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Internet – An Update – II

Lead: No longer in service to military research, the Internet with its world wide web of interconnected billions serves the needs of scholarly research but oh so much more.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: When the primitive Defense oriented networks began expanding and then speaking to one another, the core of the Internet as it is known in the second decade of the 21st century, was established. Academics still post their research for comment and critique and they still

communicate on the internet, but it more likely to be about sports or their favorite wines or the latest and best independent film.

The internet is now about so much more than its ancient roots had intended. It is now the predominant means of communication and interaction between billions of people. By 1990 the protocols for the so-called world wide web, HTML, HTTP, and URLs, had been completed and the following year, the first web page was created. Getting large numbers of people to the primitive web required a gateway. 1989 saw the birth of America Online (AOL). Later it became the path by which ordinary users found the internet and each

other.

1991 saw the first webcam, the standardization of the MP3 music file format, and the first content-based search protocol named Gofer. Seven years later the web crawlers of Google began eating up the world of information.

Access to the web was made easier by browsers such as Mosaic (1993) and Netscape Navigator (1994). The mid-1990s saw the arrival of online commerce with eBay and Amazon.com and the connectivity of webmail through Hotmail.com. Yet perhaps the most important development of the internet for the average person has been social media

in a wide variety of forms. From the videos of YouTube, to MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and all sorts of outlets for interpersonal relationship, some the mention of which is not appropriate for a family-oriented educational program. The Net is permanent, powerful, and very much here to stay for billions of people and billions more to come.

In Richmond, Virginia this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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Burkeman, Oliver. “Forty years of the Internet: How the World Changed Forever,” *The Guardian, Technology*, October 23, 2009.

Chapman, Cameron. “History of the Internet in a Nutshell,” *Six Revisions.Com*. November 15, 2009.

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