

Buying and Setting Up Your New Smartphone

I know—sometimes the cellphone ads come so fast and furious that you feel like you’re under attack. Service providers try to outdo each other every week or so by offering more strangely categorized minutes, or new and different phones, or wacky services—or all three mixed together.

So, how can you cut through the confusion? If you just want a phone, how do you determine which is the best deal? And how do you know whether you’ve got the right service plan to go with it?

In this chapter, I arm you with shopping techniques and tips on setting up a new cellphone. You find out how to shop for the best deal on a phone before you decide on a plan. And, if you already want a particular phone, I show you how to buy only a phone over the Web and find a plan later.

After you have a new phone and a plan, this chapter shows you how to easily configure the phone for sending e-mail, browsing the Web, and sending multimedia (MMS) messages, as well as how to move your old phone’s data to your new phone so you won’t need to reenter all your contacts and other information from scratch.

Finally, make sure you register your phone with your service provider and check in with your phone’s manufacturer. The last techniques in this chapter show you the goodies you’ll often find at many service provider’s Web sites.

CHAPTER

In This Chapter

Finding online resources for the best smartphone deals

Setting up your phone easily and automatically

Moving information and data from your old phone to your new phone

Knowing the benefits of registering with your service provider and your phone manufacturer

Technique 1: Shopping for Deals over the Web

Don't ignore the barrage of print and newspaper ads for smartphones and service plans. They alert you to the latest ways in which service providers are competing with one another — more anytime minutes, cooler phones, or interesting combination deals with multiple phones and shared minutes.

If you have the luxury of time, check at least one or two Web sites in these three basic categories:

- ◆ Comparison-shopping Web sites
- ◆ Phone-manufacturer Web sites
- ◆ Service-provider Web sites

When you've investigated all three, you can be sure you're getting the best possible deal on your phone and service plan. The following sections provide a little more information about each category.

Comparison-shopping Web sites

Comparison-shopping sites search the Web for deals on both phones and service plans. They let you pick a particular phone and then show you all the different prices and matching service plans being offered all over the Web. You can very quickly determine the average price of a particular phone. The same goes for what you would end up paying in terms of a monthly service fee (see Figure 1-1). Some of the best sites to check include the following:

- ◆ **MyRatePlan.com:** www.myrateplan.com
- ◆ **Point.com:** www.point.com
- ◆ **TeleBright:** www.telebright.com
- ◆ **Wireless Guide:** www.wirelessguide.org

Need to know if a phone offers Bluetooth and infrared connections? Sites like Point.com and WirelessGuide.org allow you to quickly and easily compare features from phone to phone (see Figure 1-2).

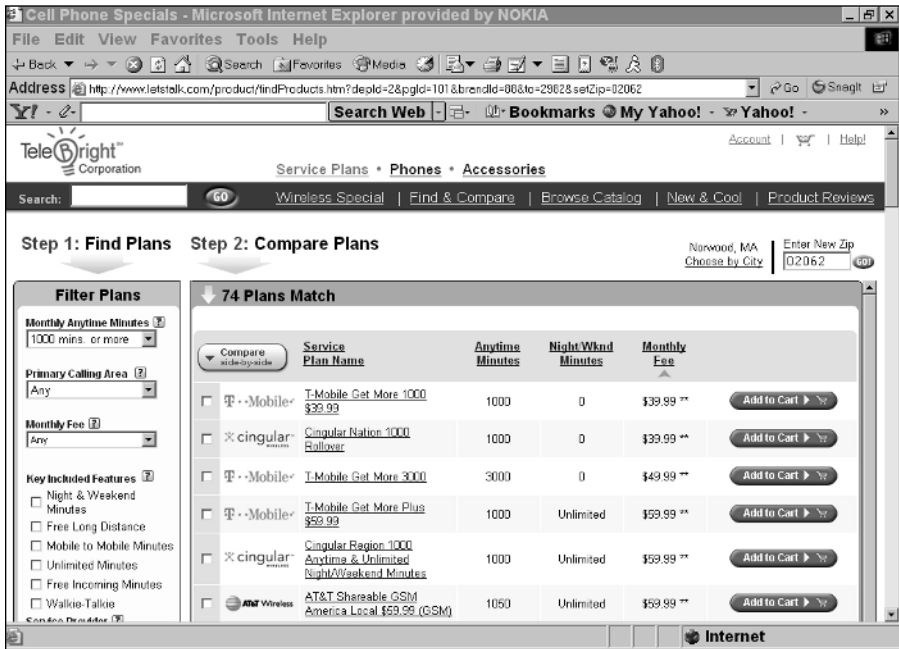


Figure 1-1: Sites like TeleBright show you the price ranges for phones and the service plans that go with them.

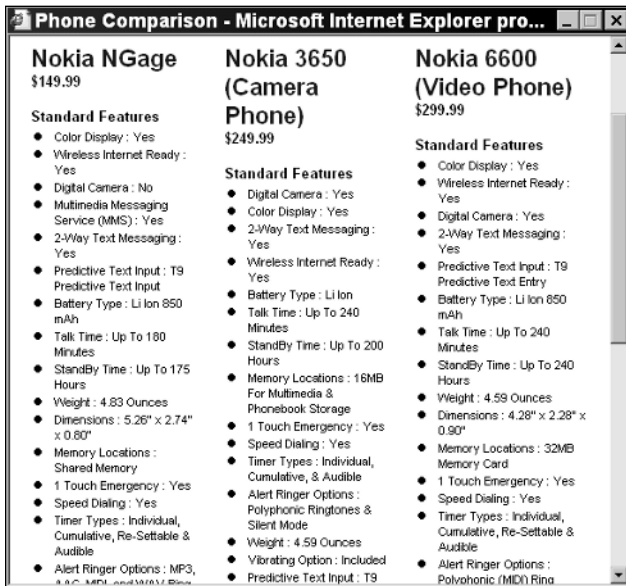


Figure 1-2: Comparing phone features is a breeze on sites like Point.com.

