History of the Internet

The Internet started in the 1960s as a way for government researchers to share information. Computers were large and immobile in the '60s and in order to make use of information stored in any one computer, one had to either travel to the site of the computer or have magnetic computer tapes sent through the conventional postal system.

Another catalyst in the formation of the Internet was the heating up of the Cold War. The Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik satellite spurred the U.S. Defense Department to consider ways information could still be disseminated even after a nuclear attack. This eventually led to the formation of the ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network), the network that ultimately evolved into what we now know as the Internet. ARPANET was a great success but membership was limited to certain academic and research organizations who had contracts with the Defense Department. In response to this, other networks were created to provide information sharing.

At a meeting of the International Network Working Group (INWG) at Sussex University, Bob Kahn and Vint Cerf presented their work on connecting ARPANET and other existing networks by using a common internetwork protocol on September 1973. They later published the description of what became to be known as the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) in the May 1974 issue of IEEE Transactions on Communications Technology ("[A Protocol for Packet Network Intercommunication](http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/login.jsp?tp=&arnumber=1092259&url=http%3A%2F%2Fieeexplore.ieee.org%2Fxpls%2Fabs_all.jsp%3Farnumber%3D1092259)”). Shortly thereafter, three independent implementations of the TCP/IP protocol were funded, at Stanford (Vint Cerf), BBN (Ray Tomlinson), and University College London (Peter Kirstein).

On January 1, 1983, all the ARPANET hosts switched to TCP/IP and the date is considered the official birthday of the Internet. Prior to this day, the various computer networks did not have a standard way to communicate with each other. A new communications protocol was established called Transfer Control Protocol/Internetwork Protocol (TCP/IP). This allowed different kinds of computers on different networks to "talk" to each other. ARPANET and the Defense Data Network officially changed to the TCP/IP standard on January 1, 1983, hence the birth of the Internet. All networks could now be connected by a universal language. The online world then took on a more recognizable form in 1990, when computer scientist Tim Berners Lee invented HTML and a text browser, as well as a hypertext graphical user interface (GUI) browser. Then he established the first successful communication between a Hypertext Transfer Protocol client and a server via the Internet. These inventions, put together, were the makings of Web pages as we know them today. Tim Berners Lee also made up the term “World Wide Web.” The web is actually just the most common means of accessing data online in the form of websites and hyperlinks.

Five popular website observations and assessments

apple.com

In 1998, the website didn’t include a navigation bar on the header only images which are linked to some pages as a way of promoting (advertising) the company. There is a searching place at the bottom of the website but it’s in a place less visible since the text field is attached at the bottom of the images and also makes the accessibility less since its located at the bottom for users and at the bottom of the search field it constitutes links leading to other pages making the accessibility very less and I believe the aim of introducing the companies different aspects and pages will have less visibility due to the locations of the menus. The color choice is calm and no risk of bright color is taken giving it a simple and sophisticated look.

In 2000, the website contained a lot of pages as we can view from the header (navigation) part including news, hiring, hardware, software, made4mac, education, creative, small biz, developer and so on making it a bit bulky and too much to check for. At the bottom of the website there is a search button which makes the accessibility less for users. The color choice of grey and black makes the overall view admirable.

In 2003, the website constitutes menus leading to different pages in the navigation bar located on the header part. Still constitutes many menu choices; a bit more modified and contains even more menu choices making it look more bulky and unorganized in the eye of the user. The search field seems a bit far from the images making it more viewable but still is located at the bottom of the page. The calm color choice of black and grey still holds.

In 2005, the header constitutes still the same amount of menu choices giving it a bulkier navigation bar. The bottom of the website contains the search field; this time a bit spacier and more visible but the drawback still holds in less accessibility due to less visibility cause of the place located for a certain user. The color choice of grey and black still holds; looks like the advertisements of their products are the only color.

In 2007, the website’s header had the menu choices smaller in number giving it a simpler look. This time the search field is in the header part making its functionality much more compliant for the user. An image still holds a wider area but this time the image is not linked instead it constitutes a button underneath whether to view or not; making it easily interact able user wise. Overall would be ranked as a blunt website but still holds that simpler and sophisticated choice of color; the images of their product advertisements are the only color making users have more focus on the product.

In 2015, there is no navigation bar only sliding image shows; which is quite admirable. Only images are present in this website with linked pages; all the images are linked to a certain website but still holds that simple look with an edgier look this time thanks to the white color choice and as mentioned in the websites of the past few years their products are the only bright colors.

In 2020, their website still ignores a navigation bar and only constitutes of images linked to certain other pages. Little descriptions are intended to be displayed thus playing a great role in visualization of the users through images and still that calm color choice of black and white gives the website a more sophisticated look and the bright color of only their products give it a great emphasis for the users eye to focus more on the product.

tumblr.com

In 2007, the website included a very simple look with no navigation bar only some captivating small line of motto and the company’s name is displayed with login, signup and FAQs followed after this description. The color choice of light-blue and white gives it a nice blend for the eye of the user but no search field existed which made it in a way a bit odd.

In 2010, the website has made bigger changes; it included a navigation bar with menu choices and a search field which was quite appropriate and had a signing up fields of email address, password and url which made the overall look and purpose of signing up or logging in using this website which I believe has met the goal of the very aim of the company. The way the motto changes when hovered gives it an interactive look which makes user experience great. The color choice has an astonishing texture which makes it amazing in its own way.

In 2014, the website has no navigation bar this time only a simple description of Tumblr and some signup form. The login, terms and privacy are at the bottom of the page which gives it less visibility but could also be captured by the eye since it has a very small content. The overall background of the page is a colorful image which gives it a vibrant look.

