

What is the World Wide Web?

Video transcript for 'What is the World Wide Web?'

Often, when you visit a website the website address will start with three small letters; www.

The www stands for world wide web – but have you ever thought, what is the world wide web?

The world wide web is NOT the internet. I repeat the world wide web is NOT the internet.

The internet is a global network of computers whereas the world wide web is an application that runs on the internet.

It was created in 1989 by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the internet already existed then.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee found a way to use the connections of the internet to bring together documents or web pages, so that people could share information.

The world wide web needs the internet to operate on. So, if you imagine the internet as the paths, the roads, the motorways all over the world.

The world wide web would be like what you can see on these transport routes. The shops, the petrol stations, the businesses, the cafes would be like the web servers hosting the websites.

And the cars, busses and bikes would represent the content traveling around the network.

Without the roads of the internet connecting the web servers that provide the world wide web, no one could communicate – no data could be sent backwards and forwards

And without the world wide web, most of us would find it really difficult to access all that information.

So me popping into a shop is like me accessing the content from a website that's hosted on a web server. But, of course on the world wide web you don't have to go anywhere, you request the information from the web server and it sends it back.