

The First Free Online Encyclopedia

🌐 marketing.pedia.com/autopedia.html

The Record

The domain "autopedia.com" was registered on **October 3, 1995**. [AutoPedia® — the Automotive Encyclopedia](#) went online in **November 1995**. The earliest independent third-party documentation by Archive.org's Wayback Machine is [October 29, 1996](#). When you click on that archived link and then on the "Honored Guest Registry" or "Tire BBS" links, there are additional archived entries from users dating from **June 12, 1996** and **June 20, 1996** respectively.

Note: Archive.org's Wayback Machine started crawling the web on October 29, 1996, which means that AutoPedia® was already established and in use before the Wayback Machine existed to document it.

Context

What Wikipedia says about online encyclopedias

The Wikipedia discussion of online encyclopedias is limited to "free wiki-type academic encyclopedias created by users" and mentions various projects including:

"The concept of a new free encyclopedia began with the Interpedia proposal on Usenet in 1993, which outlined an Internet-based online encyclopedia to which anyone could submit content and that would be freely accessible. Early projects in this vein included Everything2 and Open Site. In 1999, Richard Stallman proposed the GNUpedia, an online encyclopedia which, similar to the GNU operating system, would be a 'generic' resource. The concept was very similar to Interpedia, but more in line with Stallman's GNU philosophy."

AutoPedia® on the other hand, was designed as a **"consumer encyclopedia"** — providing consumers with faster, easier access to information on the products and services they want to buy. Although AutoPedia® has always accepted user generated content and information, it has always been intended as a consumer encyclopedia that assists internet users who are seeking the information they need in order to conduct a transaction.

The Documentary Record

Earliest "-pedia" domain registrations and Wayback Machine listings

The following shows the earliest "encyclopedia" domain registration dates (listed first) and earliest listings in Archive.org's Wayback Machine (listed second in parentheses). Domain registration dates that are not linked are domains that expired and were renewed at a later date.

Domain	Registered	Wayback Machine	Notes
AUTOPEDIA.COM	October 3, 1995	10/29/1996	Online November 1995. Guest Registry entries from June 1996 predate Wayback Machine launch.
EXPEDIA.COM	November 25, 1995	11/21/96	Not an encyclopedia — "exploration" + "speed" per founder Rich Barton. Early consumers influenced by representativeness heuristic.*
ENCYBERPEDIA.COM	June 25, 1996	10/24/1997	
WINE-ENCYCLOPEDIA.COM	September 4, 1996	—	Site was never online through 2011.
GEPEDIA.COM	October 9, 1996	12/26/1996	
INFOPEDIA.COM	October 25, 1996	12/22/1996	
ATLAPEDIA.COM	November 5, 1996	7/14/1997	

Domain	Registered	Wayback Machine	Notes
ELEKTRAPEDIA.COM	December 12, 1996	2/29/2000	
WORLDBOOKONLINE.COM	April 15, 1999	11/11/1999	
INVESTOPEDIA.COM	July 25, 1999	2/29/2000	
NUPEDIA.COM	October 29, 1999	3/4/2000	
OPENSITE.ORG	January 28, 2000	3/1/2003	
GNUPEDIA.COM	February 10, 2000	7/21/2001	
WIKIPEDIA.COM	January 13, 2001	3/31/2001	

For reference, two legacy encyclopedia brands with earlier domain registrations:

Domain	Registered	Wayback Machine	Notes
WORLDBOOK.COM	April 20, 1995	12/23/1996	Created to sell the CD-ROM version of World Book Encyclopedia. Online version available at WorldBookOnline.com from November 11, 1999.
BRITANNICA.COM	June 14, 1995	5/23/1998	Not an online encyclopedia — a site dedicated to selling subscriptions to Encyclopedia Britannica starting in 1998.

Although there are unsubstantiated claims of "discussing," "coining," and "planning" various PEDIA suffix sites as early as 1990, the independent third-party records of domain registration dates and the date of an actual working website being online and indexed by Archive.org's Wayback Machine are as documented above.

Even the most conservative AutoPedia® *online date* from Archive.org's Wayback Machine, taken from the Guest Registry or Tire BBS, is **BEFORE** the **domain registration date** of any other online encyclopedia site.

The mechanism Autopedia, Investopedia, and Wikipedia proved, is now available to every marketer.

The same naming convention. The same cognitive mechanism. The same scalable credibility — applied commercially across every category.