In 2016, the website is made more interactive with sliding page descriptions of what really Tumblr is and each page has its own captivating interactive popups or slides or images which makes user experience fun. There is a search field with a wider length at the top of the website which is very acceptable since there is a lot going on. Different color choices are given to each slide giving it an active up-to-date look.

In 2020, Tumblr still went with the sliding shows but this time with a more colorful slides and also has the search field with a wider length which is still acceptable and also the purpose of signing or logging in when visiting this website is met. The overall website makes it user interactive and gives a great user experience.

pinterest.com

In 2010, the website had a very compact view on the top side with very little content and default colored links which doesn’t blend with the background color of light brown. The buttons used are not custom made and indeed gives it a very blunt look. The header title Pinterest had a shadow of blue with the black font color overall giving the page an unpleasant and stiff look and as a photography viewer it needed to have at least some image displays and a vibrant look which didn’t meet its aim at all.

In 2012, the logo was changed to the color red and the website included a navigation bar with some links and a search field which increases the accessibility in a way. And images in arranged columns with simple descriptions were displayed and had a use of introducing their motto more. The background color choice is still the light brown color which is not a very fond of color choice for image backgrounds hence image loses focus in the eye of the user.

In 2014, the website is made lively displaying the images organized in columns sliding down as a background and a simple description and the logo with sign up buttons; which are lacking interactivity through hover; is displayed with an image as a background and links are located this time on the bottom of the page.

In 2016, the website display is still left with images and links still at the bottom of the page. The buttons are made to give an interactive response on hover but still lacks the blended look making it stiff and unattractive in a way. Instead of the whole name being displayed a simple description and the logo sign was used in this page.

In 2018, the website had the description and sign in form with a white background; with the buttons customized and blended this time while the background of the whole page are sliding images. More links were added to the page and a simpler comment looking content with a red background gives it a more attractive appearance.

In 2020, the website includes a navigation bar with few menu choices and changeable images at the bottom of a header description giving it a lively and interactive impression on users experience. The bottom of the website includes some links. The website is made to have a very simple display with the color choice of white and some colorful font colors for the changing heading texts.

ted.com

In 1996, the website constituted of partitions with a white horizontal line throughout the page of a black background color. It was a single page website with a simple description of what TED really is. Overall the website was very straight forward and thus doesn’t create a captivating view which made it very blunt.

In 2000, the website constituted links connecting to other pages on the right side of the page and also had a description note under the heading of the name TED; it also had an advertisement right under the main heading which in a way creates annoyance in the eye of the user. The color choice of mainly red for the links and their arrangement of the links doesn’t create a pleasant view.

In 2005, the website constituted of very less content with certain links associated in the middle alongside with the short hand representation TED. The background color choice of light brown makes the page look a bit messier especially with the white colored links located right at the bottom which makes it tough in distinguishing the links thus decreasing accessibility and interactivity with users.

In 2010, the website had included the main streams of the show as in the themes, speakers, talks and so on the header part of the page as in the navigation bar; also a search field was included this time which meets the aim of the site being able to spread talks worthy of being hosted on their website through easy search and access. Sub streams for addressing a video of choice is aligned on the left hand side of the website and videos are displayed in an organized manner in the middle of the page and takes up much more space and is indeed righteous since the website aims at spreading TED Talk videos mainly. Email subscription was made possible on the footer part through a newsletter signup.

In 2015, the website includes different categories aside from videos which makes the site more exploring and interesting still the search field area and categories are included in the header part. The website contains more contents but still concedes a great organization in the orders of the different categories giving it an admirable look. Additional events and initiatives were added more on the footer part with a subscription on email. The color choice is till simple with a lot of white and color on the images, books and videos giving it more emphasis to focus on these contents.

In 2020, the website contains more contents in an organized manner and also a simple header with a navigation bar of the hamburger type gives it a more simple and sophisticated look. The footer part of the page still has the programs and also TED recommends are now available in a question manner followed by a button giving it a more categorized and organized look. The color choice of mainly white and headlines in red being the only colors are the images and videos makes it more focused and gives a great user experience.

spotify.com

In 2011, the website had a simpler look in requesting for an email address at the top of the page and other descriptions of the website is aligned with an image and a short description below at the center of the page and also a video is included on top of these descriptions in which adobe flash player is required to play the video decreasing accessibility. At the bottom of the page is included links over a background of a light blue color. The color choice of green headlines and mostly white gives it a nice blend but the page has a bit of indifferences throughout giving a somehow odd look.

In 2013, the website is much more confined in its description just displaying a download button and a web player button with a find out more link. The big motto description and icon on top gives it a very simple look with small contents displayed on the page. Bottom part of the pages include terms & conditions of Spotify. The color black seems to fit the website with the green color highlights. The buttons used are not custom made giving the website a blunt look.

In 2015, the website includes more content and bright colors giving it a more lively and vibrant look creating a great user experience. The custom buttons used made it more interactive and the bottom of the website this time is made to contain some links to other pages and social media accounts. The header part includes a simple navigation bar with a white color background and an image slide show. Overall the website has met the goals in creating an impression and short captivating descriptions.

In 2018, the website has a premium background color of black for the navigation bar and footer and the colorful gradients of orange and pink for the contents in the middle section background giving it a more strong and up to date feature. The logo color of Spotify was changed this time from light green to white which is a nice color choice with the black background at the navigation bar. Certain contents are made more interactive through hover. The website has an overall more sophisticated and common color feature to it.

In 2020, the color choice still remains the same but with very small content this time decreasing interest for first time users of the website. The navigation bar is still left clean with no visible menu choices due to the choice of hamburgers and more other links are located at the footer part of the page.