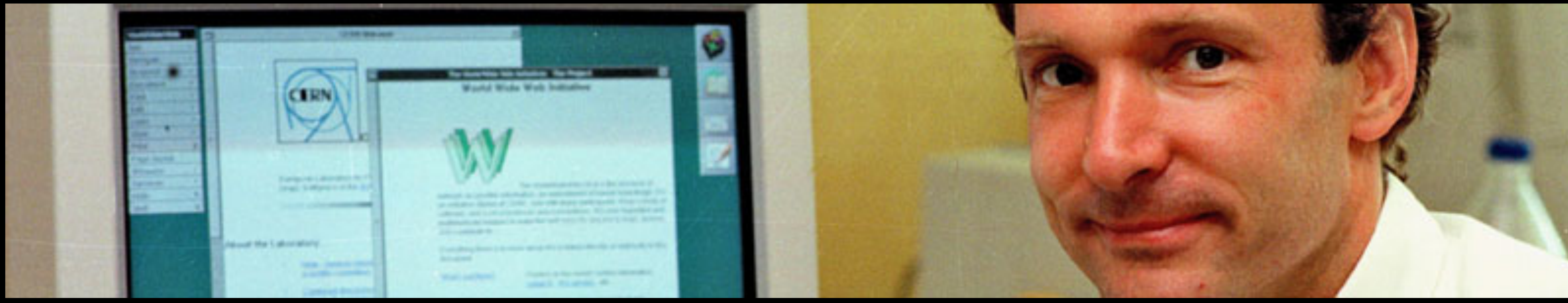


Where the Web Was Born



The first proposal for the [World Wide Web](#) (WWW) was made at [CERN](#) by [Tim Berners-Lee](#) in 1989, and further refined by him and [Robert Cailliau](#) in 1990.

By the end of that year, prototype software for a basic system was already being demonstrated. The first web servers were all located in European physics laboratories and only a few users had access to the NeXT platform on which the [first browser](#) ran. CERN soon provided a much simpler browser, which could be run on any system.

In 1991, an early WWW system was released to the high energy physics community and in 1993, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) released a first version of their Mosaic browser.

An essential point was that the Web should remain an [open standard](#) for all to use and that no-one should lock it up into a proprietary system. With approval of the LHC project clearly in sight, it was decided that further Web development was an activity beyond the Laboratory's primary mission. A new home for basic Web work was needed. In January 1995, the International World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) was founded

'to lead the World Wide Web to its full potential by developing common protocols that promote its evolution and ensure its interoperability'

