





Credits

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Acknowledgements

This book is also dedicated to the fans of *Zune* without whom this book would not be possible, and the interest that remains for *Zune* devices, software and services. This book aims to bring *Zune* to life in a way never seen before, for those who are interested in *Zune* or for those experiencing *Zune* for the very first time.

My utmost thanks go to the members of *r/zune* on *Reddit* as it was their support and interest that made this book what it is, along with the many others who gave their support. I also appreciate those who submitted photographs for the *Community* section of the book allowing them to share their passion for *Zune*.

I'd also like to say how much I appreciate *Zune* including the efforts to develop it, build the platform and champion it through its lifetime, to create devices and a platform that could have rivalled anything else available at the time. *Microsoft* hopefully won't mind this book being put together for the community, as the creation of this book would not be possible without them.

I'm pleased I was able to own a couple of *Zune* devices and made my mark on the wider platform and community including supporting *Zune Cards* from *Zune Social* with my *ZuneCardr* app for *Windows Phone*. Almost everything in this book comes from assets or resources shared by *Microsoft*, so I appreciate them making them available and that they get to see the light of day once again in this book for everyone to enjoy.

It is also fantastic to update this book for the fifth anniversary of its first publication!



Foreword

It is twenty years since *Microsoft* first entered the personal media space in 2006, when they went against the competition at the time with their own digital music player and services with *Zune*. The first-generation *Zune* included an iconic and unusual colour for a device, brown, along with other colours. There were also accessories such as a dock, cables, car pack, travel kit, cases and more.

2007 brought a second-generation including a more capable and larger capacity device, the *Zune* 80GB or later 120GB and a more portable model in a variety of colours, the *Zune* 4GB or later available in 8GB and 16GB. It was also possible to purchase laser-engraved devices via *Zune Originals*, with designs from artists. Additionally new services such as *Zune Social* and *Zune Cards* were launched enabling sharing or discovery of music on the web, on or between devices.

2009 delivered the third-generation of *Zune* hardware with the *Zune HD*, a stunning ultra-premium devices featuring a multi-touch OLED screen and HD radio support, available in many colours including from *Zune Originals* and a range of new accessories including updated dock enabling 720p HD video output.

Although there was no new hardware, *Zune* services expanded beyond the web and dedicated devices becoming the digital entertainment brand for *Xbox* that brought Music and Video to many more countries. *Zune* featured on *Windows Phone* with Music and Video, although not *Zune Social* so was left to third-parties to support those features with apps such as *ZuneCardr*.

Welcome to this unofficial photographic journey of the history of the *Zune* devices, hardware, services and the community that keeps it alive to this day that was originally published five years ago as a celebration for *Zune*.



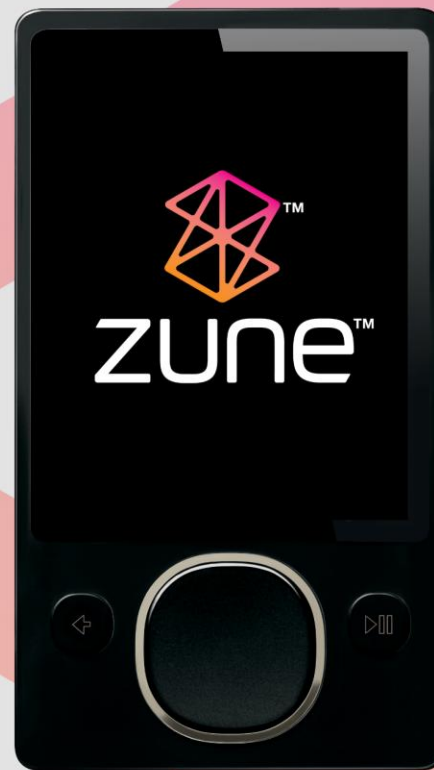


30GB

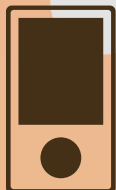


Keel

80|120GB



Draco





4|8|16 GB



Scorpius



Pavo







Content

Store up to 7,500 songs, 25,000 pictures or 100 hours of video using the 30GB built in drive.
Create playlists on the go and watch a slideshow while listening to music.
Watch video in landscape and get the most of out of the vivid display.

Wireless

Spontaneously share selected full-length tracks, homemade recordings, playlists or pictures wirelessly from Zune to Zune.

Display

Bright 3in / 7cm 320x420 LCD display that works in portrait or landscape mode, so music, video and pictures never looked better.



Media

Zune Marketplace with a huge selection of music from that could be synced to the player.
Import existing music, pictures and videos.

Personalise

Base colours were Black, White and Brown – each combined with a distinctive double-shot finish created by the overlay of one colour over another. Pink and Red limited editions were available and could customise the player with own background image.











Media

Store up to 20,000 songs, 25,000 pictures or 250 hours of video with the 80GB built in drive or even more with the 120GB option.

Wireless

Sync any podcasts, music and more via WiFi or wirelessly share selected full-length tracks, homemade recordings, playlists and pictures from Zune to Zune.

Display

Bright and durable 3.2in / 8.1cm 320x420 LCD display that delivers uncompromised portable video viewing works in portrait or landscape mode.



