

THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE INTERNET ON OUR SOCIETY

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Abstract:

The Internet drives the hottest stocks on Wall Street, shapes technological innovation, and fills the pages of the world's presses. What does this mean for society, government, commerce, and other institutions? How will the way we live, work, learn, profit, govern, and communicate.

The Internet creates new ways for citizens to communicate, congregate, and share information of a social nature. It is obvious that the Internet has and will continue to change the way we live. How it is changed, and how it will continue to change our lives, is the reason for so many conferences on the topic. For example, the following is an abstract of a conference that took place:

The Internet is also called International network or network of networks. Basically internet is the major requirement of each & every person. Because a revolution is taking place. It started quietly and has grown to involve much of the world. On an average day, following event may occur:

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- A young couple uses a computer to plan a road trip from their home in Ohio to friend's house in San Francisco, California. Within a second, they receive a description of the shortest route along with maps and detailed description of distances and each turn.

The most common assessment of the Internet's significance measures the number of computers that connect to it. The internet reaches ship at sea, planes in the air, mobile vehicle on land.

So the question is "*The Internet has arrived; are you ready for it*"

Keywords: Internet, Network and Society

Introduction:

The internet currently reaches hundreds of millions of people in over 209 countries (every populated area on the planet). Most of 2-years and 4-Years U.S. colleges and universities have access to the internet; many public schools also have access. The U.S. military has been using internet technology for over 15 years; it played a role in military action as early as Operation Desert storm in the early 1990s.

Information on the internet changes much more rapidly than information in a conventional newsstand. In fact, because information on the internet comes from computers and automated systems, it can change instantly.

In addition to resembling a newsstand, the Internet also resembles a library because it has tools that aid the search for information. In a traditional library, for example, one finds a card catalog and a reference desk. The internet has similar services that help one find information electronically.

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many conferences on the topic. For example, the following is an abstract of a conference that took place:

