

# 1995 Survival Ideas for Now

Would you have survived the '95s?  
rise of the internet and social media

**1) used Windows 95**

merged MS-DOS and Windows, plug/play 32bit took advantage of more memory and larger hard disks

**2) used the Netscape Navigator browser**

dominant browser till 1994

**3) used one of the first personal digital assistants PDAs**

features later incorporated into smart phones

**4) could write simple web pages in HyperText Markup Language**

expanded greatly with introduction of Javascript and later CMS

**5) used an early digital camera**

stored simple images on a floppy disk, but good enough for web pages, which had to remain small because of limited modem speeds

**6) watched a space shuttle launch, return, etc.**

this was before the Challenger disaster and closing down of the shuttle program except for military

**7) did early email on a POP3 email server**

annoying, text only, command line based, but worked and faster than the mail

**8) used an early GPS**

limited to military and researchers at first. later accuracy would get the the 1/2" level

**9) got on the Internet using a 2400 baud modem, even at work**

dial up Internet (think AOL online), eventually 9600 baud, (started at 300 baud). forced websites to be compact and minimal

**10) still exchanged data/code/programs with a floppy disk**

we called it 'sneaker net' meaning someone had to physically move or mail the information to another in need

**11) used one the first monochrome laser printer**

much quieter, faster and higher quality than a dot matrix

**12) remembered using: CP/M MS-DOS and GEM/3**

the 'good old days' for early personal computer users. supplanted by Microsoft and Apple

**13) used Turbo Pascal, Quick Basic, C, Java to write your own code**

especially at first there was not a lot of good commercial software specific to your needs.

**14) heard "Gangsta's Paradise" on radio for the first time**

was #1 on pop charts in 1995 and still popular among some

**15) saw highest grossing film, "Die Hard with a Vengeance" in theater**

this was pre DVD rentals and streaming on Amazon, etc.

**16) knew people affected by HIV/AIDS**

it was certain death at the time

**17) saw the news about Oklahoma City bombing where 168 people died**

the official beginning of domestic terrorism

**18) bought tech at Radio Shack**

for 'nerds' it was the official go to store for tech needs

**19) saw PBS Kids**

hard to believe it is 30 years old

**20) used a Bulletin Board system for social media**

no Myspace or Facebook, much less Instagram or Tik-Tok. we did have a LOT more free time though, hmmm

**21) drove or rode in a Chrysler Neon car**

not everyone could afford the Spyder and this car worked well

**22) endured the "sexy school girl" time**

now people go on social media to get 'attention', but back then you needed to do it in person

**23) power dressing was the norm for women in the workplace**

trying to prove to the men that women were just as professional as they were (see above, which did not help)

**24) men were casual, grunge, flannel**

men went the other direction. not sure it worked.

**25) going to college, preppy students wore khaki slacks, canvas, boat shoes**

college was a very HEAVY push still

**26) listening and dancing to hip-hop**

not my thing, but was important to a lot of people

**27) knew or dressed "Goth"**

a response to the 'sexy' and 'casual' look mentioned above

**28) felt that somehow our tech took a wrong turn and cos-played steam punk**

the belief that all this tech was actually not the correct path and we missed something from the past, hmmm

**29) were amazed by the first blue LEDs**

red/IR LEDs were now old school, white and color LEDs came a year later

**30) visited a video arcade to play video games**

home computers were just not fast enough if you were a 'real' player

**31) CD-ROMs disks were common (700MB)**

much better than the 1.22MB floppies, but could not be reused. later DVDs allowed 4.7GB which was great for archiving purposes

**32) used a cheap DOT Matrix printer for routine output**

laser printers were expensive and not needed for routine work

**33) barcodes and QR codes came on the scene**

and have never left. yes they are THAT OLD!

**34) 2G mobile phones first appeared and the age of texting began**

slow, no camera, voice and text only. some could text without looking at their screens

**35) pagers, still used in restaurants to tell you when your table or meal was ready**

some locations send a text to your phone now at least

**36) used a fountain pen to do assignments for school, because it was cool to be retro**

still use them myself. just like the 'feel' of writing with one. of course knowing cursive is a hidden code now

The next thirty years will really speed up tech, but this is where it started to impact most people's lives. This was also my time and being tech a lot of the above is biased in that direction.