



How Indiana (and the world) got connected

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On Sept. 2, 1969, about 20 people gathered at the University of California-Los Angeles to watch as two bulky computers passed meaningless data through a 15-foot cable. That test formed the building blocks of the Internet. Forty years later, a billion people are online. Here are some notable Internet moments in Indiana and beyond:

1969: Two computers at the University of California-Los Angeles exchange data in the first test of Arpanet, a military network.

1972: E-mail comes to the network.

1988: One of the first Internet worms, Morris, cripples thousands of computers.

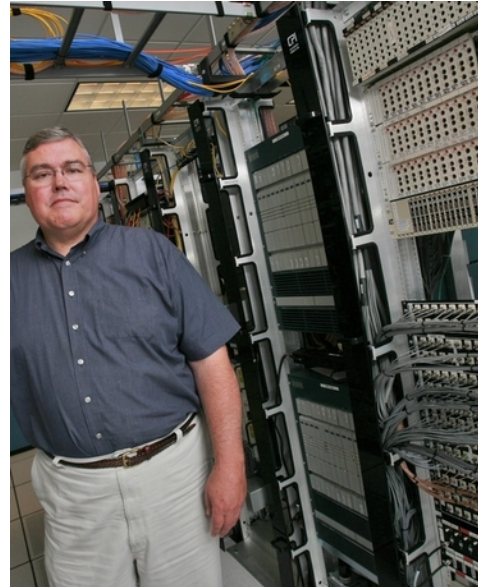
1990: The World Wide Web is created at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

May 1995: Sen. Dan Coats becomes the first of Indiana's delegation to use Congress' Internet service. A Star story notes "it soon will be possible for constituents to write computer messages to Coats in the same way they may now write or telephone him."

July 1995: Stuck in Dallas without any access to IU hoops, Indiana University alumni Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner figure out how to send Hoosier broadcasts around the world on the Internet. They call it AudioNet.

September 1996: St. Joseph County (Indiana) Public Library becomes the first library in the U.S. -- second in the world -- to operate a World Wide Web server. The first? In Helsinki, Finland.

January 1997: While 3,500 Hoosiers stand in the cold to see Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon inaugurated, 250 listen to it live on the state's official Web site -- a first. Every three minutes, they get to see a new still photo.



Robert J. Alcorn, Chief Operating Officer at n | Frame, stands in the wide area network room. The company was one of the first 120 companies to create the public internet and the room was used as one of the first jump off points. - MICHELLE PEMBERTON / 2008 Star file photo

June 1998: Indiana's first "cyberbuilding," the Armory Apartments in Lafayette, offers renters Internet access at more than five times the speed of regular phone lines.

September 1998: Google forms.

1999: Yahoo buys Broadcast.com, born as AudioNet, for \$5.9 billion in stock.

2004: Mark Zuckerberg starts Facebook as a sophomore at Harvard.

2008: The number of Internet users in the world surpasses 1.5 billion.

Research by Star librarian Barbara Hoffman and Star news services