**History of E-Commerce**

• The history of Ecommerce seems rather short but its journey started over 40 years ago in hushed science labs.

• In the 1960s, very early on in the history of Ecommerce, its purpose was to exchange long distance electronic data. In these early days of Ecommerce, users consisted of only very large companies, such as banks and military departments, who used it for command control communication purposes. This was called EDI, and was used for electronic data interchange.

• Originally, electronic commerce was identified as the facilitation of commercial transactions electronically, using technology such as Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). These were both introduced in the late 1970s, allowing businesses to send commercial documents like purchase orders or invoices electronically.

• The growth and acceptance of credit cards, automated teller machines (ATM) and telephone banking in the 1980s were also forms of electronic commerce.

• In 1982 Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol known as TCP & IP was developed. This was the first system to send information in small packets along different routes using packet switching technology, like today's Internet! As opposed to sending the information streaming down one route.

• Beginning in the 1990s, electronic commerce would include enterprise resource planning systems (ERP), data mining and data warehousing.

• In 1995, with the introduction of online payment methods, two companies that we all know of today took their first steps into the world of Ecommerce. Today Amazon and ebay are both amongst the most successful companies on the Internet.