Web full of energy but also has 'dark side'

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The founder of the Internet, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, has spoken about his creation 25 years after he helped to conceive it. He said it has been a force for good, but it also has a negative side. Mr Berners-Lee was speaking to the BBC at London's Science Museum. He said: "Everywhere I look I see a mass of energy, a huge amount of energy, and also in some places, they are using the web for organised protests against oppressive regimes." He also lamented the growing use of the Internet for trolling negativity. He said: "It's staggering to me that people who must have been brought up like anybody else will suddenly become very polarised in their opinions and will suddenly become very hateful instead of very loving."

Berners-Lee was at the Science Museum to view an important part of Internet history. The museum will house the server that hosted the first ever website. It is part of a new exhibition called the Information Age. The machine still has a reminder on it written by Berners-Lee that warns: "This machine is a server. Do not power it down." Berners-Lee is currently the director of an organisation called the World Wide Web Consortium, which oversees the Web's continued development. Talking about the future of the Internet, he said: "Maybe we will be able to build web-based tools that help us keep people on the path of collaborating rather than fighting." He hopes the Web will remain "a medium for positive change".

Sources: *TheDrum.com / The Guardian / Wikipedia.org*

Writing

The Internet will make the world a better place. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

founder / creation / force for good / museum / energy / protests / trolling / negativity / history / server / website / reminder / currently / future / collaborating / change

True / False

a) Tim Berners-Lee conceived of the Internet 50 years ago. T / F

b) Mr Berners Lee spoke to the BBC at London's Museum of the Internet. T / F

c) Berners-Lee was a little sad that there were so many trolls online. T / F

d) Berners-Lee was surprised that people chose to hate instead of love. T / F

e) A museum is showing the server that hosted the very first website. T / F

f) Berners-Lee was at a new museum exhibition called the 'Internet Age'. T / F

g) Berners-Lee left his post at a World Wide Web organization last year. T / F

h) Berners-Lee hopes web-based tools will help us work together more. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	founder	a.	accommodate
2	conceive	b.	originator
3.	huge	c.	divided
4.	oppressive	d.	presently
5.	polarised	e.	enormous
6.	view	f.	joining forces
7.	house	g.	come up with
8.	currently	h.	means
9.	collaborating	i.	dictatorial
10.	medium	j.	look at

Discussion – Student A

a) How important in history is the server that hosted the first website?

b) What do you think about the 'Information Age'?

c) Can you remember the first time you went on the Internet?

d) What do you think Sir Tim Berners-Lee does every day?

e) How can we stop the negativity on the Internet?

f) Will we collaborate more and fight less on the Internet?

g) Will the Internet remain 'a medium for positive change'?

h) What questions would you like to ask Sir Tim Berners-Lee?

Phrase Match

1. The founder	a. of very loving
2 I see a mass	b. the first ever website
3. organised protests against	c. development
4. become very polarised	d. of energy
5. become very hateful instead	e. for positive change
6. house the server that hosted	f. path of collaborating
7. a new exhibition called the	g. in their opinions
8. oversees the Web's continued	h. Information Age
9. keep people on the	i. oppressive regimes
10. a medium	j. of the Internet

Discussion – Student B

a) How important is the Internet to you?

b) What was life like before the Internet?

c) How do you think someone came up with the idea of the Web?

d) What do you know about the history of the Internet?

e) What are the negative sides to the Internet?

f) How does the Internet improve your life?

g) What makes you angry about the Internet?

h) Have you ever posted a negative comment on the Internet?

Spelling

1. The <u>ruodnef</u> of the Internet

2. 25 years after he helped to <u>ccneoeiv</u> it

3. protests against oppressive <u>eimergs</u>

4. <u>etaldnem</u> the growing use of…

5. It's <u>gstgagnrei</u> to me

6. become very <u>pslaerido</u> (UK) / <u>rdoplizea</u> (USA)

7. the server that <u>htedos</u> the first ever website

8. part of a new <u>ihboinxtie</u>

9. director of an <u>nogarnioasit</u> (UK) / <u>rotizaaongni</u> (USA)

10. <u>ervossee</u> the Web's continued development

11. the path of <u>tilobnaagrclo</u>

12. a <u>eimudm</u> for positive change

Role Play

Role A – News websites
You think news websites are the most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their websites aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): weather websites, money websites or English-study websites.

Role B – Weather websites
You think weather websites are the most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their websites aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): news websites, money websites or English-study websites.

Role C – Money websites
You think money websites are the most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their websites aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): weather websites, news websites or English-study websites.

Role D – English-study websites
You think English-study websites are the most useful. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why their websites aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): weather websites, money websites or news websites.

Speaking – Websites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- games
- news
- hobbies
- search

- sports
- weather
- fashion
- English studying

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. g	3. e	4. i	5. j
6. j	7. a	8. d	9. f	10. h