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Father of email: Ray Tomlinson

In today's world, almost everyone uses email. Especially during this global crisis. An email has made people's life so much better and faster. Before email, there was letter writing which took days and even weeks or months to receive or send. But during the email era, one can send anything to everyone all around the world in just less than a minute. While we use email so often and so widely, we have to thank the father of email Raymond Samuel Tomlinson or Ray Tomlinson

Ray Tomlinson born in Amsterdam, New York on April 23, 1941, was a computer programmer. He had a wife named Ann Tomlinson. He implemented the first email program on the ARPANET system. He attended Broadalbin Central School in nearby Broadalbin, New York. Later, he attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York when he participated in the co-op program with IBM. He received his bachelor's degree in electric engineering from RPI in 1963. After his graduation, Tomlinson entered in Massachusetts Institute of Technology to continue his electrical engineering education.

In 1967, Ray joined the technology company of Bolt, Beranek, and Newman now known as BBN Technologies where he helped develop the TENEX operating system including the ARPANET Network Control Program. Tomlinson was asked to change a pro\gram called SNDMSG which sent messages to other users of a time-sharing computer, to run on TENEX.

Although Ray Tomlinson created something big, he is known for something very small. Sitting in his compact office in a bland building in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the inventor of

email smiles at the idea that his name seems destined to be linked to the @ sign, the symbol used to introduce an email address. "I thought about other symbols, but @ didn't appear in any names, so it worked," he says. Previously, mail could only be sent to others who used the same computer. To achieve this, Tomlinson sued the @ sign to separate the user name from the name of their machine, a scheme that has been used in email addresses ever since. He added code he took from CPYNET to SNDMSG so messages could be sent to users on other computers also known as the first email.

The first prototype of the email was tested but it was not preserved and Ray describes it as "QWERTYUIOP". Also called "the first email was QWERTYUIOP". In the beginning, his email messaging system was not considered important. Its development was not a directive of his employer, with Tomlinson merely. His email messaging system was not considered important in the beginning. In an interview in 2010, Tomlinson said "I'm simply trying to conserve the world's supply of hyphens" and that the "term has been in use long enough to drop the hyphen."
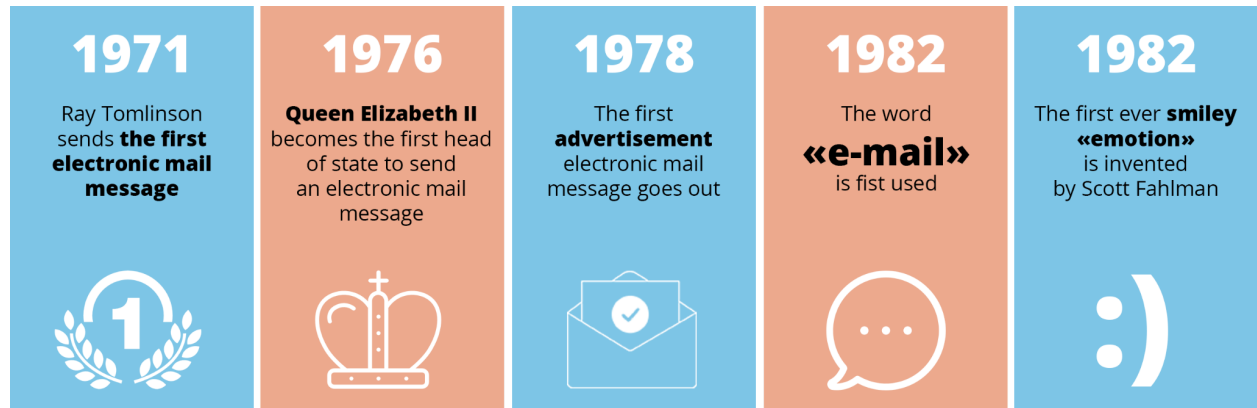
The @ sign used widely for email has now become a pop icon that signifies the hyperlinked communications of our time, ubiquitous on billboards and ads, company names (@Home}, and even works of art, such as the ballet F@ust. More than 125 million people use the sign in their electronic addresses, an identifier that now means more to many of them than the numbers on their homes.

In an interview with Webber, Tomlinson answered some questions like "What were your First Impressions at BBN and the Atmosphere there?"
Tomlinson replied by saying "It was very relaxed, very nonchalant about a lot of things. They weren't really too concerned about going through a lot of procedures and rigor in terms of hiring me. I probably talked to somebody from human resources. I have no recollection of it though, so

it must have been a pretty informal process. At the time, we had very open-ended contracts in terms of our statement of work. They were fairly general statements about what sorts of things we should be investigating. There was a lot of room for coming up with new ideas, so if you said, "There's a machine here and there's a human here and they're interacting," that's man-machine interaction. It was fairly relaxed, and I thought it was quite productive in that sense." Another question asked by Webber was Similar to an Academic Environment in that way? To which Ray replied with **"**More of an academic environment than a lot of other places. And the people were friendly. Everybody was interested in what other people were doing, and you could always find somebody to ask, "Is this a good idea?" Somebody might say, "No." Okay, sometimes there were bad ideas as well as good ideas." Weber: How did you move toward the Computing Group at BBN? Tomlinson's reply was "I was part of a research computer center that actually ran the computers. The researchers, the people using the computers, were running a lot of LISP at the time, and the problem they were having was that most of these machines had limited random access memory so they were using a lot of what amounted to virtual memory. They were using sort of a homebrew virtual memory system, and we were reaching the capacity limits of the machine we had at the time, so we needed a new computer system. From among several different possibilities, we chose the DEC PDP-10 hardware. When we started, it was a Sigma Data Systems (SDS) computer, which later became Xerox. There was a PDP-1, but I wasn't using it."

Either way, Tomlinson's invention has changed the way we live and work, its beginnings were modest. Ray Tomlinson died on March 5, 2016, in Lincoln, MA.

1971	1976	1978	1982	1982
Ray Tomlinson sends **the first electronic mail message**	**Queen Elizabeth II** becomes the first head of state to send an electronic mail message	The first **advertisement** electronic mail message goes out	The word **«e-mail»** is fist used	The first ever **smiley «emotion»** is invented by Scott Fahlman

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