The human body can be part of a communications network. Using a technology known as capacitive coupling, it is possible to transmit information from a smartphone to another device instantly, and at high speeds.

**Your body as a wire**

The human body works like an electrical circuit, with both capacitance and resistance. Capacitive coupling uses naturally occurring signals in the body to transmit information to and from a mobile device.

**The receiver**

A device specially designed to pick up the signal that has just passed through the body.

**The source**

In one hand you hold a smartphone adapted to transmit a mobile signal through the body.

**Making life simpler**

Capacitive coupling is set to allow super-simple solutions such as:
- Unlocking a door by holding the handle
- Confirming a purchase by touching the check-out counter
- Exchanging a business card by shaking hands
- Getting photos and film clips by touching a TV monitor
- Embedding medical devices in the body
- Being able to access printed electronics containing links, applications or information simply by touching them.

**History**

Capacitive coupling was first demonstrated in 1995 at MIT, in the US, at speeds of about 2.4kbps. South Korean university KAIST and Japanese telecom operator NTT DoCoMo have also demonstrated human-body communication.

The Networked Society is when people, business and society are using connected devices to their benefit.

By 2017 there will be:

9 billion mobile subscriptions
3 billion smartphone subscriptions
15 times more mobile data traffic than in 2010
Mobile broadband coverage for 85% of the world’s population

Data: Ericsson