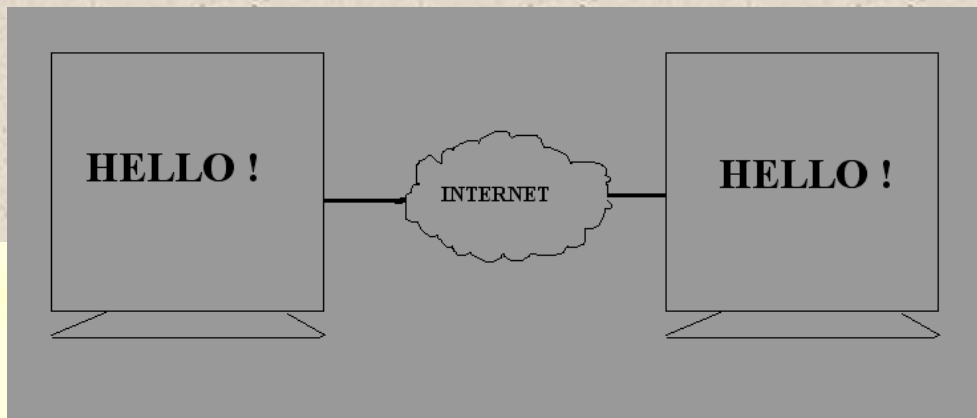


Figure 1: Display Messaging between two terminal via Internet

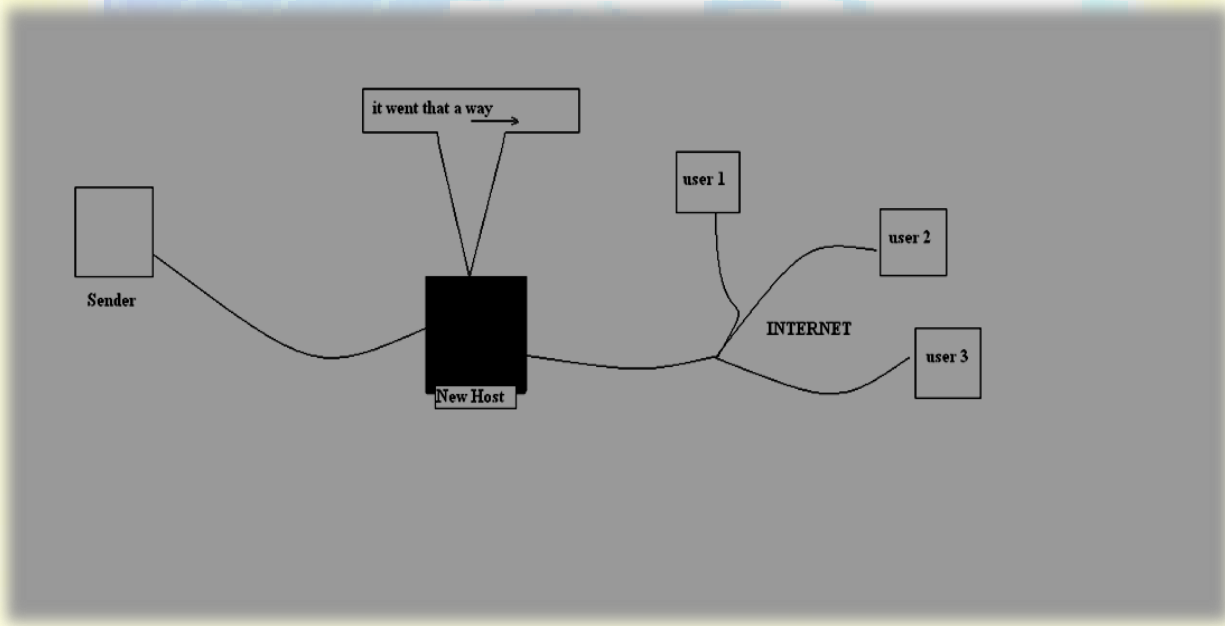


Figure 2: Environment between sender and receiver using Host Computer

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the internet is its impact on society. Once restricted to a few scientists, it is quickly becoming universal. It reaches governments, businesses, schools,

and home worldwide. We will how the internet change people's lives and what we can expect in the future.

Web Browsing and Web Browsers:

Access to the World Wide Web requires a computer, a connection to the internet, and special software on the computer. Two types of software are required for the internet: Internet communication software and application software.

The communication software speaks the "language" of the Internet, making it possible for the computer to communicate with other computers. The application software handles all interaction with the user. When the user makes a request for information, the application software uses the internet to access the requested information, and then displays the results on the screen for the user to see.

An application program used to access the World Wide Web is known as *Web Browser* and someone who uses such a program is said to be *browsing* the web.

Examples of Web Sites and Services

Online Newspapers : The New York Times	www.nytimes.com/
Amar Ujala	www.amarijala.com/
Weather Information	www.weather.com/
Radio Stations	www.broadcast.com/radio/
An Online Fashion Mall	www.fashionmall.com/
A retail Bookstore	www.amazon.com/
Stock Information	www.nyse.com
Music Clips	www.mp3.com
Electronic Postage	www.e-stamp.com/
Satire	www.ms-monopoly.com

Satellite map

www.mapquest.com

Electronic Mails:

Electronic mail or E-Mail was originally designed to allow a pair of individuals to communicate via computer. The first electronic mail software provided only a basic facility: It allowed a person using one computer to type a message and send it across the Internet to a person using another computer.

Through Emails we can do following:

- Send a single message to many recipient
- Send a message that includes text, audio, video, graphics etc.
- Send a message to a user on a network outside the internet.
- Send a message to which a computer program respond.

USE OF INTERNET IN FOLLOWING FIELDS:

Field of Education

As the whole world of the "Information Super Highway" is in constant transition, so is the rule of the Internet on education, still being formatted, evaluated and in constant transition.

We shall discuss one such school as one example, the C.E.S Jewish Day School in Rockville Maryland. This is a private school K-12 with an objective to educate students to be good and productive American citizens, on the one hand, and leaders of the Jewish community on the other hand. About four years ago, teachers were very slowly introduced to the world of computers. Most teachers were somewhat apprehensive, afraid that with an incorrect click, the computer would "explode". How would the students learn if the teachers felt so inadequate? This is an area of great interest, as in this age of computer technology the roles are not always as traditional as in the past. It is not "here I am the teacher let me teach you something new", but rather, lets try and do this together. Let us search and and see what we can learn with the help of this new technology. The horizons of students and teachers, have become so much greater. Let us

concentrate on one specific example. The Book of Exodus is studied in the fifth grade classes in Hebrew.

