

SONY®

White paper

April 2016



Xperia™ Z2

D6502/D6503/D6543

Note: Screen images are simulated.

Purpose of this document

Sony product White papers are intended to give an overview of a product and provide details in relevant areas of technology.

Document history

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Sony Mobile Developer World

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4-12-3 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo, 140-0002 Japan

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Product overview

Highlights

- A large 1/2.3 inch 20.7 MP Exmor RS™ for mobile image sensor, Sony's G Lens, and intelligent BIONZ™ for mobile image processing engine. Video mode in 4K resolution with Steadyshot™ technology.
- A one-piece aluminium frame with scratch resistant glass and a high level of waterproofing (IP58 and IP55). Durable, sleek and super stylish.
- 5.2 inch Full HD TRILUMINOS™ display with Live Colour LED and X-Reality for mobile.
- Qualcomm Snapdragon Quad-core 2.3 GHz processor, 3 GB RAM and a high capacity 3200 mAh battery with Doze & App Standby

The new waterproof* Xperia™ Z2 combines new video modes such as Timeshift video, Steadyshot™, and 4K recording with the large 1/2.3 inch 20.7 MP Exmor RS™ for mobile image sensor, Sony's award-winning G Lens and intelligent BIONZ™ for mobile processing engine. It also features an expanded range of Xperia™ Camera apps that provide new and creative ways to record and share content.

The all new 5.2 inch display is built with the latest Sony technologies, including TRILUMINOS™ Display for mobile with Live Colour LED and X-Reality for mobile, for a stunning viewing experience, as close to reality as possible. To match the display, we have also added new and improved stereo speakers and support for noise cancelling headphones to give you an experience that only Sony can offer.

Powered by the latest Snapdragon Quad-core processor and a high capacity battery, the Xperia™ Z2 makes sure you don't get left behind. Perform faster and smarter than ever before.

** In compliance with IP55 and IP58, this smartphone is protected against the ingress of dust and is waterproof. Provided that all ports and covers are firmly closed, the phone is (i) protected against low pressure jets of water from all practicable directions in compliance with IP55; and/or (ii) can be kept under 1.50 metres of freshwater for up to 30 minutes in compliance with IP58. Find out more at www.sonymobile.com/testresults.*

Facts – dimensions, weight, performance and networks

Operating system	Google™ Android™ 6.0 (Marshmallow)
Processor	2.3 GHz Qualcomm MSM8974AB Quad Core
GPU	Adreno 330
Size	146.8 x 73.3 x 8.2 mm
Weight	163 grams
Available colours	Black, White, Purple for D6502/D6503
	Black, White for D6543
SIM card	micro SIM
Main screen	
Colours	16,777,216 colour TFT
Resolution	Full HD 1920x1080 pixels
Size (diagonal)	5.2 inches
Input mechanisms	
Text input	On-screen QWERTY keyboard
Touch screen	Capacitive
Touch gesture	Yes – multi-touch, up to 10 fingers supported
Memory	
RAM	3 GB
Flash memory	Up to 16 GB*
Expansion slot	microSD™ card, up to 128 GB (SDXC supported)
Camera	
Camera resolution	20.7 MP
Digital zoom	8x
Photo light	Yes – Pulsed LED
Video recording	Yes – 4K2K
Front Camera	Yes – HD 1080p for video chat and 2.2 MP for camera capture
ISO	ISO 3200 maximum in manual mode
Minimum Focus distance	100 mm
Sensors	
Accelerometer	Yes

Ambient light sensor	Yes
Barometer sensor	Yes
Game rotation vector	Yes
Geomagnetic rotation vector	Yes
Gyroscope	Yes
Magnetometer	Yes
Step counter	Yes
Step detector	Yes
Significant motion detector	Yes
Proximity sensor	Yes
Networks	
D6503	UMTS HSPA+ 850 (Band V), 900 (Band VIII), 1700 (Band IV), 1900 (Band II), 2100 (Band I) MHz GSM GPRS/EDGE 850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz LTE (Bands 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 17, 20)
D6502	UMTS HSPA+ 850 (Band V), 900 (Band VIII), 1700 (Band IV), 1900 (Band II), 2100 (Band I) MHz GSM GPRS/EDGE 850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz
D6543	UMTS HSPA+ 850 (Band V), 900 (Band VIII), 1700 (Band IV), 1900 (Band II), 2100 (Band I) MHz GSM GPRS/EDGE 850, 900, 1800, 1900 MHz LTE (Bands 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)
Data transfer speeds	
GSM GPRS	Up to 107 kbps
GSM EDGE	Up to 296 kbps
HSUPA (upload)	Cat 6, up to 5.8 Mbps
HSDPA (download)	Cat 24, up to 42 Mbps
LTE (upload)	Cat 4, up to 50 Mbps
LTE (download)	Cat 4, up to 150 Mbps
Talk time (GSM)	Up to 15 hours**
Standby time (GSM)	Up to 690 hours**
Talk time (UMTS)	Up to 19 hours**
Standby time (UMTS)	Up to 740 hours**
Standby time (LTE)	Up to 640 hours**
Music listening time	Up to 120 hours**
Video playback time	Up to 10 hours**

