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**[THE INTERNET THING]**

Let me introduce you one invention that has changed all people's life: the Internet. This invention has turned in about 3 years, since it was created, every people's habits.

The Internet is the worldwide network which binds people together and permits them to access several services like social network, film streaming, news articles, etc.

But my point here is not to present what **IS** the internet, it is about **HOW** it has evolve to the way we use it today.

I'll introducing the subject with a brief historical part, then through some examples I will lead a comparison to the old usage and the nowadays usage.

## Introduction

You should know that the Internet was born as a military service, but it was open to public only in early 90's!

During the "born process" – yeah, the first work about a computer network was found in 1961, but it was functional only around 1970 – many scientists focused their research on enhancing the communication between computers to finally reach what we see in 1990's: the web.

First browser supported sites made of html pages with some text, links and images. At that time, sites were hard to maintain for developers because they had to write the code for all pages; and moreover browser were really slow. And at least, non-developer couldn't make their own website.

## First Evolution: Web 2.0

One of the main problems of the web was its stativity: all websites' pages were written by hands. So new informatics languages were introduced to easier tasks and automate pages generation. This feature led to new uses as forum creation or pictures gallery.

To open the web development to anyone, developers made some code library which can be used by anyone: CMS. Content Management System, the purpose of those libraries is that through a friendly interface – understand "only by selecting and clicking" – you can customize your pages, themes or site's hierarchy. I think features brought by this enhancement were one of the best: blogs.

I will make a little break on this feature to point out main change that it brought. By blogs several people – mainly teenagers – found a way to have their own personal diary, but this one is not private - like old one that our parent or grandparents wrote by hand - , this is public, open to anyone who found the blog's page enable to confront person's thinks to other thinks and build interesting debates. Well, it is kind of a utopic vision, it also brings ferocious or insulting argues. It was the first social dimension that the web has offered.

And finally - not something especially bound to "Web 2.0" but that wasn't here at the beginning – web applications: messaging client, flash games, RSS feeds, etc.

I have use – and surely several other teenagers still use it - MSN Messenger application to talk to other friend, even if it is not a website this it thanks to internet if I could communicate with my friend. Now messaging applications has evolved to include social dimension too sharing status, moods and desires to our friend network, one fact that is true for a lot of those kind of applications.

RSS feeds are not really well-known but very useful: it is simply a subscription to a source feed. The source feed content is managed by a provider, but the nice thing is that when a new feed is published it is automatically push to you so that you can see it nearly on the date it was publish. I use it for newspapers, website's articles, weekly series, etc.

## Nowadays evolution

The way we use the internet today got some more features but this time enhancements are about the way to access internet rather than what it offers us.

Have you ever noticed that we less use internet through a computer? That even on a computer, applications use internet without passing through internet browser?

**THAT** is our main change nowadays; we are not anymore focused on *website* but on *services*: every application check regularly an internet address and they got response from that address. This simple mechanism enable application like *Yahoo weather*, *Facebook news's feeds*, *Le Monde's articles* to be accessed from any devices : mobile phones, internet browser, application desktop, TV, etc.

And the most impressive is that we – at least me 😊 - realize it just right now! I don't care anymore to switch on my computer to check my train's timetables or latest articles from *Newsweek*; I can check it from my *iTouch* or my mobile phone. The same content will be display on any devices.

I presented a lot of *technical* features offer by the internet, but our fingerprint too has evolved on the internet.

At the beginning our identity was only an IP address, website could keep data from us by using cookies – a file that records some data about your visit on a website -, now when you visit you are invited to login either to you website's account or through well-known account (*Hotmail*, *Gmail*, *Facebook*, etc.), then the website navigation is set by **profile**.

A useful advantage of that is made by ads company, within your profile your need and desires are recorded, then website sell them to those ads company which give you recommendations on commercial products. Nowadays ads on the internet are targeted and proper to each profile; there is a huge market on that.

## Future & excess

Here I will discuss as hypothetical evolution of the internet because it is not made yet.

Soon, the internet will be omnipresent any kind of devices will be connected to it in order to be always up-to-date to any kind of things (commercial, finances, political, etc.) or to offer several services like the iPhone or Android does : weather, Social websites' news, TV streaming, etc.

But as I'm writing this hypothesis I'm afraid of one thing that we can see in some science-fiction film: electronic everywhere and lazy humans. But also afraid of **online privacy**, as I said our navigation is identify by profile that keep trace of us, but the problem is that we don't know what company do with our data? But is that a problem? Should we keep our privacy online or everything is destined to be public on the internet?

Just to quote it, Eric Schmidt the Google CEO said: "If you have something that you don't want someone to know, maybe you shouldn't have done this in the first place". Someone that lead a company that got very huge amount of user data, and say this can be interpreted as threat...

## Conclusion

To close the subject I think I have point out how the way we use the internet has evolve and keep evolving, but be aware that those enhancements bring some dangers : privacy, ads commercial, addiction, etc.

But without being paranoid, all of those features are great and easier our daily life: helping school learning plan, company ad campaign, connecting people together, entertainment, etc.

I have huge hope in the internet's future, and I also hope that thanks to this writing you understand better the way we can use the internet and you also have hope in it.

## Appendices

Wikipedia sources:

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_2.0](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2.0)

Eric Schmidt's quote:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6e7wfdHzew>

Nice website that present nowadays web's browsing:

- <http://www.20thingsilearned.com/>