

What is Bluetooth?

Bluetooth technology cuts the wires that used to tie up digital devices such as mobile phones. Based on a low-cost, short-range radio link, Bluetooth technology can connect many types of digital devices without a single cable in sight, giving you more freedom to roam. And that, after all, is what mobility is all about.



To establish a connection, two devices with Bluetooth wireless technology simply have to come within a 10 meter range of each other. And because Bluetooth technology utilizes a radio-based link, it does not even require a line-of-sight connection in order to communicate. Your laptop could send information to a printer in the next room, or you could use your mobile phone to control your home alarm system. Bluetooth wireless technology has already become a global de facto standard for wireless connectivity. In the future, Bluetooth technology is likely to be a standard in tens of millions of mobile phones, PCs, laptops, and a whole range of other electronic devices. As a result, the market is going to demand new innovative applications, value-added services, and end-to-end solutions.

The name Bluetooth is taken from the 10th century Danish King Harald Blatand - or Harold Bluetooth in English. During the formative stage of the Trade Association a code name was needed to name the effort. Over an evening discussing European history and the future of wireless technology several felt it was appropriate to name the technology after King Blatand. He had been instrumental in uniting warring factions in parts of what is now Norway, Sweden and Denmark - just as the technology is designed to allow collaboration between differing industries such as the computing, mobile phone and automotive markets. The code name stuck. In Jelling, Denmark a monument can be found in a church yard that celebrates both his achievements and those of his father the first king of Denmark "Gorm the Old". Interestingly this particular stone was lost for nearly six-hundred years after Harald had a small war with his own son, Sven Forkbeard, over control of the country. Sven "won" the argument (exiling his father in the process), and since this runic stone also glorified Harald, Sven had it buried. Only years later a farmer, curious about a large mound in his farm, rediscovered the stone.

The logo itself was originally designed by a Scandinavian firm at the time the trade association was announced to the public. Keeping to the traditions of the name, the logo combines the runic alphabetic characters "H" which looks similar to an asterisk and a "B". Look carefully you can see both represented in the logo.

With Bluetooth now a standard feature in most mobile phone it has brought about a whole new craze – “BlueJacking”. This involves sending anonymous text/mms messages to other phone users via Bluetooth short-range radio.

Bluetooth works over a range of about 10 meters and phones fitted with it can be made to search for other handsets using it that will accept messages sent to them.

Mobile phone buffs have been BlueJacking for months but it now looks set to become much more widespread. BlueJacking involves creating a contact in your phone's address book using the message you want to send as the name for the entry.

On most Bluetooth phones it is possible to send this contact as a message or electronic business card. Choosing to send this contact via Bluetooth makes a phone search for other Bluetooth-enabled devices nearby. BlueJacking works underground too

The contact bearing its message can then be sent anonymously to any Bluetooth phones within range. To be bluejacked you must make sure your phone can be discovered by other Bluetooth devices. It might be helped by the fact that sending messages this way is free. Good spots for BlueJacking are anywhere crowds of people gather such as railway stations, airports, pubs or busy shopping streets. Mobile phone shops usually yield a few targets too. Although Bluetooth is included on many phones, many people have it turned off because they do not use it. And remember is just for fun!

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