



ANGLAIS

The Barrack Berry: The president's new phone...

The BlackBerry's problem is that, like any smartphone, it is a programmable device. No matter how well its transmissions are encrypted¹, the device itself remains vulnerable to being hacked. To date, the Department of Homeland Security has found no fewer than 16 holes in the BlackBerry's security blanket. If hostile software were to gain control of such a device, in theory the microphone could be turned on, conversations recorded, and their content transmitted to a third party—all without the owner ever knowing.

As most smartphones also come equipped with GPS navigation, the device could also act as a radio beacon², and broadcast the owner's location. For this reason, Secret Service agents of the president are not allowed to carry even pagers³, let alone smartphones.

Actually, only two smartphones meet the strict "top-secret" requirements set by the National Security Agency (NSA). One, that uses the Windows CE operating system, is called the Sectéra Edge. It can do all a Windows smartphone can do and more, send and receive e-mail, play video and audio, edit Microsoft Office documents, surf the internet (...). And, yes, it can make calls—to secure and unsecured phones. The other NSA-ordained smartphone is the Guardian. Both the Edge and the Guardian were developed for the NSA by defence contractors versed in keeping potential eavesdroppers at bay. Of the two phones, the Edge is considered the more battle-hardened as it's been around longer and tested more extensively by friendly governments as well as by the NSA, the Pentagon and other security agencies in America. (...)

With either an Edge or a Guardian, voice calls are made in the usual way over any of the commercial cellular networks. The difference is that the conversations are scrambled⁴ from end to end, using a special form of encryption called SCIP (secure communications interoperability protocol). Only another SCIP phone can unscramble the conversation, and SCIP phones are handed out only to the most trusted of people.

Both the Edge and the Guardian use a different encryption method to send e-mail and other forms of data. (...) It's so secret that members of the public are banned from using it.

President Obama may have given in his trusty Blackberry, but in its place he's acquired a look-alike that's technically superior in every aspect, even if (at 12 ounces) it weighs three times more.

From Economist.com Jan 30th 2009

FOOTNOTES :

- 1.** cryptées, codées **2.** radio balise **3.** appareil qui permet de biper quelqu'un **4.** brouillées

I / READING COMPREHENSION**A. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Justify by quoting from the text. (3 marks)**

1. Despite the fact that transmissions are encrypted, the blackberry is not a hundred per cent protected against hacking.
2. The President's secret service agents can carry smartphones and pagers.
3. For security reasons, calls are not sent and received through traditional mobile phones networks.
4. SCIP is a system for securing the transmission of data which is not accessible to the general public.

B. What do the underlined words refer to in the text? (1.5 marks)

5. 'a third party'
6. 'this reason'
7. 'its'

C. Select the most adequate sentence which means the same as : (2 marks)

8. The Blackberry remains vulnerable to being hacked.
 - a. The Blackberry is not susceptible to being accessed illegally.
 - b. The Blackberry is most likely to being accessed illegally.
 - c. The Blackberry is so safe that it is not accessed illegally.
9. The Edge is considered the more battle-hardened
 - a. Unlike other devices, the Edge has been tested over and over again.
 - b. Unlike other devices, the Edge has been tested in the army.
 - c. Unlike other devices, the Edge has been tested in the battle fields
10. He's acquired a lookalike smartphone.
 - a. He's acquired an exact copy of his smartphone.
 - b. He's acquired the smartphone he's been looking for.
 - c. He's acquired the smartphone that looks like him.
11. Only two smartphones meet the top secret requirements set by the NSA.
 - a. Two smartphones are at the top to meet the requirements set by the NSA about security.
 - b. Two smartphones are designed according to the NSA's norms about security.
 - c. Two smartphones are designed in secret to meet the requirements set by the NSA about security.

D. Match the words below with the characteristics of the devices systems described in the sentences. (2.5 marks)

- a. Versatility
- b. Vulnerability
- c. Reliability
- d. Interoperability
- e. Privacy

12. It's so secret that members of the public are banned from using it. _____
13. It uses a special form of encryption for scrambling and unscrambling. _____
14. Although communications are encrypted, hackers can break into the system. _____
15. They come equipped with GPS navigation, and also act as a radio beacon. _____
16. With either an Edge or a Guardian, voice calls are made in the usual way over any of the commercial cellular network. _____

II / LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

E. *Reformulate the following sentences without changing their meanings.* (3 marks)

17. He didn't like technical subjects, however he assiduously followed the lessons.

Although _____

18. They will open the laboratory and we will be able to maintain all the equipment.

As soon as _____

19. These systems haven't been protected against hacking, that's why they can be accessed easily.

As _____

20. If the security agents are not trained to encrypt messages, they'll expose him to danger.

Unless _____

F. *Complete the sentences using the comparative or superlative of the following adjectives adverbs :* (2 marks)

reliable – big – far – quickly

21. His _____ responsibility is to protect the president and intervene _____ possible in case of danger.

22. If you need any _____ information related to this device, send a mail to the manufacturing company.

23. The Edge and the Guardian are programmable devices. Which of the two is the _____ reliable?

G. *Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets to the correct tense or form.* (2 marks)

24. The company _____ (to manufacture) that machine for some years now.

25. He didn't remember _____ (to see) such a sophisticated cellphone.

26. The Secret Service Agency always _____ (to rely) on a highly trained personnel for President Obama's security.

27. By 2015, most models of cellphones used today _____ (to be) outdated.

III / WRITING: (4 marks)

Choose one topic and write a passage of not more than 150 words.

Topic One:

Presidents are very important people. That is why they need close protection. This protection covers messages they send or receive. Do you agree that the use of cellphones can endanger their security. State your opinion.

Topic Two:

Mobile phones have increased people's capacities to communicate. Do you share the view that they may be used to violate users' private lives? Give your reasons.