



Bluetooth Technology

History of Bluetooth

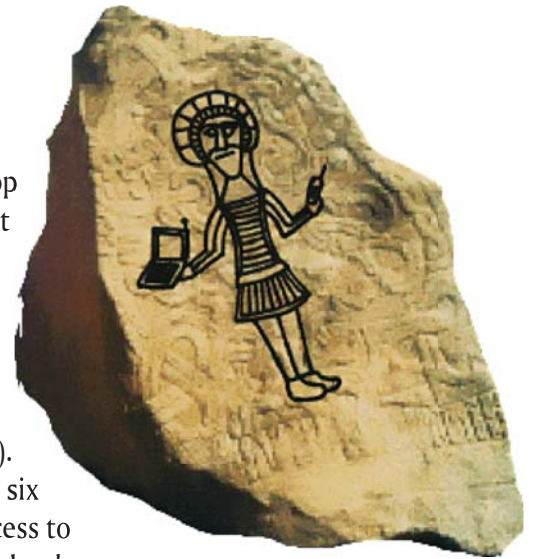
I'm sure everyone has heard about Bluetooth technology.

It's everywhere from cell phones, PDAs, GPS systems to your business laptop computer. But, how many of you know the history of this technology or how it got that unique name?

In an attempt to eliminate wire clutter in homes and offices, the Swedish company Ericsson initiated the Bluetooth Technology movement in 1994. In February 1998, the Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG) was founded by five major companies determined to further develop Bluetooth technology and promote its widespread commercial acceptance (The Wireless Directory). The founding companies were IBM, Intel, Nokia, Toshiba and Ericsson. Within six months SIG went global and invited other companies to join. In return for free access to Bluetooth, these companies pledged to support the specification of the new technology (The Wireless Directory). With dollar signs gleaming in their eyes, thousands of companies quickly jumped on the bandwagon. In December 1999 the following four major companies joined the SIG as promoters: Micro-soft, Agere Systems (then Lucent), 3Com and Motorola (The Wireless Directory). In no time flat the promoter companies added almost 2,000 Bluetooth "adopters" to their ranks and the number continues to grow.

Bluetooth was designed to unite computer devices and telecommunications. Thus, Bluetooth creators thought it quite fitting to name the technology after the Danish King Harald "Bluetooth" Blåtand who ruled between 940 and 985 AD. The Viking leader is known for uniting the warring factions of Denmark and Norway and bringing Christianity to Scandinavia. Contrary to popular belief, "Blåtand" does not mean blue tooth; it means dark-complexion. It is said that the Danish king was given the nickname Bluetooth because he was so fond of blueberries that his teeth were stained blue. (Palo Wireless Bluetooth Resource Center). However, this is mere speculation.

The development of Bluetooth is a creative and useful idea that benefits many people. This technology allows a variety of devices, such as PCs, laptops, mobile phones, personal digital assistants and printers, to communicate with each other without cables or hard wiring. Today many companies are still working in the development of Bluetooth devices and they spend lots of money in this new development. They hope that Bluetooth can be applied world widely. The success of Bluetooth will benefit all the users in the future.



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