

The UK's best selling Internet magazine

Internet AND COMMS TODAY

● Price: £2.95 ● Issue 5 ● March 1995

Global Village People

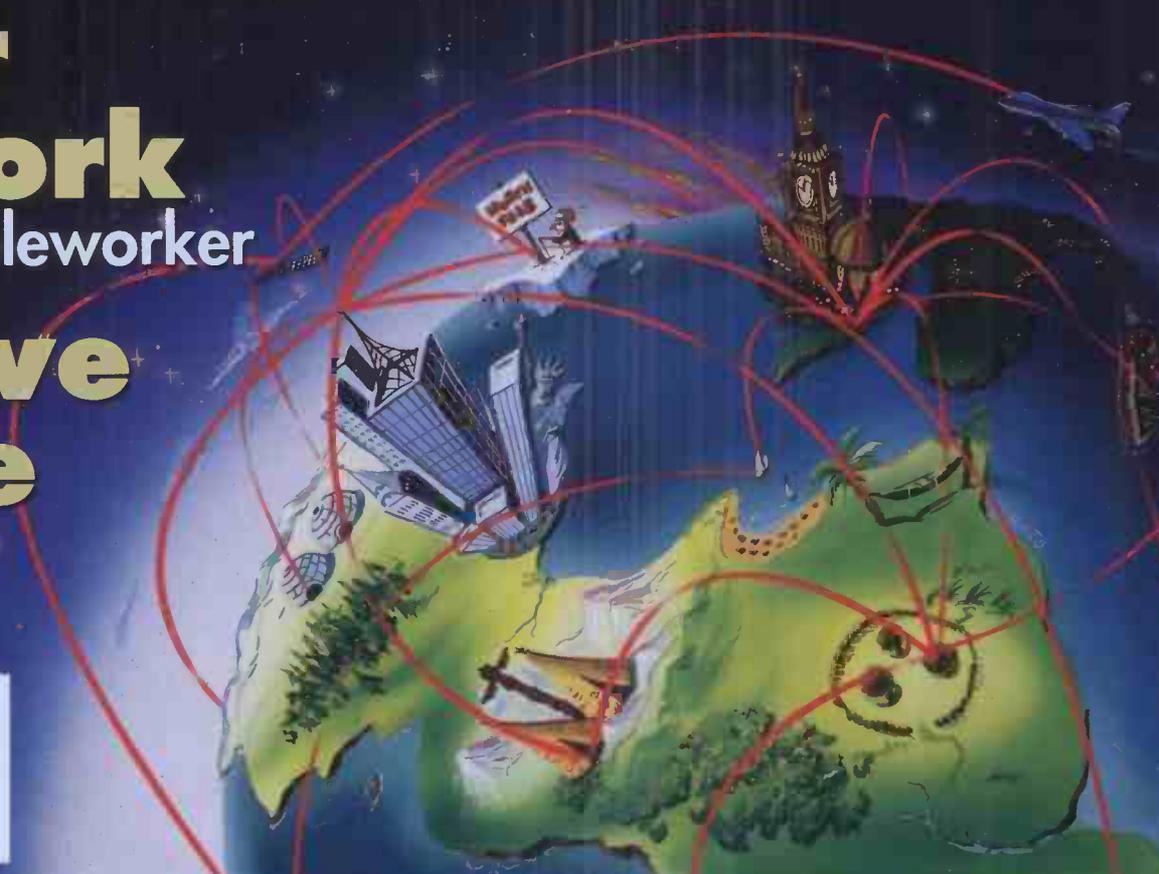
How the Net is bringing the World closer together

Do Your Homework

The Age of the Teleworker

The Lurve Machine

A Valentine's look at online dating

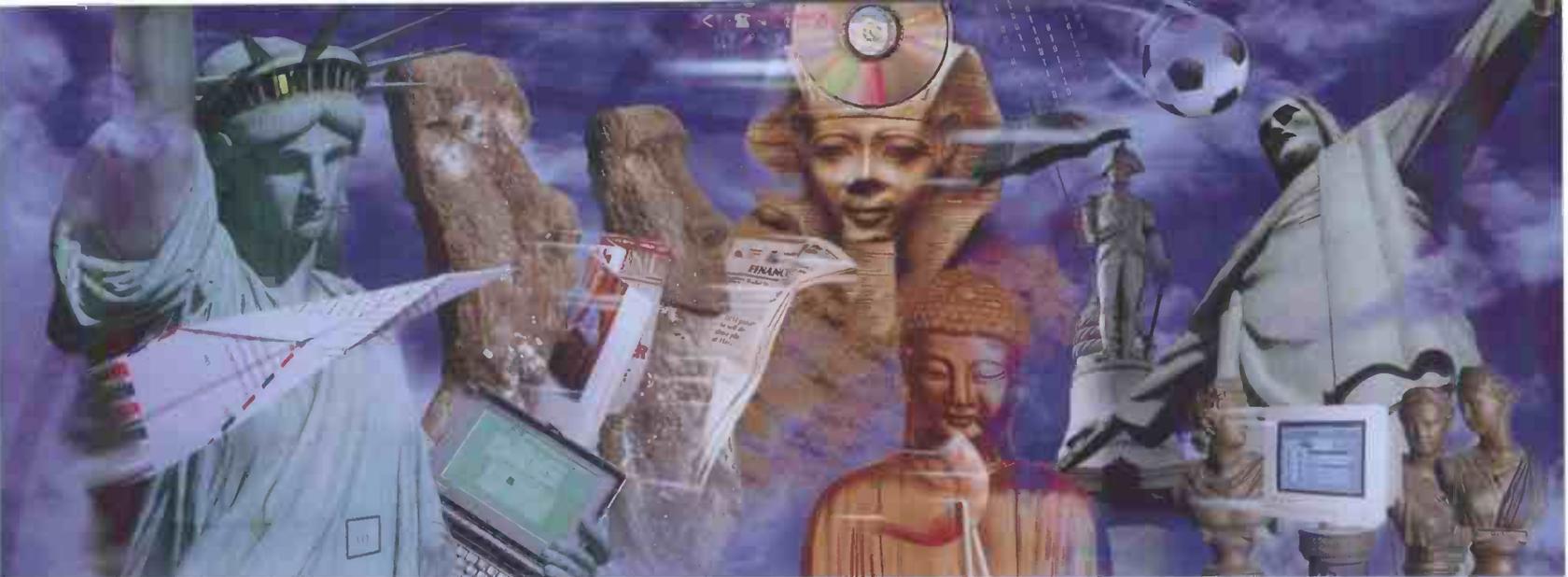


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→ Monitor with Jack Schofield → News and Analysis → FidoNet finished off
→ Setting up your own Bulletin Board System → Network Jobs → The Directory



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WORLD IF YOU
WANT TO GET ON

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The UK's best-selling Internet magazine

Internet AND COMMS TODAY

issue 5

march 1995

Cover feature
30

After thirty years of the 'Global Village', the real communications revolution is just about to happen. We look at global Web pages, how one Internet provider is helping Africa get online and see how the scene in Guernsey works.

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features



Virtual MeetMarket

Sorry! I've been out of town for 3 weeks! I'm going to try to catch up on the responses... -Virtual Work

Featured in the *Wall Street Journal*!

This is the place to find that special someone, a new best friend on the Internet, or just someone to talk to. This unique meeting service implements the hypermedia advantages that the World Wide Web has to offer. The only way to connect here is by using a WWW browser, which more and more people are going to be doing on a daily basis.

There is no cost to publish a personal of your own on the Virtual MeetMarket, and you get to use a full page of hypermedia and a few named GIF's to include in your personal. Your anonymity is preserved in your personal, while your responses are forwarded to you! There is nothing to lose!

Read this for recent news about VMM. Using the VMM is FREE!

Also, to help the database grow, please pass the URL of this server around, add it to an available "cool places" list, etc. ...

[View on line personals](#)

[Browse through local stock GIF's](#)

Test your personal in INCOMING/VMM directory

[Information on placing a VMM personal](#)

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Virtual MeetMarket - www.vmm.com

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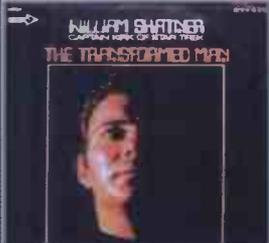
● Teleworking is coming... Is it going to be as good as people say? Nick Merritt investigates what it will mean for us all and speaks to experts in the field.

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● The cables comprising the Internet are starting to heat up, as lonely hearts all over the world start chatting each other up. Well, it is Valentine's Day soon, after all. Sara Edlington check it out.

The Capt. James T. Kirk Sing-a-long Page

This music was first introduced to me by Rick Franks



Little known to the civilized world, the great William Shatner (Kirk on the original Star Trek TV series) recorded a masterpiece of an album - *The Transformed Man* - back in 1968. In it, Shatner proves that his talents go far beyond those of film, and into the world of music. I have studied this visionary work time and time again and never fail to find something new each time I listen. The real treasures of this album are (1) Mr Tambourine Man, (2) Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, and (3) Theme for Cyrene.

But don't take my word for it listen to the genius of Kirk for yourself...

- The last half of 'Mr. Tambourine Man' (711 KB)
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● More on the strange world of email this month. Amazing how much there is to the subject when you think about it... (Eh? - Ed.)

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● Darren Irvine, our man with the smoking gun, blows away all your evil technical problems.



John Kennedy

John Kennedy, our Consultant Editor, is a fanatical PC and Amiga guy who has written for a staggering array of computer magazines.



Darren Irvine

Darren Irvine, creator of our Directory pages, is an Internet and comms guru of sheer network consultant ability. Which is handy in his day job as a network consultant, really.



Joel Furr

Joel Furr is a hugely experienced Infonaut over the Pond and will now be writing for us on a monthly basis with news of whatever the Americans are up to at the moment.



Colin Turner

Colin Turner is a BBS Sysop and all round FidoNet expert. He is currently studying for a doctorate in Mathematics so we wish him luck.



Jonathan Miller

Jonathan Miller is Editorial Director of Delphi and a columnist for the Sunday Times. He's also a columnist for us too.



Jack Schofield

Jack Schofield, author of our Monitor pages, is Computer Editor of the Guardian. Anything he doesn't know is, frankly, not worth knowing (hopefully).



Geoff Spick

Geoff Spick is the newest addition to the I&CT team. He's a BBS junkie and spends all day hooked into the Net. Which is lucky because that's what he gets paid for.

Datapoverty – a social ill?

I was recently accused of writing more of a travelogue than a piece about the Internet in Issue Three, but then, you can't satisfy everybody.

However, I think it's important to try to fit the Internet into some kind of 'real world', and in the real world, there are lots of people making assumptions about the Net and its future development, who need to be challenged.

Here's such an assumption: the future of the Net is as a commercial system, serving the needs of businesses and entrepreneurs.

Cue the usual cries of foul from the Old Net community, whose argument, so far as it goes, runs along the lines of, "We were here first, it's our toy and we don't want to let you play with it."

Unfortunately, this attitude obscures the more important argument regarding the commercialisation of the Net – increased access. This argument runs along the lines of: what kind of global village are we creating? Or, who is going to benefit from the Net and why?

At the moment, the vast majority of the Net community is male, aged around thirty, white and middle class. For all the hyperbole about the Internet heralding some kind of new dawn in electronic democracy, all we are recreating is essentially a very old kind of democracy – more of a kind of democracy that the ancient Greeks would recognise.

This was a democracy where the already economically powerful were the only classes with representation, where slaves in the silver mines (the poorest and lowest status group in society) and women, were excluded. Sound familiar?

And rather than adopting the rather smug attitude many of us infonauts do when we think of the power of the Net and the '35 million like-minded' worldwide, perhaps we should be thinking more seriously about methods of widening access.

Nobody can deny that the problems associated with poverty are getting worse. What's even more curious is the thinking (in the name of 'incentivising' people) that regressing our poor even further back to Victorian levels of poverty is somehow going to make them richer.

Surely, this forgets the method by which poor communities actually do become richer – by acquiring skills, raising their value in the job market. And the only trusted method of raising a worker's value is by educating him.

All the Tiger economies of South East Asia realise this (as I know, having lived in that part of the world for a couple of years), and it's why the first thing these countries do when they bank a bit of cash, is throw as much as they can afford into their education systems.

At the moment, the rush to commercialise the Net is overshadowing its main function – as an academic system – i.e. a method of the dissemination of educational material across the globe.

On one side, we have a Net top-heavy with middle class University-types, on the other, we

have a group of people who need cheap and easy access to educational material. What is needed is a method of bringing them together.

Some people might claim that the best way of ensuring this happens is to commercialise the Net anyway. Like the telephone, the Net will end up connected to people's homes.

There's one possible objection to this argument – that the Net is not like the telephone at all. The motivation to get everybody connected to the telephone system was that the more people who were connected up, the more attractive a communication system it would become.

However, this is not the main motivating force behind the expansion of the Internet, and is unlikely to be the main drive behind any future mass-audience online system.

At the moment, the main reason for the Net's expansion is the information available on the Net which can be accessed – for free.

Whether there are two or two million people on the Net doesn't matter from this point of view, although the more people there are, the more information sources are likely to spring up to service these extra people.

In the case of people currently excluded from the Net, some kind of public access is going to be required. It's an old idea – public access systems have a long and successful history, from the library service, to public telephones. The entire education system, is, in a way, public access too. Putting terminals into all the libraries in the country would be a good start.

As important as public access, is connecting schools and colleges into the Net. Something similar in scope to Kenneth Baker's original 1981 aim of putting a computer into every school in the country is needed. University students on certain computer-related courses already have JANET access – every student should have Internet access and should be taught what's available out there.

It's why a Government lead on this is so important for the next step in the Net's development – a fibre optic grid. Once the system is in place there will be a vast new market for new media information, a workforce used to handling it, and big employment opportunities for the country which makes such a system its own.

The jobs and wealth of the future is going to come from knowledge-based industries like computing and online media. Why not begin to use what we've got in those fields already to educate people, giving us a head-start and giving some of our de-skilled poor the chance of a future?

Or are we, as so often in our past, going to regard a large underclass as a 'price worth paying' for a lack of imagination?

→ Nick Merritt



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news

Totally Unique

Renet, the UK division of Danish Lasat, the modem manufacturer, has launched the Unique 288, a V.FC version of its compact desktop modem series.

Retailing for £349, the modem is similar to the other two modems in the Lasat Unique series, and is styled by Jacob Jensen, the designer of the well-known Bang & Olufsen hi-fi systems, and so bears a strong resemblance to the 'B&O style'.

As with the other Lasat Unique modems, the Unique 288 features V.42bis data compression and error correction, as well as MNP (Microcom Network Protocol) Class 5 data compression and error correction facilities.

The modem has the same footprint as a 3.5-inch floppy disk, and sits 0.88-inches high on the desktop. Zane Ryan, Lasat's Managing Director, told us that the new modem has several features not found on the other Unique units, such as advanced dial-back security and non-volatile memory for storage of up to 20 dial-back passwords.

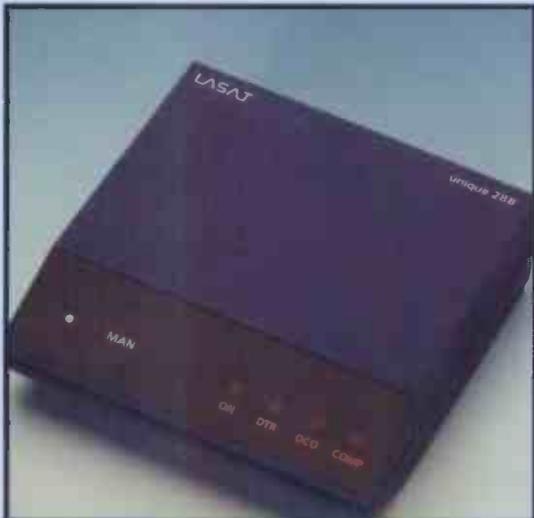
The modem also waits two minutes before calling back, which Ryan claims is a feature designed to foil hackers. Dial-back security involves a caller dialling the modem, entering a password when prompted and, depending on which password is entered, the modem clears the call and dials the caller back on their designated telephone number. Using this approach prevents most hacking attempts. Other features of the new modem include remote configuration, a facility rarely seen on consumer modems, plus the ability to work in synchronous mode, even over asynchronous modem connections, for use when accessing mainframes and AS/400 series computers.

Renet has also increased its warranty on the Lasat modem range to 10 years, which Ryan claims is unrivalled in the European telecoms industry. As supplied, the modem comes with all necessary cabling and a copy of Trio Datafax Lite for Windows, a PC data/fax comms package. Ryan told us that the Unique 288 is the new flagship of the Lasat range, offering state-of-the-art communications within a very small casing.

"With a £349 price tag, together with a wealth of features and support, Lasat has ensured that its modem is highly competitive," he said, adding that, in common with the other Unique modems, the 288 "follows the green trend" with low power consumption and has an automatic sleep power mode when not in constant use.

Contact: Renet on (0181) 741 8011.

→ *The Lasat Unique 288 is out at last. It's a strange looking bird, this one...*



Fi Fie FoE

Friends of the Earth has just launched a new public access environmental information service on the global Internet.

The service – dubbed 'FoEnet' – is the first online system of any environmental pressure group in the world to make extensive use of colour multimedia pictures, 'enviromaps' and text. Access to FoEnet is available through the Internet World Wide Web, and is open to anyone with a connection to the Internet.

The FoEnet service aims to provide electronic versions of many of FoE's popular publications, as well as details of environmental campaigns across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Environmental information available online right now includes: the Green Guide to Christmas, High Street Banks and Rainforest Destruction, Fighting Motorway Madness, environmental information projects and maps, information for schools, FoE press releases, FoE's trading catalogue, membership details, FoE International, how to find your nearest FoE local group using your postcode, and advice on how the public can take practical environmental action. FoEnet also provides links to other useful environmental services around the globe.

Phone (0171) 566 1632 or try the WWW page: <http://www.foe.co.uk/CAT>

The Centre for Alternative Technology

Machynlleth, Powys, Wales, SY20 9AZ, UK.



→ *Green is Good so it's said. And the FoE are the people who say it.*

Renet go ISDN

Renet, the UK offshoot of Danish modem manufacturer Lasat, has revealed plans to launch into the ISDN (integrated services digital network) marketplace later this month, with the Unique 640i ISDN terminal adapter.

Like the Unique range of modems, the 640i is designed by Jacob Jensen, the designers behind the Bang & Olufsen range of hi-fi, and is highly compact.

The 640i will act as a drop-in replacement for a Hayes-compatible modem, meaning that users can move data at speeds of up to 64,000 bits-per-second (bps) across an ISDN channel.

Renet say, "In addition, the 640i offers enhanced speeds in the transmission of data and sub-second connection rates to save the user time and money when compared to using even the fastest speed modems."

The unit is capable of supporting a single 64,000 bps data channel across an ISDN link, stepping down to 38,400 bps in V.110/300 mode.

Transmission protocols/standards supported by the unit include X.25 - DTE, X.755LP, and transparent HDLC (High Data Link Control) at speeds of 1,200 to 115,200 bps.

The adapter is also one of the first in the UK to support the Caller Line Identification Presentation (CLIP) system introduced by British Telecom in November of last year.

Contact Renet on (0181) 741 8011.



→ *The Renet Unique – heck, this looks just like the picture opposite it.*

What ever happened to?... Robby the Robot

Way back in the days of the 1950s, when men were real men, when women were real women, and mad scientists all had names like Dr Morbius, science fiction films were all about schlock monsters invading wobbly B-movie sets, and setting off waves of hysterical American paranoia.

Of course, sci-fi has always been more about its present than about the future, so for the most part these movies provided interesting insights into the mind of a country which was the most powerful nation ever in history but which still had the insecurity to worry about reds under the bed – whether the reds were commie red or in fact, alien green.

One movie which stands out from the rest is the classic Forbidden Planet, where Leslie Nielsen got to dress up in stretch fabric and act as though there was still the chance of an Academy Award at the end of the year. Based on The Tempest, FP had drama, special effects, a gorgeous token female and a monster that was actually pretty scary.

In addition to all this, FP had Robby the Robot, thus proving that even above-average sci-fi fare can't shake off the fixation with a bloke dressed up as a telephone exchange.

Robby, the culmination of hundreds of years of advanced computer engineering, lumbered around like a pick-up truck with square wheels, clicking and whirring as if there was a girl in National Health glasses and a blue tartan pleated skirt sitting at a desk behind him plugging phone cables into his back. The robot from Metropolis, a film made nearly forty years previously, looked more sophisticated.



But Robby is one of the few robot stars to have endured – who can remember Huey, Duey and Louie from Silent Running? (For that matter, who can remember Silent Running?)

His place in sci-fi immortality was assured when, still clicking and whirring, he was resurrected for one last film appearance, a cameo in Gremlins, at, appropriately enough, a convention for mad inventors.

They don't make 'em like that any more.

They don't make 'em like that any more.

CompuServe To Halve Online Rates

I&CT has learned that CompuServe is due to shuffle its online rates on February 5.

At the time of going to press, CompuServe is not commenting on reports that its online rates are changing. Dave Gilroy, CompuServe's UK Customer Service Manager, had a firm "no comment," when we contacted him.

According to our sources, CompuServe subscribers on the online service's standard plan, which currently involves paying a fixed charge of \$8.95 a month, in return for free off-peak access to CompuServe's basic services through its non-surcharged points of access, will see their online hourly charges during peak times standardized at \$4.80 per hour for all access speeds to 14,400 bits-per-second (bps).

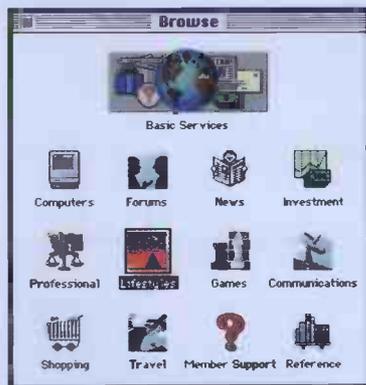
This compares with a current \$4.80 per hour charge for speeds to 2,400 bps, and \$9.60 for access speeds to 14,400 bps. Subscribers on the 'alternative plan' which is effectively a 'pay as you go' service, will continue to pay \$6.30 an hour for 300 bps, \$12.80 an hour for 1,200 and 2,400 bps, and \$22.80 per hour for 9,600 and 14,400 bps access speeds.

Subscribers to CompuServe in Europe will also see their peak time access fees drop, as the \$7.70 per hour surcharge for CompuServe's main network dial-up points across Europe will be abolished on February 5.

CompuServe is hiking its standard rate monthly 'cover charge' from \$8.95 to \$9.95, in return for the price shuffles, as well as boosting the inclusive number of mail items in the monthly fee by 50 percent.

At the same time, 'basic rate' CompuServe services, which are accessible free of charge during off-peak times through non-surcharged CompuServe points of access, are being increased by more than 25 percent. I&CT understands that several non-basic rate services are being folded into the basic rate stable to increase the number of services and areas to achieve this.

These moves are being seen by many within the industry as a pre-emptive move against Microsoft's Marvel system.



→ A part of the CompuServe system yesterday, quivering in anticipation.

World Vision

I&C's All-Seeing Eye
plugs into the world's
Nets to discover what's
going on outside of the
UK...

Ziff Sells Out

→ CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A. – Ziff's Interchange Network has been purchased by AT&T. Terms of the agreement were not released, although analysts have speculated on the value of the online service, which is still in the beta testing stage.

The public debut of the service has been predicted for some time in 1995 with the Washington Post, the Minneapolis-based Star Tribune and Cowles Business Media as inaugural participants. The companies stated that Ziff-Davis Online Services would continue to develop Interchange Computing to be "an integral part of Interchange Online Network".

Originally planned as an online service featuring "complete online sites for publishers" across a wide range of media, the new service may be reshaped by AT&T to offer a wider base of products and services of software and information companies.

AT&T confirmed Interchange Network will continue to be based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. No mention of executive or other personnel changes were made. Currently, Michael E. Kolowich is president of Interchange Online Network.

The telecommunications giant, AT&T, says the purchase "advances its overall strategy of providing open network services and products to its customers." According to the company, the new business model for publishers created by Interchange "allows valuable information to be distributed and accessed in an innovative way which its customers should find of great value."

Video kills the telephone star

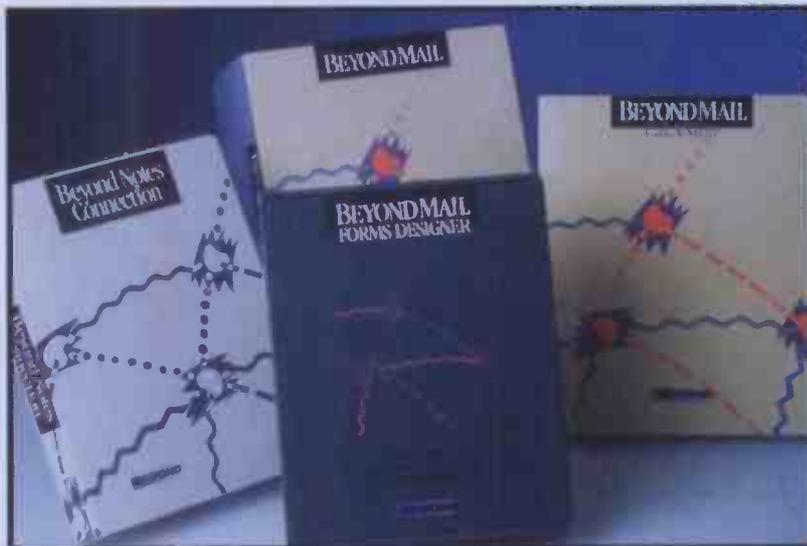
→ WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A. – Sprint says the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has approved its application to test an interactive video dial-tone service in Wake Forrest, an affluent suburb Northeast of Raleigh, North Carolina. The trial will begin about midway through the year in approximately 1,000 homes.

Sprint said the pilot project will use a hybrid fibre/coaxial network owned by Sprint's local operating company, Sprint/Carolina Telephone. It will bring a choice of various interactive products and services, though a Sprint spokesperson told us that no firm decisions have been made yet.

"You'll see the first product announcements during the first quarter of this year," said Steve Carter, Director of Product Development and Management for Sprint's local service division.

Sprint currently provides a local phone service in 19 US states, in competition with the traditional RBOCs (regional Bell operating companies). Most of the RBOCs plan to expand their services beyond traditional local phone services, while most of the US long distance companies want to move into local phone and cable service markets.

The diversification cuts both ways. Cable operators are scrambling for ways to capitalise on their broadband capacities in local and long distance telephone markets. Three large cable operators – Telecommunications Inc., Comcast Corporation and Cox Cable – have announced an alliance with Sprint to provide local, long distance and



→ *BeyondMail 2.0 – a must for all telecommuters everywhere.*

Back to Beyond

Banyan Systems has announced a mobile version of BeyondMail 2.0, billed as enhancing the productivity of mobile users by "allowing them to use the package's workflow and rules-based messaging capabilities when logged out of the office network."

The mobile package can be installed on a portable PC and operates using a new mailbox that works in parallel with a user's existing mailbox, linking to the parent local area network (LAN) using a modem.

According to Alan Scutt, Banyan's UK country manager, using the company's PC Dial In package, remote workers can use BeyondMail's RuleServer to sort messages and selectively download only high priority messages. This allows them to "concentrate on critical work and make the best use of their time", then check on less critical work when they return to the base.

Scutt explained that a critical element of Banyan's strategy "is to deliver the full benefits of our enterprise messaging solutions to the extended enterprise network. By this, we mean the growing universe of remote or mobile workers and telecommuters who require easy and efficient access to resources, information and people in their organization. BeyondMail Remote extends the wide range of capabilities of BeyondMail 2.0 – including workflow, database access and collaboration – to users, regardless of their location," he said.

BeyondMail 2.0 Remote is available immediately in the UK at £156 for the DOS/Windows edition. The MHS (Message Handling Service) version is also available at £156, and has been reduced from £236.

Contact: Banyan Systems UK (01293) 612284

Super Sonix

Sonix has announced a free software upgrade for its V.34 Volante modem, which already operates at 28,800 bits-per-second (bps), that allows the modems to be used at speeds of up to 33,600 bps.

According to Sonix, when the International Telecoms Union (ITU) was working towards what we now know as the V.34 standard, several line speed specifications were considered. The early V.34 proposal was for 24,000 bps, and it was only in the later stages of the standard's proposals that the 28,800 bps speed was discussed.

According to Bob Jones, Sonix' Managing Director, the ITU is now considering whether to specify the additional rates of 31,200 bps and 33,600 bps as an option within the V.34 specification. This is a separate development from the current proposals for a V.34bis standard.

"Things are moving so fast that users need to take a somewhat different view of modem transmission these days," Jones explained, adding that the 33,600 bps upgrade for the Volante is relatively easy to implement owing to its flash EPROM (erasable programmable read-only memory) system.

"Upgrading the Volante to 33,600 bps reduces call charges by allowing extremely high transmission over good lines. But it would be foolish to suggest that the 33,600 bps transmission will be reliable under all circumstances — the important thing is to squeeze the absolute maximum out of the available channel," he said.

If the Volante cannot handle a 33,600 bps data connection, the modem will step down through 2,400 bps decrements until a good connection is established. The V.34 specification means that the connection is probed every few seconds to check for better line quality. If better line quality is found, the modems move up to the higher speeds, until 33,600 bps transmissions are enabled.

Contact: Sonix (01285) 641651

World Vision

cellular phone services plus cable TV, in a one-does-all system.

Sprint sources said the firm is considering a variety of services for its Wake Forrest pilot project. Possibilities include movies-on-demand, interactive games, home shopping, work-at-home applications like broadband access to corporate LANs (local area networks) and access to health services providers.

According to Carter, Sprint will provide the network for the Wake Forrest pilot, but ultimately the company wants to position itself as a provider to outside cable operators.

"We would like local cable operators to buy video dial-tone services from us," Carter told us. "If we can provide an economical, technologically attractive facility, that will put us in a good competitive position."

He added: "This is our system trial, both a marketing and a technical trial. The outcome will determine where and how we will handle these services in other places."

Nintendo Plumbs In

→ TOKYO, JAPAN – Nintendo and Cent Giga will provide a satellite data broadcast service on April 1, 1995.

Users will need Nintendo's Family Computer, a broadcasting satellite tuner, and a Satellaview adapter (to be put on sale for 14,000 yen (\$140) on February 11) to receive a Cent Giga Super Family Computer Broadcast service, which will enable the game machine maker to enter the multimedia market.

The service, which will be available between 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm, free of charge, will feature four programs including an electronic magazine program which will provide information on games. Nintendo also plans to enable simultaneous, nationwide, multi-player games.

Getting In The Habit

→ TOKYO, JAPAN – Fujitsu will start a new PC communications service in both Japan and the US this year based on *Habitat*, a game in which multiple participants can explore a virtual city while interacting with each other.

The new service, targeted primarily at young users, will start with separate networks in Japan and the US, but Fujitsu hopes eventually to make international interactive participation possible, and will strive to develop the system as a mainstay product in its multimedia offerings, the company says.

The *Habitat* service started in Japan in February, 1990, and currently has more than 10,000 subscribers.

Sysop Not Guilty

→ BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, USA – The case against a Massachusetts college student who was charged with criminal copyright infringement has been dropped. David LaMacchia, student and bulletin board system (BBS) operator (Sysop) was charged with allegedly allowing copyrighted commercial software programs to be downloaded from his BBS.

In his ruling, US District Judge Richard G. Stearns found that since LaMacchia was not receiving any compensation from his BBS users he could not be prosecuted for criminal copyright infringement under the current federal wire fraud statute.

Judge Stearns made it clear that allowing the case against LaMacchia to go forward could potentially result in criminal prosecutions against home users for copying a single copyrighted program for their own personal use.

LaMacchia is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology majoring in Engineering and Computer Science. On April 7, 1994, the college senior, who lives in Rockville, Maryland, was indicted on one count of conspiring to commit wire fraud. The case was highly publicised by the US Attorney and the Software Publishers Association. At the time, prosecutors were quoted as saying it was the largest computer piracy case in US history.

According to the charges in the indictment, LaMacchia used the computer aliases 'John Gaunt' and 'Grimjack' to operate the BBS from November, 1993 until January, 1994. The BBS was allegedly used by as many as 180 people for the illegal distribution of copyrighted software.

While Judge Stearns found LaMacchia's actions were not illegal, he said LaMacchia acted "reprehensibly" if the allegations were true. In his decision, the judge wrote: "If the indictment is to be believed, one might at best describe his actions as heedlessly irresponsible, and at worst as nihilistic, self-indulgent and lacking in any fundamental sense of values."

Prosecutors filed wire fraud charges instead of copyright infringement charges because LaMacchia did not make any money from the BBS. Apparently, contrary to what prosecutors argued, the present wire fraud statute does not sufficiently address software piracy.

DELPHI

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NEWS

Mail Bonding

C2C Systems, a local area network (LAN) electronic-mail specialist, has unveiled MS-Mail Redirector, a mail redirection package that runs under Windows.

Dave Hunt, C2C's Marketing Director, claims that a key factor with the package is that the originator of the mail redirection request does not need to be on the same MS-Mail network or even a user of MS-Mail. In action, the package monitors all mail-boxes assigned for redirection, and when encountering new communications, it implements the user's instructions "exactly".

Users can choose whether to have an auto-respond message sent back to the originator, advising them of the original recipient's absence. Intelligent mail routing and holding functions are included as standard, and mail can be redirected between Post Offices or via a choice of gateways, such as X.400 links, or Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP).

Pricing on the package has been set at £575 for a Post Office of up to 100 users and £895 for a Post Office of up to 500 users.

Contact: C2C Systems (01734) 464411

CompuServe in 'GIF tax' storm

Online giant, CompuServe, has sparked controversy on the Internet by offering a \$1-plus-royalties licence for developers to use its previously free GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) image file format. CompuServe terms the fee an "offer" and a "benefit to the online community", but sceptics have quickly dubbed it a "GIF tax."

The new fee system is based on a licensing agreement reached between CompuServe and Unisys Corp. (NYSE:UIS) in June, 1994, for use of LZW (Lempel-Zev-Welch) compression in its GIF format. Unisys has claimed a patent on LZW technology.

Under the CompuServe agreement, developers who wish to operate under the online firm's LZW licence agreement with Unisys pay a one-time fee of \$1 plus a royalty of 1.5 percent or 15 cents per registered program, whichever is greater. Downloaded programs that do not get registered are not subject to the fee, nor are end-users.

CompuServe spokesman, Pierce Reid, said, "We're not making any money on this.

We paid a substantial fee to Unisys for the licence, and we offered to share the licence for the benefit of the development community as well as for ourselves and our subscribers."

Reid said the licence was based on the fact that CompuServe had found merit in a Unisys patent claim. CompuServe had used the patented LZW technology in its 1987 development of the GIF format, believing the technology to be in the public domain.

CompuServe

Konected

→The number of UK-based Internet service providers continues to grow with the news that a new company Netkonect, allied to the US phone giant Sprint, is beginning operations over here shortly.

Netkonect are claiming that their service is going to be one of the most advanced around and are pitching their prices directly at the likes of Demon, with a £10 option. However, there's an initial offer of 30 days free access and no sign-up fee.

There are also ISDN and the usual leased line deals up for grabs too.

Netkonect are promising that as a result of Sprint's access to BT lines, there should not be any problems with getting access to the Internet: "Many users are finding that they often have trouble getting onto the Internet through their service provider because the lines are engaged. We should never have that problem."

Contact Netkonect on (0171) 345 7777 or email info@netkonect.co.uk



MBAs Go Online

→The Southampton Institute has just begun offering an MBA (Masters in Business Administration) course which can be 'taken' over the Internet. According to spokeswoman Brigett Vane, the Institute allows either a part-time or full-time course to be taken by students who can be located anywhere in the world, provided they have access to the Internet.

"There will be local examinations at the end of the course, which will be at centres around the world," she explained to I&CT, adding that charges will be in pounds sterling, although rates will be dependent upon market forces. "That means that a student in say, the US, would pay standard rates for the course, but someone in Bangladesh would pay a (reduced) rate appropriate to their local situation."

Course work, 'lecture notes' and research material will be sent out across the Internet, and papers and write-ups will be sent by the student, back to the course tutors in Southampton. "Obviously, the students will be offered the opportunity to come to the UK if that is what they want, but they can stay in their own country for all of the course, attending their regional centre to take examinations when required" Vane said.

The Southampton Institute is being linked up to the Internet for the introduction of the MBA course. Telnet into the University's computer system for further information by routing to cecomm.co.uk (Telnet ID 193.119.98.0.). Internet email inquiries should be addressed to mba@solent.ac.uk.

World Vision

TCI Buys 20% Stake In Marvel

→ REDMOND, WASHINGTON, USA – Tele-Communications Inc. (TCI) has bought a 20 percent stake in Microsoft's yet-to-launch online service, Microsoft Network.

The deal is estimated to be worth \$125 million, and has already been completed. The two companies declined to say how they had settled on the value of the online service.

Microsoft said the partnership provides the Microsoft Network with the technical support needed to develop services that can run over cable TV, which offers better sound and video quality than phone wire. Microsoft Network is expected to launch as a subscription service accessed via a modem-equipped personal computer via telephone lines. However, Russ Siegelman, General Manager of Microsoft's online services program, said Network could have a cable access option as early as 1996.

The online service is scheduled to become available when Windows 95, the next version of Microsoft's Windows operating environment, is in the hands of users. So far, the shipment of Windows 95 has been delayed at least twice. It is now scheduled to ship "by August 1995", according to Microsoft.

TCI said it considered investing in other online services but chose Microsoft's offering "because we thought they had the best business plan and would be the best partner for us," according to Bruce Ravenel, Senior VP of Technology at TCI. Ravenel said TCI would be a silent minority partner with a long-range view, rather than a company looking for quick returns. The two companies said no public offering is planned.

Microsoft holds the remaining 80 percent of Microsoft Online Services Partnership. The company said it is not actively seeking other outside participation, but would consider offers. "If the right deal or the right partner came along we'd be open to that," said Siegelman.

TCI said it has nearly 11 million subscribers to its basic cable TV service in 48 states and will offer Microsoft Network to those homes when the service becomes available. It also owns interests in other cable networks that include Cable News Network and Home Shopping Network.

This is not the first venture involving Microsoft and TCI. The two companies announced earlier they will launch a computer television channel next year and are also working on a test of an interactive television system.

FMV takes to the air

→ ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA – "Please return your video screens and your seatback tray to the upright and locked position" may soon replace the customary request by flight attendants for the stowing of seatback trays on commercial airliners. The Network Connection (TNC) has released Airview, its in-flight digital video server that delivers full motion video including movies and computer video games to screens mounted in commercial airliner seatbacks. The user gets to select the movie they wish to view and when they want it to start.

Airview uses a 13-inch flat screen that tilts and swivels and is mounted just above the seatback tray. The screen can be divided into two or more windows, allowing airline travellers to watch a movie and play computer video games simultaneously. The company said passengers would be able to access step-by-step full motion video as they work, study or interact with the video-on-demand entertainment system. If they decide to watch a movie they can choose from 25 different recently released titles.

The system also offers the airlines another source of revenue. With such a captive audience, airlines have the opportunity to sell in-flight advertising through the new service.

The company says their system has other applications, including LAN (local area network)-based video training, LAN on-demand training library, content archive compression, VOD (video-on-demand) training information kiosks, retail VOD sales kiosks, LAN-based training over a wide area network (WAN), real-time VOD LANs, real-time computer games, video email, video help at the desktop, medical information kiosks, and training-on-demand at the desktop.

TNC also markets TNC Newsview for the news broadcast industry, Gameview for the computer game industry, Sportsview for the sports industry, Medview for the medical industry, Airtran for the airline training industry, and Cineview for cinema chains.

Online publishing shakes up science

→ SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, USA – Scientists want to know the results of the latest research as soon as possible, so it shouldn't be surprising that research journals are going



Joel Furr may not be a mad bomber but he is mad about media misinformation...

If there's one thing that really peeves me, it's the way that the Internet is covered in the general news media. Or rather, the way it's not covered. Stories about something called 'the Internet' (or, more frequently, 'the Information Superhighway' or 'cyberspace') appear in the newsmedia, but the Internet they refer to seems to be something substantially different from the one I know.

Let me give you an example. When the USA's pet Mad Bomber, the UNABOM bomber, killed a man in New Jersey with a letter-bomb, people were understandably somewhat upset. Stories showed up everywhere about this guy, how he'd been bombing people once or twice a year since 1978, and how the Federal Bureau of Investigation was trying to track him down with very little luck. But after a day or so, the articles suddenly started appearing with headlines like "FBI to search for UNABOM via cyberspace!" and "FBI asks Internet users for help catching UNABOM." Supposedly, so these stories claimed, the FBI had posted notices all over the Internet's Usenet discussion groups asking Net users for any tips they might have that would help in catching the UNABOM killer.

Since I'm pretty well everywhere on Usenet (unfortunately), and am even on the news.announce.important review panel (which occasionally is asked to vote thumbs up or down on whether a particular notice should be posted), I was bemused – I wasn't seeing ANY of these requests for help from the FBI. If the FBI was out there, they weren't asking for help anywhere I had a presence, and they certainly hadn't sent their notice to the newsgroup which exists specifically for notices of earthshaking importance, news.announce.important. I asked around. No one had seen these notices. No one!

Nevertheless, a local TV station had a feature on the evening news showing one of their reporters, breathless with excitement, standing in front of a computer, babbling about the big search and, predictably, making reference to "the dragnet in cyberspace." And the local radio station devoted five minutes of talk one morning to the implications of the FBI searching 'cyberspace' for the bomber. And the local newspaper... well, you get the point. Everyone was falling over themselves to run stories about the FBI on the Internet.

My confusion grew hour by hour. Where were these notices? Where was the dragnet? What was the news media blathering on about? I called the FBI repeatedly, talking to several agents in turn, including all the agents mentioned in the news articles, and the verdict that I eventually reached was that there was no substance to the stories at all. The FBI was not searching for UNABOM in cyberspace. No notices had been posted. They did in fact have a World Wide Web page which



reported most of the facts known about UNABOM, but this Web page had not been updated for a year at the time the stories began to appear.

When I finally tracked down the FBI agent responsible for the Web page, we came to the conclusion that the stories were based on one agent's remark at a press conference, to the effect that the FBI had a Web page where people could get information. This off-hand remark about a year-old Web page had become, in the fertile soil of the news media, a massive 'cyberspace' manhunt that, unfortunately, didn't exist. I posted my research to several newsgroups and promptly began getting mail from newspaper editors saying, in effect, "Oh. Oops!"

My point is that anything reported in the general media, television, radio, newspapers, and general interest magazines, cannot really be trusted. The media often assign a reporter to cover the Internet without worrying very much about whether that reporter has spent any time on the Net or has used the systems to be reported on. Who cares? The average member of the public won't be able to tell if the articles are sheer invention or factual accounts. If you have to generalise quite a lot and, in so doing, lose touch with the facts, that's life, right?

No less an institution than Time magazine recently fell victim to this syndrome in an article about the public's reaction to UNABOM. They reported that some Internet users were using email to discuss UNABOM, rather than talking about the bomber publicly on Usenet discussion groups, out of fear that perhaps the UNABOM culprit was reading those newsgroups. Nothing more. Just that. There was no mention of the very large amounts of discussion about the case right out in public, no admission that this statement was based on talking to a few users at one site, no acknowledgement that this report was a gross oversimplification.

I had a problem with this for four reasons, the most important being that Time's statement would be taken by most readers to mean that the general reaction on the Internet had been a fearful retreat to email, rather than a public discussion of the events. Secondly, when pressed, a Time reporter admitted that they'd just asked a few users on one local Internet access provider what they thought of the case – hardly what you'd call a reasonably sized survey. Thirdly, Time had no way of knowing what people were saying in email, but their story implied that they did. And finally, there was, in fact, quite a lot of discussion about UNABOM right out in public – but Time didn't mention it. I wasn't just suffering hurt pride over

my UNABOM research being ignored – even before I posted my conclusion that there was no "FBI manhunt in cyberspace", I'd come across thousands of people discussing UNABOM (none of whom worked for the FBI, though).

Why did the reporter do this? My guess is that she wanted to spice up her article by implying that Net users were terrified of the UNABOM bomber reading their discussions and sending them bombs – she did ask on one site if anyone was worried. When a few people said "Well, sure" – Bam! That was it. These innocent remarks were turned into a scare-story.

A word to the wise: don't trust general statements about the Internet that you read in the news media. Two factors are operating to reduce the probability that the statement you read is accurate and correct:

1. The person writing or reporting may well have a very limited understanding of the Internet, as was obviously the case when the news media went nuts reporting a "cyberspace manhunt" which anyone actually versed in use of the Internet knew didn't exist.

2. The person writing the article may have wanted to sensationalise things to make for a more interesting article, as when Time reported that some Net users were hiding from the UNABOM culprit and only using email to discuss the case, when there were thousands of people discussing UNABOM right there in front of anyone who cared to look.

The news media are extremely fond, it seems, of dressing up the Internet in unfamiliar clothes in order to satisfy what they think their public wants. Some reporters imply that the Internet is a happening, cool, radical place, while others will tell you that it's a dangerous place where vigilantes, hackers, and felons of all stripes hang out. The best defence against inaccurate news media reportage is to familiarise *yourself* with the Internet rather than taking for granted what anyone else, including myself, tries to tell you.

Despite appearances, Joel Furr is not a mad bomber. But he is one of our regular columnists. You can respond to his words of wisdom at:

jfurr@acpub.duke.edu



NEWS

CIX SLIPs In

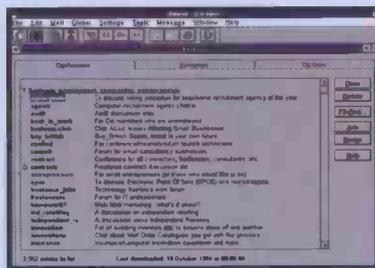
The CompuLink Information TeXchange (CIX) has announced plans to offer full Internet SLIP and World Wide Web access for its subscribers. According to CIX officials, all 15,000 subscribers to CIX will be able to access the SLIP service on dial-up from next month onwards. The rapid phasing in of full Internet services, which will be routed through CIX's Internet service provider, EUnet, is in direct response to the company's pre-Christmas survey of subscriber's 'wants list' for 1995.

In the poll, users were asked what kind of access they would like CIX to offer. Over 250 responses were received within 24 hours, and within a week over 500 users had mailed their desires. Over 95 percent of respondents said that CIX should offer dial-up SLIP Internet access.

According to Frank Thornley, CIX's Managing Director, charges for the service will be competitive. Plans include a complete package of professional software to be included with each registration, and a comprehensive tariff of charges that will ensure users "get the best value for their money".

CIX is also working towards allowing subscribers to have their own pages on the World Wide Web (WWW). According to CIX, a package has been written by in-house programmer, Paul Gardner, to allow for the creation and editing of WWW pages. Although there will be a charge for this service, the online service claims that there is demand enough to ensure that charges are kept low.

Contact: Matthew Sims, CIX (0181) 390 8446, email mat@cix.compulink.co.uk



→ CIX finally decides to do something about its Internet access.

Sopwith Channel

Wordcraft International has revealed it is working on a new PC communications package, codenamed Sopwith.

Scheduled for shipment on June 5, the voice/fax/data comms package will be aimed at modem manufacturers to bundle with their latest generation of modems equipped with modem driver chipsets from Rockwell. Mike Lake, the company's Managing Director, told us that the package is designed to work with the latest Rockwell modem driver chipsets, which are currently shipping in 14,400 bits-per-second (bps) versions to modem manufacturers.

"Our US company is located in Irvine, California, and is just 800 yards away from Rockwell's offices, so obviously we stay in very close contact with regard to this technology," he explained.

Lake said that a 28,800 bps version of the Rockwell modem driver chipset is expected to ship to modem manufacturers within the next few months. Sopwith, code-named after the aircraft manufacturer which produced the famous Camel aircraft in the First World War, is, he said, aimed at manufacturers of modems with this chipset on board.

"It's an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) product and we expect to see it bundled with a number of modems on both sides of the Atlantic," he said.

Lake also claimed that Sopwith is the first UK-developed package in this category and will be the most advanced package of its type. Advanced comms facilities within Sopwith will include voice response technology, the ability to access bulletin board systems, as well as the usual two-way data, fax and voice mail-box features seen in SuperVoice.

Contact: Wordcraft International (01332) 371428.

World Vision

electronic, leaving many researchers questioning whether paper journals have a future. In 'Peer Review in Cyberspace,' (Science, Nov. 11, 1994, p. 967) Gary Taubes explains that the fastest growing physics journal is available only on the World Wide Web (<http://xxx.lanl.gov/>).

The archives now include a dozen physics disciplines, plus mathematics, economics, computation, and linguistics. They have some 20,000 subscribers; and they receive roughly 1,000 new preprints a month.

