

Telephone (859) 261-5908 to immediately reach [Raymond Sonoff](#), President of [Sonoff Consulting Services, Inc.](#), 271 Saxony Drive, Crestview Hills, KY 41017 USA.



Scsi's Mobile WebKISS™ Guide #7: What are the Strengths and Weaknesses of Mobile Web Search Tools and Engines?

The four major headings provided on this Web page are listed immediately below:

- [The never-ending Search for the Perfect Mobile Web Search Engine, Mobile Web Search Toolbar, or Mobile Web Search Service](#)
- [Mobile Web Search Engines](#)
- [Mobile Web Search Toolbars](#)
- [Mobile Web Search Services](#)

NOTE: Relevant hyperlinks are included within the associated paragraphs to make your browsing session productive and all the more enjoyable.

The never-ending Search for the Perfect Mobile Web Search Engine, Mobile Web Search Toolbar, or Mobile Web Search Service

The objective of Scsi's Mobile WebKISS™ Guide #7: What are the Strengths and Weaknesses of Mobile Search Tools and Engines? is simple: Provide its readers with a consolidated list of what key features are either present in or absent from various widely known and used Mobile search engines, search toolbars, and search services.

Among the major points covered in this document are the following:

1. Although such a goal can never really be achieved with ultimate finality, Scsi feels that at least a "line drawn in the sand" assessment of some of the more dominant search-driven Mobile Web sites (e.g., Google, Yahoo, MSN Search, Clusty, and others) is worth presenting here for others to examine, comment, and draw their own conclusions about.
2. Mobile Search engines are wide-ranging in their individual capabilities. Scsi has not yet observed any manifestations for search engine standardization amongst those encountered or adopted by other Web sites or individual end users.
3. Each and every mobile Web search engine tends to exhibit various limitations that leave much room for improvement. Achieving the ideal "one size fits all" mobile Web search engine will likely remain just out of reach for the foreseeable future.

Hopefully, you will find the information presented here to be of at least general use in your own quest for whatever you may consider to be an ideal mobile Web search engine for your particular search-based requirements.

Mobile Web Search Engines

Where to start? If nothing else, the starting point will depend to a great degree upon your preferences for the style and desired features in a mobile Web search engine.

1. If you want to go with the acknowledged market share mobile Web search engine leader, it's Google(.com) that you will make use of. If you are married to Microsoft, you'll likely choose MSN Search. If you can Yahoo, and that fills your needs in most cases, then you'll likely take that route.
2. If you want something that looks across a number of mobile Web search engines all at the same time and creates convenient and selectable categories of search results to choose from, you might choose to go with Clusty (also known as Vivísimo) or some similar offering.
3. If you want to make use of a mobile Web search engine that doesn't take you literally all the time, you might decide to go with AskJeeves instead.
4. Certainly, you might have a wholly different favorite Mobile search engine that you rely on. Examples that come to mind include Altavista, Overture, Lycos, AlltheWeb, and so on.

Whatever works best for your purposes is, of course, the name of the Mobile search engine selection game. But let's look at some more specifics of the most popular mobile Web search engines now — just in case you'd like to learn more or to compare notes with what Scsi has committed to in writing here.

Google

The simplicity of the google.com mobile Web search engine Web site belies its underlying complexity. In effect, less is more, and the reason that Google is the top-rated mobile Web search engine is because it delivers on its promise to provide results that are extensive, rapidly provided, and in a display format that does not require a training manual to both understand and to

appreciate. The displayed results are presented in a matter-of-fact format, and Google seldom disappoints Scsi in its findings. Besides, the Scsi P&KT Web site employs the Google search engine for the dual-domain mobile Web search window (see Scsi's Best Practice #5), so it should prove to be no surprise to the reader that Scsi ranks Google as its overall favorite mobile Web search tool. Having said all this about Google's mobile Web search engine, let's now move on to other mobile Web search engines for comparison purposes.

Other Mobile Search Engines

Listed below are just some of the numerous Mobile search engines that you might wish to visit and try out for yourself:

- [A9](#)
- [Alltheweb](#)
- [Altavista](#)
- [AOL](#)
- [Ask Jeeves](#)
- [Clusty](#)
- [DMOZ](#)
- [Entireweb](#)
- [Gigablast](#)
- [Lycos](#)
- [MSN Live](#)
- [Teoma](#)
- [Wisenut](#)
- [Yahoo](#)

Is one Mobile search engine tool any better than another? That depends on the individual's preferences, doesn't it? After all is said and done, each of us will generally tend to gravitate toward using regularly whatever particular mobile Web search engine that best "fills the bill" for the way we believe a mobile Web search engine should. Moreover, this stance is one that should not only be expected but also respected and appreciated by one and all.

Mobile Web Search Toolbars

Well, once a user settles down to using a mobile Web search engine regularly, incorporation of that mobile Web search engine's toolbar as part of their Web browser often follows — when this option is available. After all, if you know what you want and can get it integrated into your favorite Mobile Web browser, you've got the best of both worlds working for you. Such a deal you simply can not pass up. Of course, you might have to live with the situation where integration may not be available for your favorite Web browser. For those cases, you'll have to settle for using the mobile Web search engine in standalone fashion, but that's how things turn out at times.

Scsi encourages you to visit various Search Engines' Mobile Web sites to see what they offer, including toolbar-based mobile Web searching capabilities.

Mobile Web Search Services

Even though many if not most searchers will be happy with either the choice of a mobile Web search engine or the use of a mobile Web search toolbar configuration used in conjunction with their favorite Web browser, there will always be some number of users who will decide, for whatever reason(s), to have others do their searching for them. If this is the case for you, here is a sampling of just a few of the many search services available for you to choose from.

