

# We Invent Tools - Tools Reinvent Us

(For STMDG and Salon Presentation).

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There have been thousands of inventions, throughout the centuries, but how many have reinvented us?

When Alexander Graham Bell came up with the telephone, could he have had even the remotest idea that making and receiving calls would be only a tiny fraction of that modern device's capabilities?

Unlikely, as Bell did not have the benefit of witnessing the Dick Tracy watch phone in action. When that comic strip character was first shown in 1931, the device on his wrist belonged in the category of science fiction.

Now there's a fine line between "science fiction", and "science future."

Anyone who was seduced into purchasing the Apple Watch - GUILTY! - would know that Dick Tracy would have much catching up to do.

The premise of this presentation is the role reversal between the inventor and the invented.

That little gadget (and its Dick Tracy counterpart), to which many of us are addicted, travels with us practically everywhere we go. The exception being when we forget to take them with us. Despite the warning, emblazoned on the door that leads to the garage, that even Helen Keller couldn't miss: "TAKE YOUR PHONE," we do occasionally leave the damn thing home. When we've discovered that we have committed what is tantamount to driving on the right side of the road in London, we panic. As I'm sure you are aware, In Britain, the right side is the wrong side, and the left side is the right side, making those two sins equal.

And, now back to the story. What is the worst that can happen when we've ventured outside without that device to comfort us? Heaven forbid that we might miss a butt-dial or text from a friend, or a hated phishing expedition. I can explain the new meaning of 'phishing' to anyone here who is not familiar with that term. Carrying such a device, with far greater computing power on board than the early space missions, plays a significant role in how we live our day-to-day lives.

While some folks are content with a small, lightweight device, with limited functionality, others invest in behemoths that can now cost over \$1,000, excluding monthly charges. What they get is what is technically called "functionality up the wazoo."

We probably don't have time to list all of the things an iPhone can do. Nor, can I think of all of the possibilities. But I'll get started with a partial list - in alphabetical order.

### **We'll begin with the letter A Surprise, surprise.**

**Apple Source** (not to be confused with apple sauce), A.K.A. the App Store. This is where you go when the hundreds of apps you already have aren't quite enough to whet your **APP**etite.

**Adobe Acrobat:** Enables the reading of a Portable Document Format (PDF) right from your Smartphone. And the only net you'll need is the one that begins with "inter."

**Artistic:** Various drawing applications offered by graphical leaders such as *Adobe Illustrator*. Eat your heart out, Renoir.

### **The letter B:**

**Banking:** It's time to see if that check you wrote an hour ago, will bounce. Oh, wait, maybe you should have checked your bank balance before you wrote it? Easy enough to do, right from that little gadget, which takes a photo of the check to deposit it.

**Booze:** No, you can't pour some on your phone and expect it to give you the whiskey's name, or its proof, but when you're in the liquor store, you can find out if which vodkas are organic, and/or gluten free, and how high that hooch stands on the rating scale.

**Botany:** Don't recognize that flower or other plant. Aim your device's camera at the unknown specimen, and the many botany-focused apps, will easily indentify it for you, with great accuracy. The partial list includes:

<b>App Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. PlantSnapp.	Where indentifying a plant is a "snap"

2. FlowerChecker	Not to be confused with a cab with floral motifs
3. Plantifier	The name speaks for itself
4. Nature Gate	Much safer than "Water Gate"
5. Leaf Snap	Visual recognition software identifies tree species

**There are many apps beginning with the letter C:**

**Camera:** No need for that *Polaroid* - a name that your grandchildren are guaranteed not to have heard of. The iPhone camera is about as good as it gets (unless you're a professional photographer). And the camera improves with each iteration.

**Calculation:** Remember all that stuff you learned in school about simple calculations? A myriad of apps focus on calculating results will allow you to forget those arithmetic skills. You might call them weapons of Math Destruction (or in Britain- "Maths destruction").

**Calendars:** Keep track of your appointments, even ones like your proctologist, that you'd sooner forget.

**Cat Stuff:** You should be sharing the joys of owning a cat (or does it own you?) by allowing it to play the multitude of cat chasing games. The only problem is that your device does not recognize your cat's paw print that would allow it access. Apple is working on that. I should not fail to mention those *gone-viral* cat videos, showing felines that seem to possess more than nine lives.

**Cinema:** It's a sin not knowing where the latest version of Star Wars is playing, what time it starts, and how much the ticket costs. And you can purchase tickets directly from your phone. By the *Solo* turnout, lots of folks didn't seem to know.

**Clock:** Tells you the time (in any spot in the world), keeps reminders of things you need to do. And if that's not enough you can always ask Siri, "What time is it?" She'll rarely reply, "How the F should I know?"

