

Your Idea's Name (50 characters)

Universal Mobile Charger

What one sentence best describes your idea? (150 characters)

Any mobile phone (eventually, any small digital gadget) could be charged with any mobile charger through one standard connector.

Describe your idea in more depth. (300 words)

There are over 3 billion mobile phones in use. These need 3 billion mobile chargers. When the phone is disposed, the charger cannot be reused because the new model comes with a different connector, though the voltage and power specifications remain almost same. So we need a new charger every time we own a new mobile just because the connector doesn't match, sometimes even between the successive models from the same company.

If the connector, voltage and polarity of all chargers are standardized, we will be able to charge any mobile using one standard charger. This means we will not need a new charger every time we change our mobile, whether our next model is from the same company or another.

Though the cost saving to individuals on their purchase of next mobile phone totals to a huge sum (3 billion x \$10 each = \$30 billion = 10 years national budget of some poor countries), that is the smallest incentive sought out of this idea, saving on earth's resources being a more important outcome. As the old chargers will not require to be dumped until broken, it helps conserving the environment too.

If this standardization is materialized, a lot of new things could happen. Most importantly, it could make the use of free energy feasible and publicly available (explained later). It could also trigger standardizing other similar gadgets that we use often (listed later), such that we are able to charge all our small digital gadgets through this single standard charger almost anywhere anytime on demand.

Hence, the eventually conceived scenario is that we charge all personal gadgets with one standard charger, we share the same with family and friends whenever needed, and also use free facility outside. Without those tangled cables, our digital life could become so simpler.

What problem or issue does your idea address? (150 words)

Saving on world's resources: The world will not need to produce as many mobile chargers, and the resources saved could be used for other purposes.

Reduction in dumping of functional equipment: The chargers will not need to be dumped as long as these are functional.

Public convenience: Within a couple of years of this initiative, we will not need to carry our charger during travel, as a compatible charger will be available anywhere with family, friends, workplace, hotel, restaurant, airport, etc.

Innovation towards the use of free energy: As there will be a bigger market for one standard mobile charger, innovation could flood in. Particularly, direct solar chargers (without needing storage battery hence more environment friendly and no running cost, but works only when there is sunlight) and magnetic chargers attached to exercising machine, bicycles etc. will become feasible.

If your idea were to become a reality, who would benefit the most and how? (150 words)

All mobile users, which accounts for almost half of world's population, would directly benefit. They will never have to throw away their old charger, and will not have to carry it everywhere they go. Rest will also indirectly benefit.

Those who change their mobile phone every year would feel less guilty against the environment.

Family members will not need individual chargers.

Offices can offer charging stations for employees – solar charger without needing storage battery will give green and free energy for this purpose.

Restaurants, hotels, airports can also offer similar charging facilities.

This could lead to implementation of similar concepts in digital camera, GPS, MP3, iPod, multimedia players, etc. too, which could share the same charger, as well as lead to standardizing others, such as laptop power adapters, camcorders, etc. If that happens, one charger charges all our gadgets at home (and workplace) simply transforming our digital life.

What are the initial steps required to get this idea off the ground? (150 words)

ITU, FCC, ISO, whichever body is most relevant, may publish the standard for designing cell phone charging (as well as data) interface.

Companies complying to this standard in their mobile phone production could be given cash incentive in the early stage. While part of this fund would compensate for their lost profit from additional charger sale, they could also use it for providing free charging facility to the public.

Some fund could be used to mobilize different user communities in the awareness campaign for standardizing the charger, so that users do understand its benefit and this becomes a criterion in their future buying decision. Once the idea picks up, compliance to the standard charger could be used as a marketing advantage for each complying cell phone model. As users will understand value and will probably show brand loyalty, rest of the manufacturer will automatically follow this standard in future.

Describe the optimal outcome should your idea be selected and successfully implemented. How would you measure it? (150 words)

When we buy our next mobile, we won't have to buy charger (as the old one works). The saving in cost of ownership is a direct incentive for the consumer. However, the real benefit is much beyond that and lasts forever.

The cell phone producers will not have to deal with the charger in the long run, as companies focused in charger production will emerge. While cell phone companies can concentrate on advanced features and facilities for their newer models, charger producers will also begin to innovate, mainly in the areas of charging mobility and green (and free) energy. Chargers that work without electricity will become prevalent, and these will be publicly available for use free of cost.

While the subjective measurement is quite obvious, the extent of implementation of this idea could be objectively measured based on market data of the complying models.

If you would like to recommend a specific organization, or the ideal type of organization, to execute your plan, please do so here.

Google could use it as Android standard. Nokia, which has the largest share in this market segment, could become the champion of this initiative. Different Mobile phone communities (Symbian, Palm, Windows Mobile, etc.) could assist in creating awareness and promoting it.

