

To talk about the history of the internet, I would like to talk about the catalyst for the internet firstly, cold war. To be honest, before reading these two articles I never think about the relation between cold war and the birth of the internet or we should call it ARPAnet. Maybe because I born in the 90s and I heard brief information about that story. The first picture appears in my mind is tons of nuclear bomb. The US and Soviet Union are trying to destroy each other by these bombs at the 1950s when is a high-tension time.

In my opinion, the ARPAnet is the product of survival pressure. Should we invent a new technology for transmitting the messages to survival or get destroyed? As I mentioned before everything our species have done is only for one purpose, survive. Human's existence is another interesting topic to discuss, but I will not talk about it today. The government will consider the existence problem before ordinary people because they do not need to worry about "the what should I eat for dinner "or "my much I spend today". Hence, I believe the senior government is facing great survival pressure at that time. In the article "How the atom bomb helped give birth to the internet", it talks about the secret document that if President survives in the first strike, how should the US fight back. I can feel the tension and stress. When Bob Taylor comes up with an idea which creates a net to connect computer terminals to exchange the information. He gets a million dollars immediately and starts work on the ARPAnet with genius Larry Roberts. These bureaucrats see a way to survive or to save the US. Walking in this way might reduce their pressure and guide them to victory. Then they start to spend resource on ARPAnet. Therefore, I say the cold war is the catalyst of the ARPAnet, it causes survival pressure, and people begin to find the solution under this pressure. I think the answer they see is a technology to increase the connection.

The primary usage of ARPAnet is for national defence; Military controls the ARPAnet at the early time. The ARPAnet is an internet without the centre, which means every site can be the centre and transmit the message to another site. It becomes a safe and fast way to defence the Soviet Union's nuclear bomb strike during the cold war. As a result, the inner connection in the US gets strength.

Then the internet protocol TCP/IP comes out. It is a standard used for connecting every computer in the world. And scientist connects the computer at scientific laboratories across the country in the 1970s. Now the highway is built, human step into the age of information interaction. However, the beginning of this new era is not cool. Nobody knows how to use the ARPAnet. I like the words from Hafner and Lyon "like a highway system without cars". Finally, people find out they can use it to send the message. Then the public begins to accept the concept of NET. And after few years, internet comes out it is more like a public version of ARPAnet, not control by the government; everybody has access to the internet.

The most significant thing that the internet brings to people is the connection. An invisible net connects everyone. It makes the world smaller and life easier. I am delighted to know about the history of the internet.