



The Amazon Kindle

Lorrin R. Garson

February 4, 2009

**National Capital Technology and
Computer User's Group, Inc.**



Basic Kindle Facts

- What's a Kindle? An e-book reader
- Launched November 2007
- Price: \$359
- Publications available:
 - >230,000 books (average ~\$10)
 - 29 newspapers (\$5.99 to \$14.99/month)
(NYT, WSJ & WP)
 - 21 magazines (\$1.49 to \$3.49/month)
 - ~1200 blogs (\$0.99 to \$1.99/month)



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Least expensive books:
 - “The Idiot Girl and the Flaming Tantrum of Death” by Laurie Notaro. \$0.00
 - “Nitro-Explosives: A Practical Treatise” by P. Gerald Sanford . \$0.00



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Most expensive book: “Nuclear Energy” by Zeynel Alkan *et al.*
\$6,232.00



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Free Kindle books available at:
 - <http://thekindle.wordpress.com/2008/01/19/free-books-for-the-amazon-kindle/>
 - http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
 - <http://manybooks.net/>
 - <http://mnybks.net//>
 - Google: “free kindle books”



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Paperback in size; 10.3 oz.
- Internal memory ~200 books
- Additional SD Card:
 - ~735 books/GB;
 - 32 GB card ~24,000 books
- Lorrin's 34 Kindle books:
 - Average 1.36 MB
 - Smallest 0.16 MB
 - Largest 6.37 MB



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Publications purchased using the Kindle or computer
- Publications are downloaded to Kindle in 1-2 minutes



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- The battery
 - Charges in ~2 hours
 - 20-30 hours use (wireless off)
 - 10-15 hours use (wireless on)
- Uses electronic paper display technology (e-ink). See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_paper



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- File formats:
 - Proprietary format (AZW)
 - Public file formats (MOBI, PRC & TXT)



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Word processing documents can be e-mailed to the Kindle (\$0.10 per document converted)
 - .doc
 - .html & .htm
 - .jpeg & .jpg
 - .gif
 - .png
 - .bmp
 - .pdf (experimental)



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Elementary Web browser
- Free access to:
 - Google
 - Wikipedia
- MP3 player



Basic Kindle Facts (cont.)

- Uses Linux kernel as the OS
- Uses Whispernet for communication (via Sprint EVDO network)



Much More Information

- Tips
- Tutorials & Guides
- Shortcuts
- Tools
- Book Sources
- Publishing on the Kindle
- Additional Resources

<http://www.collegedegrees.com/blog/2008/06/17/hack-your-kindle-100-tips-resources-and-tutorials-to-get-more-out-of-the-amazon-kindle/>



