

When IRC?

First server popped up in August, 1988 in Finland
10 users at the start, but user base “skyrocketed”
in 1991 during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait



Official RFC in May 1993

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Modern IRC manifests itself in IRCv3, which is feature creep IMO

Who IRC?

TL;DR: IRC peaked w/ ~10m users in 2003, and has decreased over 60% since then