

FLASH POINTS

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THE FUTURE OF SMARTPHONES

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Thousands of people stand on sidewalks across the United States. They've been waiting in lines for hours. The stores are about to open. Finally, customers are going to be able to buy Apple's newest product, the iPhone. The doors open and people file in to pick up their new phones. The box is smooth and white. People open the packaging and there, in their hands, is the **smartphone** of the future.

The phone isn't big or colorful. It has a simple design. The screen is only 3.5 inches (8.9 centimeters). It is about half an inch thick.

Suddenly, people are connected to the internet almost all the time. There's always a high-definition camera in their pocket. The world is at their fingertips. It's easy to use. All people have to do is touch the screen. They can use their fingers to zoom in on pictures or websites. Nobody has ever seen a phone like this.

smartphone: a cell phone that can send and receive email, access the internet, and take photos



More than 90 million people in the United States use an iPhone. That's almost one out of every three people.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the first 30 hours of sales, Apple sold 270,000 of the first iPhones.

How and Why

The creation and use of new technology is a process. Many different people, events, and ideas come together when new technology is needed. Take a moment to discover some of the things that led to the success of the iPhone.

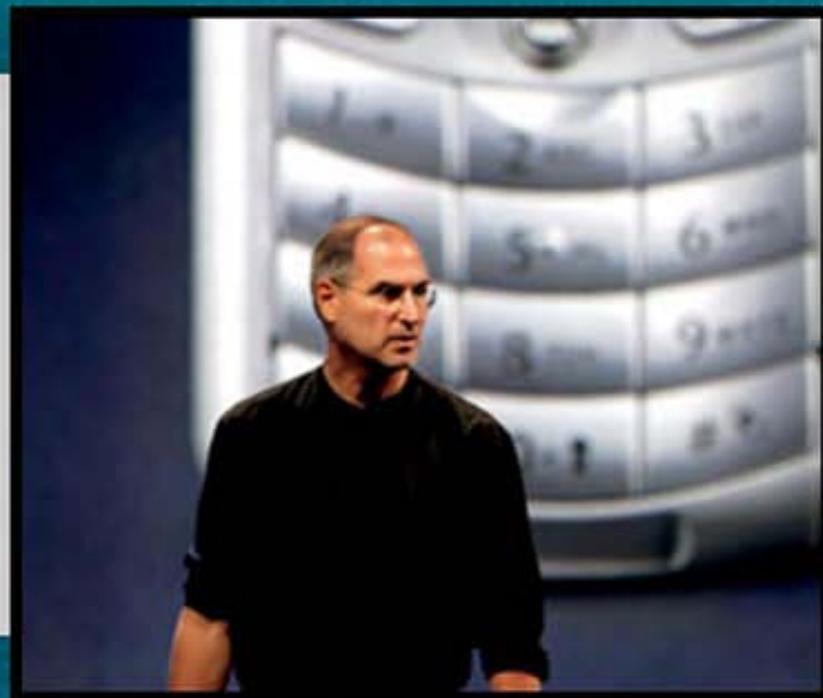
The First Smartphone

In the 1990s, computers the size of phones, called personal digital assistants (PDAs) were being used alongside cell phones. Nokia launched the first smartphone in 1996. This combined a PDA and a phone. It was big and expensive. It cost about \$800, and not many people bought it.



The iPod

The CEO of Apple, Steve Jobs, wanted to change the music industry. At this time, most people listened to music on CDs. But he knew that there were better ways to store and listen to songs. In 2001 Apple released the first iPod. It could hold up to 1,000 songs, fit in your pocket, and was easy to use.





Touchscreens

Apple had been building touchscreens for a while. They had been working on tablet computers. These are computers that don't have a mouse. Instead, they have touchscreens. But Jobs wanted to take it even further. He wanted to build touchscreen phones.



A Big Announcement

At the 2007 Macworld conference in San Francisco, Apple took over the building for a week. There, on January 9, Steve Jobs announced the iPhone. He showed off a cell phone that had one button and a large touchscreen. It could also connect to the internet and play music.

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