



Web1: Information Dissemination from 1995 to 2004

The web took off in 1995. It was essentially a **publishing and retrieval** network of webpages grouped into websites. Each webpage had a unique address called Uniform Resource Locator (URL). Hyperlinks allowed webpages to be linked forming a network or a web. As information started to disseminate, search engines like Google became critical. Ecommerce followed with the launch of Amazon in 1995, but did not take off until 1999.



Web2: Information Explosion from 2005 to 2017

In 2005, beyond searching and transacting, people needed to connect, interact, collaborate, and express their opinions with reviews, comments, likes, blogs, and tweets. With the introduction of Cloud Computing combined with Mobile Computing (to a lesser extent), websites started to evolve to become web applications. Social networks like Friendster, Myspace and Facebook, and social media firms like Tweeter, Yelp, Instagram, Flickr, and Reddit, came to the seen. Web2 was born. However, such **explosion of information** came at a cost - we became addicted and exploited. Tech firms abused their power and hid behind [Section 230](#) in order to escape any responsibility for the harm that their algorithms were causing. There was a detrimental shift from decentralization and open source in Web1 to centralization and control in Web2 which has fallen victim to [Peter Principle](#). Despite all the benefits that the web brought to date, it lost its sole.



Web3: Value Explosion from 2018 to Present

In 2018, there was a recognition that the web needed to go back to its origin with decentralization and open source instead of centralization with proprietary systems. Developers started to create Distributed Applications (DApps) using Blockchain by expanding its applicability beyond cryptocurrency. Web3 was born.

For about 3 years, the industry struggled in trying to define Web3. However, the problems were ample clear, namely: privacy, security, data integrity, data redundancy, data losses, tracking, governance, democratization, monetization, tokenization, silos, etc.

For lack of a better definition, Web3 is attempting to regain the original "*raison d'être*" of the web but this time the focus is on **value creation** generated by DApps with "[Network Effect](#)" in which each user added to the application/network increases the value for all other users.



Most current applications use Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS) which is a five decade old, mature, and stable technology, while Blockchain is still in its infancy and likely to evolve to something different than what it is today. To be clear, every technology has its pros and cons, and Blockchain is no exception. Having said that, there is no denial that the web has been evolving to more equitable, valuable, fair, secure, safe, democratic, and organic network. And that is the promise of Web3...

The Web Evolution

From information explosion to value explosion



Web 1

Needs:

- Information dissemination
- Information retrieval

Solutions:

- Decentralization
- Aggregation
- Publication
- Retrieval / Search

Technologies:

- www
- URL
- HTML CSS
- Open Source

1995 – 2004



Web 2

Needs:

- Interaction
- Transaction
- Collaboration
- Connection
- Information creation

Solutions:

- Centralization
- Web applications
- Freemium model
- Ad model

Technologies:

- Cloud computing
- Mobile computing
- Centralized databases
- Proprietary Systems
- HTML5

Development Process:

- MVP
- Speed
- Trial & Error
- Iteration in small steps
- Agile programming
- Lean startups

2005 - 2017



Web 3

Needs:

- Privacy & Security
- Authentication
- Governance
- Data integrity
- Eliminate redundancy
- Stop data loss and hacks
- Stop surveillance
- Stop censorship
- Democratization
- Reduction of ads
- Automation of forms
- Real digital connections
- Value creation

Solutions:

- Decentralization
- Distributed applications
- Tokenization

Technologies:

- Blockchain
- Cryptography
- Open Source

Development Process:

- Protocol
- All or nothing
- Complete prototyping
- Thorough testing

2018 - Present