Battery (Embedded)	3200 mAh minimum
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** Memory comprises approximately 4GB of firmware, plus 12GB of “Internal storage” for music, pictures and movies, and downloaded applications and their data. For more details about memory, see “Memory in Android™ devices” on page 18.*




*** Values are according to GSM Association Battery Life Measurement Technique as performed in controlled laboratory conditions. Actual time may vary.*

NOTE: The battery performance may vary depending on network conditions and configurations, and device usage.

NOTE: Performance metrics were all measured under laboratory conditions.

Categorised feature list

 <p>Camera</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20.7 MP camera with Sony Exmor RS® for mobile image sensor 8x digital zoom AR Effect Auto focus Background Defocus Burst mode Creative effects HDR for photos and movies Face detection Flash/Pulsed LED Flash/Photo light Front-facing camera (2.2 MP 1080p) with Sony Exmor R® for mobile image sensor Geotagging Image stabiliser Object tracking Picture Effect Quick Launch Red-eye reduction Scene recognition Self-timer Send to web Smile Shutter™ Social live* SteadyShot™ Superior Auto Sweep Panorama Timeshift burst Timeshift video Touch capture Touch focus Video recording (4K2K) Vine* White balance 	 <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3D Surround Sound (VPT) Bluetooth® stereo (aptX®, A2DP) ClearAudio+ Clear Bass™ Dynamic normaliser Hi-Res audio via 3.5mm audio jack and USB Hi-Res audio (LPCM, FLAC, ALAC, DSD) Low power audio playback*** Music tones (MP3/AAC) Music application PlayNow™ service* Stereo speakers TrackID™ music recognition* 	 <p>Google</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bookmarks Google Chrome™* Google Play™* Google™ search* Google Voice™ Search* Google Maps™ for Mobile with Street view* Info-eye™* Pan & zoom Xperia™ Home Web browser (WebKit™)*
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 <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call list Enriched calling Google+* Hangouts™* Noise suppression Polyphonic ringtones Slow talk Smart call handling Speakerphone Talk equaliser Voice enhancement Xperia™ Socialife* 	 <p>Messaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversations Email Google Mail™* Handwriting recognition Instant messaging Multimedia messaging (MMS) Predictive text input Sound recorder Text messaging (SMS) 	 <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto rotation Direct touch Doze & App Standby Face Unlock Gesture input IPX5 and IPX8 (waterproof)** IP5X (Dust protected) On-screen QWERTY keyboard Stylus pen support Screenshot capturing Throw X-Reality™ for mobile Touch screen Triluminos™ Voice input Wallpaper
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Entertainment

3D games
Media browser
Motion gaming
PlayStation® Certified
Radio (FM radio with RDS)
Reader mode
Sony Entertainment Network*
Video streaming
YouTube™*



Organiser

Airplane mode
Alarm clock
Calculator
Calendar
Contacts
Document readers
Doze & App Standby
eCompass™
Setup guide
Sketch
Stopwatch
Tasks
Timer



Connectivity

3.5 mm audio jack Digital Noise Cancelling (DNC)
ActiveSync®
ANT+™ sport, fitness, health support
aGPS*
Bluetooth® 4.1 wireless technology
DLNA Certified®
Device Connection
GLONASS
MHL 3.0 support + 5-pin support
Media Transfer Protocol support
Micro USB support
NFC
Xperia™ Companion
Screen mirroring
Synchronisation via Facebook™
Synchronisation via Google™*
Synchronisation via SyncML™
Synchronisation via Exchange
USB Charging
USB Connection mode
USB High speed 2.0 support
USB Host
Xperia Link™
Wi-Fi®
Wi-Fi® Hotspot functionality
Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Miracast®

* This service is not available in all markets.

