

Students in the Interactive Media master's program course COM 530 Interactive Theory and Audience Analysis wrote these essays and made videos to accompany them for the OneWebDay Stories site. They are being posted gradually and will eventually all appear here: <http://stories.onewebday.org/>

Check out their work.

Wow, Wow, Wow, World Wide Web!

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lijCu7ud-4>

Submitted by Colleen Callahan and Megan Lee

Everyone has the opportunity to go on the World Wide Web, therefore the world is your audience. The web is a discussion setting where I can get feedback with multiple opinions. I can post my latest research paper in the morning, get edits from my Dad away on his business trip, and have it ready just in time for class.

Only on the web can we find copious amounts of information all at the click of a mouse. Did you know Mark Twain was born and died when Haley's comet was visible from Earth? 75 years apart?

With the Internet I can find crazy degrees of relationships beyond the degrees of Kevin Bacon—I can easily find my cousin's bosses' sister to help me land a job, all through social networking. Whether I get that job. . . well, that still depends on me. On the World Wide Web anyone can say anything somewhere. Bam! It's an open forum, a place to discuss and debate without a middleman to mediate. In the words of a great educator, "I ain't got no money" so if the web is free that's one more good thing for me.

And I've come to appreciate how much I've learned from all the free access. Beyond a college education it is up to me to learn and the web gives me a wealth of knowledge to invest in. Updates on social networks and chats keeps me informed on my friends' lives, making it easier to keep in touch.

The World Wide Web gives a voice to those who normally find themselves silenced. Within minutes I can make millions of impressions on what I care about, such as saving the manatees and what others need to know. What do others need to know? To save them, obviously. Stop riding around in your stupid speedboat! Duh.

Broadcasting myself and causes online can inspire others to make a change and offer support. I can define my identity by sharing my favorite movies and music online. ::DISCLAIMER: WE ARE NOT PIRATING::

And the best thing is the web is constantly evolving and so are we. Something's gotta keep up.

IMO the Web is Changing Language!

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ln7DmA6uW9U>

Submitted by Bahar Rostami

Since I started using the Web in the mid '90s, it's been a really important tool for communication. My earliest interactive experiences with the Web were in chat rooms and with AOL instant messenger. Since the '90s, the Web has grown... a lot... and provides so many new ways for people to stay connected that it's hard to keep up. There are Facebook, Twitter, Google chat, blogs, Second Life, and the list goes on and on.

The increasing speed of communication and the increasing number of people joining the conversation has spawned a whole new language. Language is abbreviated to communicate faster and more efficiently. But the problem is that anyone not familiar with this language can find themselves lost on the web at times. It's becoming more popular though, and it seems like you're an outsider if you're not up with the newest additions to the language.

With this openness of conversation, I wonder what it's going to do to the future of language. Younger generations are getting more and more familiar with this language and using it in real life. This phenomenon raises so many questions. Will it get to a point one day when everyone just talks in acronyms and abbreviations? What's going to happen to the structure of language? Are we going to have a new dictionary for this language? Will proper language be reserved for academics or will this new language permeate that area as well? Is language as we know it today going to become the old English of the future? How will this effect the way we process information? It will be very interesting to see where language goes from here.

BTW some think SSEWBA. BITD it was different. IRL we spoke words. But B4YKI, e/o was using acronyms. IMO, this will be BAU one day. JM2C, but IANAE, I'm def a NOOB. OMG I'm SITD. If you didn't understand what I just said, SG4IT. GL.

WWW Briefing on Broadband Mapping

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfa4N0ishQI>

Submitted by Steve Earley

Before you can solve a problem, you have to define it. So, before you can bring broadband to unconnected homes, you have to find out where those homes are. Sounds simple. But it isn't. And how we go about identifying these homes has great bearing on whether a key aspect of closing the digital divide is successful.

Since the U.S. government pledged \$350 million for broadband mapping as part of last February's economic recovery package, the methodology, objectivity and transparency of the nation's largest broadband mapping organization, nonprofit Connected Nation, has come under fire from public interest groups.

Critics make the following arguments:

- That Connected Nation's reliance on sampling in lieu of a door-to-door census tends to overstate the degree of connectivity.
- That the funding the nonprofit receives from large telecom companies and the strong ties between these companies and its board of directors present a conflict of interest.
- That non-disclosure agreements with telecoms prevent stakeholders from evaluating the accuracy of its surveys and from making full use of them to expand access.

In media interviews, Connected Nation representatives have countered:

- That it reconciles its surveys against engineers' on-the-ground observations and with public feedback and continuously updates its maps to reflect this new information.
- That its board includes members of leading consumer groups and its business model depends on serving the interests of small and large telecommunications companies alike.
- That disclosing the location of sensitive infrastructure compromises security. All other information, they say, is made public.

What this conflict reveals as much as anything is a shortage of guidance from the federal government. To its credit, the government has identified broadband connectivity as a priority and put up serious money to help accomplish it. What it hasn't done, however, is establish standards strict enough to ensure broadband mapping is done in a consistent and reliable manner.

Furthermore, since this work is being done under the auspices of economic recovery, the primary goal is spending the money quickly, potentially to the detriment of quality. It's great broadband mapping is being done. But, if we're to be successful in narrowing the digital divide, it's important that it be done right.

The Top 9 RAD Things About the Web

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_HeD51L4Bg

Submitted by Paul Wagner

Hey, the Internet means 'fun' to me. That's why I created this silly 'Top Nine Things that are RAD about the Internet'. Of course, I do mean fun in a 'ha ha' sense but also fun because of the daily 'WoW- factor' from learning, seeing, exploring and experiencing new things. Yes, we do call it the New Media but what's 'new' about it for me is that it has changed the way I experience everyday life. I've been around long enough to have been once dependent on manual typewriters and an encyclopedia on the bookshelf. I love the quick answers to questions...and then the new question that last answer inspired, and then. It's the 'and then' part of the Internet that's heaven for anyone who has even a touch of the explorer in them.

As my favorite poet, E E Cummings wrote: "there's a hell of a universe next door, let's go."

Of course, everyone's heard of the TOP TEN on nightly TV...mine are the TOP NINE. Why? I wanted Mr. Letterman to be jealous that he didn't think of that. Seriously, My TOP NINE are a homage to the NINE lives of that cool cat, the Internet. In addition there's the fact that ONE WEB DAY is in September, our NINTH month. So, not a bad digit to be connected to, eh?

I was also hoping in the spirit of the free Internet of ideas that we could crowd-source that TENTH

cool thing about the Internet. Dear audience, you are the TENTH best thing about the Internet! Got any ideas in the spirit of TOP TEN style? Let's go, bring 'em on. I'll do updated videos using your suggestions. So watch my video to catch my Top Nine and see if you have a comeback. You can reach me at pwagner3@elon.edu. Watch the vid!

