

Les Horribles Cernettes



In 1992 this became the first picture uploaded to the Internet. The picture, uploaded by World Wide Web inventor Sir Timothy John Berners-Lee, shows a musical group called Les Horrible Cernettes, a comedy band based at the CERN laboratory in Geneva which was comprised of admin assistants and significant others of CERN scientists. From left to right: Angela Higney, Michele de Gennaro, Colette Marx-Neilsen, Lynn Veronneau.

History of the Internet

Taken from the Science + Media Museum, UK¹

- The origins of the internet are rooted in the USA of the 1950s. The Cold War was at its height and huge tensions existed between North America and the Soviet Union. Both superpowers were in possession of deadly nuclear weapons, and people lived in fear of long-range surprise attacks. The US realized it needed a communications system that could not be affected by a Soviet nuclear attack.

¹ The National Science and Media Museum. (n.d.). A short history of the internet. National Science and Media Museum. Retrieved January 14, 2021, from <https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/short-history-internet>

- US President Dwight D. Eisenhower formed the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) in 1958, bringing together some of the best scientific minds in the country. Their aim was to help American military technology stay ahead of its enemies and prevent surprises, such as the launch of the satellite Sputnik 1, happening again. Among ARPA's projects was a project to test the feasibility of a large-scale computer network.
- Lawrence Roberts was responsible for developing computer networks at ARPA, working with scientist Leonard Kleinrock. Roberts was the first person to connect two computers. When the first packet-switching network was developed in 1969, Kleinrock successfully used it to send messages to another site, and the ARPA Network—or ARPANET—was born.
 - Kleinrock tried to type 'login' but the system crashed after the letters 'L' and 'O' had appeared on the monitor.
- Email was a rapid—but unintended—consequence of the growth of ARPANET. As the network increased in popularity and scope, users quickly realized the potential of the network as a tool for sending messages between different ARPANET computers.
 - Ray Tomlinson, an American computer programmer, is responsible for electronic mail as we know it today. He introduced the idea that the destination of a message should be indicated using the @ symbol, which was first used to distinguish between the individual user's name and that of their computer (i.e. user@computer). When domains (.com, .org, .net, etc.) were introduced, this was extended to [user@host.domain](#).

- Fun Fact: One of the first people to send an email was Queen Elizabeth II. In 1976 the Queen sent an email with the username "HME2"



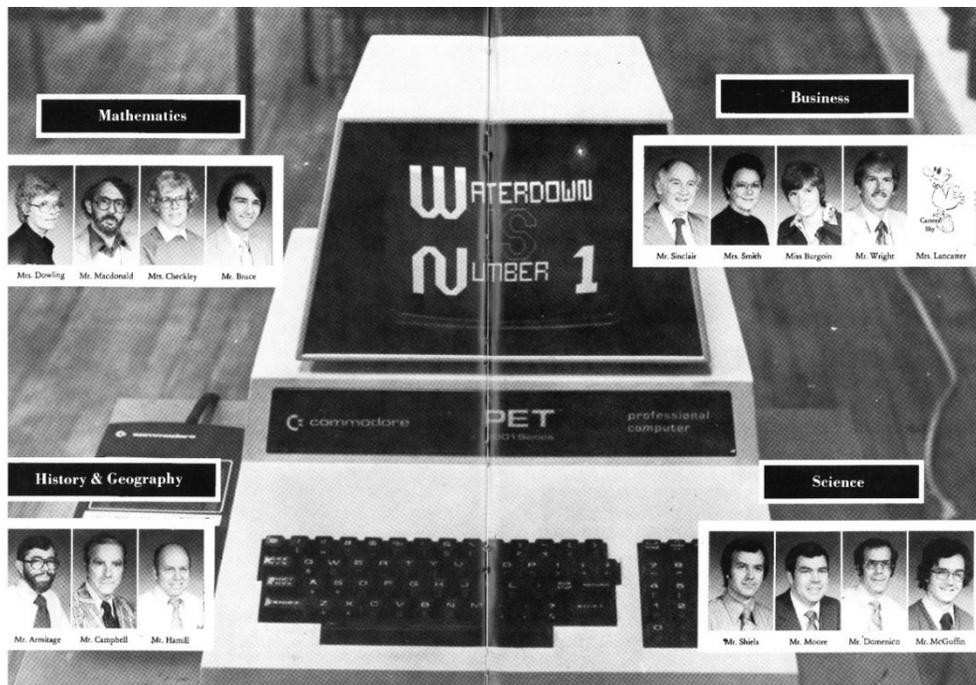
Queen Elizabeth II sends an email in 1976 after being helped by Peter Kirstein

