

Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks

Phone Red Dots

You've probably seen the red dots on your phone, but are you taking notice.

What I mean is, they are there to catch your attention, but if you don't take any notice of them then they become meaningless.

I saw a phone the other day with the number 2431 in the red dot on the mail icon. This was something the user had just learned to ignore. So if your phone is like this and you were waiting for an important eMail, you won't know when it arrives, without going into the app, that it has arrived.

Similarly with messages. The red dot is there to let you know that there are new ones, so deal with them and the dot disappears.

On the Settings icon, the dot means that there is a software update. Since these include improvements to apps, bug fixes and security updates, they are definitely worth doing as soon as possible.

In Facebook, it means that there are a number of notifications awaiting your attention – depending on your notification settings.

DropBox is telling you that there are this many pending photos, still to be uploaded to the DropBox cloud. Next time you are on WiFi, open up DropBox to refresh the syncing.

And Skype is highlighting there are people sending you messages, and trying to contact you.

So next time, don't just ignore the red dots - they are far more useful if you clear them.

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