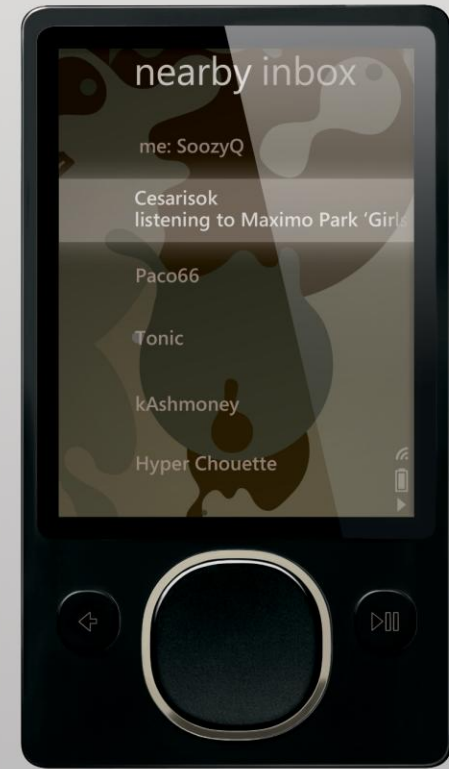
Social

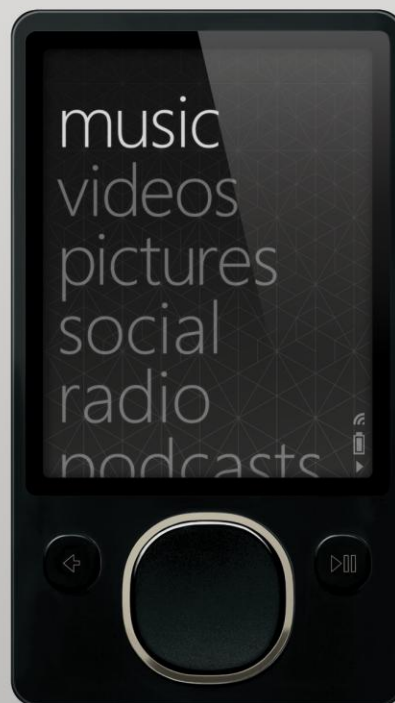
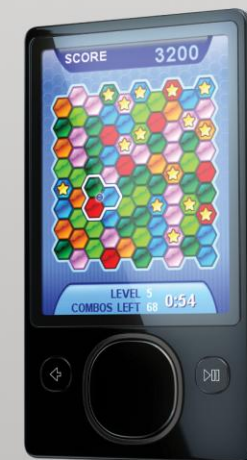
Discover more with Zune Cards to share recommendations, new music and connect to others with similar tastes. Get songs, albums, music videos, podcasts and more on Zune Marketplace.

Player

Navigate with innovative touch controls including the Zune Pad. Supported content recorded on Windows Media Center, FM tuner to listen to radio stations along with support for games and available in Black or Glossy Black along with Red and Blue versions available later.











Media

Store up to 1,000 songs, 25 pictures or 12 hours of video with 4GB of storage, along with 8GB and 16GB options available.

Wireless

Sync podcasts, music and more wirelessly plus share selected full-length tracks, homemade recordings, playlists or pictures between devices.

Display

Bright and durable 1.9in / 4.6cm 320x420 LCD display that works in portrait or landscape mode.



Social

Discover and share music with Zune Cards for recommendations, new music and connect to others with similar tastes. Get songs, albums, music videos, podcasts and more on Zune Marketplace.

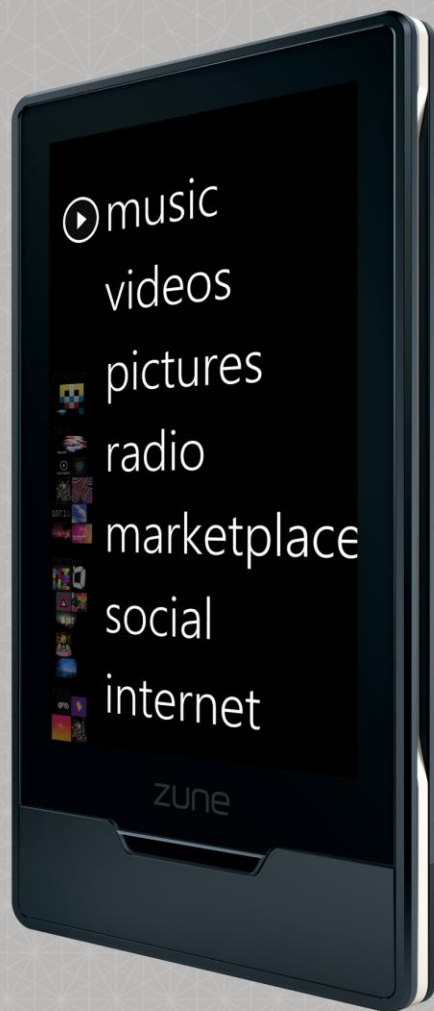
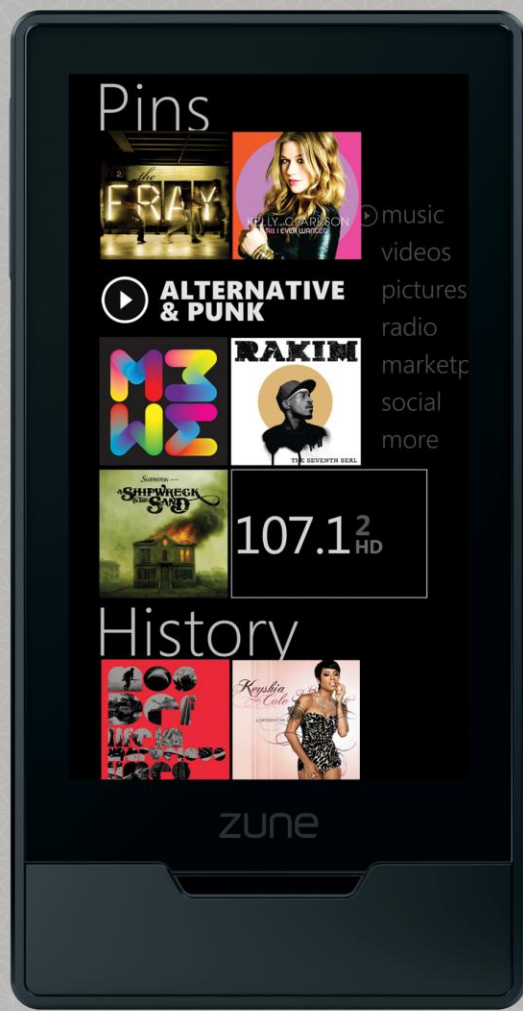
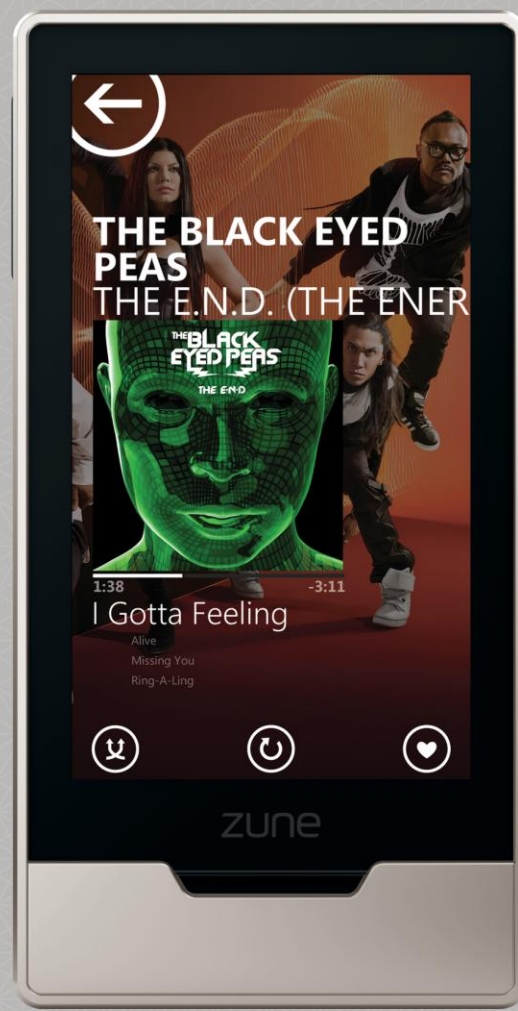
Player

Navigate with innovative touch controls including the Zune Pad. Super-slim and ultra portable and available in Red, Green, Pink and Black along with Blue later.