How the Web is Changing My Life

Video Clip is here: <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=251508755031>

Submitted by Kevin Burrows

I'm here to talk to you about just how the Internet has changed my life. Obviously it's had a huge impact around the world... well that is the biggest understatement you've heard today. But in honor of OneWebDay and the Internet's 40th birthday, I'm here to talk about how it's changed my life and where I see it going.

Email

Everyone's got it. I actually have four separate email accounts. When people think of the Internet, they think of email. It's actually so much more than that. Since coming back to Elon I've seen so many great Web tools for education. The possibilities that are out there are endless.

Shared Copy

This is one of the coolest things I've seen since coming back to school. We're using it in one of my courses here. It allows us all to comment on a certain article. We can leave our notes on the margins and then comment on other people's comments. It's a great way to read and learn and it's only available in an online medium. Where else can you think of being able to have that same type of learning experience?

Lynda.com

Are you in to software? There is a great tool called Lynda.com if you are looking to learn pretty much any type of design package imaginable. Here it is. You can look up tutorials by software, subject, author etc. The possibilities are endless. It's pretty amazing. Those are just of the tools that I have found that are pretty new in the grand scheme of things.

How else has the Internet affected me?

I'm now a blogger, which I would have never pegged myself as 4 or 5 years ago.

I always thought of myself as a “professional journalist,” but blogging is the new generation and does not have that negative connotation it once had. On top of that, I am now a micro-blogger. I have two Twitter accounts... one personal and one professional. Those are just a few ways that the Web has affected me.

So where is it going? What’s next? That’s the big question right? Honestly, I don’t know. It’s amazing. I look at the Internet right now as a new frontier. Almost like the Wild West. There are all these new reinventions that are changing the way we live our lives. From our day to day, to how we work and how we learn. It’s really an exciting to be alive - to be on this cusp of a new revolution. And that revolution is going to be online; there is no way around it.

I say let’s ride this wave. Let’s see where it goes. To the Internet and its first 40 years. Let’s hope the next 40 are just as impactful.

The WWW World Reformation

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQcdrIPD5M4>

Submitted by Marc DeRoberts

The World Wide Web is a place where you can make things happen. Currently our world is going through a reformation, with changes in how we access information and reach out to people. Whether you are an individual entrepreneur or a big business, the Web provides you with many ways to be able to market yourself and reach audiences around the globe at little to no cost. Web-building tools now allow everyone to have a Web presence and design compelling Web sites without deep technical knowledge of code.

In an economy with limited jobs, the Web proves to be resourceful for freelancers. The dawn of social media and networking sites have made establishing connections simple and efficient. Sites such as Linked-In, not only provide an illustration about how minor the degrees of separation are between our peers, but also the power to land a dream job. The click of a button can send an e-mail to the CEO of a company you want to work for, schedule an informational interview, and direct people to your online portfolio.

The Web is also a great place to learn and advance skill-sets. There are many sites that either have open forums or tutorials that explain everything from how to use different software to working on your car. Professionals at any level of their career can make time to stay on cutting edge that may one day help with a promotion; or develop skills in the arts. Personally, I have been able to learn a great deal about photography from Web resources and the ability to e-mail photos to friends who earn their living from shooting pictures.

By moving into non-linear content we are now able to interact at new levels and

record history. Years from now people will look at this era as a time of connectivity and as a milestone for humanity.

The WWW Totally Cracks Me Up!

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQcdrIPD5M4>

Submitted by Jaqueta Abbey

Comedy on the World Wide Web makes everyone's day brighter, as noted in this video commentary.

WWW Hits Just Keep Comin'

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NOBeKubcfU>

Submitted by Cory Morrison

Okay let's say I want to figure out the top billboard hit of 1968. Alright go. "Hey Jude" by The Beatles. It took me 10 seconds to go to Google's homepage, type "top billboard hit of 1968" and open the page I wanted to see. 10 seconds.

To be able to access that bit of information at that speed is pretty amazing. To be able to access nearly any piece of information at that speed is also pretty amazing.

The idea that millions of web pages encompassing nearly every topic we could imagine are out there for our everyday use, free of charge, and during all hours of the day is a lot to process.

Never has any technological innovation wrapped itself around people as extensively and quickly as the World Wide Web. An important thing to consider about the Web is how it has really changed us as individuals. You might be surprised if you reflect on how it has done that for you. You may use it to buy. You may use it to learn, entertain, communicate, read, waste time, download, or so many other things.

The World Wide Web will maintain these abilities in the future, but it will also become more in depth than it already is. It is imperative, therefore, to sustain knowledge of how the Web operates in order to protect our own privacy and human rights.

As the Web becomes more intricate, consider that we may be able to access even more than we can now. Similarly, others will be able to access more about us. Many people think that just because they don't have a website, there isn't information about them on the Web. To this I say: do what I just did a minute ago on Google, only type in your name. You might be surprised to find yourself on the Web. But if you don't, you at least get to see what other people see when they type your name.

IM Distracted AND Informed by the WWW

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20PXubmvcCc>

Submitted by Melissa Spencer and Kathryn Williams

In this video, witness a casual AIM conversation about the ways the WWW informs and distracts two graduate students as they converse online, do research and find entertainment is intertwined with their serious work.

When OneWebDay Met YouTube

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-C7JTPiPI0>

Submitted by Will Campbell

One of the major benefits of the developments of the Internet is its ability to eliminate the elements of space and time in mass communications. Our computers and cell phones can now connect us to people and places all around the world instantaneously. Families and friends can that are across the country can communicate through e-mail, share photographs and videos, and even talk “face to face” with video chat from such programs as Skype. In a sentence, the Internet is making the world smaller and more accessible to more people, everyday.

But not only is it bringing world to my fingertips, there are certain websites and functions that help bring me to the rest of the world. The World Wide Web has supplied us with critical travel tools that will allow almost every feature of a trip to be paid for and planned in advance, so all you have to do is go. It has become the first step in almost every traveler’s agenda, and for good reason.

Of course, I am recalling this from personal experience. A few years ago I had a compelling urge for an epic, yet feasible, road trip (or Vision Quest, as one of my teachers so eloquently put it). I needed to go to Toronto (yes, Canada), and I was determined to make it happen.

The first step was to Hostels.com (I was on a budget, too) to search for a place to stay. I was able to pick a hostel, pick a room, and pay for the first night at the website.