Project 10¹⁰⁰

Big ideas: the final 16

<http://www.project10tothe100.com/ideas.html>

Well, here we are.

Last fall we launched Project 10¹⁰⁰, a call for ideas to change the world by helping as many people as possible. Your response was overwhelming. Thousands of people from more than 170 countries submitted more than 150,000 (or around 10^{5.2}) ideas, from general investment suggestions to specific implementation proposals. As we reviewed these submissions, we started noticing lots of similar ideas related to certain broad topics, and decided that combining the best aspects of these individual proposals would produce the most innovative approaches to solving some very pressing problems. The result is the list you see below of 16 "big ideas," each inspired by numerous individual submissions. Which ones should we make happen? You tell us. Your vote for one of these ideas will help our advisory board choose up to 5 projects to fund, at which point we'll launch an RFP process to identify the organization(s) that are best suited to implementing them.

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to lend your energy to Project 10¹⁰⁰. Your idealism will inspire our own efforts to make these world-changing ideas a reality. So please cast your vote, and help us take this next step toward building a better world.

Create real-world issue reporting system

Community

Build an issue-reporting website that lets people report problems to proper authorities. When software testers find errors, they generally submit them to a tool which automatically routes them to the right team to be fixed. Implementing proposals for this idea might involve creating an analogous system for the real world that lets anyone report a problem of any kind (e.g., a dangerous pothole), and routes problems it deems sufficiently important to the proper authorities (e.g., the relevant road agency). The aim would be to incorporate all the niche applications that users suggested, including reporting crimes to the police and environmental issues to local governments.

1. Enable people to submit bug reports about problems in the real world
2. Create a one-stop shop for anyone wanting to find any service anywhere

Enhance science and engineering education

Education

Support initiatives that enhance young people's engineering and science education. Users from many countries agreed that encouraging science education was an ideal way to insure the brightest future for

technology development itself. Specific ideas ranged from building a virtual science lab and a live multiplayer math game to putting Lego robots and local high-tech professionals in schools.

1. Sponsor the FIRST robotics competition
2. Build a virtual science lab to enable students without sufficient access to proper facilities to run, trial and test virtual experiments
3. Ensure that youth have access to Legos, robots, computers etc. in school environments
4. Recruit local technology professionals to work with students at local schools
5. Create an academically oriented multiplayer game focused on math and science

Create genocide monitoring and alert system

Community

Build and refine tools capable of disseminating genocide-related mapping and related information in order to save lives. Much of the necessary technology and data-gathering methodology already exists both for general crisis mapping and for early warning systems capable of preventing mass atrocities. A key remaining step is to make this data more widely available to strengthen international aid agency coordination, improve resource allocation, develop timely policy and help evaluate current humanitarian practices.

1. Reduce conflict, specifically crimes against humanity, by aggregating data, including pertinent statistics, the history and geography of specific conflicts, local cultures, geostrategic interests, and recent developments that can help policymakers identify emerging crises more effectively
2. Support the creation of an independent global genocide watchdog that can trigger existing laws and guarantee immediate intervention
3. Apply mapping and communications technology to track, predict, and prevent genocides
4. Help guide civilians facing genocide to safe refugee camps through updated dynamic web maps and hand-held GPS devices

Promote health monitoring and data analysis

Health

Predict and minimize medical problems and emergencies through real-time tracking of individuals' health data and analysis of historical data. Several ideas submitted in multiple languages recommend this concept, offering various ideas about which types of monitors and devices to use; which vital signs to measure (with varying levels of invasiveness); which diseases and conditions to track; and so on. The idea could work both in the developed world (through wearable, mobile or in-home devices) and in the developing world (via publicly accessible locations and devices), and the data could be used both to track individuals' health status and to spot community trends and prevent disease outbreaks.

1. Create an integrated personal health data system that uses data collected from toilets to transmit and analyze health and nutritional data
2. Use a bracelet device to measure blood pressure, temperature, etc. to detect health changes and track trends at a regional and national level
3. Create an affordable, wearable, nearly invisible device that people could use to effortlessly monitor physical health data, then broadcast it to authorized individuals they have selected
4. Design a portable doctor or handheld health monitoring system
5. Create an integrated personal health data system that uses data collected from toilets to transmit and analyze health and nutritional data

Make educational content available online for free

Education

Make educational and course materials more accessible online to students worldwide. Lots of educational content is not indexed or accessible on the public web. Various users have proposed finding ways to help content owners put formerly exclusive content online, including offline materials (lectures, textbooks, videotaped workshops) and limited-access materials (scholarly papers, research dissertations); help teachers themselves become more available online (access to online profs, 24/7 homework help, cross-country study groups); and to make all this material and academic help accessible through both computer and mobile platforms.

