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Year	Project	Innovation	Audience	Sponsor	Funding	Delivery System		
1963	CERL Plato System ¹	Mainframe CAI System	Adults &	University of	NSF	Mainframe via Serial		
			K-12	Illinois		telecom - terminals		
1967	CCC ²	Computer Curriculum	K-12	IBM	Private	Mainframe via Serial		
		Corporation			Investors	telecom - terminals		
1973	ARPANet	Wide Area Connectivity	DARPA	DOD	DOD	High Speed Wide Area Network		
1974	The Internet	Engineering Standards Published	DARPA	DARPA	DOD/NSF	Network Connectivity		
1976	CDC Markets	CDC gets Ownership	Adults &	CDC	CDC w.U	Mainframe via Serial		
	PLATO Courseware	PLATO Courseware	K-12		of IL	telecom - terminal		
1977	Apple II Personal Computer	Apple Introduces first personal computer	Homes and schools	Apple Computer	Private Investment	None (floppy storage)		
1981	IBM PC (Model 5150)	Industrial Microcomputer	Business & University	IBM	IBM	None (floppy storage)		
1984	CDC PLATO/Wicat Systems Created	CDC PLATO joint venture with Wicat Systems, Inc.	K-12	Control Data Corporation	CDC/ - Wicat	Mainframe via modem/or 56K line.		
1984	Dial-Up PLATO Interface	PC Access to PLATO Courseware	Adults	CERL	University of Illinois	Mainframe via modem/telecom - PC		
1985	Marketing U of I CERL Courseware	University Communications Inc. (UCI)	Adults & K-12	CERL	University of Illinois; Competitio n: CDC	Telephone dial-up, satellite and dedicated 56K delivery		
1986	NOVANet	CERL Courseware Migrated to LAN Servers	Adults and K-12	CERL	University of Illinois; Competitio n: CDC	Floppy disks, Telephone dial-up, satellite, dedicated 56K & ILS/LAN delivery		
1989	The World Wide Web	Global, Wide Area Data Network	Initially- Scientists & Engineers	European Org. for Nuclear Research	CERN (Switzerlan d)	Global Shared Data Access via expanding TCP/IP Networks		
1989	CDC PLATO Acquisition ³	TRO buys buys entire CDC PLATO courseware catalogue. ⁴	Adults and K-12	The Roach Org., Inc.	Private Investors	Mainframe to terminal or PC; begin migration to local storage (floppy)		
1993	MOSAIC ⁵	Free Web Browser w. Graphics (easy to use)	Adults & K-12 (The World)	NCSA at University of Illinois	NSF	HPPT Servers over TCP/IP Internet		
1993	NOVANet	All U of I Courseware Systems Consolidated	Adults & K-12	U of I Board of Trustees	U of I System	Floppy disks, Telephone dial-up, satellite, dedicated 56K & ILS/LAN delivery		
1993	CERL at UIUC Closed	Supported Terminated		U of I Board of Trustees	U of I System	All employee contracts end by July, 1994		
1994	National Center for Educational Statistics reports that only 35% of Public Schools have internet access.							
1994	Netscape	Commercial, Browser & Servers Released Successfully	Adults & K-12 (The World)	Netscape Communicati ons Inc.	Private Investors	HPPT Servers over TCP/IP Internet		
1995	National Center for Educational Statistics reports 50% of Public Schools have internet access.							
1996	National Center for Educational Statistics ⁷ reports 65% of Public Schools have internet access. (<i>E-Rate program supporting internet access in public schools starts.</i>)							

¹ University of Illinois Archives/Graduate College/Computer-based Education Research Laboratory (http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/uaccard/adminhist/showsg.asp?rg=7&sg=13)

² Hayes (1999)

Hayes (1999)

3 PLATO Learning Inc.; *About Us* (http://www.plato.com/aboutus/company_history.asp)

4 Note: Wicat eventually sold to Jostens Learning Corporation. (Noble, 1996)

5 Borland, Festa, Becker & Yamamota (2003)

6 National Center for Educational Statistics (2005)

⁷ National Center for Educational Statistics (2006)

