Published in 1945 by Vannevar Bush, “As we May Think” is a radical shift in everyday ways of storing information. Way ahead of his time, Vannevar details a new thought process on how to record, store, retrieve and ultimately make use of the information that we gather everyday.

Using everyday objects that he used in his job, Vannevar saw a way of linking microfilms in order to create what he called a “memex”. He envisioned encyclopaedias and related words joined in a sensible manner.

We could equate Vannevar to Leonardo da Vinci. They were both full of futuristic ideas that were a complete turnaround way of thinking that was considered normal. A divine thought process, perhaps? Maybe.

The memex is a precursor to today’s most popular free web encyclopaedia. Jimmy Wales founded Wikipedia with the fundamental theories that memex had. Memex also had the effect of being the fundamental idea behind the internet, with hyperlinked pages which the users can navigate around. Collaboration and teamwork was made possible instantly.

One of the greatest doings of the details was providing the description of the general working of the system as open. This ensured that anyone could plug in and ultimately improve the system as we move along. This ensured that any complexities in the system were analyzed as quickly as possible, in order to provide a good partnership between the machines and humans.

Consequently, there was developed a transcopy method of working, whose fundamental objective is

TO BE ABLE TO MIX CONTENTS IN ANY QUANTITY FROM ALL SOURCES, FOR COMMENT AND UNDERSTANDING, WHETHER THOSE SOURCES COST MONEY OR NOT.

Based on the openness, various methods of workings, protocols and languages had to be developed in order to facilitate this “big brain”