Next, not having a GPS system, I headed to MapQuest.com for directions. I was going with my girlfriend, and we had considered making side trips to Buffalo, NY and Columbus, OH to visit her family (as well as grab some food). So we had to plan our trip from North Carolina, to Buffalo, to Toronto, to Columbus, and back to North Carolina. Map Quest gave us detailed turn-by-turn directions, warned us of roads with tolls, totaled our mileage (over 1,100 miles), and even provided an estimated cost of fuel.

Finally, we needed something to do once we were in Toronto. Through a simple Google search we were able to find dozens of bars, restaurants, tourist destinations, sporting events, etc. so we knew there would be no problem finding things to do.

So after a few hours tops of planning and preparing, I was all set to go on a four-

day excursion to another country. Lodging was taking care of, we knew where we were going, and what we were going to do when we got there. All that was left was to get in the car and go. And off we went!

Free WiFi for ALL!

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bhuz9_WCLKk

Submitted by Linda Misiura

I don't pay for Internet access. I count myself among the lucky few in the nation that have a free wireless connection from the comfort of home.

If you're having visions of me sitting at a desk or in a comfy chair, let me squash them now. My trade-off for free net access? I have to sit in my kitchen, perched on a stool in front of the microwave, a position not ergonomically correct in the least. On top of that, the connection is intermittent, and sometimes I have to walk a block into town to send an email. This is fine until it starts to rain, and then, well... things get a little soggy.

Comfortable? Not really. Convenient? No.

But! I, unlike most people around the world, have free Internet access.

The town of Carrboro, where I reside, is one of the few municipalities in the country that currently offers visitors and residents access to the Web for free, but this trend is growing and becoming intelligent as well. The town of Corpus Christi, Texas not only provides free Wi-Fi to its residents, but also collects utility meter information in this way.

These intelligent networks will become even more important as technology continues to connect the entirety of the world in the coming decades, with the hope of fueling a global conversation that includes every nation, all the while driving home the growing importance of the hyperlocal economy. This idea of the hyperlocal is already beginning to emerge, as demonstrated by the overwhelming popularity of sites like Craigslist, which connects people to others in their geographic locality.

I do, of course, relinquish some of my privacy rights by using free public Wi-Fi, which may be a compromise that some are unwilling to make. Universal access, however, fulfills the holistic and most basic principle of the Web: that of a collection of information that is easily accessible while providing a forum for conversation and connectivity, a right everyone deserves in this digital age.

The town of Carrboro could be tracking all the sites I visit from my microwave station. But I'll take my chances.

Fraternitas Aeternus (Brothers Forever)

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OMLlI2_Cgo

Submitted by Jonathan Choi

I'll go ahead and say it off the bat: this is not like the other brother story. In fact, I've

known my brother my entire life: I've changed his diapers, played with him in the backyard, picked on him, teased him, argued with him, congratulated him, and held him when he's cried. But for all of that, we've never been close. And in fact, the day after I left college, my brother informed me of that: we'd never been close so it wasn't that big of a deal that I was leaving for college. That was 5 years ago.

Now, it's a different story. My brother and I are closer than ever before, even with the age gap. It's not something I did by any means. I tried and failed numerous times. And he certainly made no efforts when I was home or at family vacations. But in the end, yeah we became close and not by anything we really did with each other. What's the reason? Though typical and broad as can be, it was the Internet.

The Internet brought us closer as brothers, closer than we had been in the past. For once in our lives, we had something in common or more accurately, discovered we had things in common. We browsed the same sites. We watched the same videos. We played the same games online. We read the same articles online. We even both use the Internet for Latin. And all without knowing it.

I think it struck me when I came home for Christmas break my junior year. For me, going home meant going to be with my friends. As we were sitting at the table, my brother quoted a part of the latest viral video. I laughed immediately and the rest of my family sat in confusion. We both laughed even harder. After dinner, we watched it again. And again. And again. From then on, we just clicked together and we realize now what we've been missing.

Over time and even now, we talk online through different outlets but it wouldn't be possible without the Internet. I had no clue that he was competing in Latin competition and was able to see online how he was doing. He could listen to me on the radio when I would be the board-op. For us, we just enjoy the same things and the Internet has allowed us to share our interests, humor and personality. For me, the Internet was able to do what blood and time couldn't and for that I'm grateful and I'm pretty sure my parents are as well.

OneWebDay: A Personal Experience

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9tV9jpKV04>

Submitted by Kenya Ford

I can remember when I was little, the encyclopedia Britannica salesman came to our home and explained to my parents the reason why having this particular encyclopedia would be beneficial to my sister and I. Of course my parents purchased this excellent educational tool to further aid my curiosity and fantasy with learning.

A couple of years had passed and a new technology allowed research to be available at my finger tips. What is this phenomenon? The Internet, which introduced me to society and affected me in numerous ways.

So in the beginning, for me, the Internet was for research to look up the subjects and topics that I once used the encyclopedia for, but now it expands so significantly further in my everyday life. So greatly that I created a ...

Top 10 Reasons why I use the Internet:

- 1) Accessibility of Information – to search for all kinds of information on things I always want to know, search on someone, and search for trends such as fashion, music, and technology.
- 2) E-mail – allows me to electronically send mail to family, friends, coworkers, potential employers and clients. This Web tool has cut down on postage costs greatly.
- 3) Instant Messaging (IM) – This creation changed my world in college...real-time communications. I can recall my first year in undergraduate school in 2001 and when I walked by the dorms all you would hear was “bling” sound of IM. It really helped when I needed an instant response.
- 4) Social Networking sites – Okay, so everyone knows about Facebook, and I hate to beat a dead horse, but Facebook was the first social networking site that I took an active interest in on a daily basis. I know I used other social networking sites such as Blackplanet, but other ones don’t even exist anymore.
- 5) Wordpress.com
- 6) Tumblr.com
- 7) Twitter - I’m the new kid on the block when it comes to blogging and microblogging. This is a new web tool I’m using to share information over the Web. Since, I’m in the new Interactive Media master’s program at Elon University, I trying to brand myself by using these web tools. I didn’t think I would like it but I starting to enjoy it. Especially when I’m followed by someone in the media industry...I feel important.
- 8) Convenience – I can access the Internet almost anywhere I go, from home, at the coffee shops, on my iPhone. Also, another convenience factor to me is shopping online.
- 9) Stay connected – with family, friends, and professionals contacts – a great tool for networking.
- 10) Interactivity – I am able to not only receive messages as in the traditional forms of media communication but now I can respond back to the messengers.

These are my Top 10 of why I use the Internet, please share some of your reasons!

People Want Information to be ‘Free’

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCtn_3ZPVwY

Submitted by Alex Kreitman

Where can you go to find out who sings that catchy new song on the radio? Or what time your favorite team is playing tonight? Or to get directions for your upcoming trip? On the Web, of course.