Peer review, a standard function of printed science journals, soon will be added and even improved upon so as to make electronic scientific publishing actually superior in reliability to printed journals.

A related article ('Neuroscience on the Net', pp. 994-996) by Peter T. Fox and Jack L. Lancaster in the same issue of Science claims that there are already over 70 fully electronic, peer-reviewed, scholarly journals online. The main focus of this article, however, is neuroscience community databasing, another avant-garde method of doing virtual community scientific research via the Internet. The technique promises instant global awareness of the latest research findings to aid in experiment design and interpretation.

Contact: Terry Hansen, Cybernetics Digest. Email: twahansen@cix.pscu.com

xxx.lanl.gov e-Print archive

WWW server for automated e-print archives on xxx.lanl.gov: more physics public conference proceedings, statistics forums, EDOPT'S BROWSER, index, numerous automated downloads from this site are not permitted (Read log)

URL: [xxxx] final links from abstract viewer to datasets are installed, not working with slac server on getting refs -- ESJ

automated physics e-Print archives available via xxx.lanl.gov

- High Energy Physics - Theory (hep-th archive), started 8/91
- High Energy Physics - Lattice (hep-lat archive), started 2/92
- High Energy Physics - Phenomenology (hep-ph archive), started 3/92
- Astrophysics (astro-ph archive), started 4/92
- Condensed Matter Theory (cond-mat archive), started 4/92
- General Relativity & Cosmology (gr-qc archive), started 7/92
- Nuclear Theory (nucl-th archive), started 10/92
- Classical Physics (class-ph archive), started 3/94
- High Energy Physics - Experiment (hep-ex archive), started 4/94
- Accelerator Physics (acc-phys archive), started 11/94
- Statistical Theory (stat-ph archive), started 11/94
- Quantum Theory (quant-ph archive), started 11/94
- Quantum Theory (quant-ph archive), started 12/94

Electronic publishing is no longer just a pipe dream.

Library Goes Virtual

→ NARA, JAPAN - The Nara Institute of Science & Technology, which was opened in 1991 to cover the fields of information science and biotechnology, has drawn up plans to construct an electronic library which will serve as a model for a next-generation university library.

Books and periodicals will be stored in digital format on CD-ROM, microfilm and video, accessible from a workstation via a network. The system is expected to go into service in the spring of 1998.

More adverts on the Net

→ CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, USA - ProductView Interactive, the first "advertising only" service to be unveiled for the Internet, has teamed with Foote, Cone & Belding (FCB), the world's biggest ad agency, to offer Internet advertising services to FCB clients.

Robert Young, ProductView's director and founder, equated ProductView's upcoming services to an "interactive product catalogue," adding that the multimedia-oriented advertising service will offer users a "place for one-stop shopping" on the Internet.

For their part, content providers will gain a "second source of revenues" to supplement the royalties received from online services, he contended. The deal with FCB is non-exclusive.

"We're taking a TV Guide or CNN (Cable News Network) kind of approach," Young says. Internet "channel surfers" will know exactly what to expect from ProductView, visiting the company's home page specifically for shopping, just as people pick up TV Guide for television listings, or tune in to CNN for the news, he explained.

ProductView's advertising will be "nonintrusive," asserted Young, who was previously VP of Business Development at Delphi Internet Services Corporation.

Products and services that ProductView is eyeing up include computers, home electronics, autos, major appliances, vacation and travel packages, sporting and leisure equipment, and financial services.

As a result of the limited opportunities to earn revenues online, most content providers have treated online services as an R&D project up to now, reported Young.

"But clearly there is pressure now for money-making opportunities online," he told I&CT. "The importance of online advertising is coming into the limelight, and we anticipate that in the first quarter of 1995, it will be one of the most important priorities."

Art Attack

If you've ever wanted to take a year off and tour the world, with the aim of checking out some art and culture, now you can save yourself the cost of that plane ticket and do it over the Web instead.

If the arts and crafts of Egypt, Japan, Thailand, China and India are your thing, all you have to do now is get yourself over to the URL: <http://sgwww.epfi.ch/BERGER/> and take a look around.

More than just a slideshow, this Web site offers historical information and tours of historical artefacts as well.

→ A history of South East Asia's art can now be yours, thanks to the Web.



A la rencontre des trésors d'art du monde (www.berger.ch)

The principal purpose of World Art Treasures (WAT) is to promote the discovery and love of art.

© Record, images, Pilgrimage to ALLYDOS - Egypt, Pharaohs Museum Memphis, UK, English Museum Liverpool, UK

© First World War Art from Egypt, China, Japan, India, Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand (AEPH, Jan 95, Covering Old Images to IFCO Forum)

The project is a collaboration between:



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FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE



The Internet offers students a new, improved way of larking about – one that doesn't involve traffic cones. Jonathan Miller looks at the 'yoof' of today.

I am surrounded by lunatics at my place of employment. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but when we started Delphi UK, we decided to hire a bunch of computer students from University College, London, to handle customer support. It turns out that, despite all the dreadful complaints one hears about the indolent 'yoof' of Britain, they are without exception superb customer support representatives. But what I have also discovered is that, in the quiet times, they get up to things online that are quite literally bonkers.

I have just been called away from my computer terminal to observe the latest triumph of one of our lads. Employing the massive resources of the global Delphi organisation, including our prototype, high-speed Web browser (coming soon to public release) he has (respectful silence please as we blow the trumpets and roll the drums) downloaded a sound file of Beavis and Butthead declaring that: "It sucks".

This achievement gave him inordinate pleasure and, I have to say, even I am amused. But it does raise the question: why is so much Internet content so hopelessly trivial?

And why does it have such appeal that several of the brightest young people in Britain will contentedly spend hours delving into the nooks and crannies of the Internet to discover this stuff, emerging many pizzas later to announce their discoveries with as much pride as Christopher Columbus in his fax back to Queen Isabella announcing the discovery of America?

One of our chaps recently discovered a Net site that features as its central attraction nothing less than a big red button. When you press it by clicking your mouse, guess what happens?... Nothing.

This, I am told, is the height of post-modernist chic. On the Internet, naturally, if a joke is worth labouring, it's worth labouring to death.

Hence, the Big Red Button comes complete with an explanation: "Welcome to the most unusual artefact to be discovered on the Superhighway de la Informatique: the really big button that doesn't do anything. Labelled as the mystery spot of the Internet, thousands flock to this button every day, pushing it,

attempting to get it to do something, all in vain."

I know that all my readers are far too sensible to waste their time visiting the Big Red Button, and hence will have no use for the URL: <http://www.wam.umd.edu/~twoflowr/button.htm>

I have to admit though, that even as seriously-minded a person as myself can occasionally be seen to exhibit the slenderest of smiles at oddities discovered on the verges of the digital motorway.

My personal favourite Gopher site is Kevin's World at the University of Saskatchewan, which includes the targeting co-ordinates for Kevin's living room, in case you should want to aim an ICBM in his general direction.

Please let me know of other wacky stuff and I shall share it with Your Fellow Readers in this space.



→ The Big Red Button - Why?

I had a phone call the other day from a university student who was studying Journalism, asking for help on a project she was doing on the Internet. I usually try to be obliging, but her questions were so basic that, after fielding several of them, I grew somewhat petulant and suggested that she log onto the Net and find out the answers for herself.

That was when she brought me up short. Unfortunately, she apologised, she had no access to the Internet. She explained that at her university, Internet accounts were available only to Computer Studies students, not to those studying Journalism. Her admission does not bode well for the state of media education in Britain, but it should cause concern for us all, not just for journalists.

The media, in all its forms, is one of the industries in which we Brits excel. The whole world wants to learn our language. Our television programmes, theatre, newspapers and magazines are right up there amongst the best on the planet. The new network technologies are opening up unparalleled opportunities for us to extend the

reach of our media. Yet the Net, certainly the most formidable media innovation in a decade, remains weirdly off limits to many of those on whom our future will depend.

I should admit at this point that the problem is hardly confined to the universities. Even in the newsrooms of our mightiest newspapers, there is a lack of access. Most of the journalists who are now online have made it there because they've gone out and spent their own money buying computers and modems.

I'm not aware of any UK newspaper publisher that makes personal computers and modems available to its journalists as a matter of course, yet these ought to be regarded as essential tools of the trade. But don't just blame the publishers. Most of the journalists I know remain steadfastly unwired and many of them are perversely proud of the fact. At the smarter drinks parties on the London media scene, you're likely to be teased as an 'anorak' or worse if you admit to spending time online. There's a condescension at work here which tells us more about those doing the condescending than those who are condescended against.

Fortunately, not all departments of journalism are quite so unwired. Although there is currently a surfeit of conferences about the Internet, the one planned for June 15 at London's City University holds more promise than most, since it is organised by the Graduate Centre for Journalism, and targeted directly at ink-stained hacks, and not computer boffins. The conference will bring together many of the most distinguished American practitioners of digital journalism and their British colleagues.

If the Internet and online world is ever to break out from 'anorak-mode' to gain the status of a fully-developed mass medium, the input of media professionals is vital.

For more information on the conference, email: m.s.wallace@city.ac.uk



→ Jonathan Miller is Editorial Director of Delphi and is a regular contributor to Internet and Comms Today. He also writes a weekly column for the Sunday Times.



Miller Lights



bulletin

NEWS

Delphi Harps On

The book publisher Harper Collins (a division of News Corp, the owners of Delphi) have just gone online with Delphi. They are offering some 10,000 books and software titles to the user – Delphi say: "The bookstore's virtual shelves, searchable by title, author or category, offer one of the widest ranges of books currently available online."

Sadly, the service is not free, but if you want to order anything, you can via credit card. To try it out, do the following:

Go to US Delphi, choose Shopping, then choose Online.

Get on your bike

We won't make too many jokes about motorbikes or bikers, because a rather large one we know well works just down the corridor. And we don't want to end up impaled on the front of a Harley, particularly (although a good Japanese bike can't be beaten...)

Anyway, if biking is your thing, you'll find plenty of biking info at the following URL, which is an archive of news and, well, stuff about bikes really.

URL: <http://seahunt.imat.com/index.html>

Mail Model

We like that headline, being the third time we've used it in this mag in as many months. Anyway, if you've seen this thing called 'listserv' as part of an email address, you'll probably realise that it's an automated mailing list program, i.e. you subscribe to listserv and it sends out documents to you at regular intervals.

Now we can tell you how to get a commercial copy of listserv for yourself. Just send a normal email to sales@Lsoft.com and they'll get back to you with details.

Big Jobs

→ If you're still after a job and last month's Careers Magazine news piece wasn't enough for you, try the Papyrus Media Careers Online Web page instead. It has jobs listed by region, so finding those UK and European jobs is a great deal easier than using the Career Magazine.

You can access the page by pointing your browser at:
<http://www.Britain.EU.net/~idea/main.html>

Even better, if you don't have a Web browser, you can access the list via email, by sending a message to howard@newyork.demon.co.uk

→ An excellent Web page for all those looking for IT jobs.

databurst

[gopher://gds.esrin.esa.it/1](http://gds.esrin.esa.it/1) for those crazy people over at the European Space Agency. (Erm.)

gopher://infoshare1.princeton.edu/1 for the Princeton University Library Archives Dept.

Just to prove there's life in telnet yet: <telnet://libros.aa.edu/> for the Albuquerque Academy, Library. Login: library.

For a look inside IBM's labs at Hursley, try: <http://www.hursley.ibm.com/>

For (moderated) information on Bosnia and the war there, subscribe to ListProc@doc.IC.AC.UK with the text: SUBSCRIBE BOSNEWS <Your name> <Your last name> in the message body.

Dummies, this way

Do you feel a bit of an Internet dummy? If so, you'll be pleased to know that the full text of the book The Internet For Dummies and Zen and the Art of the Internet have kindly been placed on the World Wide Web for your viewing pleasure.

Of course, you'll actually need to be slightly less than an Internet dummy to actually get to the correct Web site in the first place, but assuming you feel up to the challenge, try the following URL: <http://grfn.org/~topher>

World Vision

Contact: ProductView Interactive (0101) 617 492 6600

Channels of the Future

→ There has been a lot of talk during 1994 about the proliferation of channels on cable TV in the future, but at least one expert says there are a number of technical problems still to be resolved. Charles Merk, VP of Engineering at Philips Broadband Networks Inc., says cable television will have to define parameters for at least four return path requirements, and to do that, the engineer says, some frequencies in the 850 megahertz to one gigahertz band will have to be allocated. Cable providers will also have to furnish additional fibre optics transmitters, receivers and output bridgers in order to double the number of homes served per fibre node to 480 or less. Steve Reynolds, an interactive television market analyst and head of Link Resources, says: "I think we are looking at two to three years for significant penetration of interactive television and then five years plus from now for really elegant architecture."

HP Meets Singapore's Demand

→ PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. – Hewlett-Packard says it will help Singapore's multi-million dollar information infrastructure by supplying its HP MediaStream Server video servers to Singapore Telecom's video-on-demand 18 month trial project.

According to Greg Hoberg, HP's Broadband Solutions Manager, the arrangement with Singapore Telecom makes this the fourth time in 12 months in which a major telecommunications company has selected HP's video-server architecture for its video-on-demand services.

According to the Project Director for Singapore Telecom, Allen Lew, HP's 'Video Transfer Engineer' architecture was chosen because it was the best suited to the interactive video-on-demand system.

Singapore Telecom's interactive-television service will offer a broad range of content, including customized interactive news, home shopping, interactive learning for children and adults, documentaries, movies, and sports.

The system will initially reach 300 homes and is planned to eventually provide a service to all of the 3.2 million residents of the island. The video-on-demand trial will begin this summer as part of a broad government initiative called 'IT 2000'.

Greg Hoberg points out that, while there has been considerable interest in video-on-demand in the United States, there is also a lot of related activity in the international community. He stated that "Singapore is taking an aggressive approach and is especially well-suited to creating these services quickly because of the country's population density, demographics, and advanced telecommunications infrastructure."

eWorld Cuts Prices

→ CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. – Effective immediately, eWorld is cutting hourly connect charges in half for US and Canadian subscribers, from \$4.95 to \$2.95. The company has also doubled the number of hours that subscribers receive for the monthly \$8.95 fee, from two to four.

eWorld, one of the latest competitors in the crowded online market, claims to have attracted more than 50,000 new users and will transfer 60,000 users from the AppleLink service this year to the new system.

Apple has attempted to increase usage of the service by bundling access software with PowerBook and Performa Macintosh systems. Peter Friedman, general manager of Apple Online Services, said the company will add the software to other product bundles in 1995.

There will be a new version of the eWorld software this spring, Apple promises, which will give eWorld users access to Internet Usenet groups, FTP file servers and popular mailing lists, along with an electronic-mail agent that allows users to filter incoming mail and automatically respond, save forward or delete.

→ eWorld cuts its prices. What does this mean for the competition? (Not a lot, probably).



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ALMAC

0324 665371: data

voice: 0324 666336

Monitor

There is no doubt that the US government is leading the way when it comes to putting information on the Internet. Following the White House's example, the House of Representatives has joined the World Wide Web. As a result, you can now find out more about what's happening in US government circles than you can about UK ones.

The new server offers the full text and status of bills and resolutions being considered by Congress, the phone numbers and email addresses of Congressmen, texts of US regulations, educational information and maps. The URL (Uniform Resource Locator or address) is:

<http://www.house.gov>

Being busy, it does sometimes refuse connections, but there is an alternative – not a duplicate – at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

The existing House gopher, of course, continues at:

<gopher://gopher.house.gov/>

As well as all this official stuff, there's an unauthorised guide to the US Congress, called CapWeb. This also offers contact information, committee assignments, party and state information and pointers to State Government Internet resources. It can be found at:

<http://policy.net>

Of course there are lots of things happening in the UK which, at the time of writing, sported 586 of the world's 5,000-odd registered Web servers – almost 12 per cent. Edinburgh has led the way, but there are now a few more sites to visit. For example, Birmingham City Council has opened a somewhat minimalist home page at:

<http://birmingham.gov.uk/>

while Brighton Health Care NHS Trust has started a pilot project to evaluate the benefits of being on the Net. It is on Pavilion Internet's server at:

<http://www.pavilion.co.uk/HealthServices/BrightonHealthCare/>

There's even a little commercialisation, with the first UK Internet Florist opening for business on MarketNet. The URL is:

<http://mkn.co.uk/HELP+FLOWER\INFO>

MarketNet is still being tested before its official launch, but it is already expanding its services. It is hosting the Birmingham pages just mentioned, and LawNet. This offers an online will writing service. It is said to have more than 5,000 people at 190 offices throughout the UK. The address is:

<http://mkn.co.uk/HELP+LAWNET>

Law Net - Online Legal Service

Brought to you by *MarketNet*

LawNet are a group of 77 firms of solicitors based in the British Isles. LawNet will be offering a number of on-line legal services.

In the near future you will be able to identify on-line a lawyer who specialises in the issue you need help with.

The first on-line legal service is a Will-writing Service.

Other Services to follow include:

- Company Formation
- Conveyancing
- Debt Recovery
- Litigation
- Probate
- Will Writing

MarketNet User: To first display Original Text and Graphics © MarketNet 1995 can be copied if source is referenced.

If you want to keep up to date with what MarketNet is doing, you can subscribe to MarketNet news. Email the message NEWS YES

to SUBS@MKN.CO.UK or visit its Web site at: <http://mkn.co.uk/>

This is an easier way to go than typing in the somewhat unusual URLs above.



THE INTERNET SQUASH PLAYER'S ASSOCIATION

This page has been created to provide information to squash players world-wide.

Recently featured in *The Guardian*, it is under continual construction and expansion...

- Clubs
- Coaching
- Equipment
- Marketing

If you'd rather do something completely different, drop in on The Internet Squash Player's Association. This Web site includes information about clubs, coaching, equipment, marketing,

results, rules and more.

It is being constructed by Paul Baggott of Newcastle University at:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~npb/>

Meanwhile, back in Edinburgh, Emwac – the European Microsoft Windows Academic Centre, at Edinburgh University – is distributing free Windows NT software for running Web and Gopher servers. (NT already has TCP/IP networking and an FTP server built-in.) This is a good site for all things Microsoft. Check the action at:

<http://emwac.ed.ac.uk/html/top.html>

Once you've got a Web server running, you'll need to design some pages. One place to start is Web Communications, which has published a Comprehensive Guide to Publishing on the Web at:

<http://www.webcom.com/html/>

It "provides step-by-step instructions for learning HTML, setting up fill-out forms, using FTP, widely publicising your site in major indexes, and creating a Web site which is interesting, attractive, and demonstrates good style, and more." It should be useful for beginners.



Welcome to Web Communications!

- [Login to Web Communications](#) (Login as guest for a demo if you don't have a WebCom account)
- [About Web Communications](#) An Overview of Services
- [Rates, Prices, Billing Policies](#) for Web Communications Accounts and Services
- [Open a WebCom Account](#)
- [Web Communications Customer Sites](#)

- [Web Communications Comprehensive Guide to Publishing on the Web](#)
- [Help for Web Communications Customers](#) (And prospective customers!)

- [The World Wide Web Power Index](#)
- [Our Guestbook](#)

How to contact us.

There's plenty of online entertainment for kids (see opposite page) but adults aren't left out of the fun. Gamers are well catered for on the Net, as is shown by 'Net Games'.

This new book features more than 1,500 places where you can play games, find opponents, learn tricks and cheats, and talk about online gaming.

A multimedia demo containing an excerpt from the book is available for Windows (NetGames.EXE, 1,134K) or Apple Macintoshes (NetGames_030.sea.bin and NetGames_040.sea.bin, both 860K) by anonymous FTP from:



Jack Schofield is Computer Editor of the *Guardian* and writes the *Netwatch* column, which is published every Thursday in its OnLine section.



[ftp://ftp.ypn.com/pub/demo/\[file name\]](ftp://ftp.ypn.com/pub/demo/[file name])

The demo can also be downloaded from the Windows Fun Forum (GO WINFUN for netgam.exe) or Mac Fun Forum (GO MACFUN for netgam.sea) on CompuServe. Send any queries to editors@ypn.com

One game, *Myst*, is the subject of more than one Web site. Start at: <http://www.astro.washington.edu/ingram/myst/index.html>

These pages are text-only, but players who are stuck may find some useful clues.

TV topics are also well covered. Have a look at TV Net, which has recently upgraded its broadcast/cable TV server at:

<http://tvnet.com/TVnet.html>

You can vote in a weekly TV Poll or explore the Ultimate TV List, which contains 333 Links to Internet sites about 101 shows. There's also a TV Free-For-All page that provides for "ads, announcements, and shameless self promotion".

For MTV fans there's a new site called MTV Oddities, which offers sound bites, graphics and cartoons created for the pop video station. At the moment it features The Head, but the section is due to be expanded rapidly. The URL is:

<http://mtvoddities.viacom.com/>

In cases of difficulty, email Rich Rothstein (rothster@rothster.viacom.com).

Another source of sound-bites can be found down under. Makin' Waves Studios' Web site offers five "novelty Australian sound files" that you can download and use in Windows. These clips have been "professionally recorded and voiced by experienced Aussie talent", and they'll do you a personalised WAV for AUS\$30. The URL is:

<http://cyberzine.org/html/Waves/wavepage.html>
or email kjones@adam.com.au

humorous files about a variety of topics including computing, religion and Star Trek.

There's even a selection of Pentium jokes. The site holds the official archives for the Canonical Lists of Blonde Jokes (cf. Essex Girl jokes), Light Bulb Jokes, Bumper Stickers, Answering Machine Messages and other genres, including ASCII cows.

This is not a suitable rest-stop for the politically correct or easily offended. The URL is:

<http://www.misty.com/laughweb/>

Any queries can be sent to Jascha Franklin-Hodge (joeshmoe@misty.com).



If you just want an amusing aphorism, try Michael Moncur's Quotations Page, which is under construction at:

<http://www.xmission.com:80/~mgm/quotes/>

You can get three Quotes for the Day, search the collection or download all 1,150 quotes from

<ftp://www.xmission.com/pub/users/mgm>

This page has links to several other pages of quotations.

But by far the funniest site of the month is LaughWeb. This is a huge collection of jokes and

Education is a popular topic on the Internet, particularly for what American's refer to as K-12, from Kindergarten to the 12th grade. But much of the information is for teachers, and I haven't noticed too many things aimed at children. However, those aged three to seven might enjoy a short story, *Waking in Jerusalem*, by Sharon Katz. The illustrated on-line version is available at:

<http://www.digimark.net/iatech/books>

This is the first of several on-line books to be published by Concertina with the help of InterAccess Technology Corp. Children of all ages can also try *Carlos' Coloring Book*. This lets you colour in pictures and save them in GIF or PostScript format. The Web site has been constructed by Carlos Pero (c-pero@uiuc.edu) and can be found at:

<http://robot0.ge.uiuc.edu/~carlosp/color/>

Most children are interested in dinosaurs. This suggests a visit to The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, which has put its current exhibition, *DNA to Dinosaurs*, online. The virtual exhibition has been created by Mary Rasmussen of the Biomedical Visualization Department at the University of Illinois. It includes 3D graphics, animations and sound. The URL is: <http://www.bvis.uic.edu/museum>

And then there's *Kid's Web*, a prototype digital library for school children, which can now be found at:

<http://www.npac.syr.edu/textbook/kidsweb/>

Each section contains a list of links to information that is understandable and interesting to schoolkids. Paul Coddington (kidsweb@npac.syr.edu) says: "Kid's Web grew out of a computer multimedia class based on the World Wide Web and Mosaic which was taught to 8th graders as part of the 1994 Young Scholars Program at Syracuse University. It is being developed as part of The Living Textbook project, which applies high-performance computing and communications to K-12 education, and is funded by New York State."

ArtsEdge should also be of interest. This is a World Wide Web site opened by The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The easiest way to get to it is via the K-12 education page at:

<http://k12.cnidr.org/>

What's HOT Internet

What's Hot And What's Not?
The What's Hot section tells you What's What...

U got it

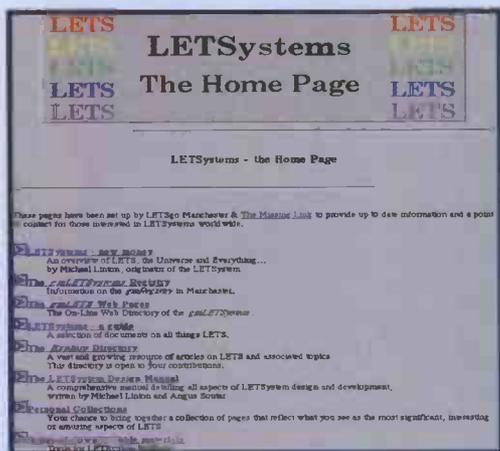
New World Wide Web Resources carried by U-NET:
British Trees – <http://www.u-net.com/trees/>
 – is an information resource carrying information on forestry and conservation.
UK Chemistry – <http://www.u-net.com/ukchem/>
 – a list of chemistry-related WWW servers in the UK.
UK Commercial Web Pages – <http://www.u-net.com/ukcom/>
 – links to all the UK's commercial WWW pages. It differs from the all-uk list in that it carries links to pages on other people's servers rather than just the server address itself.

hours – impressive compared to the performance of the 'big' people.
 Where will you find the pages? The URLs are:

<http://www.u-net.com/gmlets/home.html> for the LETSystem home page;
<http://www.u-net.com/gmlets/gmlets.html> for the gmLETS home page;
<http://www.u-net.com/gmlets/letsdir.html> for the Manchester Web Pages (the initial crude version).

Contributions for inclusion are welcomed, preferably in HTML format. Contact tml@gmlets.u-net.com by email.

If you have any hot contacts for LETS to browse or to make in support of the LETSgo Manchester project, then email LETS on lcs@mcr1.poptel.org.uk.



→ The LETS pages are here for you. LET it be known, LET the cat out the bag, LET... (snip - Ed.)

information and downloadables will be added. The service was provided by U-NET, a local Internet and Web service provider based in Warrington. They were able to set up the necessary accounts to allow the pages to be uploaded and tested immediately by Web page compiler Andy Blunt at LETSgo Manchester. Many thanks to U-NET for their speedy service. From the initial phonecall to uploading the complete initial set was less than 24

LETS be friends

The LETSystem Web Pages have just appeared upon the international scene of the World Wide Web. The collection has started big but incomplete and expects to grow bigger but still incomplete. As time goes on, more facilities,

New Usenet newsgro

Usenet is possibly the most dynamic part of the Internet. New newsgroups are being added all the time – the following are the ones that stood out in our minds as being worth a look at the present time.

If you want to stay totally up to date on new newsgroups in the Big Seven hierarchies (comp, sci, misc, talk, rec, news, and soc) subscribe to news.announce.newgroups.

If you want to keep totally up to date on new newsgroups in the alt. hierarchy (the so-called Eighth Big Seven hierarchy, where ANYONE can make a new newsgroup), forget about it. It's impossible to keep track. Reading alt.config regularly is the best you can do.

rec.games.trading-cards.announce;
rec.games.trading-cards.jyhadr;
rec.games.trading-cards.magic.misc;
rec.games.trading-cards.magic.rules;
rec.games.trading-cards.magic.strategy;
rec.games.trading-cards.-marketplace; and

rec.games.trading-cards.misc
 – These newsgroups represent the latest attempt to provide a forum for the zillions of players of the card game – 'Magic: The Gathering'. The **announce** group is intended for breaking news about new cards and new games for those of you who live and die by what new cards come out. If you want to buy or sell cards, use the **marketplace** group. Don't try to sell cards in the other groups. The **jyhadr** group is for players of the game 'Jyhadr', also published by the publishers of 'Magic: The Gathering', Wizards of the Coast. And if you play one of the games NOT published by Wizards of the Coast, like 'Illuminati, the New World Order', you should use the **misc** group.

alt.silly-group.persian
 – We're still not sure what goes on in this newsgroup, but it was eagerly requested by readers of soc.culture.iranian. There's so much to talk about, though — happy times in the

mosques at Qum, a frenetic Saturday night spent stoning infidels in the streets of Tehran, comic poems about the Great Satan. It's sure to be an exciting newsgroup.

rec.games.computer.doom.announce;
rec.games.computer.doom.editing;
rec.games.computer.doom.help;
rec.games.computer.doom.misc;
rec.games.computer.doom.playing
 – These new groups are for the legions of *Doom* players. The **announce** group is for announcements about *Doom* only; the **editing** group is for those who write their own levels to discuss and share how-tos; the **help** group is for questions and general help; the **playing** group is for discussions of strategy and playing; the **misc** group is for discussions of the secret 'Plains of Hell Diner, Barbeque, and Tea Shop' (rumoured to be reachable in some copies of *Doom II*) and similar stuff that doesn't fit in anywhere else.



Happy New Year goes online

→ In case you thought it was just too crazy to go out on New Year's Eve or you're one of those people who try not leave the keyboard for the sake of superficial human contact, you could have let in the New Year by joining festivities in cyberspace.

Live party sites in

First Night and Foo-related CURLS (cool urls)

1995!

- Check out the official [First Night](#) Web page.
- Add your resolutions to [Pathfinder's New Year's Eve](#) page
- [Happy New Year](#)
- Take an [Art tour](#) of the World Wide Web.
- [The Louvre](#)
- [The Exploratorium](#)
- [Electronic Art Gallery Pixel Pushers](#)
- [Art Gallery by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- [Fractal Movie Archive](#)
- [Symposium on Electronic Art](#)
- [Comics on the Web](#)
- [Witness the fall of the Berlin Wall](#)
- [Fun and Games](#)
- [Zarf's List of interactive web games](#)
- [Star Trek Sites](#)
- [Yahoo's Guide to the WWW](#)

[← Return to the Cyberfoo Page](#)

This page created and maintained by [suzanne@well.com](#) and [dave@well.com](#)
updated 12/28/94

→ **Happy New Year! (Even if we are a bit late...)**

Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Rome, and London enjoyed the Hogmanay festivities while other online communities had collaborative parties in New York and Washington DC.

Ron Pernick, the new director of marketing at WELL, the organisers, told us, "What made this really great is that it all started as a grassroots effort by our members from around the world. We were just here to facilitate the technology necessary to run the event. It really was their party."

This special event, officially called First Night in Cyberspace, also gained a nickname: Cyberfoo (?). If you are accessing the Web, you will find more information on the event through a special Web site for First Night in Cyberspace.

The Well plans to open its Multi User Simulated Environment (MUSE) to the Internet community.

This will allow participants to explore virtual worlds and objects, as well as join in live conversations. Pernick said the MUSE conversation can only accommodate 100 people, but an unlimited number of channels can be set up for chatting on Internet Relay Chat (IRC).

The Well is reachable by phone at (0101) 415 332 4335 or Internet Address:

info@well.com; URL: <http://www.well.com/Conference/foo>.

ups

alt.binaries.multimedia.erotica

If downloading computer animation of people having sex is your thing, you'll want to subscribe to this newsgroup immediately.

alt.games.nomic

Nomic is a game where you make up the rules as you go along. The alt.games.nomic group will be the largest game of Nomic ever played.

alt.fan.pratchett.announce

Information about books by Terry Pratchett, without any of the gibberish and raving that goes on in the unmoderated discussion group alt.fan.pratchett.

alt.humor.best-of-usenet

If you're tired of reading the same tired jokes in rec.humor.funny and rec.humor, and don't have the time to scan every newsgroup on the Internet to find worthwhile quips, banter and comedy, you may wish to check out alt.humor.best-of-usenet.

This is a moderated newsgroup (every article submitted to it must be approved by a human moderator prior to appearing on the newsgroup) dedicated to reposting humorous articles found on other newsgroups. It's a great way to keep track of the ebb and flow of craziness and weird but funny happenings on thousands of other newsgroups without having to subscribe to them all.

Unlike the newsgroup rec.humor.funny, which has constantly been criticized for the policy of posting only those submissions the moderator thinks are funny, alt.humor.best-of-usenet posts everything submitted - except:

- * test postings
- * so-called 'copy machine humour' (tired old jokes circulated at the copy machine since the dawn of time) like 'Hotel Soap' or 'Administratium'
- * followups to alt.humor.best-of-usenet articles (discussion of the articles takes place in alt.humor.best-of-usenet.d.)
- * original works (everything posted to

Flower power

Have you caused a ruction that only a flippin' great wodge of greenery can cure? If so, and you have decided that phoning Interflora is entirely too 19th Century for a hip young infogruppenfuhrer like yourself, you can now order flowers over the Web. And best of all, it's a UK company that's doing the business.

Try the URL:
<http://mkn.co.uk/HELP+FLOWER\INFO>

FlowerNet - OnLine Florist

MarketNet is pleased to be able to offer, in conjunction with British Teleflower Service, the first UK based Internet Florist. A Browser capable of using forms is needed to use this service.

Is there someone special?

If you would like flowers sent to someone special in the UK, then you simply fill in the ordering form and the work is done for you. There are five options:

- A single Rose in a container £9.90
- A bouquet of Flowers £16.90
- An arrangement in a container £18.40
- An arrangement in a basket £18.90
- An aqua pack £20.40

→ Well, you'd at least expect to see a flower on a flower web page, eh?



→ A real flower looking radiant yesterday...

alt.humor.best-of-usenet is supposed to be a repost from some other newsgroup)

If your submission is a repost of something funny from another newsgroup, rest assured, it will be posted.

The newsgroup has existed since mid-1993 but has always been run by a single moderator and, at times, the newsgroup was sent a queue of submitted articles once a week or so. Recently, however, a change took place which will mean a constant daily flow of funny articles to the newsgroup for you to read: _group_ moderation. A team of moderators now runs the group, and each submitted article goes to a different moderator. At any given time, one of the moderators will have recently posted something.

The head moderator is Doug Sewell, doug@cc.yyu.edu. Submissions for the newsgroup should be sent to ahbou-sub@acpub.duke.edu. Questions and comments for the moderators as a whole should be sent to ahbou-mod@acpub.duke.edu.

What's Hot Delphi

What have Rupert Murdoch, Mick Jagger's tongue and a dragon made out of ASCII characters all got in common?

Delphi's continued expansion has allowed quite a few new groups to emerge in the Open Delphi forum. Of practical interest to us at I&CT is the Journalism group where journalists from all types of publications can chat to others about things that interest journalists.

For Welsh language users a forum has risen just for you, Cymru is almost all in Welsh so I can't understand a word of it personally, but the occupants appear tolerant of linguistically challenged contributors. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

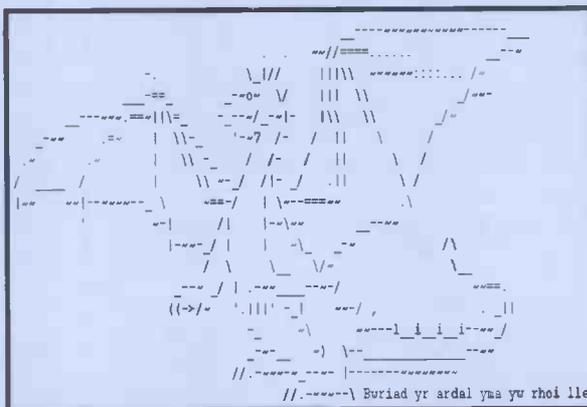
→ A mythical beast, unlike the Welsh language.

Also new is the practical astronomy forum where those of the telescopic persuasion can report sightings and find out about what's happening in the heavens. This may not sound particularly thrilling but when you learn that a 30 metre wide asteroid grazed the Earth by a mere 60,000 miles early in December, making it the closest near miss of 1994, you realise that its frightening stuff! You can also access all Usenet astronomy related newsgroups from here, as well as a Gopher.

Naturally, as you might expect, a sex forum has sprung up on Delphi. It is restricted to over 18's and the guy who runs it



→ Is this man sexy? I think we should be told.



says that he'll censor anything of an offensive nature posted to the forum. I can't really make any final comment on this and the other new forums as they have only just emerged. So far they are only into double figures in terms of messages received, so get yourself online, join in and make a contribution.

Turning to the US side of Delphi this month – inspired by their recent Internet performance I took a look at the Rolling Stones forum found in the Entertainment section. There are some cool pictures of their recent tour taken at RFK Stadium and the conference section is full of lively Stones debate and information, ranging from info on bootlegs to a discussion on whether Mick is still sexy. Was he ever?

CompuServe

CompuServe turns the clock back to the Golden Age of Hollywood this month with a selection of GIF files (taxed).

In the Showbiz forum (GO SHOWBIZ) a collection of GIF picture files under the title "Hollywood's most beautiful women" has been setup. Obvious candidates for this accolade are the stunning figures of womanhood – Marilyn, Jayne Mansfield and Pamela Anderson, among

many others. Rare publicity photos from the Golden Age of Hollywood are among the collection so this is well worth a look for movie buffs and amateur gawkers alike.

The Video Games forum is the place for console owners to get the very latest info on games for their own particular console. Such conferences are often well ahead of anything magazines print and cheats and photos of the latest games are widely available. The forum

covers all the latest machines such as the Playstation and Jaguar as well as the elderly 16bit SNES and Megadrive (Genesis in the US) systems. There is also a slot for arcade machines and games magazines.



→ Read Industryweek online.

New to CompuServe is the Industryweek Interactive area (GO INDWEEK) a high-powered, US business magazine with a wide range of features and

articles, many of which are of interest to the average reader, especially since technology issues take up a lot of the magazine. There is also a shopping mall section where you can order back issues, articles, books and videos from Industryweek.



Finally, owners of Intel's flawed Pentium chips who require accurate double precision maths can get a program written by Stage Research off CompuServe for \$10 that checks to see if the chip is defective and runs the calculation from software whenever required. A far cry from the days when you had to wait for an update disk to arrive through the post to cure such problems. You can download it from the National Computer Security Association by typing GO NCSA.

→ Rita Hayworth prepares to deglove in 'Gilda'.

FidoNet

Once again, I&CT feeds the keen, lean, mean and very hungry, FidoNetters their monthly rations. We're so kind.

Arc Support

Richard Sargeant at 2:257/609.8 has written a BlueWave reader for Acorn's range of 32bit computers. The program, called !WaveForm, is completely RISC OS compliant but does not, as yet, support writing to BlueWave packets. Richard would be interested to hear if there is demand for a fully functional Acorn BlueWave package. The reader is available from The Heart Of Gold BBS and Hensa.

Poppy Online

Who is Poppy Hasted? Whoever he/she is, they moderate an echo called B_UNLABLED which can be found at BBSNet 405.

It's not been backboned (yet) but it's only new and not many people know of its existence yet. It's an echo for disabled people and their able-bodied friends, and the intention is for it to be a place where issues relating to disability can be discussed, with a view to sharing experiences, seeking possible solutions to problems, talking about possible cures and treatments and allowing able-bodied people to ask disabled users questions and thereby raise their awareness of the disabled world.

For more details, netmail Poppy (2:254/233.0) or call the Ooh! BBS on (0181) 395 3108/1028.

AmNet

→ AmNet is here and, according to David Lascelles, the bloke behind it, it's the "network of the future dedicated to Amiga users and enthusiasts".

AmNet was started because there was a large space for a network which caters for Amiga Users and offers Amiga echoes.

The coordinators of AmNet believe that Amiga users want a defined and moderated network beyond FidoNet.

So far there are fourteen echoes, covering topics such as: Communications, General Chat, Points and Points Discussion, Sysops, News and Information, BBS Users & Adverts, Workbench and Amigados discussion, BBS Software Discussion, Magazines Discussion, Programming Echo, PD Echo, Coordinators, Wild Chat on anything and Amiga Games Discussion.

All these echoes, with the exception of AmWild, are moderated. If you wish to join, there is an Online Registration Form Creator on Creepys BBS and from the Sysops of Heart of Lothian - just call (01620) 826004 or Darkside BBS (0181) 771 9100.

ScotChat

On the 28th of January, the second meeting of ScotChat was scheduled to happen in Dundee. Deadline restrictions mean we can't give you an on-the-spot report, but Alan Mulvie reports that ScotChat itself is an echo that is carried by probably all Scottish BBSs and is a general chat area, but unlike usual chat areas this one covers serious issues, such as drugs, sex, the NHS and the Government, as well as silly topics such as 'coffee and whose turn it is to make it'. So you can probably imagine what the meeting itself was like.

At the last ScotChat meeting there were users from Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh(-ish) and Glasgow(-ish). Many members took the opportunity to act like 11 year olds and took part in games of bowling and Zap Zone laser guns. Previous get-togethers even raised £200 for Royal National Institute for the Blind Charity Blindfold Bowl, so well done lads!

Keep a look out on Fido boards north of the border for forthcoming attractions, including a Trival Pursuit night.



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what's **Hot** FidoNet continued...

Don't understand the jargon?

→ Don't blame you, neither do we. Oh, all right then, we do (a bit). If you have the following formats, this is how fast you can go:

V21	300/300
V22	1200/1200
V22bis	2400/2400
V32	4800/4800 -> 9600/9600
V32bis	14400/14400
V32Turbo	19200/19200 -> 21600/21600
VFC	24000/24000 -> 28800/28800
V34	24000/24000 -> 28800/28800

HST (USR's own standard, up to 16800/16800)

Most modems support V34 or VFC. A few support both (USR Couriers).

V42bis Error Correction and Data Compression MNP An older standard, better to use V42bis
You may see your modem reporting ARQ, a generic term for an error corrected link.

Dart Project

Dart is 'Disability Access to Resources in Technology', and its central concept is the empowerment of people with disabilities through specialised training in information technology (IT). Allied to this is the aim of development of suitable skills to enhance the likelihood of voluntary or paid employment and a general boosting of confidence.

Now, an outreach group for Dart, Homelink, has been launched. Homelink makes use of communications technology to take the training directly into people's homes. They equip students with a computer and internal 2400 baud modem (slow but cheap!), allowing them to download exercises and upload their completed work or any queries they might have. In addition, they have access to a variety of utilities and text files relating to disability issues.

Dart encourages the students to communicate informally through the system and a newsletter is available. A local BBS called Cascades has kindly allowed them to use its facilities to access the Internet & FidoNet for email purposes. Suitable FidoNet areas are available for students.

If you would like to try out the system, please call on (0114) 272 1297, (lines open 24 hours). For those who like to know about these things the modem operates on 14400 baud, with 8 data bits, no parity and 1 stop bit. Mail of any kind is welcome, whether for staff or students, and all mail will be replied to. For access to anything more than basic facilities, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire.

Any comments/suggestions about the BBS are welcomed; the Sysop is Paul Smith of Cascades BBS (2:250/405), the Co-Sysop is Nick Robinson.

Please address any correspondence to: DART/Homelink, FREEPOST, Thomas Street, Sheffield S1 4LE.

HomeLink BBS: +44-114-272-1297

FidoNet: 2:250/405.20

Cascades BBS: +44-114-232-5232

FidoNet: 2:250/405

There is now an echo setup called HOMELINK which can be picked up from 2:250/405.

Colin Turner's addresses are:

Fido 2:443/13.0 INet ct@thog.centron.com

→ *Hoots, och aye caber and the noo, my darleeng Josephine. Never could figure out McCloud's accent, we're afraid. Anyway, here's a scene with some bloodletting.*



Prose and Poems

Matthew Revell runs an echo, namely PROSE&VERSE. It's Fido backboneed and gated onto AcaNet. As you might expect it is for the posting of original prose and verse and discussions in general.

There can be only one!

Fret no more, it's here! The echo you were all waiting for! (Allegedly.)

The new HIGHLANDER echo has been started on Chris Asher's boss node 2:2503/1041 If you want to come along, chat about the latest HL Movies, TV episodes, cartoon show or just about how great the Queen music is, then feel free.

Come on and join the fun. They are hoping for backbone status as soon as possible, so get on and start chatting. Netmail the moderator Chris (2:2503/104.221) for more information.

Mag Blag

We've just had the following letter from Paul Colclough and Steven Pearson, who are setting up a new FidoNet Magazine for newcomers and experienced alike:

"We were wondering if we could have a little plug in your next Internet And Comms Today magazine. Since this is a totally NON-PROFIT magazine I was wondering if you could give us a little coverage in your magazine. Also, we are desperate for articles, BBS reviews, PD reviews etc, so if you could advertise the following Internet addresses that would be great!

Fidomag@Squiznet.Fidouk.Org (For general submissions)

FidoLetters@Squiznet.FidoUk.Org (For letters and questions)

FidoTek@Squiznet.FidoUk.Org (For technical questions)"

Although the above addresses have '.fidouk.org' appended to them, they are not limited to 8K like many gateways, they are limited to 1Gig and are NOT routed via the FidoNet network, they are collected in a UUCP session twice daily :)

Or, for people without Internet access:

Paul Colclough @ 2:250/563.17

Steven Pearson @ 2:250/563.12



Reviews

Another month, another reviews section. This is good news for those who need the best information as soon as possible. Start reading here!

-  **Books**
-  **Comms software**
-  **Modem equipment**
-  **Tutorials**
-  **Service providers**

The Ratings Panel

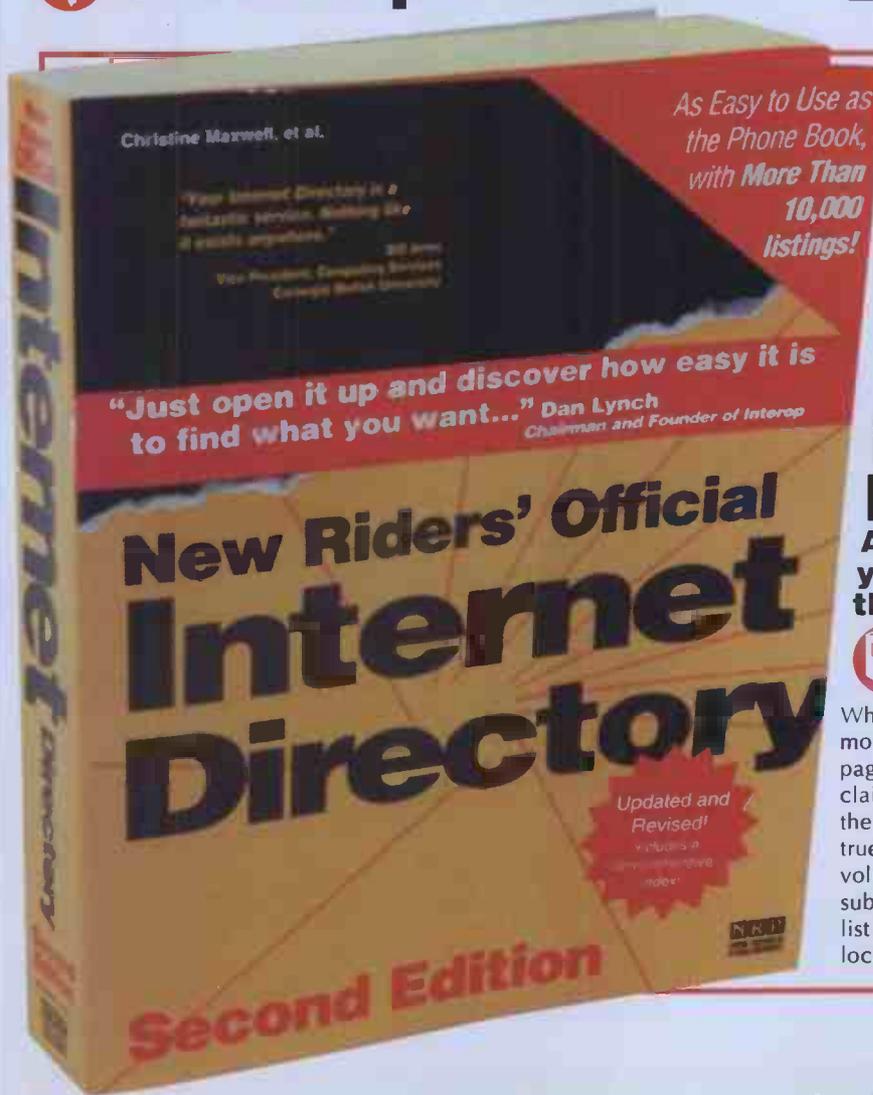
Name of Product



- ▲ **Uppers:** This is where we tell you a product's good points.
- ▼ **Downers:** And here, its bad.
- **Publisher:** Who makes it?
- **Price:** What's the RRP?
- **Contact:** Where to contact them.

The score (out of five) is represented by the number of red monitors. Good things about the product are represented by the 'up' arrow, and conversely, bad things by the 'down' arrow. Other relevant information, such as price and contact details can also be found in this box.

Although we quote the RRP and contact, you may be able to buy the product cheaper from a dealer.



New Riders' Official Internet Directory (2nd Edition) by NRP

Another new, but yellow, guide to the Internet.

 Coming to challenge the other Internet directories, such as the Yellow and White pages, this 800 page monster itself comes with yellow pages. On the front cover it claims to be "As easy to use as the Phone Book" which is pretty true since almost the entire volume is just an A-Z sorted by subject. In the first section is a list of places where you can find locations for Internet tools such

as Telnet.

