



A Apple iPhone: Released just two years ago, the iPhone has already sold over 21 million units. Essentially a handheld computer, its *apps* – more than 100,000 downloadable applications – give it seemingly limitless capabilities. Now the ultimate “killer app” helps snipers track Taliban militants in Afghanistan. ***There’s an app for that!***

B Blog: I blog, you blog, he blogs ... How did we spend our time before blogging? There are more than 100 million of these ***Web logs*** out there in cyberspace

C Cameras: Remember those trips to get film developed? Probably not. Even your grandmother has a digital camera, and she is probably e-mailing you pictures right now or uploading them to a photo-sharing site

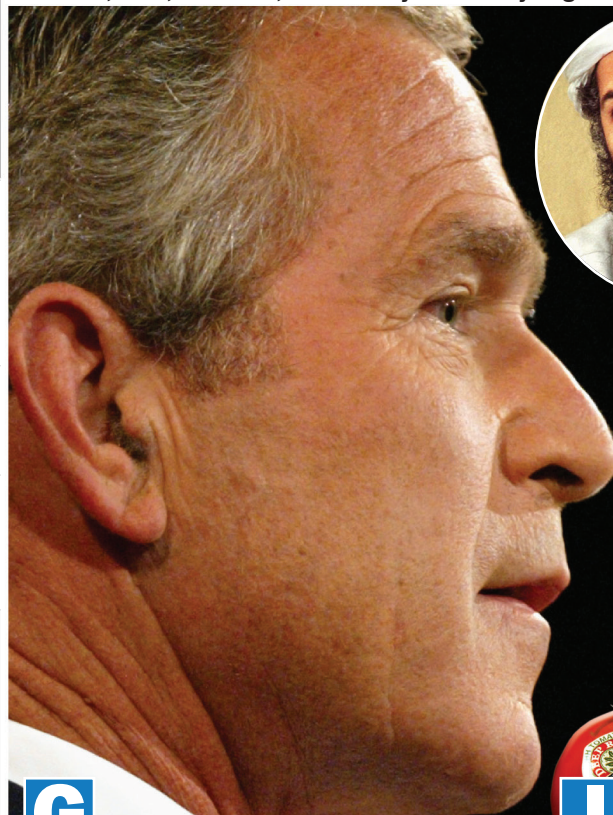
Cell phones: Now used by 50% of the world’s population. For some, cell phones have replaced land lines. On the downside, they have made cheating on a spouse much more difficult — ***just ask Tiger Woods***



F Facebook: Originally limited only to Harvard students, the social networking website is a time-sucking obsession for more than 300 million users globally. U.S. President **Barack Obama** ran a virtual campaign on it, Egyptian voters are using it to organise grassroots opposition against President **Hosni Mubarak**, and French president **Nicolas Sarkozy** shared a kiss with his wife

A-Z guide to decade that changed our lives

It was only a decade ago that a blackberry was a mere warm season fruit. That green was, well, a colour, and reality TV barely registered in our collective consciousness



G George W. Bush: Most unpopular U.S. leader of all time. But – in Dubya’s own immortal phrase — ***will history underestimate him?***

GPS: We cannot get lost anymore — or at least it’s pretty difficult, with ubiquitous GPS systems



H Harry Potter: **J.K. Rowling’s** boy wizard phenomenon hit new heights in 2001 with the first of eight movies. The books have sold over 400 million copies, the films \$5.4 billion-worth of cinema tickets worldwide, and DVD sales currently top \$2.7 billion

Hottest years: The first decade of this century is the hottest since records began



O Osama bin Laden: Remember when you did not have to take off your shoes before getting on a plane? Remember when you could carry drinks and toiletries through security checks? ***Bin Laden, 9/11, Madrid, London, and other terror plots changed all that***

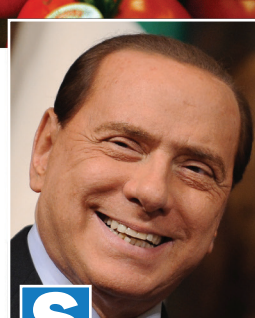
Organic: Shoppers rushed to fill their shopping trollies with organic food, contributing to a worldwide market worth \$220bn per year



I iPod: This icon of the digital age was launched in 2001. As of September 2009, over 200 million iPods have been sold



M Michael Jackson: Died in June 2009, ending a 45-year career which changed the face of pop – in varied and sometimes scary ways



S Silvio Berlusconi: Prime Minister of Italy for most of the decade, the 73-year-old billionaire and former cruise ship crooner dragged down Italy’s image with a series of scandals: mafia links, corruption trials, and girls, girls, and more girls



Starbucks: With 16,635 stores in 49 countries, millions now spend around \$4 on an ***Iced Quad Venti with Whip Skinny Caramel Macchiato***

T Tattoos: It started innocently enough, a butterfly on the shoulder or a tribal symbol on the bicep. Soon, it seemed any hipster who really meant it had a full sleeve of tattoos. The trend extended from middle-aged mums to England star **David Beckham**



Trans fat: This was the decade that trans fat – which elevated risk of coronary heart disease – became an enemy of the state. ***In 2003, Denmark became the first nation to ban trans fats***

Toxic loans: Frenzied 10-year spending spree, bad debt, out-of-control loans and gluttonous banking culture left world economies mired in recession



Twitter: Medium of the moment if you want to get the latest on opposition protests in Iran. ***Tweets and retweets can follow any topic, as long as it’s told in no more than 140 characters***

W Wii: In a sea of ever-more-sophisticated video games, Nintendo’s simple console was one of the decade’s top gadgets



Wikipedia: Open-source encyclopedia has more than 14,000,000 articles in over 260 languages. ***A boon to lazy students everywhere***

Y YouTube: Born in 2005, it made worldwide video-sharing possible

Z Z-list celebrities: Zillions of reality TV shows gave viewers the power to eliminate hapless contestants one by one