Phone-manufacturer Web sites

Fallen in love with a particular phone manufacturer's phones? Not a problem. Browsing the phone maker's Web site is a good idea. Not only will you get a full run-down on phone features, but in most cases you can buy phones and services plans directly from phone-maker sites.

Why would you ever shop for a phone without looking for a service plan? In some cases, that's the only way you're going to find the latest, greatest, and coolest Series 60 phone. For example, while I was writing this book, I purchased a Siemens SX1 over the Web without a service plan. The phone was commercially available in Europe but not from any U.S.-based service provider. So, I searched and found an SX1 through eBay.



Tip

Cellphones can be locked by software in such a way that they only work on a particular service provider's network, even though another carrier may support the same frequency bands. If you buy a locked phone without a service plan, chances are you'll never be able to get it working. When you buy a phone without a plan, make sure the phone you buy is *unlocked*. (If you're buying a phone with a service plan, don't worry about whether it's locked or unlocked—your service provider will make sure the phone works properly for you.)

The popular auction site eBay (www.ebay.com) has become a real source for phones. In addition to bidding in an auction for a phone, many eBay phone sellers allow you to buy a phone for a fixed price without bidding—more like a regular retail purchase over the Internet. That's how I purchased the SX1 I mention earlier—I used the “Buy It Now” offer from a phone seller, as opposed to buying through a regular auction.



Tip

If you do use eBay, make sure you check the feedback rating of the seller (eBay's basic measure of buyers' and sellers' trustworthiness) and read the feedback comments to determine if other buyers had any problems with the products sold by the particular seller offering the phone you want. **Remember:** Make sure the eBay seller says the phone is unlocked.



Tip

If you read the Introduction of this book, you know that all Series 60 phone are GSM phones. And you also know that all GSM phones use SIM cards. (SIM stands for *Subscriber Identity Module*.) SIM cards hold all relevant user information. SIM cards are the secret to being able to use phones that you purchase without a service plan. If you currently have a GSM phone and an active service plan, you can get started with your new unlocked GSM phone, simply by inserting your SIM card into it. Read the user manual of your current GSM phone for instructions on how to remove your SIM card (the SIM card is usually underneath the battery behind the back cover), and read the user manual of your new unlocked GSM phone to find out how to insert a SIM card into it.

One final note about buying phones without a service plan: You'll likely be paying full price for these phones. In the current business model of cellphone service providers, the service provider deeply subsidizes the cellphone

itself—offsetting this subsidy by holding you to at least a one-year service-plan contract. So only choose the unlocked phone option if you can afford it. If you're on a budget, go with one of the discounted offers from the service provider, where the phone is either free or within your budget.

Most of the Series 60 phone-maker Web sites offer tools that help you choose among the many phone models these cellphone giants produce (see Figure 1-3). Additionally, you can quickly view all the accessories—like a car kit, a headset, and a desk stand (see Chapter 17 for more information). Here's a list of the Series 60 phone-manufacturer Web sites:

- ♦ **LG:** www.lge.com
- ♦ **Lenovo:** www.lenovo.com
- ♦ **Nokia:** www.nokia.com
- ♦ **Panasonic:** www.panasonic.com
- ♦ **Samsung:** www.samsung.com
- ♦ **Sendo:** www.sendo.com
- ♦ **Siemens:** www.siemens-mobile.com

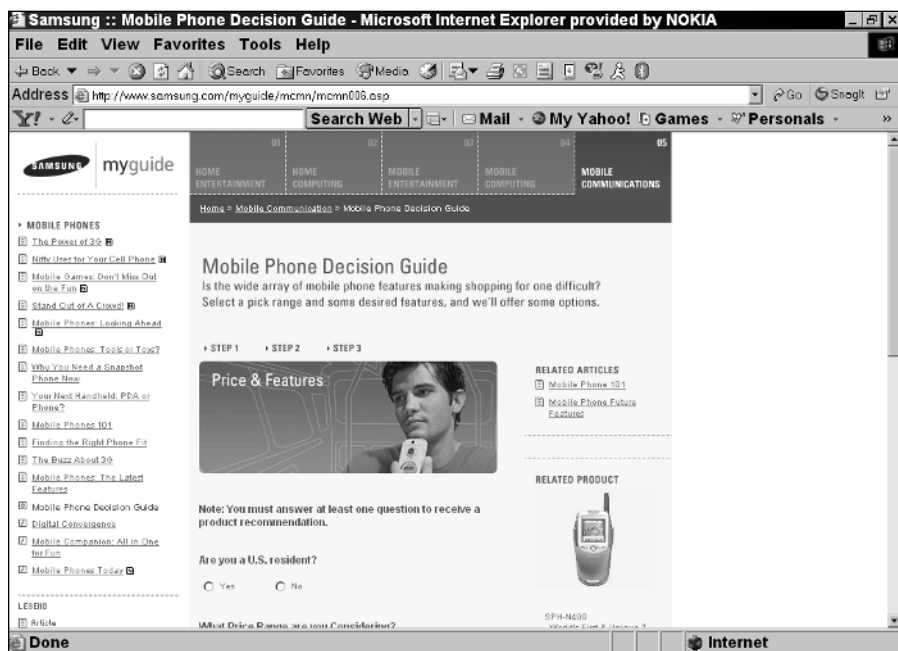


Figure 1-3: Series 60 phone-manufacturer Web sites offer tools to help you choose a phone. Here, Samsung's Web site asks you questions and then shows you its recommendations.

