

By 1952, 70 cable systems served 14,000 subscribers nationwide.

In the late 1950s, cable operators began to take advantage of their ability to pick up broadcast signals from hundreds of miles away. Access to these signals began to change the focus of cable's role from one of transmitting local broadcast signals to one of providing new programming choices.

Early 1970s, the FCC enacted regulations that limited the ability of cable to offer movies, sporting events, and syndicated programming.

The freeze lasted until 1972, when gradual cable deregulation led to modified restrictions on distant signals.

The clamp on growth had financial effects, especially on capital. Money for expansion all but dried up.

Cable companies began a major upgrade investing \$65 billion between 1996-2002 to build higher capacity networks of fiber optic and coaxial cable. These "broadband" networks provide multichannel video, two-way voice, high-speed Internet access, high definition and advanced digital video services on a single wire into the home.

The upgrade to broadband networks enabled cable companies to introduce high-speed Internet access to customers in the mid-90s, and competitive local telephone and digital cable services later in the decade.

The 1940s

Cable television originated in the United States in Arkansas, Oregon and Pennsylvania in 1948 to enhance poor reception in remote areas.

"Community antennas" were erected on mountain tops or high points, and homes were connected to the antenna towers to receive the broadcast signals.

The 1950s

The 1960s

By 1962, there were 800 cable systems serving 850,000 subscribers

The growth of cable through the importation of distant signals was viewed as competition by local television stations. These concerns led to the FCC expanding its jurisdiction and placing restrictions on the ability of cable systems to import these signals.

The 1970s

The 1980s

The 1984 Cable Act established a framework for the industry, stimulating investment in cable plant and programming

This deregulation had a positive effect on the rapid growth of cable services. From 1984-1992, the industry spent more than \$15 billion on the wiring of America, and was the largest private construction project since World War II.

By the end of the decade, nearly 53 million households subscribed to cable, and cable program networks had increased from 28 in 1980 to 79 by 1989.

The 1990s

2000 and Beyond

As the new millennium got under way, cable companies began pilot testing video services that could change the way people watch television. Among these: video on demand, subscription video on demand, and interactive TV.

Subscribership to high-speed Internet access service via cable modems had grown to more than 10 million by the end of the third quarter of 2002.

Cable's capital expenditures reached \$100 billion. Cable's high-speed Internet service ended the Third Quarter in 2005 with 24.3 million subscribers, and the number of digital cable customers had grown to 27.6 million