Media

Store 4,000 songs, 25,000 pictures, 5 hours of HD video from Zune Marketplace, 48 hours of video. optimised for device and more with 32GB and 64GB versions available.

Wireless

Connect, update and get content wireless via WiFi and stream songs directly. Browse the web with full-featured web-browser.

Display

Multi-touch navigation with 3.3in / 8.3cm 480x722 16:9 OLED screen. Output 720p HD video via optional AV Dock with HDMI.



Media

Tune into FM Radio or HD Radio with the integrated tuner and tag songs for later purchase from the Zune Marketplace. Lossless audio and HD video also supported.

Player

Premium entertainment at your fingertips with multi touch input capability available in Onyx Black and Platinum along with later Red, Blue, Green, Purple and Magenta colours.





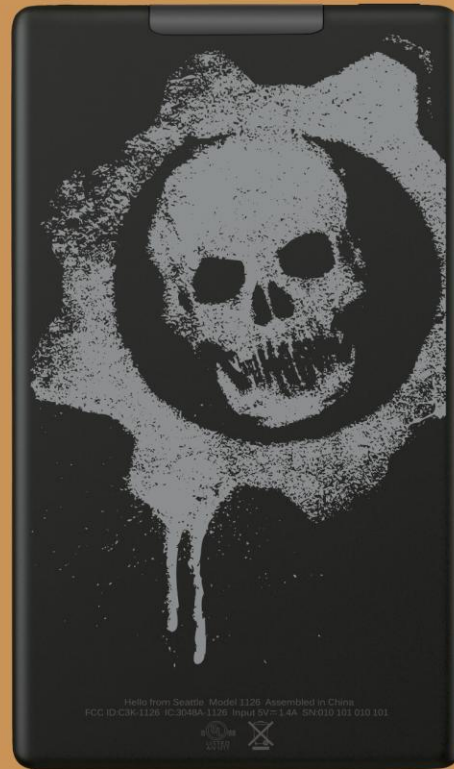




HALO 3



GEARS OF WAR 2



Special Editions

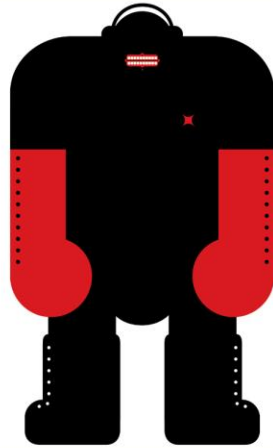




ARTISTS SERIES



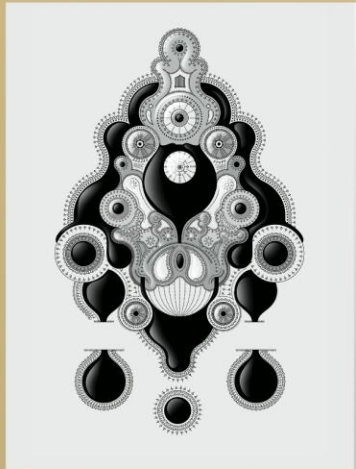
DALEK



MOTOMICHI



EMIL KOZAK



ALEX TROCHUT



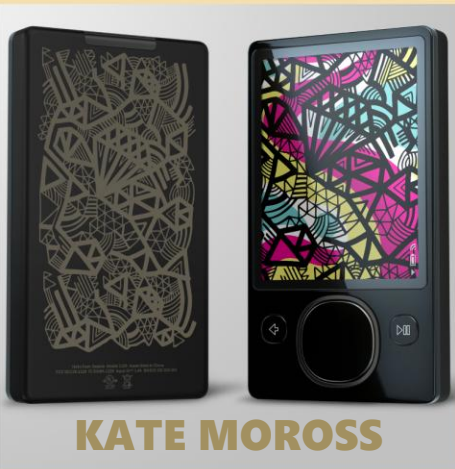
SIGGI EGGERTSSON



ALVARO ARTEAGA



ARTISTS SERIES



KATE MOROSS



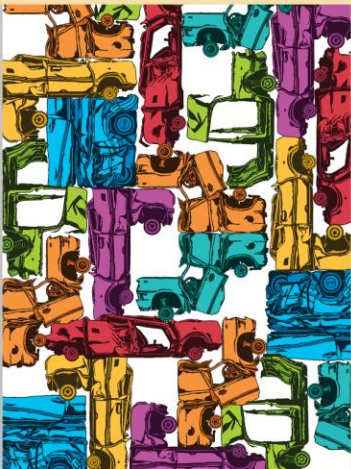
MAYA HAYUK



DANIEL JACKSON



ALVARO ARTEAGA



ROBIN NISHIO



IPPEI GYOUBU

Originals





CATALINA ESTRADA



IOSEFATU SUA



Originals





Classic AV Cable



Classic Sync Cable



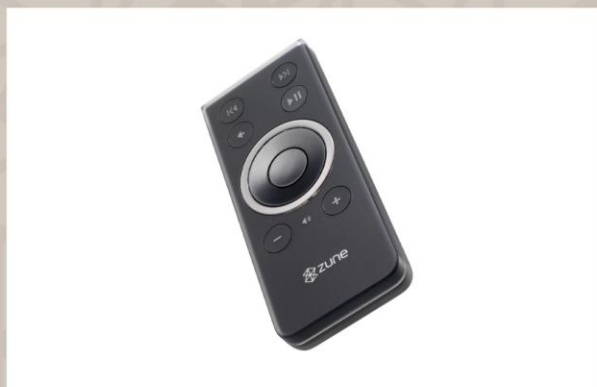
Classic Car Charger



Classic Car Pack



Classic Dock



Classic Wireless Remote



Classic Gear Bag



Classic Travel Pack





Classic Home A/V Pack



Classic Premium Headphones



Sync Cable



Premium Headphones



Dock



Home A/V Pack

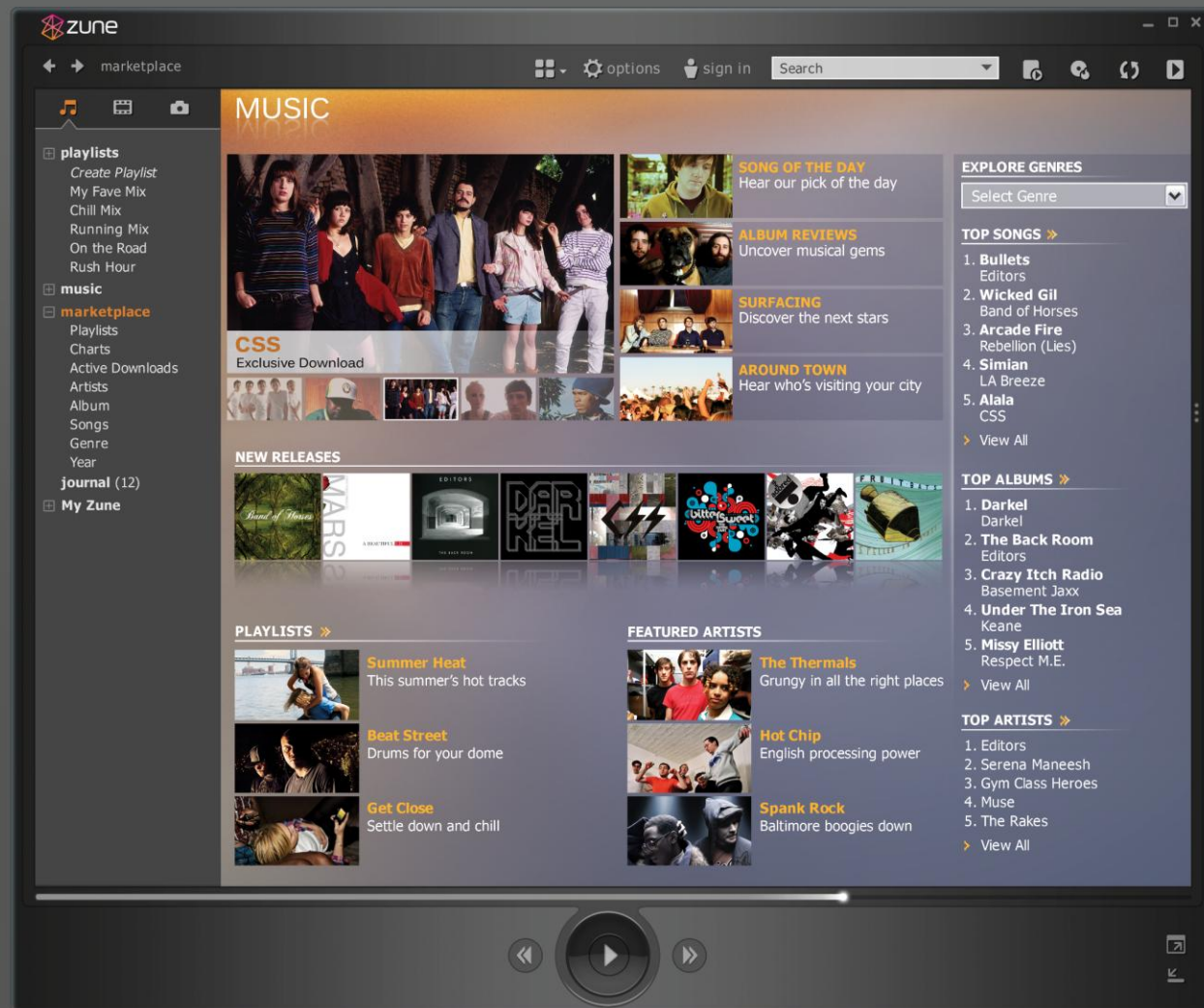


Car Pack



Cable Pack

Accessories





collection marketplace social device
picks music videos podcasts channels

MUSIC

genres

ROCK
HIP HOP
R&B / SOUL
POP
ELECTRONIC / DANCE
LATIN
REGGAE / DANCEHALL
WORLD
COUNTRY
CLASSICAL
JAZZ
BLUES / FOLK
COMEDY / SPOKEN WORD
CHRISTIAN / GOSPEL
SOUNDTRACKS
KIDS
MORE

browse

CHANNELS
PLAYLISTS
CHARTS
MUSIC VIDEOS

Search

Settings | Help

MossyRoc
5,433 plays

Ximena Sariñana
New album

Mix & Match