Service-provider Web sites

Although there are many service providers around the world, probably only a handful service the area where you live and work. Spend a little time investigating the offers on the Web sites of all the service providers in your area. Not only can you browse through their offerings, but you can also buy a phone and a plan online (see Figure 1-4). Here's a short list of some of the major cell-phone service providers in the United States:

- ◆ **AT&T Wireless:** www.attwireless.com
- ◆ **Cingular:** www.cingular.com
- ◆ **Orange:** www.orange.com
- ◆ **T-Mobile:** www.t-mobile.com
- ◆ **Verizon Wireless:** www.verizonwireless.com
- ◆ **Vodafone:** www.vodafone.com

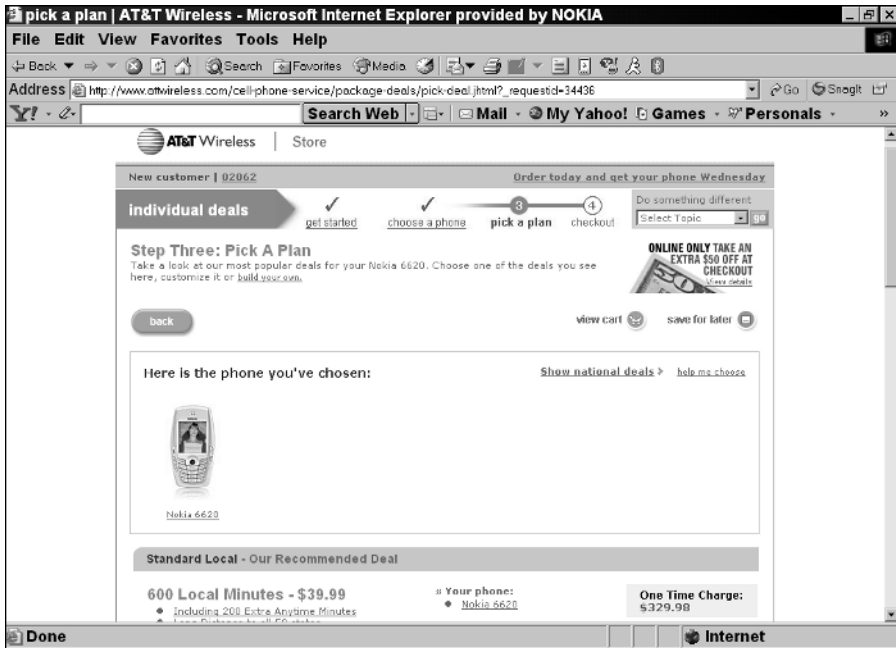


Figure 1-4: You can purchase a phone and a plan directly from a service provider's Web site. Here, AT&T Wireless guides you step by step through an online purchase.

Technique 2: Requesting Special-Configuration SMS Messages from Your Carrier and Manufacturer

When users purchase phones with advanced functionality, like browsing and MMS messaging, they typically also have to sign up for an appropriate plan with their service provider. These phones sometimes come preconfigured from the service providers, in terms of setup for these and other advanced features. This preconfiguration makes it easy to start using your phone for sending messages and such right after you get it. Unfortunately, not all service providers preconfigure all their phones, so there is a chance you'll receive a phone that hasn't been set up in advance.



If you buy a phone without a plan over the Web as described in Technique 1, you'll need to use this technique to configure your new phone.

Navigating through your phone's settings menus can be intimidating. Choose Settings ⇨ Connection ⇨ Access Points, and you'll see items like Connection Name, Data Bearer, and Access Point Name (see Figure 1-5). Even if you have a technical background and are familiar with these terms, you still need to call your service provider's technical-support personnel (and perhaps spend some time queuing behind other information seekers) in order to learn the specific entries that will make your phone able to send and receive MMS messages, browse the Web, and so on.

Determining if your phone is preconfigured

How do you know if the phone you've purchased is already preconfigured and doesn't need to be configured via special SMS messages?

- ♦ **Try sending a multimedia (MMS) message to a friend, colleague, or even yourself.** If the message successfully gets through, you know your phone is already configured properly for an MMS access point. Also, have someone send you an MMS to confirm MMS reception settings. Next try browsing the Web and sending an e-mail. If all these actions work, you don't need to configure your phone with SMS configuration messages.
- ♦ **Ask your service provider's sales staff or technical-support representatives if your phone comes preconfigured for MMS, e-mail, and Web browsing.** A great time to ask is when you receive your phone.



Figure 1-5: Trying to configure your own MMS and Web browsing phone settings can be intimidating.

Fortunately, you don't have to understand these terms, and you don't have to call anyone for help in order to configure these settings properly. Your phone manufacturer and service provider have already taken the guesswork (and the hard work) out of configuring phones by leveraging a special SMS-based technology that lets these companies send special-configuration SMS messages rather than just text messages.

