display can be used as a trackpad to right-click, drag and drop and use multiple windows on the monitor. Users will also be able to take notes with the S Pen while watching a video.

New S Pen with Bluetooth support

Speaking of the S Pen, it does indeed have Bluetooth Low-Energy support. The stylus has been a signature feature of the Galaxy Note series and Samsung has now expanded what users can do with it. A simple click is all that's needed now to take selfies and group photos. The same goes for presenting slides, playing and pausing video, and more. Samsung will even enable developers to integrate the S Pen's BLE functionalities into third-party apps later this year.

Release date

Samsung will release the Galaxy Note 9 on August 24 in select markets. It will be available in Midnight Black, Lavender Purple and Metallic Copper colors with matching S Pen. The Ocean Blue Galaxy Note 9 will be shipped with a Yellow S Pen. Do check out our Galaxy Note 9 hands-on to find out more about the new flagship.

Galaxy Note 9 pre-order gifts include AKG headphones and Fortnite V-bucks

Samsung has confirmed the Galaxy Note 9 price and release date today. Its carrier partners will soon start taking pre-orders and will release the handset on August 24. The company obviously wants a lot of people to pre-order the Galaxy Note 9 which is why it's offering Galaxy Note 9 pre-order gifts.

The company has a habit of offering incentives to customers who pre-order its handsets so this is hardly surprising. In the weeks leading up to the launch, we had heard that the Galaxy Note 9 pre-order gifts would include AKG headphones and in-game currency for Fortnite, which is exclusive to Samsung's Galaxy smartphones for now.

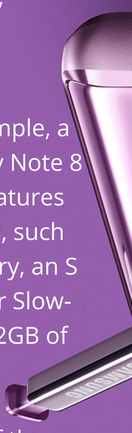
Pre-order gifts

The pre-order gifts tend to vary by market but in most places, Samsung is going to offer a pair of AKG noise-canceling headphones as an incentive. The headphones cost $299 at retail. Customers who don't want them can opt for the unique Fornite Galaxy skin with 15,000 V-bucks worth $150. Those who want both can pay $99 over and above the smartphone's cost.

Samsung's regional divisions will confirm their Galaxy Note 9 pre-order gifts in due course. Customers in most markets should expect to receive these incentives that the company is offering to customers in the United States.

Customers should keep in mind that they will only be able to get these gifts if they pre-order the Galaxy Note 9 before August 23.

