Intro slide

Sir Timothy John Burner-Lee was born in 1955 in London England. Both his parents were computer scientist who worked on the team in Manchester University who built first commercially built computer, the Ferranti Mark 1. From a young age, he was intrested in electronics and how they worked. He learned about them from tinkering with toy trains as a child. In 1973 he went on to study at Oxford where he built his first computer with a soldering iron, transistors, an early micro processor and an old television set.

In1980, he was employed as an independent contractor at CERN,the european center for partical physics, in Switzerland. A key part of his job involved sharing information with researchers in different geographical locations. To help this process, he suggested a project based on the use of hypertext. (a language for sharing text electronically) The first prototype was a system known as ENQUIRE after an encyclopedia he had. The system worked much like an encyclopedia, using keywords as cross refrence and ending in “see also” This formed the basis for world wide web which he would later go on to develop.

The internet which had long before been around as a way to transfer information between different compiters difficult to work with because computers ran different programs and their operatiors had to know a substancial amount of knowledge of the program to use it. Tim sought to make use of the internet and combine it with hypertext and the idea of domains

In 1984 he worked at CERN to further develop his idea of hypertext language to be used as a way for CERN employees to share their research. Here he developed, among other things, Hypertext Markup Language or html along with Universal Resource Language or url. Using html cross refrence with all computers is possible. The first website went live at CERN and was a page discribing what the www was and how to use html and a browser. In 1990, with the help of Robert Cailliau he produced the first version of the World Wide web, the first web browser and the the first web server. It was put online in 1991. “Info.cern.ch was the address of the world’s first-ever web site and web server, running on a NeXT computer at CERN. The first web page address was http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html.

In 1994 Burners-Lee founded the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) in Massachusetts, which is comprised of multiple companies that help create royalty free technology. He could have tried to monetise his creation, but decided to offer the world wide web with no patent and no royalties due. Berners-Lee said if he hadn’t someone else would have come up with a free idea later. As a founder of the world wide web, Tim Berners Lee has a relatively high profile and he has often spoken up for the freedom of information and net neutrality – arguing that governments should not be involved in censorship of the internet. He has expressed concerns the US may move to a two tier internet system

“When I invented the web, I didn’t have to ask anyone’s permission**.** Now, hundreds of millions of people are using it freely. I am worried that that is going end in the USA.”

In 2009, he worked in a project set up by Gordon Brown to help make UK data more publically available. Data.gov.uk

He has received many orders including an OBE, knighthood and Order of Merit – becoming one of only 24 living members entitled to the honour. He was knighted in 2004′ for services to the global development of the Internet”

Tim Berners Lee was recognised for his invention of the world wide web in the 2012 Summer Olympics opening ceremony. He tweeted “this is for everyone” at the 2012 London Olympics.

On 30 March 2011, he was one of the first three recipients of the Mikhail Gorbachev award for “The Man Who Changed the World”, at the inaugural awards ceremony held in London. The other recipients were Evans Wadongo for solar power development and anti-poverty work in Africa, and media mogul Ted Turner.