Demonstrating the Kindle

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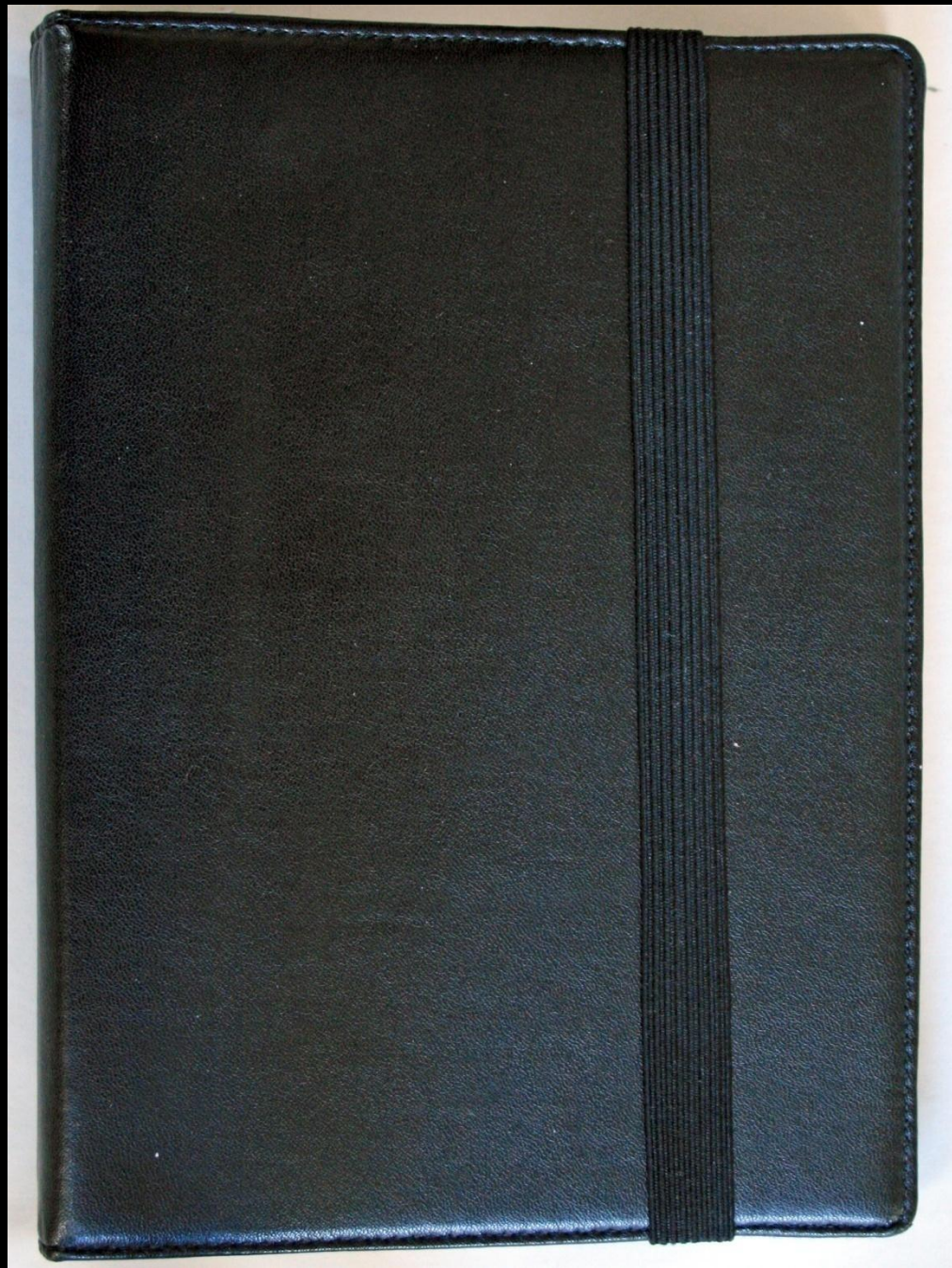
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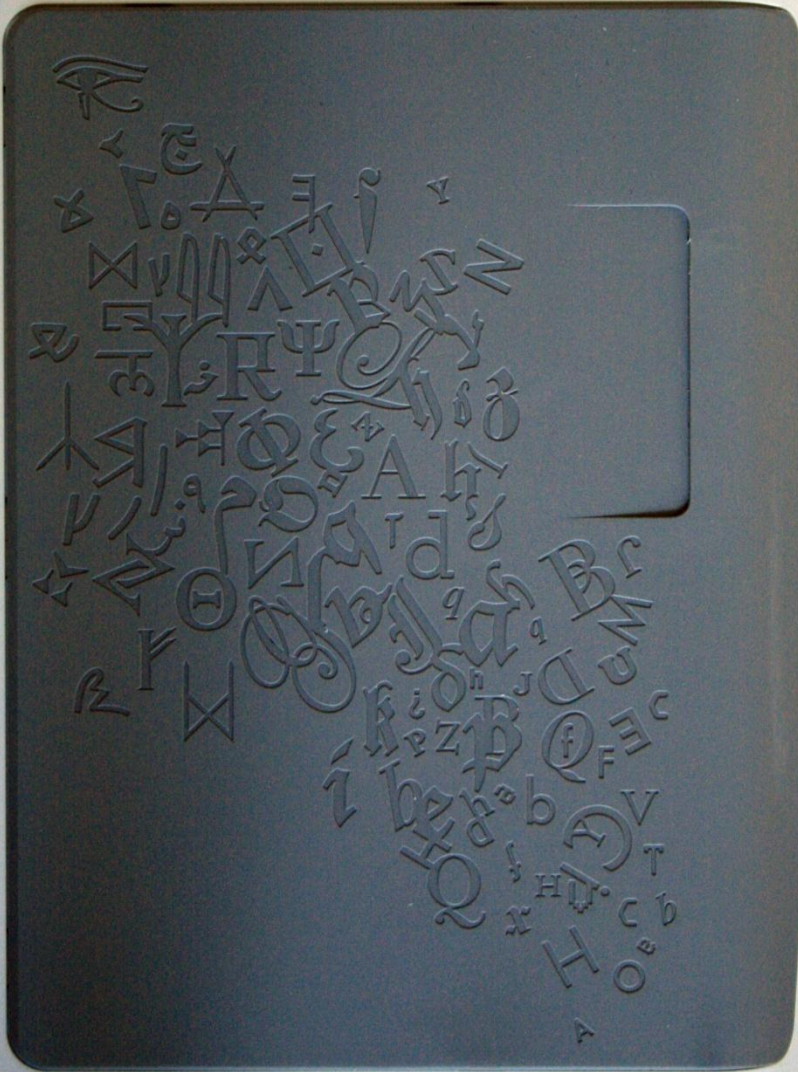
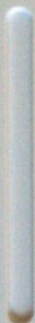


