

Hot app favourites

Six ROAM writers pick their favourite apps of 2009

My top Android app

Hoiio

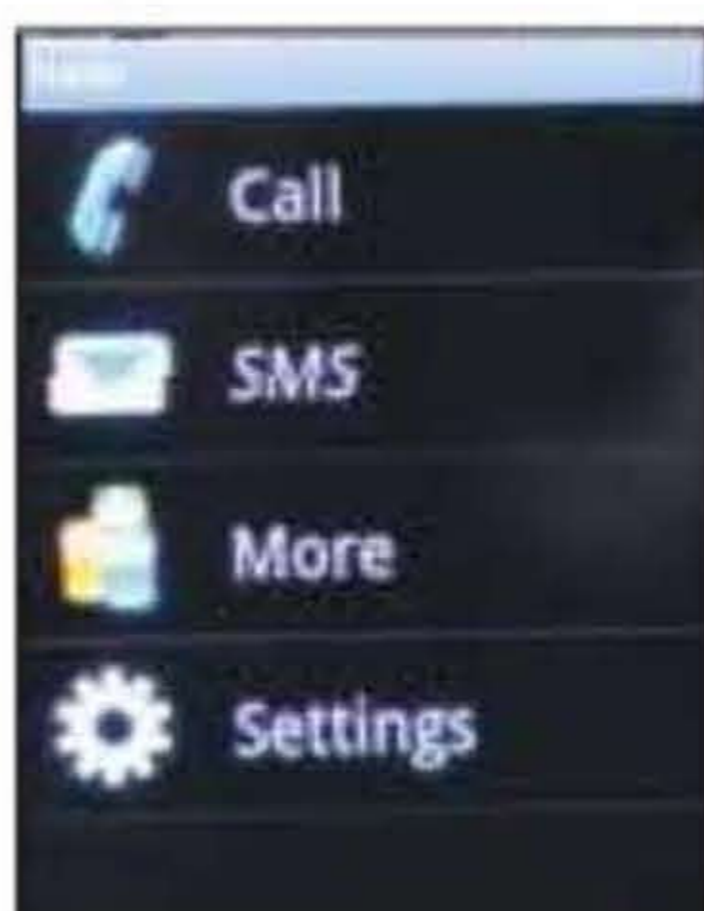
W

hy pay 16.05 cents per minute for a local cellphone call when you can get it for 3.8 cents?

Hoiio takes over the handling of your calls from your telco by initiating a call-back service.

The beauty is that your phone's caller ID will be displayed and you can make calls directly from the touchscreen number pad and from your phone contacts.

When you key in a number and press call, Hoiio sends your recipient's number as a data packet to its server, which then initiates a call to you and the person you are contacting, joining the two parties together.



Since almost everyone has free incoming calls, it means amazing cost savings on outgoing calls. It works on the iPhone, Blackberry and the Symbian and Windows Mobile too.



Oo Gin Lee

My three favourites

1 Swype



This app makes typing text messages so yesterday. The magic of this keyboard, which can be installed to replace your default Android one, allows you to simply "swype" your finger from letter to letter without lifting it – even for long-to-type words like "elephant". It is spot-on in predicting the word you want too.

You cannot get it from the Android Market. First, go to Settings>Applications and

tick Unknown Sources so that a non-Market app can be installed.

Point your mobile browser to www.droidmuff.in/downloads/swype-preview/ and tap on Download. Run the app, then go to Settings again. Choose Language & keyboard and tick on Swype.

