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Writing the History of the Internet Response

Rosenzweig does a great job at exploring all facets of the history of the internet. It's quite interesting to note that unlike many other inventions, the creation of the internet can't exactly be attributed to a single person. As he states, there are different sources and broad social contexts that led up to its creation. Personally, I knew very little of the origins of the internet so it's connection to the military was a surprising discovery. It's quite terrifying, actually, to know that what we now use freely in our everyday life to communicate and gather information, had military involvement. Another point that I thought was quite intelligent was the decentralization of communication. It made for a more stable and more effective network. Rosenzweig points this out in page 1532 when he explains that the destruction of switching points could bring down the entire structure. What I enjoy about this particular reading is that the author really takes his time to explore the different facets of all contributors. I really enjoyed when Rosenzweig moved away from the bureaucratic side of the ARPANET, where he talks in depth about the cold war and the close relation between the computerization of society and the computerization of war, and moves on to the students and the hackers that refined it and made it more accessible to all. He mentions Tom Truscott and Jim Ellis that developed the "Unix" operating system that helped them exchange files, which eventually led to the creation of email in 1972 by Ray Tomlinson. I couldn't help but tie this text to last week's "As We May Think" and be astounded at how Bush's arguments for more rapid and tech-led communication has essentially become a concrete invention in this text.