

Huawei Ascend P7 Disqualified by FutureMark for Cheating 3DMark Benchmark Tests

International Business Times

- What Happened: The P7 was caught changing its configuration to show higher performance (up to 28%) on popular benchmarks
- How:
 - Code in the device turns on all cores when certain benchmark software is detected (checks the app name)
 - Also runs at higher frequencies for longer
- The Fallout:
 - Their scores were removed from the site
 - However, not much uproar from the industry



It's Not Just Huawei

- Chart from Anandtech 2013 (2)
- Other methods:
 - Raise thermal limits
 - Overclock GPU
- Other instances:
 - Intel atom in 2013 (3)
 - AMD/NVIDIA/ATI each caught cheating and/or accusing the other at various points (2003-2011)

I Can't Believe I Have to Make This Table								
Device	SoC	Cheats In						
		3DM	AnTuTu	AndEBench	Basemark X	Geekbench 3	GFXB 2.7	Vellamo
ASUS Padfone Infinity	Qualcomm Snapdragon 800	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
HTC One	Qualcomm Snapdragon 600	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
HTC One mini	Qualcomm Snapdragon 400	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
LG G2	Qualcomm Snapdragon 800	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Moto RAZR i	Intel Atom Z2460	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Moto X	Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 Pro	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Nexus 4	Qualcomm APQ8064	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Nexus 7	Qualcomm Snapdragon 600	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Samsung Galaxy S 4	Qualcomm Snapdragon 600	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
Samsung Galaxy Note 3	Qualcomm Snapdragon 800	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 10.1	Intel Atom Z2560	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N

Why It Matters

- Benchmark cheating is nothing new and likely to continue as long as their scores affect sales
- Current methods for cheating are pretty naïve but likely to improve (checking app names)
- Rampant cheating in a set of benchmarks can ruin their credibility, almost an issue for smartphone benchmarks

References

1. <http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/566238/20140915/huawei-ascend-p7-benchmarks-3dmark-ice-storm.htm#.VDK97K2FvFZ>
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3. <http://www.androidauthority.com/analyst-says-intel-beating-arm-in-benchmarks-was-a-sham-243526/>