Note

These special-configuration messages are also called OTA (over-the-air) configuration messages.

Here's a sample of the URLs where phone makers offer SMS configuration messages for e-mail, Internet browsing, and MMS. Check your phone-maker's Web site to determine if it offers SMS phone configuration:

- ◆ **Nokia:** www.nokia.com/support/
- ◆ **Sendo:** www.sendo.com/config/index.asp
- ◆ **Siemens:** www.siemens-mobile.com/mobiles (go to Customer Care and then Settings Configurator)

Configuring a phone via SMS is a straightforward process. Here is an example using the Nokia phone-configuration tool:

1. **Point your PC browser to Nokia.com (see Figure 1-6).**
2. **Select the Support tab from the tab options at the top of the page.**
3. **Select your region and country and click Go (see Figure 1-7).**
4. **Select a phone model from the Phone Model drop-down list and click Go (see Figure 1-8).**



Figure 1-6: Point your Web browser to Nokia.com.

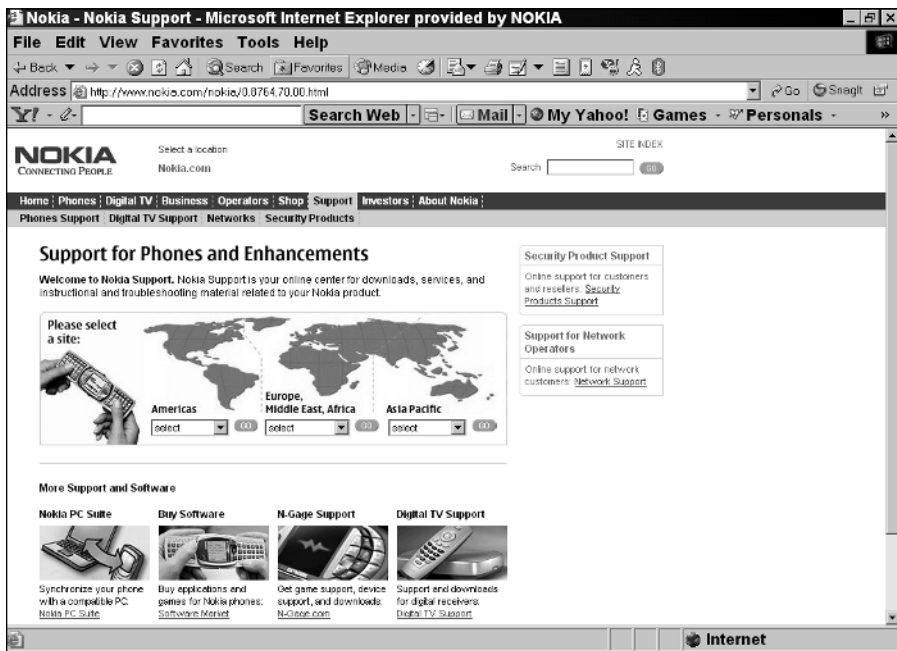


Figure 1-7: Pick your geographical area.

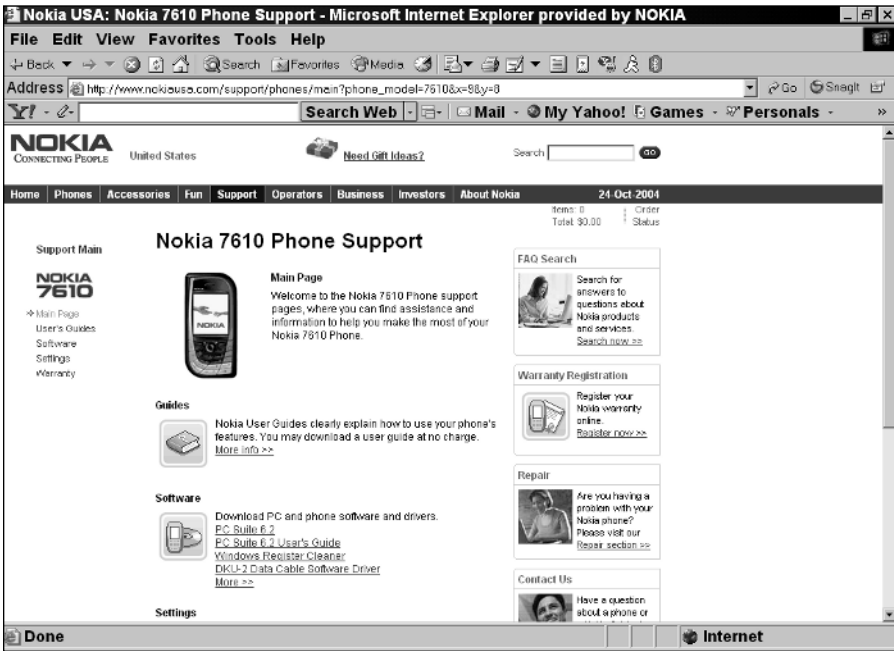


Figure 1-8: Select a phone model from the drop-down list.

5. Click Settings.

The screen shown in Figure 1-9 appears.

