**1969**

ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) goes online in December, connecting four major U.S. universities. Designed for research, education, and government organizations, it provides a communications network linking the country in the event that a military attack destroys conventional communications systems.

**1972**

Electronic mail is introduced by Ray Tomlinson, a Cambridge, Mass., computer scientist. He uses the @ to distinguish between the sender's name and network name in the email address.

**1973**

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP and FTP) is designed and in 1983 it becomes the standard for communicating between computers over the Internet

**1976** Queen Elizabeth sends her first email. She's the first state leader to do so.

**1982** The word “Internet” is used for the first time.

**1984** Domain Name System (DNS) is established, such as .com, .org, and .edu.

**1985** Quantum Computer Services, (America Online), debuts. It offers email, electronic

bulletin boards, news, and other information.

**1988** A virus called the Internet Worm temporarily shuts down about 10% of the world's

Internet servers.

**1989** The World (world.std.com) debuts as the first dial-up Internet first provider.

Tim Berners-Lee of CERN develops a new technique for distributing information on the Internet, called the World Wide Web. The Web is based on hypertext,using hyperlinks and is accessible through a graphical user interface GUI

**1991** Gopher, which provides point-and-click navigation, is created at the University of

Minnesota and named after the school mascot. Gopher becomes the most popular

interface for several years.

**1993** Mosaic is developed by Marc Andreeson at the National Center for Supercomputing

Applications (NCSA). It becomes the dominant navigating system for the World Wide

Web, which at this time accounts for merely 1% of all Internet traffic.

**1994** The White House launches its website, www.whitehouse.gov.

Initial commerce sites are first established, creating the first ‘spam’.

Marc Andreessen and Jim Clark start the Netscape Navigator browser.

**1995** CompuServe, America Online, and Prodigy start providing dial-up Internet access.

Sun Microsystems releases the Internet programming language called Java.

**1997** The term “weblog” is coined. It’s later shortened to “blog.”

**1998** Google opens its first office, in California.

**1999** College student Shawn Fanning invents Napster, to swap music over the Internet.

“E-commerce” becomes the new buzzword as Internet shopping rapidly spreads.

MySpace.com is launched.

**2000** “Love Bug” and “Stages” are two examples of self-replicating viruses

The Internet bubble bursts, as the fountain of investment capital dries up and the Nasdaq

stock index plunges, causing the initial public offering (IPO) window to slam shut and

many dotcoms to close their doors.

America Online buys Time Warner for $16 billion. It’s the biggest merger of all time.

**2001** Napster is dealt a potentially fatal blow when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in

San Francisco rules that the company is violating copyright laws and orders it to stop distributing copyrighted music. The file-swapping company says it is developing a

subscription-based service.   
Wikipedia is created.

**2002** The death knell tolls for Napster after a bankruptcy judge ruled in September that

German media giant Bertelsmann cannot buy the assets of troubled Napster Inc. The

ruling prompts Konrad Hilbers, Napster CEO, to resign and lay off his staff.

**2003** It's estimated that Internet users illegally download 2.6 billion music files each month.

Spam, unsolicited email, becomes a server-clogging menace. It accounts for about half of

all emails.

In December, President Bush signs the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003 (CAN-SPAM Act), which is intended to help individuals and businesses control the amount of unsolicited email they receive.  
Apple Computer introduces Apple iTunes Music Store, which allows people to download songs for 99 cents each.

**2004** Internet Worm, called MyDoom or Novarg, spreads through Internet servers. About 1 in

12 email messages are infected.

Online spending reaches a record high—$117 billion in 2004, a 26% increase over 2003.

**2005** YouTube.com is launched.

**2007** Legal online music downloads triple to 6.7 million downloads per week.

Colorado Rockies' computer system crashes when it receives 8.5 million hits within the first 90 minutes of World Series ticket sales.

The online game, World of Warcraft, hits a milestone when it surpasses 9 million subscribers worldwide in July.

**2008** In a move to challenge Google's dominance of search and advertising on the Internet,

software giant Microsoft offers to buy Yahoo for $44.6 billion.

Microsoft is fined $1.3 billion by the European Commission for further abusing its dominant market position, and failing to comply to their 2004 judgment, which ordered Microsoft to give competitors information necessary to operate with Windows. Since 2004, Microsoft has been fined a total of $2.5 billion by the Commission for not adhering to their ruling.

**2012** A major protest online in January shakes up Congressional support for anti-Web piracy

measures. The protest, including a 24-hour shutdown of the English-language Wikipedia

site, is over two bills, the Stop Online Piracy Act in the House and the Protect IP Act in

the Senate. The main goal of both bills is to stop illegal downloading and streaming of

TV shows and movies online. The tech industry is concerned that the bills will give

media companies too much power to shut down websites.

