HOW THE INTERNET WORKS · PART 4 OF 9 · AGES 11–16

The Internet vs the Web

They are not the same thing. One is the network; the other is a service that runs on it.

The internet		The web
WHAT IT IS		
A worldwide network of networks that carries data between devices.		A collection of linked pages and files that you reach through the internet.
MADE OF		
Hardware: cables, routers, mobile masts and servers, plus the rules that join them.		Content: web pages, images and videos stored on web servers and joined by hyperlinks.
MAIN RULES		
TCP/IP: IP moves packets to the right address; TCP checks they all arrive in order.		HTTP and HTTPS to request pages, HTML to write them.
ADDRESSES		
An IP address for every connected device, for example 192.0.2.10		A URL for every page or file, for example https://example.com/news
YOU USE IT THROUGH		
Any connected app or device: email, games, video calls, smart speakers.		A web browser, such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox or Edge.
WITHOUT THE OTHER?		
Works fine: email, apps and games would carry on without the web.		Impossible: every web page is delivered over the internet.

Roads and deliveries

Think of the internet as the road network and the web as one delivery company using it. Email, games and video calls are other companies on the same roads.

NEXT IN THE SERIES

5. The Internet by the Numbers

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