6. Under MMS Setup, click Start (see Figure 1-10).

7. Select your country from the drop-down list and click Go (see Figure 1-11).

8. Select your mobile network and click Go (see Figure 1-12).

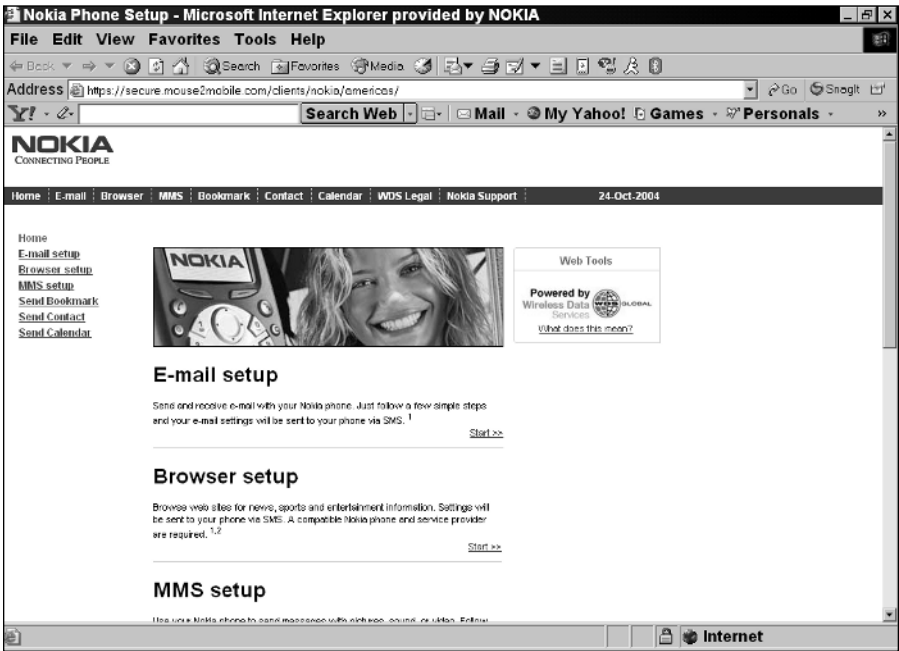


Figure 1-9: The settings screen.

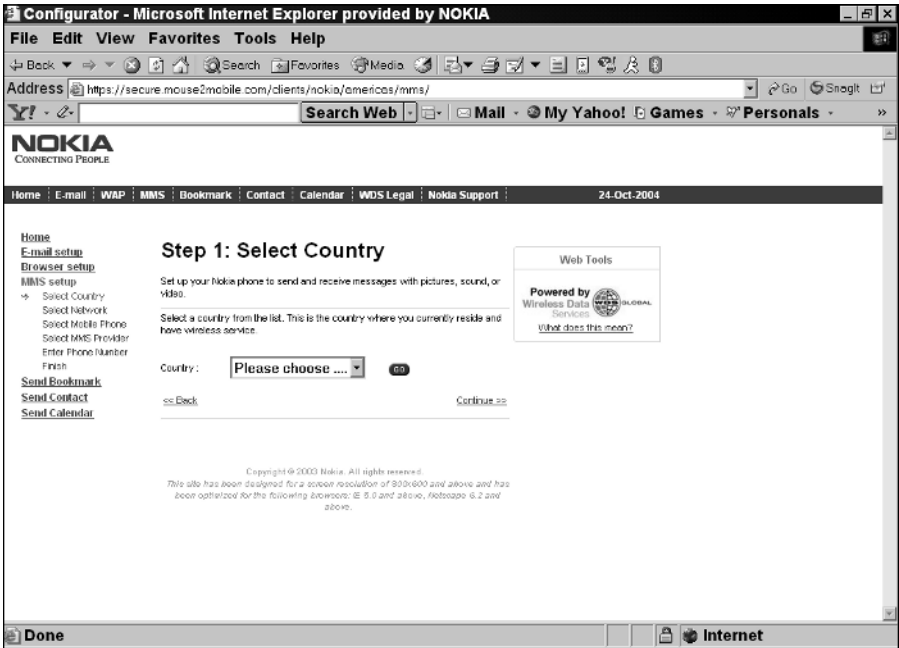


Figure 1-10: Under MMS Setup, click Start.

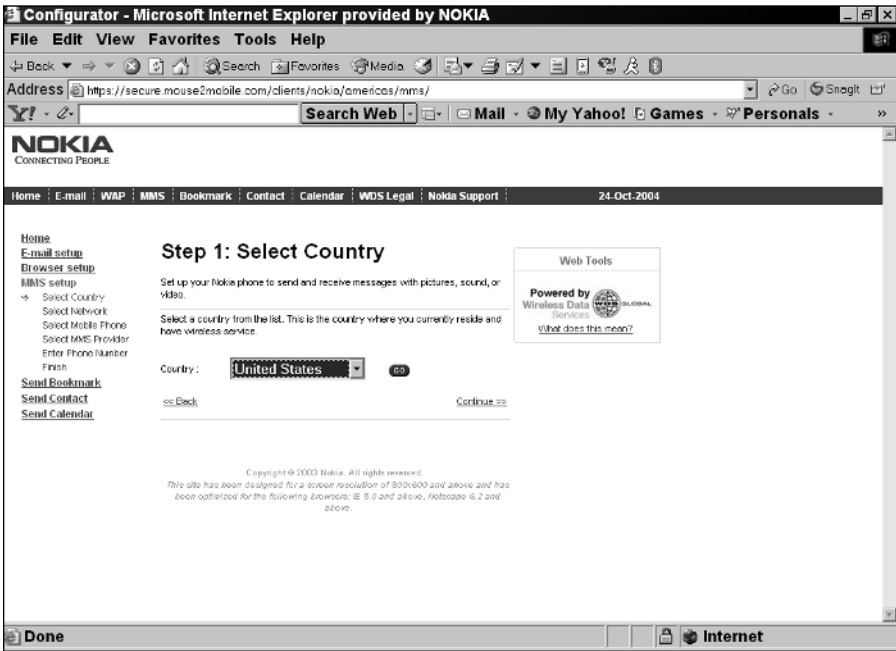


Figure 1-11: Select your country and click Go.