Software updates: One big reason to buy a Galaxy Note 9 over the Galaxy Note 8



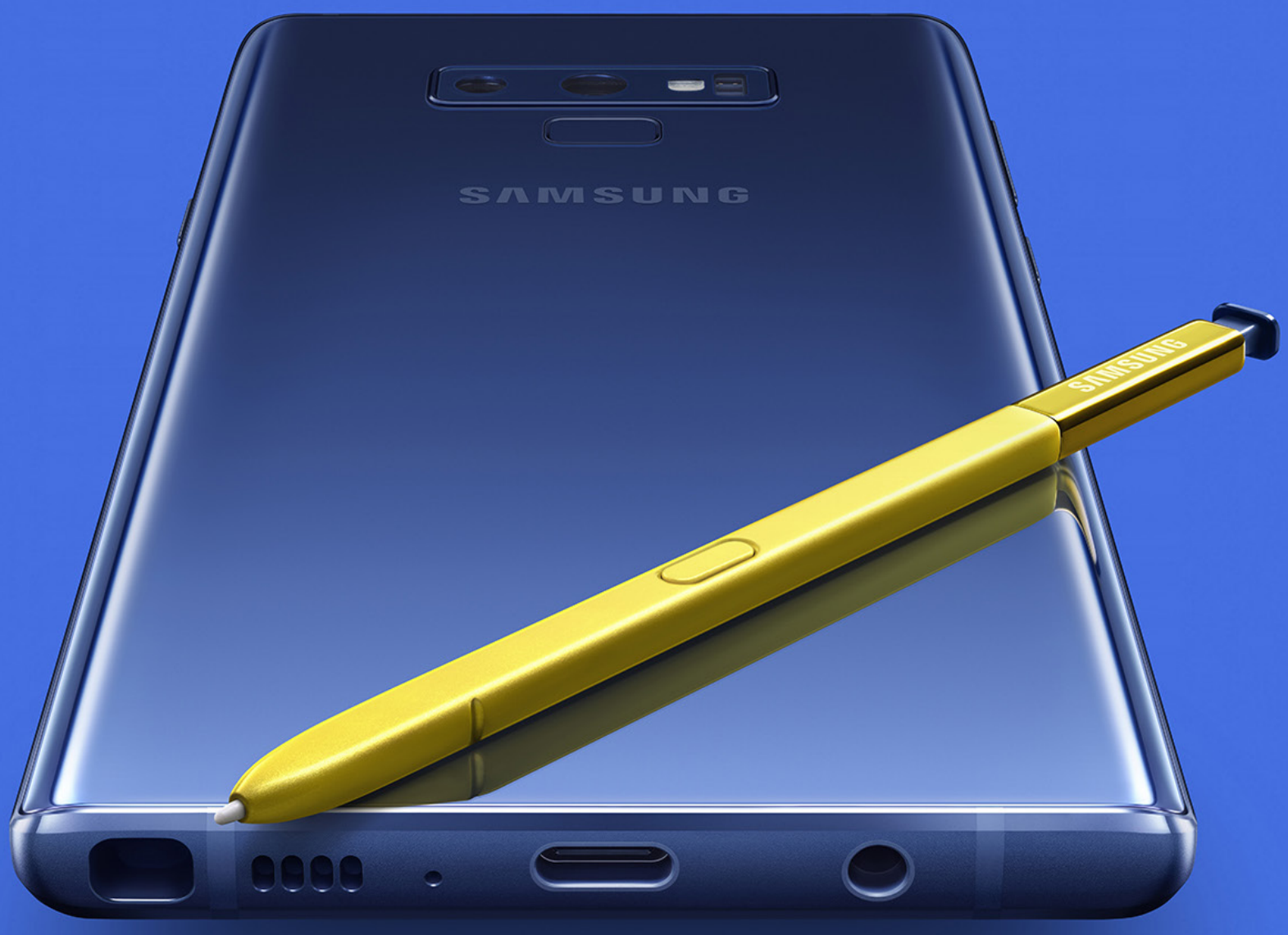
The Galaxy Note 9 is, plain and simple, a tempting upgrade for even Galaxy Note 8 owners. It brings plenty of new features that aren't available on the Note 8, such as stereo speakers, a bigger battery, an S Pen that works as a remote, Super Slow-mo video recording, and up to 512GB of internal storage and 8GB of RAM.

But those who don't own either of these devices might be thinking these features aren't worth it and thinking of picking up a Galaxy Note 8 because it's now available for a lower price than it was launched for. There's a solid reason, however, for holding off and getting the Galaxy Note 9 later this month even if you have to save up some cash: software updates.

Galaxy Note 9 software updates are guaranteed till 2021

The Galaxy Note 8 runs Android 8.0 Oreo at the moment and the Galaxy Note 9 comes with Android 8.1 Oreo. The same software for the most part, right? Well, yes, but the difference is that the Galaxy Note 9 comes with Oreo out of the box, so it will be updated to Android Pie and Android Q (whatever it ends up being called). The Galaxy Note 8, meanwhile, will end its life at Pie, as Samsung only offers two major upgrades for each flagship. Security updates will also come out for the Galaxy Note 9 regularly till 2021 but the Note 8 will only have regular support until 2020.

So if you're someone who cares about software updates, the Galaxy Note 9 is ultimately the better device out of the two simply because it's newer and, therefore, going to be updated for a longer period. Of course, all the new features further add to the overall value of the Note 9, especially since its price is more or less similar to the Galaxy Note 8's launch price. And there's not even a competition if you compare it with the Galaxy Note 5, making it an ideal upgrade for Note 5 owners as well.



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