Palestine online: cyber Intifada and the construction of a virtual community 2001-2005
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### Table 1: Timetable Palestinian Internet

**One decade of Groundbreaking Developments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>15/11/96 (Palestinian Independence Day): investors Telecom sector receive monopoly licence; First Palestinian ISPs (PalTel, Palestine Online, etc.) begin to offer internet connection; First Internet Cafe (IC) experiment; costs were 10-15 NIS per hour; Palestinian ICT initiative applies for .PS domain name at ICANN;</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Palestinian Telecom sector begin to operate; start of PalTel; First Palestinian website (Birzeit University) and first Homepages in Palestinian Diaspora; First Online Radio programme OutLoad (by the BZU team).</td>
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| 1999 | First Arab Interface Website started by Maktoob; Increase of ICs, prices drop to 7-8 NIS an hour; Total (i.e. home plus Internet cafe access) Internet access rate estimated at: 3%.  
(Start final phase Peace Negotiations/Camp David) |
| 2000 | mIRC chat programme becomes popular in Internet Cafes; Arab email and chat programmes popularize; Amman-Net website offers radio programmes via Jordan/Palestinian frequency; ICANN appoints .PS domain name to Palestine.  
(Intifada breaks out on September 29; Palestine endure extreme social-economic/territorial transformation) |
| 2001 | Costumers use webcam and microphone during MSN/Messenger/and Chat sessions; ICs price-war in the cities, prices drop further to 4 NIS an hour; Total (i.e. home plus Internet cafe access) Internet access rate estimated at: 6%. |
| 2002 | Successful Palestinian PR campaigns through websites such as Electronic Intifada, Palestine Monitor, Hamas' Palestine-Info develops into a successful Palestinian website.  
(Re-occupation of West Bank/closure of Gaza; extreme isolation Palestinian society) |
| 2004 | PalTel introduces direct internet connection service, bypassing all ISPs; Total (i.e. home plus Internet cafe access) Internet access rate estimated at: 20%. |
| 2005 | Google enables Arab search tools; (R)Evolution of websites: from Homepages to Blogs; RSS-feeds outdo classic hyperlink reference; Hamas' Palestine-info becomes important source/reference; PalTel penetration rate for direct (home) internet connection reaches: 11%  
(Hamas joins elections overthrews Fatah; historic political shift in power balance) |
| 2006 | YouTube and other multimedia video/music programmes also popularize in Arab World; PalTel penetration rate direct (home) internet connection grows to: 18%; Intensive online involvement Palestinian political movements via internet forums; Total (i.e. home plus Internet cafe access) Internet access rate estimated at: 30%. |