Sputnik - 1957

The Russian satellite Sptutnik was the first artificial satellite to orbit earth, and was launched the 4th of October 1957. That launch ushered in new technological developments like ARPA.

ARPA - 1958

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, also known as (D)ARPA was created in February 1958 in response to the Soviet launching of Sputnik. The mission was to ensure that the US avoided further technological surprises. ARPA provided technologies that later influenced many non-military fields like computer networking, Internet and GUI for computers.

Modem - 1958

The Bell 101 modem by Bell Labs was created to allow digital data transfer over regular telephone lines at a speed of 110 bps. This was quickly replaced by the Bell 103, allowing speeds up to 300 bps.

ASCII - 1963

American Standard Code for Information Interchange was created to make a standard for text in computer communication. Before ASCII, there was no way for computers to communicate with each other. ASCII was the most common character encoding on the World Wide Web until 2009, when UTF-8 encoding surpassed it.

Packet switching - 1964

The idea of packet switching was made to provide better bandwidth utilization and faster response times than the circuit-switching technology used for telephone. The idea was to break data into smaller pieces or blocks, sent

First Wide-area Network - 1965

Lawrence Roberts (MIT) and Thomas Marill get an ARPA contract to create the first wide-area network (WAN) connection via long distant dial-up between a TX-2 computer in Massachusetts and a Q-32 computer in California. The system confirms that packet switching offers the most promising model for communication between computers.

ARPANET - 1966

Robert Taylor initiates the ARPAnet project, the first packet switching network to implement TCP/IP that became the foundation of the Internet.

Mother of all demos - 1968

Engelbart makes his «Mother of all demos», demonstrating some of the concepts in computing we take for granted today - a mouse to move around on the screen, resizing windows, collaborative editing, teleconferencing and hypertext.

UCLA team sends first data packets - 1968

The first data packets are sent between networked computers on October 29th by Charley Kline at UCLA, under supervision of Professor Leonard Kleinrock. The first attempt resulted in the system crashing as the letter G of “Login” was entered.  The second attempt was successful.

The first virus - 1971

Bob Thomas at BBN Technologies writes a self-replicated program called «The Creeper worm» that was spread via the ARPANET with the message «I´m the creeper, catch me if you can!». A program called «Reaper» was created to delete «Creeper».

The first email - 1972

Ray Tomlinson sends the first email from one computer to another in Cambridge via ARPANET. To achieve this, he used the @ sign to separate the user name from the name of their machine. This changed the way people communicated!

ARPAnet goes public - 1972

Robert Khan demonstrates the ARPAnet to the public by connecting 20 different computers on Computer Communication Conference.

Xerox invents Ethernet - 1973

Inspired by ALOHAnet, Xeros invented the new standard for local area network, allowing for data transfer up to 10 mbit/s.

TCP/IP protocol development begins - 1973

Development begins on the TCP/IP protocol by a group headed by Vint Cerf and Robert Kahn. This would allow computer networks to communicate.

First international ARPAnet Link - 1973

The first international connection with ARPAnet was made by University College of London via NORSAR in Norway to transfer seismic data. A node with a capacity of 9.6 Kb/s was set up in Kjeller.

Telenet - 1974

The first commercial packet data service version of ARPAnet was founded.