History of the Internet – By Arthur H. Hendela, Ph.D.

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**What is the Internet?**

FORMAL DEFINITION:

"The Internet, a loosely-organized international collaboration of autonomous, interconnected networks, supports host-to-host communication through voluntary adherence to open protocols and procedures defined by Internet Standards [1]."

MY DEFINITION:

A collection of multiple different pieces of computer and non-computer equipment talking to one another by means of a communications network either wired or wireless.

**When Did The Internet Start?**

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* Oct 4, 1957 – Russia puts Sputnik into orbit.
* Feb 7, 1958 – Space exploration assigned to  
  Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)
* Oct 1, 1958 – NASA opens for business via Eisenhower executive order

**More Key Dates**

* July 1961 – Leonard Kleinrock of MIT – First paper on packet switching theory.
* August 1962 – J.C.R. Licklider of MIT – memos on “Galactic Network Concept”
* Oct 1969 – Larry Roberts – heads project that connects first two ARPANET sites – UCLA and Stanford Research Institute.
* Oct 1972 – Bob Kahn – demonstrates ARPANET at the International Computer Communication Conference (ICCC)

**Internet Breakthroughs**

* March 1972 – Ray Tomlinson – First basic email program using “@”
* May 1974 – Vinton Cerf & Ray Kahn - A Protocol for Packet Network Interconnection
* 1978 – TCP and IP split
* 1980 – Tim Berners-Lee – writes predecessor to WWW
* Nov 1983 – Jon Postel, Paul Mockapedis, and Craig Partridge design the Domain Name System (DNS)
* 1990 – Tim Berners-Lee creates World Wide Web
* 1993 – Marc Andreesen – Develops Mosaic web browser
* 1996 – Microsoft vs Netscape - Browser wars