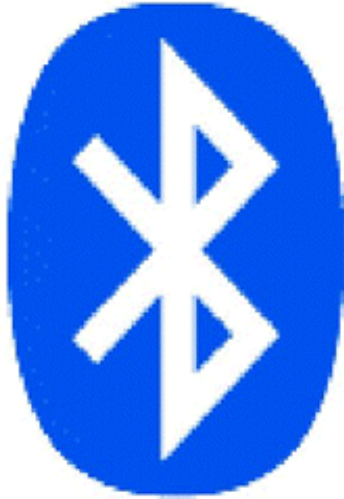


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## Bluetooth

By Dónal Thompson



The Bluetooth symbol is a combination of the runes for Harald Blåtand's initials

Harald I (Danish Harald Blåtand) was the King of Denmark between 940 and 985 AD. He had an enthusiasm for eating blueberries. So much so, even his teeth were blue. They called him 'Bluetooth'.

But he was also good at connecting things (like Denmark and Norway) and uniting them. So that's why the technology we use today to unite communications peripherals like printers, phones and earpieces are called Bluetooth. Someone, somewhere in some communications laboratory was a fan of the Danish king with the dyed dentures.

The good thing about Bluetooth is that it has been introduced by a special interest group of communications experts. It is not proprietorial technology. This group was formed in 1998 so Bluetooth is a well established technology now.

Bluetooth saves lives. Using a handheld mobile phone while driving is illegal and dangerous. You lose at least 40% of your control. Using a Bluetooth hands-free attachment means you can speak and still drive safely.

If, like me, you are an iPod fan, you can use Bluetooth to wear lightweight headphones in your house and listen to your music remotely.

Fridges, microwave ovens, stereos, cars ...you name it. King Harald is uniting them all.

One of the most important benefits from Bluetooth is in the field of medicine. The MobiMed 300c is a part of the MobiMed system by Ortivus AB. MobiMed is a telemedical information system which provides ambulance crews and hospital staff with patient information. The MobiMed 300c monitors the physiological parameters ECG, SpO2, NIBP and respiration frequency and transmits the data by a Bluetooth link to a patient unit. When the patient arrives at the hospital the doctors have all the information they need to make a quicker diagnosis.

Of course, it is in mobile telephony that many of us will meet Bluetooth. Now we can speak on the phone and have our hands free to make notes, cook dinner and...why not?...pick blueberries!