

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNET

Internet is the world's largest computer network, the network of networks, scattered all over the world. It was created nearly twenty-five years ago as a project for the U.S Department of Defense. The Internet is a global network of computers that allows many millions of computer users to share and exchange information. Internet is a rich source of information. Many thousands of computers are linked to the Internet, hold vast quantities of data that you can access from your personal computers whenever you want. Teachers, students, businessmen, doctors, engineers, scientist etc. can get recent data from internet which makes their knowledge up-to-date. Accessing the information through internet is much faster. Information can be downloaded into the computer and print out can be taken.

Origin and Development of the Internet

1957	ARPA was formed
1969	ARPANET was commissioned for research into computer networking.
1971	E- mail and e-mail utility became available
1973	First international connections to ARPANET. University College of London and Royal Radar Establishment, Norway.
1974	Telnet
1975	Operational management of the internet transferred to DCA (DISA).
1979	USENET; ARPA established the internet Configuration Control Board (ICCB).
1982	TCP/IP suite declared as standard of Department of Defense.
1983	MILNET separated from ARPANET.
1984	Domain Name System introduced; number of hosts exceeds 1000.

1985	Domain name registration system introduced
1986	NSFNET was established; IETF and IRTF came into existence under the IAB.
1988	Internet Relay Chat developed.
1989	Number of hosts exceeds 100,000.
1990	ARPANET ceases to exist; Dial up internet connections by ILSPs
1991	WAIS, Gopher and World Wide Web.
1992	Internet Society is chartered; Number of hosts breaks 1,000,000 Veronica released.
1993	Business and media take note of the internet; Mosaic takes the internet by storm.
1994	ARPANET /internet celebrates 25 th anniversary; shopping malls on the internet.
1995	NEFNET reverts back to research network Main US back bone traffic re-routed through interconnected network providers. Search engines developed.
1996	Government restrictions on the internet use around world.

World Wide Web (WWW)

Many people believe that both internet and World Wide Web (WWW) are same. But, actually it is not true. WWW is a type of service in the internet. i.e., Internet is the backbone of communication systems whereas WWW is a type of service that uses communication systems. A Web is a collection of Web sites and the Internet is a network of networks. WWW is nothing but the collection of Web sites on the Internet and the sites are all linked together somewhat like the strands of a spider web. The World Wide Web is often abbreviated as the Web or WWW or W3. WWW was created in 1989 by the Tim Berners Lee at the European laboratory for particle physics (CERN) in GENEVA, Switzerland to enable the document communication between the physics researches and to create a network between them, physics researches created hypertext documents as their documentation standards. The WWW contains huge amount of information which a user can access using a browser such as Internet explorer or Netscape Navigator. The documents accessed are in the form of web pages. Web pages may contain text, graphics, icons animation, sounds and video – multimedia capabilities and are usually user – friendly.

- **Website:** A Web site is a collection of interconnected Web pages. Usually there is a main or home page which provides link to the other pages and vice versa. Each page (document) has its unique URL.
- **Uniform Resource Locator (URL):** The originator Berners-Lee invented a coding system that uses a string of characters called a Universal Resource Locator (URL) that identifies the name and address of each document on the Web. The URL consists of four major parts: For example:



- ✓ Server Protocol: Web documents use the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)
 - ✓ Type of site: For example, WWW for World Wide Web, FTP for file Transfer Protocol.
 - ✓ Domain address: The address of the host computer consisting of the name of the main server or site, the sub domain (organisation, network etc.), and the domain name (a two – or three – letter) designation indicating the type of organisation etc. (see below for more clarification)).
 - ✓ Folder or Filename: The folder (subfolders etc.) or/and the name of the file or document accessed.
- **Web Language:** HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) has become as the standard Markup Language or information publishing.

- **Web pages:** A webpage is a HTML document that is stored in a web server and that has an URL so that it can be accessed via the web. It is a single unit of information often called a document. It consists of text, images, background and colour effects, links, java applets, vbscripts etc.
- **Home Page:** A home page is the front door of the web site. When the web user is typing a website name in the browser, the homepage will be displayed first.
- **Web Browsers:** A Web Browser is a software tool that computers use to communicate with web servers on the internet. Web browsers enable to download and display the web pages that user requests. A Web Browser should be capable of understand HTML and display text. Now Web Browser supports pictures, video, sound and even 3D

images. In the address bar of the browser, type the URL and it will display the web pages. The famous browsers available are

- ✓ **Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE):** This browser is shipped freely with almost all products of Microsoft and is tightly coupled with the operating system. It comes with outlook express, an e-mail client for downloading the e-mail messages from the server to the local machine.
- ✓ **Netscape Navigator:** Netscape offers a close competition to Microsoft and it offers a better support to display java applets than IE. Netscape also offers the email client besides other functionalities like HTML editor and calendar.
- ✓ **Others:** Opera, Konqueror and Mosaic are some of the other popular browsers in the market.