

“Email” Was In Fact Invented By An Indian; It’s About Time The World Gave Credit Where It’s Due



By **Karima Khan** - March 8, 2016



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To the world, Raymond Tomlinson is regarded as the “inventor” of email. After his passing last weekend, obituaries referred to him as the same. Even Gmail offered their remembrance with the tweet, “Thank you, Ray Tomlinson, for inventing email and putting the @ sign on the map. #RIP”

But the reality is a little messed up. The email and the usage of “@” symbol to connect a username with the destination address email was invented by Mumbai-born US citizen Shiva Ayyadurai. He invented email at the tender age of 14 and has since struggled to be recognized as the primary inventor of it.

The fact is that Shiva Ayyadurai does have the first US copyright for Email, or “Computer Program for Electronic Mail System,” in 1982. Numerous awards and honors recognize his work, from a “Westinghouse Science Talent Search Honors Award for creating EMAIL” in 1981 to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History accepted his code, papers and artifacts demonstrating his work on EMAIL. And while he may not have written the first email program or code, he is recognized in some quarters as the first to devise the form closest to today’s email – on commission from the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The word “email” was invented by him in 1978, and wasn’t a part of the English language prior to that.

The MIT-graduate and author has been successful in finding support on Twitter.

With this, Ayyadurai wants to show the world that innovations can come from humble, hum-drum low-cost environments which do not suck up billions of dollars.

H/t: [TOI](#)



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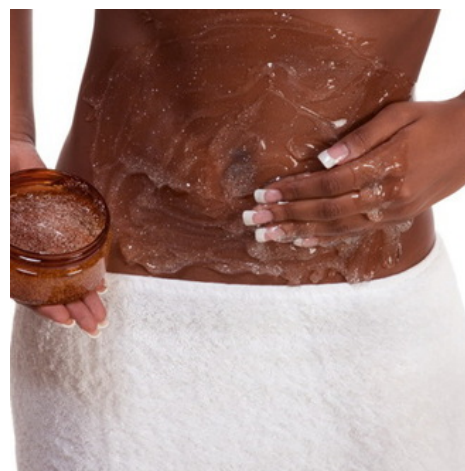


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