BRACES: THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

There is an app for just about anything you can think of for every kind of smart phone. There are apps that act as a flashlight, order food for you, check the weather (around the world!), or synthesize your voice! Some are practical, while others are just silly. The main purpose of an app is to give quick and easy access to something you want. Now, anyone who has ever had or currently has braces knows how awesome it would be to have quick and easy access to perfect teeth….

I was sitting in the front room watching TV after a long and very boring day at school when my sister ran into the room, hysterically crying. "Mom and Dad said that I have to get BRACES!" she wailed, "BRACES! My social life is over. I swear, it's OVER." My sister has always been a bit of a drama queen…But this time, I felt her pain. I mean, braces are for losers! And she was going to high school next year; she was going to be eaten alive. "How long will you have them for?" I asked her, as she wiped her nose on her sleeve. "Does it even MATTER? I won't have any friends anyways!" she replied, and she burst into a fresh wave of tears. I had a feeling my evening was going to continue this way, until I noticed the commercial on the TV behind her…

"Are you being FORCED by your lame parents to have those hunks of metal super-glued to your teeth?" That got my sister's attention right away; she managed to reduce her sobbing to sniffling as she turned her attention to the TV. "Do you want to protect your social status from the EVILS of orthodontics?? Do you need braces? Well, there an app for that!!" My sister's eyes were shining, and she leaned forward so as not to miss a word this overbearing announcer said. "It's fast, it's easy, and it's cool! All you need to do is download our app, BraceFace, on your iPhone. Our braces work ten times faster than regular braces, so they will be off in mere days! A short process and a beautiful smile; it's a win-win situation! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?? Grab your parent's credit card and buy it now! Because regular braces are just plain lame!" My sister jumped up and ran to find my mom yelling, "Mooooom!!! We have to buy an iPhone!!!

Braces. There's an app for that.

Forget Steve Jobs of Apple, Bill Gates of Microsoft, or Larry Ellison's Oracle; the inventor of the custom app is Dr. Gartner. There have been many generations in app development, but the current BRACES 8.0 release has accumulated accolades. The critics proclaimed: "Smiles all around", "Brilliant Show", and "Straight to the Face". No one is more pleased with this latest "state of the art" app than the current user. Let me take you from its inception to the current production model.

It was 2006, I was in the 6th grade with a mouth full of misaligned teeth. Tests were taken, molds made, and the 360 degree results were radiographically clear, a set of custom apps was required.

The first generation app was a seemingly simple one. Some device called the spreader – I called it flavorless food. Always there, sucked on, and tasteless. If there ever was a need for a flavor enhancer, this one was it. Simply bland. Little did I know that this simple app contained a latent malicious threat to my operating environment. One month after installation, the developer activated the app's code with one turn of the screw. The bug released was a constant pain in the head.

My headgear app upgrade was direct from Hollywood as the Darth Bader breather. Prongs out the front, hooks in the back. If you missed the external slot when installing it, you felt the stabbing two finger pinch in the neck when the spring loaded harness drove the metal back into the gums. It's that area of the mouth which was soft where the gum tissue and teeth met.

During the serious hardware investment, more product implementation toolsets were used, including lip spreaders, pokers, pullers, grippers and pushers. This bundle contained twisted pair wiring and a few token rings as enhancements. A new maintenance pack was implemented monthly. The programmers tightened wires or replaced a band-with hooks. I received user-training on rubber band implementation. I created a custom concealed mini-app…the tongue release rubber-band shooter. Johnny never knew from where that speck hit him. The final reimplementation moved everything to the recycle bin. The network was removed, gear gone, and only a small retainer left behind as a memory. This latest version kept the archived records in place.

Today – I am on a cloud. Entirely wireless and no need for a liver lining. Just Smiles.