The Internet and the World Wide Web

The Internet was originally formed in 1970 as a military network called ARPANET as part of the United States Department of Defense. The network opened to military users in the 1970s, when universities and companies doing defense-related research were 9 access.

British physicist Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web in 1992 as a way to organize and access information on the Internet. Its introduction caused the popularity of the Internet to explode neary overnight. Instead of being able o download only simple linear text, with the introduction of the Word Wide Web users could download Web pages containing text, graphics, animation, video, and sound.

Many commercial companies, organizations and educational institutions have Web sites, or sets of Web pages, that their customers can view. Web sites are maintained on computers called Web servers. Most companies and many organizations have their own Web servers.

Web pages are programmed using a language called HTML. Web page designers can make their pages more interactive and dynamic by including small programs written in Java called apps. When Web browsers download the pages, they know how to render the HTML and run the Java applets.