Question: Where does the internet come from?

Answer: The Internet is composed of billions of devices such as computers, cell phones, smart appliances, cars, and smart sensors, with the use of network of fiber optic cables to communicate. To communicate, your device needs to know the address of the destination device. For instance, to send a person a letter, you will need to know the person's post office box address. When you put a letter in the mailbox, the postman picks up the letter and takes it to the post office where they look to see if it's addressed to an address that post office serves. If it is not, the post office sends it to a district office which knows about all the post offices and forwards the letter to the right post office for delivery in that post office's local area.

The Internet works on the same principles. To connect to YouTube, your device looks up YouTube in a network address book called a Domain Name Server (DNS). The Internet address for YouTube is 216.58.217.110. Since YouTube is not on the same network as your device, your device sends the request to its local router (the equivalent of the local post office). If you have Internet at home, your local router is the box that was provided by your Internet provider (e.g., MTN, Vodafone, AirtelTigo…). That router then sends your request to a bigger router which knows how to get closer to the 216.58.217 network and forwards your request there. Your request may go through several routers before arriving at YouTube.

The Internet doesn't have a source because it's a MEDIUM of communication. To make it clear, let us compare the internet to electricity. Think about electricity as two separate things:

Electric power - which has sources (generators) and destinations (consumers).

Electric grid - which is just the medium that transmits electric power.

The Internet is just the grid, it carries information. However, on the Internet, there's a big difference from electricity, because everyone is potentially both a source and a destination. Anyone can send information, anyone can receive information therefore, the source of the information carried over the Internet is EVERYONE.

That's what the Internet is. A bunch of devices that all use the same addressing scheme and a bunch of wires (or fiber optics) that are used to communicate between different networks.