

What is Bluejacking?



You've read about it on the web; heard about it on the radio; read articles in the newspapers... but **what exactly is bluejacking?**

*Warning- by the end of 'What is bluejacking?' I can assure you that you'll be sick of the word 'Bluetooth'

First up, you need to know what Bluetooth is. There are lots of types of modern devices that incorporate the Bluetooth wireless communication system as one of their many features. PDAs, mobile phones and laptops are a few of these modern devices. Bluetooth means that Bluetooth enabled devices can send things like phonebook/address book contacts, pictures & notes to other Bluetooth enabled devices wirelessly over a range of about 10 metres.

So, we've got past the boring part. Now, using a phone with Bluetooth, you can create a phonebook contact and write a message, eg. 'Hello, you've been bluejacked', in the 'Name' field. Then you can search for other phones with Bluetooth and send that phonebook contact to them. On their phone, a message will popup saying "'Hello, you've been bluejacked' has just been received by Bluetooth" or something along those lines. For most 'victims' they will have no idea as to how the message appeared on their phone. So, personalised messages like 'I like your pink top' and the startled expressions that result is where the fun really starts.

That, my friends, is the basic answer to 'What is bluejacking?'

Some people think that the term bluejacking comes from Bluetooth and hijacking. While that certainly sounds logical, a bluejacker doesn't hijack anything: he or she merely uses a feature on the sender and the recipient's device. Both parties remain in absolute control over their devices, and a bluejacker will not be able to take over your phone or steal your personal information. It should be noted that "jack" on many college campuses means "to pull a prank"- to jack a dorm would be to pull a trick or prank them - this too may be an origin of bluejacking.

Bluejacking is usually technically harmless, but because bluejacked people don't know what is happening, they think their phone is malfunctioning. Usually, a bluejacker will only send a text message, but with modern phones it's possible to send images or sounds as well. Bluejacking has been used in guerrilla marketing campaigns to promote advergames.

With the increase in the availability of bluetooth enabled devices, these devices have become vulnerable to virus attacks and even complete take over of devices through a trojan horse program