

# History of web

- The **World Wide Web** ("**WWW**" or simply the "**Web**") is a global information medium which users can read and write via computers connected to the Internet. The term is often mistakenly used as a synonym for the Internet itself, but the Web is a service that operates over the Internet, as e-mail does. The history of the Internet dates back significantly further

than that of the World Wide Web.

- In 1980, Tim Berners-Lee, an independent contractor at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Switzerland, built ENQUIRE, as a personal database of people and software models, but also as a way to play with hypertext; each new page of information in ENQUIRE had to be linked to an existing page.
- In 1984 Berners-Lee returned to CERN, and considered its problems of information presentation: physicists from

around the world needed to share data, and with no common machines and no common presentation software. He wrote a proposal in March 1989 for "a large hypertext database with typed links", but it generated little interest. His boss, Mike Sendall, encouraged Berners-Lee to begin implementing his system on a newly acquired NeXT workstation. He considered several names, including *Information Mesh*, *The Information Mine* (turned down as it abbreviates to TIM, the WWW's creator's name) or *Mine of Information* (turned down because it abbreviates to MOI which is "Me" in French), but settled on *World Wide Web*.

- By Christmas 1990, Berners-Lee had built all the tools necessary for a working Web: the HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) [0.9](#), the HyperText Markup Language (HTML), the first Web browser (named

WorldWideWeb, which was also a Web editor), the first HTTP server software (later known as CERN httpd), the first web server (<http://info.cern.ch>), and the first Web pages that described the project itself. The browser could access Usenet newsgroups and FTP files as well. However, it could run only on the NeXT; Nicola Pellow therefore created a simple text browser that could run on almost any computer called the Line Mode Browser. To encourage use within CERN, Bernd Pollermann put the CERN telephone directory on the web — previously users had had to log onto the mainframe in order to look up phone numbers.

## **Early browsers**

- The turning point for the World Wide Web was the introduction of the Mosaic web browser in

1993, a graphical browser developed by a team at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), led by Marc Andreessen. Funding for Mosaic came from the *High-Performance Computing and Communications Initiative*, a funding program initiated by then-Senator Al Gore's *High Performance Computing and Communication Act of 1991* also known as the *Gore Bill*.

## **Early browsers**

- The origins of Mosaic had begun in 1992. In November 1992, the NCSA at the University of Illinois (UIUC) established a website. In December 1992, Andreessen and Eric Bina, students attending UIUC and working at the NCSA, began work on Mosaic. They released an X Window browser in February 1993. It gained popularity due to its strong support of integrated multimedia, and the authors' rapid response to user bug reports and recommendations for new features.

# Early browsers

- The first Microsoft Windows browser was *Cello*, written by Thomas R. Bruce for the Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School to provide legal information, since more lawyers had more access to Windows than to Unix. Cello was released in June 1993.

# Early browsers

- After graduation from UIUC, Andreessen and James H. Clark, former CEO of Silicon Graphics, met and formed Mosaic Communications Corporation to develop the Mosaic browser commercially. The company changed its name to Netscape in April 1994, and the browser was developed further as Netscape Navigator.