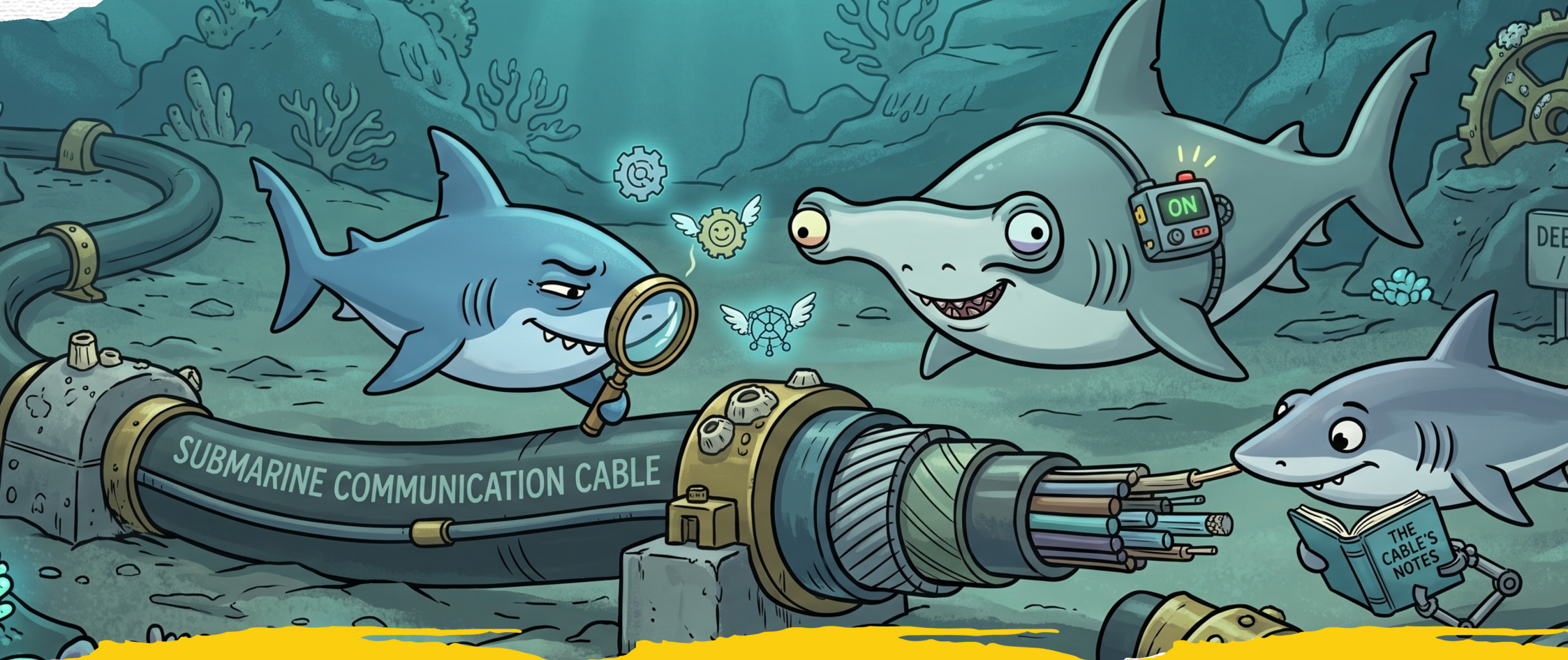




Submarine Communication Cables

Deep Sea Cyber Highways

Right now, 99% of the world's internet data travels through heavy cables resting on the dark ocean floor! Inside these cables are strands of glass as thin as a single human hair. Computers turn your video games and clicks into flashing laser beams that shoot through the glass at the speed of light. Back in the 1980s, sharks kept biting the cables because the electrical fields tricked them into thinking the wires were moving fish! Today, the cables are wrapped in **heavy steel armor** to make them completely shark-proof.



The Miracle of 1858

Long before smartphones, sending a letter across the ocean took 10 whole days on a wooden steamship. That changed in 1858 when a businessman named **Cyrus West Field** laid the very first copper cable along the Atlantic ocean floor. Queen Victoria used it to send a 98-word message to the US President. It took a whopping 16 hours to cross the sea! While that sounds slow today, cutting the time down from 10 days to 16 hours was considered an absolute technological miracle.

Did you know? Out in the deepest parts of the ocean, an internet cable is only as thin as a *pepperoni sausage*! It is only wrapped up until it's as thick as a tree trunk when it gets close to the beach to protect it from boat anchors.