

# How the Internet Happened

From  
Netscape  
to the iPhone

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*For:*

*My Dad, who taught me to love history And for Werner Stocker, who  
taught me that history was cool*

“Then there is electricity!—the demon, the angel, the mighty physical power, the all-pervading intelligence!” exclaimed Clifford. “Is that a humbug, too? Is it a fact—or have I dreamt it—that, by means of electricity, the world of matter has become a great nerve, vibrating thousands of miles in a breathless point of time? Rather, the round globe is a vast head, a brain, instinct with intelligence! Or, shall we say, it is itself a thought, nothing but thought, and no longer the substance which we deemed it!”

—*THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES*,  
CHAPTER 17,  
“THE FLIGHT OF TWO OWLS,”  
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE



I think one of the things that really separates us from the high primates is that we’re tool builders. I read a study that measured the efficiency of locomotion for various species on the planet. The condor used the least energy to move a kilometer. And, humans came in with a rather unimpressive showing, about a third of the way down the list. It was not too proud a showing for the crown of creation. So, that didn’t look so good. But, then somebody at *Scientific American* had the insight to test the efficiency of locomotion for a man on a bicycle. And, a man on a bicycle, a human on a bicycle, blew the condor away, completely off the top of the charts.

And that’s what a computer is to me. What a computer is to me is it’s the most remarkable tool that we’ve ever come up with, and it’s the equivalent of a bicycle for our minds.

—STEVE JOBS  
1990 INTERVIEW FOR THE FILM  
*MEMORY & IMAGINATION*