Since the Census Bureau first started collecting information on computers nearly thirty-years ago, America’s relationship with computers has radically changed. Data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) helps us to better understand this technological evolution.

Computer and Internet Use 1984-2012

- **74.8%** of all households have Internet use at home (2012)
- **18.0%** of all households had Internet use at home (1997)
- **8.2%** of all households had a computer at home (1984)
- **59.0%** of home computer users were learning to use them (1984)
- **78.9%** of all households had a computer at home (2012)
- **94.8%** of households with a computer use it to connect to the Internet (2012)

Commodore 64
1984’s most popular computer, which held a mere 64 KB of memory. An iPhone has about 16,000 times the RAM.
45.3% of individuals 25 and older were using Smartphones in 2012

Smartphones can be used to:

- **Send Email**
  - Usage: 37.7%

- **Browse the Web**
  - Usage: 36.8%

- **Use Maps**
  - Usage: 29.6%

- **Download Apps**
  - Usage: 28.1%

- **Use Social Media**
  - Usage: 26.2%

- **Listen to Music**
  - Usage: 25.1%

- **Play Games**
  - Usage: 21.7%

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### Internet and Smartphone Use

The "digital divide" is smaller for smartphone use than for Internet use across race and Hispanic origin. Across age groups, smartphone use has a difference as large, or larger, than Internet use.

#### By Age (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Internet Use</th>
<th>Smartphone Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>53.1%</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>53.1%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### By Race, 25 and older (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Group</th>
<th>Internet Use</th>
<th>Smartphone Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Alone</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>64.0%</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The difference between age groups 45-64 and 65 and over in smartphone use is not statistically different from the difference in Internet use. The smartphone estimates for white non-Hispanics, Blacks, and Hispanics are not statistically different from one another.*
For the first time ever, the 2013 American Community Survey collected data on:

- Types of Internet subscriptions (dial-up, DSL, cable, fiber-optic, mobile broadband, satellite, or some other service)
- Ownership or use of computers (laptop vs. desktop vs. smartphone vs. other device)
- Access to the Internet with or without a subscription

Beginning in the fall of 2014 the ACS will provide yearly data on Internet use not only for the nation and states, but smaller geographies as well, such as certain cities and counties.

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling error and nonsampling error. Current Population Survey technical documentation can be located at:
http://www.census.gov/cps/methodology/techdocs.html

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Selected Years