

1951 - Independent Direct Dialing:

With the advent of network capabilities, the new Direct Distance Dialing came into effect on November 19, 1951, in Englewood, New Jersey and then to several other major US cities shortly thereafter. Direct distance dialing or direct dialed long distance calling is when the user initiates and completes a long distance call without any operator assistance. By having and dialing the complete telephone number, including area code, city code and specific telephone number in a specific given sequence, the originator may dial any other telephone subscribing party. This capability heralded the beginning of the digital age in telecommunication, utilizing networking technologies and 'trunk' sequencing. However, as not all cities and areas in North America had the network switching capability in the 1950's and 60's many long distance calls still needed operator assistance, including international calls. However, by the 1970's, most subscribing customers had the capability to utilize direct dialing technology. This was the beginning of a whole new era of communication. At any time, a telephone originating caller now had the ability to connect with another telephone receiving party (<http://www.privateline.com/Switching/EarlyWork.html>).