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EDIT 605.FTU1

Assignment #5

Development of Internet and WWW

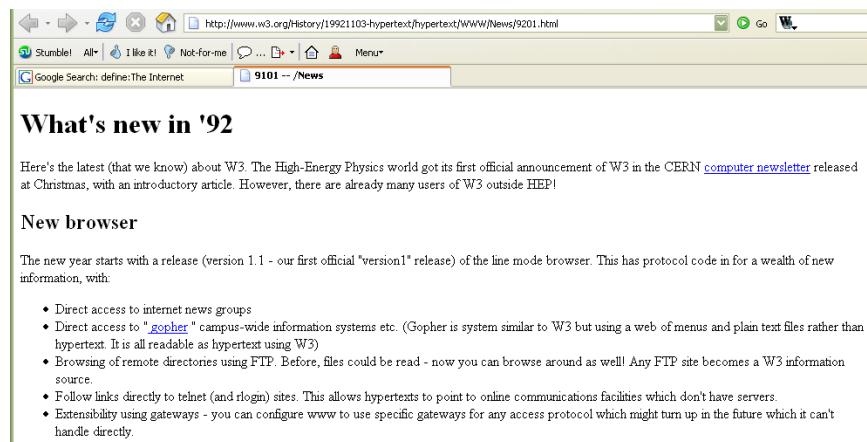
The development of the Internet and the World Wide Web is the most influential and profound development of the late 20th Century. The World Wide Web has had a significant impact on information sharing and communication in all aspects of today's world including business, education, government and society. The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that are connected to each other by telecommunications links. Tim Berners-Lee is the person who is almost solely responsible for this major development in Information Technology.

Born in London, England in 1955, Berners-lee had a fascination with computers from an early age. He built his first computer out of an old television and some spare electronic parts. He went from making computers out of cardboard boxes to graduating from Queens College of Oxford University with a degree in Physics. In 1980, Berners-Lee became an independent contractor at CERN, a European Particle Physics Laboratory located in the Swiss Alps. And, thinking outside the box, he proposed a new way of sharing resources amongst his fellow research colleagues. Berners-

Lee wrote a new software program, called Enquire, to help him organize important documents using hypertext. And, in an article from Time Magazine's top 100 influential people, he states that Enquire kept "track of all the random associations one comes across in real life." It was later on, in 1989, that Tim Berners-Lee used this concept of hypertext to develop his vision of a "global hypertext space" where documents could be linked through use of the Internet. Tim, along with his colleagues, developed four foundations crucial to the development of the web:

1. HTML – language code for documents
2. HTTP – hypertext linking system
3. URL – locating system
4. Internet Browser – which links text and graphics

And finally, in 1991, [the first website](#) was launched. The site gave an explanation of the World Wide Web, how to own your own browser, and how to set up a web server. This site also was the first web directory.



Not only, was Tim Berners-Lee critical in the development of the web, he also founded the World Wide Web Consortium, also known as [W3C](#). W3C

is a key Internet standards group comprised of influential members of the technology field whose goal is to “create standards and recommendations to improve the quality of the Internet.” In his book *Weaving the Web*, Berners-Lee describes his thoughts on his ideals regarding the web including how he feels strongly that the Internet should be made freely available with no royalties due. Berners-Lee, more than any other person, has campaigned to keep the World Wide Web “open, non-proprietary and free.” And while others may be profiting from the Internet and its capability, Tim stays in the background ensuring that the Internet remains free.

While Tim Berners-Lee is leading his low-profile life, he also has had his fair share of recognition, which include an honorary degree from the University of Southampton, a distinguished fellowship of the British Computer Society and an honorary fellowship of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. In addition to being made an officer in the Order of the British Empire in 1997, he also became a Fellow in the Royal Society. With all of this recognition under his belt, his most exceptional year was still to come. In mid-April 2004, Tim Berners-Lee was the first recipient of Finland’s Millennium Technology prize, in which he was awarded a cash prize of one million euro. And on July 16, 2004, Queen Elizabeth II bestowed the second highest rank of Knight Commander in the order of the British Empire.



Today web browsers and search engines allow access for unlimited amounts of information. Search engines assist web users in writing papers such as this one. People browsing and researching information on the web must learn new skills in order to acquire accurate and up-to-date sources. Users must evaluate the sites in order to ensure that the information that they are using is reliable. When visiting a site it is good to know your author, make sure the site lists contact information, has frequent updates and references or links other sites.

So what does the future hold? What will define the web in the upcoming years? Berners-Lee saw the web as a place where users would be able to edit as well as browse sites as you traveled the Internet. Sites such as [Wikipedia](#) are an example of this ideal. Wiki is “a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit Web page content using any Web browser.” According to Wikipedia, Tim Berners-Lee’s current project the Semantic Web is “a project that intends to create a universal medium for information exchange by giving meaning ([semantics](#)), in a manner understandable by machines, to the content of documents on the Web.” Berners-Lee sees this as the future of his creation, “the semantic web will be a great place to develop artificial intelligence.” The Semantic web will also be influential in helping to build powerful social networking tools. The so called friend-of-a-friend networks are currently being developed, in which people write a little bit about themselves and get connections based on this

information. The possibilities are endless. And, Tim Berners-Lee will be at the helm of developing these endless possibilities. He has been and will continue to be one of the most significant individuals in today's society.

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