Google Glass: Specs on specs, API docs mark busy week

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(Phys.org) —For those who are just plain curious if not serious about owning Google Glass, the specs are here on Google Glass.

Officially announced for Glass Explorer edition, the spec details presented this week carry the official word about display, camera,

storage and battery life. The display is described as a high-resolution display being the equivalent of a 25-inch high definition screen from eight feet away. Google Glass will have a camera that is capable of capturing 5-megapixel images and video at a resolution of 720p. Google Glass owners can expect 12 GB of usable memory, synced with Google cloud storage. As for battery use, typical use will translate into one full day; Google said, however, that features such as Hangouts and video recording will be more battery-intensive. Concerns about wearable comfort are addressed: The device will come with adjustable nosepads, with extra nosepads in two sizes. The Audio is described as Bone Conduction Transducer. Connectivity is Wifi-802.11b/g and Bluetooth. A micro USB cable and charger will be included. Compatibility? Any Bluetooth-capable phone.

In related news, Google is showing MyGlass, which allows the user to configure and manage the Glass device. "If you don't have Glass, then downloading this will be a waste of time," said the note.

Google this week also published documentation for the [Mirror API](). This is the programming interface for developers, to create related Google Glass services. "Today we're releasing the API documentation and a bunch of example code, so even though the API is in a limited developer preview, you can start dreaming with us," Google developer programs engineer Jenny Murphy said, in a post this week.

The documentation focuses on "Glassware," including guides for Java and Python. The documentation goes into ample depth for writing "Glassware." According to the Google developers site, "The Google Mirror API allows you to build web-based services, called Glassware, that interact with Google Glass. It provides this functionality over a cloud-based API and does not require running code on Glass." The major features are described.

Perhaps the best attention getter in Google's packet of news announcements rests with the FAQ page. It reveals that Google is seeking to avert complaints and mishaps both. "As you probably know, most states have passed laws limiting the use of mobile devices while driving any motor vehicle, and most states post those rules on their department of motor vehicles websites. Read up and follow the law! Above all, even when you're following the law, don't hurt yourself or others by failing to pay attention to the road. The same goes for bicycling: whether or not any laws limit your use of Glass, always be careful."

Google's advice also extends to those who might think about wearing Google Glass while doing things that are dangerous for their eyes: "Glass can't protect your eyes from flying debris, balls, sharp objects, or chemical explosions. Using Glass while operating heavy or inherently dangerous equipment, or engaging in physical sports, could distract you, cause Glass to impact your eye, and lead you to harm yourself or others."

In answer to the question, "Is glass useful everywhere," Google cautions that noisy areas will affect being able to hear Glass and using voice input commands. Bright sunlight will also affect the user's ability to see the Glass screen. As for privacy concerns, Google said, "Also, you may be in certain places like a doctor's office where those around you don't feel comfortable being photographed or captured on video…Above all, be considerate."

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