1. Collaborate with top schools around the world to make their lectures freely accessible online
2. Create an online educational platform that provides free training and education as part of a worldwide, officially accepted degree
3. Provide free online lectures and textbooks for every subject and grade level
4. Facilitate information exchange among students around the world, including cross-country "study groups" on specific topics

Drive innovation in public transport

Energy

Develop new transportation technologies to help move more people with less energy, greater efficiency and fewer casualties. Millions of people still use methods of transportation invented a hundred or more years ago. Even small improvements in speed, safety, cost and environmental efficiency would have a large impact on people's lives, and on the planet as a whole. With such improvements in mind, transportation-minded users submitted ideas ranging from a hydrogen-powered bicycle to an airship optimized for commuter travel. By aligning with and supporting organizations that share these goals, this proposal aims to drive innovation in this sector and make the best of these ideas a reality.

1. Design a community light rail system for use by bicycles and minimum-powered vehicles
2. Build a rail car system that adapts fuel cars to also run on electric railway networks

3. Create a transportation system that enables electric cars to run on a rail-type system
4. Promote bicycle commuting via more efficient bike safety systems
5. Design electric bicycles powered by hydrogen or methanol fuel cells
6. Build airships for public transport

Create more efficient landmine removal programs

Shelter

Fund global organizations that are developing efficient strategies for landmine detection and removal. Landmines remain a significant global problem. There are an estimated 110 million landmines still active in 70 countries; they have been blamed for over 5,000 casualties annually, ~70% of which are civilians, and nearly half of those are children.* Effective new landmine-removal programs offer a wide range of societal benefits beyond the obvious development of mine-free areas, including the repatriation of refugees and better distribution of emergency aid. Numerous suggestions for this topic include robotic, human and animal-facilitated detection strategies. *www.icbl.org

1. Work with the HeroRat organization to detect and remove landmines
2. Fund a robotic mine detector/remover
3. Use shock waves or intense sound to explode landmines
4. Create a minefield-clearing machine that works by simply "rolling" across landmine-suspected areas and detonating mines

Build real-time, user-reported news service

Everything Else

Help people find and report timely, important local information. Users have submitted many ideas proposing better access to locally relevant info, including real-time news (fires, natural disasters and road accidents), disease tracking (mobile devices that track people's health status) and personal incidents (calling to report a threatening criminal situation, natural disaster or medical emergency). Implementation of this idea would involve creating a system that enables ordinary citizens to easily report news that's happening around them, from meaningful local events to important global stories.

1. Create a news agency that relies on users to report news
2. Offer a news feature that pinpoints the viewer's current location and shows what's going on, right now, in his or her neighborhood, city, county, etc.
3. Build an internet-based news channel where anybody can post individual/family/local/global news videos or text

Provide quality education to African students

Education

Support efforts to increase young Africans' access to quality education. This idea's many user-submitted inspirations include an initiative to provide quality education and facilities to children who lack access; giving leadership training to outstanding young people who will comprise tomorrow's African leaders; and providing an online networking space for knowledge sharing and collaboration among teachers in Africa.

1. Establish youth leadership training programs in every major town and city throughout Africa
2. Create a cutting-edge research and development center that to identify, inspire and nurture a solution-providing generation of young Africans
3. Offer scholarships to students from developing countries who wish to study in engineering programs outside their country of origin
4. Increase educational opportunities in developing countries by creating "cyber schools"
5. Provide a online networking space for collaboration and knowledge sharing among teachers in Africa

Make government more transparent

Community

Create a website that enables people from any country or municipality to easily learn about the workings of their government, and rally their fellow citizens to take action to improve it. Numerous user ideas embraced variations on the theme of governmental transparency, with specific proposals ranging from publishing details of proposed laws and politicians' voting records to making public budgets searchable online and leveraging social networks to let communities make their voices heard by their representatives by voting on pressing issues.

1. Create a "govwatch" program that allows people to enter in geographic and other info and get back information about bills/laws that affect them
2. Empower individual voters with both online, real-time data on their political representatives' activity, and tools to analyze, engage and influence outcomes
3. Increase the transparency of laws, eliminate duplicate ones and communicate them better to affected citizens
4. Share information on how municipalities and states use public funds

Create real-time natural crisis tracking system

Community

Make rapid-response crisis-mapping data available to help policymakers better coordinate response efforts during hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters. For example, this proposal could involve joining with global partners to develop technology to collect high-resolution imagery and video via satellite, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or ground-based communications, and display and aggregate this data for the use of policymakers and international organizations tasked with protecting vulnerable civilians.