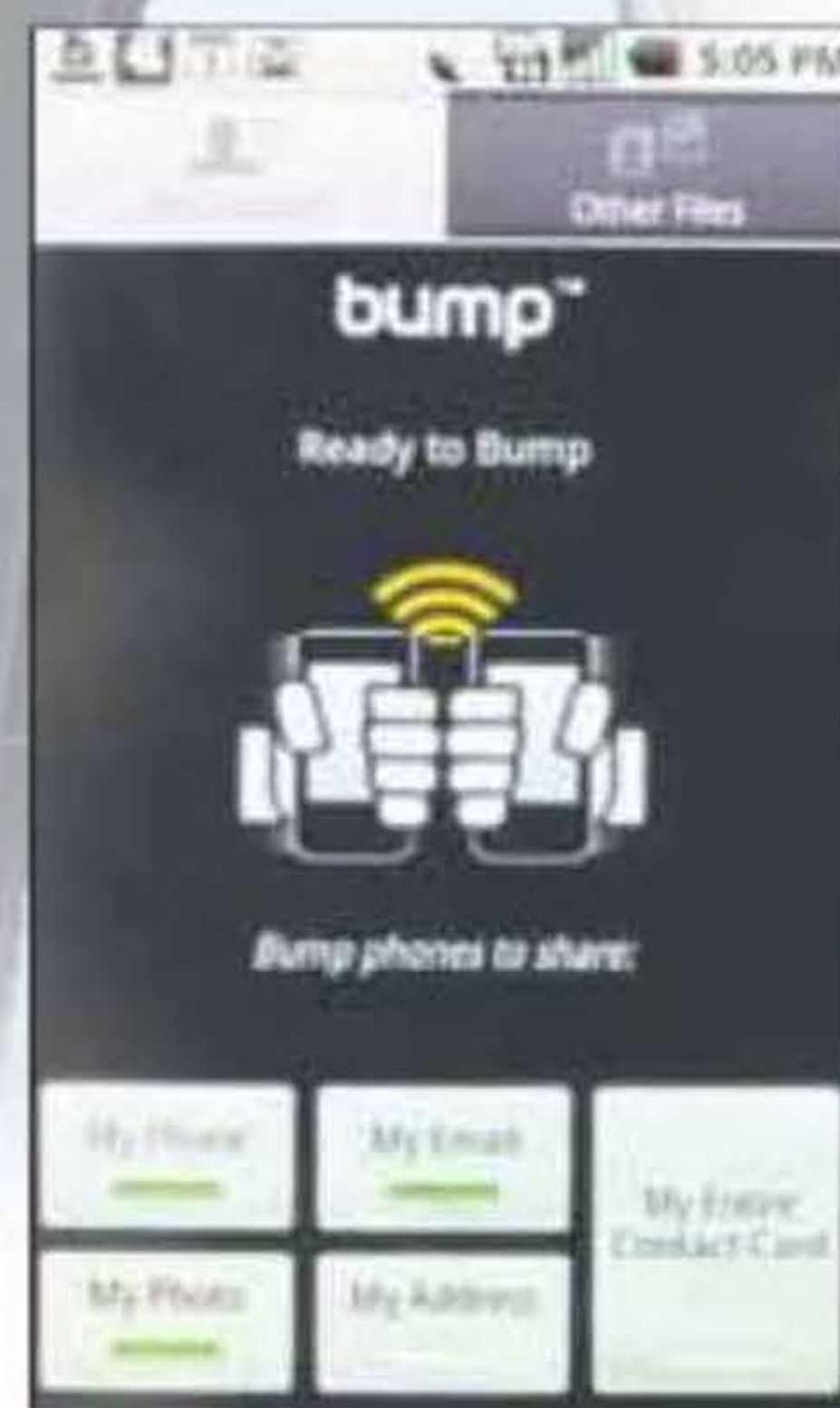
Say goodbye to tapping and hello to swyping.

2 SMS Backup

With this must-have, all your SMS texts will now be stored in your G-mail inbox, housing an ecosystem of all your messages (Google Talk chats, Gmail e-mail and phone SMS texts) in a single location.

Never will you have to back up your SMS messages again.

There are several apps with the same name. I use Christoph Studer's version.



3 Bump

Ah, the golden age of Palm Vx when geeks would point their PDAs point blank and press a button to exchange contacts via infra-red. Bluetooth, which requires the keying in of access codes to pair devices, just took too many steps.

But now, there is Bump. Install the app in your phone. Owners of an iPhone or Android handset, both with Bump installed, simply bump their hands together. Your pre-set virtual contact cards are swapped over-the-air in seconds.

The smarts do not use Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or infra-red, but location-based know-how and accelerometer motion-sensing to figure out which two phones are bumping at any one time. It is not perfect but, hey, it is rocket science.