**Smart Phone**

For those that are unfamiliar with the technology, a smart phone is a device that you can carry with you in your pocket that has all the necessary components for a fully functional computer. These items include a processing unit, memory, and storage. These devices will generally run on one of three operating systems: Windows 10 Mobile, Android, iOS. These operating systems are developed by Microsoft, Google, and Apple respectively.

**History of Cellular Devices**

Before smart phones people did have cell phones. These cell phones (now often referred to as “dumb phones”) performed basic tasks that one would expect from a phone. Such as making calls, sending text messages, notifying the user that a new call/message has come in, etc. This has been greatly expanded on with smart phones, but this core functionality is still the primary purpose of smart phones.

The first grouping of smart phones didn’t catch on in the main stream consumer market. It wasn’t until Apple released the first iPhone that smart phones were able to start gaining traction. Before these devices, blackberry, windows phones, and other smart phones weren’t anywhere near as common as they are today.

However, after the first iPhone google came back with their operating system that was open source. This allowed manufactures such as Samsung, LG, Sony, and many others to start creating smartphones that would enter the market soon after the iPhone.

**The Power of Smart Phones**

People were primarily attracted to smart phones because of their added functionality. Because these devices could connect to the open web (either through a WiFi network or an extended data network from the phone carrier) they can receive and send emails expanding on the text messaging capability. Along with email they can also browse the internet. This has caused the rapid expansion of the internet to reach even further. It has also caused a revolution in web design/development tactics to make sure the content on the web looks good on a full screen, and a phone screen.

Another feature that attracted may people to the platform is “apps”. These apps allow users to run small programs from their phone. For example, if you need to write a word document but you’re in a small area and don’t have access to your laptop, you could potentially write an entire word document on your phone. Since smart phones also usually contained GPS modules, Gyros, speakers, microphones, graphic processors, etc. many other types of apps have also been developed. You’re able to navigate the world through the GPS, use the gyro to level a shelf, and play mobile video games with the speakers microphones and graphic processors.

**How Smart Phones have changed the Technology Landscape**

Because of this high functionality paired with high mobility smartphones have expanded technology on a never before seen level. In first world countries someone having a phone that isn’t a smart phone has become rare. So much to the point that less and less people have landlines, and use their cell phone as their exclusive phone.

It has also enabled an age of social sharing never before seen. With apps/websites such as Facebook, Instagram, twitter, etc. news can instantly be shared across the world, from anyone, anywhere. You can get updates while you’re waiting for your movie to start on what everyone else is doing. For better or for worse, smart phones have forever changed how we interact with the world around us.