

Modern computer science and society rely on the distribution of information and data to anywhere in the world. Access to the Internet means access to unlimited amounts of information, data, resources, tools, and opportunities. The background processes of this amazing feat are many protocols sending packets of information between a network of computers. This process of data retrieval and distribution was made possible by the World Wide Web. Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web by linking several existing processes together. By doing so, Lee began the trend of mass communication across the world.

In 1955, Tim Berners-Lee was born to [Mary Lee Woods](#) and Conway Berners-Lee in London, England. He became interested in technology by his parents who worked with computers and by tinkering with electronic railways. His career began when he attended the Queen's College, Oxford and graduated with a degree in physics. He started work at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. While working there, Lee noticed that much of the information at CERN was stored on a variety of computers. Many of which had different operating systems or ran different software. It was difficult to access this information as one would need personal access to certain computers or would need to learn how to operate each one of the different systems. Finding this process frustrating and inefficient, Lee sought a better alternative. At the time, TCP, DNS, and hypertext were already invented as means of communication between computers; however, only certain computers would have access to the IP of others and could only communicate remotely. The internet already existed in the form of using hypertext links to gain access between other computers. Tim Berners-Lee took the idea of hypertext and DNS/TCP and created the World Wide Web. Now when a certain URL is called, the hypertext protocol can connect to servers across the world to receive packets of information and return copies of webpages and data from any available source. His invention removed the limits of internet communication between a company and allowed broad networks of information to be accessible from any computer globally. Lee began the first website and web browser to explain the ideas of the World Wide Web so that anyone can utilize its potential. The WWW Consortium was started by Tim Berners-Lee to promote the use of mass communications.

Today there are over 1 billion websites on the World Wide Web. Lee's invention not only revolutionized the usage of the Internet, but redefined the way people recognize the Internet in modern society. Today, people use the WWW everyday to access news, entertainment, and educational resources. With the onset of mass information distribution comes opportunities for societal advancement as well as new forms of crime and evil. Internet piracy, cyber attacks, and illegal data traffic occur over the WWW. What makes Lee's invention so influential is that it revolutionized society. His work will have a long term effect, of which the full potential of that effect is yet to be seen.