

Why does Lex Talus sell the Nomad with a WM 6.1 operating system?

When the 1050 was released with a faster CPU, we anticipated faster execution. It didn't happen. In fact, we measured a number of functions and found some to be slower. None were faster than the existing model 900. Trimble thought it had something to do with the efforts of the chip designer to maximize battery life. To accommodate our software, Trimble tried the 6.1 and sent us an experimental unit to try. It worked much better. It was at least as good as the 900 and slightly faster here and there. And there were system improvements, particularly with the GPS internal software, so we were satisfied with the unit running 6.1 and saw it as an upgrade over the 900.

The problem was, however, that there were now two versions of the 1050L, one using WM 6.5 for its operating system, and the one we wanted that used WM 6.1. To avoid confusion at the manufacturing and delivery level, Trimble created a new SKU number. The product number we use, NMDLNG-121-01, specifies a Nomad model 1050L, dark gray in color, with a numeric keypad, a serial boot (which incorporates an RS-232 connector used to connect rangefinders), and the Windows Mobile 6.1 operating system.

If you purchase a 1050L elsewhere or second hand, it will likely come with the 6.5 operating system. It is doubtful that you will notice any degraded operating speed. The speed differentials we noticed were in the tenths of seconds; nothing was catastrophically slow. But we noticed because we are used to things happening at a certain rate. Nevertheless, you can probably buy the 6.1 operating system from Trimble and replace the 6.5 if you desire, although you should contact Trimble in advance to make sure. The reverse is likely true as well if you are a diehard 6.5 user. In either case, you should contact Trimble to determine the best way to swap operating systems. They charge a fee for the OS swap since Microsoft is paid a license fee for every OS sold even if it is a replacement.