

My Cell Phone.

In 1994, I was an independent computer tech, making good money. I was contacted by a startup company offering internet access. I knew very little about the internet, and after the interview with the top three investors, they offered me an office and unlimited internet access. They also offered me unlimited leads setting up internet access.

I learned quickly and soon was configuring routers and switches for their growing business. The pay wasn't great, but the work was exciting, and the general consensus in the office was that the internet was going to be huge. Little did we know.

In 1996, because of the need for constant availability from the company owners, I was asked to get a cell phone, which I did. The phone was prohibitively expensive, as was the monthly charge, but the company paid for it. I remember my ear getting hot if I talked on the cell phone too long, which seemed to be normal. In those days, a cell phone was nothing more than a mobile phone.

As the internet picked up and became more affordable, I started my own internet company. Soon, as more and more investors invested billions into the technology, my internet customers grew exponentially.

My cell phone, once just a mobile phone, became a computer. I could now access every server in my office, and every server could contact me if there was a problem. Soon, even my pager became obsolete.

While my cell phone was a tool I used for work, my children used their cell phones and the internet for socializing. My entire time was spent making the still unreliable internet work as

reliably as possible. All I was interested in was making my company a success. I never played an internet game, which is still true now.

My cell phone usage also began to be used for advertising and communicating via web pages with many varied companies worldwide, with a presence on the internet. For instance, a company contacted my company with a router issue, which I resolved, and I was paid without ever talking to anyone in the other company.

In 2017, I sold my company to my employees, and it is still a thriving, independent internet company.

I kept my cell phone and began using it as my phone and for my news feeds, and I began using my Facebook account to communicate with friends worldwide. Soon, I used other applications to communicate with other people, and finally, even though I have the time to do all this, I realized I don't want to anymore.

So yesterday I left my phone parked in its charging station all day. I did reach for it many times, but it wasn't there. I found out I use it to check the time, to check my surveillance cameras, to look up answers to the many questions I don't have answers for, and to check in with people I know. I went to bed without checking my phone, too.

So, it now appears to me that my cell phone has become a habit and is not as necessary as I have let it become. The only work-related need I have for my phone I can do from my home computer, so I could probably get by with just a mobile phone again. What a strange circle that would be to complete. Instead of doing that, I think I will start by having one day a week when I leave my cell phone in its charging station. Then perhaps an entire weekend.

Written by Peter Skeels © 8-19-2024