

Cedar Tree Technologies CT4 SIM slot management

John Gilman July 30, 2015

Cedar CT4 uses full sized SIM cards, and has two slots. When the CT4 starts up from a full shutdown, it always checks for the presence of SIM cards in both slots, starting with the upper slot, Slot 1. Depending what it finds when it checks, several messages and icons may be generated.

If both SIMs are present, valid, and voice/messaging/data selections have previously been made, no warnings will occur at all. This is the CT4's happiest condition.

Annoyingly, if either SIM is missing, CT4 will complain, saying "Slot x: No SIM card detected (The annoying message may be cleared by swiping across it sideways from right to left). Also, a small warning triangle will appear in the upper left corner of the display to signify a bad message awaits your action (swipe down from top of display to see it, then swipe sideways to clear it). And, a red "X" will show in the upper edge of the display on the right side, one for each missing or invalid SIM. There is no way to avoid the annoying messages on startup if there is only one valid SIM.

If a valid SIM is present, and the phone already knows about it, only the annoying messages will occur for the empty slot.

If a new SIM is present at startup, the phone will pop up a message that the SIM cards have changed, and that data is by default turned off. (This might be annoying, too. But it actually makes sense. In many parts of the world, data service can be really expensive. International travelers, beware. And if you have two SIM cards, you have to choose which card will handle which tasks, anyway) Now would be a good time to select <change> to get into the SIM card management portion of the Android setup menu. This is where you will select what SIM card is active, and select which card gets what services – voice/message/data. Make your selections and exit.

As first stated, CT4 only checks for SIM cards during start up from a full shutdown. To enter full shutdown, do a long press on the power button, then select <Power off>, then <OK>.

You might be curious if there is a difference between the two SIM slots in terms of data speed. Actually, there is a substantial difference. Only the top slot, Slot 1 (SIM card contacts facing down) allows full [3.75G HSPA+ speeds](#). The bottom slot, Slot 2 (SIM card contacts facing up) will make you make do with 2G data rates. 2G is generally fine for voice and messaging, but will drive you crazy if you try to surf the web away from a Wifi connection. If you have access to HSPA signal, a tiny "H+" will appear near the above the signal strength indicator at the top right of the display. If you don't have access, the best you will see is a tiny "E" for [Edge speeds](#), which were amazing when introduced but are today very frustrating to use.

If you are a frequent international traveler, you may find yourself swapping SIM card slots to maintain access to the Internet. You may also have to actively manage your SIM card permissions to keep your total billing low when you enter or leave a country. Be careful, both voice and data rates across international borders – if using the wrong SIM card – can be, well, the nice word is "breathtaking".