



[<< Back to Article](#)

WIRED MAGAZINE: GEEKIPEDIA

Innovation

09.10.07 | 12:00 AM

I

[ICANN](#)

[Identity theft](#)

[Im in ur ___, ___ing ur ___z](#)

[Innovation](#)

[Intelligent design](#)

[Internet radio](#)

[iPhone](#)

[IPTV](#)

J

[Suggest an Entry](#)

Changing the world is simple: It takes just one groundbreaking idea, one novel invention, even just a really stellar upgrade. As the timeline below shows, each new innovation builds on the last in a snowball of technology that, over millennia, has transformed us from creatures at nature's mercy to active shapers of our world. The astounding thing is that this process has no end. The richness of physical reality and the subtlety of human imagination ensure that somebody, somewhere, will always come up with something new.

Innovation Timeline

400,000 BC	Domestication of fire
35,000	Counting
8000	Stone tools
3500	Wheel
3000	Astronomy
1000	Greek alphabet
320	Botany
300	Euclidean geometry
50 AD	Medicine
100	Steam power
876	Zero and decimals
1202	Algebra
1435	Perspective (in art)
1439	Printing press
1543	Anatomy
1600	Magnetism
1673	Microscope
1774	Combustion
1796	Vaccines
1799	Electric battery
1808	Atomic theory
1820	Electromagnetism
1822	Difference engine
1828	Synthetic matter
1859	Evolution theory
1860	Carbon-filament lightbulb
1867	Dynamite
1869	Periodic table
1876	Telephone
1885	Gas-powered automobile
1895	X-ray
1896	Radioactivity

1902	Biplane glider
1903	Chaos theory
1905	Special relativity
1910	Antibiotics
1915	General relativity
1928	Penicillin
1942	Nuclear fission
1943	Artificial intelligence
1946	Computer
1947	Nuclear energy
1947	Transistor
1953	DNA structure
1959	Nanotechnology
1969	Apollo mission
1973	Genetic engineering
1977	Cryptography
1973	Genetic engineering
1977	Cryptography
1984	String theory
1990	World Wide Web
1996	Mammal cloning
2000	Human genome
2001	iPod
2005	YouTube

Vote on innovations submitted by other readers.

Show entries that are: [hot](#) | [new](#) | [top-rated](#). [Submit your own innovations.](#)

9500 BC	Agriculture	53	1
1995	Internet Search Engines	53	16
1901	Radio by Marconi - led to all broadcasting and eventually tech like WiFi	38	3
1969	ARPA Net first Computer Network	26	7
1672	The Automobile	10	4
1800 BC	Calculus (Early Egyptian, started it all)	6	1
1943	Computer (Colossus)	8	3
2005	Google Earth	5	2

**Submit your own innovations.**

(No more than one every 30 minutes. No HTML allowed.)

Innovation Date:

Innovation Description:

Your Email (will be hidden from public view):

[Back to top](#)

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)