The World Wide Web has grown into an awesome tool for gaining access to information about everything. It is harder to try and come up with something that you can’t do on the

Internet than it is to hop on and search for the capital of Uganda. It's Kampala by the way.

The Internet contains a wealth of knowledge and interactivity. You can watch a hilarious video on YouTube, post photos from the weekend on Facebook or just plain read the news.

Speaking of reading the news, that is one of many controversial issues on the Web these days. Right now it's free to read the news, but should it be? News organizations across the world are struggling to make money in this unstable economy and since they haven't found a workable online business model yet, they are actually thinking about charging for content. Some are even trying it out as we speak!

Stupid, stupid, stupid! The Internet is so large and so developed that it would be impossible for any news organization to successfully charge for its content. Maybe 10 years ago if they got everyone to do it, but not now. Sure, some people would buy a subscription, but not enough to put a dent in the debt. You would lose all the people who check in on your Web site occasionally and the ones that will just get their news from another source.

That's the beauty of the Internet, if you can't get what you need on one site, then you click off and find another one. So, why waste time trying to sell our content to the people that we care about the most, the users?

Solution: Hurry up and find a successful advertising platform. Easier said than done.

Born Into a Hyper Existence

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8nDR3zANO4>

Submitted by Alex Traboulsi

The Internet is easy. It is simply the most effective way to date to obtain any information about anything. With so many different kinds of people from varying education levels and socio-economic backgrounds putting forth their insights in an ever-evolving hub, it is almost impossible not find information on something. Denying this privilege to people in this day and age is simply wrong. We as humans are evolving technologically faster than ever, with new generations of Internet users almost born into a so-called hyper existence. Censoring a means to learn and understand the world hinders a natural evolution, even if it is not a biological one. Some say that computing will become ubiquitous, and who knows, one day surfing could be a biological function, but that's for another discussion.

A free and open Internet allows thoughts to flow furiously, allowing those who seek information to see different sides of certain issues. When someone can see both sides of a statement, or an argument, their own opinion can grow stronger. I believe that there is a direct correlation between certain countries' governments that are unwilling to cooperate in a global society and the issue of censored and monitored mass communication. We see this with the present-day Iran. We also see certain individuals and groups of peoples in countries with censored mass communications attempting to break out and expose the Internet for what it is. They are doing so with tools and information actually gained

through interactive communication on the web itself.

Although based on the assumption that the Internet will always evolve and contrast the humor and entertainment elements that it is flooded with, with educational information, I think that in the future we will heavily depend on the Web to form ideas and make critical decisions. If these means are not available freely to all, then we are just perpetuating an elitist world based on technology and further stretching the gap between a so called “Us” and “Them.” With the help of developers and futures-thinking governments we can make sure that this gap can close and we can all be on the same page. Or Web page.

Ubiquitous Computing Changes Everything

Video Clip is here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYdR0z9CWFo&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fkarencom530%2Ewordpress%2Ecom%2F&feature=player_embedded

Submitted by Karen Kozmo Hartshorn

The Internet’s future is far too grand to accurately predict, but one thing is for certain: consumers use it, want to use it, will use it, they rely on it, and they depend on it.

As the future of the Internet continues to be planned, tested, and analyzed for optimum performance, one key factor should preside above all others: the issue of ubiquitous computing in relation to future generations.

In ubiquitous computing, the user is constantly connected to communications technologies, and the line between the natural and virtual worlds is becoming increasingly unclear every day. As more communications technologies are developed and users adapt to using more and more of them in their daily lives, the notion of being “on” or “off” becomes heavily blurred.

A typical day for the common user consists of checking one’s email, talking on cell phones, receiving and viewing the news online, and other forms of communications technologies preferred by different users.

In other words, typical users have combined both the natural world and virtual world into everyday lifestyles.

William Gibson states it best when he says, “In a world of super ubiquitous computing you’re not gonna know when you’re on or when you’re off. You’re always going to be on, in some sort of blended-reality state. You only think about it when something goes wrong and it goes off. And then it’s a drag...”

I really like this quote because it highlights the fear that people have about communications technologies not being available to them. Always being “on” has provided a sense of insecurity to people who can’t manage their virtual worlds and have instead let the virtual worlds manage them.

My concern lies with future generations who will be born into a society where life without some sort of virtual aspect is completely unknown to them. Wearable computing will become more common, allowing devices to curtail to life needs, and sensory computing such as temperature adjustments and light adjustments will be labeled as a type of natural occurrence, something that “just happens.”

It’s difficult to predict what type of effect this notion of always being “on” will have on future generations, but it is clear to me that we are about to see and experience a major change in the way younger generations view the world and those who live in it.

The Power of Access, Connection, Communication

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qu2rVqfZM2g>

Submitted by Matt Hunter

Hello, Planet Earth. I mean, that is whom I’m talking to right now. I’m not talking to merely my family, friends, or just the state of North Carolina. My audience is the entire world. People will have the freedom to access this video whenever and wherever they want to. That is the power of the Internet.

This power can impact places, events, and people on so many levels. For instance, look at the positive role the Internet played in the recent Iranian elections and riots. The use of social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook allowed messages to flow freely out of Iran and tell the story of a dysfunctional, oppressive regime.

People can be transformed into universal stars by using the Internet. Just look at Susan Boyle from *Britain’s Got Talent*. Viral videos of her singing spread like wild fire across the Internet. She wouldn’t be the same global celebrity if she were just handing out her CD on the corner of 3rd and 14th street. The Internet allows you to openly project your ideas and to connect to each and every corner of the globe.

So where does this power come from? The power of the Internet comes from its users and its accessibility. Without the Internet’s freedom, the flow of people’s ideas would not be as rapid or progressive.

Everyone has a voice on the Internet, and no one voice is stronger than the other.

The use and impact of this power is up to you. It is your Internet.

Until next time, Planet Earth!

The Web is Great for Commerce

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0lqVz4wz8g&feature=channel_page

Submitted by Catherine Freeman

The Internet has revolutionary power. In its short existence, it has changed the way we communicate, form relationships, travel, learn, play and especially work. No other technology has the capacity to instantly connect an executive in Houston to a client in Johannesburg. The boardroom and the chat room are now one and the same. The Internet is more than just a new tool for business. It is business.

Thanks to high-speed Internet connections, we can browse, barter and bank from halfway around the world. More and more people are turning to their laptops and phones to compare prices and make purchases. Not only that, but also more people can easily actualize new business start-ups with the cost reductions facilitated by the digital world.

In fact, despite a troubling economy and declining overall retail sales figures, online sales are projected to rise 11 percent in 2009 to reach a total of \$156 billion. This is just two percent points down from 2008's total. Projected totals for 2009 expect online sales to generate seven percent of overall retail revenue. This is a one percent increase from 2008's total.

