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MedSt255- New Technologies

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Internet Technology Profile

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Today in our society we have many ways in which we can communicate with each other without being near one another. Some of the technologies that we can use a for this type of communication are a text message, a video calls as well as an email. If we are in two different countries and need to let someone know something important about work or just say hello to a and old friend, we will send email because it’s easy to do. We write a letter on a computer, tablet or even cell phone and send it electronically to the recipient and they will be able to read it within minutes maybe even seconds and if they need to respond then they can reply and send and email back to the person.

Almost everyone uses email in this new age. It has become extremely useful to us as well as very important that it is now a part of our lives and we use it daily. You can find everyone in every business that we can think of using this form of communication because it is so easy to do. From sending an email at work to your boss to sending an email to a stranger because you need help with something that deals with the internet. it is everywhere!!

Even before the internet was around there was a technology that was able to connect us and be used in a way to communicate through computers. The electronic mail was first introduced in the 1960’s. This was a method to communicate with others between time sharing computers, where all computers are sharing the same resources at the same time. While using shared files, messages can be passed between one another.

One of the first appearances and the use of email has been see in 1965. There was a program called MAILBOX which already existed in the computers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. With this program the computer user would be able to leave a message for the next person to see whenever he or she logs into that same computer. This program turned out to be a very effective way to communicate with someone else, but this unique messaging system could only work and be used by the people that logged into the same computers all the time.

The US Department of Defense decided to start using a network called Advanced Research Project Agency Network or as everyone has heard as ARPANET in the year 1969. This was aimed for software portability between systems and helped make Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMPT). This new network for the DOD was able to connect multiple computers across the whole department with other computers in the same network. This made it easier for communication between people that worked in this department. With this network in place, the first message was successfully sent from one computer and received on another different computer using ARPANET. After this, experiments of email transfer between computers started to begin.

In 1971, Ray Tomlinson an American computer programmer developed the electronic mail or email as we know it today. Using the ARPANET and having two machines right next to each other, he sent the first electronic mail message across the network using one computer and sending across to a totally different computer. Before this the only way to send a message to someone else was to send it within the same machine. When Ray Tomlinson decided to implement the @ sign to separate the username from the computer name, sending an email to a different host became possible. When this was a success, email grew to be very popular and was adopted very quickly across the ARPANET. The initial use of the @ sign was in the form of “username@name of computer”, but then it got extended to “username@host.domain” once the development of Domain Name System (DNS) came to the picture. The @ symbol has become the to be one of the most important contributions to the internet.

After this, most of the ARPANET traffic was electronic mail in 1976. There were hundreds of military personnel using the email because it was used along with the ARPANET. This idea became very useful that other ideas came out about using this to send electronic mail messages to other computers that were not in the internal network but more to other outside networks. Gateways had now developed to be able to send messages to and from different networks like CSNET, BITNET, X.400 and others using a bang path address at a UUCP (Unix-to-Unix copy) host to route the mail to the user. This allowed the remote execution of commands and transfer of files between computers. This idea took us from ARPANET to the Internet which is what we all use today.

Software for the storage and organization for emails was created, then the email inbox was developed. In the 1980’s, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) began to connect people from all over the world. Email hosts starting to pop up so get a piece of this new technology that was evolving very fast. This electronic mail was the first practical application for the new internet users. The word electronic mail was replaced and shortened to email once the internet use became more widespread.

After this, years later the ISPs like America Online, Echomail and Yahoo eventually changed shaped the internet and email to what it is today. They put up big money to market and expose this to a wider audience so people can see some of the benefits that the World Wide Web has to offer. Once people started to notice this and became curious, the internet got extremely popular and it grew from 55 million users in the late 1990’s to 400 million users by the year 1999. Having an email address went from being a luxury to becoming a need and part of our lives. Once the email became part of our lives, email spam also became to get bigger and a problem which the need for an email sorting software had to be created.

Today we use an email address for everything, it started to send with just sending messages to someone else that in a different place. Now it has evolved so much that we practically use it for everything that uses the internet. For example, our social media accounts like Instagram and Facebook must be linked to an email address before we are able to access the social media platform. It will send us emails to our inbox about new friends, news and even updates. Our computers, laptops, cell phones will also need an email address when you are setting it up. This way it links this machine to the email address to that specific person whenever you log in to use it. Now your inbox its already set up for you as and application so you can look at your emails faster and when needed when your online. Online banking uses an email to link you to the account, when you need to go on the website to see your statements, you will would need to log in with your email first and then change it to a username. Everything links to our emails that we use in the internet. Also because of this our inbox gets cluttered with spam emails.

Having access to an email address is very easy us to get. There are many ISPs where we can get one from, and it doesn’t take much time to set one up either. It has become very effective because everyone uses it every day for different reasons like signing up for something or just checking your emails. It has evolved so much that it has become part of our daily lives.

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