- In 1985, the first domain is registered: symbolics.com, a domain belonging to a computer manufacturer.



Computers arrive at Waterdown District High School

Computers did not arrive for students at Waterdown District High School until 1980 when the Student Council purchased two Commodore PET computers (In a 1992 *Flamborough News* article, Maurice Laycock recalled “When computers made their first appearance in schools in the early ‘70s, [he] took busloads of students to Waterloo [University] so they could play on the new machines”²). Featured in the yearbook that year, these personal computers had been released by Commodore in 1977 and was offered in 8 KB, 16 KB, or 32 KB models and stored information on cassette tapes, 5.25-inch or 8-inch floppy disks.



The Commodore PET computer purchased by Student Council was featured in the 1981 yearbook.

- Between 1986 and 1987, the network grew from 2,000 hosts to 30,000. People were now using the internet to send messages to each other, read news and swap files. However, advanced knowledge of computing was still needed to dial in to the system and use it effectively, and there was still no agreement on the way that documents on the network were formatted.

² Gillian Latter, “Veteran teacher recalls the old days at Waterdown High,” *Flamborough Review*, April 7, 1992.

- The internet needed to be easier to use. An answer to the problem appeared in 1989 when a British computer scientist named Tim Berners-Lee proposed a new way of structuring and linking all the information available that made it quick and easy to access. His concept for a ‘web of information’ would ultimately become the World Wide Web.
 - ARPNET is decommissioned in 1990.
- The launch of the Mosaic browser in 1993 opened up the web to a new audience of non-academics, and people started to discover how easy it was to create their own HTML web pages. Consequently, the number of websites grew from 130 in 1993 to over 100,000 at the start of 1996.
- By 1995 the internet and the World Wide Web were established phenomena: Netscape Navigator, which was the most popular browser at the time, had around 10 million global users.
 - The terms ‘World Wide Web’ and ‘internet’ are often confused. The internet is the networking infrastructure that connects devices together, while the World Wide Web is a way of accessing information through the medium of the internet.



The Internet comes to Waterdown/Flamborough

In 1994 the Wentworth Board of Education allocated funding to allow its schools to have access to the Internet. Originally only one or two computers per school could access the rapidly expanding World Wide Web, but by 1996 multiple computers at each site had the ability to connect (Flamborough Centre PS participated in a program that year that linked them through daily emails with a northern Indigenous community). Waterdown District High School soon began installing computers in the library so that students could have access to the Internet.³

³ Nathan Tidridge, *The Extraordinary History of Flamborough*, (WEFHS: Waterdown, 2022), 153.

Some key milestones:

Year	Milestone
1990	World Wide Web is invented by Sir Timothy John Berners-Lee.
1991	On August 6 th the world's first website went live. Created by Tim Berners-Lee, the website continues to exist here: http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html
1992	The first text message was sent from Neil Papworth, a former developer at Sema Group Telecoms. Mobile phones didn't have keyboards at the time, so Papworth had to type the message on a PC. Papworth's text — "Merry Christmas" — was successfully sent to Richard Jarvis at Vodafone. ⁴
1993	The first webcam is connected to the Internet. Dr Paul Jardetzky at the University of Cambridge rigged up a camera to monitor the Trojan room coffee pot .
1993	The first <i>AOL Instant Message</i> is posted by Ted Leonsis to his wife: "Don't be scared... it is me. Love you and miss you."
1993	Nokia becomes the first handset manufacturer whose total GSM phone line supported user-sending of SMS text messages.
1993	Bill Clinton becomes the first US President to have a public email account. Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign had become the first to use email in the autumn of 1976.
1993	"A computer network called 'Internet'" is broadcast on CBC News October 8th.
1994	The first downloadable song was Aerosmith's "Head First"
1994	The movie <i>Star Trek: Generations</i> becomes the first to launch a promotional website: http://movies.trekcore.com/generations/originalsite/generationswebsite.pdf
1994	The first search engine to provide full-text search, <i>Webcrawler</i> , is launched.
1994	Stanford Credit Union launches the first website for banking purposes.
1995	<i>Following the first secure Internet transactions, 1995 is often considered the first year the web became commercialized.</i>
1995	The first book purchased on Amazon.com was <i>Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies: Computer Models of the Fundamental Mechanisms of Thought</i> .
1995	Match.com is launched, becoming the first online dating website.
1995	<i>DigiCash</i> is created – considered the first cryptocurrency.
1995	The Vatican (Roman Catholic Church) goes online.
1996	<i>Google</i> is founded as a research project by Larry Page and Sergey Brin. The domain name www.google.com was registered on September 15, 1997.
1996	Canadian company <i>Research in Motion</i> is founded in Waterloo, Ontario. By 2002 they will dominate the smartphone market with the "Blackberry," until RIM's collapse in 2013.

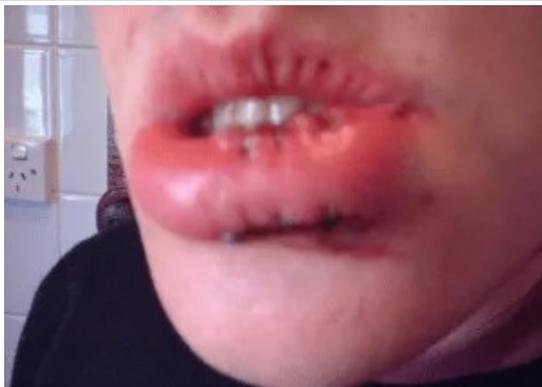
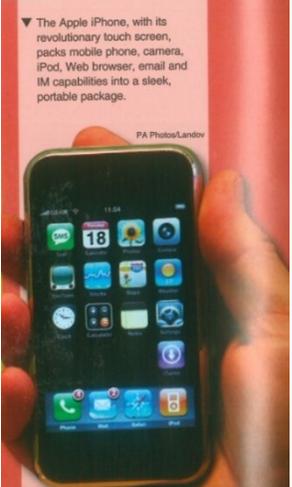
⁴ Erickson, C. (2016, July 14). A Brief History of Text Messaging. Mashable. <https://mashable.com/2012/09/21/text-messaging-history/?europe=true#:~:text=The%20SMS%20concept%20was%20developed,the%20message%20on%20a%20PC.>

1996	With the creation of <i>Six Degrees</i> , the first generation of social media is established.
1997	The 802.11 standard that allows for the establishment of Wi-Fi (short for <i>wireless fidelity</i>) is established.



In 1997, Philippe Kahn sent the very first cell-phone picture of his newborn daughter, Sophie. Kahn accomplished this by using a digital camera connected to his flip-top cell phone, sending the image instantly to 2,000 people.

1999	Emojis start being used by Japanese mobile phone users ;)
1999	The first internet virus capable of copying and sending itself to a user's address book is discovered in 1999.
1999	Japanese wireless provider NTT DoCoMo launched i-mode, a new mobile internet platform that accessed web services available through the platform such as online shopping.
1999	Canada becomes the first country to have every public library and school (18 263 in total) plugged into the Internet.
2000	On May 1 st US President Bill Clinton signs a bill into law that makes the Global Positioning System (GPS) available to the public.
Early 2000s	While an Internet "meme" had been defined as early as 1993, the first visual memes began appearing in the early 21 st century. <div data-bbox="609 1539 1088 1833" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>A contender for the first modern meme. The phrase first appeared in a poorly translated European release of a Japanese video game in 1991.</i></p>

