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22 May 2015

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'Email' Anniversary: V.A. Shiva's EMAIL Copyright Issued August 30, 1982 (INFOGRAPHIC)

The Huffington Post | By Catharine Smith (csmith@huffpost.com)

Posted: 30/08/2011 20:51 IST | Updated: 30/10/2011 14:42 IST

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August 30, 2011 marks that 29th anniversary of the term "email." On this day in 1982, the U.S. Copyright Office awarded [V.A. Shiva Ayyadurai](http://www.vashiva.com/) (<http://www.vashiva.com/>) a copyright for his "EMAIL" communication system.

Shiva, an MIT alumnus and professor, began work on a standard template system for drafting an sending electronic mail in 1978, when he was just 14 years old. The computer lab director at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) challenged the young Shiva to redesign the doctors' paper memo system as an electronic communication system.

"The two words, 'Electronic' and 'EMAIL' juxtaposed together for me originally brought images of vaporizing paper and somehow transporting it across electrical wires, like the transporter in Star Trek. That is how NEW those two terms next to each other were in 1978," Shiva writes on his website (http://www.vashiva.com/inventing_email.asp), where he has posted an infographic about his work.

Shiva modeled his simple, generic user interface after the memos he'd seen in use at the university. "A typical MAIL had the title of MEMORANDUM, with 'To:', 'From:', 'Date:', 'Subject:', 'Cc:', 'Bcc:', 'Attachment', elements. This was the meaning of MAIL," Shiva also writes on his site (http://www.vashiva.com/inventing_email.asp).

The system was called EMAIL when it was implemented at UMDNJ in 1980; Shiva copyrighted the term two years later.

Statements by Facebook's top staffers seem to indicate that email is on its way out. The social network's COO Sheryl Sandberg said in June 2010 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/17/facebook-coo-email-is-pro_n_615816.html) that email is "probably going away." In November 2010, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg unveiled Facebook's revamped messaging service (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/15/facebook-email-addresses_n_783697.html#s182605&title=Email_SetUp) and announced that users would now be able to set up Facebook email address. However, he called email "slow" during his introduction of the new messaging system (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/15/facebook-email-addresses_n_783697.html#s182605&title=Email_SetUp), which he said was "modeled more after chat" and less after email.

Shiva, however, doesn't think email is going anywhere. He wrote the following in an email to The Huffington Post: "[F]rom my view EMAIL is here to stay, it may be integrated, connected to other communication systems, but it is here to stay, and it will grow even more as people learn how to use it more effectively. We have not scratched the surface of using EMAIL, and that is yet to come."

In response to Zuckerberg's statements about email, Shiva wrote that Zuckerberg's messaging system builds off the foundation that email laid. "What's ironic is that [Mark Zuckerberg] is launching @facebook, with EMAIL (in an integrated fashion, EMAIL nonetheless), to go head on with GMAIL," Shiva wrote.

Visit Shiva's website (http://www.vashiva.com/inventing_email.asp) to read more about the history behind his electronic memo system. Check out Shiva's infographic (below) to view a visual timeline of his achievement and the growth of email.

LOOK:



The History of EMAIL

and Growth of EMAIL Accounts

Timeline History of Electronic Mail

Pre-EMAIL

Pre-EMAIL Innovators

1961 Tom Van Vleck - Message transaction multi-user, one computer
1969 Leonard Kleinrock - Message transaction, two computers
1971 Ray Tomlinson - Message transaction, multi-user, multi-computer
1973 Vinton Cerf, Robert Kahn - TCP/IP
1973 Bob Metcalfe - Ethernet
1977 Dave Crocker, J. Vittal, K. Pogran, D. A. Henderson - RFC 733

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

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1988

1989

1991

1992

1993

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

Number of EMAIL Accounts

2

50

100

1,000

10,000

100,000

250,000

500,000

1 million

3 million

5 million

7 million

10 million

25 million

55 million



1978

The Challenge

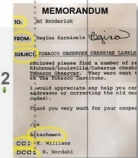
High school student, (V.A.) Shiva Ayyadurai is asked by Les Michelson if he would like to create an **electronic system** for emulating **inter- and intra-office mail** across multiple offices and locations of the UMDNJ campus.