Get the latest & greatest

Music Videos
Get the latest & greatest

Video Spotlight
updated daily

new releases

Memphis
Janetis Monroe

One of the Boys
Katy Perry

Hot Shoutin'
Budd Eagle

Sensame
Color Voice

The Hold Steez
Stay Positive

top songs

1 In Love With A Girl
Gavin DeGraw

2 I Kissed A Girl
Katy Perry

3 Viva La Vida
Coldplay

4 Bleeding Love
Leona Lewis

5 I Kissed A Girl (Single Versi)
Miley Cyrus

top videos

1 Scream Aim Fire
Bullet for My Valentine

2 I Kissed A Girl
Jonas Brothers

3 Sleep Through The St
Jack Johnson

4 7 Things
Miley Cyrus

5 I Kissed A Girl
Katy Perry

Constructive Summer

01:45

2:54

VOLUME 50

collection marketplace social device
picks music videos podcasts channels

T.I.

artist bio videos related listeners

top songs

1 Let Me Talk To You
FutureSex/LoveSounds

2 No Matter What
No Matter What

3 What You Know
King (Edited)

4 Hurt
T.I. Vs. T.I.P.

5 We Takin' Over
We The Best

playlists

1 Pepsi DJ: Quicksilver
Mixtapes

2 Pepsi DJ: Drama
Mixtapes

3 Starring T-Pain
Mixtapes

more at zune.net

mixview

Albums Songs Year Most played Title Appears on

Paper Trail
2008

No Matter What
2008

When The North
2007

T.I. Vs. T.I.P. (Edit)
2007

Big Things Poppin
2007

What You Know
2006

Constructive Summer

01:45

2:54

VOLUME 50

collection marketplace social device
music videos pictures podcasts channels

Exit Mixview

Search

Settings | Help

MossyRoc
5,433 plays

artists genres albums songs playlists

10 artists

25 albums by this artist

32 songs by artist

One Of The Boys

01 One Of The Boys

02 I Got A Gun

03 I Got A Gun

04 I Got A Gun

05 I Got A Gun

06 I Got A Gun

07 I Got A Gun

08 I Got A Gun

09 I Got A Gun

10 I Got A Gun

11 I Got A Gun

Constructive Summer

01:45

2:54

VOLUME 50

Software

31



collection marketplace social device
picks music videos podcasts channels

Search Settings Help

MossyRoc
5,433 plays

PICKS FOR MOSSYROC



listeners like you

Giddy292dod
18,902 plays

channels for you

TOP ZUNE SONGS

songs for you

1. Screamin' Aim Fine
2. Bullet for My Valentine
3. Burnin' Up
4. Sleep Through The St
5. Jack Johnson
6. 7 Things
7. Miley Cyrus
8. I Kissed A Girl
9. Katy Perry

