A visualization of Internet connections in the United States. The lines represent connections between routers in major urban areas throughout the country. From its humble beginnings in the academic research community to its current state, the Internet’s infrastructure grew in a relatively short period of time as private sector providers scrambled to meet the rising public demand for greater access and bandwidth. This growth will continue into the foreseeable future as the nature of the network evolves and more devices such as cellular phones, PDAs and even common appliances are brought online.