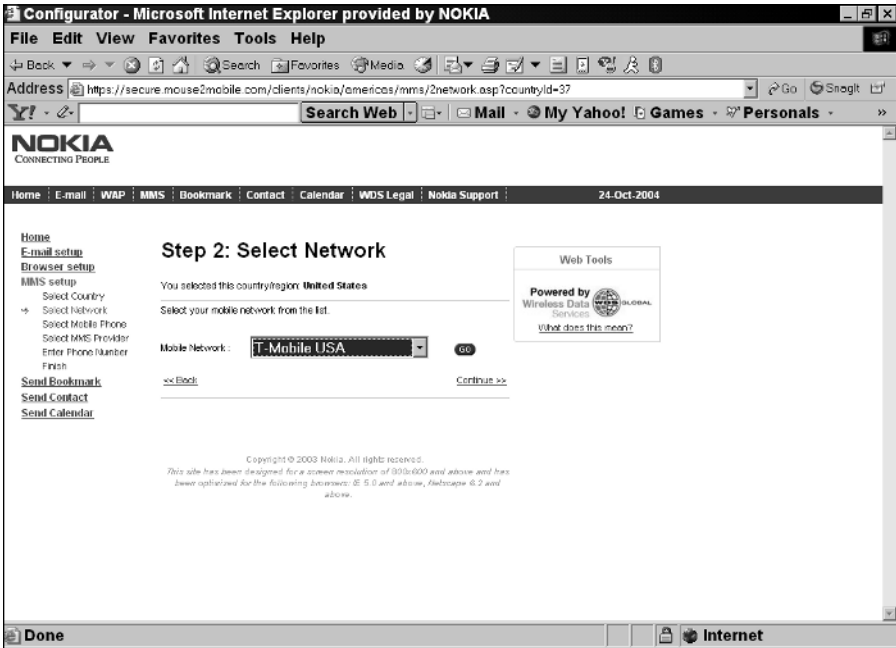


Figure 1-12: Select your mobile network and click Go.

9. Select your mobile phone and click Go.
10. Select your MMS provider from the drop-down list and click Go (see Figure 1-13).

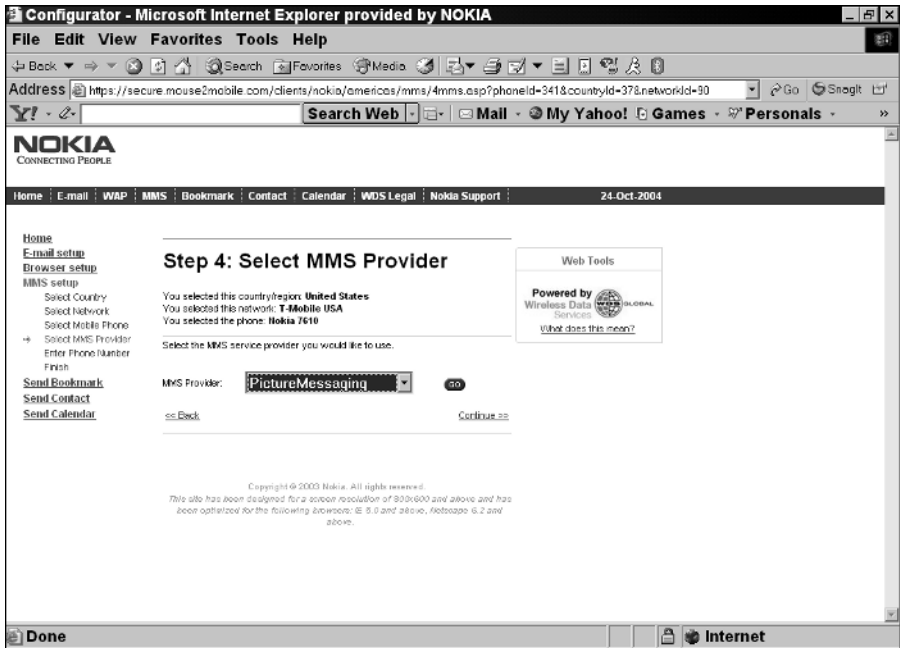


Figure 1-13: Select your MMS provider from the list and click Go.

11. Enter your phone number and click Send Settings (see Figure 1-14).
Your phone receives a special configuration SMS message.
12. Go to the Inbox on your phone.
13. Select the new configuration message from your list of messages.
14. Press Options on your left menu key.
15. Choose Save Configuration Settings.
16. Press Yes at the confirmation screen.

