



Impact of the Internet

Recap: THE INTERNET

We've learned a lot about the Internet this unit. We've learned that it's a philosophy of making information open and available to **all** - something that hasn't been true of information historically.

We learned **how** it works - it's a network of smaller networks, connected by routers, sending digital data from one router to another. Every device connected to the Internet follows specific **protocols** that outline how data is to be packaged, sent, and received.



Recap: The Internet

The Internet has had a **HUGE** impact on humans and society at large, both positively **and** negatively.

We discussed a lot of these on day one of this unit, but I'll recap them briefly.



Impact of the Internet

- Collaboration
 - People around the world can work on projects together
- Communication
 - No matter where you are, you can get in contact with your loved ones
- Dissemination of information
- Crowdsourcing
 - People can come together to contribute funds or time to different projects
- Anonymity and Censorship
 - There are legal and ethical concerns about both of these topics



Open Source

A movement on the Internet that is pushing for all information and products to be available to everyone is the **Open Source** movement.

It's called that because the Source Code - the code that the products are built using - is available for anyone to see and work on. There are many very popular Open Source pieces of software!

- Firefox
- Linux
 - There are MANY versions of the Linux OS, because many people have special requirements they want their operating system to meet.
- Most Programming Languages



The Internet is Massive

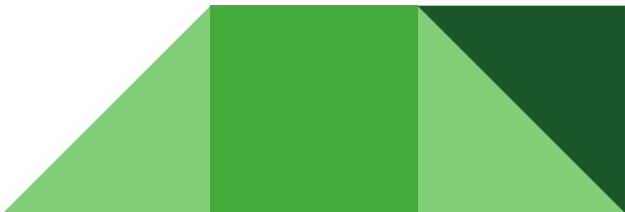
In the year **2005**,

- 16% of the world was online
- 51% of the developed world
- 8% of the developing world

In November **2020**, almost **59%** of the global population was online. That's roughly 4.6 *billion* people!

If we fast forward to **2014**,

- 40% of the world is online
- 78% of the developed world
- 32% of the developing world



Digital Divide

Even with the huge growth we've seen the Internet have, there is still ~40% of the global population that isn't connected!

Online access varies in different countries and different socioeconomic groups. This is called the **Digital Divide**. This can be problematic for them, because **Information is Power**, and without access to the Internet, it can be very difficult to gain access to information. People in communities without Internet access also have lower ability to communicate with the rest of the world!




Solving the Digital Divide

Fortunately, many people are working to close this divide, in a variety of ways.

Websites can be designed in way that makes them accessible even with a very low bandwidth - these are called **lite sites**.

Governments and Companies around the world are working to provide both networks and infrastructure for unconnected areas. Google, for example, has been putting fiber optic cable all over the world in an effort to increase connectivity.

Plus, the more people that are connected to the Internet, the more people are likely to use Google!

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping green triangles and squares in different shades of green, creating a modern, abstract design.

Internet Reliance

As our society grows increasingly interconnected, more of our devices and services are becoming reliant on being connected to the Internet to work. This can be incredibly helpful - we can push updates to devices instantly, and all kinds of functionality is made available. If those devices lose their Internet connection, though, they can potentially stop working!



Internet Reliance

As people grow up with a constant connection to the Internet, the idea of **Internet Addiction** has come up. It becomes difficult for people to detach themselves from the Internet, and they end up spending more time on it than is healthy.

Social Media can also cause people to have an unhealthy relationship with themselves and their self-image.



Internet Impact

As you can see, there is a huge range of impacts that the Internet has had on humans, society, economy, and culture, both positive **and** negative.

It's an integral part of how we live our everyday lives - for better or worse, it's fully ingrained. How has the Internet affected YOUR life?