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*** This feature is only available when you play music using the Music application.

Technologies in detail

NOTE: The information outlined below is general and levels of compliance to standards and specifications may vary between products and markets. For more information, contact Sony Mobile Developer World or your Sony contact person where applicable.

Device-to-device communications (local)

ANT+™ wireless technology

Connectable devices	ANT+™ devices require download of a supporting application
Frequency band	2.4 GHz
Data transfer rate	Up to 60 Kbps
Encryption	AES-128
Topologies	One To Many, Many to One, Peer to Peer, Star, Practical Mesh

Bluetooth® wireless technology

Bluetooth® profiles supported	<p>Advanced Audio Distribution Profile v1.2 Audio/Video Remote Control Profile v1.3 Device Identification Profile v1.3 Generic Attribute Profile Client/Server over LE Handsfree Profile v1.7 (Wide band speech) Headset Profile v1.2 HID over GATT Profile v1.0 Human Interface Device Profile, Host role v1.0 Messaging Access Profile v1.2 Object Push Profile v1.2 Personal Area Networking Profile v1.0 Phonebook Access Profile v1.1 Serial Port Profile v1.2</p>
Core version and supported core features	<p>Version 4.1 Bluetooth Low Energy</p>
Other supported features	<p>aptX® CD quality audio streaming over Bluetooth® connection</p>
Connectable devices	<p>Products support at least one of the Bluetooth® profiles listed above. Bluetooth® 4.1 accessories generally require installation of a supporting application.</p>

More information:

www.sonymobile.com/developer

www.bluetooth.com

Wi-Fi®

Supported standards	IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n/ac and Wi-Fi® Wi-Fi Direct®, Wi-Fi Protected Setup™, Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Passpoint™, Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Miracast®
Connectable devices	Wi-Fi® access points Wi-Fi Direct® compatible devices
Frequency band	2.4 GHz/5 GHz
Data transfer rate	Up to 433 Mbit/s
Security	Open Authentication Shared Authentication EAP-SIM EAP-AKA EAP-AKA' EAP-TLS EAP-TTLS/MSCHAPv2 PEAPv0/EAP-MSCHAPv2 PEAPv1/EAP-GTC WPA Personal and WPA2 Personal WPA Enterprise and WPA2 Enterprise
Encryption	WEP 64 bit, WEP 128 bit, TKIP and CCMP (AES)
Power save	WMM®-UAPSD
QoS	WMM® WMM® Power Save

DLNA Certified® (Digital Living Network Alliance)

Supported Device Classes	<p>M-DMS – Mobile Digital Media Server Media Types: images, music and video Summary: The digital media server exposes the media files in your device to a Wi-Fi® network. The files can then be accessed from other DLNA Certified® clients.</p> <p>+PU+ Media Types: image, video and music Summary: Play media in your device on another device, such as a TV or a PC using 2 box push technology. +PU+ is integrated in the Album, Movies and Music applications.</p> <p>M-DMP – Mobile Digital Media Player Media Types: image, video and music Summary: Play content stored on another device, for example, a server or a PC, directly on your device.</p> <p>+DN+ Media Types: video and music Summary: Download content stored on another device, for example, a server or a PC, and play the downloaded content directly on your device.</p>
Supported Bearers	Wi-Fi® Wi-Fi® Direct
DRM Support	The DLNA Certified® implementation does not support DRM-protected content.

Messaging

MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service)

According to OMA Multimedia Messaging Service v1.0 + SMIL

Email

Bearer type (IP)	GPRS, EGPRS, UMTS
Character sets	BIG5 Traditional Chinese GB18030 ISO-2022-JP Japanese ISO-8859-1 ISO-8859-2 Eastern Europe ISO-8859-5 Cyrillic ISO-8859-7 Greek ISO-8859-9 Turkish ISO 8859-11 KOI8-R Cyrillic Shift_JIS Japanese US-ASCII UTF-16 UTF-8 Windows® 874 Windows® 1251 Cyrillic Windows® 1252 Windows® 1254 Turkish Windows® 1258 Vietnamese
Protocols	POP3 and IMAP4
Push email	Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® (EAS)
Secure email	SSL/TLS, both port methods (POPS/IMAPS) and STARTTLS
HTML mail	Yes (read only)