The 3000+ fields within the A-Z seem to cover the globe, though naturally some subjects have more coverage than others. Sociology, for example, provides a couple of pages worth of reference, mostly soc.culture groups, for nations across the globe.

The access points are printed in bold text with the form of access, http, gopher, etc. in front of each item. There isn't a lot else to say about this book. It has a huge amount of information and is well presented, and if you feel you need a directory of the Internet then this could be the one.

New Riders' Official Internet Directory (2nd Edition) by NRP



- ▲ **Uppers:** Wide area of coverage
- ▼ **Downers:** Perhaps a little expensive
- **Price:** £27.49
- **Publisher:** NRP
- **Contact:** Computer Manuals on (0121) 706 6000

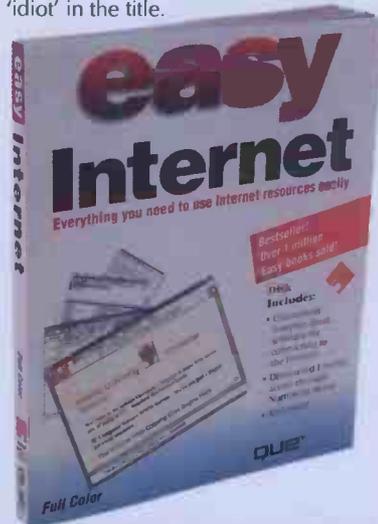
Easy Internet by Michael Miller

**A big and bold intro
for non-dummies**

 Optimistic title, especially for a book that's only 230 pages long. However, with its easy to read and colourful approach to the subject matter, this book makes a decent effort to educate the uninitiated about the wide world of Internet.

Easy Internet is laid out in a simplistic format with a large font, lots of screen diagrams and step-by-step instructions on how to use the programs supplied on the Chameleon sampler disk included. Provided you get an account with a service provider, you can use these programs from the outset.

When you're ready to go online you are given the clearest possible instructions about how to download other vital software. Once you've got yourself fully set up and running, the back of the book has several lists of top sites that you can try your software out on. All in all this is an excellent product and I'd recommend it above any book with the word 'dummy' or 'idiot' in the title.

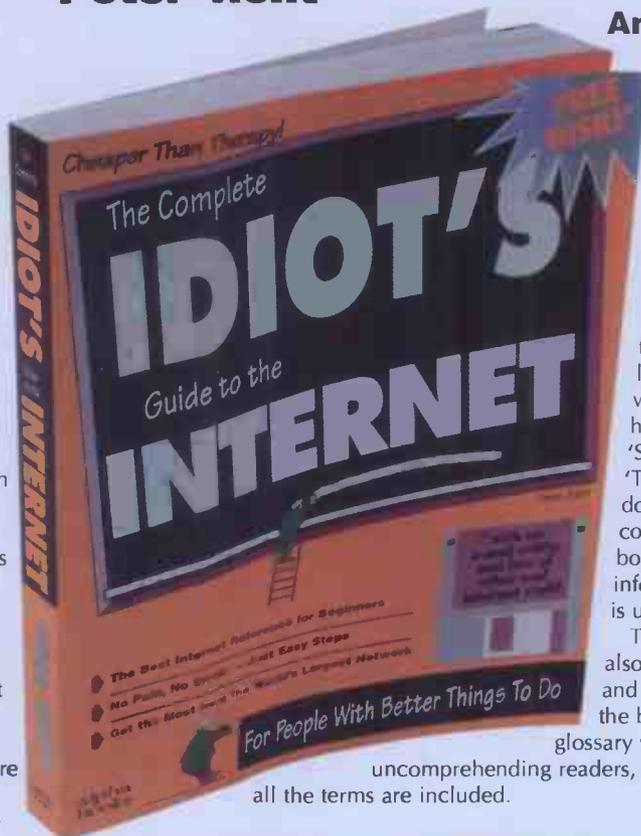


Easy Internet by Michael Miller



- ▲ **Uppers:** Bold and easy to understand presentation
- ▼ **Downers:** Nothing much wrong with this
- **Price:** £23.49
- **Publisher:** QUE
- **Contact:** Computer Manuals on (0121) 706 6000

The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Internet by Peter Kent



**Another guide for less mentally
talented netters**

 If you're not a dummy then maybe you're an idiot. What are they going to call these books next? "The brain-cellularly-challenged guide"? Whatever, this claims to be another easy way into the Internet. It comes with a disk containing uucode, uuencode and a bunch of text files covering a wide range of information from a list of computer science-related FTP sites to an article on Net culture.

The text is fairly easy to understand, starting off with the (very) basics and progressing through how to get on line and what type of connections there are. The text is written in heavy American-English, something that you'll have to put up with I'm afraid, with boxouts headed 'Speak like a geek' and 'Techno nerd teaches' doing little to inspire confidence in the book, although the information contained is usually helpful.

The Idiots Guide is also fairly jargon-heavy, and having to flick to the back to read the glossary will annoy

uncomprehending readers, especially since not all the terms are included.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Internet by Peter Kent



- ▲ **Uppers:** Comprehensive
- ▼ **Downers:** Uninspiring and very American
- **Price:** £18.50
- **Publisher:** Alpha Books
- **Contact:** Computer Manuals on (0121) 706 6000

net.talk by Nancy Tamosaitis

**Learn to talk like a Net
native**

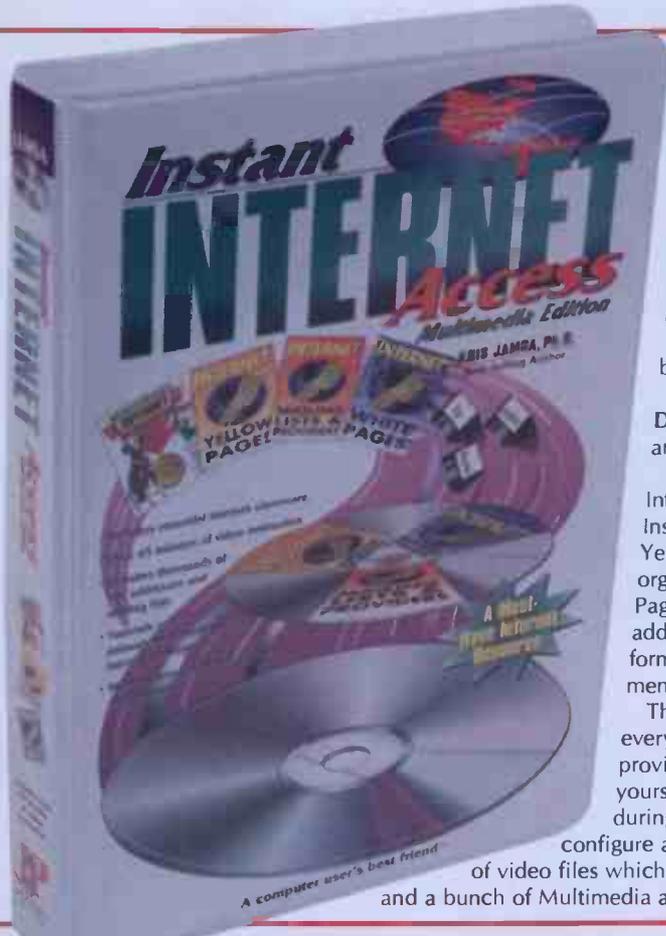
 Blimey, a book written by a human being. Hurrah! Rejoice! A book with human humour. It's just a shame that the sole topic of this book is the loved or dreaded emoticon. But that doesn't stop this small, 68 page booklet being a joy to read. Within the first few pages of its introduction, most Usenetters will develop a good feeling about this book and its authoress. This isn't a boring guide written in lecture prose, net.talk is a survival guide from someone who's been there,

seen it, done it.

Since it would be impossible to organise this booklet alphabetically it is laid out in groups of emoticons that have a common meaning. Breaking up the lists are quotes from celebrity netters which add interesting asides to the main body of the text. At the back of the book is a list of acronyms, quite a few of which I haven't come across before, very handy! Basically, if you use Usenet or email and spend time wondering what people are really saying then BUY THIS :-)



- ▲ **Uppers:** Useful, cheap and cheerful.
- ▼ **Downers:** Don't expect to find the meaning of life.
- **Price:** £5.99
- **Publisher:** Ziff-Davis Press
- **Contact:** Computer Manuals on (0121) 706 6000



Instant Internet Access by Kris Jamsa, Ph.D

Internet access now in granuals! Or not



This PC CD-ROM product combines the reference guides; Internet Yellow and White pages and the Internet Mailing Lists and Providers guide with 45 minutes of instructional video and tutorials and animations about how to use the Internet. There is also an array of software provided to allow you Internet access.

The booklet provided shows what the product is capable of but misses out on basic points such as installation instructions.

Free hint: If you do buy this, select **Run** from the File Menu and type **D:\SETUP.EXE**. The installation program dumps 6Mb of files onto your hard disk and you get two new program groups.

One group keeps the main program, Instant Internet Access and a collection of Internet tools, and the other presents you with the Chameleon Sampler programs. The Instant Internet Access program brings up a menu where you can view data from both Yellow and White Pages. The Yellow Pages is organised by areas of the Internet while the White Pages just has 300,000 names and email addresses. All this runs under the Windows Help format, enabling you to do searches from the menu.

The collection of Internet programs gives you everything you need to get online, except instant provider access which you'll have to arrange yourself. Since there is no system setup routine during the install procedure, you'll have to configure all the programs as well. There are 45 minutes of video files which give instructions on how to use the software and a bunch of Multimedia animations to explain about the Internet.

Instant Internet Access by Kris Jamsa, PhD



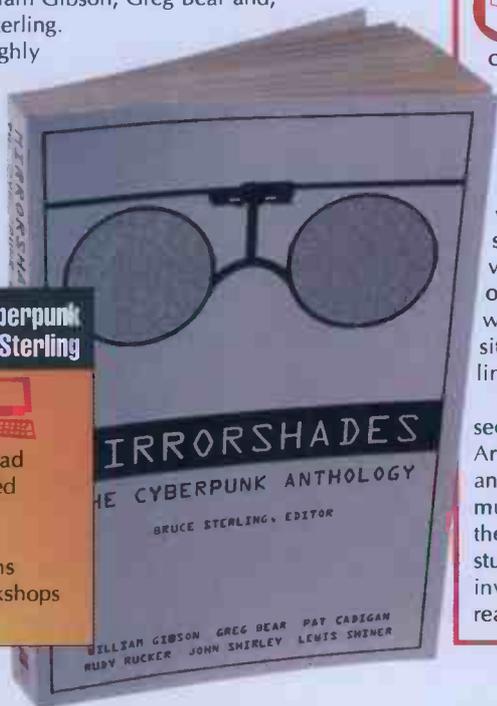
- ▲ **Uppers:** Lots of Information and software on one CD
- ▼ **Downers:** Not the friendliest of packages
- **Price:** £39.99
- **Publisher:** Jamsa Press
- **Contact:** Computer Manuals on (0121) 706 6000

Mirrorshades, The Cyberpunk Anthology ed. Bruce Sterling

Fiction can be stranger than truth

If you've wondered what cyberpunk is really about then this collection of 12 short stories by respected Cyberpunk authors is a damn good place to start. The Cyberpunk ethos stretches from clean glittering techno cities to dark and dirty Information Superbackstreets and you'll find them all here in works from authors such as the celebrated William Gibson, Greg Bear and, editor of the book, Bruce Sterling.

The stories range from highly probable visions of the future to the wildly fantastic, each giving a different slant on the world of Cyberpunk. Although this book is not strictly a 'Best of', it comes pretty close.



Mirrorshades, The Cyberpunk Anthology ed. Bruce Sterling



- ▲ **Uppers:** Damn good read
- ▼ **Downers:** Adult-oriented (ahem) in places
- **Price:** £5.99
- **Publisher:** HarperCollins
- **Contact:** All good bookshops (as they say)

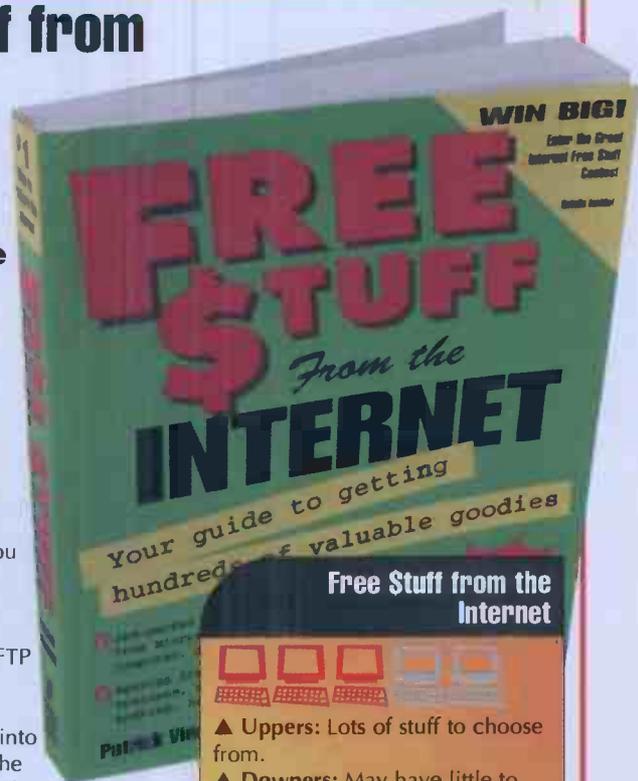
Free Stuff from the Internet

All human life is here... you just have to find it



This book makes a welcome change from all the guides and surfing books about the Internet. Buy this book and you can browse through it at your leisure and if you see something you want you can hop online and download within minutes, busy FTP sites and slow Telnet links apart.

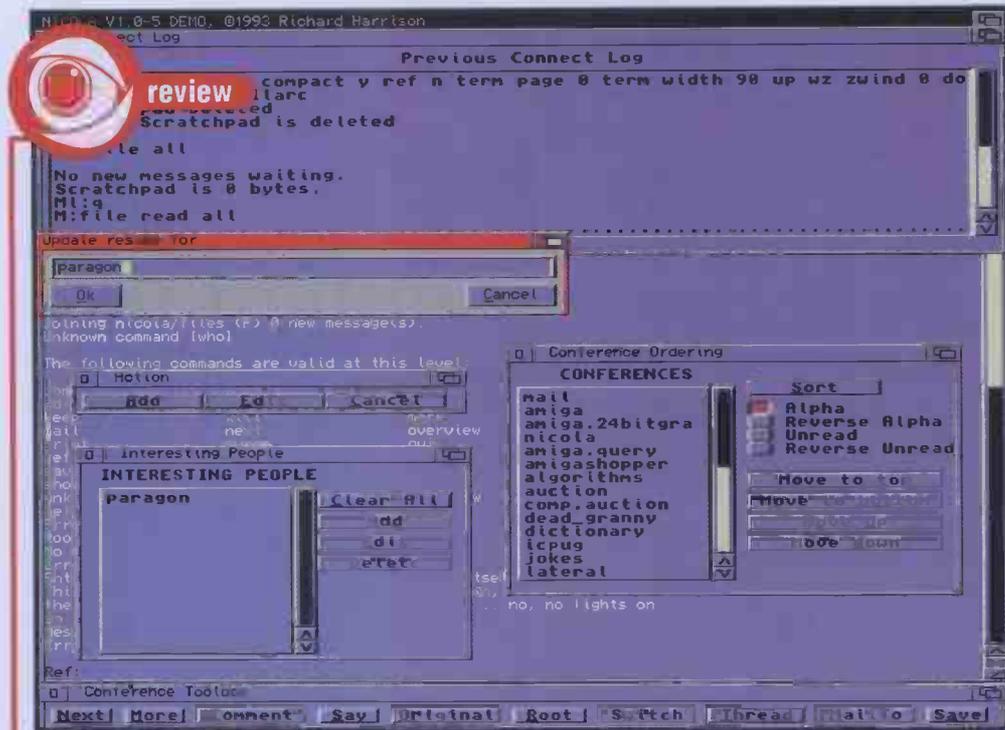
The book is divided into sections ranging from the Arts and culture to travel and geography, stopping off at pretty much every area of human interest along the way. You can download or request stuff on such diverse topics as jokes and investment tips, so not very diverse at all really.



Free Stuff from the Internet



- ▲ **Uppers:** Lots of stuff to choose from.
- ▲ **Downers:** May have little to interest very boring people.
- **Price:** £18.99
- **Publisher:** Coriolis Group Books
- **Contact:** Computer Manuals on (0121) 706 6000



Nicola

Offline CIX reading on the Amiga

Since my last telephone bill, I'm really starting to get into offline readers in a big way. There's something about the way they save you a heap of money and also reduce stress and therefore increase your enjoyment at the same time that appeals to me. And since we've repeatedly mentioned the PC Windows OLR (offline reader) for CIX (the UK online conferencing system reviewed later this very issue), it's only fair we look at a CIX program for a different computer platform (a type of shoe – oops, carried away with parentheses there).

If you have an Amiga and use CIX, you'll probably have heard of the Nicola/Lucy wars. Two rival programmers have taken it upon themselves to slug it out in the Amiga OLR arena, and why the heck not? It only means we the users are the winners, as each leapfrogs the other as they try and squeeze in more and more features.

Nicola is the OLR I'm looking at here, and it's one of the most Amiga-ised programs I've seen in a long time. It's not often a programmer decides to provide you with a fully multitasking user environment, but that's what Nicola does: and it takes a bit of getting used to before you can make the most of it.

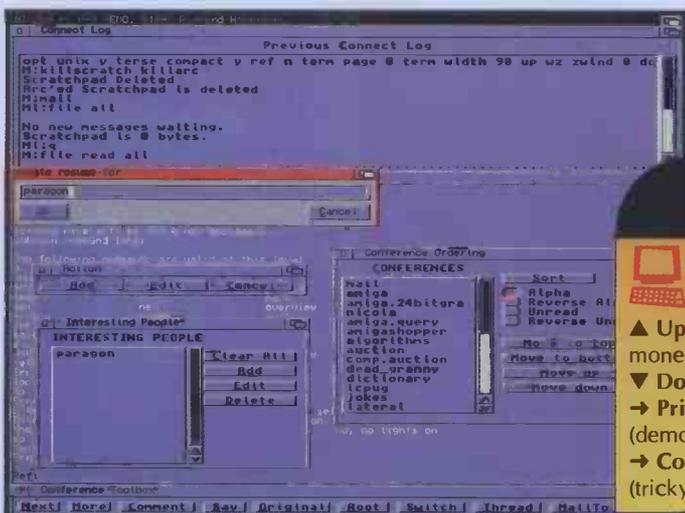
The way in which the program works is incredibly intuitive, as it simply provides an identical user-interface to the normal, online, text-based CIX experience that thousands of people know and love. You can browse the mail, replying to any comments that merit your wit or knowledge, as well as using the usual file downloads and uploads options using the normal UNIX-like commands. Even messages are entered using the same line-by-line method. (Although, thankfully an external editor can be spawned when necessary.)

The CIX FAX gateway is also supported, but unlike Ameol I could find no sign of Usenet support. Colour is used extensively to highlight the different types of messages, and also to distinguish the "interesting" people you may have defined.

Nicola is available online from the 'Nicola' conference on CIX. There is a demo version which you can freely download, but the fully working register version will cost you money – which will probably be recouped from your new-look, slender telephone bill.

All that remains to be said is that I'm looking forward to seeing Lucy in action next. :-)

→ John Kennedy



Nicola

▲ Uppers: Saves you time and money.
 ▼ Downers: No Usenet support.
 → Price: Registered version £35 (demo available)
 → Contact: Richard Harrison (tricky@cix.compulink.co.uk)

Eudora v2.1

The favourite Mac email package goes commercial

The commercial version of Eudora has been available for some time, but there are probably lots of people still using the shareware version (available from ftp.tidbits.com) for one reason or another.

This new Eudora is from Qualcomm Inc. and is another example of a bunch of people making money from commercial software originally pioneered as freeware (like ID's *Doom*, and Netscape).

On the whole, I'm all for commercial versions of free stuff, as coughing out good money for something means we have a right to feel damn unhappy if the software doesn't work properly.

This package comes as part of a suite of programs and includes the Eudora mail program itself, which allows you to create and edit email, sort text, create address books and so on – essentially, much the same as earlier non-commercial versions. There's a vastly improved help facility though with System 7's Balloon Help supported.

The package comes in two versions – 680X0 and PowerMac, and there's a suite of utilities for people connecting over modem. I found I did not have to use these utilities at all – the Apple Modem Tools are already built into System 7 – although if you are using System 6, you will need to install this stuff.



→ I never knew there was so much in it... See what you've been missing in Delphi's dark recesses.

Apollo

Is that a rocket in your pocket or are you just pleased to see me on your PC?

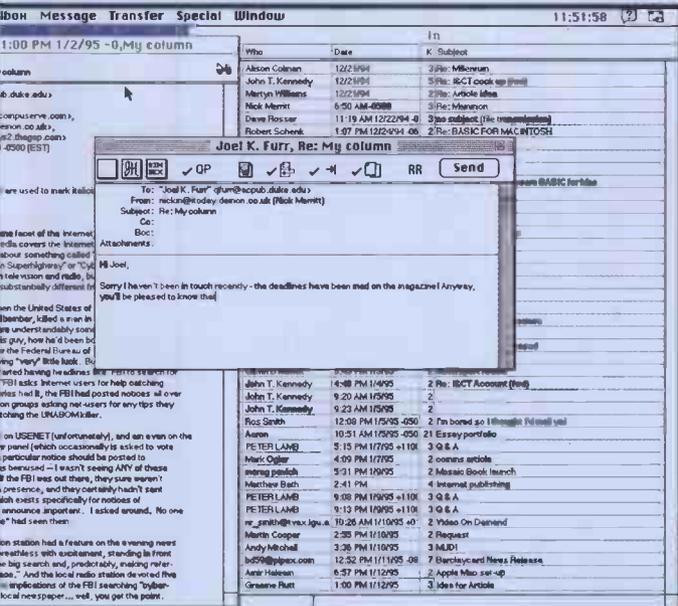
What is this? The month of the offline reader? Maybe so, especially with a round-up of the top commercial bulletin boards in this very issue. An offline reader is very important if you intend to use a service a lot, unless you like high telephone bills.

After the not-particularly inspiring release of the

One problem occurs if you're accessing SMTP servers like Demon's. You'll still have to use Addmail before you can download email, which is irritating. If you aren't aware of this beforehand, you could find this something of a problem, as Demon are notoriously unhelpful regarding software they choose not to support.

This means fiddling around with the

→ **Eudora 2.1 comes to the Mac - here's an email in tray I prepared earlier...**



→ **Nick Merritt**

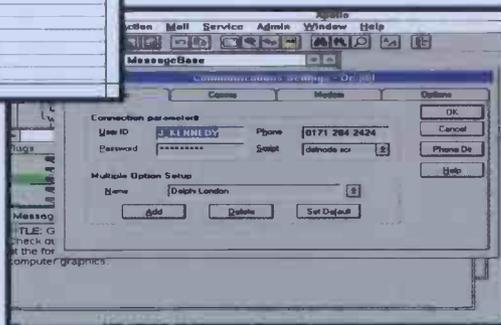
Eudora for the Macintosh v2.1

▲ **Uppers:** It's commercial, so commercial support is now part of the deal

▼ **Downers:** Not a lot here that isn't already in previous versions.

→ **Requirements:** System 6.0 or later

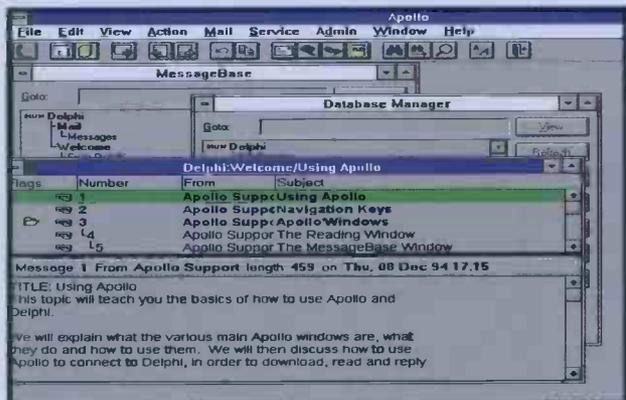
→ **Availability:** eudora-info@qualcomm.com



"terminal program with gadgets" that was InterNav (&CT issue three), Delphi had a lot of catching up to do if it wanted to get anywhere near CompuServe's front-end for overall 'niceness'.

The new Apollo package could certainly be a top contender, though. At last it is possible to use Delphi without trawling through the many menus. On my first use of the program I discovered conferences I didn't know existed, so not only does Apollo keep you from suffering the trauma of trying to type quickly and accurately whilst online, but it will also maximise your use of the Delphi system. Even better, there is an optional spell checking module which can have a quick peek at your

→ **Apollo includes extensive help files and tutorials, so you'll soon be saving money on those calls to Camden Town.**



→ **John Kennedy**

Apollo

▲ **Uppers:** It's very good indeed.

▼ **Downers:** About time!

→ **Price:** Useable demo free to download, £39.95 for registered version.

→ **Contact:** Delphi UK (0171) 757 7080

messages before you post them: something I'm convinced all message editors should have.

Although Usenet support doesn't exist yet, it is promised for the next release (who knows, maybe by the time you read this) which will only mean I'll be using Delphi even more. Apollo is so useful, that probably the only time you'll need to remain online for longer than a few moments is when you use Delphi's online games or real-time Internet features.

If you have a Delphi account and a PC, get Apollo immediately. If you are considering an account, this program could be the deciding factor to convince you to give it a go.

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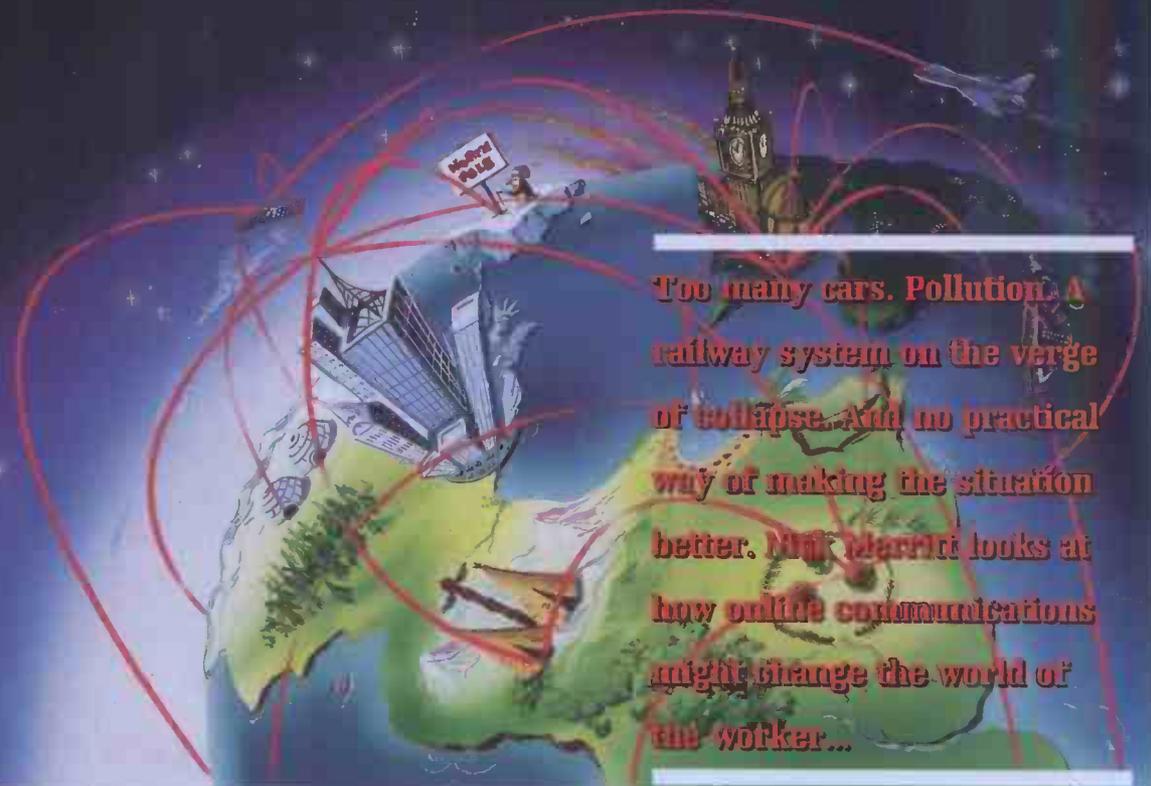
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cover feature

Doing your Homework – the new age of the Teleworker



Too many cars. Pollution. A railway system on the verge of collapse. And no practical way of making the situation better. Nick Marrini looks at how online communications might change the world of the worker...



As we near the 21st Century, we are starting to have to think about many of the consequences of the 20th. With spiralling numbers of cars, protests over the destruction of the environment in the name of the motorway, a railway system starved of funds and close to collapse, and with politicians and activists seemingly unable to come up with alternatives, the future looks grim.

The last couple of centuries have been defined by their predominant modes of communication. The 19th Century saw steam-powered locomotives open up huge tracts of the world and establish new work patterns, the 20th Century has been the age of the oil-powered car, which has caused massive changes in everything from the art of war to the way our cities are constructed.

On way or another, the 21st Century is going to be defined by information-powered digital networks, and in much the same way as the telegraph at the end of the 19th Century was the precursor of the telephone in the 20th, the Internet is the precursor of these new online systems.

If, then, the Internet is going to be the basis of new forms of communication in a meaningful way, it's likely that big changes in the way people do their business are going to evolve.

People started to get interested in the idea of using modern computers and communications systems to work away from the office more – telework – after the oil crisis of the early 1970s. The aim was to look at increased energy efficiency by cutting down on the amount of car-based commuting. At the time, estimates were made that if one in seven urban commuters stopped commuting, the USA would not need to import any more oil.

The current interest in teleworking stems from a different source though. It's no longer energy crises which are driving the technology – instead, it's the buzzwords of organisational efficiency, worker empowerment and reduced costs.

Two recent reports have looked into the possible changes online systems might bring to the world of work: Liberation Technology? published at the end of 1994 by the think-tank Demos, and The New Age of Teleworking – Opportunities within the Information Superhighway, published by Envisage Ltd. Both look at how online systems might change current patterns of employment.

Using online systems for work purposes can be subdivided into several areas – telework is defined by the New Age of Teleworking as being about “enabling work to be done by the best skills for the job, regardless of constraints of time and space” – essentially, having the ability to work wherever you like; teletrade is defined as finding “new ways to reach out to customers, suppliers and business partners, to offer better services at a lower cost and to reach new markets in the emerging ‘networked economy’”; and transforming the office – “creating flexible

workspaces to sustain the work process in and out of the office, reducing overheads whilst offering opportunities for increased contribution and productivity”.

What this all means is using electronic networks to create new business opportunities and to work more efficiently. Instead, for instance, of climbing into a car to go to work in the morning, the alternative could be to logon to your company computer using some kind of remote access program connected to the company network.

Many companies already have remote access software running on their computer systems – this, allied to the Internet or just more normal dial-up methods using a standard modem, could very easily allow much work to be ‘sourced out’ of the office. Smaller companies are already using ISDN networks to improve their operations, particularly in the field of design and publishing. Design bureaux are beginning to use ISDN to receive

images created at a remote location for further processing on-site. When the poll tax was introduced, many local councils discovered it was cheaper to hire additional administrative staff

on a teleworking basis, rather than have to find space for them in the office. And Mike Oldfield, whom we featured last month, used creative teams from all around the world, co-ordinating their efforts via the Internet.

Some big organisations are already experimenting with altering traditional work patterns – IBM is one, and Digital is another.

After a big fire at Digital's Basingstoke offices in 1990, the decision was taken to reorganise its office-bound workforce, after studies showed that half the company's desks were unused at any one time. Therefore, desks were allocated to people on the basis of one desk per two people.

To facilitate this, a special communications system was set up, allowing fax, phonecalls and email to be forwarded to the correct location if an employee was elsewhere. But what would the consequences be and how would people take to spending less time in the office?

The advantage as far as Digital was concerned was obvious – they saved £2 million a year in reduced office space costs.

I asked Garth Shepherd, one of the authors of the New Age of Teleworking report about why companies should look at teleworking in a favourable light. He says, “The assumption has been that sales people were the main beneficiaries of teleworking. However, regardless of occupation, the time of desk occupancy is the same.”

He identifies three main reasons why companies might want to investigate this way of working. The first is reducing office occupancy costs – when a company moves premises, it can ‘leave’ people behind (this also helps retain staff

who might not otherwise wish to leave their homes) and still have them doing useful work for the company.

The second is the ability to teletrade. Garth Shepherd says, “A company which spins off its Information technology functions might need to nevertheless keep in close contact with the company now running its IT division.” Teletrade allows the contractor to stay in day-to-day contact.

The final reason is the recognition that once a company has a communications channel set up and running, the distance between one part of the company and another no longer remains an issue. For instance, it's perfectly feasible to have a company employee teleworking from across the world. Also, it allows people who have to travel a lot to keep in easy contact with the office.

A company therefore evolves through a couple of phases on the way to full teleworking – the first is the use of email to keep in contact, the second is a full system where private communications groups deal with each other as overlapping cells within a world-wide infrastructure. The second phase is some way off for most corporations, but it represents the way forward.

The picture isn't all good, though. There are possible downsides:

The first one lies with the Internet itself. The Internet is the obvious first choice for small companies looking for the ability to send global email or who wish to use it for research purposes. However, as Garth Shepherd says, “People who get themselves onto the Internet tend to get a lot of fun out of it for the first couple of months. Then the initial enthusiasm dies off and they move back to just using it for email.”

There's also the problem of not being able to see the wood for the trees. It's difficult finding the information you want on the Net – it's more of a maze than a highway and that's one of the reasons people stop browsing.”

Greg identifies current search tools as the problem: “How would I, for example, do a conventional bank search on an organisation, without having to go to some company which offers such a thing as a bespoke service? Large corporations have other channels to gain this kind of information; small companies therefore have the most to gain from online communications.”

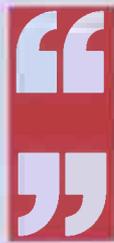
But as Garth says, it's too hard for small companies, who lack the necessary expertise, to use online communications usefully, and is why he thinks commercial organisations like CompuServe, who sell themselves on their

relatively well-structured information sources, still have a future.

When the decision to transfer some of the company's operations out of the office is made, it then becomes essentially a problem of effective management. It's now a matter of choosing the right people and jobs to ‘source out’ of the office. There are good reasons for this – one is identifying the kind of jobs which would benefit, the other is looking at the particular personal circumstances of the potential teleworker.



The logic of technological development should be to create more lower skilled jobs, as is already in evidence in garages and retailing. At the very least we should be sceptical of the conventional wisdom that jobs in the I-way culture will all be high skill ones.



It's possible that teleworking might reinforce class distinctions but since the prices of PCs, modems and connection charges are becoming increasingly trivial, there are now opportunities for people who otherwise couldn't participate, to do so.



cover feature



As far as the circumstances of the potential teleworker are concerned, the company needs to find out the following: what do the company and its employees want to do and what are they actually able to do, and what are the tax and legal implications?

For instance, is the potential teleworker physically able to do the job? The kinds of thing that might affect this judgement are questions of workspace at home – a person in a studio flat is unlikely to have enough space for all the computers, modems and desk space needed. Garth Shepherd says, "This might be easier for the older couple though, but the manager still needs to sit down with the both of them and discuss a solution. In some cases, a solution might not be available. Of course, it's always possible to use a telecentre solution."

A telecentre is an office unit hired out by a group of teleworkers, who are not necessarily all working for the same company, which is electronically linked to the organisation's main offices. The advantage is that it's not necessary to work from home with all the distractions and possible isolation that that might bring and the company still gets to cut its costs.

However, if the worker is going to work from home, there are problems with tax and legal obligations on the employer and on the employee. Unfortunately, present company law penalises the teleworking employee as the house could easily be assessed as business premises by the Inland Revenue and taxed accordingly. And working from home does not release the employee from his employer's normal quality standards.

Some companies work on the basis of, "here's the computers and equipment you need – you can take them home but you have to insure them." Others say, "Do what you like, I'll pay a nominal sum for the rental of your phone line and the cost of equipment." However, there are other issues to consider like overheads, the cost of using homes as business premises, is the employee contractually a freelancer or still a full-time member of staff? There's little doubt that the law has a lot of catching up to do as regards these issues.

What research that has been done is clear on one thing – the teleworker does not regard himself as a freelancer and remains strongly committed to his employer, more so than a freelancer would. And fears about reduced morale, and therefore productivity, in the long term are, according to Garth Shepherd, groundless. He says, "there have been no instances of negative productivity. Research seems to show that there is a 40-50% improvement in sickness figures as well." One of the reasons for improved productivity, aside from the greater trust that is being placed in the employee, is that a teleworker's most productive time is when conventional commuters are travelling into work. If a typical Londoner spends a couple of hours commuting a day, the teleworker is saving that time.

As was mentioned at the beginning of this article, all communications revolutions have caused big changes in the way society organises itself. What are the implications for the 21st Century, therefore, if digital networks take off and people telework more? Will it mean increased unemployment as more efficient teleworking staff displace less productive conventional staff? Will the reduced reliance on having offices in certain parts of the

world mean low wage, high skill teleworked labour 'beaming in' from places like India, displacing local white collar jobs? Will teleworking cause increased industrial friction as teleworking white collar staff work from home while blue collar workers, remain to work in single locations?

What will teleworking mean for industrial property prices, or the notion of commercially-led urban regeneration? Are we going to be permanently left with millions of square feet of commercial offices space forever empty while property companies begin to go to the wall one by one?

What will reduced commuting do to car sales, and employment? Will there be a reduced need for road-building, with attendant falls in the levels of car-generated pollution?

Garth Shepherd reckons that, "teleworking might raise issues in society, but I don't think it'll make that much difference to industrial relations – that battle has been fought already. Patterns of work are changing however and blue collar work is fading anyway. It's also possible that teleworking might reinforce class distinctions but since the prices of PCs, modems and connection charges are becoming increasingly trivial, there are now opportunities for people who otherwise couldn't participate, to do so."

However, Ian Christie and Geoff Mulgan, writing in *Liberation Technology* think, "Orthodox economics would predict that technologies should develop to replace the most expensive factors of production: in this case skilled labour and capital. In other words, the logic of technological development should be to create more lower skilled jobs, as is already in evidence in garages and retailing. At the very least we should be sceptical of the conventional wisdom that jobs in the I-way culture will all be high skill ones."

James Woudhuysen, the Head of IT at the Henley Centre of Forecasting, also writing in *Liberation Technology* is doubtful that online services are going to lead to an unbroken line of benefits. He says that we've been here before, since the early 1960s and McLuhan's *Global Village*: "With the end of the Cold War and the collapse of orthodox economics, the roles assigned to capital and labour in traditional accounts of economic growth are no more. Instead, the comfortably neutral framework of knowledge, information and IT comes to dominate analysis." His point is that, "the mystical aura that now surrounds superhighways contradicts the reality of straitened consumer and corporate markets for them", and that until the younger technologically-literate consumer, "the Sega Generation" grows up, there is going to be a limited market for the new online services.

Will companies that have spent huge sums on IT in the last decade, yet have not seen productivity rise to anywhere near the levels promised by the equipment suppliers, going to believe the stories told by the same manufacturers selling even 'better' IT – comms equipment? We'll have to wait and see, but one thing is for sure – for the moment, the jury is still out on what online communications will mean for the world of work in the future.

You can get hold of a copy of the report, *Liberation Technology* from Demos, 9 Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP.
Tel: (071) 353 4479



People who get themselves onto the Internet tend to get a lot of fun out of it for the first couple of months. Then the initial enthusiasm dies off and they move back to just using it for email.

Thanks to Garth Shepherd for permission to use extracts from *New Age of Teleworking*. If you would like to get a copy of this report for yourself, send a cheque for £95 to Envisage Ltd, to 15 Mardley Dell, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 0UR. Or phone (0438) 717155 or email 100273.1203@compuserve.com.



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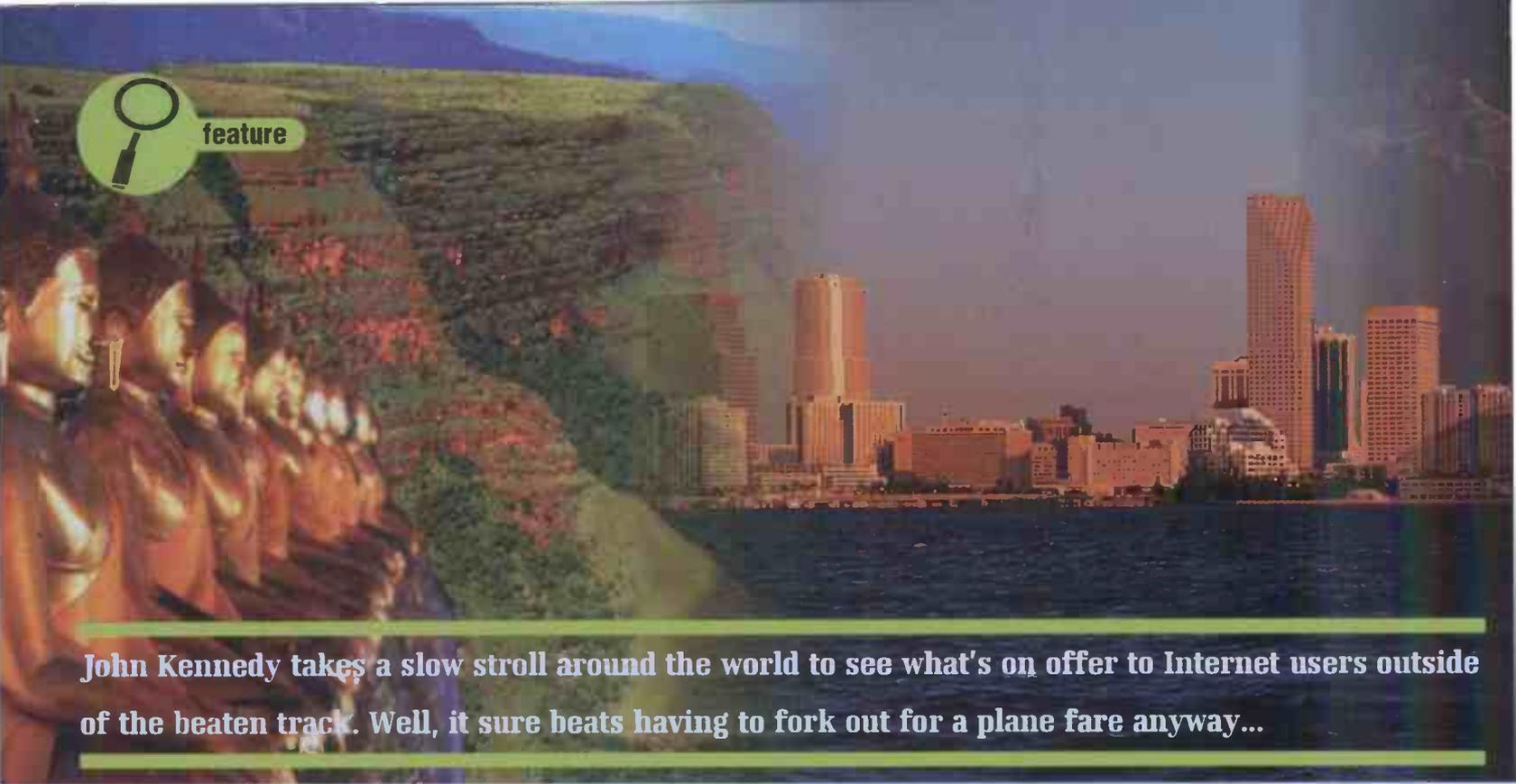
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John Kennedy takes a slow stroll around the world to see what's on offer to Internet users outside of the beaten track. Well, it sure beats having to fork out for a plane fare anyway...

Around the world in Eighty Sec

The idea of 'community' seems to be in vogue at the moment, with politicians on the Left and Right beating each other up over their preferred definitions. Either way, there's little doubt that the Internet offers something new in the old community debate, in this case, the idea of the Electronic Community.

What are Electronic Communities? A community is an interactive group of individuals with a common policy of social and economic interest. The community is based around a single geographical area which can be small (the village shop) or huge (Europe). An Electronic Community is something else altogether. By using the Internet to interact, this new form of "people power" has at its finger tips the potential to create a wider network of individuals who belong and participate within their own Electronic Community. Distance, nationality and frontiers are no longer obstacles, all you need is a modem and a computer with Internet access and you can communicate with anyone in the world. You might think the Internet is a good way to get games software, but it has also proved to be a cheap and fast way for Electronic Communities to

access and send valuable information. Bulletin board systems provide the means for Electronic Communities to share information and ideas through computer conferencing systems, and listserv systems can keep thousands up-to-date much faster than a newspaper.

Visionaries talked about the global village years ago, but no-one could have foreseen how a network originally designed for use in nuclear war could allow people of every nationality to communicate on an even footing.

Scotland: Scottish Highlands and Islands Server

<http://nsa.bt.co.uk/nsa.html>

The Highlands and Islands server keeps a World Wide Web site in operation, which provides a wide range of information both for local and outside use. You'll find tourist information on Highland Culture, Leisure Activities, Gaelic Language Courses and Business in the Highlands. The remoteness of many parts of Scotland have lead to the creation of one of Europe's major areas in the use of Information Technology for distance working.

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS SERVER



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Image prepared for Network Services Agency by Imaginering, Moffat, Scotland +44(0) 1362 535 527

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This is also one of Europe's major areas in the use of IT for distance working.

Apert from that it is a great place to live with a superb quality of life and excellent sporting, leisure and cultural facilities.

We thought that in our spare time we would put together some very brief information which could be expanded and developed in a more structured manner if anyone is interested.

So if you have any thoughts or ideas or if there is anything you want to know about Gaelic culture, the history of the Scotch whisky industry, the latest submarine searches for the Loch Ness monster or any commercial, rural, social or cultural activity just send us a brief message.

Any suggestions for additional information or comments to webmaster@nsa.bt.co.uk Please quote the URL of the page you are commenting on, thank.

Further information

- Distance Working
Developments in remote working in the rural area
- Sports Activities
Typical sporting activities
- Leisure and Culture
A thumb-nail sketch

Travel to Scotland - <http://nsa.bt.co.uk/>



Wounds of the World

N. Ireland: Community Information Network Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is a country with some very special problems of its own: the feeling of optimism following the cessation of violence is still marred by the high rates of unemployment and the fact that there are two distinct communities still learning to overcome their suspicions. Community projects play a large part in healing the wounds of sectarianism, and a large number of community groups are taking part in a unique experiment called CINNI - the Community Information Network Northern Ireland. The aims of CINNI include the creation of a country-wide information network using the Internet, where community centres can share information and people can talk to one another using tools such as Internet Relay Chat.

Australia: Melbourne Free-Net & Vicnet

<http://ghmac.lib.rmit.edu.au/COM.HTM>

Melbourne FreeNet is a community computing initiative made up of volunteers committed to making local information available to the people of Melbourne. Information stored on the system includes: Aidsline (a telephone service for people who want to talk about HIV, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases), Ambulance Officers Training Centre, Arthritis Foundation, Melbourne Citizens Advice Bureau, H.E.A.R. (Hearing Education & Aural Rehabilitation, Victorian Deaf Society), Heartkids (a voluntary group of parents, relatives and professionals concerned with the care of children with heart disease). Lifeline (24 hour generalist and crisis telephone counselling, information and referral service) and The Victorian Council for Civil Liberties.

Other Australian sites:

A.C.T. Association for Community Telematics

A.C.T is an organisation founded in 1993, with a mission to promote and lobby for the grassroots level of local communities in Australia with a focus on using information to empower local communities. They are involved in trying to encourage local communities to utilise the Internet tool.