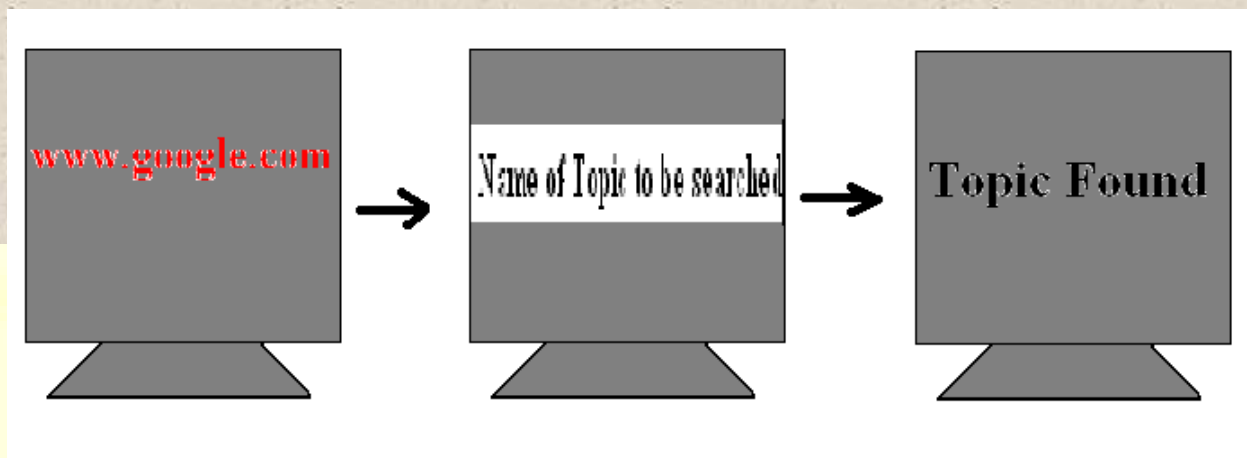


Figure 3: Educational Topic is to be searched using www.google.com

This year with the help of the Internet a new component was added, "Ancient Egypt". With the help of the Internet and some books, the students in pairs searched the Internet for information about, The Pyramids, Egyptian Gods, Work and Games, Education, Life after Death, The Pharoes and other such topics. Searching the Internet was very interesting, as the graphics were wonderful to look at, the information most exciting. They were able to locate sites with Egyptian music too. With the help of a computer program called HyeperStudio the students were able to create a beautiful interactive project about Ancient Egypt. A topic that could be very dry and bookish, took on an exciting life of its own, with the help of the excitement that exists with the use of the of the Internet. This is one small example that tells about the independence the Internet affords students. Research can be done, in a way that is so much more exciting to most students.

The students also participated in e-mailing in Hebrew with Kibbutz children in Israel. Students in other schools "talk" to authors over the Internet some residing in countries other then the U.S. The possibilities are limitless. What about comparing rain measurements by students in different countries? What about comparing projects and different experiments? The Internet can make learning so much more exciting, interesting, very engaging and very much alive. Computers have been a source of joy for children for some years now, because of the games they like to play on them. So school work, that resembles play, is much more appealing. With the vast

opportunities the Internet, affords great learning with much joy. This is the reason that computers are taught from kindergarten. Some examples of "students project" can be seen on the schools website.

Field of Health Care

Transforming Medicine and Health Synergistic discoveries and instant scientific collaborations between researchers working on areas as diverse as hereditary neurologic diseases and the basic biology of microorganisms all happening thanks to the Internet. Telemedicine allows medical specialists in Boston to diagnose and treat patients in California. How will the Internet affect two aspects of "medicine, fundamental research and medical care?"

One of the impacts of the Internet on our society in the field Of medicine, is the research capabilities it affords the general public, or the empowerment it affords patients and their families. Once the patient or his family, were afforded just one second opinion. Those that could (and still can afford it) can go to as many doctors that they deem necessary. On the whole, the general public can see one "extra" specialist. Today, with the vast knowledge presented on the "Internet" one can glean great sources of information. The patient is much better informed to discuss his case with his doctor, understand alternatives, side affects, the latest treatments available and the statistical probabilities of success.

