

Name: Juan Sebastian Nova Riaño

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Author: Aleks Krotoski

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Summary

The main purpose of the article is to explore the story of the development of GPS technology, from its first use by the US military to now being a part of every modern mobile phone. Much of the innovations in different disciplines like chemistry, physics and computer science has been made because of the military interests in them. One of this cases is the GPS. The first apparition of the GPS was in the First Gulf war, used by the US army to improve the quality of navigation of their troops, missiles, planes and ships. Before the apparition of the GPS, soldiers (and common people) had to use maps, a compass, and a lot of knowledge to navigate through large distances. The GPS technology is a complex mathematical and technological improvement, that uses the information of 3 or 4 satellites to obtain the GPS device position, calculating the distance to the satellites with a "trilateration" method. At the beginning, the GPS was exclusive for military purposes, but later it was released for some civilian purposes, with an accuracy limit: 100 meters. It was during Bill Clinton's administration that the GPS technology was fully released to the civilian market, and now the GPS are an essential part of daily life, being part of smartphones devices, and even being used to tag photos in the place that they were taken.

In my opinion, the GPS technology has made an enormous change in daily life, changing transport models (specially for routing and logistics), business models (like deliveries and online shopping), and the way that people take decisions about navigating from one place to another.