

Spb Mobile Shell 3.0

This touch-friendly Windows Mobile app will make your smart phone much easier to use.



Most Windows Mobile touchscreen smart phones have Apple envy when it comes to the iPhone's sleek user interface. The cure: Spb Software's Mobile Shell 3.0, which sits on top of Windows Mobile Professional 5 and higher to make viewing tasks, messages, contacts, and applications much easier and better looking. It even integrates with Facebook.

We tested Mobile Shell 3.0 with an AT&T HTC Fuze running Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional and were up and running in 5 minutes. The interface is clean, with a choice of background colors. You can view your desktop using the Professional or Lifestyle layout. Lifestyle includes the weather, time, battery life, e-mails, messages, and missed calls. Professional layout shows upcoming appointments, a two-week calendar, weather, and icons for missed calls, messages, and e-mails.

Below both layouts, a small cube button zooms out to present a 12-sided carousel of panels that you can navigate by swiping your finger. The panels launch applications, the Spb menu, contacts, weather, time, or your current profile (for things like ringer volume and tone). It's beautifully laid out and easy to navigate, and there was very little lag during the transitions. Mobile Shell 3.0 supports multiple e-mail accounts, and will open the first

account with unread e-mails.

Favorite Contacts may be the most useful feature. Once names and phone numbers are input, Mobile Shell 3.0 will cross match your friends' Facebook profiles and pictures automatically. Thumbnail images can be used as shortcuts to your address book. However, the app didn't pull down our own Facebook picture, and it wasn't able to find a few of our friends.

Spb Mobile Shell 3.0 is an excellent application that makes Windows Mobile much more user friendly, even for those who own HTC or Samsung devices with their own interface overlays. Its fast performance, widget customization, and bonus features like tight Facebook integration makes it worth the \$29.95 upgrade for any Windows Mobile Professional device.

—Todd Haselton

Spb Software **\$29.95**



www.spbsoftwarehouse.com



Slick, fast user interface
Integrated with Facebook
Multiple layouts and themes



Didn't retrieve photos for all Facebook contacts

