

The Internet **Past, Present and future**

Task 1

In this task I will explain the evolution of the Internet and also how it has encouraged e-business.

The Internet all started with ARPAnet, which was designed by the US research and defense network in 1966. It was created as a means for scientists to communicate and share research. The ARPAnet was designed to be able to operate even if it was in tatters, this would make it invulnerable to attacks and enable communication even after a nuclear war when everything else would be out of order. When it was first created it was not the Internet we now know today, there was no browser, no websites, no html, it was merely a means to send and receive information from computers.

The sharing of files and programs was made able by an invention called 'packaging'. How it worked was, if you wished to send a file, the host computer would break the file down into pieces called 'packages' and would also attach to each package the address to be sent to, the address it originated from and also a number. When the packages had all been sent to another computer they would be reassembled using the numbers to find out the original order of the file.

At this early stage of development computers were large and hard to get hold of and therefore it was mostly scientists that used it. But the ARPAnet was sidetracked by its own success, it was being used not only for sharing research, but it was being used to gossip and for general chat.

It was the early stage of 'E-mail' that made computers and the Internet appealing to the public. It was not long before the public's interest grew strong and so went international in 1973 but the public still were not able to use it till the late 1980's.

In 1974 the TCP/IP protocol was invented. This was designed to allow any computer to use the Internet no matter what computer language was used. Although 1974 marked the beginning of TCP/IP it took several years of modification before it was completed and accepted.

The Internet was growing so fast that the domain name system was introduced in 1984. The domain name system was to be used to sort out different websites from different countries. It was not long after the Domain name system that the World Wide Web (www) was released which also made use of the domain name system. The World Wide Web was designed by a man called Tim Berners who also defined standards such as Html and http while working at CERN.

Html stands for hypertext markup language, which is what is used along with a browser to view websites. Html is a code/language that is the source of websites. Every website is made from an Html code. This code can then be viewed as a website by using a browser. Browsers are programs used for displaying Html code and browsing the World Wide Web. The first Browser to be released was Viola but the first popular browser was Mosaic (now called Netscape), which was created by Marc Andreessen and his team of researchers in 1993.

Since then the internet and its websites have become more complex but also more user friendly like www.joecartoon.com this site uses flash to show moving images and sound. Also since 1993 there has been an option to shop online which has contributed to the vast number of users over the past years. Due to the high count of users the amount of websites has also increased, in 1997 the number of websites passed 1 million and 1 billion in 2000.

In the year 2000 a thing called the 'Dot Com Crash' happened. This is when a lot of Internet companies went bust. The reason this happened is still unclear to most people but a few of the reasons were:

- The companies were growing too fast, this was their goal and they did not think about long-term success.
- The companies businesses plans while often 'revolutionary' were not profitable
- They had inexperienced teams and staff working for them