Garmin Fenix 5 Experience

In the age of technology that we currently live in technological devices are everywhere you look and have become a normal part of life. One of these very products are fitness tracking smart watches. Originally, they started as watches that would show you messages from your smart phone and evolved into some that could respond to messages and take calls. Eventually smartwatches became fitness trackers as well and now they have essentially become one and the same. The specific device that I will be covering is the Garmin Fenix 5. This is a smartwatch/ fitness tracker that I wear everyday no matter the occasion. There are arguably countless purposes for this device depending on who the person is and what all their lives entail.

While the Fenix 5 is primarily a watch it is also has all of the other widgets that smartwatches come with. It has the capability of showing notifications from your smart phone as well as telling the weather, heartbeat, calories burned, last recorded activity, number of steps taken, number of floors climbed, syncing with your music, and many more. One of the places Garmin as a company excels is activity monitoring and this is also the most widespread part of the device for it can track anything from running to golf. Each of the specific activities also have their own measurements that they take into account, personally I use the running option the most and it will show you, your pace, how far you have gone, how long you have been running, and calories burned. Garmin also will sync with an app on your phone that can show you even more details after the activity such as how many feet you climbed during your run, your cadence's through the run, as well as using GPS to show you your route in which you ran. User experience is something that can be tricky to determine because each person has a different knowledge on who things work. The user experience with the Fenix 5 is something that I would say is above average but not fantastic. There is a rather large learning curve on how the navigation on the app and watch itself work. Also, the smartwatch is targeted to those who have been in the athletic world for a while, to an average user some of the terminology could be confusing as well as knowing what exactly they should be paying attention to. An example of this is the Fenix 5 will track your heart rate and tell you what level zones you are in during activity and if you don't know what heart rate zones are this could be scary when you hit zone 4 and not sure what is going on.

The primary stake holders in the Garmin Fenix 5 are those who own and use it consistently for as many purposes as possible. Those who do not use the Garmin Fenix 5 would not be considered stake holders unless they have stock in Garmin. For a novice primary user, it may be overwhelming at first but through time it will become clearer on what all can be done. The Fenix 5 comes with quite a bit of different customizability for what widgets you have for easy access, what watch face you want and what order you want all your main screen applications to be in. Those who are experienced with other smart watches or understand the fitness world the Fenix 5 will not come that much of a challenge. For those who are experienced the Fenix 5 increases the scope of what an individual can record. Interaction is what this device is made for it is all about being set up in a way that best suits the user. While the Fenix 5 is not touch screen there are three buttons on the left side and two buttons on the right. All the different buttons serve a specific purpose such as go up and down and enter. The owner then decides whether they want to check on of the apps such as heartbeat or start an activity like running or biking. The Fenix 5 tailors towards each individual.

While the Fenix 5 has an incredible amount of uses there are some downsides to the product. Due the manufacturer being Garmin and not the manufacturer of any smart phones, the compatibility is not always up to par. While one of the main features of a smart watch is being able to receive texts, The Fenix 5 sometimes will not alert to text messages if either the phone or watch are not up to date. This takes away one of the main reasons someone would get a Garmin Fenix 5. The way to fix this problem would be to update along with the major smart phone companies, this could be done by working together with the companies. If the companies do not want to work with Garmin because they could be considered Another thing interesting about the Fenix 5 is that is completely waterproof so no matter the environment it will always be usable and effective. The Fenix 5 uses all sorts of different interface metaphors but the most obvious one is the heart rate monitor. It uses both a beating heart at the pace at your heart is beating and a bar graph to show when your heart rate peaked as well as when it is low. Each different activity also has a picture of a stick figure doing that activity which really help the understanding. The largest requirement that the Fenix 5 requires is a charge, the battery life is incredibly long and go roughly 2 weeks without a charge depending on use. The entire purpose of this kind of product is to help the user and make their life easier. By tracking all of the user's information this will help the user keep their health in check. This is the best kind of test you could do for a fitness device,

check how it helps the user work on their fitness. The best way to evaluate this device would be to track someone's average routine and see if after the watch comes into play if the lifestyle becomes healthier.

The Fenix 5 is a great product for a multitude of reasons. There is so many different applications and uses built into the Garmin Fenix 5 that it really shows how far technology has come. What is great is that the only thing you have to remember is how to get the menu or how to get to settings. Nothing is ever more than 5 pages away which adheres to the "Rule of 7". Everything on the watch is very linear making the cognitive process implemented very easy. For what the watch is meant to do (track fitness) it is incredibly good, however there are not very many other uses for the watch other than what it explicitly says. The user-experience is great due to how much it can do as well as how easy it is to use. The main factor for this is that it is so customizable so everyone can have the Fenix 5 exactly to their liking. Customizability is a sure way for a great user experience because it lets the user tailor the device to themselves. There are very few if any design principles that are broken, for example each icon next to the activities are colored in a way to stand out from both the text and the background. Emphasis is shown through contrasted colors as well bolding key numbers or words. Nothing feels cramped unless you change the watch face to one of the custom faces that have everything on one screen. The number of floors page has a lot of blank space, but I feel as if it is alright because nothing else really needs to be on the page.

While I am an advocate for the Fenix 5 there are some things that I would change for later generations. I would make the screen touch screen because it would make the navigation a little easier and quicker when doing physical activity. There are other Garmin fitness watches that I have used that had touch screen it was a more pleasant. I would also make the Garmin more compatible with the major smart phone companies. One of the most frustrating things about the Fenix 5 is that it will not notify you if you are getting a text or call if Garmin has not kept up with updates. One complaint people could have is that it is rather bulky but I personally do not have an issue with it, in the future a slimmer size would stand to bring in some attention. Otherwise I think the Garmin Fenix 5 is a fantastic product and can only hope for Garmin to produce more great products in the future!

Austin Crow
IT SYST 469-005

<u>Garmin Fenix 5 Experience Summary</u>

The Garmin Fenix 5 is a high-end smart watch that is also a fitness tracker. The Fenix 5 focuses more on the side of fitness. The device runs incredibly smoothly and can be used in almost any environment. The customizability of the Fenix 5 is a strong point that really helps the user experience. Due to being able to choose how your device is set up you have all of the control and do not necessarily learn the standard process. Nothing is more 5 menus away making finding everything very simple. The menus and applications of the watch are pleasing to the eye and is a great example of following design principles. The Fenix 5 is definitely an advanced watch making those who are not familiar with smart watches or with the fitness world could take some time however, there is nothing incredibly complicated so anyone will be able to learn rather quickly. Due to the load of information that the Fenix 5 tracks it makes finding the information easier by using an app that you download to your smart device this way you can have a non-cluttered screen with basic information on your watch then when you open up your app you can see the rest of the details. The target audience for the Fenix 5 is athletes or those who live or want to live an active lifestyle. Anyone can get use out of the Fenix 5, but it really shines when it comes to the activities that can be tracked. The Fenix 5 is not without flaws however the largest flaw that I have seen is that Garmin does not always update with the major smart phone companies. This can and has led to points where you do not always receive messages or calls on your phone which is unpleasant. It also is not touchscreen which makes the navigation a bit less streamlined. The Fenix 5 is a fantastic product and I have been very pleased with it.

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