

Facebook, HTC building Android smartphone: report

November 22 2011



People walk past High Tech Computer Corp. (HTC) logos in Hsintien, Taipei county, 2010. Facebook has allied with Taiwan's HTC to build a customized smartphone powered by Google's Android mobile operating system, according to technology blog All Things Digital.

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The project, code named "Buffy," is aimed at making a handset tailored for the California-based social [networking platform](#), according to the blog, which is owned by Dow Jones, publisher of The Wall Street Journal.

The device would "deeply integrate" [Facebook](#), which has more than 800

million members, "at the core of its being," All Things Digital said.

A Facebook team has been working with HTC as well as trying to make deals with telecom providers for the smartphone, which it hopes to release within the next 18 months, the blog said.

A Facebook spokesman declined to comment directly on the "Buffy" project to Things Digital but said: "Our mobile strategy is simple: We think every mobile device is better if it is deeply social.

"We're working across the entire mobile industry; with operators, hardware manufacturers, OS providers, and [application developers](#) to bring powerful [social experiences](#) to more people around the world," the spokesman said.

HTC already builds phones with dedicated Facebook programs.

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Citation: Facebook, HTC building Android smartphone: report (2011, November 22) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-11-facebook-htc-android-smartphone.html>

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