

Why Is She Waving That Mobile Phone?

Next time you are in a club and you see some people waving their mobile phones at each other in the manner of a high five at a distance or even resembling a simplified version of the Haka, you may well wonder what they are up to.

Don't worry. They probably have the latest generation of mobile phones equipped with accelerometers that make use of Bluetooth technology to establish local communications links. Bluetooth has of course been around for a long time now, and links can be made between Bluetooth phones that can allow the sending of messages and exchange of information and images without having to use your phone network provider. Due to dangers of what is called Bluejacking, which is gaining unauthorised connections to mobile phones using Bluetooth and hacking them, it is necessary to use Bluetooth securely. This means setting up links between phones using a series of passwords and codes which is fiddly and inconvenient.

Hence the Haka dance with the mobiles. What happens is that a group of friends will agree a routine that involves a number of shakes and gyrations of the phone. These can be as amusing or stylish as you wish. Each movement of the phone produces a code via the accelerometer. For instance this could be fast up, slow down, fast left, slow circle etc. as complicated as you wish to make it. The code is then sent between the phones via Bluetooth. If the codes agree a connection is made and data and images can be exchanged over the Bluetooth link.

If you think this sounds cool you may wonder where you can get these mobile phones. Well, at the moment they are only being trialled in Beta mode, so unless you are already involved in the trial you will need to wait a little, but if the trials are successful you should not have to wait very long. If like the majority of "normal" people in this world you're not a technology geek, then chances are that the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear technical jargon is 'expensive'. However, with the growing competition amongst mobile phone manufacturers, owning the latest hi-tech phone is relatively affordable before it goes out of fashion. There are a number of great mobile phone deals on the high street and internet websites.