

Information Everywhere – This was made possible by the use of Internet. Ten years ago, it didn't exist. Last year, "it accounted for one-third of [U.S.] economic growth, according to the White House," says Robert Kahn, president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives.

All this from an idea first suggested in August 1990 by researchers Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau at Switzerland's CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, who thought it would be useful for "document registration, online help [and] project documentation." By October, they had a prototype Web browser. By early 1993, there were 50 Web servers worldwide. Within 18 months, that number had increased thirtyfold and was growing too fast to be counted accurately. The nuts and bolts of the Web are now household words: HTML, URLs, browsers - especially Netscape Communications Corp.'s Navigator, which "made e-commerce serious business.

Of course, without the **Arpanet network (1968)**, created by the U.S. Department of Defense to connect its researchers, and the TCP/IP protocol (1975) that gave the Internet its name, the Web would have no road to run on. But when the National Science Foundation opened the Internet to commercial use in 1991, no one could expect what the Web would ultimately become.

Before the Internet, Telegraphs had sent messages across wires since the early 19th century, and packet switching - a system for breaking messages into pieces and routing them automatically - was first proposed in 1961. When Bolt, Beranek & Newman developed the IMP packet switch for Arpanet in 1968, modern networking became a possibility.

But with Ethernet (1973), networking became a reality. Robert Metcalfe's system, tested at Xerox Parc, made it possible to connect large numbers of devices to a local network because each device "listened" before sending and detected when its messages collided with those of another sender. Ethernet was the basis of a distributed computer architecture. The 3Com EtherLink (1982) was the first network adapter card for the IBM PC.

The Cisco Systems Inc. router (1986) added intelligence to the switches delivering messages between networks. And Asynchronous Transfer Mode made it practical to mix time-sensitive traffic such as voice and video over the same networks as ordinary data.

Internet in Bangladesh:

The Internet came late in Bangladesh, with UUCP e-mail beginning in 1993 and IP connectivity in 1996. By July 1997 there were an estimated 5,500 IP and UUCP accounts.

In June, 1996 the government decided to allow private companies to act as Internet Services Providers (ISPs) using VSATs. In June 1997, the Government of Bangladesh appointed a Committee to look into the problems and prospects of export of software from Bangladesh. The Committee submitted its report in September, 1997.

The government has taken a decision on June, 1998 to withdraw all import duties and VAT from all computer hardware and software. This has brought the prices of computers down to a level affordable by middle income households in Bangladesh.

More than 600 Million people worldwide have some sort of access to the Internet. That is an astonishing number, and reflect the rapid growth of the network since it was invented in 1970s. While over half of UK households are online, only 0.1% of homes in Bangladesh (Source: BBC News)

Present Position in Bangladesh:

Registered Dial-Up user accounts 250,000

Broadband(Radio, Cable, DSL) accounts 15,000

Cyber Café Users 25,000

BTTB – BTTB is now offering its service in 64 districts

Prior to the formation of BTRC(Bangladesh Telephone Regulatory Commission) Total Number of ISP's 130

- Operational around 60
- Highest Bandwidth available now 4 mbps
- Internet User about : 2,000,000
- Internet Access Charge went down to .20 paisa/min (2 am –8am)
- Tk 3000 for Unlimited Access
- Broadband-64kbs Tk 10,000/month, 128kbs Tk 22,000/month
- 512 Kbps Tk 96,000/month Source: Grameen Cybernet

Global Information Superhighway:

Submarine Cable connection to Global Information Superhighway(SEA-ME-WE-4) will be ready for service in 2004. It will be built using DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplex) technology with 1.28 terabits per second speed

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