FTP: <ftp://ftp.eff.org/pub/Groups/ACT/>
Gopher: <gopher://gopher.eff.org/1/Groups/ACT/>
WWW: <http://www.eff.org/pub/Groups/ACT/>



Community projects play a large part in healing the wounds of sectarianism, and a large number of community groups are taking part in a unique experiment, in Northern Ireland.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: The Vancouver Regional FreeNet

<http://freenet.vancouver.bc.ca/>

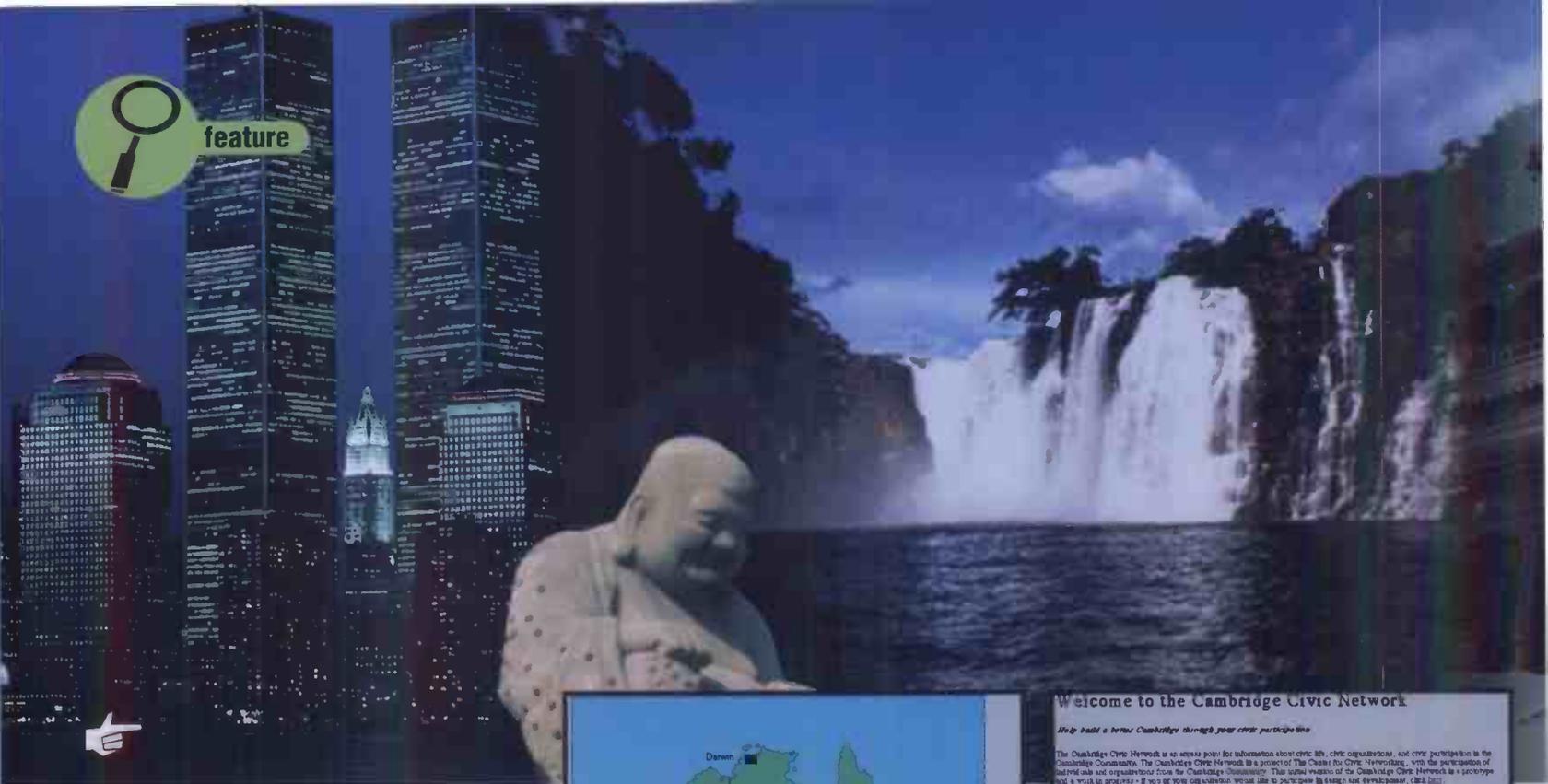
Other Canadian resources:

<http://ellesmere.ccm.emr.ca/ourhome/communit/ourhome/introduc.html>

Taos, New Mexico, USA: The La Plaza Telecommunity

You can get to it via: telnet login as guest, password is guest; lynx to <http://laplaza.taos.nm.us>; or gopher: [laplaza.taos.nm.us](gopher://laplaza.taos.nm.us)





Cambridge, USA : The Civic Network

<http://www.civic.net:2401/>
The Civic Network is an evolving collection of online resources dedicated to supporting civic life and civic participation. The Internet Company provide computer space for gopher and Web servers.

Dillon, MT, USA.: Big Sky Telegraph

Telnet to 192.231.192.1 or bigsky.bigsky.dillon.mt.us Type bbs at login.
Self-register and explore! For over six years, Big Sky Telegraph has strived to create an online educational community supportive of grassroots innovations and experimentation focused on Real Benefits for Real People. They provide economical common sense connectivity options that reduce the risk of creating a class of information have-nots. Both local telecomputing and global Internet benefits receive emphasis.

Former Soviet Union & Eastern European Sources

http://sahara.bu.edu:4021/EE_CIS_NIS/CE_NIS_FSU.html
NATO gopher: <gopher.nato.int:70/1>
Nato Gopher
There's plenty of information on the former Union, and links to various other sites such as: the Ukraine Home Page, Lithuanian WWW Home Page, daily issues of a Slovak liberal newspaper, a Czech Republic gopher, Romanian information gopher and the Polish archives.

Communities World Wide

<http://herald.usask.ca/~scott/freewww.html>
<http://www.ai.mit.edu/people/ellens/non.html>
<http://www.well.sf.ca.us/>

Australian Web servers

Click on the map to return to a list of the Web servers that are active in each state or territory

- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

Contact: AL@magpie.net.au

If checking out what's on in Australia is you kind of thing, well, now you can.

Nonprofit Organizations on the Internet

- An **alphabetical** version of this list is available
- Country Network: www.country-network.com
- What's new:
 - The Federal Reserve (Jan. 14)
 - The Council on Foreign Relations (Jan. 11)
 - Australia (Jan. 10)
 - The World Bank (Jan. 7)
- Information by **country** as an alternative to this list

The following nonprofit public interest organizations have pages on the Internet. Each organization's description comes from its on-line information. The address is to make it easy to find the server to provide scholarship aid and development assistance to the members themselves and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium that are located in the United States. It also wishes to increase public awareness of the work of Indian colleges.

- **ALABAMA** (and ALATEEN for younger members) is a volunteer organization that offers a self-help recovery program for families and friends of alcoholics whether or not the alcoholic needs help or even recognizes the existence of a drinking problem.
- **ALUMNI** is a national web and information service supporting the alumnae group. Their Culture Wars Project highlights rights while recognizing efforts.
- **AMERICAN PEOPLE TO AID** provides information about AIDS, HIV, and drug prevention.
- **The American People to Aid** is the nation's foremost advocate of individual rights - fighting, legislating and advising the public on a broad array of issues affecting individual freedom in the United States.
- **The American Indian College Fund** is a tax exempt, non-profit organization established in 1989 by the presidents of the Indian colleges. Its address is to make it easy to find the server to provide scholarship aid and development assistance to the members themselves and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium that are located in the United States. It also wishes to increase public awareness of the work of Indian colleges.

People serious about campaigning issues, look here. <http://www.ai.mit.edu/people/ellens/>

Welcome to the Cambridge Civic Network

Help build a better Cambridge through your civic participation

The Cambridge Civic Network is an access point for information about civic life, civic organizations, and civic participation in the Cambridge Community. The Cambridge Civic Network is a project of The Center for Civic Networking, with the participation of individual and organizational from the Cambridge Community. The social mission of the Cambridge Civic Network is a prototype and a work in progress - if you or your organization would like to participate in design and development, click here.

Civic Programs in Cambridge

Cambridge connects many organizations and activities that support the civic life of our community

- Sustainable Future on Cambridge
- Strategic Community Development Work - Latest Developments
- Food for Free Community
- more to come - to help your organization or activity click here

Local and Regional Information about Cambridge

In order to enhance the lives of our community it is often necessary to refer to local, federal and state organizations. For general information about Cambridge and its surrounding region, click here for the [Cambridge Web Home Page](http://www.cambridge.ma.gov)

Information about Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. * World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, 1987

- Sustainable Cambridge Online
- Sustainable Development Information Network

Information about Civic Participation and Networking

The following resources provide information about civic participation and about the use of computer networks to support civic participation.

- The Civic Network

Nov. 1, 1994, 2401 Cambridge St., and, The Center for Civic Networking

The civic-minded can trot along to Cambridge, Ma. in the USA.

RMIT Libraries

RMIT Libraries

- RMIT Libraries: www.rmit.edu.au
- RMIT Libraries: www.rmit.edu.au **Public Branches**
- **Subject pages for disciplines areas taught by RMIT.**
- **INFORMIT** - a joint project of RMIT and the State Library of Victoria to publish Victorian publications and connect Victoria to the net.
- RMIT Libraries development area contains some projects in progress.

This month's special

- **INFORMIT** - A sample of the quality, peer reviewed magazine on media and the arts with an Australian focus
- **TIME WARNER** - Time magazine, Time daily, and lots more

Last month's special

- **INFORMIT** sample the new **Exploring Quality and Practice** CD ROM from RMIT's INFROMIT

Other RMIT Resources

- **Centre for Research in RMIT (National Key Centre)**
- **EQASD** - about the EQASD Quality Assurance, Research and Development Office at RMIT
- **RMIT Computer Centre**
- **RMIT Community Science Department**
- **RMIT Department of Computer Systems Engineering**

The World Wide Web

- **W3** - Search for your subject area by keyword
- **WWW** - www.rmit.edu.au - www.rmit.edu.au - www.rmit.edu.au
- **Internet Resources** - www.rmit.edu.au
- **Australian WWW sites**
- **What's what's new on the web.**
- **Services of the Web.**

CWIA - Campus Wide Information Systems and Home Pages

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Last updated 8 November 1994*

The Melbourne FreeNet can be reached via this Web page. Just <http://ghmac.lib.rmit.edu.au>

ATLAS INTERNET

Atlas IS the Internet

Atlas brings the power of the Internet to your fingertips giving you unlimited access to resources like the World Wide Web, Gopher, FTP, E-mail, News and much much more, with no on-line time charges.

Choose any TCP/IP application

Whilst **Atlas** provides you with the software you need to access the Internet, you can use ANY application that uses TCP/IP to communicate - public domain or commercial. Software supplied for Mac and Window Users.

Choose your connection method

Whether at the office, at home or out on the road, **Atlas** offers you the choice of connection methods. A standard modem and phone line can be used at speed of upto 14.4k baud (v.34 coming soon), or via ISDN at 64k baud.

★ FREE connection to the Internet ★

Subscribe to **Atlas** any time between now and March 31st 1995 and we will waive the £25 connection fee, and charge you only £12 + VAT per month. Call our friendly sales team NOW on 0171-312 0400, write to us at 19, Devonshire Street, London W1N 1FS, or E-mail to info@atlas.co.uk.

- call our friendly sales team NOW
on 0171-312 0400

Internet Access Software

INTERNET CHAMELEON, from NetManage

NetManage's Internet Chameleon is the world's leading professional Internet access software for Windows. This high-value package contains a host of applications including WebSurfer, NewtNews, Gopher, FTP, a range of Internet diagnostic tools and fully-featured email with MIME. Internet Chameleon is quick and simple to install and gives you every Internet facility you need to roam the super highway in style. Leaf Distribution is an authorised Distributor of NetManage products and fully supports this unbeatable Internet connectivity solution.

Internet Provider Services

SERVELAN, from Leaf Distribution

Leaf's own total Internet Service, **SERVELAN** offers unlimited access to the Internet through a nationwide network of Points of Presence (POPs). Your link into the Internet is usually only a local phone call away. Using the Pipex backbone, **SERVELAN** offers a totally reliable service, with full email and Newsreader facilities. **SERVELAN** is fully-supported by Leaf, with quick and economical connection and total support. Call us now...you'll be agreeably surprised at how simple internet connection can be.



The Total Internet Solution... Call NOW on 01256 707777

Leaf Distribution Limited, Head Office, 7 Elmwood, Chineham Business Park, Crockford Lane, BASINGSTOKE RG24 0WG

Tel 01256 707777 Fax 01256 707555 email sales@leaf.co.uk

Northern Sales Office (Warrington) Tel 01925 818900 Fax 01925 852400 email sales@leaf.co.uk



The World of the Internet

Predictions about the Internet forming some kind of Utopian electronic democracy ignore the fact that only 5% of the world's population even has a telephone. Nick Merritt talks to an organisation which is really trying to bring the Net to the world.





feature



It is time to take information into the hands and homes of the people and make it accessible to those working to improve the world. GreenNet deserves to succeed - Peter Gabriel

So much of the Internet is based around free communications that it's easy to forget the old line about talk being cheap. For instance, people on the Net love to speculate about the new electronic Age of Reason which is soon to descend upon the world, to such an extent that everybody forgets that it's only presently the rich countries that can afford Internet systems. While megabytes of information is spouted about how wonderful this world is going to be, there's a dedicated organisation that's going about the tricky business of actually making this dream a reality.

GreenNet was one of the first Internet service providers in the UK, but because it's a non profit-making organisation, it has been somewhat left behind in the rush for commercial glamour. GreenNet is part of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) which is a global network used by campaigners for exchanging thoughts and plans on issues ranging from environmentalism to women's rights.

GreenNet was originally a UK-only network, but it went international with its first overseas link, to San Francisco. About five years ago, it was realised that developing countries were being excluded from the growing use of information networks, so FidoNet-type technology was utilised to link Zimbabwe, Senegal and Kenya. Since then, Angola, Zambia and Namibia have joined the system.

Most of the more recent projects have been funded by the IDRC (the International Development Research Centre), which is based in Canada. The main impetus behind the installation of these networks is mainly down to the vision of the individuals concerned - it's not a Government or UN-inspired project, although the World Bank does provide some financial support.

So one of the aims behind GreenNet is and has been to help get developing countries online and involved in development issues. For instance, Amnesty International now uses the APC coalition of Networks to send its Amnesty Alerts out by email - in fact, GreenNet's Fido-based email 'store and forward' system is often used in

EarthWeb

This site is presently under construction.

About EarthWeb

EarthWeb, Ltd. is a high-technology start-up that produces interactive and online services. We are presently developing powerful new enabling technologies for the WWW, as well as for online marketing, entertainment, commerce, and publishing. In addition, we promote over a dozen leading international charities through our ongoing pro bono support of ReliefNet.

About IdentiNet

EarthWeb's IdentiNet (TM) Division is a World Wide Web consulting and production agency. IdentiNet helps organisations develop an internet presence using the WWW. But IdentiNet is different from companies which simply develop WWW sites. As well as producing cutting-edge WWW sites for our clients, we also help our clients through the process of strategizing, designing, developing, and promoting their WWW sites for maximum benefit.

→ Plenty of environmental information is available over the Web.

repressive countries because Internet lines are too vulnerable to interception.

Environmental organisations are keen too. Friends of the Earth say, "The immediate international response to environmental crises, made possible by the GreenNet system, gives campaigning organisations the edge in emergencies, which can mean the difference between success and failure." While Greenpeace reckon, "GreenNet enables us to get at the same 'as it happens' news as most of the media; when journalists call us, we know what information they've been given and what slant it has. In battling the multi-million dollar publicity machines of the governments and big business, this kind of capability is priceless."

GreenNet is also used by campaigners to keep up with international conferences, Non-Governmental Organisations and United Nations' news and policy documents. Currently, the UN creates its policy documents by commissioning research and listening to submissions made by interested groups. The advantage of using email to keep in touch with each other is that this allows campaigning groups to circulate additional material which was submitted to the UN but

The Internet

There are many problems specific to creating Internet systems in Africa, but there are a lot of people who feel that it is worth investing the time in trying to solve them. For instance, the distance, cost and poor state of local telecoms networks have meant unique problems. To overcome this kind of thing, networks are being developed locally - that is, everything from LANs and Fido-type systems - then they are linked into global or international systems.

Then there is the focus on why the networks are being built - it's not a matter of linking computers together like the early Internet systems, but another way of having people communicate with each other. Finally, it's a matter of developing what's already there - for instance, the bandwidth rarely exceeds 9.6K in

Africa and it's best to stick with that for the time being. A mixed strategy is therefore the best - installing new technology like low earth-orbit satellites and trying to ensure that the system has some redundancy built into it.

But on the other side, developing what's there already, also means utilising and developing the current skillbase. In the early days, getting an email node up and running was mainly a matter of flying a specialist out to the region and installing it there. Now, the emphasis is definitely on building up the local skillbase, to the extent that now, new nodes in Africa are being installed and maintained by African experts.

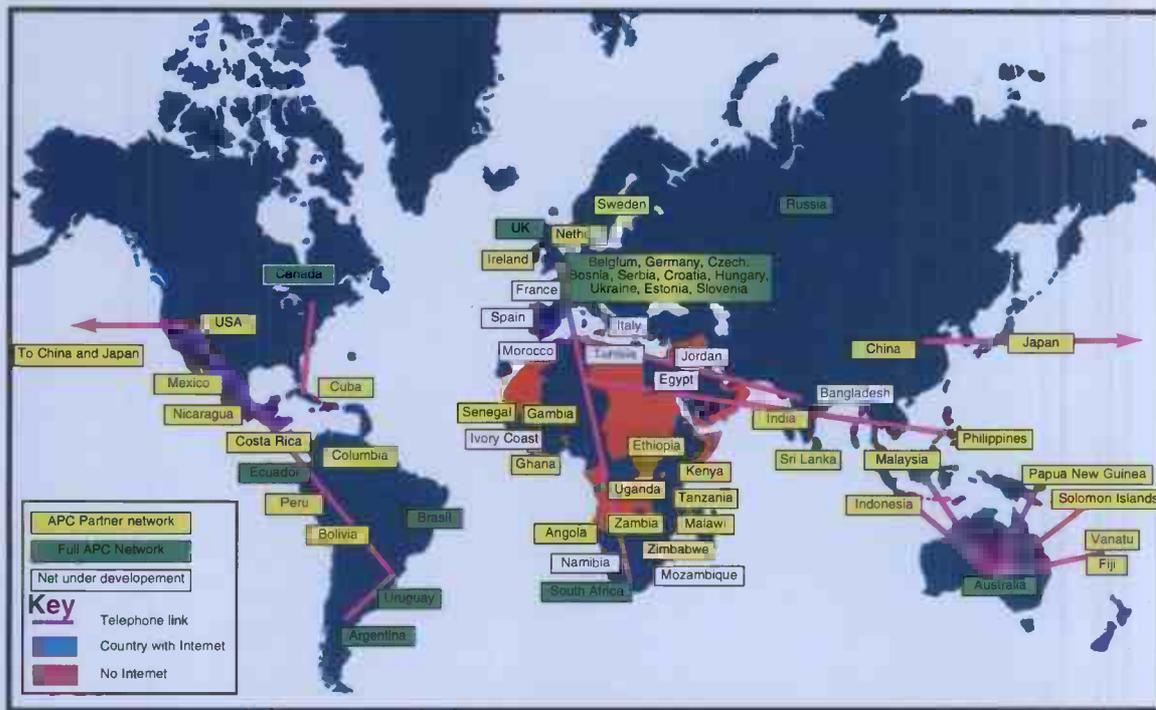
Zambia

Zambia took its first steps onto the Net in the early '90s when the University of Zambia



All around the World...

- Buddhist monks in Bali are managing an expansion of their ancient irrigation system using Apple computers radio-modemed together.
- China is planning on spending \$100 billion in the next decade, with the aim of quadrupling the number of phone lines it currently has to 100 million.
- In Thailand, there are now 500,000 cellular phone subscribers, because of high demand on the fixed link system.
- Vietnam, with 435 people to every phone line, is adding 300,000 optical fibre lines per year to its phone system.
- India plans to link all its villages to the telephone system by 1998.
- 7% of the population of Latin America has access to a phone.
- Russia will need \$40 billion to upgrade its phone system to modern standards.



Net connectivity around the world

As you can see from this map, most of the world has some kind of Internet presence, although in many cases it is a very slight one. This situation is improving slowly though.

didn't make it to the final policy document for whatever reason. Essentially, a lobby group is able to have a 'before' copy of the document (with all the annotations, criticisms and comments included) and an 'after' version, which is the one which usually gets published.

The other advantage of the system is that it allows people to have a 'presence' at conferences they would otherwise be unable to attend. For instance, at the Cairo Population Summit, GreenNet was able to keep people all over the world informed about what was happening that day in some detail, which is not possible with more traditional methods, like TV or newspapers.

The other main use of GreenNet is, naturally, as a communications tool. There are a large number of conferences devoted to a wide range of campaigning issues but unfortunately, due to the relatively high cost of telecoms in the

developing world, most of the conference activity about the developing world is from European and American correspondents. What irritates an active organisation like GreenNet is the concentration on short-term technical stuff, and the neglect of the longer-term issues such as resources and training.

Therefore, the upgrading of international services to African nodes is an important objective. At the moment, two out of three messages flowing through, say, the Zambian hosts are from Zambian users, which is a rather high percentage by Internet standards, which indicates the rather local nature of some African services.

The World Bank is one of the main Non-

Governmental Organisations investing in bringing Africa online. Because of the World Bank's historically poor record of investing in large, show-piece projects which have tended to end up in debt, corruption and recriminations, the emphasis is now firmly on helping countries help themselves, which means a more localised approach. To this end, setting up local nets fits in nicely with the World Bank's new objectives and also allows the seeds of democratisation to be planted as well, in addition to the benefits to be gained from building up a local technological skillbase. Bernard Woods, formerly Senior Communications Director



Africa

established a basic academic email system.

By the start of 1993, the network had expanded to over 270 email points serving Non-Governmental Organisations and development aid organisations. Although initially a Fido-type Net, Internet connection was established three times daily via Rhodes University in South Africa.

The success of this arrangement meant that moves towards a full Internet system became feasible, although it was not easy to establish. The main problem has been one of cost. Although some agencies have shown willingness to sponsor Internet links within Africa (such as the World Bank), the high cost of installing servers and the twenty modems and telephone lines is the least of the developers' worries.

It's the cost of the leased satellite line between Zambia and South Africa which causes the

problem, at \$60,000 a year. However, it is soon hoped that costs will fall as interest in using the service increases and more people join the system (and pay for it). The aim is to have a full public service running by March this year.

Namibia

The University of Namibia is another African learning centre at the middle of the growing Internet system within Africa. Namibia's telecommunications infrastructure is in good shape by African standards, although some manual exchanges can cause problems for remote modem users.

As for Zambia, South Africa, with the continent's most advanced telecoms system, acts as a cheap carrier of International calls from Namibia. This means it's much cheaper to establish Internet connections this way and has meant most people wanting to place International calls have avoided going through Namibia's local packet switched network and have direct dialled to South Africa.

The programme of development is advancing rapidly as well, with a satellite earth station having just been installed, providing direct Intelsat feed to the US, UK, Germany, Angola and Zambia.

However, as with all Internet connectivity in Africa, cost is always a worry, and although the cost of the link of the 9.6K leased line to Cape Town is less than the \$60,000 it costs the University of Zambia, it still weighs in at a pretty hefty \$1,500 a month. Again, the aim is to try to build up as big a dial-up user base as possible – the feeling is that a base of about 500 users will start to make the system break even. In the meantime, UNESCO is picking up the tab for the cost of opening new nodes within Namibia.

If you would like to connect to the University's server, try checking the IP address grumpy.cs.unam.na. And for a copy of Marimba, an especially-developed email package for African PC users, FTP from wn.apc.org/marimba.



feature



→ If you'd like to find out more about Egypt, there's a Web page for that as well.



at the World Bank, believes the future will lie in building communities around networks which offer information on practical matters like agriculture, health, nutrition and so on.

However, there is still some way to go in providing full Internet services to Africa. At the moment, the line from Zambia to South Africa is only 19.6Kbit, whereas the GreenNet's UK line is more like 2Mbit. It's the low African bandwidth which means most message traffic has to remain at the email level – something like full World Wide Web access is way off in the future. Karen Banks from GreenNet says, "There's nothing wrong with Gophers, the World Wide Web and so on, but with current trends in information storage, what we are getting now is certain organisations like the United Nations only providing information on the World Wide Web. It's not an option for countries which can't as yet support WWW bandwidth."

To counteract this problem, GreenNet is considering setting up local European WWW pages, with text generated from Africa and emailed over. Unfortunately though, this is still not an ideal solution as African infonauts would not be able to see their own pages. So, while Africa and other parts of the developing world still have some distance to go before they become full members of the 'information superhighway', the situation is improving all the time, thanks to a dedicated group of people who don't just talk about wanting information to be free – they're actually doing something about it.



→ The United Nations Home Page – all you could ever want to know about a country's rainfall statistics can be found here...



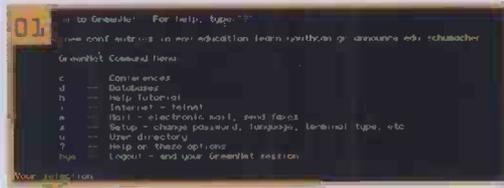
UN Environment (Geneva)

Geneva is a leading center for international treaties and major programmes dealing with the environment and sustainable development. Most of these activities are sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) or by the UN's Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD). This Web has been established on an experimental basis by the Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC) to make information from Geneva-based secretariats more widely available. It also "points" to other relevant Webs and Gophers (these external information sources do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United Nations). PLEASE NOTE: THIS WEB IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

- About UNEP and DPCSD
- Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
- Biodiversity Convention
- Climate Change
- Desertification Convention
- Earthwatch
- Endangered Species (CITES)
- Global Resources
- Toxic Chemicals (PRPTC)
- Trade and the Environment

Environmental and other services on World Wide Web. For further enquiries, please send an e-mail to Webmaster@unep.ch.

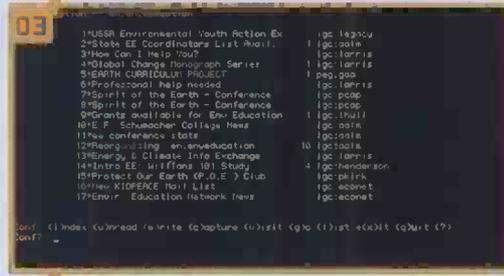
→ When logging on, you'll find yourself at the Main Menu – you can use the email or use the Internet facilities from here.



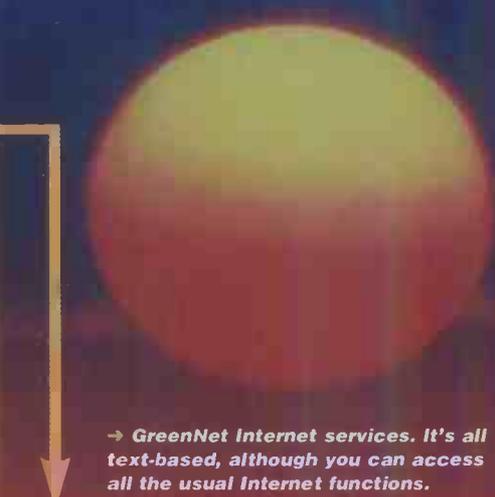
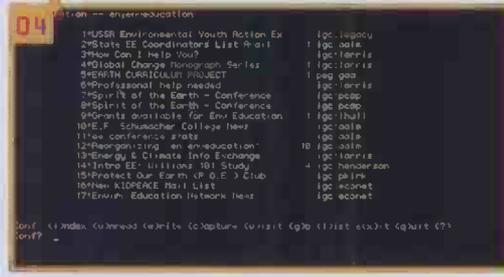
→ I've chosen to take a look at the list of possible conferences. There are in fact a lot more than this – as a guest user, these are some of the ones I can access.



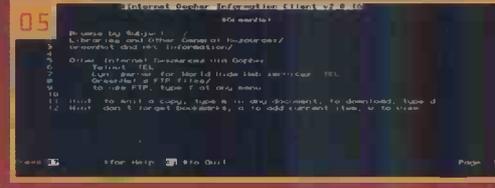
→ Taking a look at the environmental conferences, this is the kind of choice I have.



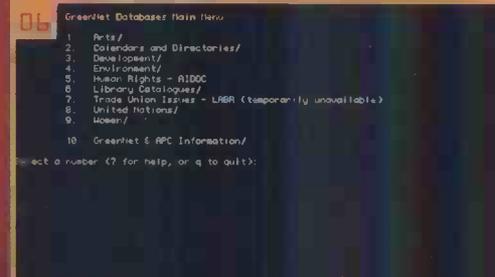
→ A typical conference post.



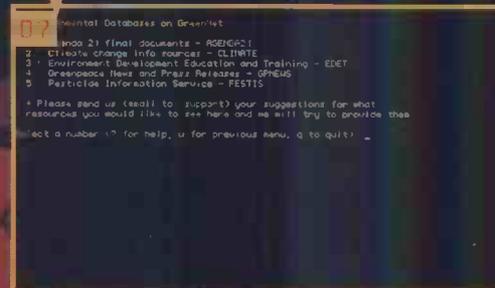
→ GreenNet Internet services. It's all text-based, although you can access all the usual Internet functions.



→ Taking a look at the GreenNet databases Main menu, I can choose research material on a number of topics.



→ Here, I've decided to see what's available in the environmental databases.



GreenNet in action...
→ If you want to join GreenNet, all you need to do is phone (071) 713 1941 (voice) or email support@gn.apc.org

CD-ROM PC Kids

The Parent's Guide to Software for Children of all Ages.



CD-ROM PC Kids is the first PC CD-ROM-based magazine to present parents with thorough and comprehensive guidance to commercial educational entertainment software.

Features include:

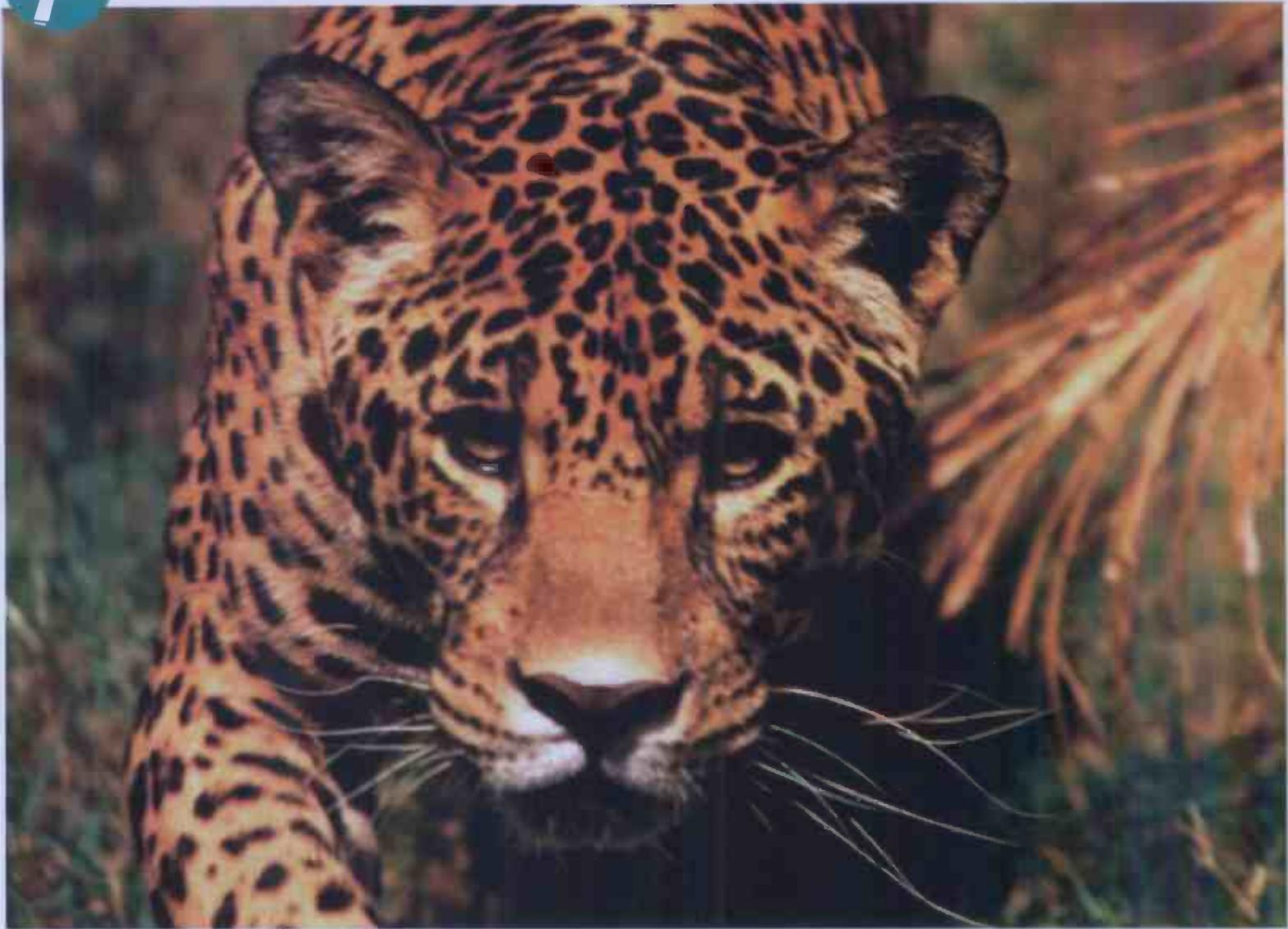
- News and reviews of all the latest educational and reference software.
- Opinions from people who know, and work within, the educational software industry.
- Interviews with educational software designers.
- Special competitions and reader offers.
- Plus lots more.

The magazine will also feature a cover-mounted CD-ROM containing playable and usable demonstrations of a wide variety of educational entertainment and subject-related reference titles.

**Issue One will be released on 16th February, priced £4.99
and will be available from all good newsagents.**



feature



Kings of the Wild frontier...

There's a new breed of Wildcatter about. Guernsey is getting plugged into the BBS scene with a vengeance. A remote channel island? Not in the Information World, says Mark Ogier.



Imagine a world where you don't have to pay by the minute to call your favourite BBS. Imagine that you have this sort of access to several boards in your area, between them offering thousands of GIFs, JPEGs, sound samples, games and utilities for PC, Amiga and Macintosh machines, loads of online games, and message areas covering the UK, US and the Middle East. And if you get bored with downloading files, playing games and leaving messages, you can always spend an hour in the Multi-user Dungeon – all without having to take out a mortgage to pay the phone bills.

An impossible dream of a non-existent BBS paradise? Not if you live in Guernsey in the Channel Islands.

Comms owners in this, the smaller of the two major islands (population: 60,000ish) are spoiled for choice when it comes to local BBS facilities, with four busy boards plus a MUD available in the island – a hell of a lot of BBS activity for an area of 27 square miles.

It's a great place to visit if you like to take a look at other boards once in a while – if you can cover the phone bill from the UK, of course. For those of us lucky enough to live here, things like local phone bills aren't too much of a worry. The island has a fixed local call rate of 3.7p for unlimited time – so if you're into playing online games you can enjoy them without worrying. The only limitations are those imposed by the Sysops, who don't want people hogging the board all night and so allow access of about one hour per day in most cases.

Of the island's boards, the longest established is Spider's Hollow which, like most of the island's services, uses Wildcat! BBS software. The Hollow has had a bit of a chequered history, and has changed hands a couple of times, but it has now settled down under Sysops Andy Le Flock and Nick Pascall. With two CD-ROM drives complementing a hard disk, the board offers some 12,300 files, mainly PC-oriented but with a number of Amiga and Mac files also available.

There are several doors, although at the time of writing these are fairly straightforward games that you will probably have seen on a lot of other boards, so work is going on to implement some two-player games like Solitaire and Chess. Conferences offered are all locally-based, although Andy and Nick are eyeing up email as a possibility for 1995.

Closely tied up with the Hollow is Stretford End, another Wildcat! board which was once run by Andy Le Flock but is now looked after by Sue Summers. The two boards were once mirrors of each other, but over the years they have developed their own distinct identities. Like the Hollow, SE has only local mail areas, but although there are only 10 they include such diverse interests as motor racing and fish keeping!

The 1,640 files are mainly aimed at PC owners, although Amiga and Mac users will also find a few areas of interest. There is no up-download ratio, and Sue prefers to encourage online activity, such as using the doors (including Star Empire, chess, Quantum Leap and Star Trek trivia) and leaving messages.

The third Wildcat! BBS in the island is also the newest. Tower Hill Communications was set up as a tie-in with a local electrical supplier, but like all good BBSs it has rapidly outgrown its modest beginnings.

Sysop Jason Smith has some exciting plans for this year, including the implementation of a mail link



→ Logon to Clnet, which provides a home page for Channel Islanders.

with the first BBS to be set up in the United Arab Emirates, in Dubai. This will give users the chance to chat to people all over the Middle East, and the Dubai board will also send messages on into Africa. Already Jason has implemented a link with a US board, and recently he added message areas from UFONet, BBSNet and TheNet to the local groups.

Once again, the PC and Amiga come off best in the files areas, and the doors offered are similar to those on the other Wildcat! boards.

Although anyone can call any of the Guernsey boards, people still have their personal favourites. There are those who call only one board regularly, while dropping in on the others once a week or so.

My personal BBS stamping ground is Black Ice, the only Remote Access-based board in the island (so far!), and the only board in the entire Channel Islands to offer access to FidoNet mail areas.

In its comparatively short life, Black Ice Sysop Damien Guard has built it into a formidable message and file archive, with some unusual doors available for those who enjoy that sort of thing (the RPGs Red Dragon and Arrowbridge are the most popular).

As well as FidoNet, Black Ice caters for some MercuryNet and RA_Net areas alongside the local ones. And while all other local boards use a qwk mail system, Black Ice uses Blue Wave.

Files include loads of GIFs, JPEGs and samples, many of them from CD, but the board also has some 1Gb of files on hard disk, with space for another 2Gb. Although most files are for the PC and Amiga, if you look hard enough you'll find stuff here for machines like the Atari ST and even the Spectrum!

Among Damien's plans for the immediate future is the purchase of a seven CD multichanger system, an extra 5Gb of online storage, and another node.

Currently a two-node operation, Black Ice is the only local board to have a subscription of sorts. While anyone can call in, those who pay the annual £10 sub get better access, higher up/download ratios and access to netmail.

Email via the FidoNet gateway is offered free to all users and until recently this was the only email facility in the island.

If the online games offered by the BBSs don't appeal to you, Guernsey also has its very own MUD, which recently upgraded its software and after a long solo-line lead-in period now sports three nodes.

GuernseyMUD is operated by Ian Stephenson and currently runs CircleMUD 2.2 software on an Amiga A4000/030.

The software allows the users access to a BBS-type front end, which includes a message area that unsurprisingly tends to feature MUD-related chat.

This MUD is a 'friendly' game, in that you are best advised to either co-operate with, or at least tolerate, your fellow players – killing them is NOT recommended. That is not to say there is no killing – there is, plenty of it, but only of non-player characters.

The top dogs in this world are the Immortals, and

already there are several players who have fought their way through the 30 mortal levels to the dizzy heights of immortality.

At first Ian didn't place a time limit on playing, but given the cheap local calls he soon found that some people were spending hours in the game, to the frustration of others, so now you are limited to about an hour a day.

Anyone can play the game, although those who take out a subscription get longer online and the money goes towards development – adding to the three nodes is one of Ian's aims, but he also hopes to buy a C compiler to allow him to expand and improve on the game's source code.

Should none of the Guernsey-based services be enough, there are a couple of boards in nearby Jersey (but the phone charges are higher!). The best-known of these is probably Time Zero, with the Amiga-only board Offshore worth looking in on if you are after something unusual, with a bit of an anarchic feel.

While upgrades to the BBSs and GuernseyMUD are often the talking point among Guernsey comms fans, in October last year the big news was that the Channel Islands were getting their own access to the Internet – saving on those long distance calls (even at the cheap rate of 7p a minute, calling a UK Net provider had a less than healthy impact on phone bills).

The new service offered by Jersey-based firm Clnet took a while finding its feet, with no mail server and problems with Usenet at first. The annual charge of £175 didn't seem too bad when one could get access for the price of a local call, but this soon changed when Guernsey's own (UK-independent) telecoms company insisted that a special line be used allowing a large number of callers, but at a charge of 3p a minute peak-rate and 1p off-peak.

Users can access the Net using either the bog standard UNIX interface (UGH!) or PPP. Clnet offers some support to PC owners, but leaves everyone else to pretty much fend for themselves. Fortunately, Mac and Amiga owners have leapt to each other's aid and getting set up is not too much of a nightmare. Some time this year Clnet hope to get everyone off UNIX (hurray!) and on to PPP access only.

Despite the problems and the setup hassles Clnet nonetheless attracted quite a few users, and hopefully once things are all sorted more will come online.

But a surprisingly large number of comms fans are happy to remain Net-less, and enjoy the activity on the local bulletin boards.

With so much going on in this small area, it's not hard to see why.

Mark Ogier is a reporter for the Guernsey Evening Press and Star.

Internet: mogier@business.co.uk

FidoNet: 2:255/78

Telephone numbers: Guernsey

Black Ice (01481) 39633/35323

GuernseyMUD (01481) 51741/58306/58307

Stretford End 1 (01481) 711749/715191

Spider's Hollow 1 (01481) 48402/42360

Tower Hill (01481) 58202

Jersey

Offshore (01534) 856292

Time Zero (01534) 617586/861099

Internet

Clnet home page: <http://zippy.business.co.uk/>



There's one problem with getting married over the Internet... you have to hope the bride can get logged on in time. Sara Edlington enters the electronic dating scene.

Dating has hit the Internet in a big way. With online marriages in the news, it's given the beleaguered Internet a bit of good publicity. So where's it all happening and who's doing it? You can search for your 'significant other' in many places. On Usenet, for example, there are various singles and dating groups and not all are American dominated. But first, a question. What's the difference between `uk.singles` and `alt.personals`? Answer: `uk.singles` doesn't like personal ads and `alt.personals` is full of them. Confusing isn't it? The two main singles groups are `uk.singles` and `soc.singles`. Here you'll find discussions on all sorts of singles-related subjects and that is all these groups are for. Personal ads are not wanted here.

So what's in these `alt.personals` groups then?

Not what you might think. Many people are out looking for a one-night-stand, others are wanting an extra partner to liven up a boring marriage. How many people are married and looking for a bit on the side? Who knows? But there is one couple who are willing to talk. More of them later.



Interestingly enough, all the Usenet groups aren't, as you may think, full of sad people just looking for someone to liven their day. The average age is 25-35, though there are older men and women, and potential partners come from all types of backgrounds. There are, not so surprisingly, more men than women actively seeking partners. Women tend to lurk silently in these groups and only make themselves known if they see an advert they like.

Most of the groups are dominated by the Americans, and this can leave the average Brit feeling a bit left out. The American groups tend to

let it all "hang out". Everything from their sexual preferences to what their cat is called appears in their ads. Their ads can also have a strong sexual overtone. Those of faint heart need not apply. If you don't fancy a 'normal' ad you could try `alt.personals.bondage` if you fancy being 'tied down', or `alt.personals.poly` for those of you who need more than one wife.

The groups have their own rules that can seem a bit confusing. Send an email asking someone out after only one ad and you're asking for trouble. As well as navigating your way through the minefield of dos and don'ts there are also new abbreviations to learn. For instance, you'll find `ACA`: all correspondence answered, `LAFS`: love at first sight, `SNAG`: sensitive, new-age guy, etc.

The FAQs for these groups are often heavy on the irony and occasionally funny. Reading them is essential. The odd thing is the way online dating works. It has become generally accepted that if you're actively looking for someone special, you won't find them, if you're not looking, you will.



I posted one message into one group and I was swamped with mail. That sounds okay, but nearly all of it offered one-night-stands. Some guys even said they would buy me dinner if I promised to have sex afterwards!



wanted

alt. sex & Friends

persona

SITE

Intro
Intro
Intro

b.b.s

b.b.s

b.b.s

b.b.s

b.b.s

So how does this work? Most groups work on the basis that you either post an advert yourself or reply to one already posted. In the more singles-oriented groups, get a good thread going and see what happens. The singles-oriented groups have gone further than just talking online. They now organise their own

'boinks'. A 'boink' is when the members of that particular group meet up. Uk.singles had its first boink in May 1994, and the people involved felt it went well. Several mini-boinks have taken place and no doubt there will be more.

Love in an anorak?

But who uses these groups? Are they all desperate anoraks? No. Most of them are simply enjoying a lighthearted chat with others while keeping one eye open for a potential relationship. But do these groups work? Opinions are divided. James R says "I've posted loads of messages into the personals-style newsgroups and so far I haven't found anyone suitable. If you list your interests you invariably get someone replying who doesn't have those interests but is so desperate to find someone they'll say anything. That said, I haven't given up on them yet"

Laura F. however, feels that online dating newsgroups are great. "I've met and dated several

men from the Internet, two from IRC, one from a computer newsgroup and two from mainstream

“ If you don't fancy a 'normal' ad you could try alt.personals. bondage if you fancy being 'tied down', or alt.personals.poly for those of you who need more than one wife. ”

dating groups. I'm now going out with one on a long-term basis. So I'd say it works, but it depends on what you expect to get out of it."

Some men feel the competition is too hot. Bob R. is one. "I've written to at least 20 different women from the personals groups, but they get so much mail they can be picky. And sadly, they didn't pick me." Some women, such as Rachel B., have the opposite problem. "I posted one message into one group and I was swamped with mail. That sounds okay, but nearly all of it offered one-night-stands. Some guys even said they would buy me dinner if I promised to have sex afterwards!"

Adam P. is a firm believer in online dating. He was facially disfigured in a car accident and he finds that women give him more of a chance online. "If I go the conventional dating route no one comes near me. But online, it's different. I've met and had dates with several women. Because

my personality has had time to show through, I find it easier to find someone. Several have commented they wouldn't have looked twice at me normally."

But can you find true love at the end of the phone line? Jess W. thinks not. "I doubt it. You hear of all these Net marriages, but I bet if you go back to them in ten years, they'll be divorced. I think you can meet people who become good friends, but true love? No way." Allen L. disagrees. "Of course you can find true love. The Internet is no different from any other kind of dating. It does have some differences - you get to know someone well before ever speaking to them in person. But if true love's there, you'll find it."

Stories abound in the mainstream media about couples who've met and then married over the Net. Many couples who have done so prefer to keep quiet about it, leading to 'did they or didn't they?' controversies as with the American TV show host Rush Limbaugh.

Jeff C. and his wife Lucy met in a dating area and carried on a six month relationship by email. They then met, married and moved to America. Jeff points out that "I kept quiet about how we really met, otherwise we'd have been hounded to death over it. We wanted a small, quiet wedding and that's what we got. Both Lucy and I had tried dating echoes and personally I found



RYAN → Z



JASON



LOVELINK

single
single
single
single
single
single
romance
romance
romance
romance
romance
romance
wanted
wanted
wanted
wanted
wanted
wanted

The Dating Agency.

Welcome to the Dating Agency. It is FREE to place a page here. You also have the option of placing a photo on your page.

[Men looking for Women](#)

[Women looking for Men](#)

[Women looking for Women](#)

[Men looking for Men](#)

If you prefer to be anonymous, then you can send us an application [online](#). If you wish your page to have your photo, then you can either send us complete details with the photo or fill in the on-line form and send the photo with the reference number.



There's no shortage of dating agencies available on the Internet, although this one seemed a little thin on women looking for men.



CINDY 40



Exec - James - 32

Internet

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WELCOME TO LOVELINK ON INTERNET BRINGING YOU PERSONALS FROM ALL OVER THE UK.

TO HEAR THE PERSON TALKING JUST CALL 0839 333 178 FROM ANY TOUCHTONE PHONE IN THE UK AND ENTER THEIR 4-DIGIT PIN AT THE PROMPT. YOU WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO LEAVE A MESSAGE. A CALL COSTS 39P/MIN CHEAP RATE AND 49P/MIN OTHER TIMES.

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Happy Hunting - we hope you find your soul mate.

-  Ladies wishing to meet men
-  Men wishing to meet ladies
-  Gay men
-  Gay ladies
-  Bisexual

Internet Love Link can be reached via Cityscape. Try <http://www.cityscape.co.uk>

 all the women in them a bit weird. Do they work? Well, I suppose they must do. I met Lucy there." Lucy feels that it's a safer way for women to meet men. "Okay, there is the odd twit out there. But you can get to know someone quite well before having to go on a first date. It's also a lot cheaper than the conventional dating scene. I think it's more intimate too."

The Internet dating scene has thrown up some more salacious items, however. There are men who want a woman in every town, men and women after one-night-stands, and even online extra marital affairs. I spoke to one couple involved in such an affair. Their names have been changed but the details of their relationship haven't.

Helen is single and Tom has been married for 10 years. They met in a dating newsgroup when Helen posted an ad. Tom says "I hadn't intended to get the dating newsgroups, I just thought they might make a boring day at work more interesting. So I downloaded them and saved the stuff to read at work. I read Helen's message and thought she might make a good person to write to, purely on a friendly basis." When Helen received Tom's first message she was a bit surprised. "He was open about the fact that he was married, but I felt that a friendship by email would be fun even if it didn't turn into anything."

It didn't take long for things to develop further. Helen says "After a month of exchanging messages Tom suggested we meet. We had dinner and I suspect it was during the dinner that we both realised this wasn't going to be just a friendship anymore." They went back to their machines and both installed the PGP protection programme. Things then heated up - once innocent messages now became more explicit. "That's when we ran into a problem," Helen says. "Tom lives 300 miles away and couldn't get away from home often. But we did want some sort of sex life." So they compromised. After attempting to have 'written sex' via email, they decided to post anonymously into several sex-related groups on Usenet.

