




Bluetooth

If you are familiar with all of the little electronic gadgets that populate our modern world, you no doubt have heard of WiFi and Bluetooth. If you are **not** familiar with these terms, they are names given to two similar wireless means of communication between our little electronic devices: **WiFi** enables your gadget to talk to the world (internet, etc.), and **Bluetooth** enables your gadget to talk to other, nearby gadgets, whether it be your phone, computer, car, headphones, printer, etc. The Bluetooth standard enables connectivity between many of your gadgets, without cables.

But, **Bluetooth** — what a strange name; yet it seems oddly familiar. It should be. The word "**Bluetooth**" is an anglicized version of the Scandinavian Blåtand/Blåtann, the epithet of the tenth-century **King Harald I of Denmark** and parts of **Norway**, who united dissonant Danish tribes into a single kingdom.

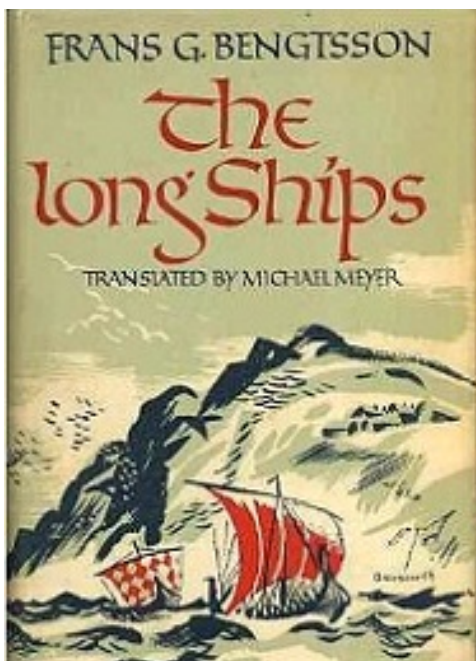
The idea of this name was proposed by Jim Kardach at Intel, who, along with others, developed a system that would allow mobile phones to communicate with computers. At the time, in the mid-1990s, Kardach was reading Swedish novelist, essayist, poet and biographer **Frans Gunnar Bengtsson's** historical novel "*The Long Ships*" about Vikings and **King Harald Bluetooth**, given to him by a friend at Ericsson, Sven Mathesson.

The two men, along with other companies, all had their own code names for their respective wireless technologies, but the name *Bluetooth* was the only one they could agree on, (and be legal), so it stuck. So, just as King Bluetooth was famous for uniting the Danes and Norway, they intended to unite the PC and cellular industries with a short-range wireless link named after him.

Kardach was also thumbing through a history book called "*The Vikings*", by **Gwyn Jones**, where he found images of runestones and runic symbols. The **Bluetooth logo** is a bind rune merging the Younger Futhark runes (Hagall)  and (Bjarkan), which are Harald's initials.  = 

King Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson (Old Norse: Haraldr Blátǫnn Gormsson, Danish: Harald Blåtand Gormsen) (probably born c. 935) was the son of King Gorm the Old and of Thyra Dannebod, for whom he had a memorial runestone erected. He died in 985 or 986 having ruled as King of Denmark from c. 958 and King of Norway for a few years probably around 970. He is also credited with Christianizing the Danes.

—from www.wikipedia.org and www.eetimes.com



News of Finland

Helsinki Week

June 7-15, 2013. FINLAND — Helsinki Week is a range of free events built around Helsinki Day and containing a full and varied program, with plenty to do and experience, whatever your tastes. Urban culture blooms on **Helsinki Day** on **June 12**, when the streets pulsate with music, street art, dance and theater. Festivities include doing the samba, enjoying the North Karelia Province Days, and indulging in the blues at Pihlajamäki, as well as activities in Helsinki Observatory, in the Olympic Stadium and the Market Square District. There is an outdoor gym at Töölönlahti park and a yurt sauna for bathing. There is a field day outing at Herttoniemi Estate where the history and present day of Helsinki agriculture is being introduced to the public. Read more at www.hel.fi.



Tall Ships Races

July 17-20, 2013 in Helsinki, Finland. Going to Finland this summer? Be sure to catch the Tall Ships Races next month. Read more at tallshipsraceshelsinki.fi/en.



Finnfest 2013

June 19-23, 2013 in **Hancock, Michigan**. Just north of Houghton, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula, about a 10 hour drive from Toledo, will be a large gathering of Finns. More info at finnfestusa2013.org.

Stockholm Riots

Normally calm and tolerant, the streets of Stockholm became a hotbed of violence and rioting, for nearly a week in late May. Immigrant youths burned two schools and more than a hundred cars, and stoned emergency services and police stations. The incidents began in Husby, a suburb of Stockholm (but quickly spread to eight other suburbs), after police shot a 69 year-old man dead. Police were called to his flat and stormed it after learning that he had a woman inside the flat and he was brandishing a machete. The founder of a local youth group told Swedish media that the riots were a reaction to "police brutality". One suburb affected, Rinkeby, saw similar rioting in 2010. The unrest has triggered a debate about the assimilation of immigrants in Sweden, who make up about 15% of the national population.

—More at BBC News

Smörgåsbord

noun (Swedish)

— a type of **Scandinavian meal served buffet-style** with multiple cold and warm dishes of various foods on a large table; bread, butter and cheeses are always included.

*ALSO known in Norwegian as **koldtbord**, in Danish as **det kolde bord**, in Icelandic as **hlaðborð**, and in Finnish as **seisova pöytä**.*

ORIGIN Sweden, since at least mid-17th century; 14th century for merchant and upper class. Introduced to USA at 1939 New York World's Fair at the Swedish Pavilion's "Three Crowns Restaurant".

ETYMOLOGY Typically a celebratory meal where guests serve themselves, it is customary to begin with the cold fish dishes (herring, salmon, eel), then other cold dishes including bread and butter with various cheeses, and finally the warm dishes are eaten. Desserts may or may not be included.

Smorgasbord, in today's society, can also mean a variety of choice in a broad range of subjects or objects, with no relation to traditional food.

—from Wikipedia.com