Old-school is cool

Even as technology evolves rapidly, some collectors will hold on to cherished gadgets from the decades before the smartphone.

He helped bring the Internet to Singapore

In 1994, National University of Singapore computer science professor G.P. Tham contributed to an early version of the Internet.

"When I joined NUS in 1973, the school was one of the first in Asia to get on the Internet," he says.

"The Internet as we know it today didn’t exist back then. Access to the Internet was limited to academics and government agencies. I remember the University of Queensland in Australia being the first institution to be connected to the Internet.

"In 1985, NUS became a member of the Research Network for Southeast Asia, which was a network of universities across the region. This was the beginning of the Internet in Singapore.

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Flea market fun loves all things retro

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Heeding the call of antiques

"Being the avid collector of old phones, I’ve been told that I help save memories," says Michael Lee, whose collection includes nearly 200 old telephones from around the world.

He particularly enjoys collecting old phones as he believes they are a great way to connect with the past.

"I find that old phones are a great way to connect with the past. They are not only functional, but also serve as a reminder of the advances in technology over time."

"It’s also a good way to connect with others through stories and experiences. Knowing the history of these phones and the people who used them makes them more than just a collection."