1979

Memos to Electronic Mail

The attributes of a memo, To:, From:, Cc: Bcc:, Subject:, Body, Attachment and its delivery process, Inbox, Outbox, Folders, Sorting, Security, etc are converted to an electronic system.



EMAIL

From: "V.A. Shiva Ayyadurai"

To: "Jack Smith"

Cc: "Bob Darter"

Bcc: "Mark Stephen"

Subject: My first EMAIL

Dear Jack, Before my secretary wrote all my memos and sorted them for me. Now, I am the secretary with EMAIL!!!

Attachment: Summer Report

1980

Inventing EMAIL

The first version of the electronic system is designed and deployed for use at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). The system is called EMAIL.



1981

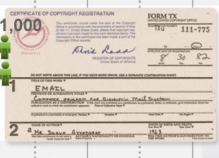
Westinghouse Award

Westinghouse Award, also known as the "Baby Nobel's" recognizes EMAIL system for its original innovation.



Copyright for EMAIL

(V.A.) Shiva Ayyadurai receives United States Copyright for EMAIL. August 30, 1982 Registration# TXU-111-775



1982

1985

Offline EMAIL Readers

Development of offline readers allow EMAIL users to store email on their own personal computers. Read and compose replies without actually being connected to the network.



1988

EUDORA

Steve Dorner develops Eudora. First commercial product to be widely used for reading and sending EMAIL on Local Area Networks (LAN).



1989

Compuserve & MCI Mail

Compuserve and MCI Mail become first formally sanctioned EMAIL carriers connected to the internet.



1991

Lotus Notes

Ray Ozzie and Mitch Kapor release major version of Lotus Notes (2.0).

Lotus Notes

1992

Microsoft Outlook

Microsoft releases its answer to Lotus Notes: MS Outlook



1993

America Online (AOL)

AOL offers an easily accessible internet based EMAIL system.



1995

EchoMail Launched

EchoMail, the first integrated EMAIL Management system to help businesses handle increasing volumes of inbound EMAIL. AT&T first customer.



1996

HoTMail

Sabeer Bhatia and Jack Smith launch HoTMail, soon becomes most used internet based EMAIL system.



1997

Yahoo



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Beauty Junkiez: [10 Superdramatics That Will Uplift You And Cure Depression](#) (http://www.beautyjunkiez.com/10-best-herbs-and-supplements-for-depression/68/782/?utm_source=Outbrain&utm_medium=RacN&utm_campaign=O1)

Nikkei Asian Review [Reign of terror: North Korean execution may be Kim's warning to military](#) (<http://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Policy-Politics/North-Korean-defense-chief-s-purge-may-be-Kim-s-warning-to-military>)

Pernod Ricard [Is your country cocktail-friendly? Click to find out.](#) (<http://entreprendre.pernod-ricard.com/en/mixology-revival-cocktail-making-art#paragraph236>)

Around the Web

[Email is 29 years old today - GMA News.tv](#) (<http://www.gmanews.tv/story/230925/technology/email-is-29-years-old-today>)

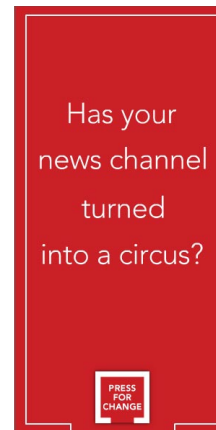
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[Via Today is the 29th anniversary of email, as ...](#) (<http://thenextweb.tumblr.com/post/9561130899/via-today-is-the-29th-anniversary-of-email-as>)

[V. A. Shiva Appadurai | Inventing EMAIL](#) (http://www.vashiva.com/inventing_email.asp)

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