Constructive Summer
01:45 2:54

VOLUME 50

MossyRoc (5,433 plays)

This is how we roll

Last played track: **Constructive Summer** by THE HOLD STEADY

home



collection marketplace social device
friends me inbox

Search Settings Help

MossyRoc
5,433 plays

MOSSYROC

Brian Seattle, WA

THIS IS HOW WE ROLL

edit profile
account
zune.net profile

Recently Favorites Top Artists Badges About me

Song	Artist	Album
In Love With A Girl	Gavin DeGraw	Gavin DeGraw
I Kissed A Girl	Katy Perry	One Of The Boys
Bleeding Love	Leona Lewis	Spirit
Ain't No Other Man	Christina Aguilera	Back To Basics
Pocketful Of Sunshine	Natasha Bedingfield	Pocketful Of Sunshine
Hot N Cold	Katy Perry	One Of The Boys
I Will Always Love You	Whitney Houston	The Greatest Hits
Ur So Gay	Katy Perry	One Of The Boys
One Of The Boys	Katy Perry	One Of The Boys

mossyroc's friends

Recent activity a-z



Constructive Summer
01:45 2:54

VOLUME 50





zune products music video social support

search MossyRoc sign out

my social my profile

WELCOME MOSSYROC!

Shemp Dizzle sent 1 message out

my friends

what's new

my friend's recently played songs

my friend's most played albums

my friend's most played artists

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home

SoozyQ (2,964 plays)

stoked for snow
Last played: *When You're Gone* by AVRIL LAVIGNE

ATTACK DECAY SUSTAIN RELEASE

zune products music video social support

search SoozyQ sign out

welcome SoozyQ!
personalize your zune card

my recently played songs

my most played artists

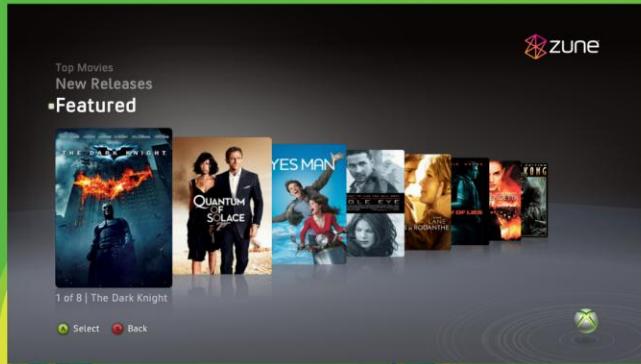
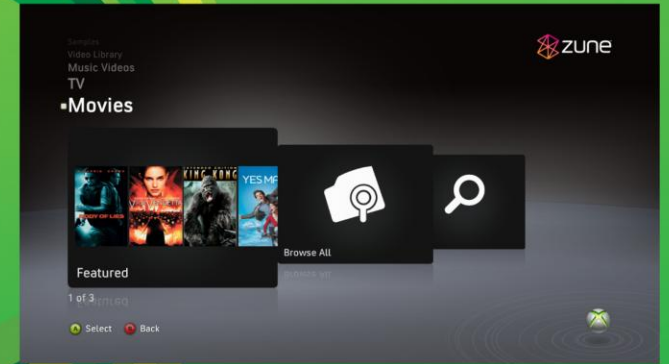
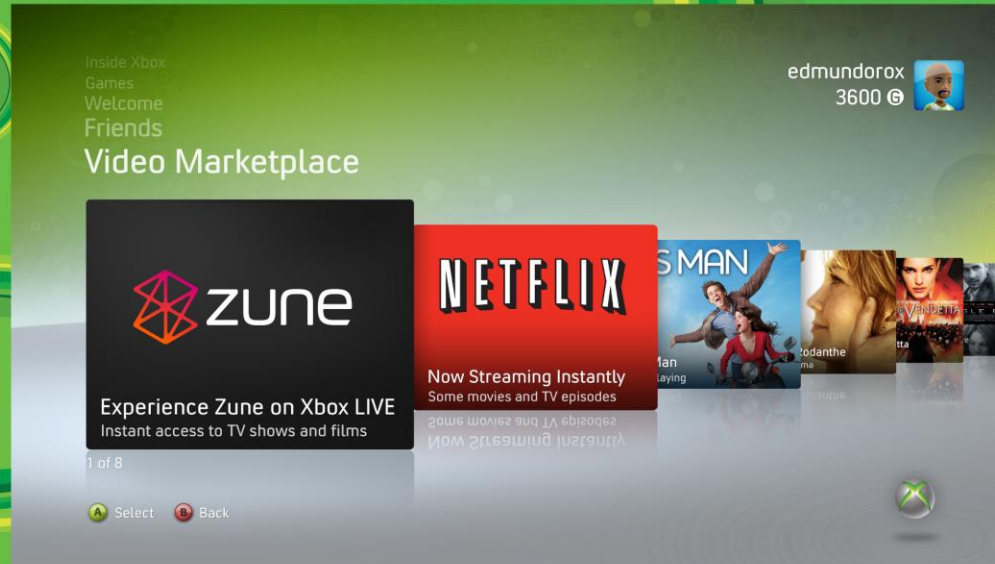
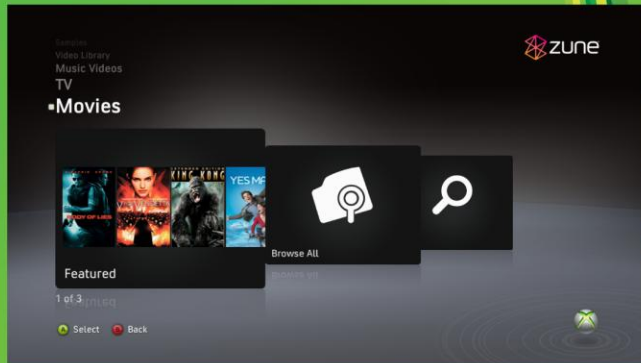
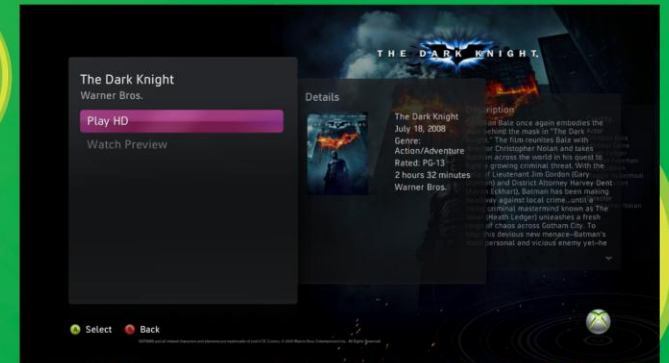
my friend's activity

