

# TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

## 1974 - FIRST ISP

In 1974 the first Internet Service Provider, Telenet, was created. This was a pivotal event because it was the start of accessing the internet the way we do today. I think that it did improve people's lives because it gave more people access to the internet and turned it into a widespread phenomenon. It was the beginning of what turned into Verizon, Comcast, Xfinity, and other ISPs we use today. I think that people were starting to get involved in the internet due to its uprising popularity, so this was a great push in the right direction.

## 2000 - THE INTERNET IS VULNERABLE

From 1995-2000, people started putting a lot of money into new internet startups. The bubble burst in 2000 and multiple internet startups were faced with bankruptcy. I think it either had a major effect or no effect on society and people's day to day lives because it's more of the businesses' problems. It neither improved or negatively affected people's lives. This may have impacted innovation because they could use this moment to learn not to invest too much.

## 1965 - FIRST COMMUNICATION

In 1965, the first communication between two computers was done using packet technology. This was pivotal because it was the first time that people were able to efficiently communicate long distance using text. This benefited society because it was the precursor to online messaging which are staples in our everyday lives. This made it easier to share with each other, and I think that the idea of technology that was used for digital communication would have been super exciting during this time.

## 1983- DOMAIN NAMES ESTABLISHED

In 1985 Domain Names were established. These are titles such as .com, .org, .edu, and .gov. These were pivotal because they are the organization system we use for the internet today. This improved people's lives because it created a more direct pathway to the website you were looking for, and made the internet more accessible. These were the original Domain Names that came before all other ones that we have now and they led directly to the internet that we have today. In 1983 when these were created, the internet was becoming more popular, so having an easy method of organizing websites made it more convenient to use.

## 2018 - RISE IN ENABLED DEVICES

Throughout 2018, there was a large uprise in devices connecting to the Internet. By the end of the year there was around 7 billion devices connected. This was a pivotal moment because it was when people realized that the internet was now a part of our society. It has definitely both improved and destroyed people's lives, but I think it has overall been very beneficial. It has made communication much easier, helped us get through a pandemic and has now become a part of our schooling and education.



- 1) Does Technology reflect society and culture or shape it?
- 2) Does Technology always improve our lives?

Technology, society, and culture are very deeply intertwined. If technology reflects society and culture then that means that we are in charge of what media says about society and culture, but if technology shapes it then the systems we have built on media and technology are controlling us a lot more than we think. In schools and workplaces technology has made a huge impact. If you used to have to show someone your ID in the morning now you have to tap it into a system. At some schools you now even have to scan your fingerprint. I think that because people are less willing to trust each other it is harder to be less dependant on technology. Clearly, it is impossible to say whether we shape technology or it shapes us but we are very dependent on it and it is very important to our society. Technology definitely does not always improve our lives. The vast majority of household items that we use daily count as technology, which can be very helpful to us, but there's also tons of violent and negative technology that can be used to commit atrocious acts. This is an example of why technology will never *always* benefit society. Weaponry for example, has a major negative effect on our lives. Guns and bombs are often used to kill people. There of course have been infinite other examples of how technology has backfired and if you comb through history you will see all of these flaws. Even though technology can be extremely helpful we also have to be conscious that it can hurt people and we have to notice and try to fix it when it does.

Information found at:

<https://www.livescience.com/20727-internet-history.html>

