

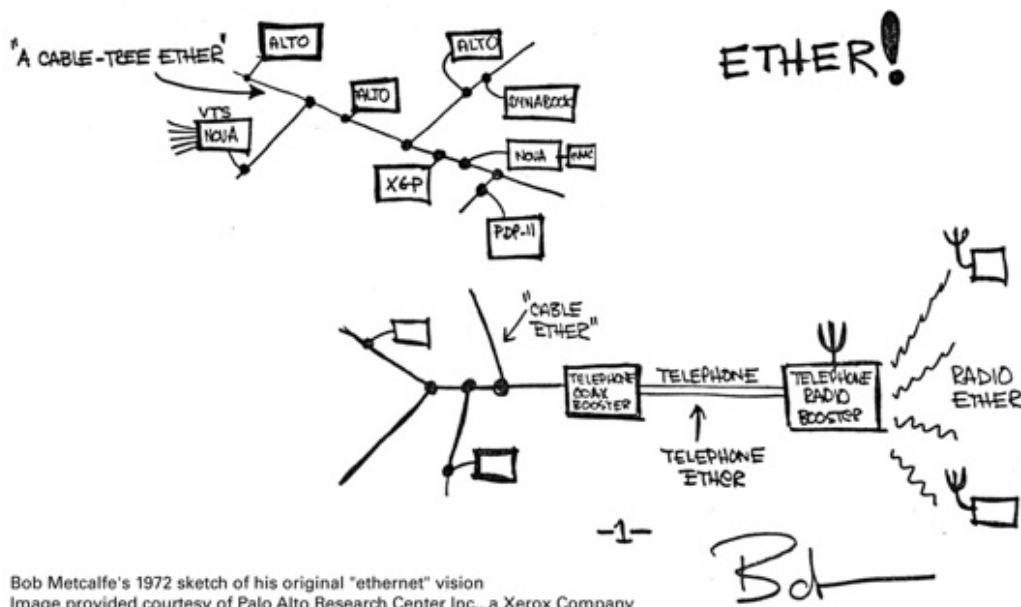
Happy 42nd Birthday to the Ethernet!

The invention of the Ethernet is a story that started on this day back in 1973 when a young Robert Metcalfe sent a memo at the Xerox Palo Alto research center describing how Ethernet would work to connect every computer in the building to a shared laser printer. There were no personal computers back then, said Metcalfe, but along with David Boggs, Chuck Thacker and Butler Lampson they set out to build a network for them.

42 years later today, we honor one of the greatest inventions of all time that creates a network for personal computers around the world; a standard piece of technology in most homes and businesses. We are honored that Metcalfe, the internet pioneer, calls The University of Texas at Austin home as the Professor of Innovation and Murchison Fellow of Free Enterprise. Metcalfe still focuses on fostering innovation, supports entrepreneurs at the university and throughout the city of Austin, and can out-tweet almost anyone.

Metcalfe has received numerous industry awards and recognition including the ACM Grace Hopper Award in 1980, the IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal in 1988, the IEEE Medal of Honor in 1996, the National Medal of Technology in 2005, induction into to the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2007, and the Fellow Award from the Computer History Museum in 2008.

So, next time you connect to an existing network today you can thank Metcalfe for laying down the foundation for that to be possible. Follow him on twitter @BobMetcalfe



Bob Metcalfe's 1972 sketch of his original "ethernet" vision
Image provided courtesy of Palo Alto Research Center Inc., a Xerox Company