

# What's in a Name? Radio?

“Radio Ga Ga,” written by the British rock band Queen’s drummer, Roger Taylor, and recorded in 1983, appears to have been prophetic: “You had your time, you had the power / You’ve yet to have your finest hour / Radio (radio) ...”

Tell me, when was the last time you listened to the radio? Have you ever talked on a two-way radio? Guess the number of radios now in your daily life!

Advertising works to create names and images we are likely to remember; for example, these products have been marketed successfully: Ping-Pong, the Crockpot, the dumpster, the yo-yo, Popsicles, and Frisbees. But can you name what these widely recognized inventions of today share: Bluetooth, Raspberry Pi, ZigBee, Wi-Fi, Radar, cellular systems, Fitbit, GPS, AM, FM, XM, garage door openers, keyless entry remotes for vehicles, TV, TV remotes, smartphones, smart home devices, radio frequency identification systems (RFID), and communication satellites? They share radio! Turn off their radio and they go dead.

We can access a plethora of Internet services, including Facebook, Instagram, Facebook Messenger, Twitter, Pinterest, Reddit, and Snapchat (to name only a few)—all delivered by radio. Between you and the information source, a radio broadcast transmitter and radio receiver move data around the world using a satellite radio link or microwave radio link. Switch off the radio and no internet! The Internet is dependent on radio. Wi-Fi (with its wireless connectivity) carries more than 60% of the world’s Internet traffic.

Created in 1999, SHOUTcast Internet radio service provides over 50,000 radio stations, eclipsing Radio Garden with only 8,000 and iHeartRadio with only 860. (See <https://directory.shoutcast.com/>.)

Life is more productive today because you use—and potentially benefit from—over 30 radios a day.

The Voice of America (VOA) continues delivering its message using radio, by shortwave, commercial radio stations, TV, cellular connection, satellite, and the Internet to over 280 million people weekly.

Yes, Queen, radio’s finest hour is yet to arrive! Radio, someone still loves you.

Number of radios per device: Bluetooth (2), Raspberry Pi (2), Zigbee (2), Wi-Fi (2), radar (1), cellular phone (2), Fitbit (2), wireless home phone (2), GPS (2), AM (1), FM (1), XM (2), garage door opener (1), keyless entry remotes for vehicles (1), TV (2), iPad (2), iPod (1), TV remotes (1), smartphone (5), smart home devices (2-10), RFID systems (1), and communication satellites (2).

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(Source: [Here's How Wi-Fi Actually Works](#))