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 FCC ID: UUU-L7E20070323
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 ASSEMBLED IN CHINA 210-1001-00 Rev E

RESET

Model No. A00100
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⚠️ WARNING DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OPEN, SERVICE, OR DISASSEMBLE THE BATTERY. DO NOT SHORT CIRCUIT. MAY EXPLODE IF DISPOSED OF IN FIRE. TO BE CHARGED ONLY WITH SPECIFIED CHARGER. RISK OF EXPLOSION IF BATTERY IS REPLACED BY AN INCORRECT TYPE. DISPOSE OR RECYCLE USED BATTERIES ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS.

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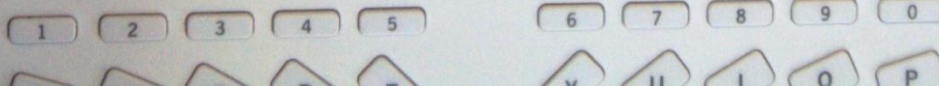
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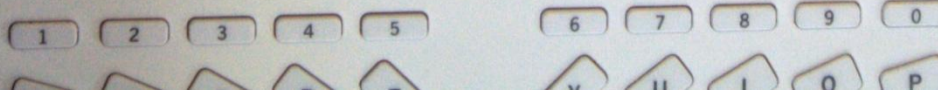
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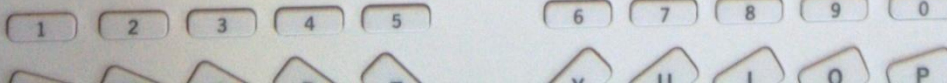
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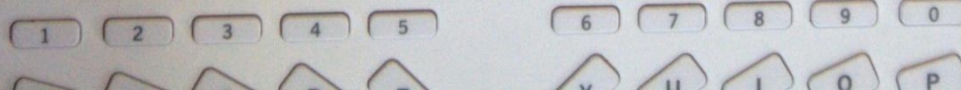
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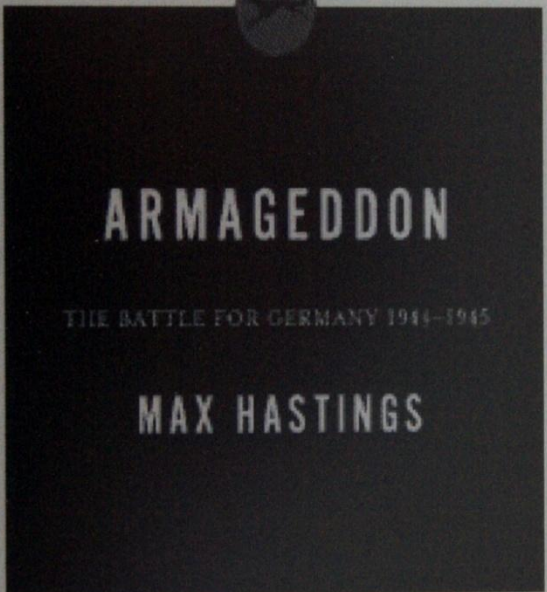


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Max Hastings



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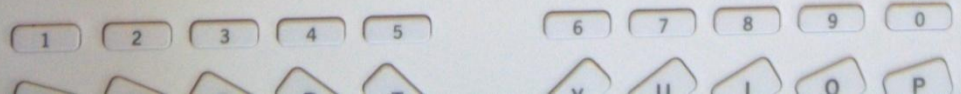
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Max Hastings