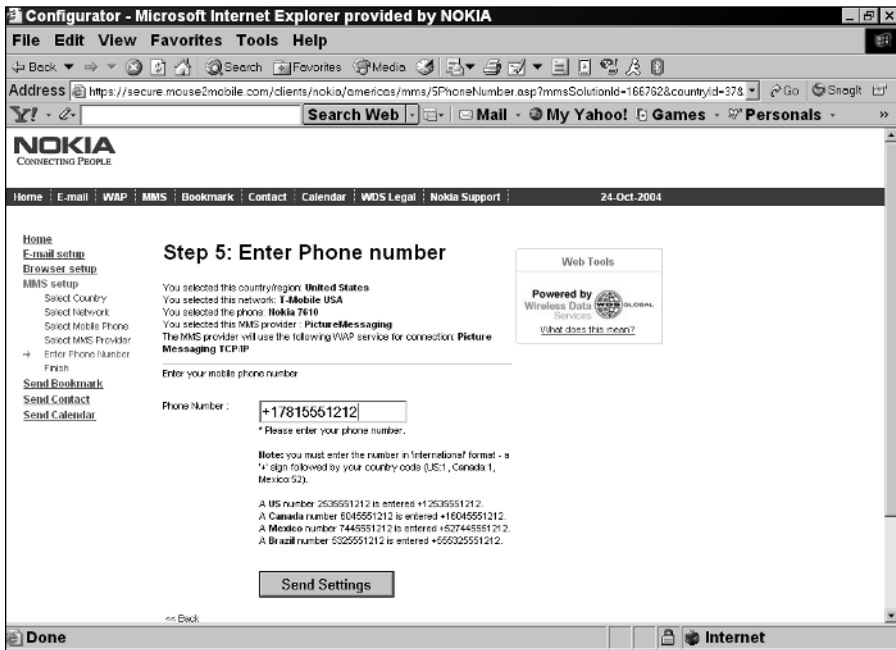


Figure 1-14: Enter your phone number and press Send Settings.

Congratulations! Your phone is now fully configured for sending multimedia (MMS) messages. And you did it yourself!

Technique 3: Moving Your Old Phone's Data to Your New Phone

A year or so ago, you wouldn't have wanted or needed to really worry about saving your old cellphone data and moving it to a newly purchased phone. Why? Two reasons:

- ◆ You really didn't have much data stored on your phone. Maybe a handful of speed-dial numbers in your phone book, but nothing you couldn't reenter in a few minutes by hand on your new phone.
- ◆ Your old phone really didn't offer any mechanism you could use to transfer information to and from the phone itself.

Both of these things have changed dramatically, and your smartphone has the capability to hold megabytes of information and the technology to share it with other devices (using several different communication technologies).

What you need to do depends on your situation. Because you're reading this book, I assume your new phone is a Series 60 phone (see the Introduction for information on how to tell if your phone is a Series 60 phone). So, this leaves

two scenarios: Either your old phone is not a Series 60 smartphone or it's a Series 60 smartphone. Now, jump to the section that describes the scenario you need.

Moving data from a non-Series 60-based phone to your new Series 60-based phone

In this situation, your options are limited. Your old phone may or may not feature any of the communication ports — infrared, Bluetooth, or even a cable connection (USB) — that your Series 60-based phone may offer. If it doesn't, you won't be able to connect your old phone to a PC or to your new phone in order to transfer your information.

The good news is your old phone doesn't hold a lot of information that you'll want to transfer. Many older phone models can't store documents or files. So, the only items you may need to save would be contacts.

For older phones, your only real hope in saving your contacts is through SMS or text messaging. Some older phone models allow you to send contact information via an SMS message. Read your older phone's user guide for information on sending contacts (sometimes called business cards) through an SMS message. You can also scan through the menu options inside your older phone's contact application. Look for menu options like Send as Business Card or Send as SMS.

If you can send your contacts through SMS, you'll very likely be forced to do them one at a time. Here's the simple procedure:

1. **On your older phone, send an individual contact as a business card-style SMS to your new phone.**
2. **On your new Series 60 phone, on the main menu, select Messages.**
3. **Select Inbox.**
4. **Open the business card SMS you received from your old phone (see Figure 1-15).**



Figure 1-15: Your inbox will show the SMS from your old phone as a business card that holds special contact information rather than a regular SMS text message.

5. Select Options from the left menu key.
6. Select Save Business Card (see Figure 1-16).

You'll see a confirmation message that says `Business card saved to contacts`.



Figure 1-16: Choose Save Business Card from the Options menu to automatically store the contact record from your old phone into your new phone's contact database.

7. Select Options again.
8. Select Delete to remove the business-card SMS from your inbox.

This will make room for your other business cards coming from your old phone.

9. At the Delete Message confirmation screen, select Yes.

Repeat this procedure for every contact you need to transfer from your old phone to your new Series 60 phone.



Tip Did you change service providers when you moved from your old phone to your new Series 60 phone? Believe it or not, you still may be able to use this technique, especially due to the opportunity for users to keep the same phone number when changing service providers through local number portability (LNP). Ask your service provider (or your new service provider if you've switched service providers) about sending SMS messages from your old phone to your new phone. Usually, there is a 12- to 24-hour period in which your old phone can make outgoing calls and send outgoing messages and your new phone will receive all incoming messages and calls directed to the same number.

Moving data from a smartphone to your new Series 60-based phone

In this scenario, you'll likely have several options. In the worst case, you could use the same SMS business-card technique described in the preceding section (moving data from a older phone model to your Series 60 phone), but you probably have faster, easier options available.

The most efficient method of transferring a large amount of contacts, files, and data is to synchronize your old smartphone to a PC or notebook computer (see Chapter 9 for details) and then synchronize your new Series 60 phone to the same PC. Using this approach, you can quickly select the specific files, contacts, images, and so on that you'd like to transfer to your new Series 60–based phone and —voila!—your Series 60 phone's PC suite software can copy it there.

