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**The History of the Internet**

The internet today injects itself into the daily lives of people around the globe. It seems like something as trivial as a trip to the store simply isn’t possible without coming in contact with at least one person connected and online. But how did this happen? What caused the internet to control our lives, and how did it get here in the first place? As it turns out, it’s not just one person that’s responsible for today’s suffering—but a great many indeed.

It started as simple musings by scientists anticipating the future of a global network of information. Humans would be able to share and grow without ever needing to send a letter. It seemed like a fantasy until shortly after the 1960’s when a scientist by the name of Paul Baran came to formalize a technique by the name of Packet Switching. This technique would shift the entire network to become more dynamic. If one part of the network went down, the rest would bypass the non-working areas and function as normal. Not only did this tremendously increase the reliability of the network, but also improved the cost of manufacturing it (National Investors Hall of Fame, 2020). This technology was utilized by ARPANET to create the first network prototype to allow computers to communicate with one another.

Then on October 29, 1969 ARPANET made history; they crashed the network. They had hooked up two computers—one in the UCLA, and one on the Stanford campus and sent a simple transmission: “LOGIN.” Despite the simple length of the transmission, the Stanford computer only received the L and O, but none of the other letters in the sequence (Andrews, 2019). In 1973 the internet took its final major leap to modernization. After growth in scale, the early adoption of TCP/IP was made. This new protocol would set standards for how data is transmitted to and from devices (Kozierok, 2005).

# **References**

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