"We pop in there about once a week," Tom says, "and it gets really hot, I can tell you. I wouldn't like to say what happens at each of our computers, I'll leave that to your imagination. But it's fun and safe." Their affair has now been going on for almost a year and both are happy for it to continue. Helen raises an interesting point. "It's not really an affair though, is it? We're just two people who write to one another over the Net. Let's face it, we've never actually had sex. We've had cybersex, I suppose. It's not hurting anyone and we're both very happy."

Newsgroups aren't the only places where you can try online dating. Even Fido has set off its own relationships. BBSs with online chat areas are one area where couples have met. Like Dan B. and Jenny H. They met over the online chat area on their local BBS, sadly now disappeared. Their developing friendship became a local soap opera.

“ John J. carried on a one month email relationship with a woman, who subsequently turned out to actually be a bisexual bloke. It was very embarrassing. He gave no sign that he was a man at all. His writing was very 'effeminate' so I was completely fooled.”

"It was funny really," Dan says. "The last place I expected to meet someone special was on Fido." They went on-line for several weeks and then discovered they lived just 10 miles apart. "When we discovered we lived so close, we met up for real." Jess says. Nine months on they are still going out together and are recommending BBSs to all their friends.

Internet Relay Chat is another area where you could meet that significant other. There has been at least one online wedding there. However, this is only an option if you don't mind airing your chat-up lines in public. There are also 'dating agencies' on the Web, including two British-based ones, Lovelink and The Dating Agency. There are also matchmaking databases and even personal ads in





Net Dating

If you fancy giving Net dating a try, here are a few places for you to go to:-

Personals Groups On Usenet:

alt.personals,
alt.personals.ads,
alt.personals.aliens,
alt.personals.bondage,
alt.personals.misc,
alt.personals.poly,
uk.personals.

Usenet Singles Groups:
soc.singles and **uk.singles.**

LoveLink can found at:
<http://www.gold.net/lovelink>

Online magazines with personal pages:
 Wired at
<http://www.hotwired.com/Coin/Clasfd/Pers/index.html>.

You need an account with Wired for this.

Matchmaking database: Send an email to perfect@match.com and put in the message: **send form.**

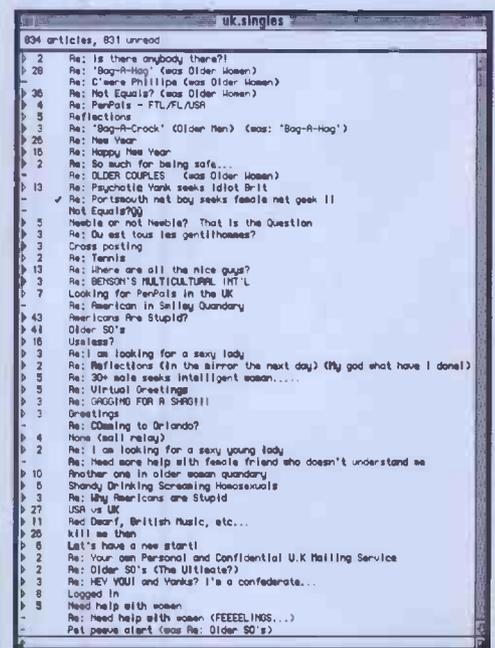
Other Web sites:

The Virtual Meet Market at
<http://www.wwa.com:1111/>

The HIV Positive Dating Services at
<http://cyberzine.org/html/LGBADS/HIVDate/dating.html>

The Dating Agency at
<http://www.easynet.co.uk/pages/cafe/date.html>

Urban Desires at
<http://desires.com/>



online magazines. Even the Internet's most talked about cafe, Cyberia, has had an attack of datingitis, and now offers access to The Dating Agency. Which means that if you do find someone from there, you won't have much trouble deciding where to go for a first date.

It's not all chocolates and flowers, though. There are problems with Net dating. Firstly, you aren't really dating the person you're writing too. Meeting them for the first time in reality can be a bit of a shock. A seemingly wonderful relationship online can fail miserably when the people meet in real life, particularly if one side builds up a false image

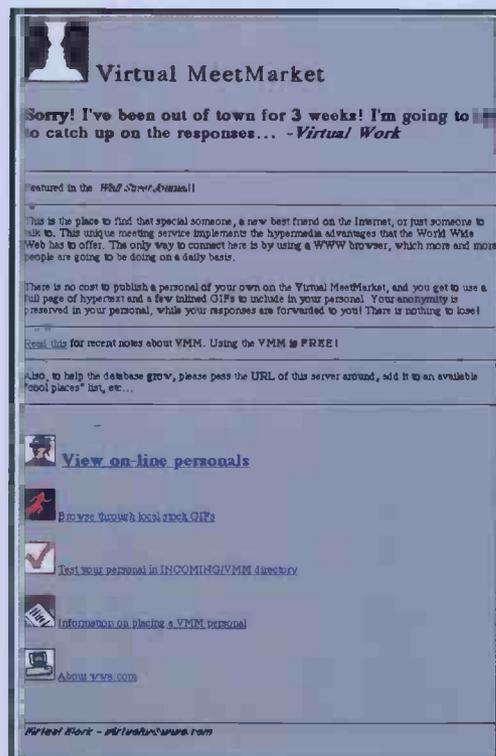
of the other. There is also the problem of people twisting the truth. Women's ages drop dramatically. Men suddenly lose a few stone in weight. Some people have even uploaded GIFs of better-looking friends to ensure success with the opposite sex.

There are other problems – because of the unregulated nature of the Net, it is difficult to get any real idea of whom you are talking to. Both men and women have complained about being pestered by email after turning down dates. John J. carried on a one month email relationship with a woman, who subsequently turned out to actually be a bisexual bloke. "It was very embarrassing. He gave no sign that he was a man at all. His writing was very 'effeminate' so I was completely fooled. I suppose it shows you've got to be careful."

Which leads to an interesting question – is it safe to ask out someone whom you've never seen? In some groups you can (almost) avoid this problem. Some of the groups may have FTP sites where you can find a GIF picture of the person you are talking to (unless they've uploaded someone else's picture). The FAQ will tell you where the site is. (Although this will only distinguish the nutters from the norms if the former have "I am a nutter" tattooed across their foreheads. But at least it should give you some idea of their gender!)

Lisa S., points out other problems in choosing the right partner. "Some people on the Net have no interest in anything except computers. Then there are those who can write like angels but have nothing to say when you meet them in person. It's frustrating trying to sort out the good from the bad." Jim L. adds, "The other problem with dating this way is that when you type you've got time to think about what you want to say. So you can come over a lot funnier than you are in person."

The golden rule seems to be that you can develop a good friendship over the Net, but finding true love is as difficult as it is in 'reality'. Still, despite the problems, the future of online dating is assured. Especially with the Web and Internet expanding so rapidly, particularly in Europe, love on the Net looks set to bloom.



Get down to the Virtual Meet Market and meet virtual people by pointing your URL to:
<http://www.wwa.com:1111/>



feature

WIRED FOR

Charles Salem finds out why live music 'broadcasts' over the Internet are causing so much excitement.



Sound

“
”

During the Sky Cries Mary concert one ‘viewer’ wanted to get a close-up of the guitar break, another wanted to hear more guitar. Both ‘viewers’ emailed their requests and were answered with both camera and sound changes to accommodate them.

They were scooped by just a week, but the Rolling Stones made history last autumn by performing ‘live’ on the Internet. November 10 was the date of the first transmission by the Seattle band, Sky Cries Mary, who just scooped the rock dinosaurs, followed eight days later by 20 minutes of the Rolling Stones’ Dallas Cotton Bowl show.

SET (Showtime Event Television) pay-per-view, one of the leading promoters of rock concerts for cable TV networks, was involved. Also involved were BCL/CPI, in association with the New York-based Thinking Pictures, and SUN Microsystems. These particular companies were responsible for delivering the Stones’ show over the Internet MBONE (Multibroadcast Back BONE) at approximately 10.30 pm Eastern, 7.30 pm Pacific time on Friday 18 November. Four songs were performed over a period of 20 minutes from the show in a bid to be the first band to use the Net for this purpose. The result was a success for all parties concerned.

Although the Stones weren’t the first on the Internet with this kind of show, the supergroup were very clear about the purpose of the broadcast.

“It’s for promotion. We reckoned this was the best way to get at our target audience and promote the next live show,” said a band spokesperson. The “next show” mentioned was on Friday 25 November with the conventional ‘broadcast’ and cable, pay-per-view transmission of the band’s Miami concert.

Both managements likened the event to the first days of television or radio. “The potential for launching bands, selling records and just adding to the potential income derived from using the Net is enormous,” Jonathon Lewis at New York-based entertainment consultancy, GTL, told us this week.

Thinking Pictures Vice President, Oliver Pfeiffer, inspired by the concerts, is bullish about the future. “The Information Superhighway is currently an unpaved road and we’re going to drive a Porsche through it. We learned a lot about the limitations of the Internet and hopefully we’ll encourage network providers to see the advantage of offering multicast traffic to their customers. This is as well as encouraging hardware and software developers to address the issues surrounding the handling of multicast datapackets. In the process of inspiring all this, the Stones showed everyone a good time!” he added.





feature

→ On a more lighthearted note, you can tune into the dreadful wailings of William Shatner yodelling 'Mr Tambourine Man'. If you like.

The Capt. James T. Kirk Sing-a-long Page

This music was first introduced to me by Rich Frantz



Little known to the civilized world, the great William Shatner (Kirk on the original Star Trek TV series) recorded a masterpiece of an album -- *The Transformed Man* -- back in 1968. In it, Shatner proves that his talents go far beyond those of film and into the world of music. I have studied this visionary work time and time again and never fail to find something new each time I listen. The real treasures of this album are (1) Mr. Tambourine Man, (2) Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds, and (3) Theme for Cyrano

But don't take my word for it: listen to the genius of Kirk for yourself.

- ▶ The last half of 'Mr. Tambourine Man' (711 KB)
- ▶ Let's listen to the finale of 'Mr. Tambourine Man' again! (43 KB)
- ▶ A snippet from 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' (388 KB)
- ▶ 'No, I thank you. And again, I thank you!' from 'Theme for Cyrano' (63 KB)
- ▶ '???' -- from 'Hamlet' (204 KB)
- ▶ '...wailing in despair' from 'Spleen' (177 KB)
- ▶ Kirk portraying King Henry V inspiring the English troops (281 KB)

→ Even worse, listen to Leonard Nimoy get down and hippy.

Just when you thought it was safe...




While William Shatner could be excused for one woeful mistake, Leonard Nimoy (Kirk's trusty first officer Mr. Spock) has no alibi. Over the course of a decade, Mr. Nimoy released 10 albums' worth of poetry, prose, and music! Regretably, Nimoy's artistic creativity never did approach the landmark set by Kirk -- it's just plain boring. *As Golden Throats 2* puts it: "Suffering severe delusions of adequacy, Mr. Spock groped melodies as effortlessly as someone trying to pick up dimes with a catcher's mitt."

- ▶ 'Spock Thoughts' from *Two Sides of Nimoy* (1060 KB)

→ Fans of bands like Megadeth do well out of the Net, with this rather time-consuming Web site.

WELCOME to MEGADETH

Welcome to Megadeth, Arizona

Are we there yet?

You have reached Megadeth, Arizona. Greetings! You're probably wondering "what in the hell is Megadeth, Arizona?" We figure you'll guess it's about the band Megadeth, and it's something to do with the release of their new album *Youthanasia*, but what's up with the Arizona part?

Here's the story:

To record *Youthanasia*, Megadeth packed up and moved to Arizona where they built a unique recording studio in a warehouse on the outskirts of Phoenix. When they were finished recording, the studio was split in two pieces and trucked back to Los Angeles. This web site is a celebration of their time in what we call *Megadeth, Arizona*. Come here only to have fun. Just one word of advice, act fast because this town will be changing before your very eyes:

- Be sure to [sign in](#) as we have already given away hundreds of prizes to our lucky visitors!
- Also, for those of you wondering where all these damn buttons take you, please read our [brochure](#).
- IMPORTANT... Keep checking into the [visitor's bureau](#) to see what's new each week...





Mike Slade, president of Starwave, the company which mounted the Sky Cries Mary concert from their Bellevue,

Washington location maintains that these broadcasts are the first small, but highly successful, steps for producers and Net users alike. He maintains that consumers don't have to think about the future when it comes to the so-called 'Information Superhighway' -- the result is here and now.

Like the very first TV and radio broadcasts, both the Stones concert and the Sky Cries Mary shows weren't technically perfect. Both concerts required a powerful computer and accompanying software in order to receive them properly. This includes having an MBONE operations system, a multicast broadband version of what is normally used as the Internet backbone system. This set-up allows video information to be sent and received by users who can directly access the Net.

MBONE has, in the past, been used to transmit and receive video conferences and lectures. Rock 'n' roll turned out to be a completely new use of the system. However, the suppliers are keen to point out that the network connection was extremely demanding.



Thousands of Internet users have already visited the Rolling Stones WWW site -- <http://www.stones.com> at the URL in their web browsers.

MBONE broadcasters and users are presently limited to college and institutional-based computers, which number over one million. These can receive both audio and video feeds. So, the stage is set for this kind of broadcast to become commonplace. Sound purists may be interested to note that the output was only 8bit mono. The video picture quality was over six frames a second, filling a quarter of the screen.

Although much work is being done to make this broadcast system a home-based service, it will be restricted to institutions such as colleges and universities for some time to come. This is by no means a 'domestic service' at the moment. Unless you have a mega-sized server and memory backup system on your home computer, that is. Nevertheless, the service was perfect for the target market. One Net user described it perfectly as "a high quality telephone call". But the picture quality fared less well with some users complaining of the picture having a 'strobe lighting' effect.

Despite quality problems, the broadcasts were so successful that reports of them reaching all over the world were recorded. The key, however, to the event's success was, for both groups, the aspect of immediacy. For instance, Net users were able to send in comments while the show was going on via a real-time feedback board. During the Sky Cries Mary concert one 'viewer' wanted



to get a close-up of the guitar break, another wanted to hear more guitar. Both 'viewers' emailed their requests and were answered with both camera and sound changes to accommodate them.

For independent group, Sky Cries Mary, the Internet provided literally a 'world platform' for their music. For the Rolling Stones it was an opportunity to market a further specific event with all the merchandising spin-offs that followed. Thousands of Internet users have already visited the Rolling Stones WWW site that contains 'Voodoo Lounge' song samples, video clips, archive album artwork and, of course, merchandise offers. To get into this users can type <http://www.stones.com> at the URL in their web browsers.

These events proved once again that Net usage is most effective when used in conjunction with a low-tech operation – like promoting a cable TV concert. As for the band, their management in the US were keen to point out that the group were making allowances for the sound and video quality. "Of course it's not up to scratch," a spokesperson for the band in New York told me. "But the Net is a new way to get to our younger fans and that's what counts." Both the Stones and the much smaller Sky Cries Mary have plans for more Net-based promotions next year, as do Peter Gabriel and Mike Oldfield.

As a sales promotion tool, the Net is a perfect way of targeting certain consumers who are interested in 'high tech' issues. At the same time, being on the Net seems to bestow a certain 'flashiness' and fashion cred. As for the indie band, Sky Cries Mary, their idea was not to beat the Stones but to reach a much wider audience and promote the band. Manager, Nick Turner, said it was a perfect marketing exercise. "As the universities all had the right equipment, we reached the crowd we wanted to attract and, what's more, we reached them all at once. The feedback was phenomenal."

However, most music industry professionals see these events as being part of a larger 'interactive music' market. "We did this to see if it could be done." Said Mike Slade, president of StarWave. "Long term, the interactive CD-ROMs will develop into fully-integrated, interactive music services." This seems to imply that ways of purchasing and sampling music will change and consumers will be specifically and accurately targeted. CD-ROM, video on demand, cable TV and other interactive services will provide a cost-effective way of delivering and 'retailing' new groups.



The Information Superhighway is currently an unpaved road and we're going to drive a Porsche through it.

Can you imagine 'attending' a concert without all the sweat, bruises and communal bad dancing that goes with it? Oh well, it might only be rock 'n' roll but some people are convinced Net users will love it.



The Internet Underground Music Archive

Since the appearance of the World Wide Web, there has been an explosion of interest in using the Internet as a distribution tool for text, graphics, moving pictures and sound.

To capitalise on the Web's multimedia abilities (particularly since Netscape Mosaic arrived), several small companies have begun to offer archives of material over the Net, free to the end-user.

In particular, there has been a great deal of interest in offering music products over the Net, and one of the most popular music sites in the World is IUMA – the Internet Underground Music Archive.

IUMA offers people the chance to hear the music, read the profiles and order and pay for the records of hundreds of (mainly) underground, independent music artists. Some larger names are available as well – Madonna's most recent video (MPEG-style) was on IUMA before it hit the TV stations.

IUMA make their money by charging a varying sum, depending on the size of their clients. Essentially, it works like a 'free sheet' newspaper – free at the point of access, but which costs to get into. The advantages, at the moment, of IUMA as far as the big bands are concerned are minimal apart from it being an additional distribution channel for music, but it comes into its own for the smaller bands. It's a way for independent groups to bypass the usual record company channels and gain a wider audience.

Steve Loder from Southern Studios, who will be providing IUMA from the UK, says, "Indie bands will get the same exposure as say, Madonna, and will be available on a more even basis. In just three weeks, 30-40,000 people had accessed the system – one of them was from the Kremlin."

Due to the massive success of the American-based IUMA system, Silicon Graphics and Southern Studios (which is a record company and independent distributor), launched a local European version on 20th December last year. The idea is to create local access points globally, with Japan as the next to come.

Steve Webb from Silicon Graphics told I&CT that they are backing the move as part of their core strategy of diversification into entertainment markets, and follows hook-ups with TCI in the United States (to provide servers) and Nintendo with their new Ultra 64 games console.

"We foresee a new 'DIY' media lifestyle evolving, which will create limitless opportunities for music publishers and those in related areas," says Steve Webb. "Music fans will be able to download and mix music samples and even produce albums to suit their own tastes. IUMA pushes Silicon Graphics to the cutting-edge of music technology and draws on our expertise in serving digital media across the Internet and in the film and broadcast industries."

→ Nick Merritt

Internet Underground Music Archive
The internet's first free hi-fi music archive

Late Breaking News
Browse individual bands from a server conveniently located nearest you...

IUMA West: [Heavy Graphics](#) or [dull text](#) version.
IUMA East (not current): [Heavy Graphics](#) or [dull text](#) version.

check out the bands!

FRESH CATCHES BY ARTIST BY LABEL
BY LOCATION BY GENRE INTERACTIVELY

other cool things to see and do.

COOL RECORDS STAFF EPOS

→ If you're interested in looking at the IUMA Web page, trot along to the URL: <http://www.southern.com>
You'll have the option to listen to music or watch MPEG videos (if you have the right equipment), order records or read biographical data on your favourite bands.

Pentium MPCs. Are they a gamble?

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Commercial

BBS Round-up



If the Internet is so wonderful, why would anyone want to use a BBS? Let John Kennedy guide you through the top commercial bulletin boards in the country and you'll see why.





Have you tried to get connected to the Internet yet? Have you eagerly signed up with a service provider and are now wondering what's the difference between a SLIP and a PPP? This is the joy of TCP/IP – something which was never meant for mere mortals with home computers and modems.

Well, okay, so that's a bit of exaggeration for dramatic effect, but as you may or may not know, there are two main ways for home users to connect to the Internet. The first way is through a direct dial-up connection (called an IP 'Internet Protocol' link, usually using SLIP or PPP).

This method puts the onus on you to handle all the TCP/IP software, not to mention FTP, telnet, mail and news software. For beginners it can be extremely confusing and – let's be brutally honest here, at times it's a real pain in the ass. Most (if not all) Internet service providers supply a ready-to-install software kit which simplifies matters, but if your make of computer isn't supported and you aren't rated highly on the wizard-side of technical ability, you could have problems.

The advantage of a direct IP link like this is that it's relatively cheap (usually a fixed charge of between £10 and £20 a month, no matter how much you use it), and there is usually a provider close to where you live for local calls. Perhaps most importantly, you have a complete and full link, which means you can run WWW browsers such as NetScape Mosaic, and you get to pick your own domain name.

However, it is sometimes hard to configure a direct link and a lot of the time, the features

available are well beyond what most users actually need. Which is where the commercial bulletin board systems come in.

In these situations, the BBS itself handles all the TCP/IP business, and usually packages up all the messy Internet tools into one, big, menu-driven screen-full. It's just as fast as an IP link (because, lets face it, even a 28.8K modem is pretty damn slow in Internet terms) and it's a lot more convenient. The BBS will even give you a unique Internet address, and will also have a mail gateway which ensures you are as much a part of the email continuum as anyone else.

Dialling up is a lot easier too. Rather than having to install a dozen different programs on your computer, sacrificing 10Mb of hard disk space, you can access the BBS using a normal, run-of-the-mill, comms program – either a terminal emulation program or one provided by the BBS itself. This means that, no matter what type of computer you have, you can dial in and pick up your mail whenever you want – handy if you have a portable modem and a cheap laptop, for example.

Bonus Points

The other major advantage a BBS has over a direct IP link is the fact that the BBS service itself usually has a few unique features to tempt you to stay online. CIX, for example, has a terrific range of conferences and also a FAX gateway. CompuServe has hundreds of business-oriented services which you simply couldn't get anywhere else. ALMAC has links into world-wide mail networks and gigabytes of software to download. Delphi has news, special interest groups and even a real-time, multi-user flight simulator.

Choosing the right service

The right BBS for you depends on how much you are willing to pay, how technically literate you are and what features you need. Location is less important, as BT's pricing structure has more or less abolished long distance calls – for example, if you live in the Midlands, a call to London and a call to Scotland would cost exactly the same.

As many of the larger boards (and all the ones reviewed here) have direct Internet access, it is possible to use telnet to access them instead. Thus, if you lived miles away from Delphi, but right next door to your Internet service provider then it would usually be cheaper to call the service provider, and use telnet to log into the Delphi system.

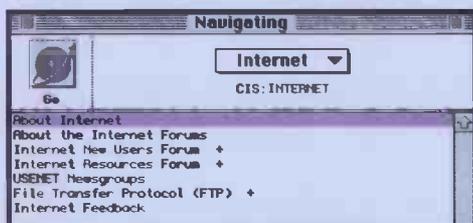
Unfortunately, there are two problems with this technique: first of all, offline reading software is unlikely to work with a telnet link, and secondly, you need to pay twice – once for access to the BBS, and again for access to the Internet service provider. However, if you happen to have free Internet access (for example, through your university) then this might not be an issue.

Delphi, CIX and CompuServe are also connected to the GNS DialPlus service. This is a BT facility which offers local access to practically everyone, everywhere in the country through a hundred local dial-in points. The downside is the low speed (2400 is considered adequate) and the £1.50 per hour surcharge.

Online/Offline

If saving money is important to you, the availability of 'offline readers' could be a deciding

CompuServe



→ CompuServe's Internet service is currently limited to just FTP and Usenet.

Login access

Using CompuServe is great fun, and most of this is due to the superb front-end software – WinCim. It's available for both the Mac and the PC, and makes comms look easy. Getting online is just a matter of clicking on the relevant icon, and this degree of user-friendliness is carried on throughout the entire CompuServe system.

Dialling is down to London or a node in one of the other major cities in the UK and abroad or through the GNS network. Modem speeds of up to 14.4K are catered for.

Internet access

Until recently, CompuServe had always seen itself as something separate from the Internet,

Messages since Mon, Jan 9, 1995		
Section	Topics	Msgs
<input type="checkbox"/> Chatter [1]	76	188
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet Beginners [2]	161	422
<input type="checkbox"/> Access: CompuServe [3]	38	125
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessing the Net [4]	88	204
<input type="checkbox"/> Using Email [5]	65	149
<input type="checkbox"/> Using FTP & Archie [6]	44	125
<input type="checkbox"/> Using USENET [7]	31	79
<input type="checkbox"/> Using Mailing Lists [8]	9	21
<input type="checkbox"/> Using WWW & Mosaic [9]	45	131
<input type="checkbox"/> Using Telnet [10]	12	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Using Gopher & WAIS [11]	2	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding People [12]	20	61
<input type="checkbox"/> Finding Resources [13]	33	63
<input type="checkbox"/> Business on the Net [14]	22	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet Society [15]	1	8

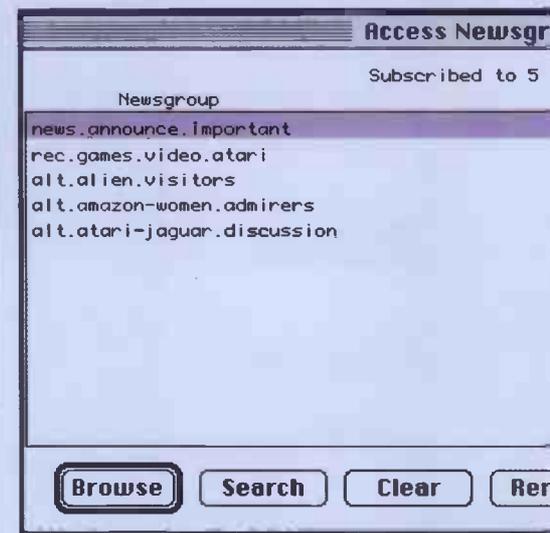
→ There's a good selection of Internet related stuff here which covers most aspects of the Internet, even those parts CompuServe does not as yet allow access to.

and didn't always encourage its users to take part in it. That is now changing, and CompuServe is starting to offer more and more facilities and says it is planning to offer full Internet access 'soon'.

As always, CompuServe makes it almost ridiculously easy to use the Internet compared to struggling along with a raw SLIP link. Both the USENET and FTP facilities can be mastered in moments.

Features

Features? You want features? CompuServe has



→ Many of the Usenet groups appear not to be available, mostly the sex ones.

features. Yup, with two million users world-wide you can bet there are a lot of features. When you get bored looking at a miniature weather map of the UK, or downloading the news or checking the Entertainment guide you can start looking through the forums.

The 'forums' are where everyone meets and chats and, like USENET, they cover most subjects that you could possibly think of. Many major



factor. Normally, you need to read and write all your mail messages and read all the relevant news whilst online, that is, while your modem is actually connected and you are clocking up a substantial telephone bill. Apart from the expense, this can be a very nerve-wracking experience and can really cramp your enjoyment of reading and writing mail.

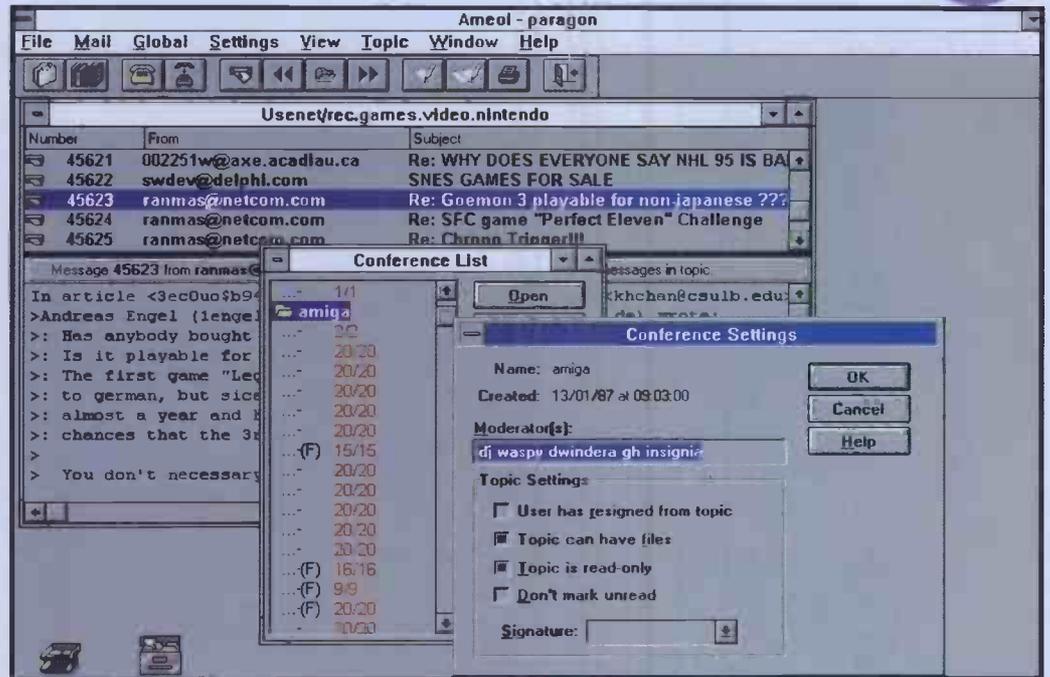
Many systems will help you out by supporting an 'offline reader'. CIX, for example, sells and supports Ameol for the IBM PC (although other software is available in non-supported form for the Apple Mac and Amiga range). Ameol allows you to take a leisurely look through your mail and news before replying – all whilst offline. You can then perform a 'blink', which is CIX-speak for dialling up CIX and automatically sending all the replies and receiving any new mail. Ameol is particularly effective because it will also batch USENET newsgroups, and the registered version will even handle file downloading.

CIX

CIX (pronounced kicks) is one of the best known electronic meeting centres in Britain. It prefers to be known as a conferencing centre rather than a bulletin board, as it specialises in providing a forum for users to chat amongst themselves.

The CIX system is based on the CoSy conferencing software developed at the University of Guelph. To a new user it can look imposing to start with, as it makes use of raw UNIX-style prompts and typed commands.

However, the excellent manual will soon get



→ The software keeps track of which conference is moderated by which fascist dictator... er, sorry, CIXEN.

you on the right track, and being able to type a command to get to exactly where you want to go with minimum fuss is extremely useful.

Login access

Using a modem to dial directly into CIX requires that you use one of their four '0181' numbers. I've been using the service regularly for years and rarely get an engaged tone during office hours.

Speeds of up to 28.8K are supported.

If you already have access to the Internet, you can use telnet to login, and there is also GNS DialPlus access if you happen to use this service.

CIX supports an offline reader called Ameol for the IBM PC which has been specially written for CIX and allows all mail and conference activity to be packaged up, downloaded and then processed offline.



companies have accounts and this means that there is a lot of online help and chat about particular products available.

CompuServe also organises real life celebs to appear for online interviews (my own claim to fame was being ridiculed by the bass player from New Order a while back) and when you get bored of all that there is still the real-time CB simulator, the files and games to download and play and of course, there's the Internet too.

Pricing

Prices are in US dollars. Membership costs \$8.95 (about £6), and online charges are about \$7.70 an hour. Note: these prices are due to change imminently – so keep an eye out for further updates.

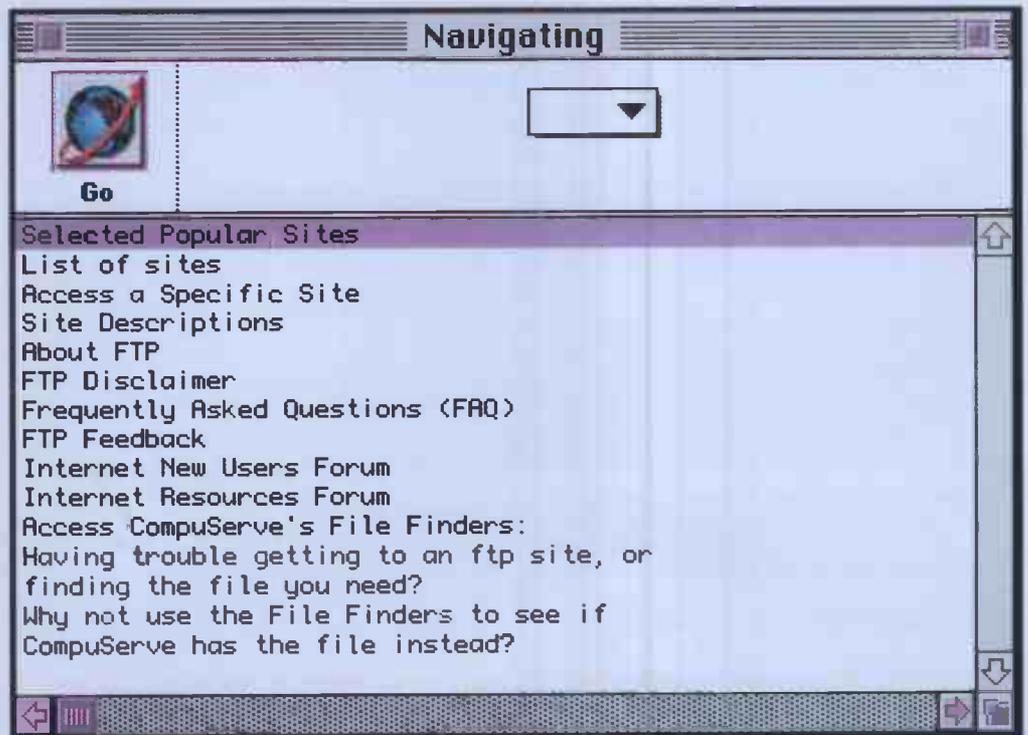
Conclusion

CompuServe is the biggest, but also one of the more expensive services to use. The software bundled with it is so pretty and user-friendly that you'll always spend more time than you should online. However, the range of services is simply second to none, and so if you can afford it (or better still, if your company can) and you don't need techie-level Internet access, CompuServe could be the one for you.

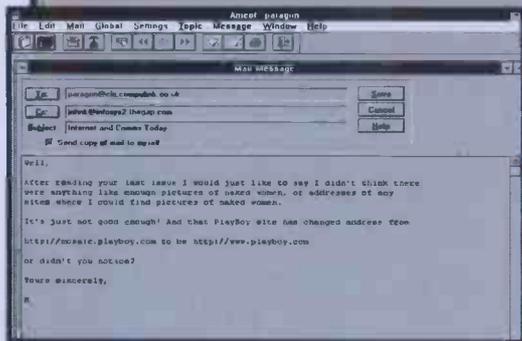
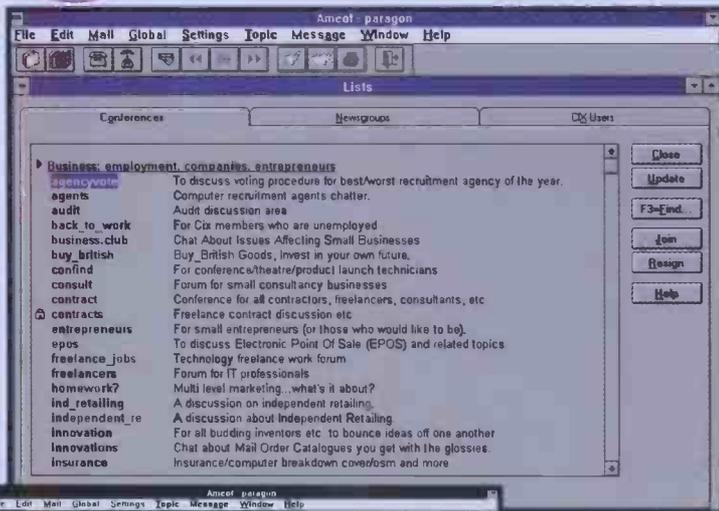
Contacts

tel: (01800) 289378

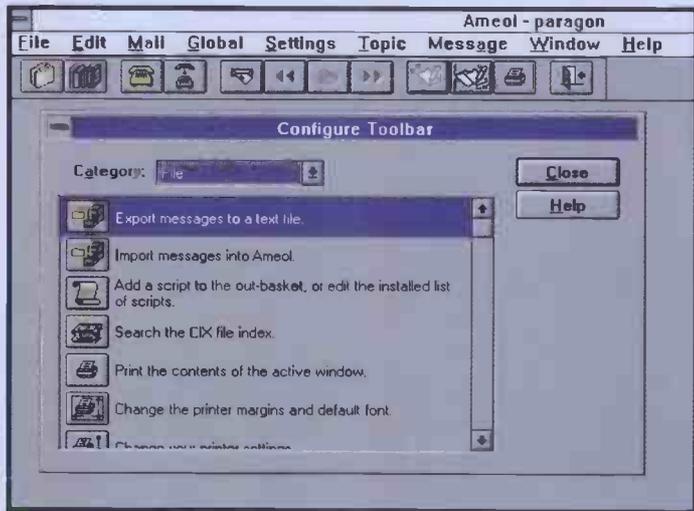
WWW: <http://www.compuserve.com>



→ Welcome to the latest section of CompuServe's Internet facilities. This screen shows off the new FTP functions, which allow you to logon to a remotely-sited computer as if it was in the room next to you, and transfer files off it and onto your own computer. FTP is one of the most popular and useful Internet functions for this reason.



From CIX (like all the other boards) it's possible to send email directly to any other Internet address. Here's how I send messages and files from one corner of my office to the other via Surrey and Belfast. Modern technology eh? Innit marvellous?



Toolbars, icons, menus - Amecol is not that far behind WinCIM, although only if you have a PC running Windows. Although Nicola and Lucy are firm favourites with Amiga owners.

Internet access

The Net access offered by CIX is excellent, especially when used with an offline reader. Being able to browse through and reply to newsgroups whilst not online is a real time-saver.

The other Internet tools require you to issue the magic command 'RUN INTERNET' and in return you get the mystical 'IP>' prompt to play with.

Here, you can start telnet and FTP sessions, as well as IRC and Lynx (the text-based World Wide Web browsing tool). Searching is possible with the Gopher and Archie programs.

Perhaps the only problem is with FTP, which requires files to be downloaded twice: first from the remote site to the CIX computer, and secondly from the CIX computer to your system. Thankfully the 'batchftp' command can be set up to do this for you, so the files are ready for download next time you login. Intelligent Gopher menus will ZModem directly

to your computer.

CIX has recently announced a dial-up IP service, which means World Wide Web access via Mosaic is possible. Contact them directly for more details.

Features

The main feature of CIX is the huge number of conferences on just about every topic under the sun. The computer conferences in particular are populated with a high level of professionals which makes CIX one of the best ways of getting help and advice.

CIX has a real club atmosphere. CIXEN look after their own, and the moderated conferences mean you won't find any obscene or obscure messages wasting space. Wibbling is deeply frowned upon, which makes CIX a joy to use after some USENET newsgroups.

Most conferences also have a well-stocked library of files which the moderator looks after. The latest versions of many excellent PD and shareware programs are available ready to download with a nice quick ZModem.

Pricing

There is a setup fee of £25, and then 6p per minute peak rate [Mon-Fri 8am-5pm], and 4p per minute cheap rate. There is a minimum monthly charge of £6.25, and for that charge, you can get over two and a half hours online time per month, which is a five minute blink using Amecol [or any other OLR] per day.

Conclusion

CIX is the favourite haunt of techies, professionals and journalists in the UK, although many a beginner also finds it the ideal place to get answers to queries and download the latest software. It takes time to get to know the unwritten rules present in the CIX club, but it's worth it for the privilege of picking the high-calibre brains you'll find there.

Contacts

email: cixadmin@cix.compulink.co.uk
WWW: http://www.compulink.co.uk
Voice telephone: (01492) 641 961 Fax: (01492) 641 538

Delphi



Login access

Dial-up access to Delphi is to their Camden Lock numbers, or via telnet. They are also part of the GNS network (which means 100 local numbers to dial, but a top speed of 2400 and an extra cost of £1.50/hour).

Delphi is a scrolling-terminal system, although heavily menu-oriented rather than command line-driven, and can therefore be used by any computer capable of connecting to a modem.

A dedicated terminal program called 'Navigator' is available for PC Windows. An offline reader called Apollo is now available (again for the PC) which will help keep costs down. An updated version which includes USENET access will be available soon.

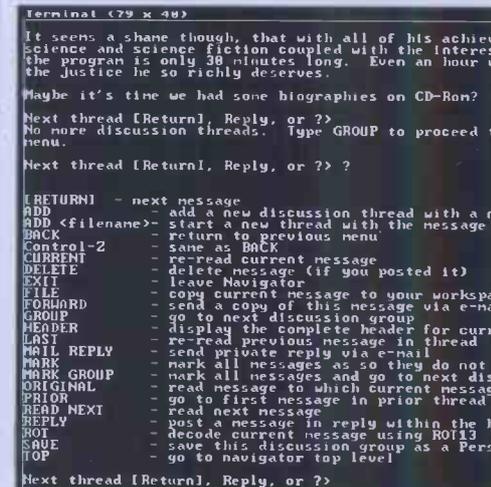
Internet access

Internet access to Delphi is through another collection of menus. The usual collection of telnet, FTP, IRC and so on are provided, along with an extremely strong showing of Gopher menus. Someone at Delphi likes Gopher a lot - and it's used for working through nearly all the Internet section. It's even used to help look through World Wide Web pages (text only) and USENET newsgroups, which makes it all nice and simple.

Features

Delphi is an off-shoot of the US company, and

Reading and writing to USENET newsgroups is easy with Delphi's own editor. When Apollo gets upgraded we'll be able to do it offline, too.





→ It's big, it's a BBS and it's in Scotland. ALMAC retains the traditional BBS look and feel but with full Internet access.

is owned by Rupert Murdoch – this becomes quite clear when you notice the features on the main menu include SIGs on The Times and The Sunday Times, as well as a SIG all about Sky TV. The newspaper forums provide interesting discussion groups as well as news headlines from around the world. The SIG 'Internet Daily News' is particularly useful if you are interested in what is happening on the Internet. You'll also find the Jewish Chronicle, Mac and PC-dedicated areas and a lot more.

Delphi is still quite a new service, and there is plenty of scope for new and exciting additions. If you want to make your mark by running your own SIG, now is probably a good time to do it.

Online games feature heavily as well, although some of the more advanced (*Air Warrior* for example) will require you to download or pay for a graphical front-end.

Pricing

There are two pricing structures: the 10/4 and 20/20 plan. The 10/4 is £10 per month for four hours free use, and £4 per every additional hour. The 20/20 plan is £20 a month for 20 free hours and £1.80 per addition hour (all excluding VAT). You will soon be able to work out which service suits you best.

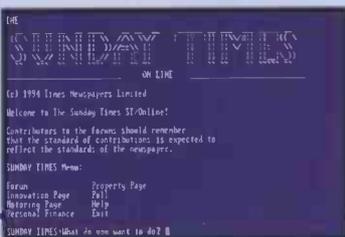
Conclusion

Delphi represents one of the cheaper ways of getting very easy to use Internet access: many dial-up SLIP/PPP providers charge a lot more, and as a Delphi user you get the bonus of unique features such as access to news, competitions, games and a link into the extremely busy US Delphi system.

Contacts

WWW: <http://www.delphi.com> (for US pages)
 email: ukservice@delphi.com
 telnet: [delphi.com](tel:delphi.com)
 telephone: (0171) 757 7080 (9am-10pm Mon-Fri, 12-8pm Sat-Sun)
 fax: (0171) 757 7160
 bbs: (0171) 284 2424

→ **The Sunday Times online? You'd better believe it. Don't you just love the warning. Where's my dinner jacket?**



→ The main menu offers all the usual mail and file options, but looky here! telnet, FTP, IRC... excellent!

ALMAC

Uniquely, ALMAC looks and feels a lot like a traditional bulletin board, complete with ANSI colour graphics and single keypress menus. In fact, if it wasn't for the part of the menu towards the right of the screen labelled 'Internet' you might think nothing untoward was going on. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Login access

Access is dial-in to a pool of 28.8K modems, designed to give a ratio of (in ALMAC's words) "plenty to one". It is also possible to telnet in if you already happen to have access to the Internet.

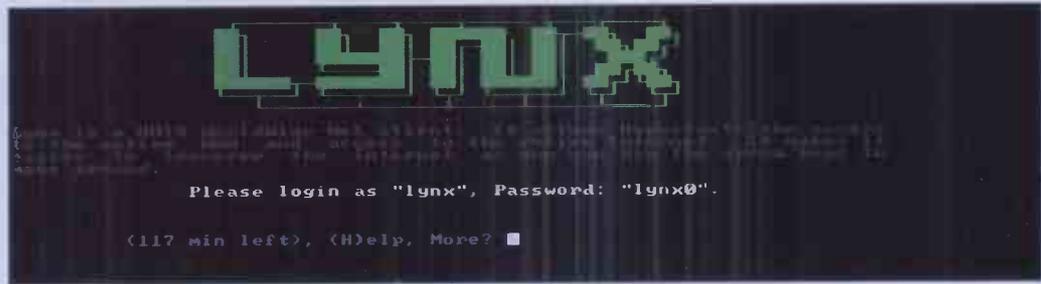
Internet access

If your subscription to ALMAC includes access to the Internet facilities, there will be an extra window of utilities at the bottom of your menu display: Gopher, telnet, Lynx, Ping, IRC and FTP. Selecting any of these from the menu will start the relevant software tool at ALMAC's end: you simply use your normal comms terminal emulation software. FTP has been enhanced to include ZGET and ZMGET, which will copy files from the remote site directly to your computer using ZModem: a lot faster and more convenient than usual. Access to the USENET is combined with all the other mail networks.

Features

Whereas CIX concentrates on having its own

→ **Lynx is how the scrolling terminal systems manage the World Wide Web. The hypertext system is retained, but with the loss of graphics.**



conferences, ALMAC attempts to be as global as possible by bringing in hundreds of other networks. These include USENET, Clarinet (a commercial 'online newspaper' information network with Reuters news feed), PC World (US News Service, ILink, RIME, BASNet & ProgNet, Pen&BrushNet, FidoNet, MidLink, Science Factor Network, PlanetEarth, VisualReality and CeltNet.

ALMAC also makes software one of its priorities, with over 60,000 files for callers to download: that's over 8+ gigabytes of files.

Offline reading is supported by using any communications software which supports the QWK format. This means you don't need an ALMAC-specific package as there is a lot of suitable, freely available software already around.

Pricing

ALMAC does not charge for online time, but instead charges an annual subscription which varies depending on the level of membership required. This can be combined with the dial-in IP access via PPP.

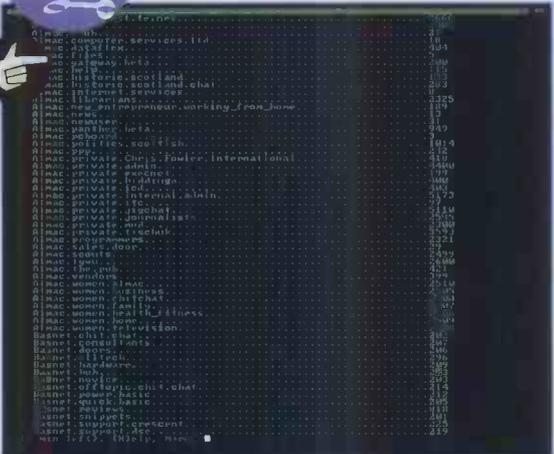
Bronze Sub: (£39.00 + vat) "The BBS Service". This is a non-Internet service, which gives access to mail networks and files, for one hour per day.

Gold Sub: (£75.00 + vat) "The Personal Internet Service". In addition to Bronze features, you gain access to the Internet/Usenet and your own email address as firstname.lastname@almac.co.uk as well as a time-restricted (not 14:00 - 16:00)





product report



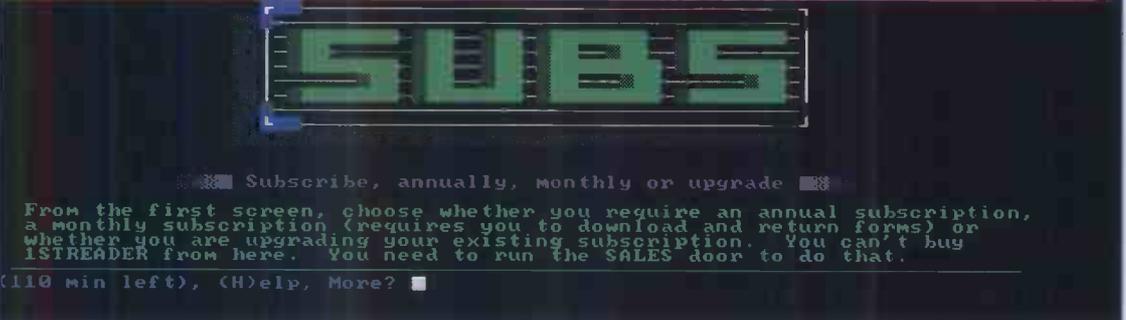
→ Just some of the thousands of conferences on ALMAC. Pick a subject and it's here somewhere.

Mon - Fri) access to telnet, FTP, Gopher and so on.

Platinum Sub: (£110.00 + vat) "The Executive Internet Service". This membership level is really for the power user and/or company membership. It gives you the same facilities as Gold Sub, but, in addition, you get an extra hour of access per day bringing your access up to three hours per day. In addition, you do not get any time restrictions and so you can use the full Internet services at any time of day.