Another option is to send individuals' contact records, files, or images directly from your old smartphone to your new Series 60 phone using a wireless connection (infrared or Bluetooth). This method is faster than the SMS technique from the preceding section because you don't need to go through your service provider's network. It's fast, simple communication between two phones. Here are the steps:

1. On your old smartphone, navigate to the individual contact record, file, or image that you want to transfer to your new phone.

In this example, I'm sending an image from one phone to another, so on the main menu, I chose Gallery (choose Camera ⇄ Images on the Siemens SX1).

2. Select an individual image that you want to transfer.

Either press down on the joystick or choose Options ⇄ Open from the left menu key.

3. Select Options

4. Select Send (see Figure 1-17).



Figure 1-17: Choose Send to transfer an individual image from phone to phone.



Make sure you've activated infrared on your new phone. On your main menu, choose Connections ⇄ Infrared.

5. Select Via Infrared (see Figure 1-18).

The image appears automatically in your new phone's inbox.



Figure 1-18: Choose Via Infrared to send the image directly to another phone via a wireless connection.

6. Select the image.
7. Select Options.
8. Select Save and pick the folder into which you want to store the new image.

Technique 4: Registering with Your Service Provider's Web Site for Extra Goodies

Do you register your consumer electronic purchases — like a digital camera, camcorder, or DVD recorder — with the manufacturer? In the old days, product registration was all done exclusively via regular mail — you know, those little warranty postcards on which you write your product's serial number and the date of purchase and send it back to the company that made the product?

Now a lot of this type of product registration happens over the Web. And, in my experience, there are really only two types of people: those who diligently register their products and those who think about doing so but for whom important things — like a Red Sox game, lunch, playing with the kids, or learning new cellphone tricks — keep getting in the way.

I'm the latter type, in case you hadn't guessed. But even when all the important things come up, I still find time to register my cellphone with my service provider. Why? Because they frequently provide free ring tones and other downloads, as well as convenient ways to enable instant messaging and other cool features.

Every service-provider Web site allows its customers to register for free. Here is an example of the process using T-Mobile's Web site:

1. Point your PC Web browser to T-Mobile's Web site (www.t-mobile.com).

2. Select Register for My T-Mobile at the bottom of the page (see Figure 1-19).

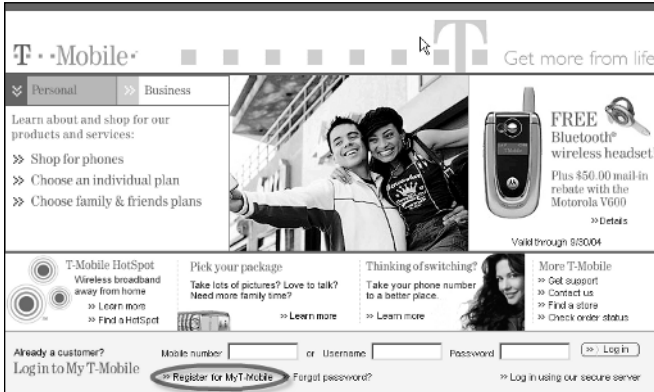


Figure 1-19: Select Register for My T-Mobile.

3. Enter your phone number in the Phone Number field and click submit (see Figure 1-20).

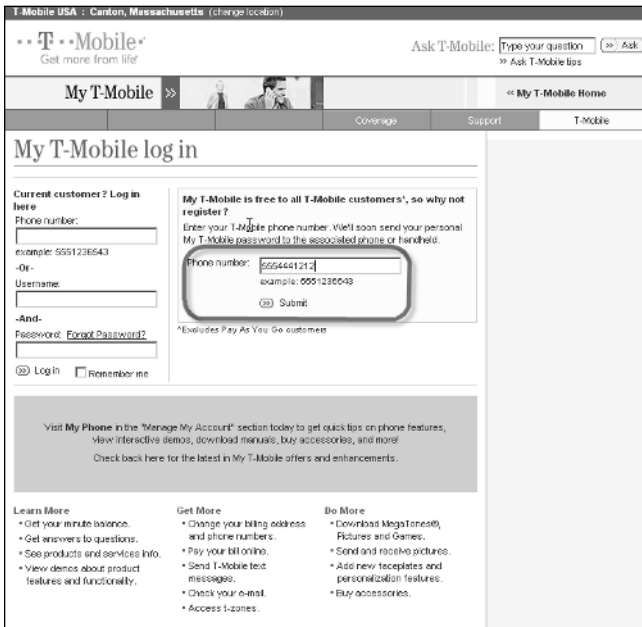


Figure 1-20: Enter your phone number.

4. Enter a user name and password for yourself.

5. Click Submit.

You'll see the main screen of My T-Mobile (see Figure 1-21). From this page, you can check your minute usage, pay your phone bill, update your profile, request SMS news and entertainment updates, download ring tones and wallpaper, set up instant messaging, and much more.



Figure 1-21: From the many pages of My T-Mobile (or your service provider's site), you can pay your bill, check your minutes, download ring tones, and much more.

As you can see, a few minutes spent registering your phone with your service provider's Web site will enhance your experience using your phone.



Tip Log back on to your service provider's site regularly. In these competitive times, service providers are frequently offering new services and features to their subscribers—and many times, these offerings are inexpensive or free!