QR Codes

These days, QR codes are being used in all kinds of places. People use them to enter events, board airplanes, or buy things with their smartphones. These codes store data that make it easy to access websites and other information. But did you know that this world-famous technology was developed in Japan?

QR codes were originally developed to manage large numbers of automobile parts. Until QR codes came along, bar codes, like the ones on most products sold in stores, were used for these parts. However, bar codes can only store 20 letters and numbers, so the amount of data they can provide is limited.

DENSO, a technology company based in Aichi Prefecture, developed a new kind of code that could hold more information. Its QR code, which it introduced in 1994, could store 7,000 letters and numbers, as well as kana and kanji characters. It was faster to read than bar codes and could be read even if scratched or dirty. This made managing work and data much more efficient.

QR codes have become popular for several reasons. The first is that their patents are open. Their developers have made them free for everyone to use. This has led to their use in a wide variety of fields. Another reason is the popularity of mobile phones. When phones that can read QR codes were first sold in 2002, the technology became more common among the general public. And a third reason is the “contactless” style of shopping and dining. Many people have avoided using cash at registers during the coronavirus pandemic because the virus could be spread through money. QR codes are being used for purchases at stores with cashless apps. Restaurants also let people check in and order food using QR codes. This is how the use of QR codes has expanded over time.

People will think of more uses for QR codes. In China, people can get a color code that shows their health status, including PCR test results and travel history. They show this code to enter buildings or ride public transportation. At the G20 in 2020, Chinese leader Xi Jinping said that these codes should be used for international travel. QR code use will surely spread as the technology becomes more advanced. Can you imagine a new way to use QR codes?