







# History of the Internet

From ARPANET to the modern web – the key milestones that connected the world.

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-  1969-10-29  
**First ARPANET message**  
[\[arpanet, milestone\]](#)  
The first message sent over ARPANET from UCLA to Stanford Research Institute. The system crashed after transmitting "LO" – the intended message was "LOGIN".
  -  1971-01-01  
**First email sent**  
[\[email, communication\]](#)  
Ray Tomlinson sends the first network email and introduces the @ symbol to separate user from machine name.
  -  1973-01-01  
**TCP/IP proposed**  
[\[protocol, tcp\]](#)  
Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn publish the foundational paper describing TCP, the protocol that would become the backbone of the internet.
  -  1983-01-01  
**ARPANET switches to TCP/IP**  
[\[protocol, milestone\]](#)  
The official switchover from NCP to TCP/IP marks the birth of the modern internet. All hosts must convert by this date.
  -  1989-03-12  
**Tim Berners-Lee proposes the World Wide Web**  
[\[www, cern\]](#)  
A memo titled "Information Management: A Proposal" is submitted at CERN, describing a system of hyperlinked documents.
  -  1991-08-06  
**First website goes live**

[\[www, website\]](#)

Tim Berners-Lee publishes the first web page at info.cern.ch, explaining the World Wide Web project.

1993-04-30

### **CERN makes the web free**

[\[open-source, cern\]](#)

CERN releases the World Wide Web software into the public domain, ensuring anyone can build on it.

1993-11-01

### **Mosaic browser released**

[\[browser, mosaic\]](#)

NCSA Mosaic becomes the first popular graphical web browser, making the internet accessible to non-technical users.

1994-07-05

### **Amazon founded**

[\[ecommerce, startup\]](#)

Jeff Bezos incorporates Amazon as an online bookstore in his garage in Bellevue, Washington.

1995-09-04

### **eBay launched**

[\[ecommerce, auction\]](#)

Pierre Omidyar launches AuctionWeb (later eBay). The first item sold is a broken laser pointer for \$14.83.

1998-09-04

### **Google founded**

[\[search, startup\]](#)

Larry Page and Sergey Brin incorporate Google in a garage in Menlo Park, California.

2001-01-15

### **Wikipedia launched**

[\[wiki, knowledge\]](#)

Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger launch Wikipedia, a free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.

2004-02-04

### **Facebook launched**

[\[social, startup\]](#)

Mark Zuckerberg launches TheFacebook from his Harvard dorm room.

- 2005-02-14  
**YouTube launched**  
[\[video, startup\]](#)  
Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim activate the domain youtube.com.
- 2006-07-15  
**Twitter launched publicly**  
[\[social, microblog\]](#)  
Jack Dorsey's microblogging platform opens to the public after months of internal use at Odeo.
- 2007-01-09  
**iPhone announced**  
[\[mobile, apple\]](#)  
Steve Jobs unveils the iPhone at Macworld, calling it "a revolutionary product that changes everything."
- 2008-01-01  
**Mobile internet surpasses desktop in many countries**  
[\[mobile, trend\]](#)  
The shift to mobile browsing accelerates globally, fundamentally changing how the web is designed.
- 2016-11-01  
**Mobile traffic surpasses desktop globally**  
[\[mobile, milestone\]](#)  
For the first time, more than 50% of all web traffic worldwide comes from mobile devices.