

Falé Do

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DART 449 The Language of the Web

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Reflection on “Wizards, Bureaucrats, Warriors, and Hackers:  
Writing the History of the Internet” from *The American Historical Review*

From my understanding, this article discusses the history of the Internet, particularly how it came to life, mentioning how it is related to its predecessor the Arpanet. It explores perspectives, such as “it was not the wizards who built the Internet but the netizens who figured out what it was really was for and popularized it.” In other words, this article explores the science of making the Internet, and so the “bottom-up origins of the Internet were being discussed in Usenet” (aka User’s Network, an Internet-based network of discussion groups) that is based on the UNIX operating system (a free open source programming system). It is basically an old version of Reddit. With that said, the growth of Usenet led to the discovery of e-mails, expanding more on the notion of conversation and communication.

The history of the Internet (and Arpanet) involved “a philosophy of sharing, openness, decentralization, and getting your hands on machines at any cost—to improve the machines, and to improve the world.” This means that values related to the “belief that systems should be decentralized, encourage exploration, and urge a free flow of information” were being spread out. In essence, I think this article helps one to understand better the big deal about the history of the Internet that is often misunderstood and deserves to be known so that the world would use the Internet properly and for the better of all things.

## Bibliography

Rosenzweig, Roy. "Wizards, Bureaucrats, Warriors, and Hackers: Writing the History of the Internet." *The American Historical Review*, vol. 103, no. 5, [Oxford University Press, American Historical Association], 1998, pp. 1530–52, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2649970>. Accessed 17 Jan. 2022.