2001	<i>Wikipedia</i> is launched – its first edit can be found here
2002	<p>On September 13th, 2002, Australian Nathan Hope sent a picture of his split lip with the message ““Um, drunk at a mates 21st, I tripped ofer [sic] and landed lip first (with front teeth coming a very close second) on a set of steps...sorry about the focus, it was a selfie.”</p>  <p>The picture, and its unique descriptor, were the first of their kind.</p>
2004	On February 4 th , <i>TheFacebook</i> is launched by Mark Zuckerberg at Harvard University: https://www.businessinsider.com/the-first-20-people-to-sign-up-for-facebook-2011-5 . <i>Facebook</i> opens up its membership to everyone in 2006.
2004	<i>Gmail</i> is announced by <i>Google</i> on April 1 st .
2005	“Me at the Zoo” becomes the first video to be uploaded to YouTube.com. It was created and uploaded by the site's co-founder Jawed Karim: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNQXAC9IVRw
2005	YouTube's co-founder Steve Chen posted a video of his cat called “Pyjamas” playing with a rope, making him the first person to upload a cat video to YouTube.
2005	Reddit, an American social news aggregation, web content rating, and discussion website, is launched.
2006	Jack Dorsey (creator) sends out the world’s first “Tweet” on Twitter March 21st : https://twitter.com/jack/status/20?lang=en
	Twitter is acquired and taken private by businessman Elon Musk in 2022 following a \$44 billion deal.
2007	The hashtag (#) is adopted Twitter users #CatchesOnQuick
2007	<p>Apple introduces the first “smartphone”: <i>iPhone</i></p>  <p>The Apple iPhone, with its revolutionary touch screen, packs mobile phone, camera, iPod, Web browser, email and IM capabilities into a sleek, portable package.</p> <p>PA Photos/Landov</p> <p><i>The Apple iPhone is highlighted in the 2007-2008 "World Beat" section of the 2008 WDHS Yearbook.</i></p>

2007	<p>Founded in 1997, <i>Netflix</i> begins livestreaming videos for the first time. <i>Netflix</i> arrives in Canada in 2010.</p>
2007	<div data-bbox="337 212 1036 804"> </div> <div data-bbox="1040 212 1468 804"> <p>◀ University and college campuses - even in small towns like Hanna, Alberta - are embracing wireless technology. But at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, ON, administrators decided against installing wireless Internet citing health and safety concerns. Lakehead is believed to be the only major educational institution in Canada to have taken such a strong step against the technology.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="337 653 1105 789"> <p>Wireless campuses</p> </div> <p>Lakehead University's controversial wireless policy is highlighted in the 2006-2007 "World Beat" section of the 2007 WDHS Yearbook.</p>
2009	<div data-bbox="293 909 743 1073"> </div> <p>On May 4th Donald Trump posts his first "tweet." Trump's use of social media, and Twitter in particular, will become a hallmark of his path to the US presidency. For a time, he was banned from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and others following his incitement of the January 6th, 2021, failed insurrection. Trump is restored to Twitter ("X") by Elon Musk in 2023.</p>
2010	<p>Apple introduces the <i>iPhone 4</i> (the first with a front-facing camera). Samsung's <i>Galaxy S</i> is released with a front-facing camera as well.⁵</p>
2010	<p><i>Instagram</i> is launched. Kevin Systrom's photograph of a stray dog sitting near a taco stand in Mexico is the first image ever shared on Instagram. Link</p> <p>Video sharing begins in 2013.</p>

⁵ Jonathan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation*, (Penguin Press: New York, 2024), 35.

