

## Key Milestones in the Evolution of Cell Phones

Name

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### **Introduction**

Cell phones have been around for five decades now. Markedly, the gadget's revolution started in 1985, after Michael Harrison called his father testing the Vodafone network that the company had launched (Linge & Sutton, 2015). Despite the humble beginning of the device and the fast spread witnessed around the world over the years, it is inconceivable to live without mobile phones. Presently, these devices are crucial tools for communication, keeping memorable images in the form of photos, and sourcing for information from such platforms as the internet. Therefore, it is imperative to review the milestones in the evolution of the cell phones, which include the inbuilt cameras and the internet accessibility.

### **First Mobile Phone**

Martin Cooper, an employee at Motorola telecommunications corporation, developed the first usable mobile phone in the 1970s. He made the first cell phone call using the prototype DynaTAC in April 1973 and he called an employee of the bell labs company (O'Regan, 2015). Before the innovation of the device by Cooper, handsets were already in use in vehicles, but remained connected to the cars by wires. The phone excogitated by him was the first portable communication gadget (O'Regan, 2015). It weighed 2.5 pounds and had a length of 10 inches, and these characteristics qualified it as an antique in the modern society. Moreover, the power of the phone's battery allowed only a 30 minutes talk, and recharging took ten hours. Following the development of the prototype DynaTAC phone, the Motorola developer pushed his team to produce smaller devices that were more convenient to carry. After the innovation of the first cell phone, it took the next ten years for the gadget to be accessible to the public; precisely, it was the end of 1984 (Wolpin, 2014). The shift happened after the US communications commission

approved the usage of the DynaTac by the public in the same year. The new phone approved was about 1.8 pounds and cost USD 3,995. Following the development of more cell phones, their prices reduced progressively.

### **Introduction of the First Smartphone**

Bellsouth and IBM developed the first mobile phone with smartphone capabilities in 1993. The company introduced the 'personal communicator' device to the market at a price of USD 899. The gadget offered sophisticated features including email capabilities, a pager, and a stylus for writing text on the phone's screen (Gonzalez, Diaz-Herrera, & Tucker, 2014). Moreover, it had the features of a fully functional keypad and a programmable calendar that the user could update using a computer. Unfortunately, the public did not embrace the new feature-filled phone because of its sophistication, and as a result, only 20,000 gadgets were produced and sold. The most probable explanation for its failure was that the device remained almost as expensive as earlier versions, and the public was not yet ready for the smartphone revolution.

### **Introduction of a Phone with an Inbuilt Camera**

Nokia Company introduced the product to the market in 2002 and, thus, opened a new chapter in the phone's technology. The corporation developed the Nokia 7650 device with new features that made it one of the most loved communication gadgets (Pannu & Tomar, 2010). The phone's outstanding features included a colored screen measuring 176x208 and an inbuilt camera. The device did not net much profit as other products offered by the company, for example, the Nokia 3210, but it inspired mobile telephony organizations to develop newer and better-working gadgets. As a result, the Nokia 7650 is primarily the device that started the smartphone revolution, which is still being improved.

### **Smartphone Revolution**

Steve Jobs pioneered the smartphone revolution, following the development of the Apple iPhone in 2007. The iPhone was not the first smartphone to get introduced into the market, but it offered the revolutionary features like the touch screen that inspired developers to advance the characteristics of the new device (Oppitz & Tomsu, 2017). According to Apple Company, the technology merged the components of a mobile phone, a wireless telephony device, and an iPod into the cell phone. However, having not been the pioneer device with smart properties, it offered a user an inspiring interface and began the revolution that led to the modern-day smartphone. Therefore, the latest phone innovation has been in existence for ten years and is getting better with time.

### **Conclusion**

Cell phone technology emerged in 1985 after the DynaTAC phone got developed for the first time in 1973 for the public. Currently, it is impossible for the world to run without smartphones as they have become tools of communication and entertainment, among other uses. Motorola started the mobile phone revolution with the development of the first device in 1973. This first phone had basic elements weighed 2.5 pounds. The second milestone was the introduction of the first smartphone in 1993, which retailed at \$899 and offered sophisticated features such as a calendar. The third landmark came in 2002 after the Nokia Company developed a phone with an inbuilt camera. The fourth and the last milestone is the smartphone revolution that started in 2007, following the development of the iPhone by Apple Company.

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