

Reflection Summary for

Long Live the Web

By Tim Berners-Lee

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GitHub at <https://github.com/Ahipsagh/CART351/tree/master/Reflections>

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Tim Berners-Lee remembers when the World Wide Web (www) went live on his desktop computer in Geneva, Switzerland in December 1990. At the time he conceptualized it to be a way for any person to share information with any other person. In his article in Scientific American coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the Web, Berners-Lee speculates that from its humble beginnings it has grown and has become a danger to important human rights.

Berners-Lee stands behind the Web's raison d'être when he claims that "[t]he Web is now more critical to free speech than any other medium." To counter malevolent forces and to ensure that the Web becomes more valuable, Berners-Lee proposes several principles. The key principles are universality and decentralization. He contends that open standards are needed and that companies and individuals must develop free or royal-free services for basic Web technologies. He pinpoints iTunes by Apple as a closed and disconnected from the Web system, which he says is proprietary. Instead, Berners-Lee would rather have Web apps which remain connected to the Internet and thereby encourage its continual rich growth.

Berners-Lee qualifies the violations to human rights that have already occurred by way of the Internet which he has compared to wiretapping. He provides several examples to highlight the importance that everybody takes measures to put some sort of policing in place in order to preserve and build the Web to serve humanity.

Source

Berners-Lee, T. (2010). *Long Live the Web*. Scientific American.