

# Google debuts new Pixel, latest try in smartphone fight

October 19 2021, by Glenn Chapman

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This handout photo from Google on July 30, 2021 shows the new Pixel 6 smartphone; Pixel phones have been seen as a way for Google to showcase the capabilities of its free Android system, but its share of the global smartphone market has been meager.

Google launched new Pixel 6 smartphones on Tuesday, its latest attempt in a market the tech giant has failed thus far to conquer.

The handset sector is dominated by Apple and South Korean electronics colossus Samsung, but Google keeps aiming for a breakthrough with its Android-powered Pixel line.

"Pixel is the best entry point into Google's helpful offerings and services," the phone's product management director Peter Prunuske told a media briefing.

"So we're trying to work across Google to make sure that everything works flawlessly on Pixel," he added.

Pixel phones have been seen as a way for Google to showcase the capabilities of its free Android [mobile operating system](#), but its share of the global smartphone market has been meager.

Analyst Brad Akyuz explained "Pixel's mediocre penetration performance" by citing tech glitches and US mobile service providers subsidizing other brands in offers to customers.

"The one area where the Pixel has excelled at is software, but it has not been enough to differentiate much," he added.

The new handsets take a page from Apple's playbook with sophisticated hardware and a custom chip that tap into the internet giant's other offerings.

Samsung uses Google-backed Android software to power phones, pricing many handsets within reach of people on lean budgets.

Apple has consistently aimed iPhones at the high-end of the market, controlling the hardware and software so tightly it has raised antitrust concerns.

Pixel 6 models, with superfast 5G wireless capability, debut Google's own Tensor chip crafted along the lines of processors it made for data centers to enable computers to think more like people do.

## Significant growth

"It's basically a mobile system on a chip designed around [artificial intelligence](#)," Google devices senior vice president Rick Osterloh said during a briefing at the company's headquarters in Silicon Valley.

The Pixel 6 hardware and software mix ramps up the smartphone's ability to understand what people say in another step toward a future of "ambient computing," according to Osterloh.

The phrase refers to being able to access the internet or computing power conversationally at any time as portrayed in the 2013 science fiction romance film "Her."

An array of sensors for photography are in a band on the back of the smartphone, with the Pixel 6 having a 6.4 inch, edge-to-edge screen and the Pro model being slightly larger.

"We've actually had significant growth over the last five years or so," Prunuske said of Google's Pixel business.

Pixel 6 pricing starts at \$599 USD, while the Pixel 6 Pro starts at \$899. Google is taking orders for the smartphones, which will be available beginning Oct. 28 .

Global smartphone shipments overall fell six percent in the third quarter of this year as handset makers struggled to meet demand due to shortages of components, according to market tracker Canalys.

"The chipset famine has truly arrived," said Canalys principal analyst, Ben Stanton, adding handset makers have "reluctantly" been pushing up prices.

Samsung was the top smartphone vendor with 23 percent of the market, while Apple was second with 15 percent and Chinese firm Xiaomi on its heels with 14 percent, Canalys reported.

**More information:** [store.google.com/magazine/google\\_pixel\\_6](https://store.google.com/magazine/google_pixel_6)

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