

I didn't particularly enjoy reading the essay by Roy Rosenzweig about the history of the internet mainly due to how he would constantly reiterate points such as the cold war even though he had long gotten his point across. However, while it wasn't the most interesting text in the world to read, it did bring to light many points that I hadn't known or even considered before.

First of all, it doesn't come as a surprise to me that one of the founding factions behind the internet was the military. In fact, my instinctual reaction was to think of military projects. By reading the points about the cold war and the use of communication technologies within it, I even began to ask myself how many technologies are being withheld from the public while in military development. The line "The computerization of society [...] has essentially been a side effect of the computerization of war" had a particular numbing effect on me as I read it, further developing that brewing feeling of apprehension.

Then, while I am still convinced that military funding played a large part in its development, it is no lie to me that the internet shares its origins with others like hackers and engineers. In fact, I find the idea of this "Hacker Ethic" which promoted freedom, decentralization and free information sharing is much more like the internet that I know and love today. This amalgamation of computer enthusiasts, hobbyists and engineers taking the ARPANET project and further developing it beyond its original scope is also pretty reminiscent of open-source programs I am familiar with. Seeing that, it is a much

easier pill to swallow than the military approach and even if the origins do come from both points, it certainly eases my mind a little bit.

In the end, I think that the line “The internet lacks a central founding figure” sums up this essay perfectly. Up until the points about public vs private networks, that is. The fact that there is no clear ‘single’ origin fits the internet of today perfectly, where you can access a tone of information freely without being aware of its exact source.