Network and Complex Systems
ISSN 2224-610X (Paper) ISSN 2225-0603 (Online)
Vol.6, No.2, 2016

The Internet, as an "Electronic Slavery"

Igbinosa O. Godwin
Department of Information Technology, Salem University, Lokoja Kogi State, Nigeria

Onyemaobi B. Chibuzo
Department of Computer Science, Salem University Lokoja

Abstract
Telecommunication is the exchange of information in any form (voice, data, text, images, audio, and video) over networks. Today, the Internet is a massive collection of private and public networks. Each of these networks is connected to other networks, forming internetworks. Since the advent of Internet in 1969, a lot of technological revolution had taken place. It has been able to reduce the entire world to a global village. As with all human activities, attempting to solve a problem, leads to creating another one. The Internet is not left out of this scenario. This work dwells on the various ways the Internet had been used to enslave mankind. A field work survey was equally used to buttress this explicitly.
Keywords: Telecommunication, Information Network, Internet, Fieldwork, Survey

1. Introduction

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet protocol suite (IPS) often called TCP/IP (Transport or transmission control protocol/Internet protocol) [2]. The Internet carries an extensive range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents of the World Wide Web (WWW) and the information to support email.

Most traditional communication media including television, music and film are being reshaped or redefined by the internet. Newspapers, books and other printing publishing are adapting to website technology or are reshaped into blogging and web feeds. The explosive growth of the Internet is a revolutionary phenomenon in computing and telecommunication[1]. The Internet is only the latest of a series of developments in the way that the human race has used technology to disseminate information [4].

2. Field Work

The instrument for data collection in the field work was the questionnaire, which consisted of two parts.

Part A: Collection of data based on personal characteristics.

Part B: Collection of data based on the negative side effects of the Internet.

A population sample of 500 respondents was used. The respondents were drawn from all walks of life. Data were analyzed using frequency counts, simple percentages and bar charts.

Part A

The table 2.1 below is used to depict the sex of the respondents to the questionnaire.

Table 2.1: Distribution of respondents by sex.

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	276	55.2
Female	224	44.8
Total	500	100

It was observed from the frequency distribution that more males responded to the questionnaire than females. The bar chart of this frequency table is shown in figure 2.1, which depicts that the percentage difference between male and female respondents is not much. This is a proof that the results of the field work are independent of the sex of the respondents.

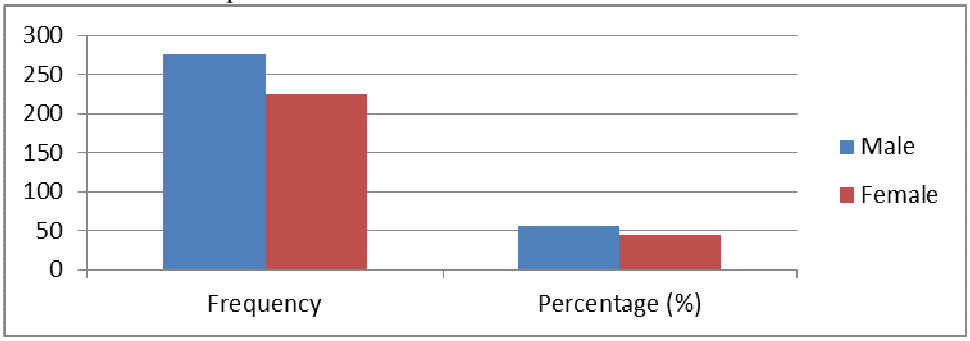

Figure 2.1 Comparing respondents by sex

Table 2.2: Distribution of respondents by age

Age	Frequency (F)	Cumulative frequency	Percentage (%)
16-25	258	258	51.6
26-35	143	401	28.6
36-45	59	460	11.8
46 and above	40	500	8.0
Total	∑F = 500		100

It could be observation from table 2.2 above that majority of the respondents were between the ages of 16-25 years. This depicts that we have more youths in the population sample than any other age group. Invariably the youth are more affected by the Internet than any other age group.

Table 2.3: Distribution of respondents by occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Cumulative frequency	Percentage (%)
Student	279	279	55.8
Lecturers	41	320	8.2
Public servants	75	395	15
Entrepreneurs	70	465	14
Sec School Teacher	35	500	7
Total	∑F =500		100

The distribution of the respondents as observed in table 2.3 depicts that the greatest percentage of the respondents are students. This supports the fact that we have more youths in the population sample than any other age group. The cumulative frequency in figure 2.2 further buttresses the fact that we have more students, who are of the youthful age in the population sample.

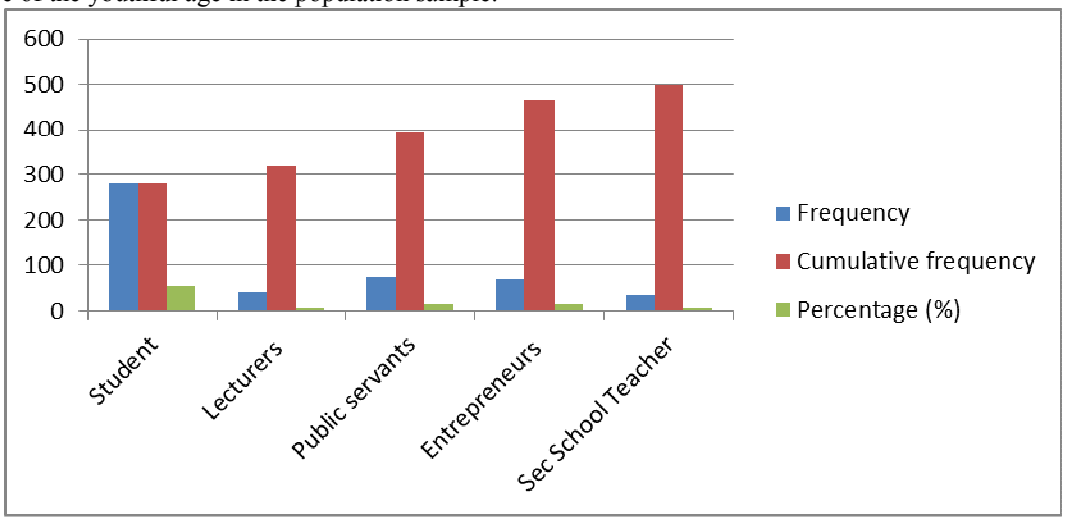

Figure 2.2 Comparing respondents by occupation

Part B:

