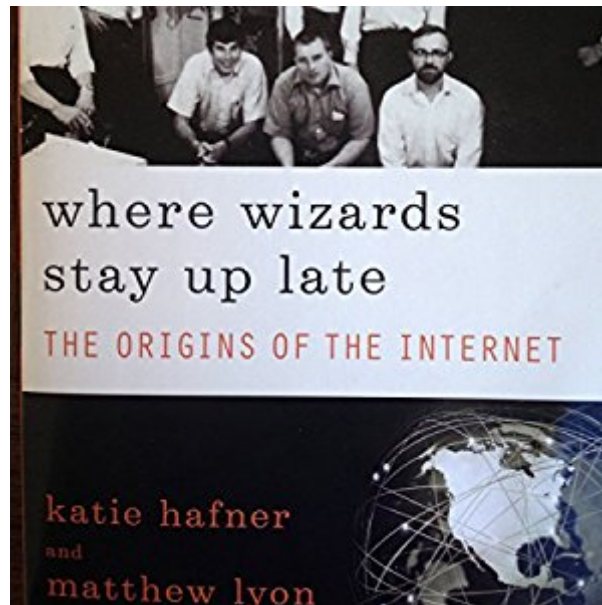




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Where Wizards Stay Up Late: The Origins Of The Internet



Synopsis

Twenty-five years ago, it didn't exist. Today, 20 million people worldwide are surfing the Net. Where Wizards Stay Up Late is the exciting story of the pioneers responsible for creating the most talked about, most influential, and most far-reaching communications breakthrough since the invention of the telephone. In the 1960s, when computers were regarded as mere giant calculators, J.C.R. Licklider at MIT saw them as the ultimate communications devices. With Defense Department funds, he and a band of visionary computer whizzes began work on a nationwide, interlocking network of computers. Taking listeners behind the scenes, Where Wizards Stay Up Late captures the hard work, genius, and happy accidents of their daring, stunningly successful venture.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Katie Hafner

Audible.com Release Date: December 20, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00AQU7OFS

Best Sellers Rank: #177 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Computers #302

in Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Networks, Protocols &

APIs #441 in Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Internet,

Groupware, & Telecommunications

Customer Reviews

The book Where Wizards stay up late: the Origins of the Internet by Katie Hafner and Matthew Lyon is, in my opinion, an eight out of ten. The book provides a deep, comprehensive story on how and why the Internet was created. It seems as though the authors were with the original creators of the Internet while this amazing process unfolded. I subtracted two out of ten points for a single but important reason. While reading, it is extremely easy to get lost in the complex computing and networking terms that are used, however, I quickly learned the "basics" and could enjoy the book. After reading this book, I was amazed of the difficulties that came about the creation of the Internet. One small bug in the code would completely flaw a system, and it was also amazing how these

amazing scientists (and Psychologists!) overcame these problems. It is odd to think of a world without the Internet, and I could only imagine the chaos that would arise if the Internet were somehow lost, no matter how unbelievable that sounds. Thanks to reading this book, I now have an ample understanding of the amazing story of the creation of what could be the most influential technological advancement in history.

What would seem like a dull read except for nerds turns out to be a really well-written and interesting history of the beginnings of the internet. I loved finding out the reasons behind the use of the @ in email addresses and why internet-related things have the names they do. It's an eye-opening look at a time when the government began to understand the importance of a worldwide computer network and looked to private industry and academia to provide the expertise.

I enjoyed this book very much. at the time I was barely aware of the machinations going on, but I was benefitting as a consumer from the steps along the way. the meticulous research and details in the book enlightened and delighted me. this is my history in a way, and I should know it. now i have a great source, independent of any wiki. my father was an engineer at AT&T; we had a teletype in the basement, then a bare chip 'computer' that played daisy and one that was a rocket war game. that one we hacked to cheat so the rocket planes would sail off one end of the tiny screen and come back on the other, to sneak up on the enemy. dad brought home a 'luggable' computer w an amber monitor, used for trouble shooting telephone systems, but it wasn't until I was married in 84 that my husband and I got an XT. it was marvelous, even tho it did very little. we played adventure on it, and then our own d & d game. before quicken came out, we had a little checking account program. by 1992 we had 2 computers and the fastest modem money could buy, accounts on compuserve and prodigy and our own little geekworld. now I own more computing power (and individual machines) than the first arpanet; not difficult. it's been a grand ride and I can't wait to see what come next!

"Where the wizards stay up late" is an excellent, funny and easy to read description about the history of the internet. It is well researched and engaging. The book consists of eight chapters about the creation of the ArpaNet, the predecessor of the Internet. It starts with describing the creation of the ARPA research organization in the US government, the people influential to that creation and the description of Licklider, the early head of the agency which was so influential to the creation on the net. The second chapter discusses the creation of the concept of packet-switching by Paul Baran and Donald Davies and how this was, early on, ignored by most of the rest of the world. Especially

the attitude of AT&T is, in retrospective, of course quite amusing. The third chapter talks about the history of BBN, which was the company that build the first 'routers' (called IMPs) for the first network. And how this small company won the contract for building the ARPANET. The book continues with the creation of the first IMP for the UCLA and how the company had trouble with the early Honeywell computers that were used as a basis. The early computers had a bug in their synchronization which caused the machine to be much less reliable than needed. Honeywell couldn't believe how reliable BBN wanted the machine to be. Quite amusing. The following chapter covers the history of Steve Crocker and Vint Cerf. Vint created (with Kahn) later the TCP and IP protocols, Steve was the author of the first RFC--the way internet standards are described and how they have been evolved. The sixth chapter describes the creation of more IMPs and how the ARPANET gradually grew... and the problems that caused. How the FTP protocol was created (and the mail protocol hacked in the FTP protocol) and how they showed off the ARPANET during a small conference (and AT&T still not believing in the concept). The next chapter covers Email. The creation of Email and how it became the major usage of the network early on. Especially interesting are the discussions about mail headers and inconsistency. At least it demonstrates that easy agreement in creating the internet protocols is an illusion, it took a lot of discussion and a long time. The final chapter goes in a faster pace and explains how Cerf/Kahn created the IP protocol and implemented that on other networks and how the NFS created a new network gradually linking more and more networks together and creating the Internet. Amusing to read was how the ARPANET actually became more and more a government DOD network and that it, in a sense, was NOT the 'father' network of the internet (depending on how you define father... it wasn't the first network to be linked up). Also the story of the creating of Ethernet and the fight between OSI and TCP/IP are amusing. The book ends with a small epilogue describing the 25th anniversary of BBN for the creating of the first IMP. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is exceptionally well written and researched. The history its sharing is amusing and especially considering the impact of the decisions made back then in the world today. This book is definitely worth reading for anyone interested in computer science, networking and its history. A must read.

I could never imagine I would get I got from this book. It was simply amazing! One of best history books I've ever read.

Another great writer. You'll get hooked

Very interesting read, full of in-depth detail about the hardware, software, people and processes that went into building the ARPANET, the forerunner of today's internet. The first 80% of the book carried at a very steady pace, however the last 20% felt a bit rushed, brushing past most of the subsequent embellishments and growth of the net, and the epilogue which detailed the gathering many years later of most of the major players in the net's development felt quite impersonal and distant. Overall, though, extremely interesting if you want to know the origins of the ARPANET.

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