Time for a new phone?

After a few years of insipid releases, Apple has taken a chance with a new-look iPhone and its first foray into wearable technology. Words **Mat Gallagher**

With the requisite amount of hype, Apple put pay to rumours and announced its latest version of the iPhone.

Unlike last year's 5s launch, this is a complete redesign – and for the first time sees the phone coming in two sizes. The iPhone 6 features a 4.7-inch screen (a big jump from the four-inch screen of the 5s) with a 1334x750 pixel resolution, while a second model, to be known as the iPhone 6 Plus, features a 5.5-inch, 1920x1080 pixel screen.

Perhaps Apple's biggest competition in Asia, Samsung's Galaxy S5, offers a 5.1-inch, 1920x1080 pixel screen, while Samsung's new Note 4 phablet will offer a 5.7-inch display. The curved aluminium bodies of the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus are also thinner at just 6.9mm and 7.1mm respectively.

Inside, both new iPhones are almost identical and they do things faster and better. The iPhone 6 uses a new A8 processor with second-generation 64-bit architecture, and an M8 co-processor for motion.

The camera has had a fairly serious overhaul, although the megapixel count remains the same. The rear iSight camera has improved its focusing thanks to the use of dedicated pixels on the sensor to focus, a technique recently employed in many high-end still and video cameras.

Video users can now record at 60 frames per second in full 1080 HD. The iPhone 6 Plus also adds optical image stabilisation, while the 6 uses a digital version. For selfie fans, the front camera also now features a wider f/2.2 aperture (for more light) and improved face detection.

For data, both models feature a faster 4G connection, with 20 LTE bands to cover most networks up to 150Mbps, while Wi-Fi also sees an improvement in speed and coverage.

The touch ID fingerprint recognition can be used to approve purchases on iTunes and a range of physical payments can be made with the Near Field Communications (NFC) chip using the Apple Pay system.

The issue of battery life has also been addressed on the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, with up to 14 hours talk time and ten days standby on the 6, and a huge 24 hours talk time and 16 days standby from the iPhone 6 Plus.

Both models will come in a choice of silver, gold and 'space grey' colours, and 16GB, 64GB and 128GB capacity.

The iPhone 6 and 6 Plus are on sale now, priced tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk tk.

> **Both phones do things faster and better**

Apple Watch

The time has finally come. Almost eclipsing the iPhone announcement is Apple's first venture into wearable technology.

Though not to be launched until early 2015, with an exact date still to be announced, Apple has filled in the details of one of its most prophesied products to date.

The Apple Watch is not a single product, but rather a series of watches in three collections, with a choice of two sizes, six finishes and six wristbands. The Apple Watch Sport range features strengthened Ion-X glass and colourful bands, while the Apple Watch Edition has 18-karat gold cases and more classic bands. The third range, simply known as Apple Watch, features stainless steel designs.

The Apple Watch is designed to work closely with the iPhone, but it's far more than just a Bluetooth screen. The device has its own apps, including Calendar, Maps, Music, Weather and the Activity and Workout apps. The watch contains sensors to detect your heart rate and an accelerometer to detect movement that can be linked to the GPS in your iPhone, for detailed reports on your fitness. When paired with your phone the watch can deliver messages and reminders, control iTunes and can even show you what your phone's camera lens sees. NFC features allow the device to be used for Apple Pay.

Operation has been optimised for the smaller screen size and, in true Apple style, the traditional watch dial has been reworked as a clever digital control. By rotating the dial you can zoom and scroll. The watch also responds to presses and taps. Impressively, it can also make *you* respond to it with what it calls the Tapic Engine – it taps you on the wrist to alert you of a message and so on.

Details on the battery life – an issue that has sunk many smart watches – has yet to be confirmed. The Apple Watch is expected to retail from around 349USD (2,100RMB) in the US but local prices have not yet been confirmed.

In numbers

	iPhone 6	iPhone 6 Plus
Dimensions	138.1x67x6.9mm	158.1x77.8x7.1mm
Weight	129g	172g
Display	4.7in	5.5in
Resolution	1334x750px	1920x1080px
Processor	64-bit A8 M8 coprocessor	64-bit A8 M8 coprocessor
Camera	8MP	8MP
Stabilisation	None	Optical
Video	1080P (30/60fps)	1080P (30/60fps)
Front camera	1.2MP	1.2MP
Touch ID	Fingerprint	Fingerprint
Wi-Fi	802.11a/b/g/n/ac	802.11a/b/g/n/ac
Talk time	14 hours (3G)	24 hours (3G)
Standby	250 hours (10 days)	384 hours (16 days)