Global barriers are dissolving and reasonable competition and pricing are emerging. Fair and free access to the Internet is important to preserve in the future for this very reason. The Internet increases choice and availability as the cost of inventory decreases and more stocked items are becoming available online than offline. No other invention or technology will transform the world of global business more than the Internet.

The future of the Internet is inevitably connected to the future of commerce as transactions are progressively more digitized. By addressing issues like the Digital Divide and working towards increased free Internet access, more people worldwide will have the chance to profit financially.

My Mom is on Facebook

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BhuTjvERRg>

Submitted by David Parsons

Recently, while casually checking Facebook for the 23rd time one day, (you just never know when something important could happen) I noticed I had a new friend request. Exciting as it is to see a new friend request pop up in my Facebook newsfeed, after further investigation, I was soon feeling troubled and confused; the friend request was from my Mom.

What is it that made me feel this way? It's not that I don't consider my Mom a friend or that I wasn't proud to see that she was branching out and experimenting with social media, but before this moment, my online presence and my interaction with my parents were definitively separate. Immediately upon seeing this request, questions began to race through my mind surrounding this new development. Was I ready to merge these

two worlds? What type of Facebook user would my Mom turn out to be? (stalker, lurker, active participant, etc) Are there aspect about my online persona that would change my Mom's perspective of me? Would there be things about my Mom's developing online persona that would change my perspective of her? Do I give my Mom full friendship access, or only a limited profile view?

Once I had some time to process it, I realized what this meant about the broad reach of social media and the opportunity Facebook was providing for my Mom and me. Not only were we able to connect on an entirely new level, but, as we currently live over 400 miles apart, this was a great way for us to stay connected and keep up with each other's lives. Despite my hesitancy to open what could be a Pandora's Box for our relationship, I decided that there was nothing about my online presence that would represent me negatively, and that if I felt I could safely share my Facebook profile with friends and coworkers, it was probably safe to share it with my family as well.

Long story short, I accepted my Mom's friendship, and have yet to regret it. I've had to do some minimal coaching to help her establish her own online persona, but for the most part, things are progressing smoothly. How far will the bridging of the generation gap continue through social media? It is hard to say; I've yet to receive a friend request from my grandparents...

Everyone Deserves Access to the WWW

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCmFeaOqKvo>

Submitted by G. Erik Furlan

Open and fair access to the Internet is an important and vital standard that needs to be preserved.

In response to a series of New York Times editorials on Net Neutrality, the blogosphere is buzzing in agreement. There is currently a bill before Congress, introduced by Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), that would guarantee net neutrality, prohibiting Internet service providers from censoring, selectively blocking and discriminating against anything that travels along their infrastructure.

There is a growing chorus, including the San Jose Mercury News, San Francisco Chronicle, Christian Science Monitor, Seattle Times, Los Angeles Times, St. Petersburg Times and the Houston Chronicle calling for the bill's passing and the Obama administration to sign it into law.

Yet, this begs the question – What about the rest of the world? Sure, regulations and protections from the US legislature would help ensure open and fair access for Americans, but what about other countries?

The American goal of spreading democracy and freedom to other peoples is cited — especially in the context of war (the current Iraq war for example). This thought process, the desire to spread the American principles that “all men are created equal” and are entitled to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” can certainly apply to keeping access to the Internet open and fair.

The Internet is the last bastion of freedom. It’s the one thing we all have equal access to — or at least potential access to. One only has to look to the attacks in Mumbai or the recent elections in Iran to see the power of the Internet in action, to see real-life examples of the need for fair and open access. Real people — on the scene, on the streets — were able to tell their stories, better than any network correspondent possibly could. Opening such a window onto another culture, another place in the world can only help to increase understanding and tolerance. Hearing directly from the people involved, the people being affected first-hand allowed many of us to see that we may not be as different as we thought. I’m not saying the Internet can bring (the pageant answer of) world peace — but I’m not saying it can’t either.

Open and fair access levels the playing field. On the Internet, John/Jane Public (or Jacques/Jacqueline Public or Juan/Juanita Publico or whatever) can stand side-by-side with the most powerful people on the planet — the little guy has a voice. The Internet is the great equalizer, “globo-casting” a new source, a new voice, the human voice ... and you can’t silence the human voice.

Always-On Lifestyle has Drawbacks

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6mMMLv0B-Q>

Submitted by Sean Smith

My mother called me the other day while I was at school to ask me how to do something on Facebook. She’s new to this whole social networking idea. I could tell by the tone of her voice that there was a feeling of both excitement and frustration.

She was telling me about people finding her via the Web that she hadn’t even thought about in years. She was excited about some of them finding her and not so excited about others. Yet, she also seemed frustrated regarding the use of the interface of such sites and I got a sense that she wasn’t sure she wants to delve into this type of interactivity

When I got off the phone I got to thinking and recalled the time when I decided to enter into Elon University’s Interactive Media masters program. I decided to do so because I felt like I was losing touch with the world and lacked the computer skills that I realized were now necessary to get by in life. I wasn’t a member of any social networking site, I avoided emails at work (like snail mail, it seemed there was only bad news in the e-mail), and used a simple cell phone that only made calls and sent text.

I joined Facebook and was amazed how quickly I reconnected with people that I completely lost touch with via other forms of media. It was exciting for me. I had felt guilty for years that I had lost touch with many people in my past. I started keeping up with my emails and surfed the net regularly to gather information in ways that I never realized were possible.

Now, after the first three weeks of being back to school, I'm starting to feel overwhelmed and concerned with information overload. I'm quickly becoming scared of the notion of this "always-on" lifestyle.

As technology progresses and human-computer interfaces evolve, even to the point of implants into our bodies, will we, as mere humans be able to handle all of this information and processes it in ways that will benefit us, or will we just suffer as a result? The Web offers so much information that we want and can use but at the same time it offers much that we don't want and can't use. Filtering this information can be a frustrating and time-consuming burden.

Many media ecologists believe that technology and new forms of media are destroying the human culture. Like a biological ecosystem, there needs to be a balance, symmetry between humans and technology. At this moment, with the constant and increasing advancement in computer and Internet technology, there's an imbalance. There is so much information and so many sources to get the information from, that we become controlled by media and its content. We, as a biological species are not designed to acquire, process, and retain this abundance of information. It's affecting our way of being and our ability to just be. We're on the way to becoming "cyborgs," always "plugged in." In a way, we as a human species could become extinct, possibly evolving into an entirely new species.

