During the 12 years from 1990 to 2002, people using the Internet increased in number by 224 times. By 2002 there were 631 million Internet users worldwide.

The distribution of Internet users worldwide has changed remarkably over just a dozen years. In 1990 Internet users were mainly found in the United States, Western Europe, Australia, Japan and Taiwan. By 2002 people living in Asia Pacific, Southern Asia, South America, China and Eastern Europe were notable Internet users. A not insignificant number of Internet users are also shown to be in Northern Africa, Southeastern Africa and the Middle East.

“[W]e [strive] to achieve a ‘warm-hearted digital world’ where everybody, including the elderly, the young, men and women, enjoys ubiquitous access to communications technologies for the greater good ...” Yeon Gi Son, 2006