1. Use online mapping products to put geographic data to work managing environmental emergencies
2. Create an interface that delivers real-time images of short-term natural disasters and long-term environmental crises.
3. Use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for global weather monitoring and climatological data distribution
4. Build a cheap, modular rapid response platform bolted to an unmanned, autonomous light aircraft
5. Use Vertical Takeoff & Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in hazardous area detection, life search and rescue, and more

Help social entrepreneurs drive change

Opportunity

Create a fund to support social entrepreneurship. This idea was inspired by a number of user proposals focused on "social entrepreneurs" -- individuals and organizations who use entrepreneurial techniques to build ventures focused on attacking social problems and fomenting change. Specific relevant ideas include establishing schools that teach entrepreneurial skills in rural areas; supporting entrepreneurs in underdeveloped communities; and creating an entity to provide capital and training to help entrepreneurs build viable businesses and catalyze sustained community change.

1. Provide targeted capital and business training to help young entrepreneurs build viable businesses and catalyze sustained community change
2. Create a non-profit, venture capital-like revolving fund to invest in high-impact local entrepreneurs
3. Send young American entrepreneurs to underdeveloped communities to help create small businesses that would economically benefit those communities
4. Create schools in rural areas to teach local people how to become entrepreneurs
5. Create a private equity fund to help immigrants in developed countries finance business development in their countries of origin

Collect and organize the world's urban data

Community

Support efforts to organize, analyze and make accessible online the world's urban and population data. A majority of the global human population lives in cities, and more people continue to migrate into urban centers. Information about the urban planet is ever more invaluable in helping understand humanity's impact on our surroundings, thus empowering citizens and helping leaders make better-informed decisions. Users interested in this area submitted ideas ranging from creating a website where residents can text or upload photos that highlight city issues to building a comprehensive database of city projects and using mobile phones to collect information about, and eventually be able to predict traffic and congestion patterns.

1. Build a website that enables city residents to submit information to highlight city issues, thereby helping governments understand their citizens' demands
2. Apply leading-edge web tools to communities and cities to help people participate, document and share solutions to the challenges that their communities face
3. Place cameras at suitable locations in cities around the world and take daily pictures to provide time-lapse views of urban development
4. Create a comprehensive, free-access, peer-reviewed online database of various city projects from major cities around the world

Build better banking tools for everyone

Opportunity

Partner with banks and technology companies to increase the reach of financial services across the world. Users submitted numerous ideas that seek to improve the quality of people's lives by offering new, more convenient and more sophisticated banking services. Specific suggestions include inexpensive village-based banking kiosks for developing countries; an SMS solution geared toward mobile networks; and ideas for implementing banking services into school curriculums.

1. Enable prepaid cell phone bank accounts for millions of people working in the informal economy
2. Create a community-level electronic banking system for rural areas
3. Build IT-enabled kiosks which provide access to financial services
4. Create a single world bank or supra-national currency, uniform rules and transparent public accounting

Encourage positive media depictions of engineers and scientists

Education

Support groups and programs that promote positive depictions of engineers and scientists in popular media. Generally speaking, career services are only offered in earnest during university years, when many opportunities have already passed by. These proposals are designed to encourage more young people to pursue careers in this field by supporting groups that work toward encouraging positive images of engineering and science in pop culture. Our users submitted a number of suggestions for making engineering and science "cool," including online libraries of "day-in-the-life of an engineer" videos, an online channel devoted entirely to IT news, live performances with massive robots, and telling inspirational real-life stories about how individual engineers and scientists have changed the world. This proposal will require finding the right public advocacy groups to partner with in pursuing these objectives.

1. Create a tech channel that broadcasts coverage of conferences and news about the web and Internet technology
2. Generate excitement and curiosity in science by developing fantastic live presentations in science theaters
3. Develop an online multimedia library that describes a wide variety of careers through compelling stories in short video interviews, documentaries and day-in-the-life vignettes

Work toward socially conscious tax policies

Environment

Fund the most promising efforts to make the tax system more transparent and better at supporting societal sustainability and development. This idea is inspired by many tax-related ideas from users around the world, including: replacing income taxes with smart consumption taxes; tax discounts for citizens who participate in socially beneficial works; and giving citizens more visibility and control into the allocation of their tax dollars. User ideas in this category highlight tax policy as a perhaps surprisingly fertile area in which intelligent, data-driven analysis could make a huge difference in the effectiveness of the public sector.

1. Replace all income taxes with an ecological VAT: namely, a smart sales tax on consumption
2. Create a mechanism that serves consumers'/citizens' interest by applying externality cost/benefit analysis to systematically adjust market forces in vital sectors like energy, housing and the environment
3. Work to encourage the Brazil vehicle tax to release a portion of its revenues for projects to neutralize carbon emissions
4. Encourage people to participate in charities and other socially beneficial works by providing tax discounts