

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

ADDIS ABABA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CENTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING

Fundamentals of Web Design and Development

Title – Assignment I (Lecture one based Assignment)

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## History of the Internet

The first recorded description of the social interactions that could be enabled through networking was a series of memos written by Licklider in 1962 envisioning a globally interconnected set of computers through data and programs can be accessed.

ARPANET

It all started as a research network funded by the US defense department with a purpose of communicating armed forces over a connected, distributed network. This research arm was called the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). The project then led to the creation of ARPANET which is the earliest iterations of computers talking to each other on a network.

This network eventually connected military installations, third- party contractors, and few universities in the US each installing nodes. A few of the first ones are MIT Lincoln Lab, Beranek and Newman Inc. BBN, UCLA’s Network Measurement Center, Stanford Research Institute, University of California-Santa Barbara and University of Utah.

By the mid-1970s, ARPANET had connected to a US-Norwegian system, NORSAR, designed to monitor seismic activity over satellite. The system later on connected to computers in parts of Europe starting in London.

In the 1980s US National Science Foundation allowed smaller universities to connect to ARPANET to share information with those who couldn’t directly connected to the network. And at about the end of the decade schools from around 25 countries had connected to the network. The US military was given its own branch of ARPANET called MILNET.

As the connections increases, the protocol suite Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) emerged as the protocol for ARPANET which resulted in the definition of the internet as connected TCP/IP internets. And this as a matter of fact was the reason universities, businesses, and even regular people started to connect over the internet.

In the early 1990s, Tim Berners-Lee came up with the concept of the World Wide Web which is a decentralized repository of information linked together and shareable with anyone who could connect to it. Before this internet was an almost entirely text-based world. Berners-Lee built the first webpage in 1993 and also the first website browser. And following this the Swiss nuclear research facility CERN opened up the software for the web to the public domain.

Around the time 1993 the number of websites reached 600 and the White house and United Nations went online. The Mosaic Web browser was developed by Marc Andreessen at the University of Illinois. But Andreessen and his team left the research facility and started Netscape that produced the first web browser used by many, Netscape Navigator. Its other competitor was the Internet Explorer, Microsoft’s browser launched with Window 95.

The browser war between these two major browsers continued heating up. In 1996 the first viral video was a 3D animation called “The Dancing Baby”. In 1998 the Google search engine was born which changed users engagement with the internet.

## References

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