



# The World Wide Web comes to Wales

## 1993

The World Wide Web (WWW) was developed in CERN, the European particle physics laboratory, by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989-90. In 1993, the software was freely released and became known to the technically interested public. This poster from 1994, was designed by Timothy Edward Downs to interest readers of personal computing magazines.

The 1994 map shows the dominance of government and education: it features some 30 servers and a few hundred sites. By 2014, there were a billion sites. The map shows two early sites in Wales, at Swansea and Cardiff Universities, both set up by students.

Swansea on Gower Surfing: Visiting Los Angeles in 1993, David Dunbar, a lecturer at Swansea, saw the web pages of the experimental particle physicists and installed web software for his hosts, the UCLA theoreticians. Mentioning this in emails with PhD students in Swansea, on their own initiative, Peter Coyle and Chris Abrahams installed the web on a machine belonging to the Swansea particle physicists and created this site for surfers.

Cardiff on Movies: Rob Hartill was born in Pontypridd in 1969 and did both his BSc and PhD in Computer Science at Cardiff University. He was active in a newsgroup that collected reviews posted by members and, in 1993, he produced a web interface to this database. Bought by Amazon in 1998, it became the Internet Movie Database (IMDb).

Hartill went on to become one of the pioneers of the World Wide Web, co-founding and developing software infrastructure (the dominant Apache server system) and content (the open research report repository ArXiv.org at Los Alamos).



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