

THE HISTORY OF EMAIL

Computer engineer, Ray Tomlinson invented internet based e-mail in late 1971. Under ARPAnet several major innovations occurred: e-mail (or electronic mail), the ability to send simple messages to another person across the network (1971). Ray Tomlinson worked as a computer **05** engineer for Bolt Beranek and Newman (BBN), the company hired by the United States Defense Department to build the first internet in 1968.

Ray Tomlinson was experimenting with a popular program he wrote called SNDMSG that the ARPANET programmers and researchers were using on the network computers (Digital PDP-10s) to leave messages for **10** each other. SNDMSG was a “local” electronic message program. You could only leave messages on the computer that you were using for other persons using that computer to read. Tomlinson used a file transfer protocol that he was working on called CYPNET to adapt the SNDMSG program so it could send electronic messages to any computer on the **15** ARPANET network.

Ray Tomlinson chose the @ symbol to tell which user was “at” what computer. The @ goes in between the user’s login name and the name of his/her host computer. The first e-mail was sent between two computers that were actually sitting besides each other. However, the **20** ARPANET network was used as the connection between the two. The first e-mail message was “QWERTYUIOP”.