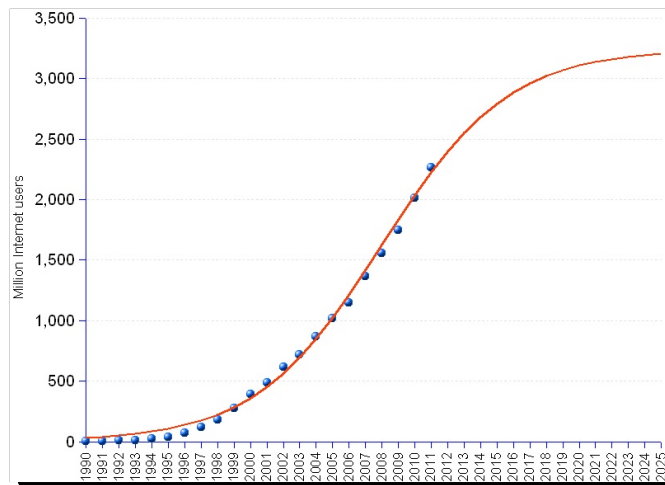


Global Internet Users Forecast

The number of world Internet users reached 2.3 billion by end 2011 (blue dots in the chart), and is likely to continue growing for some more years, up to an estimated saturation point of 3.2 billion users (red line in the chart) to happen around 2026. Data from International Telecommunications Union (ITU) covering the period 1990-2011 reveals that growth has been exponential until the inflection point in 2008, when volume reached 1.6 billion, after which it started to slowly decelerate.



highlighted in June 2012 ITU's data release :

- In developing countries, the number of Internet users doubled between 2007 and 2011, but only a quarter of inhabitants in the developing world were online by end 2011.
- The percentage of individuals using the Internet in the developed world reached the 70% landmark by end 2011. In Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden more than 90% of the population are online.
- By end 2011, 70% of the total households in developed countries had Internet, whereas only 20% of households in developing countries had Internet access. Some outstanding exceptions include Lebanon and Malaysia with 62% and 61% of households with Internet respectively.
- Total international Internet bandwidth increased seven-fold over the last five years reaching 76,000 Gbit/s by end 2011. This equates to 34,000 bit/s per Internet user worldwide.
- Major differences in Internet bandwidth per Internet user persist between regions: on average, a user in Europe enjoys 25 times as much international Internet capacity as a user in Africa. 🇷🇺

The current forecast (compare with 2008 and 2011 forecasts) suggests that Internet users will approach the plateau of 3.2 billion by 2026 and reach 90% of total potential market as soon as 2016. Such a scenario makes sense considering the prevailing Internet habits nowadays — 3.2 billion users is equivalent to roughly one Internet subscription per home, which is a sensible conjecture.

However, one should not exclude the possibility that mobile Internet services, in other words access to Internet services through cellular phones and other mobile devices, could cause the surge of the number of Internet users, causing them to exceed the 3.2 billion saturation point, in the same way mobile phone caused the explosion of the number of telephone subscribers.

Quoted hereinafter are other pertinent findings

World Internet Users Forecast		
Year	Number (million)	
	Actual	Forecast ¹
1990	2.64	29.7
1991	4.4	38.4
1992	7	49.7
1993	10	64.1
1994	21	82.7
1995	40	106.5
1996	74	136.8
1997	117	175.3
1998	183	223.8
1999	275	284.5
2000	390	359.7
2001	489	451.7
2002	616	562.7
2003	721	694.2
2004	867	846.7
2005	1,022	1,019
2006	1,150	1,209
2007	1,364	1,412
2008	1,560	1,622
2009	1,746	1,832
2010	2,013	2,035
2011	2,265	2,225
2012		2,398
2013		2,550
2014		2,682
2015		2,793
2016		2,885
2017		2,960
2018		3,021
2019		3,069
2020		3,108
2021		3,138
2022		3,162
2023		3,181
2024		3,195
2025		3,206
2026		3,215

¹ Logistic growth function

Data source : ITU International Telecommunications Union.

Ref : http://stats.areppim.com/stats/stats_internetxfcstx2012.htm