Direct Dynamic PPP Sub: (£120.00 + vat) "Dynamic PPP Service". A full dial-up PPP Internet access service, but with no access to the ALMAC BBS. Combinations

→ Dive, dive, dive! ... Oops, not that kind of sub...



including ALMAC access are available at discounted rates. Contact ALMAC for more details. Monthly subscriptions are available either by credit card or standing order.

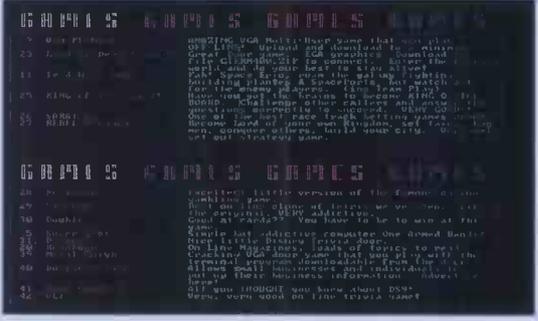
Conclusion

If you are already a dedicated user of the thousands of BBSs in the UK, then ALMAC can offer you real-time Internet access in a form which you will probably already be happy with. There are enough news networks to keep even the most addicted Lurker or Poster happy, and the megabytes of software arriving daily will always give you something to download.

Contacts

BBS: (0324) 665371
Voice: (0324) 666336
Fax: (0324) 665155
Telnet access: server2.almac.co.uk
WWW: www.almac.co.uk

→ Games. Online games. What better way to give Iain Vallance some extra pocket money?



Jargon

BBS
A bulletin board system is a remote computer which offers email facilities and file archives, and other, more specialised, features.

SLIP/PPP
Two different protocols used to directly link a computer to the Internet via a dial-up connection (that is, using a modem and special software)

FTP
File Transfer Protocol. The Internet tool needed to copy files from across the Internet.

telnet
The Internet tool used to log into remote computers. Useful for using remote BBSs or for playing games.

IRC
Internet Relay Chat – almost CB for the Internet, as you can chat with users from all over the world in real time. Takes practice!

WWW
The World Wide Web is a collection of hypertext documents spread over many computer systems connected via the Internet. To use a graphical browser such as Netscape Mosaic requires a true SLIP/PPP link, although some rather clever software is starting to appear which may help out.

Comparison Chart

	ALMAC	CIX	CompuServe	Delphi
Offline Reader	Any QWK program	Ameol (PC)	CIM	Apollo
USENET	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Email	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
FTP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IRC	Yes	Yes	No (CS's own)	Yes
Telnet	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
WWW	Yes (text)	Yes (text)	No	Yes (text)
Gopher	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Users	n/a	15,000	60,000(uk)	n/a (2,000,000(world))
Modem Speed	28.8K	28.8K	14.4K	14.4K





online

Advice

It makes sense to try a board near to where you live, but remember that at the evenings and weekends the telephone line rates are a lot cheaper. Please note any special opening times – the line is probably being used as a standard telephone number outside these hours.

The vast majority of these boards are part of the FidoNet system, which means you can send mail to other FidoNet systems (and to the Internet through a suitable gateway).

UK Bulletin Board List

The numbers listed here are for Bulletin Boards – they are not voice numbers, so don't dial them with your telephone. To access a board you will need a modem and terminal software for your computer (for example, Windows' Terminal program, Z-Term on the Mac or TERM on the Amiga).

ENGLAND

NAME: Audio Dynamite BBS
NUMBER: 0171 813 3221
 ADDRESSES: Fido - 2:254/402, Mercury - 240:102/6, SBCNet - 14:200/0,
 Internet - Adam.Edwards@dynamite.embassy.co.uk
 TIMES: 24hrs
 LOCATION: Central London
 SYSOP: Adam Edwards
 HOST MACHINE: IBM PC
 HOST SOFTWARE: LoraBBS-OS/2 v.40b3
 SPECIAL INTEREST: Soundcards/Multimedia/Games
 COMMENTS: FidoNet, Mercury, SBCNet, Internet, 2 CD's online. All file and mail areas are dedicated to the special interest subjects. Importer of the "Sound Board Connection Network". Nodes welcome. Points welcome. Internet email and newsgroups available. Loads of MID/MOD/WAV files and DOOM! files.

NAME: The Manchester File Library
NUMBER: 0161 256 2220
 TIMES: 24 Hours a day 365 days a year
 LOCATION: Manchester
 SYSOP: Andy Fairbanks
 HOST MACHINE: IBM PC Compat
 HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess 5 Node Pro Mail
 NETWORKS: Internet email/Usenet Newsgroups, FidoNet, RaNet, ChatNet, SBCNet, MercuryNet and VirNet OLMR support; BlueWave, JC-QWK and of course Point setups are available.
 SPECIAL INTEREST: Home to Epic MegaGames & CD Rom User Group. DOOM utils, The latest shareware, one of the largest file libraries around.
 COMMENTS: Excellent ANSI graphics (No garish colour schemes here), RIP graphics are also used here. Internet email and Usenet News (WWW via email is available) 6 CD-ROMs online as well as an excellent choice of latest releases.

NAME: Black Ice
NUMBER: 01481 39633 & 35323
 TIMES: 24hrs
 LOCATION: Guernsey
 SYSOP: Damien Guard
 COMMENTS: All speeds up to 28,800. Supports Amiga, PC, Mac, BBC, Spectrum and others. Now 3Gb of online disk, and CD-ROMs rotating daily. FidoNet, MercuryNet, RANet. Active online games bashing others up. Internet email free to all users.

NAME: Telesystems Support BBS
NUMBER: 01494 891903
 HOURS: 24hrs
 LOCATION: Prestwood, Bucks
 SYSOP: Glyn Pointon
 HOST SOFTWARE: Wildcat! v4 Multi-Line 250
 SPECIAL INTEREST: Wildcat! support site (Telesystems Ltd are the UK distributors of MSI's Wildcat!)
 COMMENTS: Internet email, support conferences and file areas for Wildcat! and other MSI products, fax-on-demand service

NAME: The Shareware Support BBS.
NUMBER: 01442 891109
 SYSOP: Adrian Mardlin
 SPECIAL INTERESTS: This is currently a 5 line board running Wildcat. We provide Internet Email and Newsgroups, Fido, TheNet and ILink messaging. On the files side, we receive over 500MB of new files per month (yes, you did read that right! :-)

NAME: StateSide BBS
NUMBER: 0181 220 7000 V22 - V32bis, 0181-220 7020 V32 - V34 HST/FAX
 SYSOP: Brian Willis
 COMMENTS: StateSide was originally set-up with the novice, and experienced user in mind, for the old hands, plain and quick text based menus are available. For the less experienced user, full colour ANSI graphic screens guide the user around the system. For those with RIP capability, there is a modest implementation also installed.

NAME: USS MegaByte - NCC 2907
NUMBER: 01449 675967
 TIMES: 24 Hrs
 LOCATION: Stowmarket, Suffolk (East Anglia)
 SYSOP: Matthew Peddesden / Peter Peddesden
 SPECIAL INTEREST: Programming/Star Trek/Games
 COMMENTS: All speeds up to V34 28800 (USR V.everything). Loads of shareware authors directly contactable here. Any info you want for Programming (including Games Programming). LATEST released games from Apogee, Epic etc. Access to Fidonet and TREKnet. BBS is completely free of charge.

NAME: Borland International UK Limited
NUMBER: 0734 321044 (3-Lines)
 COMMENTS: Languages Technical Support

NAME: City College Manchester BBS
NUMBER: 0161 957 1583
 TIMES: 24hrs
 LOCATION: Manchester
 SYSOP: Andrew Warman
 HOST MACHINE: Elonex PC-425X
 HOST SOFTWARE: Remote Access 2.02+ Pro
 SPECIAL INTEREST: Education & electronic mail
 COMMENTS: FidoNet (2:250/157). Large selection of FidoNet, echoes but limited file space. FREE Internet email to ALL users once verified. Each has their own Internet address. Users from other educational establishments particularly welcome.

NAME: PMG Support BBS
NUMBER: 0789 414495 (Voice: 0789 297000)
 SPEEDS: 14,400

TIMES: 24hrs
 SPECIAL INTERESTS: The board contains file areas for the Amiga and the PC.. (the PC area is a bit tiny at the present but we are getting ANOTHER CD-Rom drive for this purpose!) We have the current Aminet CD online 24hrs a day and well over 200MB of files of all sorts on HD. Internet email and Usenet supported... plus we offer members the ability to FTP with email.
 Other services include the ability to upload your graphics files for printing/plotting out onto large format media (up to A0)... Yes we are a graphics bureau too!
 COMMENTS: Reach us on FidoNet: 2:253/171.0

NAME: Aural Ecstasy
NUMBER: 01344 762056
 TIMES: 24hrs
 LOCATION: Crowthorne, Berks.
 SYSOPS: Jon/Mat Meredith
 HOST MACHINE: IBM Pc Clone (Knackered)
 HOST SOFTWARE: Remote Access
 SPECIAL INTERESTS: Sound 'n' Graphics, games (inc. Doom)
 COMMENTS: A founding member of WAPOW net.

NAME: Ironbridge BBS
NUMBER: 01952 676176
 TIMES: 24 hrs
 LOCATION: Telford, Shropshire
 SYSOP: Mr. Eddie Hulme
 HOST MACHINE: PC
 SPEEDS: 28.8k downto 1200 with Hayes OPTIMA 288 + FAX
 HOST SOFTWARE: FD/RA/Bluewave/QWK
 SPECIAL INTEREST Modems/comms/Hayes Tech Support Notes / Comments: FidoNet, MercuryNet, RaNet, Quicknet, Usenet, Internet email, Shareware and Public Domain. Largest Mail System in Shropshire. 700+ online mail areas + Usenet. Worldwide software retrieval for users.

NAME: Formal Dress Not Essential
NUMBERS: 0116 270 0368 (Speeds up to 28800 VFC) 0116 270 4521 (Speeds upto 14400 V32bis)
 TIMES: 24 hrs
 LOCATION: Leicester, Leicestershire
 SYSOP: Nick Petkovich
 HOST MACHINE: 386 & 486 PCs
 HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess 2.02+
 SPECIAL INTEREST: Has almost everything
 COMMENTS: FidoNet/RA-Net/SBC-Net/WAPOW/Internet email/Usenet. Over 4.6 Gigs of files. Home of the official MicroProse Formula 1 Grand Prix League. Married with Children forum. Doom forum (with 80Mb of files). X-Files forum. Star Trek forum. Lots of files about TV shows.

NAME: Primal Disorder
NUMBER: 01628 74179
 TIMES: 24hrs
 LOCATION: Maidenhead, Berkshire
 SYSOP: Tim Mole
 HOST MACHINES: Three system LAN - 486/sx33 (16mb ram 520mb HDD), 486/25 (240mb HDD), 386/dx40 (100mb HDD) Hayes 28k8 Modem
 HOST SOFTWARE: Frontdoor 2.02, RemoteAccess



First time on a BBS?

Ensure your modem is connected. Load your terminal emulation software. If all is working, you should be able to enter:

ATZ <return>

and the modem should return

OK

If this doesn't happen, please refer to the instructions which came with your modem and/or terminal software.

Now you can pick and dial one of the BBS numbers listed. You can add the number to the phone book option in your terminal software, or enter:

ATDT <number> <return>

The modem will dial out – you should be able to hear the modem generating tones.

If the line is engaged, you will have to try again later. If the line answers (and it should do so after only one or two rings), you should see some text appear on the

screen in front of you.

If you have never logged onto a BBS before, here is what to expect.

First of all, you may be asked to press ESCape twice. This is to inform the host software that runs the Bulletin Board that you are a human user – not another piece of mailing software.

You will then see a title screen, and will be asked to enter your name. If you have never used this particular BBS before, you will need to answer a few questions about yourself.

You will also need to choose a password – try and pick one which contains a jumble of letters and numbers and make a note of it somewhere safe.

Depending on the way the Board operates, you may have to wait a day or so until the Sysop (the person running the

board) verifies your name and adds you to the system.

When you are accepted onto the system, you will be presented with a menu offering several choices which will offer something like the following:

The most important places on the Board to visit are:

1. The Mail Area.

This is where you can send and receive messages.

2. The File Area.

This is where you can download and upload software.

Each BBS runs its own host software, so no two systems will look alike. However, all boards follow the same basic format and once you have visited one you'll be able to use them all.



2.02+, Bluewave
SPECIAL INTEREST: PC Demo Scen /Leisure Related Stuff (games, music etc) Internet email address for all users.
COMMENTS: Best board in Maidenhead. Distribution Site for various people (Skyjump Team, Omicron, LiVE, Inertia Modplayer, Morgul Modplayer, AMBIANCE Music Crew). Friendly Sysop, The Best ANSI you've ever seen on a UK BBS! 20mb New files a week, online doors, various mail networks (SBCnet, TREKnet, WAPOW). Bluewave OLR.

NAME: **The Black Hole BBS**
NUMBER: **01392 439663 (voice 01392 498022)**
TIMES: 24hrs
SYSOP: Paul Walker
SOFTWARE: Wildcat
SPECIAL INTEREST: VGA Planets multi-player comms game.
COMMENTS: Large files area with all the latest utilities to be downloaded. Also games to join. Free shareware copy of VGA Planets can be downloaded. I also sell the registered versions of the game.

NAMES: **The Forest BBS**
NUMBER: **01425 629629 (4 Nodes)**
SPEED: 14.4
SYSOP: Robert Maynard
BBS Software: Major BBS V6.2
TIMES: 24 hrs
LOCATION: New Milton, Hampshire
COMMENTS: New BBS! Friendly atmosphere geared toward Chat and Games! Lots of games & Files. 4 Lines and a Sysop who won't harass you. Anything goes. If the line is busy, keep trying – it's worth it.

NAME: **Avalon**
NUMBER: **0171 813 3311**
SYSOP: D. Austin, Y. Simmons, D. James
HOURS: 24 hours
LOCATION: Central London
COMMENTS: The premier multi-user real time adventure scenario. 15 lines and internet access on Avalon.co.uk (193.132.124.2)

NAME: **Avalon**
NUMBER: **0114 2671671**
SYSOP: D. Austin
HOURS: 24 hours
LOCATION: Sheffield
COMMENTS: Roleplaying adventure scenario in real time. 10 lines.

NAME: **The PC Soundtrack**
NUMBER: **0743 360287**
SYSOP: James Ball
COMMENTS: UK Support board fro Creative Labs. Six lines to V32

NAME: **Telesubs Online**
NUMBER: **071 244 8824**

LOCATION: London
SPECIAL INTEREST: This a free bulletin board service for people who work in the media. It was launched in August and the intention is to make it an arena for professional discussion and a marketplace for jobs and freelance work. Only genuine media people are allowed to register and gain full access to the board.
COMMENTS: Settings 8 data bits, one stop bit, parity none. Ansi emulation, line wrap on, echo off. Follow the onscreen hints to get Telesubs.

NAME: **iBase**
NUMBER: **071 244 8824**
LOCATION: London
SPECIAL INTEREST: iBase is a free bulletin board service in London. As well as forums and a very easy to use shareware library there are online games, entertainment and information. One of the most exciting features is Farebase, a searchable database of discount air fares to destinations everywhere in the world. All the fares are valid, up-to-date and immediately bookable.
COMMENTS: Settings 8 data bits, one stop bit, parity none. Ansi emulation, line wrap on, echo off.

NAME: **Ooh! BBS - London.**
NUMBER: **0181 395 3108/1028**
LOCATION: London
SPECIAL INTEREST: Host of the BBSNet Echomail net (currently with 75 nodes) FidoNet, UFONet, MercuryNet and TheNet. FREE Internet email for all callers. 1.5 Gigabytes online. Games doors
COMMENTS: QWK Offline Mail. Speeds to VFC 28.8k. Points Welcome. Running Wildcat! 3.91 MultiLine BBS Software.

NAME: **Oddballs Diner BBS**
NUMBER: **081 244 2919 24hrs**
LOCATION: London
SPECIAL INTEREST: Specialize in Mods and Demos
COMMENTS: Free calls to local Videotron Cable callers. Most colourful ANSI around. Mad Sysop!!! (It sez here).

NAME: **MKBBS**
NUMBER: **0908 234583 or 0908 695009**
TIMES: 24 hrs
SPECIAL INTEREST: We run a number of local conferences. We additionally provide Internet mail and Usenet news for users. Users are allowed to request Newsgroups of interest. We exchange messages with our internet provider ibmpcug 3 times a day using UUPC.
COMMENTS: We hold 65,000 files on-line either via CD-ROM or on our 2.5GB of disk space. MKBBS has been written in house in Borland Pascal for Windows. One of the few BBSs that is a Windows app. We run up to V32.turbo+ (21.6) and will be moving to V.34

as soon as the US Robotics V32.Terbo upgrade to V34 is affordable.

NAME: **Me/2 <Meet You> BBS**
NUMBER: **0181 442 8560**
TIMES: 24Hrs -ZMH
LOCATION: Stamford Hill, London
SYSOP: Andrew Grillet
HOST MACHINE: home made 486DX2/66
HOST SOFTWARE: Binkley/2 + Maximus/2 on OS/2 SPECIAL INTERESTS: OS/2, Industrial Archeology COMMENTS: Sysop has own printer drivers for WORD 5.x and WP5.1

NAME: **EDIMatrix BBS**
NUMBER: **0181 501 3096 & 3097**
TIMES: 24h
LOCATION: Chigwell ESSEX UK
SYSOP: Chris Johnson
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: TCL 0.98
SPECIAL INTERESTS: PC utilities
COMMENTS: TCL is a Unix-style KOM system. 18 CD-Roms online. 4.5GB of files on HD as well. FidoNet and TCLNet member.

NAME: **Strange Phenomena Investigations BBS**
NUMBER: **01506 854696**
TIMES: 10pm till 7.30am
LOCATION: Uphall, Broxburn, West Lothian, Scotland
SYSOP: Mike Mitchell
HOST MACHINE: Pc 486 dx2-66
HOST SOFTWARE: Front door/Remote Access
SPECIAL INTERESTS: UFO's, and other strange phenomena COMMENTS: Also part of MUFONet the worlds largest ufo dedicated mail network.

NAME: **Rodina Station**
NUMBER: **01232 492320**
TIMES: 24hr
LOCATION: Belfast, N. Ireland
SYSOP: Clive Richardson
HOST MACHINE: 486DX PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Maximus/2 & BinkleyTerm/2
SPECIAL INTERESTS: OS/2, TCP/IP software, text files.
COMMENTS: FidoNet, TrekNet, OS2Net, WarpSpeed, IncarNet, AcaNet, StormNet, etc. Free. Latest Hobbes OS/2 cd online. Points very welcome. USR V32Terbo.

NAME: **The Musicbox**
NUMBER: **01508 538510**
TIMES: 24 hours
LOCATION: Norwich, Norfolk
SYSOP: Gareth Watts
HOST MACHINE: 386 PC
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess 2.02+
SPECIAL INTERESTS: Music files & messaging for PC and Amiga COMMENTS: Full range of music related files and messages as well as .MOD and MIDI files. Support for the PC and Amiga based computers.

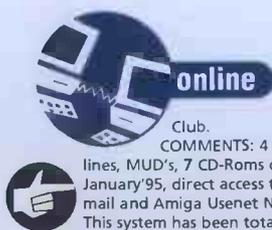
NAME: **The Rowley Rag**
NUMBER: **01384 256961**
TIMES: 24 Hrs
LOCATION: Rowley Regis, West Midlands
SYSOP: Derek Coxon
HOST MACHINE: Dan 486 50Mz
HOST SOFTWARE: LoraBBS OS/2
SPECIAL INTERESTS: Mail & OS/2
COMMENTS: FidoNet 2:2500/76, OS2Net 81:440/10, SatNet 601:316/2 IncarNet 154:225/3, ChatNet 44:2520/1001, MercuryNet 240:355/9

NAME: **Silicon Heaven**
NUMBER: **01626 834331**
TIMES: 10 PM to 6.30 AM
LOCATION: Bovey Tracey, Devon.
SPECIAL INTERESTS: Lots!
MAIL: FidoNet, Treknet, RANet, Virnet, MercuryNet, Internet, Usenet. Comments: Needs a company to sponsor it otherwise its future is uncertain, call for info.

NAME: **23rd Century BBS**
NUMBER: **01494 766666**
TIMES: 2000h-0800h (8pm to 8am)
SYSOP: Robin Curtis
LOCATION: Amersham, Bucks.
COMMENTS: FidoNet Node 2:252/325.0
TREKNet Node 107:1702/9.0 SF-Net Hub180:4022/0.0

NAME: **The Village BBS**
NUMBER: **01232 602972**
LOCATION: Belfast
SYSOP: Harry Broadrick
TIMES: 24 hours
SPEEDS: To 21.6k HST D/S
HOST MACHINE: PC 486
HOST SOFTWARE: RA & FD
SPECIAL INTEREST: Files, Files, & more Files
COMMENTS: 12 CDs, all latest editions Online, another 2 coming soon, making a massive Filebase of over 9 Gigs of programs for the PC and Amiga user. 400 Mb of WADs and utilities for DOOM 1 & DOOM 2. A subscription of £1.00 per month is required to access CD files. FREE access to 800Mb of files on the hard drives and to all mail options & networks FidoNet, Mercury, Worldnet, Amiganet. Points welcome and supplied with all required software (PC) with easy to install utility on 2 HD disks, which will have you up and running and collecting mail within 10 minutes!

NAME: **Amiga Junction 9**
NUMBER: **01372 271000/278000/279000**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Leatherhead/Epsom Surrey. (M25 J9)
SYSOP: Stephen Anderson
HOST MACHINE: Amiga 2000 40MHz '030
HOST SOFTWARE: DLG Professional
SPECIAL INTEREST: Amiga, Bjork Fan



Club.
COMMENTS: 4 public phone lines, MUD's, 7 CD-Roms online by January'95, direct access to Internet e-mail and Amiga Usenet Newsgroups. This system has been totally FREE since it started in 1991. Local to London. Free calls to local NYNEX Cable customers. FidoNet 2:440/20, Amiganet 39:133/1

NAME: **PinPoint**
NUMBER: **0839 363708**
TIME: 24hours
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: Vincent Tillman
HOST: IBMPC
SPECIAL INTEREST: Technical Information, games and shareware.
COMMENTS: No subs, no registration, no questions. Full access from first call. Vast file base. Calls charged at 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min all other times.

NAME: **/Blue Ridge/**
NUMBER: **01734 755000**
LOCATION: Reading, Berkshire
TIMES: Open 24hrs
SYSOP: Simon Still
SPEEDS: 2400-28800 dual std (inc VFCV34/H16)
SPECIAL INTERESTS: 1.5+ Gigs of files on line (mostly games/demos/graphics) TOTALLY FREE INSTANT ACCESS: 5megs + 2 hours to ALL users everyday! FREE! Internet.eMail and netmail.
HOST: WAPOWnet net 691 host.
COMMENTS: FidoNet: 2:252/308, WAPOWnet: 42:691/30, RANet: 74:7441/102

NAME: **Cheshire Cat BBS**
NUMBER: **01625 590219**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Alderley Edge, Cheshire
SYSOP: James Youatt
HOST MACHINE: Amiga 4000/040
HOST SOFTWARE: TransAmiga/TrapDoor
SPECIAL INTEREST: Files/Mail on many of topics
COMMENTS: Home of the new CatNet. Also FidoNet online.

NAME: **Multimedia Machine BBS**
NUMBER: **01204 370280**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Bolton
SPECIAL INTEREST: Multimedia

NAME: **Information Technology Exchange (Cambridge).**
NUMBER: **01223 501215**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Cambridge
SYSOP: Tony Rolt
SPECIAL INTEREST: Files & Education
COMMENTS: In the region of 2 Gigs of PD/Shareware, will be specialising in Education, Electronics & Networking (Novell style)

NAME: **Glass Asylum**
NUMBER: **01268 510709 / 01268 515347**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Canvey Island, Essex
SYSOP: Glen Chambers
SPECIAL INTEREST: Electronic Mail

NAME: **Scorpion Systems**
NUMBER: **01228 26478**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Carlisle, Cumbria
SYSOP: Bill Searle
HOST MACHINE: 486dx2/66
HOST SOFTWARE: FrontDoor
SPECIAL INTEREST: Anything PC & Amiga
COMMENTS: FidoNet, TrekNet, RANet, 2gb disk, 2 CDs online, Internet on the way.

NAME: **Chemi-Call BBS**
NUMBER: **01322 278652**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Dartford, Kent
SYSOP: Steve Gooding
HOST MACHINE: IBM PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Binkleyterm/Remote Access
SPECIAL INTEREST: Chemistry
COMMENTS: FidoNet (2:440/51) CDs online for files

NAME: **The Black Hole**

NUMBER: **01302 761489**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Doncaster, South Yorkshire
SYSOP: Fone Phreak
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess
SPECIAL INTEREST: ANSI
COMMENTS: FidoNet, IceNet, MercuryNet, 2Gigs, Free Access

NAME: **Sanctuary BBS**
NUMBER: **01329 314708**
LOCATION: Fareham, Hants
SYSOP: Iain Littlejohn
COMMENTS: IBM PC based with good Windows areas. Hub for WDNET in the UK. Internet Usenet Feed. Running Wildcat Software Network: FidoNet & WDNET.

NAME: **BubbleGum BBS**
NUMBER: **01705 799529**
TIMES: 7pm to 7am
LOCATION: Fratton
SYSOP: Gary Young & Paul Davies

NAME: **Ace Logic Technical Support**
NUMBER: **01494 462136**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: High Wycombe, Bucks
SYSOP: Stephen Bromwich
HOST MACHINE: Viga 486 SX/33 w/1Gb HD
HOST SOFTWARE: FD/RA
SPECIAL INTEREST: Technical Support
COMMENTS: This BBS is open to all callers

NAME: **CCl4 (Tetrachloromethane for long)**
NUMBER: **01482 798249**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Hull
SYSOP: Dr Chasm, Lord Hickey & Captain Scarlet (Deceased)
HOST MACHINE: Acorn RISC Machine
HOST SOFTWARE: VHost
SPECIAL INTEREST: Fish & Bang
COMMENTS: We've banned smilies.

NAME: **The Colosseum**
NUMBER: **01482 837475**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Hull
SYSOP: Damian Walker
HOST MACHINE: IBM PS/2
HOST SOFTWARE: FrontDoor/RemoteAccess 2.01
SPECIAL INTEREST: Games, Games, more Games
COMMENTS: Growing northern inter-BBS games hub

NAME: **The Undiscovered Country**
NUMBER: **01689 830026**
LOCATION: Kent
SYSOP: Simon Gregson
COMMENTS: Lots of files to grab, lots of games to play, Echomail, FREE netmail, Bluewave & QWK offline mail.

NAME: **ChatterBox 1 & Chatterbox 2**
NUMBER: **01732 845338 & 01732 870941**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Larkfield, Kent
SYSOP: Mick Spice
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Portal of Power/ProBoard
COMMENTS: ASP approved. GoldEd UK support. 6 S ware CD-Roms online

NAME: **Oddballs Diner BBS**
NUMBER: **0181 244 2919**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: DARRIN MAUNDERS
SPECIAL INTEREST: Mods and demos
COMMENTS: Free calls for Videotron Cable users

NAME: **Arcade BBS**
NUMBER: **0181 654 2212 (4 lines) and 0181 655 4412 (1 line Fido Node).**
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: David Dade and David Coleman
HOST MACHINE: Acorn RISC PC
SPECIAL INTEREST: Acorn computer systems.
COMMENTS: Free! FidoNet 2:254/27.0

NAME: **Ooh! BBS**
NUMBER: **0181 395 3108 and 1028**
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: Peter Friedlos

SPECIAL INTEREST: Mail, games and downloads
COMMENTS: Speeds to VFC 28.8k, FidoNet, UFONet, MercuryNet and TheNet. FREE Internet email for all callers.

NAME: **The Backyard Bulletin Board.**
NUMBER: **0181 424 2065**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: Anthony Brice
SPECIAL INTEREST: Barnet SlimeLite Bar
COMMENTS: Huge storage space with file areas covering all from Utilities and Comms, to Blitz, Amos, A64, PlaySid. Renders, Artwork, game fixes and all sorts more. Online Advertising service. Hard working and handsome Sysop. Point available for all Nets.

NAME: **Creations (South)**
NUMBER: **0181 6659887**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: Mat Bettinson
HOST MACHINE: Amiga 3000
HOST SOFTWARE: Xenolink
SPECIAL INTEREST: Serious Amiga and Art, Articles, Programming.
COMMENTS: Fidonet, Amiganet and Barnet (!) Unique Art, Renders and Articles. Amiga Fido points considered.

NAME: **<Fortress>**
NUMBER: **0181 244 9825**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: London, Plumstead
SYSOP: Kevin Osborne
HOST MACHINE: Atari ST
HOST SOFTWARE: Semper Mailer/JetMail/Octopus BBS
SPECIAL INTEREST: Atari Support Site
COMMENTS: Atari Only BBS with internet email access. All users have their own personal address.

NAME: **Pacific Lightning**
NUMBER: **01622 692944**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Maidstone, Kent.
SYSOP: Colin Spice
HOST MACHINE: IBM Compat. PC
HOST SOFTWARE: D'Bridge/RemoteAccess
SPECIAL INTEREST: All round
COMMENTS: CD-Roms, Online Games, Whole Fido Backbone Echo

NAME: **The Hellraisers BBS**
NUMBER: **0161 707 9962**
LOCATION: Manchester
SYSOP: Richard Dearden
COMMENTS: Thousands of files especially .GIFs. Check them out.

NAME: **Chip Shop BBS**
NUMBER: **0161 707 2666**
TIMES: 22:00 - 07:00 (Mon-Sun)
LOCATION: Manchester, Greater
SYSOP: Jonathan Boyd
SPECIAL INTEREST: DOOM
COMMENTS: Friendly BBS... Sysop always willing to chat and help out. The board is heavily geared toward the ID game Doom. With Many Add-on levels, Graphics, Sounds and Utills.

NAME: **Squaddies Retreat**
NUMBER: **01603 219462**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Norwich, Norfolk
SYSOP: Col. Kelly
HOST MACHINE: Pentium PC
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAcces 2.02/Pro
SPECIAL INTEREST: Ex & Serving Servicemen BBS
COMMENTS: Fidonet, RANet, Chatnet, MercuryNet, InterNet, - InterMail UK Sales and support.

NAME: **The Motel**
NUMBER: **01203 372005**
TIMES: 23 Hrs (closed 0230 - 0330 for mail)
LOCATION: Nuneaton, Warks,
SYSOP: Nigel Bates
HOST MACHINE: Amiga A1200 Networked with an A1500
HOST SOFTWARE: DLG/TRAPDOOR
SPECIAL INTEREST: GFX/MODS/AGA Demos
COMMENTS: Fidonet connected. Hack and Slash (Fully Registered Version) online. 17 Bit

CD-ROM online. *NO* Upload/Download Ratios!

NAME: **Woody's Node 1**
NUMBER: **01689 815931**
LOCATION: Orpington Kent
TIMES: 24hrs
SYSOP: Steve Woodmore
HOST MACHINE: AMIGA
HOST SOFTWARE: TRAPDOOR/TRANSAMIGA
SPECIAL INTEREST: TRANSAMIGA Support and registration site
COMMENTS: All R25 Backboned FidoNet echoes Mercury, Amiganet, and RA-net.

NAME: **Woody's Node 2**
NUMBER: **01689 815932**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Orpington Kent
SYSOP: Steve Woodmore
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: VFIDO/VBBS
SPECIAL INTEREST: Over 1500 mail areas, 1300 in full Colour!!!
COMMENTS: Virtualnet Full ansi colour mail Fido, Amiganet, Ra-net, Mercury, & Worldnet

NAME: **THE FIELD BBS**
NUMBER: **01706 868997**
TIMES: 24 hrs
LOCATION: Rochdale, Lancashire
SYSOPS: Peter and Tim Goddard
HOST MACHINE: IBM compatible PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Frontdoor/RA 2.02
SPECIAL INTEREST: General/VGA Planets
COMMENTS: FidoNet and Quicknet, Good Message Base, BWave & JCQWK OLRs, CD Rom On-line, Friendly Sysops, No Subs, No Ratios. All speeds up to 14,400 supported.

NAME: **The Rave!! BBS**
NUMBER: **01928 725538**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Runcorn, Cheshire
SYSOP: Chris McLean
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess v2.02+/Frontdoor
SPECIAL INTEREST: Music + Graphics
COMMENTS: Fidonet/RANet/MercuryNet/QuickNet/InfNet, 3Gb of PD, support for PC and Amiga. Internet email. Massive mail board!

NAME: **Frost Free BBS**
NUMBER: **01484 842341**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire
SYSOP: Dave Naylor
HOST MACHINE: AMIGA
HOST SOFTWARE: Trapdoor/Excelsior
SPECIAL INTEREST: Rugby League Echo
COMMENTS: FidoNet/Catnet/AminET/YACKNET online CDs, loads of Amiga Goodies. New points Welcome. FidoNet 2:250/366

NAME: **Quantum Shuffle**
NUMBER: **01757 701785**
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Selby, North Yorks
SYSOP: Andrew Reid
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess 2.02+
SPECIAL INTEREST: Text Files, Windows Shareware.
COMMENTS: 2:2502/18 at FidoNet. Overy 5Mb of new file online each week, and over 60 message areas including the full YackNet backbone.

NAME: **Quantum Data eXchange**
NUMBER: **0121 7070681**
TIMES: 24 hrs
LOCATION: Solihull, West Midlands
SYSOP: Paul Brownlow
HOST MACHINE: Amiga A3000
HOST SOFTWARE: Dialog Professional
SPECIAL INTEREST: Virtually Everything
COMMENTS: Mail Networks: Fidonet, Amiganet, Treknet, Incarnet, MercuryNet, Satnet. Over 7000 files online, including Aminet CDROM. Some PC file areas. Using USR V.

NAME: **The Hard Rock Studio**
NUMBER: **0191 455 0321**
TIMES: 9pm-8am Weekdays, All Day Sat/Sun
LOCATION: South Shields, Tyne & Wear



SYSOP: Andrew Davison
HOST MACHINE: PC 486
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess
SPECIAL INTEREST: Music
COMMENTS: Fidonet, CD-Rom online.

NAME: Catflap!
NUMBER: 0793 887043
TIMES: 24Hrs
LOCATION: Swindon, Wilts.
SPEEDS: ALL up to 19.2Kbps
BBS SOFTWARE: WILDCAT 4!
NOTES: This BBS is currently investigating connection to FidoNet echomail. (Help and advice is gratefully received!) Beginners to comms are especially welcome to connect.

NAME: Unicorn BBS
NUMBER: 0191 513 0887
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Seaham, Co. Durham
SYSOP: Bill McLaren
HOST MACHINE: 486 PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Portal of Power, Remote Access
SPECIAL INTEREST: Mail (connected to 7 networks + others soon)
COMMENTS: Over 700 Mail Echos. 1 CD of shareware always on line plus 8 others to chose files from. 300+mb of files on the hard drive including Dos, Windows, OS/2 and Amiga areas.

NAME: DEN'S DEN BBS
NUMBER: 01702 464818
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Southend, Essex
SYSOP: Dennis Luckett
HOST MACHINE: AMIGA
HOST SOFTWARE: TransAmiga
SPECIAL INTEREST: Spectrum Games
COMMENTS: FidoNet, AmigaNet, over 1 Gig of files

NAME: House of Ill Compute
NUMBER: 01702 584337
TIMES: 24hr
LOCATION: Southend-on-Sea, Essex
SYSOP: Lee Gibling & Harvey McCallum
HOST SOFTWARE: Wildcat! 4.0 MultiLine
COMMENTS: FREE. Modem speeds upto 28800, TheNet, UFONet, BBSNet, FidoNet: 2:254/225.3

NAME: ModSoft BBS
NUMBER: 01702 552633
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Southend, Essex
SYSOP: Dion Young
HOST MACHINE: AMIGA A1200
HOST SOFTWARE: TransAmiga
SPECIAL INTEREST: Files and Mail on many assorted topics
COMMENTS: Fidonet and CatNet

NAME: Mac Jungle BBS
NUMBER: 01235 520507
TIMES: 24hrs
SYSOP: Jules and Karyn Marshall
HOST SOFTWARE: Telefinder
SPECIAL INTEREST: Mac shareware

NAME: The Gothic BBS
NUMBER: 0509 237963
HOURS: 20.00 - 08.00 ONLY!
SYSOP: Andrew Cunnington
SOFTWARE: VBBS 6.14
COMMENTS: : 300 - 14,000 bps (V32bis, sorry no HST), V42/V42bis Error Correction/Compression Networks : VirtualNET @44509000. FidoNet 2:2503/310 now also MusicNet 808:501/111

N. IRELAND
NAME: The Steam Packet
NUMBER: 01247 472934
TIMES: 23.00 to 08.00
LOCATION: Bangor, N. Ireland
SYSOP: Barry McGregor
HOST MACHINE: PC 486DX-33
HOST SOFTWARE: FD.RA.202
SPECIAL INTEREST: Batch Files
COMMENTS: Fidonet mercury, PD, subscriber to P.S.L 1 a month

NAME: Heart of Gold
NUMBER: 01247 274919
TIMES: 24 hours
LOCATION: Bangor, N. Ireland

SYSOP: Colin Turner
HOST MACHINE: PC
SPECIAL INTERESTS: Astronomy, Comms_mags echo

NAME: A-CENTRAL
NUMBER: 0232 710960
TIMES: 24 hours
LOCATION: Belfast
SYSOP: Gavin Hamill
HOST MACHINE: Amiga
SPECIAL INTERESTS: Amiga stuff
COMMENTS: Check your grammar - extra picky sysop lives here.

EIRE
NAME: EXEC BBS
NUMBER: +353 61 229998
COMMENTS: Speeds up to 28k, running on RoboFX with full GUI interface (not RIPterm), 256 colours, online GIF pre-viewing, over 1GB of shareware and PD software available for download, Silver Express OLR, no membership or registration fees at present, no upload/download ratios - just good clean fun

SCOTLAND
NAME: Punjab Express.
NUMBER: 0131 467 4379.
TIMES: 24hrs.
LOCATION: Edinburgh, UK.
SYSOP: Mohammed Amjad.
HOST MACHINE: PC.
HOST SOFTWARE: RemoteAccess/Frontdoor.
SPECIAL INTEREST: All interests.
COMMENTS: Fidonet, MercuryNet.

NAME: Chaos Engine BBS
NUMBER: 01346 510727
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Fraserburgh, Scotland
SYSOP: Mike Henderson
HOST MACHINE: Amiga
HOST SOFTWARE: Trapdoor/Excelsior Professional
SPECIAL INTEREST: Imagine Objects & Textures
COMMENTS: Over 400 Message areas in Fidonet, Mercury & Amnet. Fidonet points supported. Shared chat area with Heart of Lothian BBS.

NAME: Heart of Lothian Amiga BBS
NUMBER: 01620 826004
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland
SYSOP: Andrew Dowds
HOST MACHINE: AMIGA
HOST SOFTWARE: TRAPDOOR/Excelsior Pro
COMMENTS: Vast file area, Amnet CD rom online, and more CD rom drives to come, Over 600 message areas in 4 networks, very lively local chat echo.

NAME: Blue Lagoon BBS
NUMBER: 0141 644 5429
TIMES: 24 Hrs
LOCATION: Glasgow
SYSOP: Richard Weir
HOST MACHINE: PC 486SX
HOST SOFTWARE: FrontDoor/RemoteAccess
SPECIAL INTEREST: Message Areas/Internet E-Mail+NewsGroups Access/CD-ROM's
COMMENTS: FldoNet, RANet, MercuryNet, TonyNet, LionNet, IncarNet

NAME: GENESIS BBS
NUMBER: 01786 825368
LOCATION: Stirling, Scotland
SYSOP: Steven Ross-Watt
HOST MACHINE: 486DX/2 66Mhz
HOST SOFTWARE: Remote Access
SPECIAL INTEREST: Doom Wads. Currently upto 600 online at one time. Masses of Gifs and Mods, Midi files.
COMMENTS: It has a Gig online with speeds of upto 28.8k. We are not at present members of any mail networks but hope to be soon.

NAME: Firelink BBS
NUMBER: 01698 854237
TIMES: 0900-1200/2100-0700
LOCATION: Bothwell, Glasgow
SYSOP: Donald Kerr
HOST MACHINE: 486DX266 CD 300-28k8
HOST SOFTWARE: Remote Access
SPECIAL INTEREST: General and Fire Brigades
COMMENTS: Fidonet, Aqualink, Shareware & Public Domain.

NAME: Alba BBS
NUMBER: 0141 880 7863 & 0141 880 7845
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Glasgow
SYSOP: Donald Whannell
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Maximus
SPECIAL INTEREST: Astronomy
COMMENTS: Fidonet, 1Gb PD for PC, also support for Amiga, Atari & Apple Mac, no registration fees.

NAME: The Dockyard Gate
NUMBER: 0383 410704
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Inverkeithing FIFE
SYSOP: Geoff Bassett
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: FD/RA
SPECIAL INTEREST: Programming
COMMENTS: FidoNet, Stormnet, Treknet, Pascalnet, Musicnet and Amnet.

NAME: Cabbage Factory BBS
NUMBER: 01779 838736
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: St. Fergus, Peterhead, Scotland
SYSOP: Harry Hopkins
HOST MACHINE: P.C.
HOST SOFTWARE: Wildcat, Wildmail, Frontdoor
SPECIAL INTEREST: Beginners welcome
COMMENTS: 5 Mail Networks, 12 CD's to choose from

WALES
NAME: BACKROOM/2
NUMBER: 01222 733093
TIMES: 22:00-07:30 ex. ZMH
LOCATION: Cardiff, SOUTH WALES
SYSOP: Martin Davies
HOST MACHINE: IBM PC
HOST SOFTWARE: LoraBBS-OS/2 v2.40b3
SPECIAL INTEREST: OS/2
COMMENTS: FidoNet, OS2Net, DragNet, YackNet. Over 2600 OS/2 related files available from first call. Chatty, helpful SysOp - why not page?

SUBSCRIPTION BOARDS
Note: These boards either require a yearly subscription, or allow downloads on premium rate lines. Please dial-in for more specific details - this will not cost anything more than a normal telephone call.

NAME: Worldlink BBS Limited
NUMBER: 01422 824949
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Halifax, West Yorkshire
SYSOP: Jon Moorhouse
HOST MACHINE: PC
SPECIAL INTEREST: User friendliness
COMMENTS: ASP Approved BBS. Five nodes

open to users, we pride ourselves on the quality of the file areas not just the quantity. 5 Gb plus CD-ROM, modem speeds 2400 to 28,800, full-time sysops and on-line help all available.

NAME: Worldlink BBS Limited
NUMBER: 01332 830362
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: Derby
SYSOP: John Kirkman

NAME: Gates of the Underworld
NUMBER: 081 813 5003/ 5618/ 5641/ 5762/7633/5644/5796
TIMES: 24hrs
LOCATION: London
SYSOP: Jim Kenyon/Sean Dempsey
HOST MACHINE: PC
HOST SOFTWARE: Remote access pro
SPECIAL INTEREST: Fast BBS with NO CDs online, but 8Gb on-line, Zip compression, 14.4 - 28.8 modems, internet / fidonet mail (free) Apogee / Epic Games, over 1,400 Doom I and II add-ons, 16 nodes.

WANTED
 Would you like your BBS added to the list? This listing is currently a free service for all interested Sysops. We won't include boards from any copyrighted lists without asking permission first. Send your details (in an identical format to that used below) directly to Fido addres 2:443/13.4 or johnk@infosys2.thegap.com. Or via snailmail using the following coupon, or copy of it:

NAME OF BBS:
MODEM NUMBER:
VOICE NUMBER (for I&CT's use only):
LOCATION:
TIMES:
SYSOP:
SPECIAL INTERESTS:
COMMENTS:

If your board is no longer working, please let us know immediately so that we may remove it from the list. Please note that boards not sent to us in the suggested format won't be included!

DISCLAIMER:
Internet and Comms Today cannot be held liable or responsible for the accuracy or otherwise of this list. If we have made a mistake, we will be happy to correct it. We cannot accept responsibility for the content of the Boards listed here - we accept all submissions in good faith.

March

Send us details!

If you'd like your BBS included here, please fill in the following, cut it out, and send it to BBS Watch, Internet and Comms Today, Paragon Publishing, Durham House, 124 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1NF.

NAME OF BBS:

MODEM NUMBER:

VOICE NUMBER (for I&CT's use only):

LOCATION:

TIMES:

SYSOP:

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

COMMENTS:

Internet AND COMMS Online TODAY

A few more technical problems this month to report on the Web site front. Don't worry – we can guarantee it's the last we'll see of them. (Grrr – Ed.)

→ We can accept email to 74431,1155 (CompuServe) and 2:443/13.4 (FidoNet). Failing everything, why not phone (01202) 299900, fax (01202) 299955, or write to: *Internet and Comms Today*, Paragon Publishing, Durham House, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BH1 1NF.

Sorry folks, we have to apologise again if you've been trying to access our increasingly popular online version of *Internet and Comms Today*. Something spooky keeps happening to our service provider which seems to result in it going offline rather more frequently than we'd like. Rest assured though, we'll soon have alternative means of accessing the Web, so hang in there. Anyway, assuming the thing is working by the time this issue comes out, we can announce expanded services going out on the Web, which will include expanded News (mountains of the stuff – we hope

Catch us online on IRC, usually at irc.colorado.edu on port 6667, usually on Saturday afternoons at about 3pm UK time, so feel free to hassle us relentlessly with appropriate stuff.

you have large disk drives), updated daily, full text versions of the previous month's articles (you'll have to wait a while before we start putting full-text versions of the current articles online!) and online ordering and payment facilities.

We also plan to be able to bring you full MPEG video and sound, once we get the hang of this multimedia business (and put it down on paper so we can write flippin' great articles in the magazine on it), statistics on our site's usage, just about as soon as people are able to start using it again, and lots more pie-in-the-sky, jam-tomorrow kind of stuff to detract from the fact that nobody can actually get online at the moment.

Still, by the time this issue hits the streets, the situation should be back to normal, so our apologies please for anybody who has been inconvenienced by this situation – we are working on it!



I&CT contact addresses

If you want to get in touch with the team, try the following:

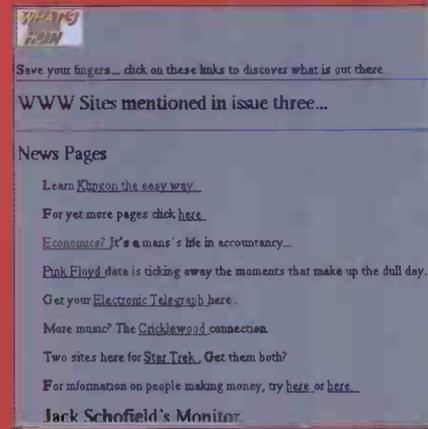
- Nick Merritt – nickm@itoday.demon.co.uk
- John Kennedy – johnk@infosys2.thegap.com
- The Zookeeper – zoo@itoday.demon.co.uk
- Colin Turner – cturner@nowster.demon.co.uk, 2:333/13.0 FidoNet
- Darren Irvine – darsy@plasma.thegap.com
- Jonathan Miller – jonathan@delphi.com
- Jack Schofield – jack@cix.compulink.co.uk
- Steve Gold – 76004.3451@compuserve.com

Editorial departments

- letters – letters@itoday.demon.co.uk (please note that submission of material to this email address will be taken as permission to publish your letter in the magazine, unless you specifically ask not to.)
- news – news@itoday.demon.co.uk
- advertising – ads@itoday.demon.co.uk
- subscriptions – itsubs@itoday.demon.co.uk
- BBS list – bbswatch@itoday.demon.co.uk
- Directory sites – direct@itoday.demon.co.uk
- help desk – techhelp@itoday.demon.co.uk
- submissions – submissions@itoday.demon.co.uk

Internet and Comms Today World Wide Web

If you access our Web page (<http://www.gpl.net/customers/ict/ict.html>), you should see the following:
→ Our Home Page! Scroll through the options and see what we can offer you online.



Issue 4

→ If you'd like to see what the magazine offers, we give you a brief overview of articles contained within.

The team

→ Meet your handsome, intelligent, witty and debonair team of millionaire playboys. Or something.

What's hot

→ Fancy linking to some of the areas we've described in the magazine? Try our very own What's Hot page – it's bound to become a vital part of your Infonaughting.

Editorial

→ And if you want to read about what sort of magazine we'll be trying to bring to you, who better to ask than our editor (Oh, all right then...)

Surf's Up!



Time Magazine

<http://www.timeinc.com/pathfinder/Greet.html>

If you want to access the online version of Time Magazine, check out the latest OJ Simpson stories and so on, this is the place to visit. It's a dog of a Web page design though, taking months to load in.

It's time to round up some of the new Internet sites and take a closer look at what's on offer in cyberspace.

