

How has Broadband & the Internet changed our lives?

#BroadbandAndMe

Despite the fact I was born in the 1980's, when computers were still a fairly new thing (Amstrad, BBC Micro Computers with the black and orange keyboard, floppy disks, I'm looking at you here!) it's hard to remember a time before it was normal to google absolutely every question that comes into our heads...

" Why are some farts noisy and some aren't?" by Luke, aged 9.

A question I am sure we have all pondered the answer to at one point or another I'm sure you'll agree.



Image from the BBC.co.uk website

In almost the blink of an eye, we have gone from waiting 30 minutes for a simple programme to load on a computer, to having super-speedy fibre internet in our homes meaning the

entire world is at our fingertips, and it has certainly become our best friend. It's almost impossible to envision ourselves yelling at family members to ascertain the whereabouts of the yellow pages so you can find the phone number of the local food delivery place isn't it.

My kids will never know a time without the internet. On one hand, I think they're really lucky to have a world of information and entertainment at their fingertips but, on the other hand, I am also a bit sad that they will never know a world where, if you wanted to see the latest film, you either went to the cinema (after going to Woolworths for pick and mix), waited for it to come out on VHS and went to your local video rental shop to rent it for the weekend or had to wait 4 years to see it on the TV at Christmas time. Could you imagine your kids waiting 4 years to see a film these days?! They would think you're insane!

The world in 2017 is a very different place to what it was when I was born. Our main method of communication is email or Facebook, the fastest way to keep up to date with worldwide news, the latest music and the most popular recipes is to peek on social media or websites. Honestly, I'm not even sure what I did before Amazon Prime and Netflix! The internet also provides us with the easiest way to entertain our kids on quiet/rainy days (ah yes, like today when it's piddling cats and dogs and it's meant to be Summer), and just imagine physically having to go shopping with the kids in tow, in an actual shop! No thanks. Thank all that is holy for food delivery apps! We can do all of these things from the comfort and convenience of our sofa just with a click, a tap or a scroll – we can do just about anything from our fingertips.

Goes off to google cheap sunny holidays to get away from the rather damp British Summertime

1997 was the year the internet kind of 'took off' for the masses, until then, it wasn't commonly used and it certainly

wasn't accessible worldwide. In the last couple of decades however, high speed broadband has become the norm, and most mobile devices are now able to access the Internet. Mobile phones and tablets have *really* changed everything and I am not ashamed to admit I rely on my phone in order to lead my life. Times have changed and I suppose, to a certain extent, we have to embrace technology and the changes it brings.

That said, I do love my bi-annual holidays to remoter places of our green and pleasant land where I am forced to partake in a digital detox due to limited internet and phone signal. It's only for 7 days at a time, but I do love the fact I'm 'unreachable' and I can switch off from the chaos of the modern world for a while. Roll on Isle of Skye in October...

My husband works in the IT support industry so a digital detox for him twice a year is a real treat. He too loves the fact his phone won't ring, his emails won't keep pinging in and that we can ignore the news for a few days. In his work environment, everything he does is focussed around ensuring his customers are getting the best IT service possible and the pressures that can come with that these days are immense. Business can't function without reliable IT infrastructure anymore and, because of that, good Broadband is key for any working environment. Business fibre, such as that provided by [TalkTalk Business](#), is becoming increasingly essential for both consumers and sellers. Without superfast broadband, consumers will miss out. In such a cut-throat and fast-paced digital age, slack, inconsistent and limited broadband is just not an option for businesses anymore.

One of the biggest bonuses of having reliable internet and broadband for my husband from a personal point of view has to be the option he now has of working from home on occasion. This helps try to achieve the perfect work-life balance we all desperately crave, which hardly ever used to exist before the age of the world wide web. The flexibility working from home can offer is really important to us as a family and, although

it doesn't happen very often, knowing my husband can opt to work from home and help out with any childcare issues that may arise is really comforting.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I am off to do my Ocado shop and then buy some baking supplies off Amazon whilst the kids watch a film on the TV. Embrace the technology folks, embrace it!

Could you live without the internet?

What do you miss about the days before technology took over?

Disclosure: This is a collaborative post.