

Science 1000: Part #4 (Wareham):

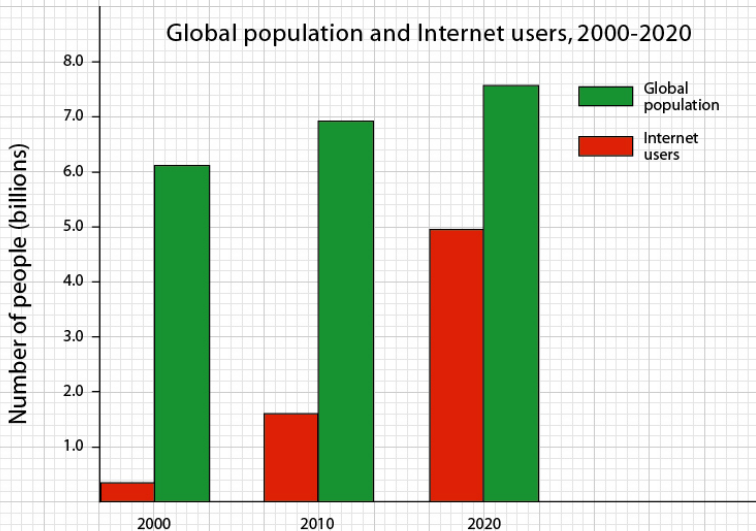
Where We Are: Life Online

RELATING TO COMPUTERS

RELATING VIA COMPUTERS TO PEOPLE

DEALING WITH LIFE ONLINE

The Internet Usage Explosion



The Evolution of Computer users

1940–1960	programmer, user (specialist)
1960–1975	programmer (hacker), user (specialist)
1975–1980	programmer (hacker), user (specialist / hobbyist)
1980–1990	programmer (hacker), user (specialist / general (few))
1990+	programmer (hacker), user (general (many))

- Average modern computer user as fusion of classic programmer and user.

The Diversity of Life Online

- Nature of relationship:
 - Number of people inter-relating (degree of community)
 - Degree of involvement
 - Degree of anonymity
 - Degree of centralization
 - Frequency of access
- Locus of relationship:
 - Organization-based, *e.g.*, software user groups
 - Interest-based, *e.g.*, chat rooms, MUDs
 - Product-based, *e.g.*, Facebook, World of Warcraft

Life Online: Joys and Perils

Joys	Characteristics	Perils
Freedom of action	Access easy	Cyberbullying
Freedom of expression	Access cheap	Cyberstalking
Freedom of interaction	Access anonymous	Catfishing
	Access anyone	Spam
	Access anytime	Phishing and malware
		Game / Net addiction

- The above is a taxonomy of some of what *can* happen; need to know what *actually* happens and *how often* it happens, both for individual and societal comfort.
- Turkle and Ito work is a good start – need a Web Kinsey!

Surviving and Thriving in Life Online

- Be a Digital Adult (Shea, Zuckerberg):
 - Be courteous
 - Be forgiving
 - Be responsible for what you say
 - Be responsible in how you use your time
- Be a Digital Citizen (Rheingold):
 1. Know why you're doing what you're doing (mindfulness)
 2. Learn what and who you can trust (Crap Detection 101)
 3. Learn how to participate responsibly and effectively.
 4. Learn how to collaborate responsibly and effectively.
 5. Learn and use relevant technology to aid in (1–4) above.

“Don't Panic” – *The Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy*
“Let's be careful out there” – *Hill Street Blues*