**Comedy:** You can watch **YouTubes** of George Carlin, Bill Maher, John Oliver, or practically any character including those of the of the past. Watch the borscht belt come alive with shtick from Sid Caesar, Jackie Mason, Danny Kaye, and hundreds of others. The Borscht Belt refers to hotels in the Catskill Mountains, A.K.A. *Jewish Alps*, that plied us with endless quantities of food, in addition to those great comedy acts.

**Communications:** Not limited to just phone calls, there's text-messaging, electronic mail, and the ones made notorious by the *Tweeter-in-Chief*.

**Convertors:** No, not someone who will assist you in switching your religion from Jewish to Buddhist, but an app that shows you the centigrade equivalent of a temperature expressed in Fahrenheit, so that people from most parts of the world will actually understand what you're talking about. It isn't limited to temperature, but also provides metric conversions (again so most people in the world will know what size your *whatever* is). You can even learn the current value of *Bit Coin* at any precise time. Try doing that, Alexander Graham Bell.

### The letter D:

**Dictation:** Who needs to learn the keyboard layout, or even how to spell, when the various dictation apps can do it for you? Many of these programs, such as *Dragon Dictation* or *Google Voice* can capture your speech, and show you the written result, with little or no errors

**Dictionary:** Can't spell a word, or don't know the meaning of one you just heard at the conference you're attending? Now you can no longer use "I don't know" as a cop out. .

### Next comes E:

**Etymology:** Don't know where that word came from? The various etymology apps do. Now there is no excuse for not knowing the origin of *Homo Erectus*. - I know what you're thinking, you dirty old man.

**Earth:** Make sure it's Google Earth, if you want to feel like you're flying to any location on the planet, and seeing exactly where that city lies within geographical parameters.

**Endoscope:** Do you suspect there is something wrong with your body? Well now you can have your Smartphone "look into it."

### F:

**Face Book:** How did we live without it from so many millennia? Know about your uncle's bowel movements for the last few weeks, and other less important information.

**Fact Check:** How does Wikipedia or Google see that alternative fact?

**Food:** How to cook it; where to buy it for the best price; make reservations without the bother of a human voice on the other end.

### G:

**Gamble:** It's the one without the words "Proctor and" before it. Here you can play *Fantasy Football*, or a plethora other games guaranteed to lose your money - and you don't even have to book a flight to Las Vegas.

**Gas Buddy:** Life can be a gas, but even more so when you know that you're buying that petrol at the lowest possible price.

**Google:** Yes, you can just Google it. Here's a product that didn't exist on your Daddy's phone. Now it can be a noun or a verb. Still don't know what it means? **Google it!**

**H:**

**HGTV:** You don't need no stinkn' TV (in the words of Alfonso Bedoya in *Treasure of Sierra Madre*) to see that giant TV you just won after entering a *Home & Garden TV* contest.

**House of Cards:** You won't need a T.V. to see this show, but due to recent events watching it on your iPhone might just get you Spaceyed out.

**I:**

**Internet:** Yes, you can pull information of any type from the Internet, and you don't need a mainframe to do it. (What's a mainframe?)

**IPod:** The functionality offered by the forerunner of the iPhone, is built in to the newer device, including recorded music. We'll talk about Podcasts a little later on in this presentation.

**J:**

**Jobs:** No, not the guy who invented the iPhone, but work you can actually search for, and apply to right from that park bench you've been forced to live under, with no money coming in.

**Jokes:** They can be shared, and sometimes even appreciated, by those who hadn't thought it through before providing you with their email addresses.

**K:**

**KCL03:** A.K.A - potassium chlorate. You know you want it for your next homemade fireworks display. And you can find the nearest source without even getting off your toilet seat. Note: not a good idea to ignite it while on your toilet seat.

**L:**

**Legal:** Why pay a lawyer the fee requested when you can bargain him down right from your *Legal Beagle* app?

**M:**

**Maps:** What are those? Is that the endless sheet of paper, folded eight ways, which will ease you to your destination? Or, if you're sick of folding and unfolding, you might want to use several of the mapping apps made to work perfectly on your hand-held device. It will even call out the directions for you. And it's correct most of the time.

**Microscope:** That's right. Your phone can get down to the tiniest details. You will have to spend an additional \$149 for the adaptor, but, hey, who's counting?

**N:**

**NOVA:** You don't need a fancy TV to watch one of the most interesting science programs on public broadcasting. It features many stories about that dirty expression, "Climate Change." The Koch Bros sponsor it, but I'll bet they never watch it, and they certainly don't heed its **global warnings**.

