

May 26th 1995: Bill Gates writes about the "Internet Tidal Wave"

To Executive Staff and direct reports
From Bill Gates
Date May 26, 1995

The Internet Tidal Wave

Our vision for the last 20 years can be summarized in a succinct way
improvements in computer capabilities would make great software qu
build an organization to deliver the best software products. In the nex
computer power will be surpassed by the exponential improvements in

20 years have gone since this internal memo, aimed at Microsoft Executives, in which Bill Gates himself talked about the "**Internet Tidal Wave**" and provided a strategic point of view for a MS-dominated 'Net; the memo surfaced during the prolonged Justice Department antitrust action against Microsoft from 1998 to 2001 [and is publicly available by clicking here](#).

It's so well-written and contains so much forecasting that it's awesome to read - even 20 years later.

Gates writes about current (1995) state of the **PC world, CD-ROM dominance, MSN (and its impossible-competition against the web...), why every PC will be connected in the future.**

He talks about competition in the servers arena (Windows NT vs. Unix servers), about NetPCs (which went to nowhereLand...) and Netscape (a "newborn" competitor in the browser arena).

I think this is a truly awesome piece of history, besides whatever happened later, that we all should read and think about - at least for the next 20 years ☐

[Update: [a fully readable web page with the transcript of the memo is available here](#)]