In the future of an open and fair Internet, who should be responsible for controlling this information and media? Should anybody be in control of it at all? These are questions that should be addressed in the near future but I think recent history has already answered some of these questions. The endless new websites that start-up and then miserably fail as quickly as they arose and the .com bubble burst a few years back are proof that perhaps the Internet is controlling itself. The Web, just like the Earth and its human inhabitants, can become overpopulated and destroy itself.

So, I suppose my mom and myself will have to just wait and see where this all goes and where we as humans will be going.

Exploring the Unknown on the Web

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmNOQDhAX_k

Submitted by Matt Brown

Oh, man, what else is that guy in? I know him. He looks so familiar. Ahhh!

The answer: that guy who plays Jimmy, the straight-edged Christian in the movie "Bull Durham," also appeared in 30 episodes as Marty Taylor in the show "Home Improvement." Now where are you going to find fast facts like that besides the Internet? Good question. No answer.

The Internet allows us to explore the world that was previously unknown. It can answer almost any question we have, whether it pertains to global news, or how to find today's top-of-the-line pogo stick. The possibilities are endless.

It can even earn your team a victory at Tuesday's trivia night at the bar. When the announcer asks, "What former Cosby Show cast member is a vegetarian?" You can shout out with confidence, "Tempestt Bledsoe," or better known as Vanessa Huxtable. Your friends might look at you and wonder why you know this fast fact. Why else? The Internet.

But the Internet isn't all fun and games. It can be used for activism, awareness, or as a library for life. I don't have time to watch the nightly news or sort through a daily newspaper. The Internet informs of important matters, like the governor of South Carolina who would frequently visit his mistress in Argentina, or the other congressman from the same state who shouted out during President Obama's address to Congress, "You Lie!" Such pride in the Palmetto State...

Without the Internet, many of us wouldn't know up from down, left from right. It's a place to meet people, learn new things, and to be you. It allows for free expression, and can give someone an equal voice. No longer do social elites have the final word in important matters. We all get a word, and there is something out there for all of us. That's the beauty of the vastness of the Internet.

Exploring the Unknown on the Web

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fz9g1iCw8wg>

Submitted by Conor Britain

The Internet has given us new abilities to research, socialize, work, play, learn, teach and a thousand and one different things, changing life as we know it for anyone fortunate enough to be connected. One of the aspects of the Internet that most intrigues me is how these functions combine to let us lead lives that we would otherwise be unable to lead.

We can stay intimately connected to our home sports teams that are on the other side of the country, be a French film critic from a small Nebraskan town, or become a reporter without a day's worth of formal training. The Internet is literally allowing us to do things we never before had the means (or the time) to accomplish.

I came to this realization when I was given the opportunity to intern for Current

TV remotely from Elon University's campus. Their internship program was focused at college students to help with their campus outreach initiative, and I was hired by Current to help facilitate and produce videos to be uploaded to Current.com and, ideally, aired on the Current TV network (if you're not familiar with Current, it's a new media television network that, in addition to a number of original shows, airs user-submitted content and stories voted upon by its audience).

I was given paid position as a representative for a company I had never even knew existed (before that point) or was within 2,000 miles of. Thanks to the Internet, my fellow interns from around the country and I were able to mobilize and create student work that made it to air on Current – stories that were local, but were given the opportunity to be truly global.

This scenario would have been nearly impossible without the Internet, and, on a personal note, I was given a unique, meaningful opportunity that I may never have otherwise experienced. The Internet allowed me to live a life that I couldn't have without it.

Once the Internet truly functions as a World Wide Web, the experiences and opportunities for collaboration will become essentially endless. Humans will learn from each other in ways we didn't even know we could, and there will be economic, social and governmental implications as well, of course. Just another reason to keep this Internet thing up and running – and open to everyone.

Overcoming the Digital Divide

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3bvzL8iJag>

Submitted by Maria Rojas

The gap between those who have access to information technologies and those who do not is referred to as the digital divide. Our society has become so immersed and connected to the Internet, often it can appear as though the whole world is digitally connected and is on Facebook and making tweets on Twitter. The digital divide goes beyond connectivity and the notion that we are all digital citizens; socio-economic status is a major cause of the divide.

Not having a home computer or unlimited access to the Internet seems part of a distant world. But up until two weeks ago, I was a victim of the digital divide. I could not afford a computer, but I could not live without it. Being a part of an Interactive Media Graduate Program, makes a computer as important as breath is to life. If you're not breathing you are unable to breathe life into the world and without a computer I was unable to breathe interactive change to the digital world.

With education being a vital organ; society's heartbeat, and information technologies being the blood source of information, students with limited computer access are in critical condition of not being equipped with the tools they need to learn in a digital

evolving world. Those who do not have access beyond the classrooms or the public libraries can be pronounced DOA.

The Internet is an ever-changing information source for those who can access it freely; for those without it, it is an everyday reminder of the struggle to survive in an ever changing world.

So what do we do?

We remember that information is free to those who can afford it and costly to those who cannot. So look at the digital divide a way to multiply resources to make everyone equal.

The Web for ALL – Bring the Power

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vu_w6uDtjQ

Submitted by David Hollander

In preparation for the third annual OneWebDay on September 22nd, I would like to share this online testimonial discussing the importance of bridging the digital divide and empowering Internet users to play a role in defining the future of this unbounded technology.

The Strength of the Web as a Medium

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMzHzgrSIJg>

Submitted by Brynne Tuggle

What is the Web good for? How is the web different from other forms of media? How is it better? How is it worse?

These are all questions that have arisen during the past 40 years as the Web has emerged to become what we know it as today. But, how does the Web affect traditional media and how we as consumers get our information?

The Web might not have any unique characteristics, because it's a medium that has adopted characteristics from all other media. Let's explore a few. The Web allows us networking and communication. One of the first, central ideas of the Internet was that it would allow us to talk to anyone, anywhere at any time. No longer would we be restricted to time zones, location, etc. For the first time ever, anyone around the world with access to a computer could instantly connect with someone else thousands of miles away.

Another strength of the Web is its role as a leader in multimedia. With TV and movies now available on the Internet, watching the tube and heading to the movie theatre has lost some of its allure. Think about it, in an instant we have access to news, weather and entertainment all in a visual form of communication that's easy to understand and entertaining!

Another aspect of the Web that makes it arguably stronger than any other form of media is its ability to house knowledge the whole world wide and deep! Where else can you

gain access to information about art, history, geography, literature (and the list goes on!) in one place? No library, no university is big enough to compete with the database we have in the Internet.

These are just a few of the things that give the Web a strength no other medium can compete with. We have come so far in this media-driven world; sometimes it's hard to remember where we once were. It's important this year as we celebrate 40 years of the Internet to remember the knowledge and information the web has allowed us at our fingertips, or maybe with just a click of the mouse.

OneWebDay: On Fire!

