

Always present and constantly available, phones have become a lifeline of society. However, this lifeline is a pernicious one- the more it is used, the more it takes. Just in 2016, three thousand people died as a result of texting and driving, while four hundred thousand more were injured according to [stoptextsstopwrecks.org](http://stoptextsstopwrecks.org). In order to prevent and eventually eradicate this issue, multiple solutions have been presented and implemented, but none have been used universally. However, there is always hope that there are solutions to help, and many are on their way to fixing the complication. For example, a universal app within the driver's phone would reach everyone, be easier to actualize, and would function more effectively than many other solutions.

Distracted, texting drivers share a single commonality- all have a cell phone. The constant availability is the root of the problem, but it holds the key to a fix. If a driver is texting, they are on their phone, which seems a simple observation, but is a very powerful idea. One of, if not the only, fact all drivers hold in common is the ownership of a cell phone. This means that if a solution was implemented through the phones, then it would reach every driver it needed to.

In fact, technology has already been created to prevent crashing, and is used successfully to aid the issue. For example, Illume Software's "iZup solution uses GPS to detect if you're driving on a highway...once it detects that the phone is moving more than the preset value, it interrupts the normal operation of the phone" as written by J. Gerry Purdy in "Inside Mobile Using Mobile Technology to Prevent Texting While Driving". This would mean that the driver physically can't use their phone as a distraction, but there are exceptions made. The application shuts down if the driver needs to dial 911, and this is only a start. Imagine an app that would lock keyboards, meaning that phone functions such as calling or using maps would still be accessible, but the ability to text would be unachievable. A simple download of an app is additionally much easier to implement, especially if it was able to connect to the car and automatically install. Systems similar to this already exist, as Safe Driving Systems demonstrates in "Inside Mobile Using Mobile Technology to Prevent Texting While Driving" when it states "Safe Driving Systems' Key2SafeDriving and obdEdge's cellcontrol use a hardware dongle in the car that communicates with the user's cell phone via bluetooth". This doesn't even require anything to be downloaded on the phone, meaning that it would be more appealing to many consumers. Technology is made to be user friendly, and it serves as a simple alternative to a prevalent issue.

In contrast, many other presented solutions are both costly, ineffective, and cumbersome. For example, one idea is to educate drivers and prevent the problem before it happens, but the plan is not having the desired effect. "Despite...major investments, there are no data to suggest that here campaigns have had any effect on cell phone use while driving...97% of adolescent drivers already know that cellphone use while driving is dangerous" as AT&T explains in "Road Kill" by Teen Vogue, showing that even though thousands are spent on education programs, they are not addressing the root issue. However, there are also solutions that attempt to prohibit distracted driving in the form of legal action; but that has also not had the desired effect, and might even be harmful. For example, one "...study found that texting bans were actually associated with increased frequencies of collision claims" says the Highway Loss Data Institute in "Adolescent cellphone use while driving: an overview of the literature and promising future directions for prevention" by M. Kit Delgado, Kathryn J. Wanner, and Catherine McDonald, demonstrating that legislation has opposite consequences than expected. While it is a solution, it is nowhere near as effective as technology, and does not pose a threat to the immense dilemma.

Texting and driving has become a major issue in today's society, but it is not without solutions. Because of technology's far reaching fingers, a fix using an application would be able to apply to everyone. While there are other solutions, none are as simple to implement or as effective, letting technology sit on top. In summary, a technological fix could eradicate the problem of texting and driving painlessly and more effectively than other solutions, leading to safer roads and safer people.