A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

1947 – The transistor is invented: data transfer devices that underpin digital tech

1950 – An early pager is launched for physicians in New York City

1951 – First commercially available computer released, for simple arithmetic and data handling

1969 – APRANET network established: an early precursor to the internet

1971 – First email is sent, reading something along the lines of: QWERTYUIOP

1972 – Games console released, along with precursor to the iconic game Pong

1981 – The laptop computer is born, sporting a screen little bigger than a matchbox

1982 – ABBA become the first artists to have an album produced on CD

1984 – First mobile phone launched, costing ~$4,000. A 10-hour charge provides 30 minutes use

1988 – A fully digital camera is released, offering storage for up to 10 photos

1989 – Tim Berners Lee invents the World Wide Web whilst working at CERN

1990 – 0.05% of people are using the internet

1991 – CERN's web browser software is released for public use

1992 – Commercial dial up internet becomes available, cue screeching noises

1994 – Smartphone is released, supporting calls, email and fax

1997 – Launch of first modern social media site – Six Degrees

1999 – Bluetooth technology is introduced to the world

2000 – Broadband is introduced to the UK, providing much faster internet access

2003 – Skype launches instantly connecting people around the world via video

2004 – Facebook is born, and a new age of social media begins

2005 – YouTube launches with a video of the site's co-founder at the zoo: a clip that has garnered almost 40 million views

2007 – The iPhone is launched and smartphones usage explodes

2009 – Commercial introduction of 3D printers

2010 – Apple's launch of the iPad propels tablet computers into the mainstream

2011 – Bitcoin becomes the first widely accepted fully digital currency

2012 – Google begins testing driverless cars

2016 – The virtual reality headset, Oculus Rift, becomes available to consumers

Present Day – We're all living in the information age. From healthcare to education, technology has transformed our lives, and the digital revolution shows no sign of slowing down

Science & Technology Facilities Council