

Drone Tech explainer



Questions want answered:

- How fast can it fly?
- Range (distance from operator)
- How long can it stay in the air?
- Carrying capacity, what can be equipped?

Drone:

There are nearly as many different kinds of drones as there are different kinds of aircraft. This is because, fundamentally, a drone is just an aircraft without a human onboard. Drones vary in size, from tiny quadrotors to large fixed-wing aircraft. Drones can be operated remotely by a human, or with various degrees of autonomy, ranging from simple autopilot assistance to fully autonomous aircraft.

Drones are different from manned aircraft because they are generally smaller, less expensive, faster to deploy, are able to fly at low altitudes and, in some cases, indoors.

The technology powering drones is constantly improving and becoming more widely available. As the technology continues to advance, there will increasingly be fewer and fewer practical limitations to the kinds of technology that can be integrated with a drone.

Much in the same way that smartphones are now general purpose computers that can do anything as long as "there's an app for that" drones are increasingly serving as generic, modular platforms through which additional technology can be deployed.

If you have a tool you can hold in your hand, odds are you can incorporate it into a drone. Some examples of different technologies and capabilities that drones have been equipped with include:

- cameras that can collect high definition video and still images day and night.

- technology allowing them to intercept cell phone calls and text messages
- Audio surveillance and recording tools
- Determine GPS locations of individuals,
- Gather license plate information
- Collecting samples for analysis (Air, dust, mineral, etc)
- determine whether individuals are carrying guns.
- At least one drone has painted a wall with spray cans. <https://diydrones.com/profiles/blogs/first-in-the-world-graffiti-drone-part-1>
- radar which [can identify](#) changes in the landscape, such as footprints and tire tracks
- These include flying drones, remote control bomb-defusing robots, and autonomous patrol robots.

While these different devices serve different functions and operate differently, none of them—absolutely none—should be armed with any kind of weapon.

Sources: <https://www.eff.org/pages/dronesunmanned-aerial-vehicles> and <https://www.eff.org/issues/surveillance-drones>)

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2022/01/how-are-police-using-drones>