EDUCATION

User Guide Blackberry Bold 9900

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Introduction

The BlackBerry Bold 9900 remains one of the most cherished smartphones ever produced by Research In Motion (RIM). With its iconic QWERTY keyboard, sleek stainless steel frame, and a vibrant touchscreen display, the Bold 9900 represented the pinnacle of the BlackBerry OS 7 era. For users who still rely on this classic device or have recently acquired one, a comprehensive **User Guide Blackberry Bold 9900**is invaluable. This article aims to provide a thorough, step-by-step walkthrough covering everything from initial setup to advanced troubleshooting. Whether you are a longtime BlackBerry enthusiast or a new user exploring the world of physical keyboards, this guide will help you get the most out of your Bold 9900.

Getting Started with Your BlackBerry Bold 9900

Unboxing and Initial Setup

When you first receive your BlackBerry Bold 9900, the package typically includes the handset, a rechargeable battery, a micro-USB cable, a wall charger, a wired headset, and a quick start guide. Before powering on the device, insert the battery by removing the back cover (slide it downward from the top), aligning the battery contacts, and pressing it into place. Replace the cover and press the power button located on the top edge. The device will take a moment to boot, presenting you with the initial setup wizard.

Inserting the SIM Card and microSD Card

The SIM card slot is accessible after removing the battery. Slide the SIM card into the slot with the gold contacts facing down. For expanded storage, a microSD card (up to 32GB) can be inserted into the adjacent slot. The Bold 9900 supports microSDHC cards, which are ideal for storing photos, music, and documents. After inserting both cards, reinsert the battery and power on the device.

Charging the Battery

Use the supplied micro-USB cable and wall adapter to charge the battery. The device can also be charged via a computer’s USB port, but wall charging is faster. A full charge typically takes around 2 to 3 hours. The battery indicator in the top-right corner will show a lightning bolt while charging. For optimal battery health, avoid letting the battery drain completely on a regular basis.

Basic Navigation and Interface

Understanding the Hardware Keys

The BlackBerry Bold 9900 combines a touchscreen with a full physical QWERTY keyboard. Below the screen, you’ll find the Send key (green), Menu key, Back/Escape key, and End/Power key. The optical trackpad, located in the center, allows precise navigation. You can scroll by sliding your finger, press to select, and use the touchscreen for direct input when needed. The keyboard is backlit and features raised keys for comfortable typing.

The Home Screen and Notification Bar

Your home screen displays icons for frequently used applications. The top bar shows signal strength, battery life, network name, and notification icons. A glowing red LED indicates missed calls or unread messages. To open the

app drawer, tap the grid icon at the bottom of the home screen. You can rearrange icons by long-pressing them and dragging to a new position. The **User Guide Blackberry Bold 9900**recommends organizing your most-used apps, such as Phone, Messages, Browser, and BBM, on the home screen for easy access.

Managing Notifications

Notifications appear as banners at the top of the screen or as icons in the notification bar. To view all notifications, tap the top bar and slide down. You can clear individual notifications or tap “Clear All.” For more granular control, go to Settings > Notifications to customize sounds, vibrations, and LED colors for different apps and contacts.

Communication Features

Making and Receiving Calls

The Phone app is straightforward. Tap the green Send key or the Phone icon. Dial a number using the physical keypad (or touchscreen in landscape mode). To answer a call, press the Send key or tap “Answer” on the screen. During a call, you can use the speakerphone, mute, or access the dialpad for menu options. The Bold 9900 supports conference calling by merging active calls – a valuable feature for business users.

Email and Messaging

BlackBerry is renowned for push email. Set up your email accounts (Gmail, Yahoo, Outlook, or corporate Exchange) via Setup > Email Accounts. The device integrates multiple inboxes into one unified view. The Messages app combines SMS, MMS, email, and BBM chats into a single stream, or you can filter by type. To compose an email, open the Messages app, press the Menu key, and select “Compose Email.” The keyboard makes typing efficient, with auto-text and spell check assisting you.

BlackBerry Messenger (BBM)

BBM was a hallmark of the BlackBerry experience. Open the BBM app, add contacts by exchanging PINs, and start chatting. BBM supports group chats, voice notes, file sharing, and status updates. Although BBM services were scaled back after BlackBerry’s transition, existing users may still enjoy limited connectivity. Ensure your device is connected to a cellular or Wi-Fi network for BBM to function.

SMS and MMS

Text messaging is simple. Open the Messages app, select “Compose SMS,” and enter the recipient’s phone number or choose from contacts. To send a picture or video, attach a file from your media library. The Bold 9900 supports long SMS (concatenated) and MMS up to 600KB depending on carrier limits.

