A Birthday you might have forgotten :-)
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September 19 is the birthday of something you might use every day. At the very least you are familiar with it even if you do not text, write emails, handwritten notes or communicate with other humanoids. In fact, it came into existence before there even existed text messages, the Internet, or email

Back in 1982, none of our modern digital communication methods, or even the networks that evolved, existed. On university campuses there existed something called USENET boards. USER Network message boards on which the locally connected users could carry out discussions, some scientific, some not as much.

Well... It all started on a Usenet message board on September 16, 1982 because some guy wanted to know how a drop of Mercury would react in a falling elevator. (Evidently the Physics department guys had a strange sense of humor.) After several rounds of remarks, some of them with attempts at humor, there developed a discussion about how to indicate to the readers that the message should be read as a playful joke, and not so seriously interpreted.

You can read an excellent summary of the message board conversation here:
https://www.ttlg.com/forums/showthread.php?t=73941

The key entry was on Sunday, September 19, 1982, by Professor Scott Fahlman of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh

> *401298269,0,0*
>
> *19-Sep-82 11:44 Scott E Fahlman*
>
> *I propose that the following character sequence for joke markers:*
>
> *:-)*
>
> *Read it sideways. Actually, it is probably more economical to mark*
>
> *things that are NOT jokes, given current trends. For this, use:*
>
> *:-(*

These symbols, composed of normal keys used in standard text, and available on our keyboard, have long been used, albeit in simpler forms, for a very long time.

A summary discussion of the Emoticon at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticon
An entertaining version, at https://www.kidscodecs.com/history-of-emoticons/ credits Victor Hugo with perhaps the first digitally transmitted emoticon

*in 1862, Victor Hugo sent a telegram to his publisher with a single character, **?**, to ask how his new book Les Misérables was selling. The publisher, equally clever, sent a single character telegram back, **!**.*

So happy birthday to the smiley face Emoticon   :-)