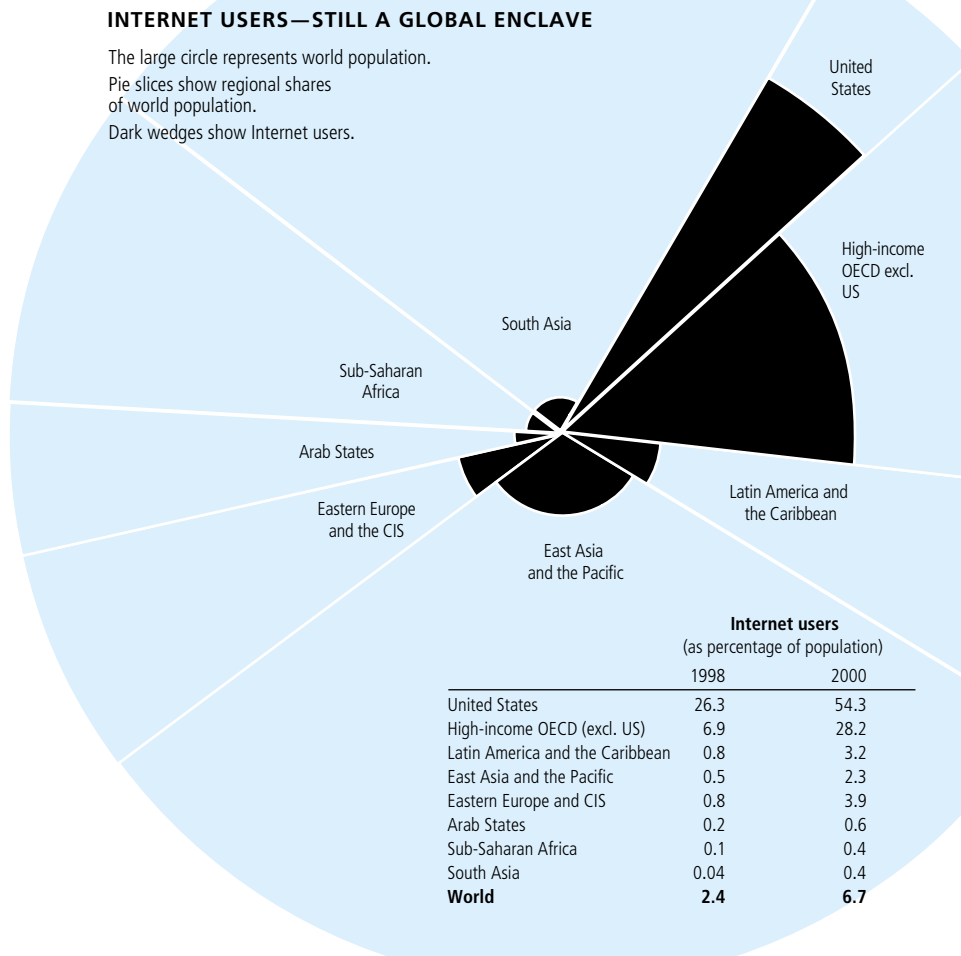


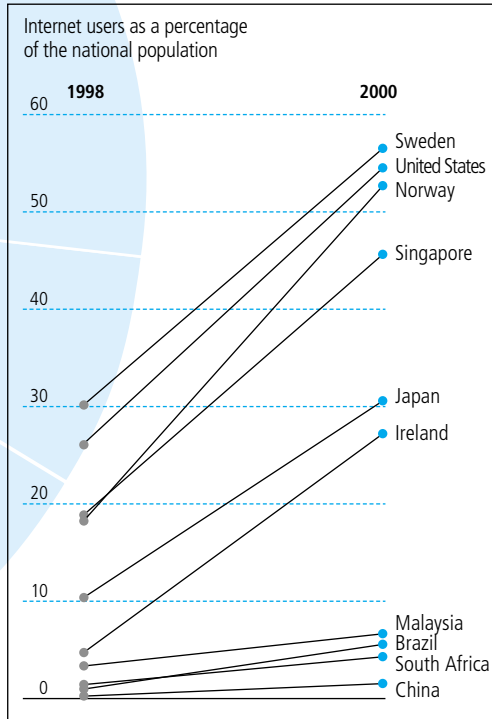
UNEVEN DIFFUSION OF TECHNOLOGY—OLD AND NEW . . .

INTERNET USERS—STILL A GLOBAL ENCLAVE

The large circle represents world population.
Pie slices show regional shares of world population.
Dark wedges show Internet users.



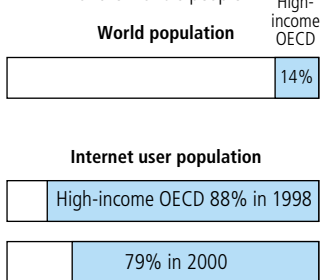
	Internet users (as percentage of population)	
	1998	2000
United States	26.3	54.3
High-income OECD (excl. US)	6.9	28.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.8	3.2
East Asia and the Pacific	0.5	2.3
Eastern Europe and CIS	0.8	3.9
Arab States	0.2	0.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.1	0.4
South Asia	0.04	0.4
World	2.4	6.7



Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on data supplied by Nua Publish 2001 and UN 2001c.

The divide narrows—but ever so slowly

More than three-quarters of Internet users live in high-income OECD countries, which contain 14% of the world's people



Source: Human Development Report Office calculations based on data supplied by Nua Publish 2001 and UN 2001c.

The digital divide within countries

Though data are limited on the demography of Internet users, Internet use is clearly concentrated. In most countries Internet users are predominantly:

- *Urban and located in certain regions.* In China the 15 least connected provinces, with 600 million people, have only 4 million Internet users—while Shanghai and Beijing, with 27 million people, have 5 million users. In the Dominican Republic 80% of Internet users live in the capital, Santo Domingo. And in Thailand 90% live in urban areas, which contain only 21% of the country's population. Among India's 1.4 million Internet connections, more than 1.3 million are in the five states of Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Mumbai.
- *Better educated and wealthier.* In Bulgaria the poorest 65% of the population accounts for only 29% of Internet users. In Chile 89% of Internet users

have had tertiary education, in Sri Lanka 65%, and in China 70%.

- *Young.* Everywhere, younger people are more apt to be online. In Australia 18–24-year-olds are five times more likely to be Internet users than those above 55. In Chile 74% of users are under 35; in China that share is 84%. Other countries follow the same pattern.
- *Male.* Men make up 86% of users in Ethiopia, 83% in Senegal, 70% in China, 67% in France and 62% in Latin America.

Some of these disparities are easing. For example, the gender gap seems to be narrowing rapidly—as in Thailand, where the share of female users jumped from 35% in 1999 to 49% in 2000, or in the United States, where women made up 38% of users in 1996 but 51% in 2000. In Brazil, where Internet use has increased rapidly, women account for 47% of users.

Source: UNDP, Country Offices 2001; Nanthikesan 2001.