



The Bluetooth Office

Contrary to popular belief, getting Bluetooth will not require a trip to the dentist.

Bluetooth is a standard developed by a group of electronics manufacturers that allows any sort of electronic equipment—from computers and cell phones to keyboards and headphones—to make its own connections, without wires, cables, or any direct action from a user. Currently, more than 1000 companies are utilizing the Bluetooth technology.

First, a quick history lesson. Harald Bluetooth was King of Denmark in the late AD 900s. He managed to unite Denmark and part of Norway into a single kingdom, then introduced Christianity into Denmark. He left a large monument, the Jelling rune stone, in memory of his parents. He was killed in AD 986 during a battle with his son Svend Forkbeard.

Choosing this name for the standard indicates how important that companies from the Baltic region—nations including Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland—are to the communications

industry, even if it says little about the way the technology works.

Bluetooth devices use 1 milliwatt (most cell phones use 3 watts of power). This limits the range of a Bluetooth device to about 10 metres: 33 feet. Some newer versions can go up to 100 metres: 330 feet. Even with the Bluetooth technology's low power, the walls in your office won't stop a Bluetooth signal, thus making the standard useful for controlling several devices in different rooms.

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I have several devices that use Bluetooth to “talk” to one another. My Palm Tungsten T5, currently the best PDA device on the market, can hotsync with my desktop computer through a Bluetooth connection—transfer data back and forth—with no annoying wires running around my desk.

I can also use the Bluetooth connection to access my desktop's Internet connection on my Tungsten T5. While

sitting anywhere in my office, I can go to Websites and check email on my Tungsten T5. And I don't have to pay for an expensive Internet air time package for my PDA (Personal Digital Assistant).

My printer is connected to my office Bluetooth network through the powerful Belkin Bluetooth Access Point with USB Print Server. The Access Point allows me to transfer data from a Bluetooth-enabled computer or PDA—or computers connected to the LAN via the Access Point—and print to a USB printer. My particular device has a 100-metre range, to work in larger offices.