ARMAGEDDON

The Battle for Germany 1944-1945

MAX HASTINGS



ALFRED A. KNOPF • NEW YORK • 2004

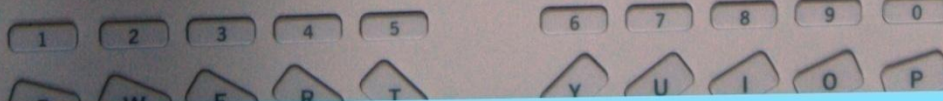
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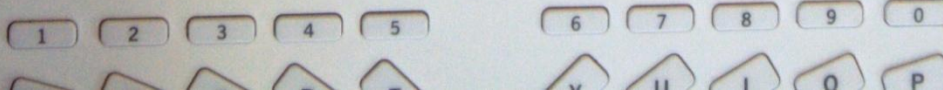
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THE PRINCIPAL COMMANDERS AND
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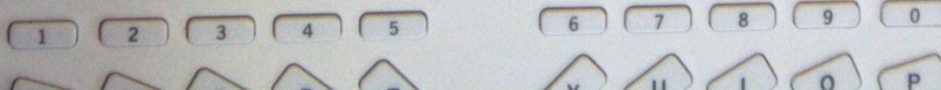
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ONE: Time of Hope

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THREE: The Frontiers of Germany

FOUR: The Russians at the Vistula

FIVE: Winter Quarters

SIX: Germany Besieged

SEVEN: Hell in the Hürtgen

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NINE: Stalin's Offensive

TEN: Blood and Ice: East Prussia

ELEVEN: Firestorms: War in the Sky

TWELVE: Marching on the Rhine


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FIFTEEN: "The Earth Will Shake as
We Leave the Scene"

SIXTEEN: The Bitter End

ENDNOTES

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

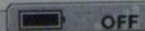
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OTHER BOOKS BY MAX HASTINGS

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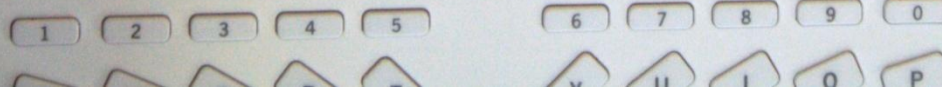
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INTRODUCTION

Somewhere in the Ardennes Forest in a snowy, muddy hole with a small pool of slushy water at the bottom, an American soldier paused and collected his thoughts for a moment. Then he hoisted his weapon, left the dubious comfort and safety of his hole, and advanced toward his enemy while enduring machine-gun, small-arms, mortar, and artillery fire. He moved forward as he had dozens of times before and would dozens of times again if he wasn't killed or wounded. The reality for him was this: he had little or no hope of rotation out of his surroundings or transfer

INTRODUCTION

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Armageddon: The Battle for

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The Nazis acknowledged an unwilling but profound respect for the Russians as adversaries which they never extended to the Americans and British. Deriding the Western allies' lack

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Armageddon: The Battle for Germany, 1944-45

Max Hastings

post-war Bundeswehr general, said: “The Russians were not good soldiers. But they had very good generals, and they had mass.”

The Nazis acknowledged an unwilling but profound respect for the Russians as adversaries which they never extended to the Americans and British. Deriding the Western allies’ lack

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Armageddon: The Battle for Germany, 1944-45


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The Nazis acknowledged an unwilling but profound respect for the Russians as adversaries which they never extended to the Americans and British. Deriding the Western allies’ lack of spirit, Hitler said at one of his military conferences: “The Russian—that pig—has managed it. If someone starts to whine among us, I can only say: take the Russian in his situation in Leningrad.” General Heinz Guderian, the Army Chief of Staff, agreed that the Russians were “brilliantly” led. Hitler

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The fastidiousness of the Americans and British

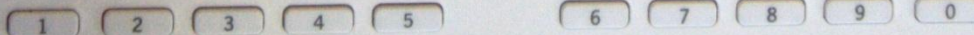
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The fastidiousness of the Americans and British about the lives of their men was admirable in humanitarian terms, and reflected the fact that the Western allies possessed strategic choices about where and when to confront the Germans. Delaying D-Day until June 1944 represented a prudent, even self-indulgent decision, of a kind that was denied to the Russians. They were forced to maintain an unbroken struggle from June 1941 to the end, because their armies were continuously in the presence of the enemy. It was necessary

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Sample Graphic







Using the Kindle Dictionary

Note →

The Germans possessed some redoubtable formations to throw into the line. "We were still pretty good," said Sergeant Max Wind of 17th SS Panzergrenadiers, rebuilt after Normandy into a formation of 8,000 men, about half its established strength. "There were some young boys, but we also had some very experienced men. We respected Patton, because we knew that he respected Germany. But the American soldier was nothing like the Russian. Yes, of course, the U.S. had the material. But we never thought a lot of their soldiers. They lacked the motivation we had."