This part of the questionnaire gathered information on Internet negative side effects based on the parameters stipulated in table 2.4, such as human emotions, impatience, fraudulent text messages, extravagancy and vulnerability.

Table 2.4: Distribution of respondents by Internet negative side effects

Internet negative side effects	Frequency		Percentage	
	Yes Response	No Response	% of Yes Response	% of No Response
Human Emotions	308	192	61.6	38.4
Impatience	373	127	74.6	25.4
Fraudulent Text Messages	367	133	73.4	26.6
Extravagancy	338	162	67.6	32.4
Vulnerability to insecurity	301	199	60.2	39.8

From this table of the field work, it is obvious that the Internet has negative adverse effect on man.

3. Results and Discussions

There is no doubt that since the advent of Internet in 1969 [3], the worldwide network system had spread its tentacles into all nooks and crannies of human endeavours, for effective and adequate acquisition and

dissemination of information. However, the Internet had constituted thorns on the flesh of mankind. The following has been proved as some of the ways the Internet had enslaved man electronically.

a) Human Emotions

Long before now, when people go to commercial banks to make cash withdrawal with their withdrawal vouches over the counter, no matter the time they might spent in the banking hall, they are cock-sure that their money will be given to them. With the advent of Internet banking via ATM cards and other smart cards withdrawals, whenever there is no Internet connectivity, the probability of a customer getting his/her money is very remote. This condition can bring about untold hardship on any individual who solely rely on the use of smart cards for money withdrawal. This can affect human emotions negatively by way of making the person unhappy and feeling absolutely disappointed.

b) Impatience

When people were saddled with the responsibility of waiting patiently on long queues to get their monies in the banking hall, much ado was done about nothing. Instead, they would wait earnestly and patiently till they are entitled to service.

Since the launch/advent of the internet, the spirit of patience disappeared into the thin air. All human transactions done via the Internet e.g. sending of mails, reports, text etc are now associated with impatience, since instant responses expected do not come as and when due, which may be due to some technological hitches. What is more, people will start ranting.

c) Enriching the financial institutions

Today, financial institutions had heaved a sigh of relief, due to less paper work they now embark on and drastic reduction in stack of papers which were at their disposals before the advent of the Internet. When the Internet came on board, the techniques of banking took a different twist. Before now, account balances of every individual were always made known in writing, on their withdrawals voucher without attracting extra charges. But now that all financial institutions had gone on Internet banking, clients are compelled to collect ATM cards or other smart cards for financial transactions. Any transaction made with these cards attracts a fine known as SMS (short message service) alert charge. Any SMS alert given to you is subject to financial charges. In order to dissuade people from embanking on over-the-counter transaction certain amount of money is charged for transaction made over the counter. There are cases when a customer's account is credited, he/she will never be alerted, but immediately the customer debits his/her account, the alerts for both crediting and debiting the account will appear. After a customer had debited his/her account, of what use is the account credit SMS alert? Yet money will be deducted from the account for both credit and debit SMS alerts. Whenever questions are raised before the banks for such anomalies, it will be referred to as technological hitches. Hence, the financial institutions are being enriched at the detriment of the customers.

d) Extravagancy

The birth of the Internet had thrown so many people into the habit of exhibiting extravagancy which before now was a far cry. These days, people no longer have reservation or restriction on how they withdraw their money using Internet via ATM cards and other smart cards. Since the Internet service is twenty-four hours per day, inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, people can walk up to any ATM stand day or night to make monetary transactions. Unlike, when monetary transactions in the banks was exhaustively over-the-counter, during weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) and public holidays, people have to stay put and make do with whatever amount of money in their disposal before the expiration of public holidays and weekends.

e) Vulnerability to insecurity

When the Internet came on-board, all the financial institutions toe the line of computer network connectivity. This did not go down well with some people. This was due to the fact that customers were not cock-sure of the security of their monies, unlike the over-the-counter transactions. With this Internet development, unscrupulous masqueraders could hide to send scam or malicious text messages to unsuspecting individuals demanding for their smart card numbers, and other vital information in order to defraud them. In some cases, codes could be broken by these intruders, thereby siphoning money from customers account, without the knowledge of the legitimate account holders. More so, some malicious personals in financial institutions can embark on defrauding their customers via the Internet.

4. Conclusion

This fieldwork has greatly proved beyond reasonable doubt that the Internet has negatively affect human race and enslaved man. The youth are more adversely affect than any other age group. However, the Internet has modernized the way we do things especially in financial transactions and education.

References

[1] James A. O'Brien and George M. Marakas, "Introduction of information systems" Mc Graw-Hill, 14th edition, (2007) pg 193, 197.

[2] ED TITTEL, "Computer Networking" Schaum's outline series, MCGraw-Hill, 2nd edition, (2006) Pg 41.
[3] IEEE (2015) Global Benefits Finder [online] Available: http://www.ieee.org/benefits (October 10, 2015)
[4] Dave Chaffey, "E-business and E-commerce management". Pearson Education Limited, England, 4th edition (2009), Pg 111.