More information:

www.sonymobile.com/developer

www.openmobilealliance.org

Positioning – location based services

Supported standards:

- OMA Secure User Plane Location (SUPL) v1.0 & v2.0
- 3GPP™ Control Plane location (incl. Emergency location)
- Qualcomm® GPSOneXtra™

Supported satellite systems:

- GPS
- GLONASS

NOTE: GPS and GLONASS are used together to calculate the position. Positioning is more robust and accurate in most conditions if both systems are active. The benefits of using GLONASS are automatically available for all applications using the Satellite Positioning API (referred to as "GPS Provider" in Android terminology).

Provisioning (OMA CP)

OMA CP version 1.1

Multimedia (audio, image and video)

Audio Playback	Decoder format	Supported file format
	AAC-LC	MP4(.mp4), M4V(.m4v), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp), MPEG-2 TS(.ts, .m2ts, .tts), AVI(.avi), ADTS(.aac), M4A(.m4a)
	AAC+	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp), MPEG-2 TS(.ts, .m2ts, .tts), AVI(.avi), ADTS(.aac)
	eAAC+	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp), MPEG-2 TS(.ts, .m2ts, .tts), AVI(.avi), ADTS(.aac)
	AAC-ELD	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp)
	ALAC	M4A(.m4a)
	AMR-NB	3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp), AMR(.amr)
	AMR-WB	3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp), AWB(.awb)
	DSD	DSF(.dsf), DSDIFF(.dff)
	FLAC	Matroska(.mkv), FLAC(.flac), MatroskaAudio(.mka)
	MIDI	SMF(.mid), XMF(.xmf), Mobile XMF(.mxmf), RTTTL(.rtttl), RTX(.rtx), OTA(.ota), iMelody(.imy)
	MP3	MP3(.mp3)
	PCM	AVI(.avi), Matroska(.mkv), MatroskaAudio(.mka), WAVE(.wav), AIFF(.aiff, .aif, .aifc)
	Opus	Matroska(.mkv), WebM(.webm), MatroskaAudio(.mka)
	Vorbis	Matroska(.mkv), WebM(.webm), MatroskaAudio(.mka), Ogg(.ogg)
	WMA	ASF(.wma)
Audio Recording	Encoder format	Supported file format
	AAC-LC	MP4(.mp4), ADTS(.aac)
	AAC+	MP4(.mp4)
	AAC-ELD	MP4(.mp4)
	AMR-NB	3GPP(.3gp), AMR(.amr)
	AMR-WB	3GPP(.3gp), AWB(.awb)

Image Playback	Decoder format	Supported file format
	BMP	BMP (.bmp)
	GIF	GIF (.gif)
	JPEG	JPEG (.jpg, .jpeg)
	PNG	PNG (.png)
	WebP	WebP (.webp)
Image Capture	Encoder format	Supported file format
	JPEG	JPEG (.jpg)
	PNG	PNG(.png)
	WebP	WebP(.webp)
Video Playback	Decoder format	Supported file format
	MPEG-4 Video	MP4(.mp4), M4V(.m4v), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp)
	H.263	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp)
	H.264	MP4(.mp4), M4V(.m4v), 3GPP(.3gp, .3gpp), MPEG-2 TS(.ts, .m2ts, .tts), AVI(.avi), Matroska(.mkv)
	H.265	MP4(.mp4), Matroska(.mkv)
	VP8	Matroska(.mkv), WebM(.webm)
	VP9	Matroska(.mkv), WebM(.webm)
	Xvid	AVI(.avi)
Video Recording	Encoder format	Supported file format
	MPEG-4	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp)
	H.263	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp)
	H.264	MP4(.mp4), 3GPP(.3gp)
	H.265*	MP4(.mp4)
	VP8	WebM(.webm)
Audio/Video Streaming	Streaming transport	HLS HTTP progressive streaming RTSP
DRM	DRM (Digital Rights Management) – Supports DRM-protected downloaded content	OMA OMA DRM v1.0 Marlin DRM Widevine Level 1 PlayReady DRM (available in specific regions)

Synchronisation (OMA DS, EAS, Google Sync™)

OMA Data Synchronisation protocol versions 1.1.2 and 1.2

OMA Data Formats: vCard 2.1, vCalendar 1.0

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 2.5

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 12

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 12.1

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 14

Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol version 14.1

Google Sync™

Related information:

www.sonymobile.com/developer

Web browser

Google Chrome™ for Android™ is pre-installed in markets/regions where no restrictions apply.

