Table 1: Timetable Palestinian Internet

One decade of Groundbreaking Developments

1996  
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;

1997  
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).

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 café 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 café 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 café 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 overthrows 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 café access) Internet access rate estimated at: 30%.