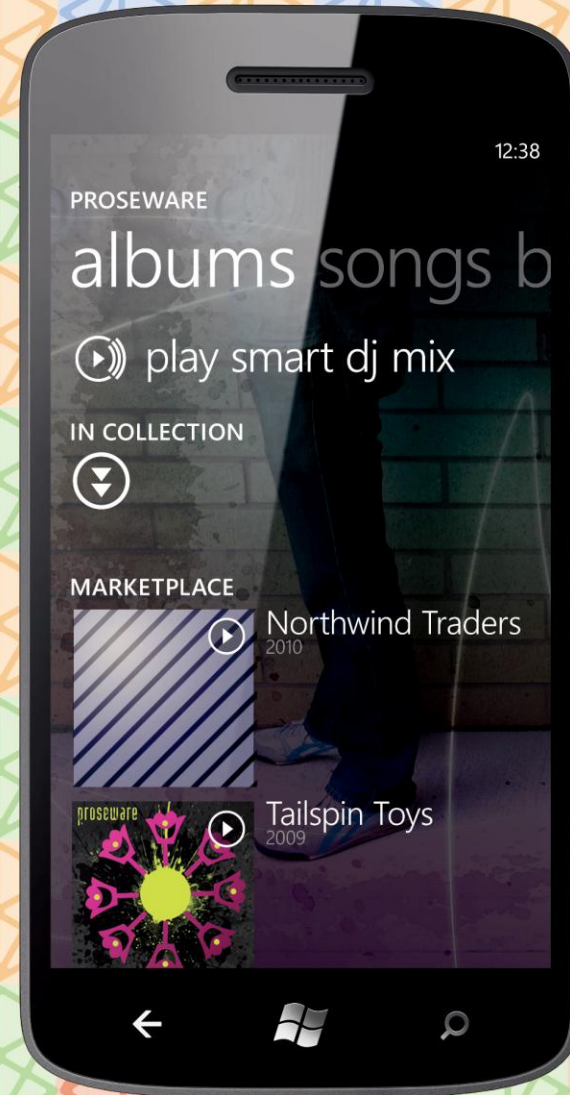
comments

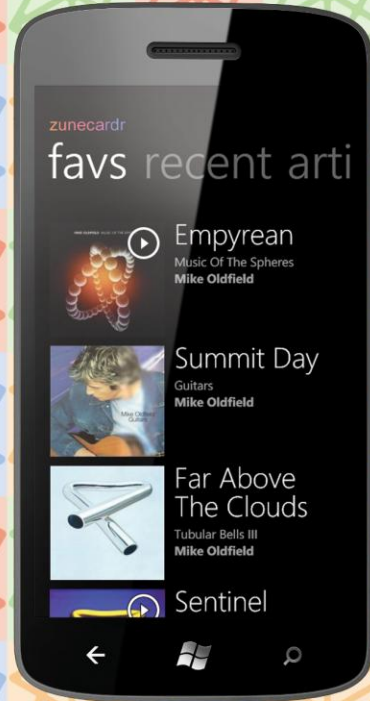
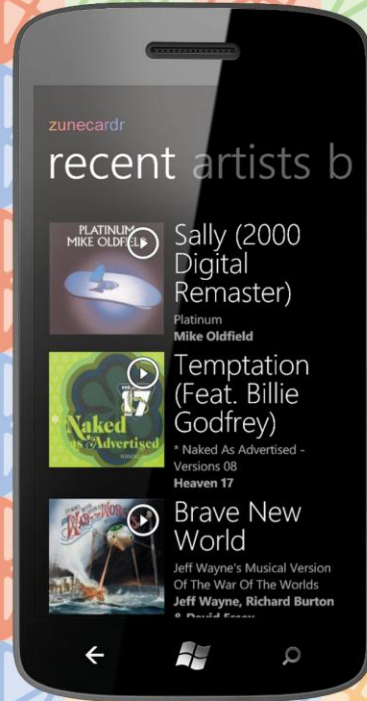
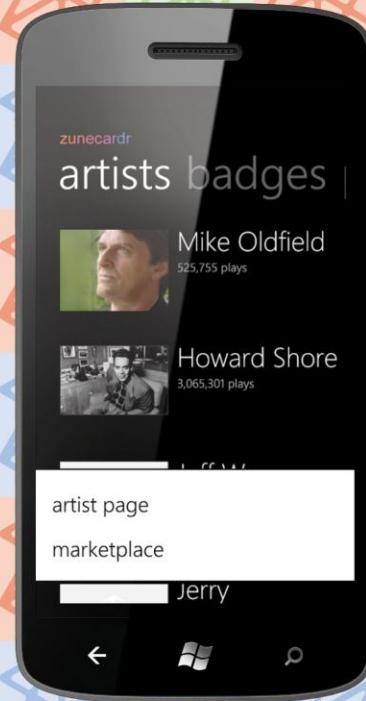
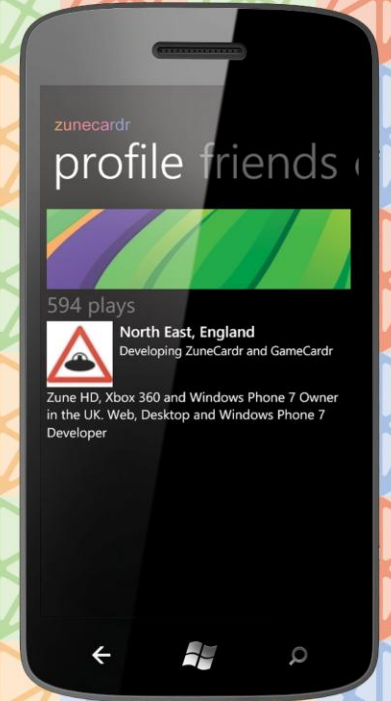
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u/BobPancake13



