

Chapter 1

Introduction to Internet and Cyber Space

Internet

An electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world.

The large system of connected computers around the world that allows people to share information and communicate with each other.

Brief History of Internet

The history of the Internet has its origin in the efforts of Wide Area Networking (WAN) (A WAN is a telecommunications network that extends over a large geographical area for the primary purpose of computer networking) that originated in several computer science laboratories in the United States, United Kingdom, and France. The U.S. Department of Defense awarded contracts as early as the 1960s, including for the development of the (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) ARPANET project, directed by Robert Taylor and managed by Lawrence Roberts.

It was in 1962 when J.C.R Liklider first coined the concept of intergalactic network of networked computers. The first message was sent over the ARPANET in 1969 from computer science Professor Leonard Kleinrock's laboratory at University of California, Los Angeles to the second network node at Stanford Research Institute.

In 1989 the first World Wide Web (WWW) was created by Berners-Lee and a first web-browser application for Mac OS. In 1991 the World Wide Web was available for public use over the Internet that has loads of information in various fields. In 1994 the first website was launched by White house named as www.whitehouse.gov and then many other commercial websites were launched.

Characteristics of Internet

1. Anonymity
2. Interactivity
3. Beyond geography
4. Online community
5. Lower cost to participate in the public sphere
6. Lower threshold for self-expression of political opinions
7. Active, participatory citizenship
8. Not only consumption but production
9. Undermines the centralized control of information

10. Reflects the range of views and ideas

Cyber Space

Term originated by author William Gibson in his novel Neuromancer the word Cyberspace is currently used to describe the whole range of information resources available through computer networks.

Cyberspace is an individual as well as international concept. It is a widespread, interconnected digital technology. The term entered the popular culture from science fiction and the arts but is now used by technology strategists, security professionals, government, military and industry leaders and entrepreneurs to describe the domain of the global technology environment.

Others consider cyberspace to be just an environment in which communication over computer networks occurs. The word became popular in the 1990s when the uses of the Internet, networking, and digital communication were all growing dramatically and the term cyberspace was able to represent the many new ideas and phenomena that were emerging.

As a social experience, individuals can interact, exchange ideas, share information, provide social support, conduct business, direct actions, create artistic media, play games, engage in political discussion, and so on, using this global network.