Related information:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.android.chrome>

Memory in Android™ devices

To use Android devices efficiently, users should be aware of the different types of device memory. This knowledge is important in order to understand, for example, where music, photos and videos are saved; how many apps can be downloaded from Google Play™; and how photos can be copied to a PC.

The below information is also of interest to developers who want to optimise their programs to make the best possible use of the resources in the device.

Generally, all Android devices share the same basic memory setup. What differs is how much memory is available to you via the different types of memory, and whether your device uses an external SD card or an internal memory chip. Any information specific to the particular device model described in this White Paper is noted as such.

Types of memory

The types of memory described and numbered below are consistent with the terminology used in Sony mobile device menus and in other content relating to 2014 Xperia™ devices:

1. **Dynamic Memory** (also known as RAM) is used by applications that run when the device is turned on. The amount of Dynamic Memory influences how many applications and operating system services can run at the same time. The Android operating system automatically closes applications and services that are not being used.

However, such automatic functionality has limits. For example, if a lower amount of free RAM is available to applications after a new release of the operating system (due to increased capabilities in the system), device speed will eventually be impacted. This is the main reason that a device cannot be indefinitely upgraded to newer releases of Android™.

If you experience problems with RAM, for example, if the device runs slower than usual or if the Home application restarts frequently when you leave an application, you should minimise the use of apps that run all the time. Such apps could include, for example, applications that frequently download social networking service updates. You could also consider using a static wallpaper instead of a live wallpaper.

To see which apps and services are currently active, go to **Settings > Memory**. You should have at least 50 MB, and ideally 100 MB or more, of free RAM to avoid slowdowns and application restarts.

You should also be aware that if you update the device to a later Android release, the load on the built-in Dynamic Memory will increase due to the addition of more features, as mentioned above. As a result, the device may run slower after an update.

The Xperia™ Z2 has about 3 GB of RAM available to the Android OS and applications, of which about 200 MB is already used out of the box.

2. **System Memory** (also known as “System partition” or “/system”) is used for the Android OS and for most applications that are pre-loaded from the factory. This type of memory is normally locked, and can only be changed through a firmware upgrade. There is usually some free space available in this section of memory. However, since it is locked, you cannot save apps, photos or any other content to this memory. System Memory is reserved for future firmware upgrades, which almost always need more memory than the original firmware. You cannot see or influence the use of this memory.
3. **Internal Storage** is memory used as “working” memory. It can be compared to the C: drive on a PC or to the startup disk on a Mac.

This type of memory is used to store all application downloaded from the Google Play™ Store (and other sources) as well as their settings and data (such as emails, messages and calendar events, for example). All applications have an allocated area which no other applications can access and where the application data can be stored.

Some game applications also store content such as game music and game level information outside their own designated area. In most cases, an application can choose to save its data in a location of its own choosing (outside the protected application settings area). Generally, such content is not deleted when an application is uninstalled; it must be removed manually by connecting the device to a computer with a USB cable, or by using a file manager application.

Internal Storage is also used for all user content added, for example, as a result of the user taking photos with the camera, downloading media files, and performing file transfers. Typical user content includes:

- photos
- movies
- music
- downloaded documents (as email attachments, for example)

Internal Storage will tend to fill up as a result of normal usage. Examples of such usage are the saving of data by applications; the downloading and installation of new applications; the downloading of free or paid content; and the shooting of pictures and movies. Therefore, the larger this memory is from the start, the more applications you can download and use, and the more pictures and movies you can shoot.

If the Internal Storage starts to get full, the device slows down, and in some cases it might no longer be possible to install more apps. You should always ensure that you have at least 100 MB of free Internal Storage. If not, you should consider removing some apps that you seldom use, or move content that you do not frequently access to safe storage.

You can see approximately how much Internal Storage is free in **Settings > Storage > Internal Storage**. (when you insert an SD-Card) or **Settings > Storage** (if you do not insert an SD-Card) You can also view more detail about how much memory is used by applications in **Settings > Apps**. In the Xperia™ Z2, about 12 GB of Internal Storage is available out of the box.

