HOW THE INTERNET WORKS · PART 6 OF 9 · AGES 11–16

Timeline of the Internet

How four linked US research computers grew into the network most of the world uses today.

Oct 1969

ARPANET's first words

UCLA sends the first message to the Stanford Research Institute. The system crashes after two letters: "LO".

1972

Email arrives

Ray Tomlinson writes the first basic email software, and ARPANET is shown to the public.

Jan 1983

Switch to TCP/IP

ARPANET adopts Cerf and Kahn's TCP/IP rules, letting different networks join into one internet.

Mar 1989

The web is proposed

Tim Berners-Lee, at CERN, proposes a system for sharing linked documents.

1990

First website

HTML, HTTP and URLs are defined, and info.cern.ch goes live as the first web server.

Apr 1993

The web is made free

CERN puts the web software in the public domain, so anyone can build on it.

Apr 1995

The internet goes commercial

The US government stops funding the NSFNET backbone, and commercial companies take over running the network.

No single inventor

The internet was built by many people: Kleinrock's team sent the first ARPANET message, Cerf and Kahn designed TCP/IP, and Berners-Lee invented the web that runs on top of it.

NEXT IN THE SERIES
7. Internet Key Terms: A Cheat Sheet

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