Connectivity Options

Wi-Fi

The BlackBerry Bold 9900 supports Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n. To connect, go to Manage Connections > Wi-Fi. Turn on Wi-Fi and select your network from the list. Enter the password if required. Once connected, the device will automatically prefer Wi-Fi for data to save cellular usage. You can set up Wi-Fi profiles for home, work, and public hotspots.

Bluetooth

Bluetooth 2.1+EDR enables wireless headsets, hands-free car kits, and file transfers. Pair a device by going to Manage Connections > Bluetooth, selecting “Add New Device,” and following prompts. The Bold 9900 also supports Bluetooth tethering to share your internet connection with a laptop or tablet.

Mobile Network and Data

The Bold 9900 is a 3G (HSPA+) device and also supports 2G/EDGE for voice and data. Ensure your SIM card is activated for data. You can toggle data on/off via Manage Connections or set preferred network mode (3G only, 2G only, or automatic) in Settings > Network. For international travel, enable data roaming cautiously and be aware of charges.

Internet Tethering

To use your Bold 9900 as a modem for your computer, you need BlackBerry Desktop Software (available for Windows and macOS). Connect via USB or Bluetooth, then enable “Internet Sharing” in the software. This is useful when no other internet access is available, but check with your carrier as tethering may require a specific data plan.

Multimedia and Entertainment

Camera

The Bold 9900 features a 5-megapixel rear camera with autofocus and a single LED flash. Open the Camera app from the home screen or using a convenience key (customizable). Tap the screen to focus, then press the trackpad or the spacebar to capture. The camera can record video at 720p HD. For better photos, ensure good lighting, use the flash for close subjects, and experiment with white balance and scene modes. Images are saved to the media card.

Music and Video

The built-in Music player supports MP3, AAC, WMA, and other common formats. Transfer music from your computer via USB mass storage mode or BlackBerry Desktop. Videos play in the Video app; the device supports MP4, H.264, and WMV up to 720p. The Bold 9900’s screen size (2.8 inches, 640x480) is small by modern standards, but for short clips it is adequate. Earphones or external speakers can be connected via the 3.5mm headphone jack.

Media Player Controls

Use the touchscreen to control playback – tap to pause, slide to seek, and adjust volume via the side rocker. The Bold 9900 also includes a voice recorder app for memos. Playlists can be created within the Music app. The device supports album art and ID3 tags.

Organizer and Productivity Tools

Calendar

The Calendar app syncs with email accounts (Google Calendar, Exchange, etc.). View your schedule by day, week, month, or agenda. Create events by tapping the chosen date and fill in details: subject, location, start/end times, reminder, and recurrence. The Bold 9900 can send reminders via pop-up or LED. Color coding helps differentiate calendars.

Contacts

The Contacts app stores names, phone numbers, emails, addresses, and notes. You can add contacts manually or sync from your email accounts. Use the physical keyboard to quickly search by typing the first few letters. Press the Menu key to assign custom ringtones, photos, and speed dial numbers. The Bold 9900 supports contact groups for mass messaging.

Tasks and Memos

The Tasks app lets you create to-do lists with priorities and due dates. Memos (or Notes) are simple text entries – ideal for quick ideas or shopping lists. Both apps can be synchronized with email services that support them, such as Exchange or Outlook via BlackBerry Desktop.

Alarms and Clock

Set alarms via the Clock app. You can choose the alarm tone, volume, snooze duration, and recurring days. The Bold 9900 can also display a world clock for multiple time zones – useful for frequent travelers.

Web Browsing and Applications

BlackBerry Browser

The native BlackBerry Browser on OS 7 supports HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript. It is not as fast as modern browsers, but it handles most mobile websites. Enable “JavaScript” and “Allow pop-ups” as needed. You can bookmark pages, view history, and use tabbed browsing (limited to a few tabs). The trackpad makes link selection easy. For better performance, turn off images when on slow connections.

BlackBerry App World

BlackBerry App World (now simply BlackBerry World) provides apps, games, and themes. Open the app from the home screen. Browse by category or search for specific titles. Download and install directly. Note that many modern apps are no longer updated for OS 7, but you can still find useful utilities like weather apps, e-readers, and classic games. Always review permissions before installing.

Installing Third-Party Applications via .jad or .cod

Some legacy applications may be available as .jad or .cod files. Transfer these to your device via email or a memory card. Navigate to the file and select “Install.” Ensure “Allow installation of third-party applications” is enabled in Options > Security > Application Permissions. Proceed with caution and only download from reputable sources.

Customization and Settings

Personalizing the Home Screen and Themes

Go to Options > Themes to select a pre

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