The U.S. Seventh Army under Patch,

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Armageddon: The Battle for U

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redoubtable formations to throw into the

re·doubt·a·ble adj. often humorous (of a person) formidable, esp. as an opponent: he was a redoubtable debater. **re·doubt·a·bly** adv. late Middle English: from Old French *redoutable*, from *redouter* 'to fear,' from *re-* (expressing intensive

for·ma·tion n. 1 the action of forming or process of being formed: the formation of the Great Rift Valley. 2 a structure or arrangement of something: a cloud formation. a formal arrangement of aircraft in flight or troops: a battle formation | the

throw v. (past *threw* ; past part. *thrown*) 1 [trans.] propel (something) with force through the air by a movement of the arm and hand: I threw a brick through the window. [trans. or complement] push or force (someone or something) violently and

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▪ *adj.* often humorous (of a person) formidable, esp. as an opponent: *he was a redoubtable debater.*

DERIVATIVES re·doubt·a·bly /-blē/ *adv.*

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *redoutable*, from *redouter* 'to fear,' from *re-* (expressing intensive force) + *douter* 'to doubt.'

From The New Oxford American Dictionary



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Armageddon: The Battle for

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The Germans possessed some redoubtable formations to throw into the line. "We were still pretty good," said Sergeant Max Wind of 17th SS Panzergrenadiers, rebuilt after Normandy into a formation of 8,000 men, about half its established strength. "There were some young boys, but we also had some very experienced men. We respected Patton, because we knew that he respected Germany. But the American soldier was nothing like the Russian. Yes, of course, the U.S. had the material. But we never thought a lot of their soldiers. They lacked the motivation we had."

The U.S. Seventh Army under Patch,



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Armageddon: The Battle for

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The Germans possessed some redoubtable formations to throw into the line. "We were still pretty good," said Sergeant Max Wind of 17th SS Panzergrenadiers, rebuilt after Normandy

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Max Hastings

The Germans possessed some redoubtable formations to throw into the line. "We were still pretty good," said Sergeant Max Wind of 17th SS Panzergrenadiers, rebuilt after Normandy

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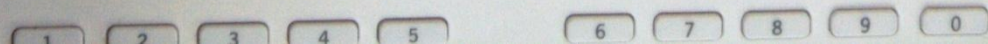
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
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
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
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
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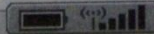
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 [Five Finger Mountain, Azerbaijan.](#)

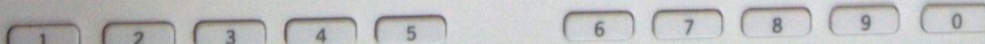
A **mountain** is a **landform** that stretches above the surrounding land in a limited area, with a peak. A mountain is generally steeper than a **hill**, but there is no universally accepted standard definition for the height of a mountain or a hill although a mountain usually has an identifiable summit. Mountains cover 64% of [Asia](#), 36% of North America, 25% of [Europe](#), 22% of [South America](#), 17% of [Australia](#) and 3% of [Africa](#).

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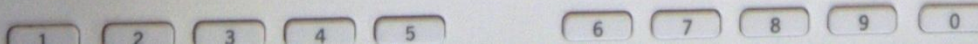
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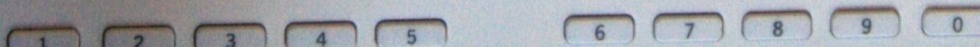
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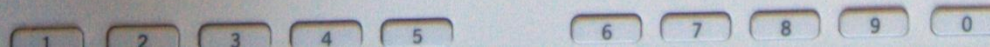
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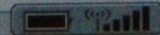
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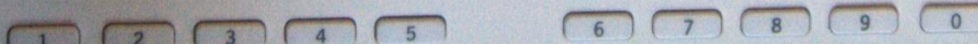


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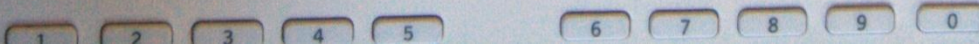


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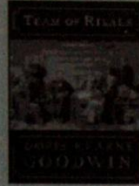
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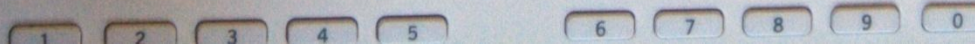


