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Network computing—past, present, and future

In order to envision the future of network computing it is important to understand its past. How did we get from a world dominated by large-scale monolithic mainframe computers with few, if any, interconnections to a world where the personal computer and the Internet reign supreme? Understanding key evolutionary events can provide insight into the future of network computing and its impact on our futures.

Looking back in time, the invention and development of the telegraph, telephone, radio and computer formed the building blocks for unprecedented integration of capabilities. In its short history, the Internet has revolutionized the computer and communications world like nothing before. A scant 10 years ago, the World Wide Web didn't exist. The idea of doing business over the Internet was ludicrous. There was no Windows operating system, no Fast Ethernet or Gigabit Ethernet, no laptops, no PDA's no e-mail, not even shopping at home.

This session reviews some of the significant events in the origins, history, and evolution of the Internet. In addition, this session reviews some major trends identified by leading futurists and pundits, that may shape the industry over the next decade.