HighBeam Research

The [HighBeam™ Research Web site](#) provides its visitors with three tabbed categories of search: Library, Web, and Reference. The respective statements made on the Web site for each category are respectively stated as follows: Library — More than 34 million documents from over 3,000 sources, going back as far as 20 years; Web — Choice from among six Research Groups; References — More than 20 different encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, and thesauri that encompass 300,000 fact-filled reference documents.

SPECIAL NOTE: Membership registration is indicated to be of two types: Basic (free) and Full. However, long before you ever consider making a decision whether or not to make the leap and register at this or any membership-registration-based Web site, regardless of the cited "cover" price, Scsi recommends — without exception and without your making any assumptions of any kind — that you always "read the entire set of fine print statements" contained on the Web site's Privacy Policy Web page and on the Terms and Conditions Web page.

JupiterResearch

The [JupiterResearch Web site](#) states, "JupiterResearch provides unbiased research, analysis and advice, backed by proprietary data, to help companies profit from the impact of the Internet and emerging technologies on their business. ." You are encouraged to visit the Web site for additional details and offerings.

LexisNexis

The [LexisNexis Web site](#) provides its visitors with four tabbed categories of search: Product Name, Occupation, Task, and Featured Products. You are encouraged to visit the Web site for additional details and offerings.

Mobile Web Page Validation and Contact Information

Validate this Scsi's Mobile WebKISS™ Guide #7: What are the strengths and weaknesses of mobile search tools and engines? Page to assure full conformance to W3C's [XHTML 1.0 Basic](#), cascading style sheet ([CSS](#)), and WCAG [Accessibility](#) recommendations.

Contact Information: [Raymond Sonoff](#), President of Sonoff Consulting Services, Inc., 271 Saxony Drive, Crestview Hills, KY 41017 USA; Telephone: (859) 261-5908.

[Sonoff Consulting Services, Inc. \(Scsi\)](#) — [Mobile Productivity](#) and [Knowledge Transfer](#) Specialists

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Expanded Mobile Home	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/index_expanded.html
Graphics-based Mobile Home	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/index_graphics_mapped_version_3.html
Mobile Site Map	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/site_map/site_map.html
Mobile Productivity	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/productivity/productivity.html
Scsi's Mobile WebKISS™ Guides	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/web_kiss_guides/scsi_pkt_mobile_webkiss_guides_page.html
Other Mobile Web Sites	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/url_links/url_links.html
Mobile Contact Us	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/contact_us/contact_us.html
Scsi's Mobile Access Keys	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/access_keys.html
Scsi's Mobile Web Best Practices	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_part2.html#h3_3
#1	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_1_of_10.html
#2	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_2_of_10.html
#3	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_3_of_10.html
#4	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_4_of_10.html
#5	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_5_of_10.html
#6	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_6_of_10.html
#7	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_7_of_10.html
#8	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_8_of_10.html
#9	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_9_of_10.html
#10	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_10_of_10.html
why the Scsi P&KT Mobile Web Site is both virus- and worm-free	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/mobile_unique_features_1_of_10.html#h2_2
need professional assistance	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/need_professional_assistance.html
addressing productivity	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/scsi_focus_on_productivity.html
knowledge transfer-related matters	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/what_scsi_pkt_does.html
e-mail	mailto:info@sonoffconsulting.mobi
	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/web_kiss_guides/scsi_pkt_mobile_wkg_11_total_access_so_what.html
The never-ending Search for the Perfect Mobile Web Search Engine, Mobile Web Search Toolbar, or Mobile Web Search Service	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/web_kiss_guides/scsi_pkt_mobile_wkg_7_mobile_search_tools_and_engines.html#h2_1

Shortcut Text	Internet Address
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Mobile Web Search Toolbars	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/web_kiss_guides/scsi_pkt_mobile_wkg_7_mobile_search_tools_and_engines.html#h2_3
Mobile Web Search Services	http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/web_kiss_guides/scsi_pkt_mobile_wkg_7_mobile_search_tools_and_engines.html#h2_4
A9	http://lite.a9.com/
Alltheweb	http://www.alltheweb.com/
Altavista	http://www.altavista.com/
AOL	http://o.aolcdn.com/aolsearch/en/US/aolcom/0770a06/001/search_nrf.html
Ask Jeeves	http://www.ask.com/
Clusty	http://clusty.com/
DMOZ	http://www.dmoz.org/
Entireweb	http://entireweb.com/
Gigablast	http://gigablast.com/
Lycos	http://search.lycos.com/?&diktfc=B71024FFB9C9F2FBBDD59360ED59E052612C7CB98AAF
MSN Live	http://www.live.com/
Teoma	http://www.ask.com/?t=1&qsrc=119
Wisenut	http://www.wisenut.com/
Yahoo	http://mobile.yahoo.com/onesearch
HighBeam™ Research Web site	http://www.highbeam.com/
JupiterResearch Web site	http://www.jupiterresearch.com/bin/item.pl/home
LexisNexis Web site	http://www.lexisnexis.com/
XHTML 1.0 Basic	http://validator.w3.org/check?uri=http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/filters/web_kiss_guides/scsi_pkt_mobile_wkg_7_mobile_search_tools_and_engines.html
CSS	http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/validator?uri=http://sonoffconsulting.mobi/code/scsi_pkt_mobi_2007a_all.css
Accessibility	http://www.contentquality.com/Default.asp
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