u/EdgeConnector



u/JustDJ12



u/Codix_

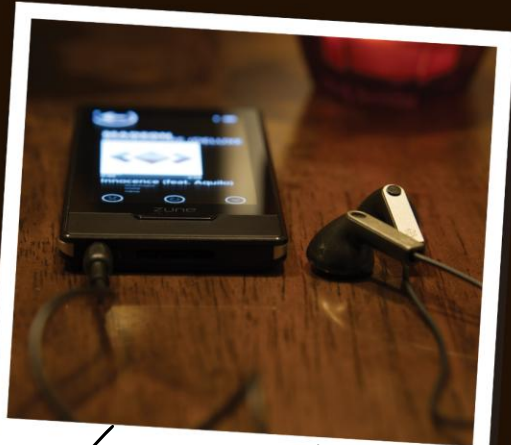


u/Evinread

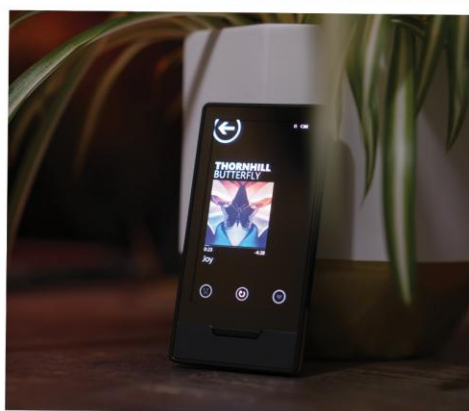


@DanCodePhoenix





u/snappyapple632



u/PlatinShadow



u/alonsoe1008



@Rogue Planetoid



u/dewcrewboosman



@RyanEatsLyons





Eric "Emendo12" Mendoza



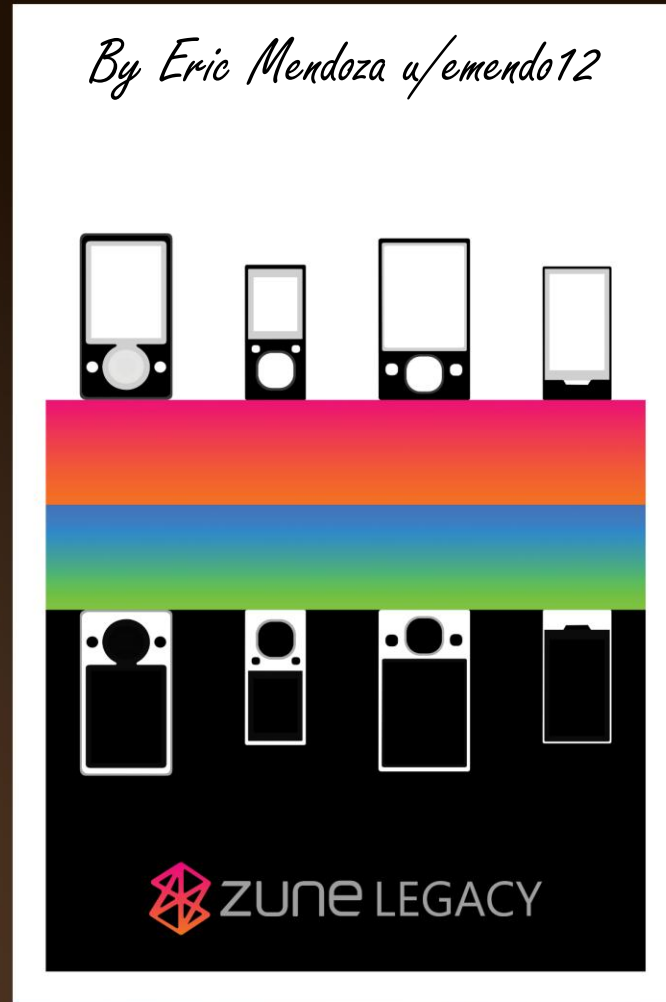
Zune Boxes



Zune Devices



Zune Originals Prints



Zune Cases



Zune Books



Zune Accessories



Gordon Bernelle



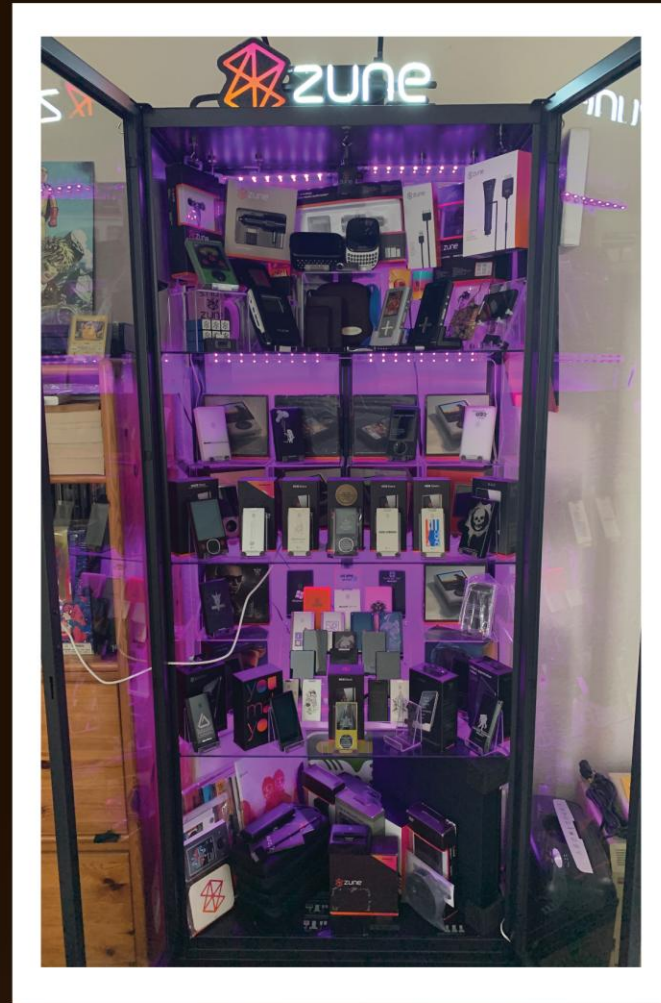
Zune 30GB Orange



Zune 30GB Magenta



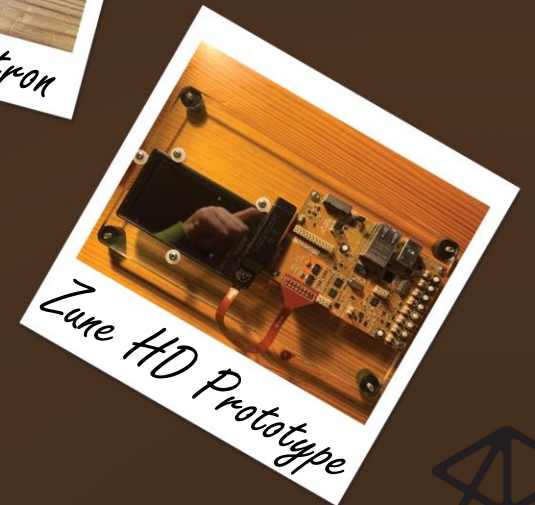
Zune 80GB Joy Division



Zune 16GB Citron



Zune HD



Zune HD Prototype



Epilogue

Zune devices did not last as due to competition and rise of smart phones, so they were discontinued in 2011. *Zune* services remained on *Xbox* and *Windows Phone*. However, this changed in 2012 when relaunched as *Xbox Music* then rebranding becoming *Groove Music* in 2015 but discontinued in 2018 and *Xbox Video* which became *Microsoft Movies/Films & TV* in 2015 but discontinued in 2025, ending around two decades of digital music or video services from *Microsoft*.

Zune had moments, in the 2008 film *Another Cinderella Story* featuring *Selena Gomez* a *Zune* was left behind at the ball instead of a glass slipper. *Zune* famously appeared in the 2017 film *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* when one was handed to *Peter "Star-Lord" Quill* and prominently in the 2023 follow up *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* where probably many know *Zune* from. *Zune* usually was a target of jokes when making any appearances in films or on TV.

There is little trace of *Zune* today, although some of the legacy lives on in the design language of software and services on *Windows* and *Xbox*. However, there is a keen community of *Zune* owners, many owning unique or rare devices along with many accessories, merchandise, posters and other paraphernalia about *Zune*. Those fans share their passion on social media, including many were kind enough to provide photos of their *Zune* devices or collections to be featured in this book.

