

Handout 56. The History of Computer Science: text bundle 5

<p>In 2008, Google analyzed the searches of certain key words entered by its users (over 40,000 per second) to detect the appearance of a flu epidemic and follow its course. The keywords “flu”, “fever” and “cough” are used most often when we are sick. But this posed ethical issues in terms of data privacy.</p> <p>Meanwhile, more and more people joined social media sites. In 2012, eight years after its launch, Facebook had over a billion members!</p>	<p>To share data, it can be useful to connect several computers together. This is how networks were born. The very first computer network was ARPANET. In 1969 the US Army connected some of its computers in the Universities of Los Angeles, Stanford, Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City. This created the basis for the Internet.</p>
<p>At the CERN, in Geneva, Tim Berners-Lee developed a protocol that allowed him to publish pages of text on a network and more importantly, to navigate from one page to another using a link. These links formed the structure of the pages to form a world wide web.</p> <p>On November 13th, 1990, the very first page on the World Wide Web contained 6 links. Since then, the number of websites accessible on the Internet network doubles every six months.</p>	<p>Jimmy Wales founded Wikipedia in January 2001. It is a multilingual, open digital encyclopedia. It can be consulted freely on the Internet, evolves and grows bigger with the contributions of a vast, volunteer community. It is one of the ten most consulted websites in the world!</p>