As you can see from our magazine, the world of cyberspace is packed full of the useful, the weird and the wonderful. Here we take a look at some of the stuff that can make your life worth living, make you smile or make you run for cover.

The World Wide Web: DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

<http://www.teleport.com/~xwinds/dfn.html>

d.f.n. is a creative arts magazine and more besides. Its collection of art is both bizarre and humorous and it has links to many other Web art sites. A section is also dedicated to Michael Moore's TV Nation programme.

Onestar Journal

<http://www.pitt.edu/~onestar/onepage.html>

Onestar is an online sitcom. Purely text-based, it has been going for a while and you can catch up with the latest goings on at the URL above.

Yello

<http://yello.space.net/yello>

The homepage for electronic band Yello contains samples of the band's work and news and information about the two Swiss music makers.

Quanta Sci-Fi

<http://www.etext.org/Zines/Quanta/>

If you're looking for some interesting reading then this is a good place to come with several stories, some in episodic format, ready for your reading pleasure.



Macintosh newsletter - Internet:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/pages/TidBITS/TidBITS.html>

The latest issue of this magazine for Mac users contains a look ahead to 1995 and news on the first Mac Clones. A good resource for Mac'ers, back issues are available.

Surfing tour of the USA

<http://www.Neosoft.com:80/citylink/>
Not, we should point out, anything to do with the aquatic sport but a vast collection of pointers to other Internet sites in the US sorted by state and city.

Business directory

<http://akebono.stanford.edu/yahoo/Business/Corporations/Newspapers>
A list of Internet publications relating to the business world.

Factsheet Five

<http://kzsu.stanford.edu/uwi/f5e/f5e.html>

Home of such 'zines as 'Lost Armadillos in Heat'. Mostly text-only and mostly weird.

BLAST.famy

<http://www.io.org/~pwcasual/zines.html>

A collection of files and pointers to other sites that pertain to conspiracy theories around the world.

Mother Jones Magazine

<http://www.mojones.com/motherjones.html>

Independent thinking magazine. This is quite a large site with links to other organisations with similar aims and has pages for announcements and press releases.

BLINK

<http://www.acns.nwu.edu/blink/>

A strange melting pot of concepts about where the mind and technology meet. Tales of digital love and the excellently titled "May I be excused, Ms. Motorola" take a look at how humans and machines are growing closer together.

Bad Subjects

<http://english-server.hss.cmu.edu/BS/BadSubjects.html>

Radical politics and thinking under the banner "Political education for everyday life".

FTP Sites

It is a well known fact that aliens have infiltrated all world governments and rule the planet. Evidence, if it can be so called, can be dug up from the following FTP sites. Several have lots of text files, others have graphics pictures. Some of the sites weren't responding while we were browsing - maybe they've been kidnapped by aliens too.

Internet:- ftp 130.43.43.43

path: /Library/Fringe/Ufo and /Library/Fringe/Conspiracy

Internet:- ftp 129.12.43.16

path: /pub/uunet/doc/literary/obi/UFO (just one file)

Internet:- ftp 152.81.10.10

path: /pub/textes/obi/UFO and /pub/textes/obi/Conspiracy

Internet:- ftp 129.12.43.16

path: /pub/uunet/doc/literary/obi/UFO

Internet:- ftp 130.231.240.17

path: /pub/ufo_and_space_pics (pictures of ufos, Mars face: 35A72.rect.Z, 70A13.rect.Z.)

Internet:- ftp gopher.uakom.sk

path: /pub/multimedia/graphics/space-pics (Mars and...)

Internet:- ftp 128.6.5.53

path: /pub/ufo (Bibliography)

Internet:- ftp 192.31.63.74

path: /pub/aviation (satellite picture of a51 - Groomlake)

Internet:- ftp 131.130.1.4

path: /journals/alphabetic/m/mufon-journal and /journals/alphabetic/b/beter-audio-letter

Internet:- ftp 129.143.2.4

path: /news/spool/overview/alt/paranet/ufo (not anonymous)

Internet:- ftp 128.46.154.76

path: /pub/skunk-works/pic/A51 (good pictures of Groomlake)

Usenet Sites

In a similar vein to the ftp sites above, you can find out more about the alien take-over of Earth from the following Usenet newsgroups:

alt.alien.visitors
alt.conspiracy

Telnet Sites

telnet kitten.mcs.com/PORT=4500

Welcome to Mozart, a Multi User Dungeon game where you can do the usual MUD stuff and forget about how bad real life is.



the Directory

It's the Directory, Britain's most comprehensive guide to what's online! If you are looking for a particular site on the Internet and can't find the information here, try finger yanoff@alpha2.csd.uwm.edu for Scott Yanoff's own list of Internet resources. If there are sites which have expired, please let us know by emailing direct@itoday.demon.co.uk

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Arts & Entertainment

Art and Design

ArchiGopher at the University of Michigan

The ArchiGopher is dedicated to all aspects of architecture and design. As well as a vast array of architectural information and images, there are also images of Kandinsky paintings and samples of the work done by the University CAD group.

→ Internet: Gopher libra.arch.umich.edu



One of the images from the University of Michigan's CAD department.

Baroque art and architecture

An exhibition of a wide range of Baroque and Renaissance art and architecture including a "Rome Reborn" exhibit featuring works from the Vatican library. There are

also a wide range of texts relating to Renaissance art and culture.
→ Internet: Gopher gopher.virginia.edu

Mona Lisa

Download a digitised version of the world's most famous smile from Augsburg college in Minneapolis. You can also find pictures of Reagan and Bush here, if that's the sort of thing you're interested in.

→ Internet: FTP aug3.augsburg.edu

Path: /files/jpeg/monalisa.jpg

→ WWW: Le Web Louvre, <http://mistral.enst.fr/~pioch/louvre>

OTIS (Operative Term is Stimulate)

Pictures, collages, raytraces, digitised photos and other assorted artwork from the OTIS project at the University of North Carolina.

→ Internet: FTP sunsite.unc.edu

Path: /pub/multimedia/pictures/OTIS/

Graphics images

→ Usenet: alt.binaries.pictures.fine-art.graphics

→ WWW: Strange Interactions, <http://amanda.physics.wisc.edu/show.html>

→ WWW: ArtSource, <http://www.uky.edu/Artsource/artsourcehome.html>

Fine Art discussion forum

→ Usenet: rec.arts.fine

→ WWW: Fineart Online, http://www.msstate.edu/Fineart_Online/home.html

Global Access Inc

A gallery of pictures covering many subject areas, you can download prints of any image you particularly desire.

→ WWW: <http://www.mgainc.com/Art/HomePage.html>

Online Gallery

→ WWW: <http://amanda.physics.wisc.edu/show.html>

H.R. Giger Gallery

A collection of Giger artwork from the man famed for his Alien creation.

→ WWW: <http://heiwwww.unige.ch/art/Giger>

Authors

Douglas Adams

→ Mail: adamsd@cerf.net

→ Usenet: alt.fan.douglas-adams

Lewis Carroll

→ Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi/pub/doc/literary/etext/alice.txt

→ Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi/pub/doc/literary/etext/jabber.txt etc

Charles Dickens

→ Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi/pub/doc/literary/etext/carol.txt etc

(In fact nic.funet.fi has complete works by a great range of authors)

Terry Pratchett

→ FidoNet: PRATCHETT

→ Usenet: alt.fan.pratchett

Books

Big Dummy's Guide to the Internet

This humorous guide to Net survival can be found in various archive sites, among them the Electronic Frontier Foundation. This archive site also has a collection of hacker-related material such as Phrack, and a complete collection of the back issues of Computer Underground Digest.

→ Internet: FTP ftp.eff.org
Path: /pub/EFF/papers/big-dummys

Book reviews

→ Internet: FTP csn.org

Path: /pub/alt/books/reviews/

→ Usenet: alt.book.reviews

Books from the Wiretap

→ Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
Path: /books/

Online Book Initiative

→ Internet: Gopher world.std.com

→ Choose: -> OBI The Online Book Initiative

Roswell Electronic Computer Bookstore

→ Internet: Gopher nstn.ns.ca

→ Choose: -> NSTS Electronic Shopping Mall -> Roswell Electronic Computer Bookstore

Classical Music

Classical & Traditional music

Classical music newsgroups

→ Usenet: alt.fan.shostakovich

→ Usenet: rec.music.classical

→ Usenet: rec.music.early

→ Usenet: rec.music.classical.performing

Celtic music newsgroup

→ Usenet: rec.music.celtic

Folk Music Archives

→ Internet: Gopher gopher.uwp.edu

→ Choose: -> Music Archives -> Folk

Compact Disks

→ FidoNet: CD_ECHO

Comics and Cartoons

Anime

If your interests run to Dominion, Gunhead, Akira or Manga stuff in general, you'll probably find something to interest you here. Check out the appropriate newsgroups too, for further information.

→ Internet: FTP ftp.tcp.com

Path: /pub/anime/Images/

→ Usenet: rec.arts.anime.stories

→ Usenet: rec.arts.manga

→ FidoNet: ANIME

How to get to where you want to go

Please note this is a very brief guide – please follow full guides in this and other issues of Internet and Comms Today. Also, the exact operation of telnet and FTP may differ depending on which computers you are using. Please also remember not to logon to certain computers (ones with edu after them for instance) when students or other workers are likely to be using them, as it will slow down access for them.

If the entry has Internet: telnet next to it:

Internet: telnet zippy.ucla.edu 4000 Login: hello

Telnet is a program that allows you to connect to an Internet computer, as if you were actually sitting at a keyboard in the building where it is located. Use the telnet program (provided by your Internet service provider). Run the program. If successful, you should see the telnet prompt – it looks like TELNET> or TELNET:

Find out the address – it should be listed after the Internet: telnet bit in this Directory. Type: open <address>. The address will be given in the entry. If there is a space and a number as part of the address, please include it. Follow the on-screen instructions.

When you are asked to LOGIN, use the ID listed, or if there isn't one, just press RETURN. When you are asked for your password, use the one listed, otherwise if there isn't one, just press RETURN. If you're asked about which terminal to use, say VT100.

If the entry has Internet: ftp next to it:

Internet: ftp ftp.zippy.ucla.edu Path: /pub/

FTP is a program which allows you to copy or fetch files from an Internet computer to your own. Use the FTP provided by your service provider. Run the program. Type: open <address>. The address should be listed next to the Internet: ftp bit in the Directory.

When asked to LOGIN, type ANONYMOUS. When asked to give your password, type your own e-mail address, i.e. something like ralph@my_place.demon.co.uk. You should now be connected. Now go to the directory listed in the guide.

If the entry has Usenet next to it:

Usenet is a section of the Internet which deals with the latest news,

debates and so on. If you are a new user, please do not try to do anything more than read it at this stage. You will need a newsreader program before you can interact with the newsgroups.

Please refer to your newsreader manual for full information on how to access newsgroups.

If the entry has FidoNet next to it:

FidoNet is a network of bulletin boards. You will need to ask your local FidoNet Sysop to provide you with the Fido echo if it isn't already listed.

If the entry has Email next to it:

You will need to email the Sysop listed to ask for access before you are allowed on their system. Please follow the instructions listed in the Directory entry. i.e. If the entry reads: Internet: email listserv@robot.ucla.edu – In message, write sub stuff <your full name>, do the following:

- Prepare an email message to be sent to listserv@robot.ucla.edu.
- Put in the email message SUB STUFF JAMES PARKER if that's your name. Don't write anything else.
- If the Directory entry says something like ASK TO SUBSCRIBE, do just that. Write a short note asking to join. Don't use the approach outlined in the point above.
- You may be asked to provide your email address as opposed to your full name.
- To unsubscribe, write UNSUBSCRIBE instead of SUB. If the entry said ASK TO SUBSCRIBE, then write a note asking to be taken off the mailing list instead.

If the entry has WWW next to it:

The World Wide Web (WWW) is a collection of interlinked pages which can display pictures or play sounds or even moving video.

To access a World Wide Web page you need a program called a Web browser, the best-known of which is Mosaic (and now Mosaic Netscape) available from most FTP sites. You can also use programs like Lynx, found on the CIX system.

Disney

If you're a Donald Duck fan, or you want to know more about Minnie Mouse, check out this FAQ, which tells you all you need to know.

→ Internet: FTP rtfm.mit.edu
Path: /pub/usenet/news.answers/disney-faq/

Dr.Fun

Dr.Fun is "the first daily cartoon on the Internet", and can be found (among other places) at panix.com.

→ Internet: Gopher gopher.panix.com
→ Choose: -> New York Art Line -> Images and Imaging Software -> Art & Images (Texas tech. U) -> Dr.Fun

Comics and cartoons

→ Usenet: alt.comics.peanuts

Humour

Fun

Having fun is a very serious thing in all walks of life, and the Internet is no exception. To find out just how much fun is available on the Net, take a look at the Big Fun List.

→ Internet: FTP owl:nstn.ns.ca
Path: /pub/netinfo/bigfun
→ Internet: finger conan@access.digex.net
→ WWW: Dr. Fun Page, http://sunsite.unc.edu/Dave/drfun.html

Joke collections

Do you find your after-dinner conversations lacking that 'je ne sais quoi'? Knowing the right joke can be just the thing you need. Just about every category of joke is catered for on the Net, and they're pretty easy to find too.

→ Internet: Gopher ftp.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library -> Humour -> Jokes
→ Internet: Gopher uts.mcc.ac.uk
→ Choose: -> Gopher Services -> The Joke File
→ Usenet: alt.tasteless.jokes
→ Usenet: rec.humour
→ Usenet: rec.humour.funny
→ FidoNet: PUNCH
→ FidoNet: PYTHONESQUE

One dimension rendering

If you find 3-D rendering to be a bit of a drag, and even 2-D imaging is getting you down, check out the discussion in the newsgroup devoted to a single point.

→ Usenet: alt.1d

Practical jokes

If you find it amusing to cause others distress, discomfort or actual physical suffering, check out this text of some of the best practical jokes ever perpetrated. Check out the corresponding newsgroup for up-to-

the-minute japes.

→ Internet: FTP elf.tn.cornell.edu
Path: /shenanigans/
→ Usenet: alt.shenanigans

Cool Site of the Day

Changes on a daily basis.
→ WWW: http://www.infi.net/cool.html

Music

Techno, ambient and rave music

Check out this site for information on rave locations, and flyer pictures. There's also information on drug problems and information for techno and ambient musicians, including sound samples from old analogue kit and song construction data.

→ Internet: Gopher hyperreal.com
→ WWW: http://techno.stanford.edu
→ FidoNet: MUSIC
→ FidoNet: NEWMUSIC
→ WWW: Computer Music Journal, ftp://mitpress.mit.edu/pub/



Computer-Music-Journal/CMJ.html

Acoustic Guitar Archive

Play that gear and appear on 'Unplugged'.
→ Internet: FTP ftp.acns.nwu.edu
Path: /pub/acoustic-guitar/

Bagpipes

→ Internet: FTP cs.dartmouth.edu
Path: /pub/bagpipes/

Music Archives

→ Internet: FTP ftp.uwp.edu
Path: /pub/music/

Rock And Pop

Elvis Presley guide

A guide to his life and music, includes pictures and a tour of Graceland.
→ WWW: http://tamsun.tamu.edu/~ahb2188/elvishom.html

Warner Brothers Web

Home of the Warner Music Co. and their legion of stars. You can get biogs, album listings and sound samples.
→ WWW: http://www.iuma.com/Warner/html/

Sony Music site

Works on the same principle as the Warner site but the information included is about Sony artists





(obviously).

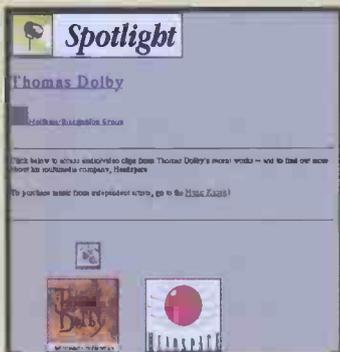
→ WWW:

<http://www.music.sony.com>



Thomas Dolby home page

→ WWW: <http://kspace.com/KM/spot.syl/Dolby/pages/home.html>



Internet Underground Music Archive

Listen to, watch or buy your favourite artist's video or record.

→ WWW: <http://www.southern.com>

Yello home page

→ WWW: yello.space.net/yello

New ways to Noise

→ WWW: <http://www.maires.co.uk/nw2n>

Rock and Pop Newsgroups

- Usenet: alt.exotic-music
- Usenet: alt.music.ebm (electronic body music)
- Usenet: alt.music.hardcore
- Usenet: alt.music.ska
- Usenet: alt.rock-n-roll.hard
- Usenet: alt.rock-n-roll.metal
- Usenet: alt.punk
- Usenet: alt.rave
- Usenet: rec.music.folk
- Usenet: rec.music.indian
- Usenet: rec.music.industrial
- Usenet: rec.music.progressive
- Usenet: rec.music.reggae
- Usenet: rec.music.makers.bands

(Check out the alt.fan newsgroups too, for pointers to info on your favourite bands)

TV and The Movies

Sitcom info

- Internet: Gopher info.mcc.ac.uk
- Choose: → Miscellaneous → The definitive list of UK sitcoms

TV & movie archives

- Internet: FTP quartz.rutgers.edu
- Path: /pub/tv+movies/
- Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi
- Path: /pub/culture/tv+film/

UK television Information

- Internet: Gopher uts.mcc.ac.uk
- Choose: → Gopher Services → Useful UK Television Related Addresses
- WWW: Cardiff's Movie Database <http://www.cm.cf.ac.uk/Movies/moviequery.html>

Red Dwarf

If you enjoy Red Dwarf so much that you wish to discuss it with other smeg-heads, check out this newsgroup.

- Usenet: alt.tv.red-dwarf
- FidoNet: SMEG

Max Headroom

- WWW: Network 23, <http://net23.com/>

Pulp Fiction

- WWW: <http://www.musicbase.co.uk/movie/pulp>
- Usenet: alt.fan.tarantino

Tim Burton

- Usenet: alt.movies.tim-burton

Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson

- Usenet: alt.movies.branagh-thmpsn

Science Fiction

Discussion newsgroups

- Usenet: rec.arts.sf.science
- Usenet: rec.arts.sf.reviews
- FidoNet: F&SF.UK
- FidoNet: FANTASY.281

Fandom newsgroups

- Usenet: alt.fandom.cons
- Usenet: alt.fan.pern
- Usenet: alt.fan.piers-anthony
- Usenet: alt.fan.pratchett
- Usenet: rec.arts.sf.fandom

Fantasy, sci-fi and horror info

- Internet: Gopher gopher.panic.com

Sci-fi archives

- Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
- Path: /Library/Media/Sci-Fi/

Star Trek archives

- Internet: FTP ftp.uu.net
- Path: /doc/literary/obi/Star.Trek.Stories
- FidoNet: STARTREK

Startrek conference web page

- WWW: <http://metaverse.com/startrek/index.html>
- WWW: <http://www.kli.org/>



Amiga

Amiga Archives

- Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
- Path: /systems/amiga/
- Internet: Gopher gopher.eunet.sk
- Choose: → Archive of EUnet Slovakia

- Amiga Archive
- Usenet: alt.amiga.demos
- Usenet: alt.amiga.slip
- Usenet: alt.comp.sys.amiga.advocacy
- Usenet: alt.comp.sys.amiga.announce
- Usenet: alt.comp.sys.amiga.applications
- Usenet: alt.comp.sys.amiga.cd32
- Usenet: alt.comp.sys.amiga.audio
- Usenet: alt.comp.sys.amiga.*
- Usenet: comp.binaries.amiga
- Usenet: comp.sys.amiga.datacomm
- Usenet: comp.sys.amiga.eulations
- Usenet: comp.sys.amiga.misc
- Usenet: copy.sys.amiga.*
- Usenet: amiga.x11
- FidoNet: AMIGA_UK
- FidoNet: AMIGA_MAGS
- FidoNet: AMIGA_INT
- FidoNet: AMIGASOFT
- FidoNet: AMIGA_COMMS
- FidoNet: AMIGA_PROG
- FidoNet: AMIGA_VIDEO
- FidoNet: AMY_TECH
- FidoNet: AREXX

Graphics and Design

Graphic images

This is a very popular European archive site that has a very wide selection of graphics files in GIF and JPEG formats. Logging in as "anonymous" also gives you access to a diverse collection of documents, ranging from the Necronomicon and the Voymich Manuscript to stuff about flight simulators.

- Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi (login as "pictures")
- Path: /pub/pics/

Greta Garbo

Pictures of the great Garbo, from the finnish archive server that bears her name. You can also find here various utilities and screensavers.

- Internet: FTP garbo.uwasa.fi
- Path: /garbo-gifs/

Computer Music and Sound

Amiga Samples

- Usenet: comp.sys.amiga.audio
- FidoNet: AMIGA_MUSIC

Sound samples

If you're looking for sound samples in Sun and NeXT formats, try the Athena server and the San Diego State University. If you have some obscure samples yourself, have a look in the /sound_requests/ directory - someone, somewhere may be desperate for your sample of the death cries of the Venezuelan tree frog.

- Internet: FTP athena.sdsu.edu
- Path: /sounds/
- Path: /pub/sound_requests/

Computer News

EFFector Online and EFF News

- Internet: FTP ftp.eff.org
- Path: /pub/EFF/newsletters/

OS/2

- OS/2 WWW HomePage
- WWW: <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/os2/os2world.html>
- Salford Uni OS/2 Info Service
- WWW: <http://www.iti.slaford.ac.uk/os2power/os2power.html>
- FidoNet: OS2
- FidoNet: OS2BBS
- FidoNet: OS2BEGIN
- FidoNet: OS2CDROM
- FidoNet: OS2COMM
- FidoNet: OS2DOS

- FidoNet: OS2GAMES
- FidoNet: OS2DB
- FidoNet: NI_OS2

Computer Shopping

Marketbase

- Internet: Gopher mb.com
- Electronic Shopping Mall
- Internet: Gopher nstr.ns.ca
- Choose: → NSTS Electronic Shopping Mall
- Email: Send email to: taylor@netcom.com with Subject "send mail"
- FidoNet: BUY

Hacking and Security

Security Gopher at the University of Hamburg

- Internet: Gopher gopher.informatik.uni-hamburg.de

Public Key encryption

A couple of newsgroups relating to the use of public key encryption, and information on how to obtain the notorious PGP "Pretty Good Privacy" encryption program.

- Usenet: alt.security.keydist
- Usenet: alt.security.pgp

Security archives

- Internet: Gopher quartz.rutgers.edu
- Choose: → Computer Sources, Documentation → security

IBM PCs, DOS

Software archives

- Internet: Gopher micros.hensa.ac.uk
- Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
- Path: /systems/ibmpc/
- Usenet: alt.binaries.warez.ibm-pc
- Usenet: comp.binaries.ibm.pc.*
- Usenet: comp.sys.ibm.pc.*
- FidoNet: IBM
- FidoNet: OS/2

Macintosh

Software archives

- Internet: FTP oak.oakland.edu
- Path: /pub2/macintosh/
- Internet: FTP ftp.uu.net
- Path: /systems/mac/
- Usenet: alt.sources.mac
- Usenet: comp.binaries.mac
- Usenet: comp.sys.mac.*

Multimedia

Sunsite Multimedia Archives at the University of North Carolina

- Internet: FTP sunsite.unc.edu
- Path: /pub/multimedia/
- WWW: WaxWeb, <http://bug.village.virginia.edu:7777>

Science and Engineering

General science

- FidoNet: SCIENCE

Optical computing

Find out what's happening in the world of optical computing research at the Colorado State University Optical Computing Lab. Download documents and reports relating to photonics.

- Internet: Gopher sylvia.lance.colostate.edu

Software

Silicon Graphics & Sun Workstation utilities

At the North Arizona University, you can



find a wide range of software utilities for nice, expensive workstations that, although public domain, are not widely available anywhere else.

- Internet: FTP ftp.nau.edu
- Path: /pub/

Software - huge piles of it

There's a huge range of software for a wide range of platforms available at the University of Vaasa in Finland. There's also quite a bit at the Washington University archives.

- Internet: FTP garbo.uwasa.fi
- Path: /mac/
- Path: /next/
- Path: /pc/
- Path: /unix/
- Path: /windows/

Unix

GNU Archives

- Internet: FTP aeneas.mit.edu
- Path: /pub/gnu/gcc-2

Hensa Archives

- Internet: Gopher unix.hensa.ac.uk

Windows

Utilities archive

- Internet: FTP ftp.cica.indiana.edu
- Path: /pub/pc/win3/
- Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
- Path: /systems/ibmpc/win3/

Anti-Piracy Agencies

Software Publishers Association

Were you in cyberspace when the last piracy scandal erupted? Did you see anyone acting virtually suspiciously? If so, you'd better email the SPA then, like a good Net citizen should.

- Mail: 74431.3233@compuserve.com

Acorn

Acorn computers

- FidoNet: Archimedes
- FidoNet: ARCNET
- FidoNet: ARCCOMMS
- FidoNet: ARCPROG
- FidoNet: ARCBINKLEY
- FidoNet: BBC

Virus Protection

Virus protection

- FidoNet: VIR_AMI
- FidoNet: VIR_MCAF
- FidoNet: VIR_OS2
- FidoNet: VIR_PROG
- FidoNet: VIR_TEXT

Telecoms & Electronics

BBS and Net info

Archie sites

If you don't have local access to Archie, telnet to one of the public access Archie sites, and look for the files you need.

- Internet: telnet archie.mcgill.ca
- Internet: telnet archie.funet.fi
- Internet: telnet archie.au
- Internet: telnet archie.cs.huji.ac.il
- Internet: telnet archie.doc.ic.ac.uk
- Internet: telnet archie.sura.net
- Internet: telnet archie.unl.edu
- Internet: telnet archie.ans.net
- Internet: telnet archie.rutgers.edu

BBS newsgroups

If you need information on various BBSs around the world check out these newsgroups:

- Usenet: alt.bbs.ads
- Usenet: alt.bbs.internet
- Usenet: alt.bbs.lists
- Usenet: alt.bbs.lists.d

December list

A list of information sources on the Internet.

- Internet: FTP ftp.rpi.edu
- Path: /pub/communications/internet-cmc

Unix public access sites

If, for some reason you want to practise using Unix, but don't actually have access to a Unix box, you can telnet onto one of the publicly accessible Unix sites on the Internet.

- Internet: telnet nyx.cs.du.edu
- Login: new
- Internet: telnet hermes.merit.edu
- Which host: um-m-net enter "g" for guest
- Login: newuser

WAIS servers

If you don't have direct access to WAIS (Wide Area Information Service) on your local machine, telnet to a site that does.

- Internet: telnet quake.think.com
- Internet: telnet nsc.nsf.net
- Internet: telnet wais.funet.fi
- Login: wais

World-Wide Web servers

In a similar way to WAIS, if you don't have WWW on your local system, telnet to the guys who do.

- Internet: telnet info.cern.ch
- Internet: telnet eies2.njit.edu
- Internet: telnet vms.huji.ac.il
- Internet: telnet info.funet.fi
- Login: www

Big Boards

Launchpad BBS

This is a very well featured BBS, which is particularly friendly to new users. It offers complete network news, as well as access to WAIS, Gopher and a range of other information systems. It's well worth a look if the only Internet access you have is via telnet.

- Internet: telnet launchpad.unc.edu
- Login: launch

Phantom

Another BBS system - goodness knows what goes on here.

- Internet: telnet phantom.com

Cybernet

This is an Internet-connected bulletin board, available through telnet. It offers a wide variety of resources, including mail, Usenet, file areas, and games.

- Internet: telnet cybernet.cse.fau.edu
- Login: bbs
- WWW: Cybernet
- http://venus.mcs.com/~flowers/html/cybernet.html

Cyberspace Groups

Cyberspace communications

- Internet: Gopher gopher.well.sf.ca.us
- Choose: -> Communications

TCP/IP and networking info

- Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
- Path: /Library/Techdoc/Network/

Service Providers

- WWW: Cityscape
- http://www.cityscape.co.uk/
- WWW: Genesis, http://WWW.gpl.net

Religion & Politics

World Religion

Atheism

- Usenet: alt.atheism

Bible Online

- Internet: Gopher joeboy.micro.umn.edu
- Choose: -> Ebooks -> By Title -> King James Bible
- FidoNet: VICARS

Church of the SubGenius

Information relating to the weirdness that is the Church of the SubGenius can be found at the Rutgers text archive. Find out details about their Messiah J.R. "Bob" Dobbs, and the SubGenius foundation in Texas. Is it a parody or are they for real? You'll probably never know.

- Internet: FTP quartz.rutgers.edu
- Path: /pub/subgenius/

Kibo

Kibo is a semi-mythical Net-god, and is said to be omnipresent everywhere on the Internet. Apparently if you post to any Usenet newsgroup with the word "Kibo" anywhere in the text, Kibo will see it and may even answer.

- Usenet: alt.religion.kibo

Paganism

- Usenet: alt.pagan

Religious texts

If you're looking for the complete text of the Bible or the Koran, or some other religious documents, try Berkeley.

- Internet: FTP ocf.berkeley.edu
- Path: /pub/Library/Religion/

Wicca

- Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi
- Path: /pub/doc/occult/wicca/

Zen Buddhism & Taoism Information (Borlaenge Univ., Sweden)

- WWW: http://tpx5.hfb.se:8000/~d93cge/engtaozen.html

An Introduction to Buddhist Theravada Teachings (NCF, Canada)

- WWW: http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/freenet/rootdir/menus/signs/religion

Chogye Zen Buddhism Information, (UT Houston-HSC, USA)

- WWW: http://oac11.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/zen/index.html

Dharma Electronic Files Archive, (DEFAIU.Nth Carolina, USA)

- WWW: http://sunsite.unc.edu/dharma/defa.html
- WWW: http://www.well.com/Community/Brian.Tanaka/dw.html

Dharma Web [Zen Buddhism]

- WWW: http://www.well.com

Journal of Buddhist Ethics (Penn State Univ., USA)

- WWW: http://www.psu.edu/jbe/present.html

Tibetan Buddhism Texts & Commentaries (Virginia Univ., USA)

- WWW: http://hopper.itc.virginia.edu/~wam/

World Politics

Conservative archives

- Internet: FTP cathouse.org
- Path: /pub/cathouse/conservative/

New Republic Magazine

- Internet: Gopher
- gopher.internet.com 2101

Political Party platform statements

- Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
- Choose: -> Government Docs -> Political Platforms of the US

NATO handbook

- Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
- Path: /Gov/NATA-HB/

Business & Finance

Business News

General news

- Usenet: clari.biz.misc

Hot news

- Usenet: clari.biz.urgent

Legal news

- Usenet: clari.biz.courts

Merger news

- Usenet: clari.biz.mergers

Personal finance news

- Usenet: clari.biz.finance.personal

Top news

- Usenet: clari.biz.top

The Economy

Economic BBS

- Internet: Gopher infopath.ucsd.edu
- Choose: -> News & Services -> Economic -> EBB and Agency Info.

Economic newsgroups

- Usenet: clari.biz.economy
- Usenet: clari.biz.economy.world

The Markets

Stock Market news

- Usenet: clari.biz.market
- Usenet: clari.biz.market.amex
- Usenet: clari.biz.market.dow
- Usenet: clari.biz.market.ny
- Usenet: clari.biz.market.otc
- Usenet: clari.biz.market.report

Closing quotes

- Usenet: Gopher
- lobo.rhms.colorado.edu
- Choose: -> Other Information Services -> Stock Market Closing Quotes

Stock Market report

- Internet: telnet a2i.rahu.net
- Login: guest

Investments

Investment newsgroups

- Usenet: clari.biz.invest
- Usenet: misc.invest

Real Estate investments



online

→ misc.invest.real-estate

Management and Marketing

International Market Insight (IMI) Reports

→ Internet: Gopher infopath.ucsd.edu
→ Choose: -> News & Services -> Economic -> International Market

Management archives

→ Internet: Gopher chimera.sph.umn.edu

Multilevel marketing

→ salt.business.multi-level

Small Business

Entrepreneurs

→ Usenet: misc.entrepreneurs

Games & Sport

Fantasy, Role-Playing

Advanced D&D

→ Internet: FTP ccusun.caltech.edu
Path: /pub/adnd/

Role-playing Gopher

→ Internet: Gopher micro.umn.edu
→ Choose: -> Fun & games -> Games -> Fantasy Role-Playing Games

Role-playing archives

→ Internet: Gopher teetot.acusd.edu
→ Choose: -> Everything -> Entertainment & Food -> Role-Playing

Online Games

Backgammon server

→ Internet: telnet ouzo.rog.rwth-aachen.de 8765
Login: guest

Chess servers

→ Internet: telnet bentley.daimi.aau.dk 5000
Login: your name
→ Internet: telnet ics.uoknor.edu 5000
Login: your name
→ FidoNet: CHESS_UK

Copper Diku

→ Internet: telnet copper.denver.colorado.edu 4000

Deeper Trouble

→ Internet: telnet alk.iesd.auc.dk 4242

Nemesis MUD

→ Internet: telnet dszenger9.informatik.tu-muenchen.de 2000

Nightfall MUD

→ Internet: telnet nova.tat.physik.uni-tuebingen.de 4242 4242

Tsunami

→ Internet: telnet castor.acs.oakland.edu 2777

Zen MOO

A telnet site for those who know (or want to) the sound of one hand clapping. Meditate to your heart's content, but make sure you stay completely silent.
→ Internet: telnet cheshire.oxy.edu

7777

MUD Web Sites

→ WWW: <http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~lw/mudinfo.html>

PC and Video Games

Anime video games

→ Internet: FTP romulus.rutgers.edu
Path: /pub/anime/misc/Anime-games

Atari archive

→ Internet: FTP atari.archive.umich.edu
Path: /atari/

Big Bop 2 (breakout style game for DOS)

→ Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
Path: /pub/msdos_uploads/games/bigbop2.zip

Flight simulators

Some documents relating to the various flight simulation hardware and software available, as well as scenery for specific software and texts on flight simulation theory.

→ Internet: FTP onion.rain.com
Path: /pub/falcon3/
→ Internet: FTP ftp.iup.edu
Path: /flight-sim/
→ Internet: FTP ftp.ulowell.edu
Path: /msdos/Games/FltSim/

Wolfenstein 3D extra levels

If you're still hooked on Wolfenstein despite the fact that Doom has superseded it, download 59 new levels from the ever-useful Washington University Archives.

→ Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
Path: /pub/msdos_uploads/games/w3d_cc1.zip
→ FidoNet: DOOM

Consoles

→ FidoNet: CONSOLES

Motor Racing

r.a.s Racer archive

(F1, IndyCar & NASCAR information, pictures, news etc.):
→ WWW: <http://www.eng.hawaii.edu/Contribs/carina/ra.home.page.html>

F1 Motor Racing:

→ WWW: <http://www.abekrd.co.uk/Users/steven/f1/f1.html>

Team Lotus F1 home page:

→ WWW: <ftp://ftp.netcom.com/pub/lotus-cars/WWW/TeamLotus.html>

Hobbies & Pastimes

Arts and Crafts

Beadworking

→ Usenet: alt.beadworld

Craftworks

→ Usenet: rec.crafts.misc

Modelling

Get modelling (not on the catwalk though...)

→ Usenet: alt.models
→ Usenet: rec.models.railroad
→ Usenet: rec.models.rockets
→ Usenet: rec.models.scale

Textile crafts

→ Usenet: rec.crafts.textiles

Collectibles and Hobbies

Collecting

→ Usenet: rec.collecting

Ham radio callbooks

Telnet access to amateur radio callbooks.
→ Internet: telnet callsign.cs.buffalo.edu 2000
→ Internet: telnet ham.njit.edu 2000

Juggling

If you like to throw balls or chainsaws in the air, check out this archive site. There's a large collection of information, including FAQ lists, news from the juggling world, animations and specialist juggling programs.

→ Internet: FTP mooow.cogsci.indiana.edu
Path: pub/juggling/

Food, Wine and Cooking

Food and drink

Ever get peckish, and just can't decide what to make? Ever have two measures left in each of sixteen different bottles in your drinks cabinet? Well, if the answer's "yes", the Internet could have been made for people like you, with a wide variety of food and drink related resources being available. Try out some of the following:

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library -> Articles -> Food and Drink
→ Internet: FTP ftp.uu.net
Path: /doc/literary/obi/HM.recipes/TheRecipes
Path: /doc/literary/obi/Recipes
Path: /doc/literary/obi/Usenet.Cookbook
→ Internet: FTP ocf.berkeley.edu
Path: /pub/Library/Recreation/big-drink-list
Path: /pub/Library/Recreation/Booze_cookbook
→ Usenet: alt.beer
→ Usenet: alt.food
→ Usenet: alt.gourmand
→ Usenet: alt.spam
→ Usenet: rec.food.cooking
→ Usenet: rec.food.drink
→ Usenet: rec.food.recipes

Homebrewing

If you're new to homebrewing, or if you're just looking for a couple of tips from the experts, check out the following sites:

→ Internet: FTP mthvax.cs.miami.edu
Path: /pub/homebrew/
→ Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi
Path: /pub/culture/beer/
→ Usenet: alt.beer

Gardening

Bonsai trees

Soil data, suppliers, images, etc.
→ Internet: FTP bonsai.pass.wayne.edu
Path: /pub/Information/
Path: /pub/GIFS/



Gardener's assistant PC program

→ Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
Path: /systems/ibmpc/msdos/database/gardener.zip

Gardens and plants newsgroup

→ Usenet: rec.gardens

Genealogy

Genealogy newsgroup

→ Usenet: alt.genealogy

Kids and Teens

Kids' newsletters

→ Internet: FTP nigel.msen.com
Path: /pub/newsletters/Kids/

Kidlink

→ Internet: Gopher kids.ccit.duq.edu
Choose: KIDART Computer Art Gallery

Parents and teens newsgroup

→ Usenet: alt.parents-teens

Young people's newsgroup

→ Usenet: alt.kids-talk

Photography

California Museum of Photography

Take a look at the online exhibition of the California Museum of Photography, and download some of the pictures on display.

→ Internet: Gopher galaxy.ucr.edu
→ Choose: -> Campus Events -> California Museum of Photography -> Network Exhibitions

For information relating to photography including techniques, chemistry formulae check out the Panix Public Access Unix Gopher.

→ Internet: Gopher gopher.panix.com
→ Choose: -> Photography Database
→ FidoNet: PHOTOGRAPHY



A nice image from the Hubble space telescope courtesy of panix.com

Leisure & Travel

Automobiles

Car stereos

Don't know your woofer crossover from your sunvisor-mounted monitor tweeters? Unsure of whether or not to wire the door speakers straight to the



car battery? Check out the newsgroup for people who think 200+200 watts is just about right.
→ Usenet: rec.audio.car

Driving newsgroups
Get on the road to nowhere...
→ Usenet: rec.autos
→ Usenet: rec.autos.driving

High performance cars
→ Usenet: alt.autos.rod-n-custom
→ Usenet: alt.hotrod
→ Usenet: rec.autos.rod-n-custom
Motorsport
→ Usenet: rec.autos.sport
→ FidoNet: GRAND_PRIX

Volkswagen names
A list of some the obscure names people have given to their Volkswagens. Well, we warned you.
→ Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
Path: /Library/Document/names.vw

Chat

Chatsubo
How cyber are you? Have you gone so far as to have your modem hardwired directly into your cerebral cortex? Check out the discussion amongst people who think doing so wouldn't be at all unreasonable.
→ Usenet: alt.cyberpunk.chatsubo

Cyberpunk and future culture
If you imagine you're living your life in a William Gibson novel, this could be the archive site for you.
→ Internet: FTP quartz.rutgers.edu
Path: /pub/cyberculture/

Hotel California
An interesting place to telnet to and just sorta, you know, hang out.
→ Internet: sachs.cs.colostate.edu 2525

Web sites
→ WWW: WebWorld, http://sailfish.peregrine.com/WebWorld/welcome.html

Motorbikes

DoD
A selection of bike-related FAQs, and a good selection of bike images and technical info. There's also info relating to the bike group "Denizens of Doom".
→ Internet: FTP cerritos.edu
Path: /DOD/

General
→ FidoNet: MOTORBIKES



New Age

Kriya Yoga
This is just the introduction you need if you are seeking info on the original Kriya Yoga practice and the keys of the Kriya path.
→ Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
Path: /Library/Article/Religion/kriya.yog

Massage
Discover the techniques for using your bare hands to turn someone into a pile of jelly. Find out about oils and stuff, and the therapeutic effects of massage. Just right for relieving the back-pain caused by sitting at your computer surfing the Net for hour after hour.
→ Usenet: alt.backrubs

New Age music
Grow a pony tail. Eat macrobiotic rice and tofu. Get into New age music, and discuss such important performers as Enya and Steven Halpern. (Who? - Ed.)
→ Usenet: alt.music.enya
→ Usenet: rec.music.gaffa
→ Usenet: rec.music.newage

Travel Services

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Big Apple
→ Internet: Gopher quartz.rutgers.edu
→ Choose: -> NYC - The Net-Person's Guide to New York City

International travel health advice
→ Internet: telnet selway.umt.edu
Login: health

Travel stories
→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library -> Articles -> Journeys and Travel

Tourism offices
→ Internet: FTP quartz.rutgers.edu
Path: /pub/misc/tourist-info-offices

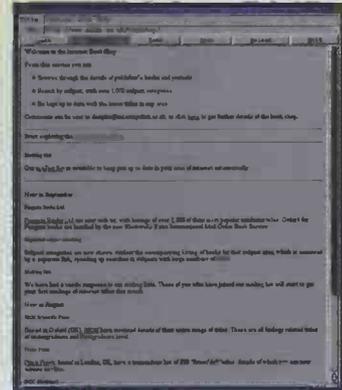
Travel info.
→ Internet: FTP ftp.cc.umanitoba.ca
Path: /pub/rec-travel/

Paris, France
Information on the city of Paris.
→ WWW: http://meteora.ucsd.edu/80/~norman/paris/

Mail Order

Trinity Systems
You no longer need to fight your way through the crowds for your computer goodies, this UK company supplies PC and Mac utilities, games and CDs.
→ WWW: http://www.demon.co.uk/trinity/home.html

Internet book shop
→ WWW: http://www.demon.co.uk/bookshop/



CD Now mail order
→ WWW: http://cdnow.com

Internet Shopping Network
→ WWW: http://www.internet.net/

Future Fantasy Bookstore
→ WWW: http://www.commerce.digital.com/palo-alto/

Public Affairs & Media

Civil Rights & Liberties

American civil rights archives
→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library -> Articles -> Civil Rights & Liberties

Freedom of Information Act (US)
→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Government Docs -> Citizen's Guide to Using the FOIA

Journalism
Use the power of WAIS to access the indexes of over 10,000 published journals, magazines and periodicals.
→ Internet: WAIS journalism.periodicals
→ Usenet: alt.internet.media.coverage
→ FidoNet: BCAST_RADIO
→ WWW: http://www.bbcnc.org.uk

US Government info.

Government Documents at the Internet Wiretap
→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Government Docs

US Government Gophers
→ Internet: Gopher stis.nsf.gov
→ Choose: Other US Government
Gopher Servers



Military

NATO handbook
→ Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
Path: /Gov/NATA-HB/

Weaponry
If you're training to be a Gun-nut, and you haven't got the nerve to go out and buy 'Guns and Shooting People Monthly' or whatever those 'aren't guns wonderful?'-type publications are called, download all the information you need from this appropriately named archive site. As well as downloading digitised images of guns, you can find out about important things like speed-reloading, and "personal defence".
→ Internet: FTP flubber.cs.umd.edu

Path: /rec/



News Services

Electronic Newstand
A commercial service that provides a wide variety of interesting information and magazine articles provided by a selection of US and world publishers. Topics covered include the arts, food and drink, business, politics, science, sport and travel.
→ Internet: Gopher
gopher.internet.com 2100

HOTT (Hot off the Tree)
This is a weekly publication that contains excerpts from just-published information technology articles.
→ Internet: telnet melvyl.ucop.edu
Login: your terminal type e.g. VT100
At prompt: show hott

USA Today
→ Internet: Gopher gopher.msu.edu
→ Choose: -> News & Weather -> Electronic Newspapers -> USA Today
→ Internet: telnet freenet-in-a.cwru.edu
→ Internet: telnet freenet-in-b.cwru.edu
→ Internet: telnet freenet-in-c.cwru.edu
Login: visitor

Electronic Telegraph
→ WWW: http://www.telegraph.co.uk



Politics

The White House
Email address for Bill Clinton. Drop him a line and let him know that someone likes him?!
→ Email: president@whitehouse.gov

Japanese Prime Minister's office
Want to see how the other side of the world runs its affairs?
→ WWW: http://www.kantei.go.jp/

Whitehouse Web page
→ WWW: http://www.whitehouse.gov

UK Open Government
→ WWW: http://www.open.gov.uk/



online

Women and Gender Issues

Women in biology newsgroup
→ Usenet: bionet.women-in-bio

Women in Science and Engineering Network (WISENET)
→ Usenet: info.wisenet

(Also check out the alt.feminism newsgroups.)

Zines

Phrack



→ Internet: FTP ftp.netsys.com
Path: /pub/phrack/

Online zines

→ WWW: http://
www.acns.nwu.edu/ezines

Toxic Custard Workshop

→ Internet: FTP ftp.cs.widenedu.edu
Path: /pub/tcwf/

Unplastic News

→ Internet: FTP etext.archive.umich.edu
Path: /pub/Zines/Unplastic_News

Zine Collections

→ Internet: Gopher gopher.cic.net
→ Choose: -> Electronic Serials

Zines at the Wiretap

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library -> Technical Information -> Zines

UWI's Cultural Playground

For all aspects of modern culture, from cyberspace to cult music try this.
→ WWW: http://kzsu.stanford.edu/uwi.html

HotWired

→ WWW: http://www.wired.com

Nature Science & Technology

Aviation

Aircraft

Lots of pictures of aircraft doing what they do best, as well as the usual mixed bag of images of just about everything.
→ Internet: FTP ftp.cstp.umkc.edu
Path: /images/jpg/

Aviation archives

→ Internet: FTP rascal.ics.utexas.edu
Path: /misc/av/

Aviation newsgroups

→ Usenet: rec.aviation.msc
→ Usenet: rec.aviation.soaring (gliders)
→ Usenet: rec.travel.air

Biology

Biology Announcements

→ Usenet: bionet.announce

Bioinformatics resource Gopher

→ Internet: dna.cedb.uwf.edu

General biology discussion

→ Usenet: bionet.general

Genetics

Thinking of doing your own gene-replacement therapy? Well then, you'll need as much gene-sequence information as you can get, and the National Institute of Health Gopher is the place to get it. As well as the gene-sequence data, there's access to a number of databases that would be of interest to you if you're a molecular biologist, or home-DNA enthusiast.

→ Internet: Gopher helix.nih.gov
→ Choose: -> Molecular Biology Database
→ Internet: telnet genbank.bio.net
Login: genbank
Password: 4nigms

Protein and DNA

If you're interested in anything to do with Protein (not beefburgers), the experimental Protein Data Bank Gopher provides a convenient place to get the data you need.

→ Internet: Gopher pdb.pdb.bnl.gov

Earth Sciences

Earth science data directory

→ Internet: Gopher scilibx.ucsc.edu
→ Choose: -> The Researcher -> Science and Engineering -> Earth and Marine Sciences -> USGS Earth Science Data Directory

Smithsonian Natural History.Gopher

This Gopher provides a means of access to the resources of the Smithsonian via the Internet. It has a wide variety of information that would be useful to anyone interested in Natural History.
→ Internet: Gopher nmnhgoph.si.edu

Engineering

IEEE Gopher

This Gopher provides access to a wealth of information on all aspects of computing, electronics and engineering. Periodicals and newsletters produced by the IEEE are available, as well as data on all of the standards decided on by the IEEE.
→ Internet: Gopher info.computer.org

Robotics

→ Internet: FTP ftp.cs.yale.edu
Path: /pub/nisp/

General

→ FidoNet: BOFFINS

Environment

Environet

This is another service run by the Goddard Space Flight Centre, and is therefore owned by the American Government. It's a user-friendly menu-driven environmental data resource, providing you with the information you need.

→ Internet: telnet envnet.gsfc.nasa.gov

Environmental Services Data Directory

→ Internet: telnet esdim1.nodc.noaa.gov
→ Login: noaadir

Greendisk

→ Internet: Gopher info.umd.edu
→ Choose: -> Educational Resources -> The Reading Room -> Environment -> GreenDisk

Fringe Science

How to build a flying saucer

→ Internet: FTP ftp.spies.com
Path: /Library/Fringe/Ufo/build.ufo

Paranormal happenings

If you're interested in things that go bump in the night, or if you're interested in ridiculing people who believe in such things, check out these newsgroups and documents: The Truth is Out There (allegedly).