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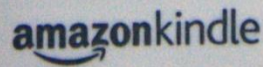
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The Germans possessed some redoubtable formations to throw into the line. "We were still pretty good," said Sergeant Max Wind of 17th SS Panzergrenadiers, rebuilt after Normandy into a formation of 8,000 men, about half its established strength. "There were some young boys, but we also had some very experienced men. We respected Patton, because we knew that he respected Germany. But the American soldier was nothing like the Russian. Yes, of course,

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Armageddon: The Battle for Germany, 1944-45

Max Hastings

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to go and look for his lost B Company. Peatling returned after an hour wandering empty streets, to report that he could find no sign of the missing men. There was desultory firing across the bridge, from the south end still held by the Germans. Peatling was ordered to escort Frost's second-in-command to inspect the pontoons, a little way downriver. As they approached, Germans began to fire tracer at them from the far bank. Peatling fired a few rounds back, then looked for his officer. "Major Wallis! Major Wallis!" he called in vain through the darkness of the town. Wallis was killed shortly afterwards, by a burst of "friendly fire" from a



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“Mr. Leopold Gantvoort is not at home,” the servant who opened the door said, “but his son, Mr. Charles, is -if you wish to see him.”

“No, I had an appointment with Mr. Leopold Gantvoort for nine or a little after. It’s just nine now. No doubt he’ll be back soon. I’ll wait.”

“Very well, sir.” He stepped aside for me to enter the house, took my overcoat

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THE TENTH CLEW

Dashiell

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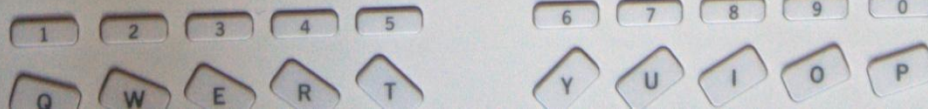
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“Mr. Leopold Gantvoort is not at home,” the servant who opened the door said, “but his son, Mr. Charles, is -if you wish to see him.” “No, I had an appointment with Mr. Leopold Gantvoort for nine or a little after. It’s just nine now. No doubt he’ll be back soon. I’ll wait.” “Very well, sir.” He stepped aside for me to enter the house,



Kindle Limitations

- Black & white only
- Low resolution graphics (800 x 600 pixels; 4 levels gray scale)
- Only linear paging
- Ergonomics a bit clumsy—easy to push wrong buttons
- Text formatting sometimes awkward



Kindle Virtues

- Excellent for reading non-technical documents
- Very good battery performance
- Handy for travelling
- Purchase and downloading of publications very easy
- Excellent storage capacity
(Read 1 book/day for 65 years!)



The Competition in 2007

- Seiko e-ink E-Book Reader
- Bookeen Cybook V3
- LG Philips Flexible eBook
- Fujitsu eBook Demo

The Competition

- **Sony PRS-700 Reader (\$400)**
(See Sony eBook store at: <http://ebookstore.sony.com/>)
- **Foxit eSlick Reader (\$229.99)**
 - PDF reader (also TXT); MP3 player
 - Printable document → PDF
 - No wireless capability
 - Plus 2 GB SD card (support 4 GB)
 - Delivery February/March
 - See <http://www.foxitsoftware.com/ebook/>



The Competition

- Irex Digital Reader 1000S (\$859)
- Plastic Logic Reader (Spring 2009). Aimed toward newspapers



The Competition (cont.)

(Cell phone: a dark horse candidate?)

- 1 million e-book readers
- 295 million advanced cell phones (including 18 million iPhones)
- Very few books available, mostly out of copyright
- See *BusinessWeek*, Jan 19, 2009, p. 053



My View of the Kindle

- Excellent device for reading non-technical publications
- Solid technology
- Rather expensive (\$359)*
- Good selection of books priced at ~\$10.00
- It's a winner!

* Buy ~35 books to break even

References

- *Kindle Users Guide*
- *Wikipedia:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindle>
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http://www.pcworld.com/article/139829/amazon_kindle_review_igniting_interest_in_ebooks.html
- *Various reviews:*
<http://thekindle.wordpress.com/2008/01/16/a-list-of-kindle-reviews-i-found-helpful/>

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- Video from YouTube:

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- <http://www.37signals.com/svn/posts/776-mini-review-amazon-kindle-vs-sony-reader>
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- Plastic Logic E-Reader :
<http://www.plasticlogic.com/company.html>
- Various e-ink devices:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_e-book_readers



The End