Writing 5A

The Internet

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Just a few years ago to transfer data from a computer to another was needed to follow several steps. It was needed to insert some kind of media that both of them could read and at least one of them could write. That means that a person needed to go personally to each one and transfer the information. In August 1962 J.C.R. Licklider of MIT made the first draft that one day would be called the Internet, which in that time the concept was called “Galactic Network”, but the Internet itself just become global in starting in the early 1990's. Now it’s possible to transfer data from a computer to another easily, it’s just needs to be connected to the Internet. However this new network changed the whole world in three main ways: the way of communication, the data safety, and how people see and respect privacy.

First, the Internet changed the way that people communicate. Before the Internet to see the news you should buy a newspaper or watch television. To someone expose ideas to the world he should be famous, rich, a writer or a journalist. To talk with someone it was needed to call, talk face-to-face or even write a letter. This all changed as a result of the invention of the Internet, all of world with just one click. With the Internet, people have freedom to talk about what and when they want to talk. People do not need to go to someone else’s houses, cafes, or even offices to interact with each other. They can do it wherever they want to do it, as Seth Masket says in his article posted in the website Pacific Standard. In addition, one of the main reasons to Internet became one of the best ways of communication is how many people are using and how fast this number grows; the Internet Society published in the article “Global Internet Report 2014” that two billions of people were using it at the end of the year 2011, and they predict that in 2015 the number will exceed three billions. Another reason to become success is the possibility of using it almost everywhere and even easier with smartphones. The article “Global Internet Report 2014” says that at the end of the year of 2013, the world had almost 2 billions of mobile broadband subscribers.

Second, because the Internet made every kind of data easy to share and to transfer; it became easier to steal data. Before the Internet the data security, it was the same kind of security that it have in banks; the kind of security that just doesn’t permit anyone come closer. Now there are other kinds of professionals called hackers, crackers. Of course they don’t break Internet security and search for failure in the security of Internet, but was the Internet that boosted this kind of profession. FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) registered in it’s 2013’s report that in 2000 it received almost seventeen thousand complaints, in 2005 more than 231 thousand and in 2009 exceeded 336 thousand. IC3 reported in the same article that was an increase of almost 50% of dollar loss from 2012 to 2013. And to fight all this cybercrime, McAfee one of the biggest computer security companies wrote in its report “The Economic Impact of Cybercrime and Cyber Espionage” that companies annually spend 60 billion dollars on cybersecurity software. In addition to it, a new kind piracy emerged. People coping and sharing files without having the rights to do it. Software using peer-to-peer architecture reign the world of piracy making extremely hard to do it because there is several copies of the same file spread in personal computers around the world. This is getting worse, as Nick Bilton says in his article for The New York Times, with 3d printers they can export piracy to the tridimensional world, and not just bits as it was before 3d printers.

Finally, right of privacy became easier to be stolen, because with the invention of the Internet it was another and easier way to get someone data and share. Before the Internet to share something it was needed to spend several amounts of money and a long period of time to copy and distribute, but now it just needs one click and anyone in the world can see. Because of that, if someone steals data, he can easily spread it. For instance, private pictures, as happened just a few months with Jennifer Lawrence; she said “It is not a scandal. It is a sex crime. It is a sexual violation. It’s disgusting” as the article posted in Washington Post written by Caitlin Moore says. With searching tools like Google, it’s easy to find something and with the cloud is easy to store; it just needs someone to for instance hack or take a picture of something private and then it’s almost impossible to remove it from the Web. When something like this happen the privacy is gone.

In summary, as any other invention, the Internet has a bright side and a dark side. The Internet came to integrate our world, join people and culture, and the human history is the proof, when two civilizations meet each other; bad and good events happen. It is a human ability face a problem and gives a solution. Now the Internet is safer, and maybe in the future it will be easier to establish privacy.