

**From:** [Richard Mandelbaum](#)  
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I was very involved in the creation of NSFNet and subsequently the Internet in 1985-2000.

I served on the original NSF NPAG on Networking in 1986 and the NPAC in 1987-1989.

I was also a cofounder of NYSERNet in 1985 and its Chairman from 1985-1999.

The creation of the Internet was one of the most cost effective of all US government and especially NSF investments in Technology since WW2. However a careful study of how a very modest investment in Computer Networking led to the current INTERNET has never been undertaken.

Although some have maintained that it was fortuitous or an Invention whose time has come, I strongly disagree.

I think a NSF or NTIA sponsored study of exactly what happened in the years 1986-1994 and what can be learned that would make future government investments in networking more effective and scalable is surely an idea whose time has come. I am not talking about a historical record but more of a combined policy/technology analysis. Most of the pioneers of the 1985-200 period are still alive, but their ranks are diminishing daily. In a decade many of them will no longer be interviewable.

I strongly urge that action be taken as soon as possible to help the US government understand what went right and how it can be duplicated in the future.

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