The Web at 25 Years

One of the most remarkable stories of technology adoption in history

In March 1989, Tim Berners-Lee (now "Sir Tim") wrote a paper proposing an "information management system" that became the conceptual and architectural structure for what became the World Wide Web – the ubiquitous "www" that everyone now relates to websites.

INTERNET USE 1995-2014
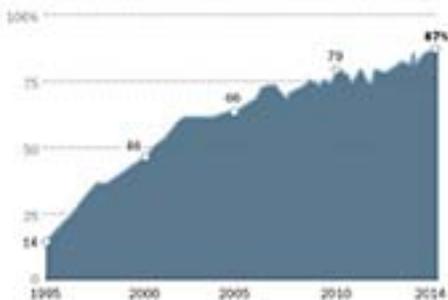
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

He eventually released the code for his system – *for free* – to the world on Christmas Day in 1990. It became a milestone in easing the way for ordinary people to access documents and interact over a network of computers called the Internet – a system that linked computers and that had been around for years. The Web became especially appealing after Web browsers were perfected in the early 1990s to facilitate graphical displays of pages on those linked computers.

In just 25 years, the World Wide Web has woven itself into the fabric of American life like virtually no other invention in such a short period of time, says a new report from the Pew Research Center.

How pervasive? A Pew survey shows that nearly nine out of ten (87 percent) of American adults now use the Internet. (In its survey, Pew used the words "Internet" and "Web" interchangeably since that is the public perception, although the Web is a service that uses the Internet's architecture.)

"The rise of the Web – and more broadly, the Internet – has been one of the most remarkable stories of technology adoption in history," says Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center Internet Project, which has been studying the social impact of the Internet since 2000. "Digital technologies have spread to every corner of the globe and most aspects of everyday life for users. After they tote up all the positives and

HTTPS: Security Tip

Look before you leap!

Modern websites frequently ask us to enter sensitive personal information. Passwords, addresses, phone numbers, credit card numbers, and so on are all part of shopping, managing bank accounts, subscriptions to various services, and nearly everything we do online.

The next time you're presented with a page asking you to enter personal information, take a quick look at the URL before you proceed – it should begin with the letters "https", as in "https://www.wherever.com" for example.

The additional "s" – as compared to the common "http" – indicates that the page is using SSL verification and encryption security.

If the URL begins with "http" only, without the additional "s", the page is not secured and your best option is to back out and find another way to accomplish your task.

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The Web at 25 Years
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negatives of life in the digital age, the vast majority of users believe these technologies have made things better for them and for society. They see problems, to be sure, but most have now brought technology so deeply into the rhythms of their lives that they say it would be very hard to give up.

"In addition to this enthusiasm, a notable share of Americans say the Internet is essential to them. Among those Internet users who said it would be very hard to give up net access, most (61 percent of this group) said being online was essential for job-related or other reasons," the report says. "Translated to the whole population, about four in ten adults (39 percent) feel they absolutely need to have Internet access. Among those most deeply tied to the Internet, about half as many (some 30 percent) said it would be hard to give up access because they simply enjoy being online."

Sources: Pew Research Internet Project
www.pewinternet.org/2014/02/27/the-web-at-25-in-the-u-s
Central Valley Business Times
www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=25307

Is Gmail now secure?
Well, not exactly...

Gmail has just announced that it will immediately begin using HTTPS encryption when its users send or check email (*see also Security Tip on Page One*).

This is a welcome improvement for Gmail users, at least as far as it goes.

However this is misleading, since Gmail can only enforce encryption policies within its own network and not everyone uses Gmail (much as Google might wish it were so).

So, if you use Gmail and you send email to another Gmail user, it will now be encrypted from end-to-end. However, if you send email to (or receive email from) any of the estimated 92% who use other email programs and service providers, Gmail's new security is of limited value.

An interesting new product named Virtru (virtru.com) claims to provide solid encryption from end-to-end, working with any combination of all major email programs, applications and browsers – we'll review Virtru in a future newsletter.

Fan Mail

"Your wireless service is great. My Internet speed is 5 to 6 times faster [than with a previous wireless competitor] and everything is working great. Thank you and rest assured that I will help spread the word!" -BD

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Wireless Plan Types	Average Speeds (Mbps)		Monthly Usage	Mailboxes	One-Time Fees		Monthly Service
	Max	Typical			Installation	Equipment Deposit	
	(Note 1)		(Note 2)			(Note 3)	
					All Plans		
RESIDENTIAL							
Basic	**1.5M**	1M	20GB	5	100.00	100.00	49.95
Premium	**3M**	2M	30GB	5			79.95
BUSINESS							
Business	**3.5M**	2.5M	40GB	10			129.95
Professional	**4.5M**	3.5M	50GB	25			159.95
Corporate	**6M**	4.5M	60GB	30			199.95
Enterprise	**8M**	6.5M	80GB	40			249.95
MOUNTAINS							
Yokohl, Balch, Bear Creek	(Note 4)						
Alpine, Pierpoint, Nelson	**750K**	375K	8GB	5			69.95

(1) Residential and Mountain Area plans are asymmetrical, with uploads at 50% of download speeds. All Business plans are symmetrical.
(2) Usage is the allowed bandwidth per month. Surcharges apply for excess usage.
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