The Internet and its development

Since the early 1990s, the Internet has touched nearly everyone's lives. People can work, shop and chat to other people all over the world without leaving home. Vocabulary such as *download, email, hard disk, screen, laptop, surf, web design, program, software, hardware* are now common words in the dictionary.

But where did it all begin? It started in the USA in the 1960s when the US military decided to communicate by computer in order to exchange confidential information.

The next development was called the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) which connected four US universities during the period 1969 to 1971, allowing their computers to exchange information and send electronic messages, or *email*. The original ARPANET grew into the Internet, which was based on the idea that there could be multiple independent networks.

However, it was not until the early 1990s when the first web browser was created, that the ordinary person could really make the most of the Internet. This web browser was called *WorldWideWeb* (*www* for short) and was invented by Sir Tim Berners-Lee. A web browser uses links to connect to different sites, making information much easier to find. These sites are called websites and can contain text, images, audio and video.

As technology has advanced, and the hardware and software have become more affordable, more and more people are able to have their own personal computer. Nowadays, most people use the Internet every day of their lives to work, study, send emails, download information, upload images, listen to music, make appointments, do online banking, shop and socialise.

The final question is: has the Internet finished developing? To remain relevant, it has to continue to change and evolve at the same rate as the computer industry. Where this will take us next is hard to imagine, but it's bound to be exciting. The Internet has changed and will continue to change the way we live.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- **Choose the correct word or date.**

1. The Internet has made it easier to: communicate / read / write / listen.
2. The development of the Internet began in the: 1960s / 1970s / 1980s / 1990s
3. The first web browser was created in the: 1960s / 1970s / 1980s / 1990s.
4. A web browser makes searching easier by using: images / text / links / downloads.
5. The Internet continues to transform our: emails / life / work / images.

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