"The National Institutes of Health" in Bethesda Maryland, afford a wonderful example of sources of up to date medical information for everyone using the Internet. This most prestigious government facility engages some of the best doctors and scientist in the world, that work in pure and clinical research in the fields of medicine. Everyone is most welcome to use their website to learn about any medical aspect that is of concern to them. Not just traditional medicine is available on N.I.H's website. In recent years when alternative solutions to medical problems were gaining much interest, N.I.H added that area of expertise to their facility, and of course on the Internet too.

The vast sea of medical information available to the public on the Internet, empowers patients and their families as they can gain so much knowledge about the newest research and treatments. One can also gain information about how certain medical problems are treated in

other parts of the world. The more traditional cures would come usually from countries in Europe, and the less traditional ones would come from counties in the East Asia.

Alternative Medicine Diabetes Natural Remedies From China It is estimated that there are over 130 million people in Asia with Diabetes, many of them use these products to control various symptoms of the disease. Now, we are pleased to introduce, for the first time to the Western World, these alternative Diabetes Medicines from China. All of the products have been developed and thoroughly tested in extensive Clinical Trials in Major Hospitals in China and used by thousands of patients since.

Field of Business

The way people conduct business has vastly changed with the wide use of the Internet. Many businesses have websites that allow people to conduct business "on line". This is a field that all experts say will grow and advance greatly in the years to come, not just in the United States but in other countries around the world too. "Books and C.D's" are bought mainly through Amazon, a virtual book and music store with no stores, just an excellent website, and large warehouses.



According to Professor Walter Solomon who is a world renowned consultant (commerce) and a professor at Harvard University in the year 2000 Internet sales will be 6.5 billion dollars, although only 34% of Internet users actually conduct business "on line, 76% of web surfers say they will "e-trade" in the future. According to Solomon those that will not sell airline tickets, home banking and tourism "on line" will be at a disadvantage. Other items that sell well over the Internet are computers. Dell computers sell over the Internet at a rate of \$10,000,000 a day, with little expense. Tourism and leisure do well over the Internet.

Many people use the inter-net to get information before making a purchase. This is a way that the consumer learns much about his next purchase, before he actually goes out to purchase. Half the fun people say, is planning one's vacation. One sits comfortably in his home and surfs the web for interesting places to visit, what can be done in those places, and then which company

offers the best deals or prices. The potential tourist has the world to surf through with the help of the "mouse".

Disadvantages of Internet over Advantages:

Internet has many disadvantages over all the advantages are as following:

1. There is a lot of increment of crimes over the internet. Many hackers are using some restricted sites and hack all the useful data of any person or any organization.
2. Using of some porn sites student are motivating for them and using some bad habits.
3. Some social networking sites are increasing the miss communicate among peoples.
4. Some fraud organizations are cheating peoples to give some offering message to earn the money at a single click.
5. These types of organizations are also increasing the porn sites.

Conclusion:

From all the above we can see that the Internet is a whole new world emerging at the conclusion of the 20th century. Every day the Internet expands by the social, political, and economic activities of people all over the world, and its impact growth exponentially. Some of this growth in impact has been described here. In this new world there is no geographical separation and there are no borders, and all people are encouraged to participate and contribute drawing on their experiences and resources.

In cyberspace actions and reactions are essentially instantaneous, and this is why the Internet is so gratifying and attractive. This is why it has impacted our society in almost all areas of human endeavor. In this report we touched on the positive aspects of the influence of the Internet on our society. As in any other field in life there are the negative aspects too. In the field of education children can gain access to areas that are not suitable and dangerous,(Littleton Colorado, April 1999).

In the areas of business, security is of great concern and importance. The topic of "Fire walls" is in great demand, constantly evolving expanding and changing. In the health care area, the accuracy of what is available to read over the Internet is a topic of concern. The whole new industry of purchasing drugs "on line" is another area where care and prudence are imperative. All in all, the Internet is affecting so many peoples' lives, in a most welcome, exciting and challenging ways.

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