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgMeAXqrRHM>

Submitted by Dave Kennedy

Everyone always talks about the Internet in terms of connectivity.

Why?

It gives you the power to connect to friends, family and colleagues. It blows the doors open to new experiences, linking you up to opportunities you might have never envisioned. It stands alone as one of the largest, most evolved networks of growing knowledge known to mankind.

But forget about the whole idea of being connected.

It means nothing.

Unless you know what the Internet is.

It is:

- **an inspiring video on how to achieve your childhood dreams.**
- **a trailer to a movie that makes you laugh every time you see it.**
- **a gateway to extraordinary music.**
- **a place to go for stories.**
- **a place to learn about heroes.**

You've probably noticed by now that those links lead to people, places and things that mean something to me. They may not ever have an impact on your life.

But you now know me better, thanks to the Internet.

Yes, those links could change tomorrow. That's the beauty of the Internet. It's a mirror that reflects the world – every day.

You can be anyone on the Internet.

Lifesaver. Gift Giver. World-Changer. The list goes on.

Sure, these guises can be mistruths and aliases built toward deception. Any invention, has its positives and negatives.

However, I believe the Internet's greatest potential lies within its ability to help people discover themselves and communicate their gifts to the world. And sometimes people will listen and embrace those gifts.

The Internet and interactive media let you reach out to a large audience and infuse them with what excites you. I equate it to starting a fire.

What can you offer that truly captures attention of others – something that really catches fire and connects with people?

Yeah, so I lied.

Being connected does mean something.

It means knowing each other. And that means the ideas, videos, designs, writings and other concepts that truly catch fire on the Internet are from YOU. The real you.

So who are you?

Censorship and the Web

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGTbxYS2Dvc>

Submitted by Andrew Rushton

The issue of censorship is a perennial thorn in the side of numerous authoritative bodies such as government. However, now that the world's populations are becoming increasingly interconnected, the flow of information is hurtling forward at full speed. The Internet is at the heart of that progression. Being such that it is, a medium morphing in multiple directions, it contrasts the traditional media platforms that only allow singular, unidirectional communication.

For this reason, the Internet must remain largely free of authoritative constriction. The open sharing of information should be allowed as long as there is no immediate, egregious deterrent to the larger human condition. Here lies a tremendous benefit of open communications. Communities, particularly large ones such as those comprising the Internet, regulate themselves. Differing opinions will exist. Disagreement will live on. However, in this sense, censorship is not present by restricting information. Instead, it allows information to be presented in manners where it can be accessible to those seeking it. That is critical, choice. The option should remain. The open flow of information is there

but dependent on a users desire to explore.

Instead of a decision being made by a far-off government authority, it should be an individual decision. Without this freedom, problems will multiply as more people make their way to the Internet. Who is to say they have been granted control over content online? How have they come to this realization? The power grab that would result will raise the stakes in detrimental ways. The equilibrium stemming from free information flow remains delicately balanced between the competing factions of control and expression. If the balance shifts in either direction, people will be cast into one of the polarized positions. Debate will be fierce. Meanwhile, information dries up and new perspectives on issues will be silenced. If that is allowed to happen, censorship will not just be alive on the Internet but prospering.

Expansive Information on the Web

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3z7fxUBV-4>

Submitted by Brook Corwin

In print, my words had no hope of reaching an audience.

Online, there was always room for my voice.

As a college undergraduate working for The Daily Tar Heel at UNC-Chapel Hill, space was tight to publish stories from the dozens of staffers working each day. But thanks to the paper's Web site, space was plentiful to give every qualified story a platform. The Web provided assurance that everything staffers wrote could reach an audience, while simultaneously motivating writers to improve their craft.

No matter how far we progress in the communications field, that appeal of the Web remains just as strong.

In many ways, the benefits only grow with experience.

A good communicator, be they in journalism, public relations or filmmaking, will produce a volume of quality content that easily eclipses the available space in print. Photographers take hundreds of pictures at an event, filmmakers record hours of footage, advertising campaigns produce dozens of related marketing pieces.

In the pre-Internet days, only the absolute cream of the crop could be viewed by the general public.

The Internet blew open the door of in-depth content for those curious about a particular topic, while at the same time empowering those compiling the information.

Rather than just post the bare minimum that will fit in print, communicators strive to create as much compelling content as possible, knowing it can have life on the Web.

It has enlivened our consumption of media based upon specific interests.

Rather than just hope the latest edition of Slate has a piece by insightful political writer John Dickerson, readers can quickly go back and access all his past stories or tweets. When entertaining sportswriter Bill Simmons hits on a great topic at espn.com, he's not constrained by word counts and can link us to his sports and pop culture inspirations. While fans are waiting for the captivating television show "Lost" to start a new season, they can go to official sites or fan message boards for new content built around past episodes. When inspiring news columnist Nicholas Kristof posts a compelling piece in the New York Times, readers can check up on his blog or Facebook page to see all the news gathering and the thought processes that went into the writing.

This doesn't ensure that all content reaches a mass audience, or even that it won't just be ignored once posted online. But the Web provides assurance that nothing of quality need ever remain buried, and that fans of any fictional or non-fictional piece can always dig beneath the surface for more details. No matter how constrained or restricted access to a traditional platform remains for up-and-coming media professionals, they always have a place to share their knowledge and let their talents shine through.

Save the Web Rap

Video Clip is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_4PGn6JMbk

Submitted by Laura Bradford

WWW what does that even mean?

In 1989 it came into the scene

The World Wide Web by

Tim Berners-Lee

He was a very smart man indeed.

So what does the Web mean to me?

Its ubiquitous nature makes it hard to see

That this beast of a thing helps society

To connect to each other

To communicate

To express themselves

To online date

To make the world smaller

To blog their thoughts

To express an opinion

To make history

A tweet, a yam, a Facebook post

Social media is spreading from coast to coast.

Google, Yahoo, search engines galore

That let me know information I didn't know before.

The Web lets us e-mail

The Web lets us Skype

It lets us read newspapers

It brings things to life

By letting the people put their two cents in

And letting them choose the direction

They want to go through interactivity

Like with online games

And Websites you'll see

The Web gives us options

It helps us to grow

Without it today
I don't even know
Where we would be
As a society
We'd be taking a step backwards
By not letting it be free
Of course with this thing come its downfalls too
Like lack of privacy,
Health issues, and some info isn't true.
Young kids can sometimes fall into the trap
Of a preying pedophile
And that can be slap
In the face
But don't let that stop us
From using the web for all that it brings
After all, there are downfalls to everything.
If corporations take over and make us pay
For the Web we'll be going back to the days
Where mail and phone were the way to talk
The world would slow down, and almost stop
Confusion would spring. It would be a mess.
People would fight and express their unhappiness
So what is this message that's coming from me?

