

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.