



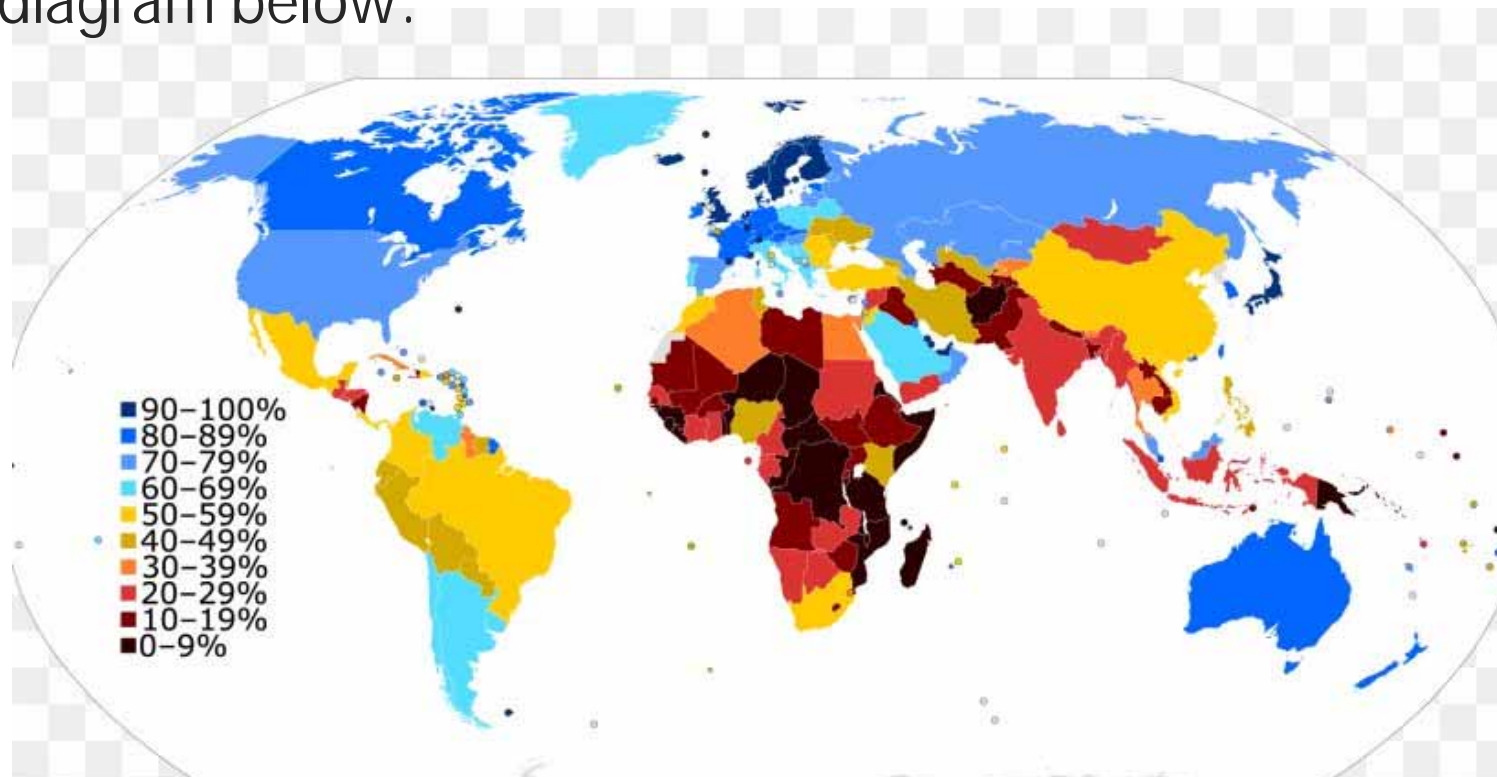
Digital Divide

By Y Patel

What is the digital divide?

The digital divide is the gap between people who have access to technology and people who don't have access to technology.

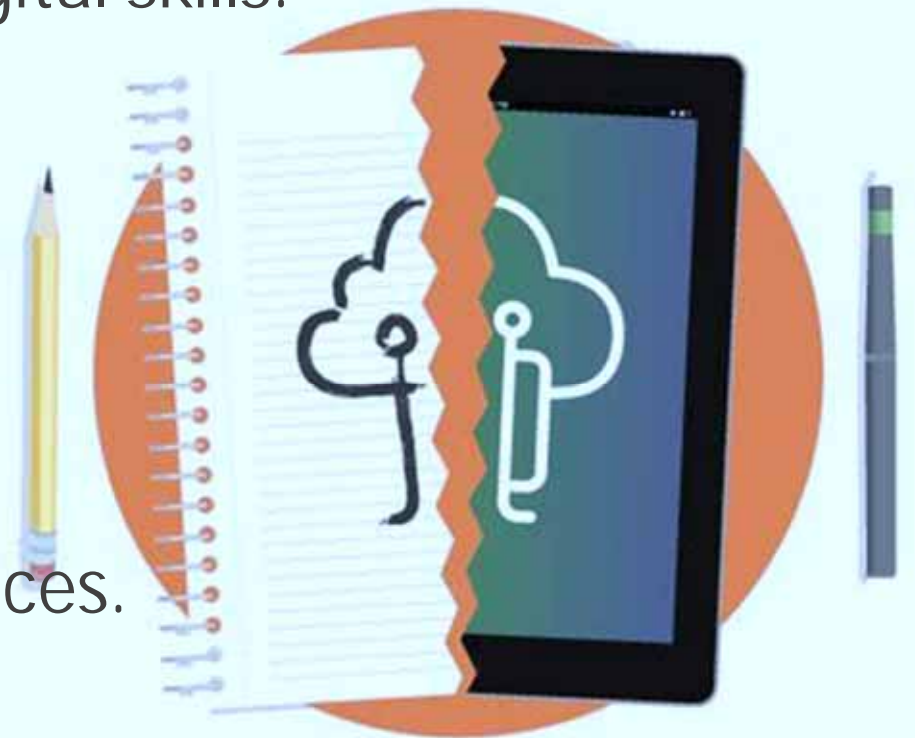
Many people have access to quality computers but some people in the world, particularly in underdeveloped countries, don't have access to computers at all. For example, most people in the UK have access to technology but in Central Africa most people don't. This is shown in the diagram below.



Why does the digital divide exist?

Digital divide exists for these reasons:

- Some people have a lack of digital skills.
- People cannot connect to the internet.
- People don't have access to technology.
- People need money to access the internet and purchase devices.



The impact of digital divide

Economical:

- People who have computer skills have a better chance of getting highly paid jobs.
- People may not be able to afford to purchase things needed for ICT systems.
- People may fall behind of what is happening around them as they could not access the internet.

Social:

- Not being able to interact with others can affect people's social skills.
- If people don't have the latest technology, they will feel left out.

Educational:

- People who don't have technology may find it hard to excel in education.
- People wont be able to take part in online courses.