**O:**

**Origami:** OK, so everyone can fold paper in half. What's so exciting about that?" But you'll soon think differently when you learn more about the art of origami. Remember making paper airplanes at school? And remember how someone, instead of an airplane, made a flower, a jumping frog, or a parrot? Now you can be part of the **foldolution**. The App Store can deliver it right to your phone. Warning: Not a good idea to use this app while driving.

**P:**

**Podcasts:** It's radio on your schedule, similar to a DVR. There are literally thousands of these from which to choose. Name a topic. There's a strong probability that you'll find several podcasts that address it. If I will admit to one addiction, it's podcast listening.

**Q:**

**Q's:** Who says we don't take any Q's from our Smartphones? There are several beginning with that letter, including *QuizCross*. And then there's *Quarrel Deluxe*, because when you quarrel, you'll want to do it with style.

**R:**

**Radiation:** Not to worry. There's an app for that. Yes, a Geiger Counter, where that radiation can be monitored with your Smartphone. I always wanted to count Geigers, and now I can.

**Radio:** You remember those so called "portable" radios that could weigh you down on your way to the beach? As inspector Clouseau would say, "not any more," *<french accent>*

**S:**

**Sleep:** If you're anything like me, when it comes to insomnia, you'll want some of the dozens of applications that play on your device. Some of them even occasionally work. My favorite, which was not meant to cure insomnia is the History of Byzantium podcast, delivered by a British voice, that when played at 75% speed, can put

you to sleep instantly. "W-e-l-c-o-m-e t-o a-n-o-t-h-e-r e-p-i-s-o-d-e o-f t-h-e H-i-s-t-o-r-y o-f B-y-z-a-n-t-i-u-m. SNORRRRRRRRE.

### T:

**Telescope:** Haven't had enough staring at that Martian as he tweets how popular he is? Now you can actually view the Red Planet right from your device. Will we be able to put a second man on that planet? The first one, currently living in the White House may soon need to return home.

### U:

**Ugly Animals:** Not seeing enough ugly animals? Besides watching Fox and Friends you can get the *Ugly Animals* app. You can view ugly animals during that staff meeting that bores you to death.

### V:

**V-Cockpit GPS Lite:** Because who wants to look at a compass in the dark? So get rid of that bulky GPS, or that silly little compass. This app does it all. Now you can get good and lost, **in style!**

**Video:** Party time! Now you can capture on video the dumb antics of people you can't stand. Then you can distribute these right from your device, and let the rest of world see the putz in action.

### W:

**Weather:** There are several applications that claim to tell you the weather in your neighborhood, or one to which you might be heading. Great business, weather forecasting, you never have to be correct, and you can still keep your job.

### X:

**XBox:** This product is not rated X, despite its name. But you won't have to ask **Y** you have it. The **XBox One** app brings together your friends, games, and accomplishments from across your devices. Stay connected to your gaming community on the go, control your Xbox One from the app, with your gaming life all in one place. Doodling on a piece of paper while you sit through a boring class is so old school.

### Y:

**Yahoo:** Gives you lots of reasons to yodel, **Y-a-h-h-o-o-o!** These come in many flavors, including email, weather, messenger and more. Why would you need this when Apple already includes these? Simple. Try yodeling **A-p-p-l-e** and see how that sounds.

**Yelp:** So that waitress gave you a dirty look just because you tipped her only 10%. Now you can get back at the restaurant that had the bad taste to hire her by giving it a terrible review. And you can do it right from that damn Smartphone.

## Z:

**Zabihah:** Be honest. You want to know all of the *Halal* restaurants in a neighborhood before you buy a house there. Zabihah solves that problem for you, deliciously.

**Zello Walkie Talkie:** Don't think text-messaging while sitting around a lunch table is obnoxious enough? Zello makes you even more obnoxious, by replacing silent text-messaging with two-party conversations. Hey, if that guy sitting next to you is annoyed, he can move to another restaurant.

and last, but certainly not least...

**Zombie Booth:** Be the first in your neighborhood to turn photos of your family and/or friends into Zombie looking creatures. Sorry, but the app doesn't work in reverse. If your family members already resemble zombies, your kind of stuck with them.

## Conclusion:

But all this functionality maybe surpassed by a device that was recently announced: The ***Cicret Bracelet*** is your newest touch screen. What used to appear on your Smartphone, now shows up on you wrist. You won't have the excuse that you can't take that call because you're bathing.

It can do almost anything your Smartphone or Dick Tracy wrist look alike can do, and you always have it with you. It even functions while your bathing or swimming. You can surf the Internet while you're surfing the ocean.

There's a [video](#) on the ***Cicret Bracelet*** I can make available to you that will let you think you're watching science fiction.

If you're now convinced that your Smartphone has re-invented you, you ain't seen nothing, yet.