The Evolution of Digital Photography!

The digital camera has completely transformed the way that the world works. So much of the modern day technology industry owes its existence to digital imaging.

Facebook, you could argue, most likely wouldn't exist if it weren't for the ability to easily upload and share images using a digital camera.

Given that today (August 19) is World Photography Day, we figured a celebration of the digital camera is in order. Read on to find out its history:

1975: The first digital camera

![First digital camera](image)

Created in 1975 by Steve Sasson, an engineer at Kodak, the first ever digital camera was a fairly rudimentary affair compared to what we use today.

Firstly, it was pretty much put together using parts of kit and leftovers scattered around the Kodak factory - except, of course, for that clever imaging sensor.

Second, it took 0.01-megapixel images shot only in black and white that were saved to a cassette tape. Oh, and it took 23 seconds to capture a single image.

Still, for 1975 this was space age stuff, and Steve Sasson sparked an imaging revolution that would transform the world of photography into what it is today.
1991: Nikon F3 - the digital camera you could buy

This is the biggest step forward in terms of digital imaging, as it was the first proper consumer grade digital camera that could be bought easily.

Running a sensor with just 1.3-megapixels to play with, the F3 'equipped with Kodak' was built pretty much completely for photojournalists.

Released in 1991, it was a bit too far ahead of its time.

1995: Apple enters the game

We don't really associate Apple with the stand-alone digital camera, but its 'QuickTake 100' was amongst the first affordable digital cameras available.

Going on sale in 1995, the QuickTake worked with a home computer using a serial cable.

1995 really was the year of the consumer digital camera. Casio and Kodak both got involved, with Sony following just a year later.

For a long time Kodak would rule the roost when it came to digital photography, with shrewd partnerships alongside Microsoft and IBM ensuring that it stayed at the top of the game.
1997: The first camera phone photo is shared

In 1997, inventor Philippe Kahn shared the first ever image taken by a camera phone.

An experimental prototype, Kahn sent an image of his newborn child via cellular radio to more than 2000 friends and family members.

This was the spark that started it all - soon afterwards, Nokia, Sharp and Sony Ericsson would all launch camera phones.

2004: Flickr arrives on the scene

In the decade since its launch, Flickr has become the number one image sharing and photography community website in the world.

Nowadays it's ruled by the likes of the iPhone, with smartphones dominating the top five most uploaded devices on the website.

When it started, however, Flickr was very much a community for the digital camera enthusiast.

Its mix of message boards and high resolution image storage meant that those who took photography seriously now had a place to discuss it online.
2004: Citizen Journalists and smartphones transform the media

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was a real turning point for the way that newspapers and journalists covered events.

Most of the footage captured of the disaster wasn't recorded by professional news crews, but instead made by everyday people using camera phones.

From that moment on, virtually every major event in the world would be recorded digitally by someone using a smartphone.

2004: Facebook launches

Driven by the rise of the digital camera and smartphone, Facebook's growth would mirror the rate at which consumers' image-sharing abilities changed.

Initially, the website actually maintained a rather small following, but as the iPhone became a mainstream consumer gadget and home broadband more readily available, its user base grew to the vast scale it is today.
2012: Kodak's camera business comes to an end

It seems strange that things would come full circle, but the inventor of the digital camera would also end up going bust because of it.

By 2008, Nokia was selling more camera phones than Kodak managed digital cameras and come 2012, Kodak's digital camera and pocket camera business would close as part of a wider plan for the company to emerge from bankruptcy - which it did in September 2013.

2014: Digital dominates

As of today, experts predict that as many as 380 billion photographs are taken each year.

That number has been steadily rising as the world gradually saturates with digital cameras.

Facebook, Flickr and Instagram’s combined image library now outweighs that of the Library of Congress, or virtually any other image store in the world.

Journalists are using the powers of citizen journalism coupled with social media to create incredible depth of coverage.

The rise of the digital camera has made sure that just about every important moment in a person's life, no matter how small, will now be kept stored forever - provided, of course you don't delete it by accident.