This now five-year old unofficial photographic journey celebrates and showcases the history of *Zune* devices, hardware, services plus the community that keeps it alive to this day. Hopefully, this brings *Zune* to new eyes, and although it did not last, it meant much to be able to own a *Zune*!



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About

Peter Bull is a software developer from the UK and keen fan of anything *Microsoft*, he has made sure to get every *Xbox* console and heard about *Zune* in 2006 and wanted one even though it wasn't available in the UK finally got a black *Zune* 80GB followed a few years later with a red *Zune HD*, thanks to a kind person from California who purchased one from *Zune Originals*.

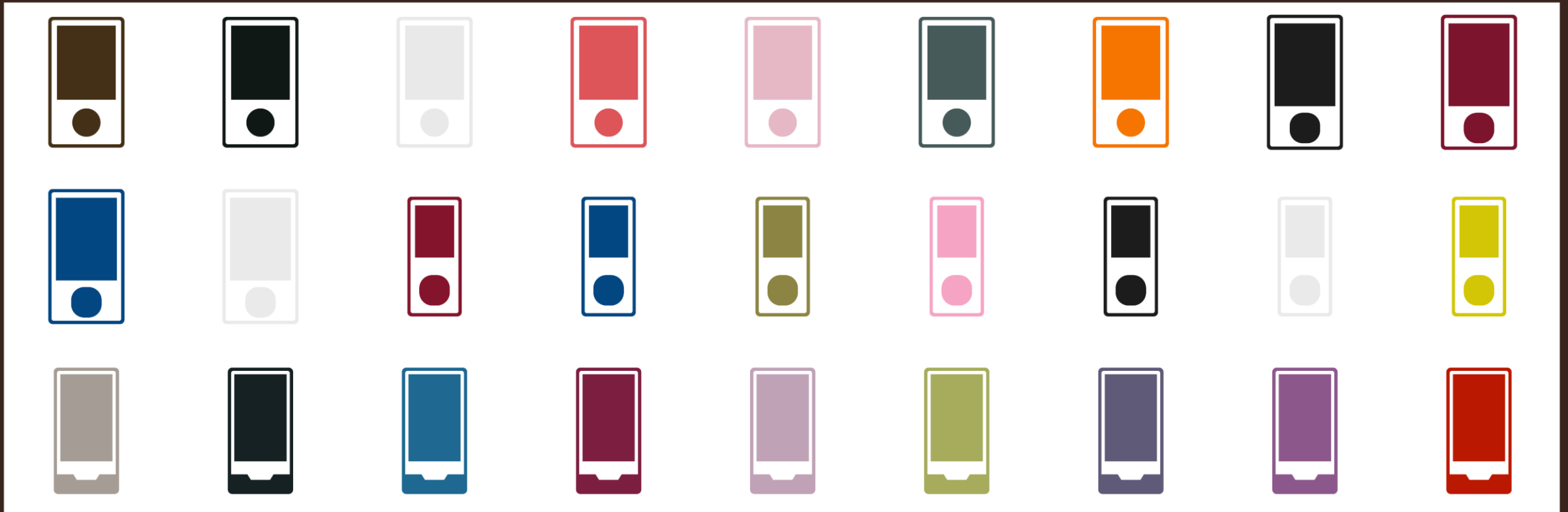
When *Windows Phone* was announced in 2010 and featured *Zune* services, but not *Zune Cards*, a key part of *Zune Social* where could share what you listened to, Peter brought this to the platform with *ZuneCardr*, gaining over 333,000 downloads. He also ran a website that covered *Zune* including obtaining assets used in this book. During an event around that time, he asked Steve Ballmer, CEO of *Microsoft* at the time, if *Zune* was coming to the UK, and he replied "No" adding "It's all about the phone now" which was the first time *Microsoft* officially confirmed this fact which signalled the beginning of the end for the *Zune* hardware a few years later. *Zune* services lived on for a while on *Windows Phone* and *Xbox* but those also ended.

Today there is still a community of *Zune* owners like Peter, who share their passion including those who have rare or limited-edition devices and other paraphernalia. *Zunepedia* shares a collection of *Zune* assets in a hopefully interesting way, with photos from the *Zune* community to bring delight to the community or people discovering *Zune* for the first time and celebrate five years of *Zunepedia*!



Buy me a coffee





Unofficial photographic journey of the history of the Zune devices, hardware, services and the community that keeps it alive to this day

Peter Bull