Since the beginning of the technological age, new advances have created an information hotspot that is both vast and convenient. This hotspot is what we know as the Inter Connected Network, more commonly known as the Internet. It can also allow people to form relationships with others, who otherwise would have no other means of communication besides the Internet. The Internet is constantly updating the world with new discoveries and knowledge. Seeing as how the Internet is global, you can receive news of these discoveries from all around the world.

Technology has been changing over the years to make communication easier. Before, the only way for two people to get in touch was if they met somewhere and talked to each other. This system was then changed to the mail, to the telegraph, to the phone, and finally, to what is used most often today, the instant message. A common theme in older, traditional ways of communication is that a person had to be at a specific location at a certain time to receive the message, but with today’s instant messaging, the message does not have to be received at a given time. The message will still send even if the person is not currently there to receive it. Along with this, besides meeting face-to-face, instant messaging is the best imitation of a conversation.

From an outside perspective, it may seem that online relationships are what people classify as the “weak links,” the relationships people share that do not have a strong bond. This is because society is blinded by the fact that the “strong links” must be obtained by meeting a person face-to-face. In my personal experience, these online relationships are often times just as strong as the in-person relationships. It is easier for people to openly speak their mind through a text, and when two people open up to each other they often form an emotional connection. This means that these online relationships have an emotional advantage over the in-person relationships, and typically this means that these relationships are stronger. Technology is also trying to simulate those “face-to-face” experiences online. They have accomplished this by inventing the webcam and instant messaging. Instant messaging simulates the conversation because there is little waiting time for replies, much like in an in-person conversation; while a webcam helps with the face-to-face part of the conversations that happens in-person.

Humans have always had a craving for information, but at the same time we are also very lazy creatures. Most of us love to be spoon-fed information rather than having to go and find it ourselves. This means that the Internet is perfect for the humans who are just like this! The Internet provides a way to get factual information fast. Before, it would take hours to go to the library and search for books relating to your topic; however, using the internet, you could have the very same information in a matter of seconds. Technology has allowed the Internet to be mobile through devices such as phones, tablets, and laptops. This allows you to have an entire database of information at your fingertips anytime that you desire.

Communicating over the Internet through social networking, though it may not seem, helps society understand a great deal of the world around them. It helps people understand more about each other since it has such easy communication. The emotional advantage to speaking online helps bring people closer, especially those who are shy, and would normally not approach someone in person. Social networking also helps share information. The news of a recent shooting or a new invention spreads much more quickly over the Internet than in any other way of communication. Networking also ensures that information is always available. You can look up any topic that you wish and can find some information about it. The Internet can be a very fast and reliable source. Information is power in this day and age, and networking supplies an easy way to get the very information needed to obtain that power.