Sir Tim Berners-Lee

Sir Tim Berners-Lee is one of the rock stars of the technological revolution. The inventor of the world wide web has, arguably, had the largest effect on the course of humanity since that of the creators of the atomic bomb.

Berners-Lee developed the specifications of URI's, HTTP, and HTML, refined versions of which are what still run on the web today. Sir Tim's development of the web took place mainly in at CERN in Switzerland. He wanted to provide an easier way for the scientists working there to share new and updated information on their findings, without having to constantly exchange emails. The high turnover rate of employees there meant that information was being lost when workers left, and new employees found it hard to learn the workings of the project as it was so large in scale. Berners-Lee's original proposal for the web within CERN [1] outlines the problem and his idea for a solution in much greater detail.

It is obvious in everyday life how profoundly the world wide web has changed life as we know it. Everything, from our bank account management, to our fitness tracking, to our college learning resources have evolved thanks to this development in software. It is tough to think of a job today that is not reliant - in some way, shape or form – on the web.

It has been 28 years this year since the project was first begun, since then Sir Tim's invention has changed the landscapes of so many fields. First and foremost, scientific research, what it was invented for. Scientists can now interact with peers around the world in real time, providing one of the key elements for scientific advancement, collaboration, to anyone with a computer and internet connection. In entertainment we've seen a total shift to online services such as iTunes, Spotify etc. creating a whole new sector for businesses and services. Although this great online gold rush has left behind some of the older, more physical oriented companies, when was the last time you saw a DVD or VHS rental shop?

The original objective behind the world wide web boiled down to improving communication. Allowing for the ease of data sharing, updating, and finding to further the goals that CERN were looking to achieve at the time. In developing this, Berners-Lee has spread this ability to billions around the world. We can access information in papers that would have taken weeks for a University to locate and order in just a decade or two ago, now at the touch of

a button, or even the tap of a finger. The gift that Tim Berners-Lee has given us is not one to be taken for granted or undersold by any means.