Keep the Web alive - and help it stay free.

Here's to the Dream Job

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af3ZkXsNSIg>

Submitted by Emily Doelling

The Web has had a huge effect on how people search and obtain employment. We no longer need to tediously look through want ads in newspapers, or make telephone inquiries about open positions. We are not limited to geographical searches.

The web opens an endless possibility of job postings all over the globe. Currently the web supports job search companies such as Monster, Career Builder, Yahoo HotJobs etc. These tools can be helpful if you have a very specific type of profession or physical area you want to work in.

The unemployment rate is currently at 7.2%, the highest in 15 years. This is clearly a needed Web resource for people today. How job applications are being taken has changed as well. Almost all applications are in electronic form and submitted through the web. It is easier to apply so people are playing the numbers game when it comes to employment.

Applying to a massive number of jobs because they know that many will lead to dead ends. While the Web has provided the opportunity to search all over the world, it has also created false avenues. Experienced job searchers know how to recognize these, but if your new to the job search its an easy trap to fall in to.

Social networking has provided a platform for people looking for employment to meet and discuss possible opportunities on the web. Proving the old saying "it's not about what you know, but who you know."

This of course has affected employers and how they look for qualified employees. Instead of posting job openings and descriptions with job employment agencies or newspapers, they are being put on the web. Many organizations are also posting availabilities in multiple places. Both on the company Web page and on job search engines and of course, word of mouth spread by social networking.

15 years ago when unemployment levels wee just as high but people didn't have the Internet as such an accessible tool. Will unemployment rates lower faster because of such a resource?

In celebration of OneWebDay, think about those who were able to send their kids to college, buy a house, buy a car and find security, all from finding "the dream job" on the Web.

Everyone is Welcome!

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxwzopzcyUY>

Submitted by Shelley Russell

The Internet can be likened to a public playground. Everyone is welcome, and the more curiosity and imagination a user has, the more fun and interesting the Web experience becomes. Take the Google search engine, for example—an empty playground. With the search bar gracing the browser’s home page, millions of documents and resources are instantly in the hands of the user. Even if a user doesn’t have a specific search in mind, typing in just one letter will automatically yield the top 10 results. One can’t help but feel empowered at the wealth of information available.

This is where the importance of a free and open Web comes into play. Imagine a world without the Web, or a world in which searches are monitored and restricted frequently—in other words, a private playground. Those on the outside are shut off from the resources and lose an incredible outlet for imagination and thoughts to roam freely. The ability to self-learn and discover new ideas becomes confined. With an open Web, basic reading and writing skills are the only requirement needed to read, discuss and display basic thoughts or inspirations.

For example, in an exploration of Egypt prior to a trip for the Internet Governance Forum, typing in the keyword “Egypt” was a quick and easy way to find preliminary information. Search: Egypt. Results: 164,000,000. First hit: Wikipedia. An interest in “The Nile Valley,” (endnote 19 in the article), leads to an external link at the British Museum. From there, links direct the user to 10 partnership museums in the United Kingdom—each with more links and connections. In four clicks I was able to self-direct myself from a Wikipedia article about Egypt to the Bolton Museum and Art Gallery’s entire collection of artifacts.

As emphasized in “The Cluetrain Manifesto,” the Web is a dialogue; a conversation between any and all users. If anyone is shut out, the dialogue’s potential is weakened, as is the potential for other users to absorb more valuable information. In the future, it will be crucial for site managers and production teams to consider designing and presenting information in a way that is accessible to most users—appealing to those with the least amount of Web experience. New users become connected every day—each possessing unique talents and goals.

The future of the Web should entail a larger base of open information that is usable across a variety of skill sets and interests.

Touchdown, World Wide Web!

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAhHCZ4A6Q>

Submitted by Alisa Pettit

Being the daughter of the only people STILL USING DIALUP today, it's quite a feat that I was able to not only catch up with the rest of society in terms of the Internet, but now I am surging ahead. Should I be worried about them finding this video? TRUST ME, they will never find it. But I guess that's just a testament to how the times have changed since they were our age.

In my opinion, this is the time of year that I appreciate having access to the Internet the most. And what time is that? FOOTBALL SEASON!

Without needing a television to watch games, or a phone to call and ask friends for score updates, with the Internet, and the Internet alone, I can SIMULTANEOUSLY watch live feed of an NFL game in Texas, a college football game in Orlando, listen to audio commentary from Jim Rome in California, record my best rendition of the Eagles fight song in North Carolina and e-mail it to my Giants friends in New York, find out who won the first Super Bowl, trade out players on my fantasy football team, buy a new jersey, blog about why I think the Phillies are going to win another World Series, upload pictures from the tailgate last night, watch the game-winning touchdown from last week 20 times in a row on YouTube, then paste the link on Twitter for everyone else to see, and plan my trip to the next game. All of that, without ever having to get up from my chair!

The point is that the Internet connects us to everyone and everything in the world, in a second. It allows us instantaneous access to videos, music, and information. Can you imagine life WITHOUT the Internet? I can't either, and that proves the power and value it brings to our lives.

Who knows how the Internet will evolve in the future, or if it will even exist as we know it. I'm pretty confident that someday my kids will be making movies saying "I can't believe my my mom STILL uses the INTERNET!"

Free, Open Internet is a Must

Video Clip is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ismIQAQj0uY>

Submitted by Jordan Yost

There is an ever-growing need for free, open Internet. We used to live in an age where if a child received a laptop, it was enough to learn with. However, even though that need is still apparent today, it is a growing need; a need that expands into interactivity.

Each day, technology evolves to be faster and smaller. With this evolution comes the devolution of complex, specialized things. Websites used to be viewed by most as simply magic. Today, websites are being released constantly and those without personal ones are left out in the cold. "Consumers" have become

“Prosumers,” allowing for a whole new world of interaction between producers and their audience.

Without free and open Internet, this connection would not be possible. That means everyone who has grown up accustomed to the “Burger King life style” of having things “your way” will become turned off by the “Henry Ford plan” of only having the color black as an option.

Having a free Internet is good for businesses. Without it, advertising would have to rely on print, video, and guerrilla ads. Businesses would not be able to reach hundreds of people through online advertisements if users weren’t allowed to get online for free and visit the sites they go to everyday because those sites expose users to the ads hidden around the site.

Being online also allows businesses to tell consumers what they want, when they want. They don’t have to solely depend on advertisements getting the message across to people. Instead, they can send out newsletters through e-mail or even have an “About” page on their website, allowing users to read up on the product they are using. Not only can businesses connect with their customers, but there are even whole business models built around the Internet.

That is why free, open Internet is important to us.