Please note that in Sony Mobile 2014 products, “Internal Storage” is now the combination of what was previously known as “Device Memory” or “Phone Memory” (for applications and their data – also previously known as “/data”) and “Internal Storage” (for user’s content – also previously known as “/sdcard”). The reason for this change is to make the use of available memory more flexible, and also to enable the optional encryption of user’s content.

Memory card slot

In some products you may find both a large internal memory and a memory card reader slot. However, on the current Android platform, the card reader slot does not work in the same manner in a device with a large internal memory as it does in a device with ONLY a memory card slot.

Generally, since most applications expect only a single location for storage, such applications will not generally allow you to SAVE anything to the memory card (i.e., they do not offer the option to choose a storage location). However, some applications (for instance, the Sony Mobile “Camera” application) may actually allow you to do so. Other applications, for example, backup applications such as the Sony Mobile “Memory” application, will by definition be configured to copy content from the Internal Storage to the external SD card.

On the other hand, when it comes to reading from an external SD Card, you will be able to access content (for example, videos, photos and music) on a memory card inserted in this slot without any special consideration since the Android system searches all available memory for content. Therefore, such products may be regarded as supporting a fourth type of memory, called “External Card” or “SD Card”.

4. **SD Card** (known as “/sdcard1” from a programmer’s point of view, or by other names in other Android products) is the name for the removable SD memory card in all 2014 Sony Mobile products. As described above, this External Card memory is generally more limited in that any application can read from it, but many applications cannot save to this card. Only a few applications, including backup applications and file manger applications, have the capability to save to this card.

Backing up data to different memory types

Generally, you should not save photos, videos and other personal content solely on the internal memory of a device. If something should happen with the hardware, or if the device is lost or stolen, the data stored on the device’s internal memory is gone forever.

In a device where an SD card reader is the main memory, it is relatively easy to take the card out and copy all content to a PC or Mac, or to an entertainment device with a memory card slot. In a product featuring Internal Storage as the main memory, it is not possible to physically remove the memory. Instead, any critical or high-value content must either be copied to an external SD card by a special backup application, transferred to remote storage over a network (mobile or Wi-Fi), or to a computer via a USB cable.

To facilitate the transfer of data via a cable, the Xperia™ Z2 supports the Microsoft standard, Media Transfer Protocol (MTP), which makes it possible to easily transfer content back and forth between your device and a Windows® PC or an Apple™ Mac® computer. This application is called Xperia™ Companion and can be downloaded from the Xperia™ Z2 Support page.

Note that you do not need to back up or make a copy of applications that you have downloaded from the Google Play™ Store. They can normally be downloaded again after you have set up your Google account to work in a new device (or in a device where the memory has been completely erased).

Note 1:

As noted above, some Android devices, including Sony Mobile devices from 2012 and Sony Ericsson devices from 2011 and earlier, do not use a single “Internal Storage” for both applications (and their data) and user content. Instead, these devices use either an external SD card for user content, or a corresponding area of internal memory to reproduce the functionality of an SD card. In such devices, there is a fixed limit between the application area (“/data”) and the user content area (“/sdcard”), with the result that user content can build up and reach this limit. The consequence of such a limit being reached, for example, for the camera application, would be that no new pictures could be taken even if there was still a considerable amount of free space in the application area (or in the user content area). In such an instance, the download and installation of new applications would also not be possible, even if there was enough free memory in the content area.

Note 2:

Some devices with integrated storage have abandoned the distinction between the application area and the content area when it comes to a Factory Data Reset. As a result, there is no option in such devices to perform a Factory Data Reset and preserve content. In such devices, all content is mandatorily and completely deleted from the device when a reset is performed.

In contrast, Sony Mobile’s memory integration solution makes it possible to preserve user content in this situation. Therefore, when performing a Factory Data Reset, the default action will still be to only remove applications and their data, and an option box must be checked if all content is to be removed as well (as might be desirable when selling the device second-hand, for instance).

Note 3:

For a developer, it is important to note that from a programming point of view the location names used to refer to the different memory areas described in Note 1 are still valid, i.e., the area used for applications (“/data”) is still present, as is the area used for content (“/sdcard”).

In reality, “sdcard” is a so-called “symbolic link” to “/data/media”. However, from inside an Android application, “/sdcard” can still be used. For example, you can use “sdcard/DCIM/100Android” to find all camera images. The continued use of “/sdcard” to access the content area ensures compatibility across different products and Android releases in this regard.

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