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1997	NOVANet Learning	For-profit company	Adults &	U of I Board	U of I	Floppy disks, Telephone		
1997	Inc.	created to market	K-12	of Trustees	System &	dial-up, satellite, dedicated		
	11101	NOVANet	12.12	01 1145000	Private	56K & ILS/LAN delivery		
					Investors	(Internet content migration		
						starts)		
1999	NCS NOVANet ⁸	NCS Inc. acquires	Adults &	National	National	Telephone dial-up, dedicated		
		NOVANet Learning Inc.	K-12	Computer	Computer	56K, ILS & Internet access		
				Systems Inc.	Systems	.(Less use floppy disks.)		
					Inc.			
2000	National Center for Educational Statistics reports 98% of Public Schools have internet access, but only 77% of classrooms.							
2000	CCC – NOVANet	Pearson Acquires both	Adults &	NCS /	NCS /	Telephone dial-up, dedicated		
	Created ⁹	NCS NOVANet and CCC	K-12	Pearson	Pearson;	56K, ILS, & Internet		
					competitio	access.(Decreasing floppy		
					n TRO	storage use.)		
2000	PLATO Learning	TRO acquires CyberEd	Adults &	The Roach	Private	Telephone dial-up, dedicated		
	Inc. Expansion	science courseware;	K-12	Organization	Investors;	56K, ILS & increasing		
		changes name		(TRO)	Pearson	Internet access. (Floppy		
						storage rare but still		
	National Contactor for E	ducational Statistics reports nea	1000/ of Du	hlia Cahaala hay	 	supported.)		
2001	Expansion:	PLATO Learning Inc.	Add Adult	The Roach	Private	ILS, Internet access; less		
2001	PLATO Learning	acquired WASACH &	Remedial	Organization	Investors	other tecom, w. occasional		
	Inc.	TeachMaster	and K-12	(TRO)	Investors	use floppies		
	IIIC.	Teachiviastei	standards-	(TKO)		use noppies		
			based					
			content.					
2001	NCS Learn:	Rename: NCS NOVANet	Adults &	Pearson	Pearson	Internet access; ILS, less		
	Marketing		K-12	Learning	Learning;	tecom, & little use floppies		
					competitio	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
					n TRO			
2001	No Child Left	Improving Educational	K-12	Congress	Federal	All delivery systems.		
	Behind Education	Services for K-12			Funds			
	Act ¹⁰							
2002		ducational Statistics reports 929						
2002	Expansion: Plato	Acquires NetSchools	Adults &	The Roach	Private	Internet		
	Learning Inc.	Corporation	K-12	Organization	Investors;			
				(TRO)	Competitio			
2002	NGC NOVAN	D	A 1 1, 0	D	n Pearson	T		
2002	NCS: NOVANet	Rename to: Pearson	Adults &	Pearson	Private	Internet		
	Marketing	Education Technology	K-12		Investors;			
					Competitio			
2002	PLATO Learning	Acquires Learning	Add	The Roach	n TRO Private	Internat		
2002	_	Elements (FOCUS	Materials	Organization	Investors;	Internet		
	Inc. Expansion	Reading & Language	for K-3	(TRO)	Competitio			
		Program)	Readers	(TKO)	n Pearson			
2003	National Center for Educational Statistics reports 93% of classrooms in American public schools have internet access.							
2003	PLATO Learning	Merger with Lightspan	Elementary	The Roach	Private	Internet		
2003	Inc. Expansion	Inc. & Acquires New	/ Post	Organization	Investors	Internet		
	inc. Expansion	Media Holdings	Secondary	(TRO)	111,050015			
		1.20dia 1101diligo	Curr. &	(11.0)				
			Sci. Sims					

Note: New product development, acquisitions and mergers continue for both Pearson Digital Learning and PLATO Learning Inc.. They remain the two largest commercial K-12 online content providers serving eSchools today.

⁸ EMC (http://software.emc.com/about_us/customer/profiles/ncslearn.htm)

⁹ Pearson Digital Learning: *Press Releases* (http://www.pearsondigital.com/press/) & *In the News* (http://www.pearsondigital.com/news/

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education PL 107-110 (http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/index.html)