2010	<p>The year Jonathan Haidt, in his 2024 book <i>The Anxious Generation</i>, identifies as the end of “play-based childhoods” and the beginning of “phone-based childhoods.” Haidt characterizes 2010-2015 as “The Great Rewiring of Childhood.”⁶</p> <p>Haidt writes: <i>Between 2010 and 2015, the social lives of American teens moved largely onto smartphones with continuous access to social media, online video games, and Internet-based activities. This Great Rewiring of Childhood, I argue, is the largest reason for the tidal wave of adolescent mental illness that began in the early 2010s.</i></p> <p>2010 marks the beginning of a Mental Health crisis for young people across the world.</p>
2011	23% of American teens had a smartphone. ⁷
2011	<i>Zoom Video Communications</i> is founded by Eric Yuan.
2011	<i>Picaboo</i> is launched by Reggie, Evan Spiegel and Bobby Murphy – quickly renamed <i>Snapchat</i> .
2012	<i>Facebook</i> announces it has 1 billion users. By 2023, <i>Facebook</i> remains the largest social media platform with 3.03 billion users.
2012	<i>Facebook</i> purchases <i>Instagram</i> .
2012	On December 21 st Psy’s Gangnam Style becomes the first YouTube.com video to hit 1 Billion views.
2012	<i>Tinder</i> , a widely popular dating-oriented social networking service, is launched.
2012	In February a 13-year-old James Stephen Donaldson uploads his first video to <i>YouTube</i> . By 2022, <i>MrBeast</i> would be the highest paid YouTuber (500 million USD). On October 15th, 2023, Donaldson surpassed 200 million subscribers.
	His video " <i>Would You Fly To Paris For A Baguette?</i> " is the most watched video on his main YouTube channel having more than 1 billion views and 40 million likes as of January 2024.
2016	<i>TikTok</i> is launched in Asia (and controlled by the Chinese Government) quickly becoming popular around the world.
2016	79% of American teens owned a smartphone, as well as 28% of children between the ages of 8 and 12. ⁸

⁶ Jonathan Haidt, 35.

⁷ Ibid, 34.

⁸ Ibid, 34.

2019	The Government of Ontario institutes a ban on student use of cellphones in schools across the province. Released in November, the policy states " . . . using cellphones and other personal mobiles devices during instructional time is restricted."
2019	Just over half of children in the United States — 53 percent — now own a smartphone by the age of 11. 84 percent of US teenagers have a smartphone. (Source: National Public Radio)
2020	<i>Instagram</i> introduces “reels” to its users.
2020	“Doom scrolling” becomes a common phrase in the English language.
2020-2022	The Covid-19 Pandemic forces hundreds of millions of people online for their education, work, social and connection to loved ones.
2021	<i>Facebook</i> officially rebrands itself as <i>Meta Platforms</i> . 
2021	<i>Truth Social</i> social media platform is launched by former U.S. President Donald Trump.
2022	<i>ChatGPT</i> (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer), a chatbot, is launched by <i>OpenAI</i> in November 2022.
2022	According to a report by <i>PEW Research</i> 46% of American teens reported being online “almost constantly.” ⁹
2023	As of January 2023, Canada had over 36 million internet users, which amounted to 93.8 percent of the country's population . Of this total, 39.44 million were social media users .
2023	<i>Threads</i> , an online social media and social networking service, is launched by <i>Meta Platforms</i> .
2023	In July 2023, Elon Musk rebrands <i>Twitter</i> as <i>X</i> , retiring the bird logo familiar to so many. 

⁹ Ibid, 34.

2024	<p>CBC News reports that, on average, Canadian teenagers are spending 8-9 hours a day on their cellphones. Studies emerge detailing the detrimental effect social media is having on mental health.</p> <p>Joining other provinces, the Government of Ontario reissues their 2019 policy banning the use of cellphones in class, ordering school boards to develop robust codes of conduct restricting their use. HWDSB complies in September 2024 restricting the use of “personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops and tablets) during the instructional day.”</p>
2024	<p>After campaigning for, and donating more than \$130 million, to the Trump Campaign, Elon Musk is expected becomes an advisor to the administration.</p>
November 2024	<p>Australia becomes the first nation to pass a law banning social media for those under the age of 16.</p>