→ Usenet: alt.out-of-body
→ Usenet: alt.paranormal
→ Usenet: alt.skeptical
→ FidoNet: ALIEN_UFO

Paranormal stories

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Fringes of Reason -> Occult and Paranormal

UFO reports

→ Usenet: alt.ufo.reports

Health

Dietary Information

The Healthline Gopher Service is a guide to what's in what you're eating, plus guides to healthy eating and information about cholesterol, fat and calories.

→ Internet: Gopher selway.umd.edu 700
→ Choose: -> General Health Information -> Dietary Information
→ Usenet: misc.health.alternative

Nutrition Newsgroup

→ Usenet: sci.med.nutrition

Exercise Information

Another one for the overweight-after-a-holiday crowd, this newsgroup has all the information you need to help get into shape.

→ Usenet: misc.fitness

Nursing

If you're interested in any aspect of nursing, check out the Nightingale Gopher. It includes text from nursing publications, and a host of research, practice and other nursing resources.

→ Internet: Gopher nightingale.con.utk.edu

National Library of Medicine

→ WWW: http://
nearthnet/gnn.com/med12.html

Maths and Physics

International System of Units

A definitive list of all the SI units, with details of conversion factors between SI and SI units. Additionally, there is a list of the fundamental constants and definitions of the elemental units themselves. What more could you want?

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library -> Assorted Documents -> International System of Units

Physics gopher

The Physics gopher at the University of Chicago provides access to a great deal of physics-related information, on such topics as general relativity, quantum

cosmology, and high energy particle physics.

→ Internet: Gopher granta.uchicago.edu

Theoretical physics preprint

A selection of papers on such topics as quantum cosmology, high energy physics and fundamental particles.

→ Internet: FTP xxx.lanl.gov
Path: /gr-qd/
Path: /help-th/

Science

Online periodic table

At the speed current particle physics and chemistry is changing, you're never going to be sure which element has the highest atomic number, but never fear, you can be as up-to-date as possible with the online periodic table.

→ Internet: telnet camms2.caos.kun.nl 2034

Space and Astronomy

European Southern Observatory BBS

This is a BBS system for people interested, or actually involved in the European Southern Observatory. There are discussion groups and varied information available in connection with the Observatory, and telescopes and astronomy in general.

→ Internet: telnet bbhost.hq.eso.org
Login: esobb

NASA information

The Goddard space flight centre is a popular resource for news, information and images relating to NASA and most other aspects of space exploration.

→ Internet: FTP toybox.gsfc.nasa.gov
Path: /pub/images/
→ Internet: Gopher gopher.gsfc.nasa.gov

Shoemaker-Levy and other Jupiter-related stuff

Images and data pertaining to the Shoemaker-Levy Jupiter collision. They also have a lot of other images, including excerpts from the newsgroup alt.fractals.pictures

→ Internet: FTP csus.edu
Path: /pub/jupiter/

FidoNet echoes

→ FidoNet: ASTRONOMY
→ FidoNet: ASTRONOMY.026
→ FidoNet: SPACE

The Apollo 11 moon landing

(Buzz Aldrin Home Page)
→ WWW: http://uptime.com:2350/

The Weather

American National Weather service

This site can supply data relating to avalanches, floods and other weather anomalies. You can download snow-coverage maps, to check where or where not to go.

→ Internet: FTP snow.nohrsc.nws.gov
Path: /pub/bbs/

Weather satellite images

If you're interested in the weather, get more clued up than Bill Giles by downloading up-to-date weather satellite images from the Met's server at the University of Edinburgh. Images are available in real black and white and infra-red formats. Other weather related data is also available.

→ Internet: FTP cumulus.met.ed.ac.uk
Path: /images/jpeg/images/gif/

Reference

European History

History database

→ Internet: telnet clus1.ulcc.ac.uk
Login: ihr-uk

Holocaust Online Exhibit

→ Internet: Gopher gaia.sci-ed.fit.edu
→ Choose: -> Subject Area Resources ->
Educational TV -> Holocaust Online
Exhibit

Geo and Demography

CIA world factbook

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Electronic Books -> CIA
World Factbook

European postal code list

→ Internet: FTP nic.funet.fi
Path: /pub/doc/mail/stamps/

Geography server

→ Internet: telnet
martini.eecs.umich.edu 3000

History

History archives

→ Internet: FTP byrd.mu.wnet.edu
Path: /pub/history/

History database

→ Internet: telnet ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu
Login: history

Treaties and international covenants

One of the areas of the Wiretap Online Library contains a large selection of US and international laws, treaties and other assorted legal and historical documents, including the Geneva Convention Treaty, The International Law of the Sea, and the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
Path: -> Government Docs
(US & World)

Vietnam War

For all Missing In Action freaks out there, try this:

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Government Docs (US & World) -> US Historical Documents ->
Vietnam Era Documents

Libraries

Eureka

→ Internet: telnet eureka-info.
stanford.edu

Hytelnet

→ Internet: telnet access.usask.ca

Public Access Catalogues

→ Internet: Gopher world.std.com
→ Choose: -> OBI The Online Book
Initiative -> The Online Books ->
Access

Wiretap Online Library

→ Internet: Gopher wiretap.spies.com
→ Choose: -> Wiretap Online Library

Virtual Library

→ WWW: [http:// info.cern.ch/
hypertext/datasources/
bysubject/overview.html](http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/datasources/bysubject/overview.html)

General

For a list of many Internet libraries, check out the following:

→ Internet: FTP nic.cerf.net
Path: internet/resources
/library_catalog

Philosophy

Ethics

→ Internet: Email
listserv@vm1.nodak.edu.
In message body, type: subscribe
biomed-l <Your full name>

Logic

→ Usenet: sci.logic

Feminist philosophy

→ Internet: Email
listserv@cfrvm.cfr.usf.edu. In
message body, type: sub swip-l
<Your full name>

Hegelian philosophy

→ Internet: Email
listserv@villvm.bitnet. In message
body, type: subscribe hegel <Your
full name>

Philosophy of David Hume

→ Internet: Email
listserv@wmvm11.cc.wm.edu. In
message body, type: subscribe
hume-l <Your full name>

Metaphysics

→ Usenet: sci.philosophy.meta

General

→ Internet: Email
listserv@liverpool.ac.uk. In message
body, type: subscribe philos-l <Your
full name>
→ FidoNet: PHIL

Reference Books

Washington University Archive

This very popular and well stocked archive site contains lots of programs, images and text documents.

→ Internet: FTP wuarchive.wustl.edu
Path: /doc/

Roget's Thesaurus

Need a synonym? Check out the online version of Roget's famous thesaurus.

→ Internet: FTP mcrnext.cso.uiuc.edu
Path: /pub/etext/etext91
/roget13a.txt
→ Internet: WAIS roget-thesaurus.src

Webster's Dictionary Server

Never be lost for words with Websters.
→ Internet: telnet chemm.ucsd.edu
Path: webster

Education Sites

Trinity College, Dublin home page

If you fancy going to Dublin to study, take a look around.

→ WWW: <http://www.tcd.ie>

Samaritans

The Samaritans

If you're in need of counselling, try calling the Samaritans.

→ WWW: jo@samaritans.org

The UK's best selling Internet magazine

Internet AND COMMS TODAY the Directory Disclaimer

This list is for your information only. *Internet and Comms Today* and Paragon Publishing cannot be held responsible for the contents of the sites, their worthiness or current status.

If any of the addresses are incorrect or no longer operating, please inform us as soon as possible.

direct@itoday.demon.co.uk

Notice

Do you know any good World Wide Web sites, FidoNet echoes, information networks or Usenet groups that deserve to be included in the directory? If you do, please let us know so we can tell everyone else about them!

This Directory will be updated every issue to allow sufficient time to elapse for contributions to be included. We will also be making some major changes to the Directory section next month, so watch out for that. If you have any sites you think should be included here, please send them to the email address below before March 16th.

If you miss that date, do not worry – your submissions will be kept for the next update after that. Send any submissions or alterations to:

newsites@itoday.demon.co.uk



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Internet AND COMMS TODAY

next month

Ahhh, it's this page again which can only mean one thing... it's half past midnight three weeks after we were supposed to finish issue seven. So let's look ahead to what we've got cooking for you next month...

Well, you know, it's been quite a hectic few months on this magazine, and perhaps now's the time to review some of our accolades, some of the fruits of our labour, so to speak...

We're the UK's best-selling Internet magazine,

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Our features have been called everything from 'good' to 'unusual' to 'startling' in the Press,

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Who are these people and why should we care about what they have to say? We'll tell you.

The Net and the Ceasefire

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Making Mosaic Work For You

Get into the Electronic Publishing revolution as we guide you through creating your own Web pages.

Cutting the Cost

Quit paying a fortune - we show you how to save £££££s on your online excursions...

Internet and Comms Today - a lot more than just a pretty face - on sale March 2!

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PC POWER

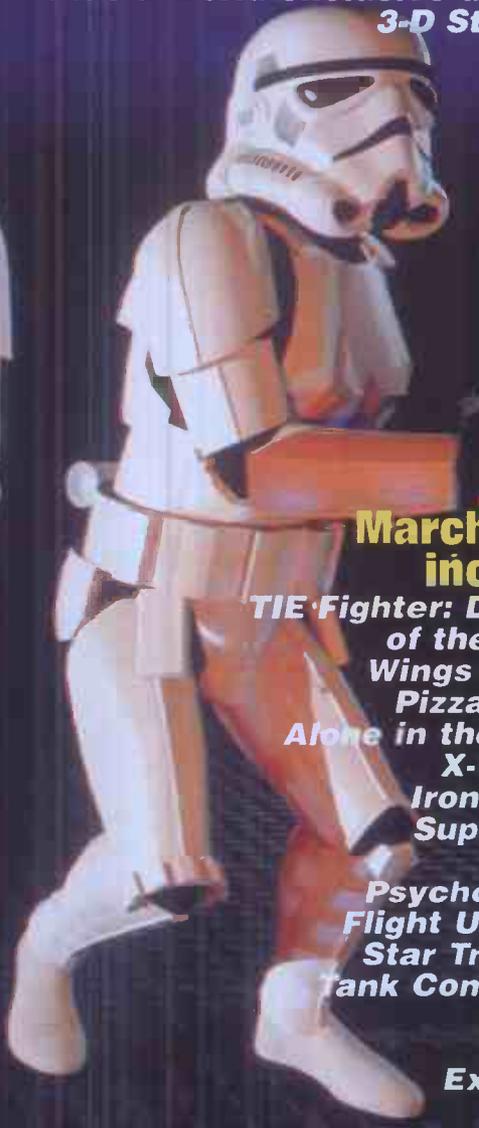
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LucasArts' Doom-killer!

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Operation Body Count ● Battledrome
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TIE Fighter: Defender of the Empire
Wings of Glory
Pizza Tycoon
Alone in the Dark 3
X-Wing CD
Iron Assault
Super Karts
Guilty
Psycho Pinball
Flight Unlimited
Star Trek: TNG
Tank Commander
Cyberia
Sim Isle
Explorer 1
UFO 2
Heretic

Games, hardware, multimedia, technical help and more!

On sale 16 February 1995

If you're having difficulty obtaining a copy of PC POWER HD or PC POWER CD, or you wish to place a regular order for it, hand this form to your local newsagent.

Please reserve me a copy of:

PC POWER HD (ISSN 1350-6064) at £3.99
PC POWER CD (ISSN 1352-7894) at £4.99

PC POWER HD and PC POWER CD are available the second Thursday of every month.

PC POWER HD and PC POWER CD are distributed by Seymour Ltd (0181 679 1899) and are published by Paragon Publishing Ltd (01202 299900). Both are fully SOR.

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Name

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.....

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Bringing Fido to heel part 4



Colin Turner takes a more detailed look at the serious spaghetti of serial settings which need sorting if you want to set up your software sensibly.

We have now covered much of the theory behind FidoNet technology networks. The next thing is to examine the sort of details required to set up a point or a node. I've chosen FrontDoor for this purpose, partly because it's the software I am most familiar with, but also because it is quite a general piece of software, suitable for points and nodes alike. In addition, this sort of mailer can easily be run in front of a BBS package. As I have mentioned earlier, packages such as Terminate may be more suitable if you don't plan to progress beyond a point.

Remember that your mailer is the most important program, it transfers files between your system and your feed. The mailer FrontDoor comes with a setup program. You may find that your mailer is configured via text-files instead, but the principles will be the same.

These hints should help you get your mailer up-and-running and transferring NetMail. There is still more work to do to add in a mail processor. In addition, most PC-based systems require a batch file to rope this all together. I hope to go over these points in the future.



2. FILENAMES

Most mailers will require external programs to work with, and hence common directories are often setup between them. It's a good idea to write down the filenames you set in your mailer on some paper for when you come to configure your mail processor. Some of the most important filenames are:

NETMAIL A folder that stores incoming and outbound NetMail. This will often be used by many other programs.

FILES This is where inbound bundles of mail will be placed by the mailer, ready for processing.

MSGBASE Where the unpacked mail will be placed by your mail processor.

SEMAPHORE This is used by applications that need to talk to each other. You should make the semaphore directory the same for all programs.

Jargon

Feed is the system you call to import and export mail. In the case of a point this is the node above you or Boss, in the case of a node it is often the Net Co-ordinator, or Host.

Flags are tags used in the nodelist to indicate to calling systems what speeds you support, and what times you are available at etc.

Event a configuration for the mailer which is only in affect at certain times of day.

Session password a password exchanged by mailers to allow them to verify the addresses they pass to each other.

Secure session a mail link between two systems which is protected by a session password.

DCE Data circuit-terminating equipment. Used to discuss the modem <-> modem link.

DTE Data terminal equipment. Used to discuss the modem <-> computer link.



1. SYSTEM DETAILS

Main address: This is typically your FidoNet address.

AKA: Here you should list any other addresses you have on an FTN.

Country Code: This is the international number to access your country over the phone. For example, the UK's number is 44. NB. These details must be correct. If they are not it may result in you being thrown off a system when you poll or even receiving the wrong mail. However, there are some other less critical details. These will be presented as lines of information to remote systems when you call:

System Name: In precisely the same way that BBSs have individual names, so can you.

Location: This should contain some info about your geographical location.

Phone: Unless you wish other mail systems to call you, make this -Unpublished-

Flags: In theory this is used to store your flags, as they are in the nodelist.

Frequently the flags field is used to pass a message to the system being contacted, so it's worth reading if you are having problems.

Flags on Echomail messages

Flags on EchoMail are less applicable and so mainly only local, private and sent are used. Note however, that in most echoes, private messages are not allowed, so many systems strip them out of mail on import.

3. MODEMS

One of the most frequent problems in setting up comms software with high speed modems is that there is no 14,400 speed setting in the list, just 9,600 or 19,200, leaving the owners of V32bis (14,400 bps) modems in a dilemma. This confusion is caused by the fact that there are actually two important speeds in comms, the DCE and the DTE speed. The DCE speed is the rate at which data travels between the two modems, but the DTE speed measures how quickly your computer and modem are talking to each other. Clearly, your computer is faster than your modem and so the DTE speed should be as high as your serial card will take, and a good guideline would be at least twice your modem's top speed. The settings in software menus represent this DTE speed.

Many mailers still require a FOSSIL, a program which sits between the serial port and the mailer. X00 and BNU are both reliable programs for this purpose, and should be available from a local BBS. If you have a high speed modem you should use the FOSSIL to 'lock' your serial port. This means that no matter what speed your modem is talking to the remote modem at, the speed between your computer and modem is constant.

For example, in my config.sys I have the line:

```
DEVICE=X00.SYS E B,0,57600 R=4096 T=1024
```

This loads the FOSSIL with the following:

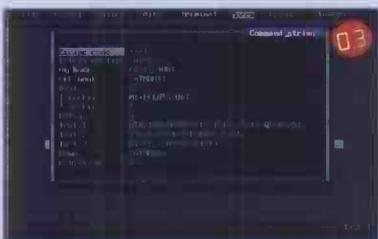
E Don't display advert for usual five seconds.

B,0,57600 Lock COM1 at 57600 (The zero comes from the COM number minus one to get the actual PORT number)

R=4096 A small receive buffer.

T=1024 A small transmit buffer to improve performance.

I strongly advise that you use COM1 or COM2 for your modem on a PC rather than a higher COM number, as AT and PS/2 type computers use different interrupts for their higher COM ports, which makes some software packages harder to configure.



4. EVENTS

If you need the behaviour of your mailer to vary throughout the day, then you will often be able to achieve this by using events. Events are mainly used by systems that are up 24 hours a day. For example, you may wish to disallow users between 7.00 am - 8:00 am and force your system to poll your feed for mail. At the other extreme, you may be running a midnight line service so you can deliver mail continually from midnight till 6.00 am. This can all be done with events. If you are setting up a point system, you should probably alter your events so that your system will not answer the phone when it is running. In FrontDoor there are many options for each event.



5. ROUTING

You will sometimes need to instruct your mailer just where to route all your NetMail to. If you are a point, this is usually an easy task, as your boss is the address you route all your mail through. However, nodes often have complex routing files, and even points may need such complex control if they are in several different mail networks. As a rule of thumb, for multiple mail networks you should keep each network separate. For example, if your boss is 2:443/13 in FidoNet and 44:3001/13 in ChatNet then you should use:

```
; Route all mail in zones 1 -> 6 to Fido address of Colin Route-to 2:443/13.0 1:* 2:* 3:* 4:* 5:* 6:* ;
Route all mail in zone 44 (ChatNet) to ChatNet address of Colin Route-to 44:3001/13.0 44:*
```

which routes all mail to the correct address of your boss, depending which network (zone) your NetMail is in.

You should read instructions about routing carefully, as this is a difficult thing to master, and is the cause of many problems with mailers.

6. NODELISTS

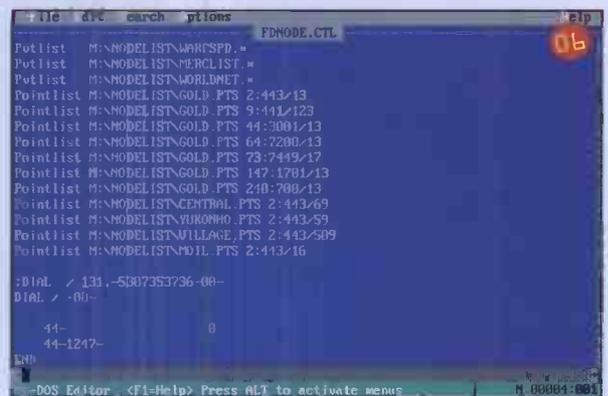
Many mailers will not run at all without a nodelist to help them look up phone numbers. The full FidoNet nodelist is one megabyte even when archived, and so you may opt to use a cut-down UK only copy, or perhaps only Zone 2 (Europe). Even with this reduction remember that index files will often add even more to the amount of space required. The nodelist is distributed throughout the world, and so it must be processed for the UK. Each UK number is listed in the nodelist as:

44-area code (minus leading zero)-local number

We must:

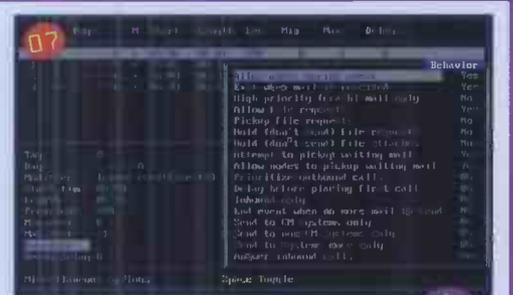
1. add the number for an international call (00) to the front of an international call.
2. remove the 44 from UK numbers and re-insert the leading zero for the area code.
3. preferably remove the local code for local numbers.

The screenshot shows a portion of my control file. The lines from DIAL to END are the most important for starting systems. We'll cover the rest later.



7. SECURITY

It should already be clear that anyone could set up a mailer with a fake address and poll other mailers. In order to prevent someone else picking up your mail from your feed by doing this, you should agree a session password with your feed. This password will be inserted into your configuration against the address of the other system, usually your feed. When you call your feed, the mailers will exchange passwords and, if they are found to match, a secure session will be started. Failure to match passwords will cause the mailers to drop the connection, and will often be logged as a 'session handshake failure'. For this reason it is important that the passwords are inserted at both ends.





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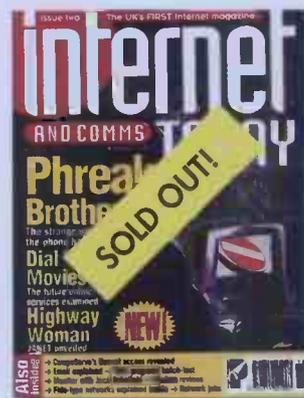
Issue 1

It's our first issue, and we tell you all about the history of the Net, how to get online, and for a brief diversion, take a look at what the cable revolution might mean for the Internet...



Issue 2

More on video-on-demand, as we look at British Telecom's plans in the UK and Time-Warner in the USA. Also, we take a squint at the phone phreaking scene in the UK and unveil Super JANET!



Issue 3

The Internet and Commerce – what does it all mean for us? We show you the sites currently operating. Netscape is unveiled and we look at the history of the hacker in the UK.



Issue 4

Electronic Publishing – it's what the future of the Net is all about. We look at the Electronic Telegraph and look at the Zine scene, and what the future holds. Also: Sexual harassment on the Net – the story that caused a storm.





Setting up your own Bulletin Board

Part one

Do you want to play a real part in the Information Revolution? Do you want to spend your waking hours chained to a computer? Colin Turner explains why you should.

If you are a frequent BBS user, the chances are you've already considered setting up your own BBS, so what exactly is involved in this? A lot depends on what sort of BBS you want to run. Perhaps you're only interested in having your friends call from time to time, or maybe you want to run a full public access BBS like my own. In this tutorial we hope to look at the software and hardware you will need to set up your own BBS, no matter what type you want.

So what sort of hardware do you need to run a BBS? In fact, all that is needed is a computer, modem and of course, access to the phone line for some part of the day. If you want to run your BBS 24 hrs a day it's worth considering running the software under a multitasker, or on a separate machine, otherwise you may find it hard getting to use your own computer. A good modem is a critical part of a popular system, so you should choose a modem that is as fast as you can afford, while still being reliable. Users may be frustrated by calling a system to find that it does not support their top speed, but they will also dislike having to call five times to get one successful connect between the modems. Of course, many prospective Sysops are put off by the investment in another phone line, but it is possible to run a successful system on the house phone line during the evenings, as many BBS users tend to be insomniacs.

There are some terminal packages available that provide a **host mode**. This is a simple facility to allow users to call your computer, perhaps transfer a few files, or leave simple messages. It's

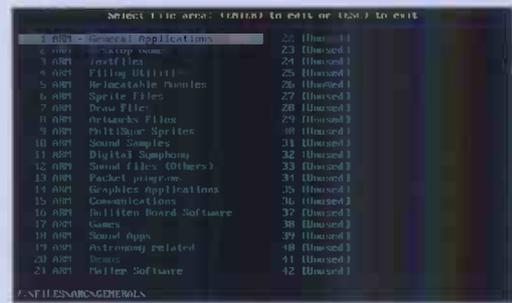
a good idea to set up a small test BBS using your existing computer and modem and such a terminal to get a feel for what's involved. Get a friend to call in so you can check that your computer answers the phone correctly. If you don't know anyone else with a modem, ask your local Sysop who will usually be happy to oblige. If you want to set up a public BBS however, probably your first step should be to think of a name. This will lend a character to your BBS and give it a different feel to other boards, as you may wish to design some of your menus along the theme suggested by the name. Try to make sure the name you want isn't used, at least within your country, by asking an existing Sysop to check for you.

Now you have an idea what sort of theme you have in mind for your BBS, you'll need to consider what type of graphics you want to present your screens and menus in. Such graphics types are also known as terminal emulations. Of course, traditional bitmap graphics can take up a lot of memory, and so it is impractical to send these sorts of graphics over modems, as it is too slow and costly. There are several options, most of which rely on text characters:

1. ASCII

The plain vanilla ASCII code, which almost every computer uses for text files, is the most basic form you can send over a phone line. However, this, and the fact that it is fast to send are the only advantages of this type.

→ Get ready to know and love screen displays like this.



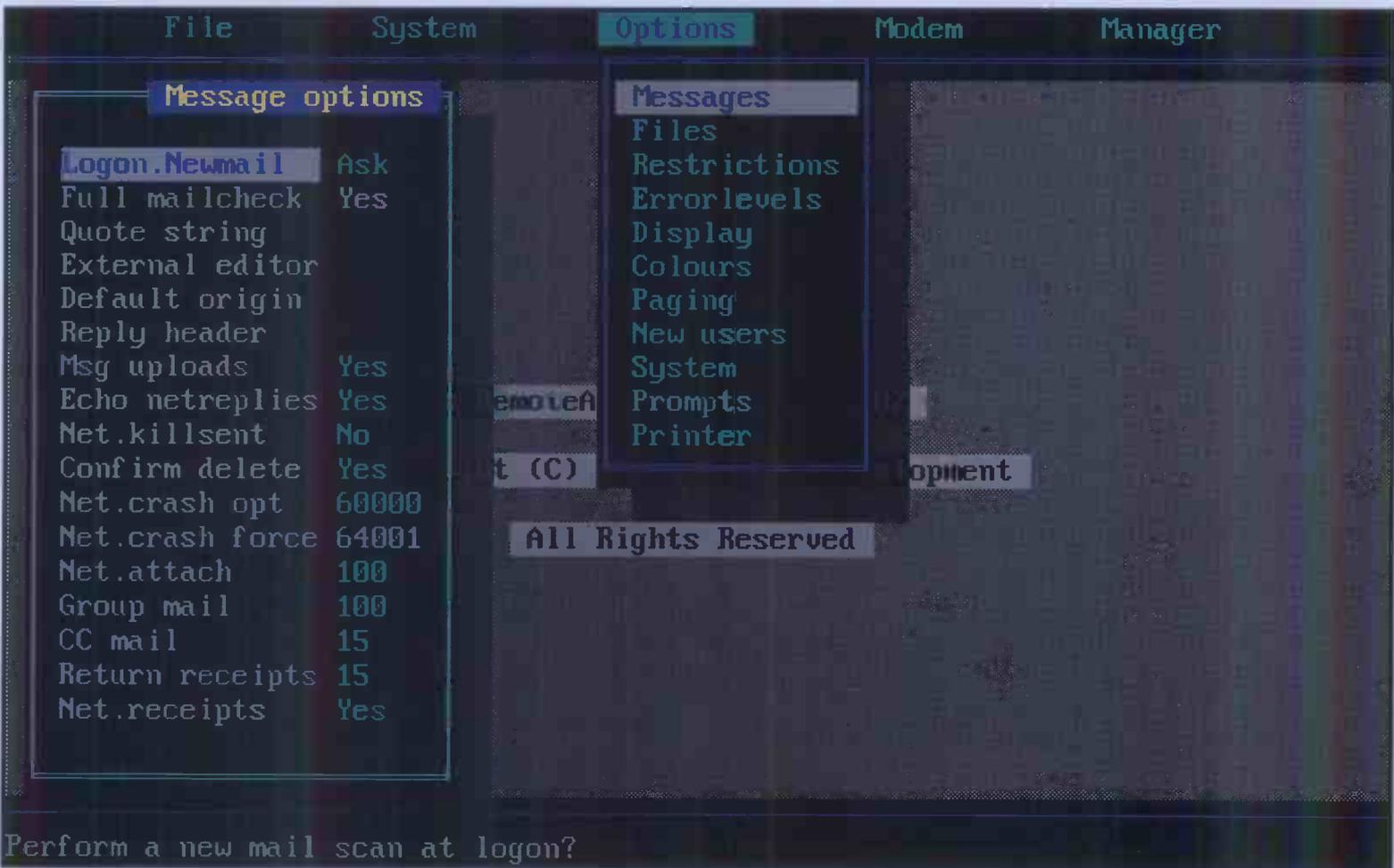
→ Your file area could be the main reason why anyone wants to call your board, so take care of it.

2. ANSI

Most popular computers have terminals that support the ANSI standard. This uses escape codes to produce colour and cursor positioning information. This allows ANSI to be used to create online word processors for writing messages as opposed to the line-based editors used on ASCII systems. However, as each change of colour requires escaped characters, this method is slower than ASCII. Therefore large screens with many colours can prove a headache for slower modem users.

3. AVATAR

A more compact version of ANSI, essentially, although many terminals don't yet support it. Most BBS software that provides AVATAR also has ANSI capability anyway.





→ Out of season yes, but a good example of what is possible with ANSI colour graphics.

4. RIP

The relative newcomer in the field, RIP stands for Remote Imaging Protocol. There are still very few terminals that support this. It allows complex graphical screens to be sent as vector graphics to supporting terminals.

You should look for a BBS package which can support several different graphics types if you want to support a wide range of users. There are three other criteria that you should consider when choosing your software:

1. Mail

You should be able to easily manage mail access for your users. This means that your software should interface well with your mailer. In most cases the mailer will answer the phone, and determine whether or not it is receiving a mail call. If not, it will deduce that it is a human caller, and will pass control over to your BBS software. When your user logs off again, you will want to process any mail (s)he has written and then pass control back to the mailer.

→ A 'Door' is an external program — in this case it's an extended editor program for users to enter mail messages with.

```

TO John Kennedy          FROM Colin Turner          10:30a
SUBJECT editor          ANSi TL 1179 INS
91211 [ Private Messages (LOCAL) ] [ N 1 ]
This is a fully functional editor and much easier to use than traditional
line based ones
  
```

I can use the cursor keys happily, it also has insert

etc

2. Files

You will probably want to provide areas for users to download files from, and so they can upload software to you. Check that your chosen software package has facilities to help you manage file areas.

3. Doors

A Door is an extension to the existing facilities in a BBS software package. They can provide many advanced features, ranging from games such as *Tetris* to **offline** mail preparation. These doors use special files called **exit files** to communicate with the main BBS program in most cases. Therefore you should make sure that your program supports as many of these exit file formats as possible. There are vast numbers of doors available, and so this flexibility will allow you to transform your board.

As you can see, setting up a BBS can be quite a minefield, and a fair amount of forward planning and testing is required to make it easier for you. Next time we will look at RemoteAccess — a particular PC-based BBS package by Andrew Milner, and how you can use it to set up an easy to manage BBS.

Jargon

Sysop A SYSTEM OPERator is the name given to the person who runs the BBS.

host mode A facility offered by many terminals to allow them to handle incoming calls to some level.

S-register Bytes of memory in your modem which can be used to fine-tune its performance.

offline mail A way of archiving and downloading mail to avoid reading and replying online.

init strings Special control sequences sent to the modem to set it up for operation.

The Secret Life of Email part 4

Darren Irvine looks at sending mail from the Internet to other networks, and how to get the best from an email-only Internet account.

Email is a great new communications medium, allowing computer users all over the world to talk to each other, usually for the price of a local phone call. Users on the Internet can quite easily send mail to other Internet denizens and CompuServe subscribers happily email each other. It's only relatively recently that all the world's email systems have begun to get connected together to allow the exchange of mail. In part one of this series we looked at how email can be exchanged between the Internet and FidoNet, and the mechanisms for sending mail from the Internet to one of the large online services like CiX, CompuServe or Delphi are fairly simple. This is because such systems are themselves now on the Internet. However, some systems still require a bit more effort than simply sending mail to 'userid@someservice.com'. We'll have a look at some of these here, as well as providing a list of some of the more common Internet-connected systems.

UUCP

UUCP networks (such as EUnet) use a form of addressing known as 'Bang Addressing'. This system gets its name from the character used to separate various parts of the address, which is the '!' character, known in America as a 'Bang'. Bang addressing is a variation on the normal Domain name system used on the Internet, with the address being read from right to left i.e.:

netname!orgname!username

To send mail from the Internet to such an address, it must be sent via a gateway (such as the American host UUNET) by including the entire Bang Address as the name part of UUNET's normal Internet address i.e.:

netname!orgname!username@uunet.uu.net

netname!orgname!username@uunet.uu.net

Sending from a UUCP network to the Internet is a slightly simpler affair, with normal Internet addresses being supported (if somewhat back to front). In general the format is:

fully.qualified.domain.name!username

So, to mail me from, say, EUnet you would use:

plasma.thegap.com!darsy

It is currently becoming increasingly common for UUCP sites to register proper Internet Domain names and, as this becomes more widespread, the need for Bang Addressing will diminish.

CompuServe

Sending to CompuServe is relatively straightforward, since CompuServe is itself on the Internet. The only aspect foreign to Internet users is the format of CompuServe user IDs. CompuServe users are identified by a mailbox number consisting of two numbers separated by a point, i.e. 12345.1234. Sending email from the Internet is simply a case of addressing it to the appropriate user id "@ " the CompuServe domain name i.e.:

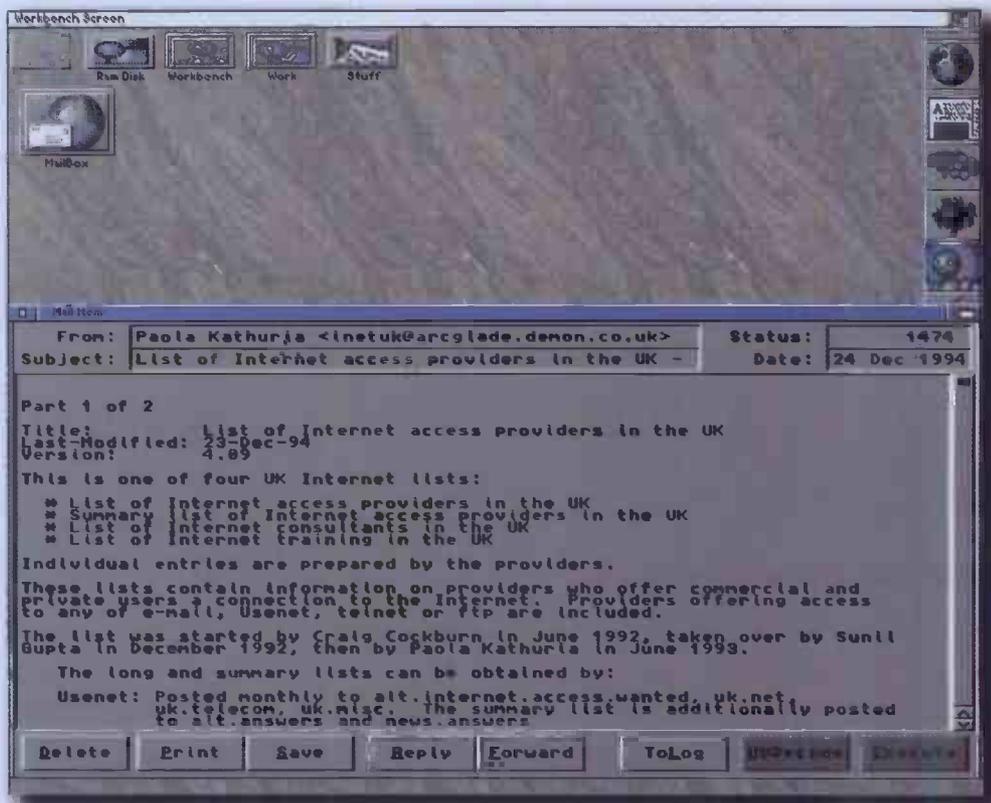
12345.1234@compuserve.com

To send mail the other way, CompuServe users must include text "INTERNET" at the start of the address followed by the desired Internet address. i.e. to send mail from CompuServe to my own Internet address, you would address it to:

INTERNET:darsy@plasma.TheGap.com

Bang Addressing from the Internet sometimes fails if any intermediate site in the path name is down. You might also run into problems when using Bang Addressing on a Unix machine, due to the fact that '!' is a reserved character under Unix. If this is the case, you should prefix each of the '!' in the address with a backslash (in Unix the '\ ' character is used to designate the following character as a character rather than a control), and so the address becomes:

→ Here's something that I received from an automated mailing list, in this case the extremely useful List of Internet Access Providers compiled by Paola Kathuria.



BITNET

Addresses on BITNET (the appallingly-named 'Because It's Time' NET) are of the form USER@SYSTEM, rather than the Internet user@address. This works fine for BITNET-BITNET mail, but sending mail from the Internet to this system requires either the use of a gateway or routing through BITNET's own domain name. The latter makes things simple, with addresses then being in the format:

user@system.bitnet

However, in many cases this format will not work, and you will have to send mail through one of the BITNET gateways, for example:

cunvym.cuny.edu or **mitvma.mit.edu**

In this case, the address you need is a composite of the original BITNET address, and the gateway's own domain name. Because some systems will only allow one '@' sign in an address, you should replace the BITNET one with a percentage sign, so the address becomes:

user%system.bitnet@cunvym.cuny.edu

BITNET users themselves can normally send mail to the Internet using normal Internet addresses, but in some cases local variations apply.

X.400

X.400 systems (such as SprintNet and BT's Gold 400) use a standard developed by the ITU-TSS. It is also used by many EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) systems for communication between systems such as electronic part-ordering and stock control. The X.400 system is completely different from Internet domain-based addressing, and there are slight variations in the way in which X.400 is itself implemented on each system. A typical address might look like:

G:firstname/I:initial/S:lastname/OU:org_unit/O:org/PRMD:priv_domain_code/

Somehow, this lot has to be squeezed into a standard Internet type address if you want to send mail to a system such as Gold 400, along with an identifier for the particular X.400 system itself. For Gold 400 use an address in the following format:

**firstname.initial.lastname@org_unit.org.priv_do
main_code-gold-400.gb**

If you are a Gold 400 user and you wish to send mail to an Internet address such as user@address, you will have to make up for the lack of most of the X.400 fields by substituting in the defaults for the Internet gateway. In addition, special characters like '@' are not allowed and should be substituted as follows:

@ = (a), %=(p), !=(b), “=(q)

So the full address becomes:

**/DD.RFC-
822=user(a)address/O=uknet/PRMD=uk.ac/ADM
D=gold 400/C=GB/**

Exploring by Email

So far in this series we've covered things like Archie and FTP by email, as well as how to send email between various systems. As you've probably realised by now, there isn't really anything much that you can't do on the Internet by email, apart from real-time applications like IRC and the bandwidth-busting CuSee-Me. However, one of the disadvantages of using the various email related resources, is that it can be a lot less intuitive to use than, for example, using Mosaic to browse the World Wide Web. Simply finding stuff can become tedious when you have to wait for each reply to each of the search commands that you email. Fortunately, there are a number of things you can do to make life with a mail-only Internet account bearable.

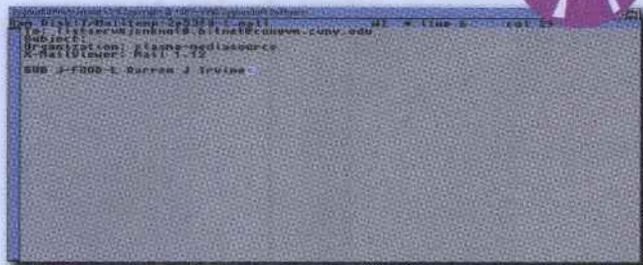
One of the easiest ways to expand your contacts with the Internet is to subscribe to some mailing lists. There are mailing lists covering subjects as diverse as bee-keeping and lock-picking, and subscribing to one is usually as simple as sending an email with the word "subscribe" plus your full name to the administrator of the list server. The exact nature of the subscription method is list-specific, and you might be thinking that this makes them just as hard to use as any other Internet resource. However, this particular problem has been solved by virtue of the fact that in several places on the Internet a number of altruistic people regularly compile up-to-date lists of all the Internet mailing lists, and make these lists of lists available by anonymous FTP. And, as we've already seen, FTP is no problem to do using email. In fact, the electronic version of the Prentice-Hall book, 'Internet: Mailing Lists', is available directly by email. Use either:

FTP **ftp.nisc.sri.com path/netinfo/interest-groups**
or

Mail **mail-server@nisc.sri.com**
and include in the body of your message:
send netinfo/interest-groups

Someone else's hard work

The other main way of minimising the time that you spend searching for things via email is to get hold of



→ This shows the headers and body required for an email subscription to a mailing list. In this case it's the list for people interested in Japanese food. Note that the address is also an example of mailing from the Internet to BITNET.

one of the various lists and compilations of interesting Internet resources that has been compiled by someone else. Although these restrict you to a list of things that someone else finds interesting, some of these resource lists can be remarkably in-depth and can serve very well as 'jumping off' points for further Internet exploration. The following is a small list of some of the more well-known Internet resource lists. These themselves contain pointers to other more obscure and specialised information sources.

The December List

FTP **ftp.rpi.edu path
/pub/communications/internet-cmc**

Internet Resource List

Mail **info-server@nsc.nsf.net**

Internet Services

Mail **fileserv@shsu.edu**
and include in the body of your message:
sendme MaasInfo.TopIndex*

The Yanoff List

FTP **csd4.csd.uwm.edu path
/pub/inet.services.txt**

You should bear in mind that you can use any of the above Internet mail resources if you are able to exchange mail with the Internet from any other system you use. But, if you are using FidoNet, many of the mail gateways impose a limit on the size of mail messages that can be sent, so check before requesting a file by FTP or subscribing to a mailing list, that the file that you want is within this limit.

Some Internet-Connected Systems

As well as the more well known systems, such as CiX and Delphi, there are a wide range of online systems that are directly connected to the Internet for the purposes of exchanging email. The following is a short guide on how to send email to a few of them:

System	Address Format
Applelink	user@applelink.apple.com
AT&T mail	user@attmail.com
bix	user@bix.com
Chasque	user@chasque.apc.org
CiX	user@cix.compulink.co.uk
Delphi	user@delphi.com
Genie	user@genie.geis.com
Glasnet	user@glas.apc.org
Greennet	user@gn.apc.org
Niftyserve	user@niftyserve.or.jp
Prodigy	user@prodigy.com



If you've got problems, forget Marge Proops, forget Relate. Darren Irvine is the only one you can really trust to ease your agony.

HELPDESK

IRC SOS

 Please can you help? Is there an IRC client software program available for the Macintosh? I've looked around but can't find one, and I'm getting a bit fed up telnetting to one of the public access sites.
→ Clive Rogers, Glasgow

→ There are a number of anonymous FTP sites on the Internet that contain both source code and executables for IRC clients. Try one of the following:

FTP [cs-ftp.bu.edu](ftp://cs-ftp.bu.edu)
path: /irc/clients/macintosh
or
FTP [ftp.funet.fi](ftp://ftp.funet.fi)
path: /pub/unix/irc/mac
or
FTP [ftp.ira.uka.de](ftp://ftp.ira.uka.de)
path: /pub/systems.mac

Nightmare on Elm Street

 Can you give me any pointers to sources of help with regard to the mail program 'Elm'? I have been using it for a while now, but I haven't really got a clue beyond the simplest functions. Is there somewhere on the Internet where I can find out more about Elm?
→ Iain Richardson, London

→ First off, there is the Usenet Newsgroup comp.mail.elm. There are also a number of places on the World Wide Web that have Elm-related material. Try the following URLs:

<http://www.myxa.com/elm.html>
<http://www.cis.ohiostate.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/elm/top.html>

Kiboshed

 Great magazine. I've read the first two issues and can see that in a few months I will need to search for that useful tip I saw! Will you offer a database to search for answers to our questions rather than bothering you each time? I read somewhere that God reads the newsgroups and if he sees his name anywhere he will reply. What is his name? I am trying to find a multi-user, windows-based offline reader that I can use on this one PC. I do not have MSMail, although the PCUG have a mail gateway that might provide an answer to the automatic sorting of mail as it comes in. I read with interest your article on mail software, but the two programmes Eudora and Pegasus do not appear to be multi-user, am I wrong? Can you give me an explanation of the difference between POP and SMTP and what are their advantages and disadvantages? Perhaps you can start giving away free disks of comms software that we can try out for ourselves. This will save download time and phone bills and make your mag more attractive. Good luck and thanks.

→ Steve Crisp
saha@acorn.win-uk.net

→ With regard to providing a database containing the answers to the questions in Helpdesk, we'll probably be putting these on our Web pages in the near future. The 'God' that you are referring to is called 'Kibo', who will apparently notice (and possibly reply to) any reference to his name any-

where on Usenet. There are now several others using such 'Kiboising' software.

Eudora and Pegasus are not multi-user in the traditional sense, since they are intended for use by a single user on a stand-alone machine. However they both support multiple mail folders, allowing more than one user to keep their mail separate.

POP stands for Post Office Protocol and is a more modern method of transferring email from machine to machine than SMTP – Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. Look out for a full investigation of each in our email section soon.

Coverdisks are always a contentious issue, since it would be hard to cater for all the platforms being used for Internet access. As for making the magazine more attractive, it's already got a picture of me in it – what more could you want?

Boxing clever

 Please can you help me – how do I send mail to a mail box, say, [alt.genealogy](mailto:alt.genealogy@newsserver.somehost.net) using PCELM. I know it's a simple question but I cannot find the answer.

→ Norman Hartford

→ Presuming that by 'mail box' you are referring to a Usenet newsgroup, this is a reasonably simple question to answer – providing you know the name of the newsgroup server belonging to your Internet access provider. For example, if the appropriate server name is

newsserver.somehost.net

you should send your mail message to the following address:

alt.genealogy@newsserver.somehost.net

If you don't have direct Internet access, there are still a number of ways to post to newsgroups, and the easiest is to send via an anonymous gateway:

alt.genealogy@anon.penet.fi

Mosaic musing

 Can you guys help? I am a relative newbie to the Net and after having read your mag for the first two months I am keen to use Mosaic to do a bit of 'netsurfing'. However I am having great difficulty setting this up on my Amiga and, to date, all I have managed to do is get the Home page to display text, but no matter how much I try I cannot get any images to display at all.

The software I am using is as follows: AmiTCP DisR10.Beta 3 (Demon's setup pack) Mosaic 1.2 Zgif (in my data types drawer).

→ Eddie Wisla
eddie@eddie.demon.co.uk

→ The first thing to check for here is whether or not your GIF datatype is actually working, by using a display program such as ViewTek to try and display a GIF file. Next, I'd try renaming the file so that your datatypes drawer actually contains a file called 'gif' rather than 'zgif', as this is

what I have myself and it works fine. As you've probably discovered, you need MUI (Magic User Interface) installed on your Amiga to get AMosaic up and running. You could try altering the MUI setup for the screen on which Mosaic is running – it must be at least eight colours for GIF images to display.

Script writing

Q I run a section of a WWW server, as a hobby, and have a minor problem. It is possible for Mosaic to run scripts on a server (C, Perl, TCL etc.), by accessing them as if they were documents in themselves. e.g.

<http://wwwpnp.physics.ox.ac.uk/~page/cgi-bin/lottery>

Is it possible to setup an HTML document to automatically invoke a script when that document is loaded?

P.S. Any chance of including our site in your address directory? The address is:

<http://wwwpnp.physics.ox.ac.uk/~page/home.html>

→ Dave Page
d.page1@physics.oxford.ac.uk

→ It is quite possible to do what you want – just have a look at the following site for an example:

<http://kuhttp.cc.ukans.edu/cwis/organizations/kucia/uroulette/uroulette.html>

However the exact implementation depends on the machine that you're running your Web server on. We're continuously updating both our directory and our own Web pages, so I'm sure we can fit your site in. By the way, you can get access to the above site from the 'stuff' link on I&CT's own Web pages.

Spawny git

Q I'm using MH mail handler software on my Linux system, and have no problems with the software itself. My problem is with my own typing – it's terrible. So what I was wondering is, can you tell me if there is any way to easily spell-check my mail messages before sending them? I know I can do this by spawning out from my editor to the spellchecker and then saving the message when I return, but I would like to be able to automate the whole thing. I have both vi and emacs as editors. Thanks.

→ Karen Garcia
kgarcia@dynak.co.uk

→ The editor you use is irrelevant in this case as MH supports piped commands directly at its 'What now?' prompt. Assuming that your spelling program is called 'spellcheck' just try this:

What now? vi spellcheck

MH will then automatically pipe the file 'draftfile' in your draft directory through your spelling checker before attempting to do anything else with the message. You'll probably run into a few problems in that the message header will show up as containing some spelling mistakes, but you should be able to live with this. If you like, you can automate this a bit further by adding a line to your MH profile file for each editor used like this:

vi-next: spellcheck emacs-next: spellcheck etc

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q In quite a few Usenet newsgroups I've seen people with sigs that seem to include random words after the word 'fodder'. Can you tell me what this is all about? Or am I just imagining the whole thing?

→ J. Laswell, Bucks.

→ This sort of thing is an extension of the original Internet myth concerning the supposed archiving of every message ever posted to all the Usenet newsgroups by the NSA in America.

When this myth first started circulating people started putting 'random' words such as 'conspiracy', 'CIA', and 'assassination' in their sigs that they thought would interest the NSA, preceded by the words 'Spook fodder'. More recently, a few people have been perpetuating a similar myth about the notorious Canter & Siegel, by including things like 'green card' and 'Joel Furr' in their sigs. This is the sort of thing that Americans seem to find amusing.

Q Dairen, please help a new boy to email. I have access via a BT mainframe and through that, WWW, but cannot do so because I am only text with just the Windows Terminal. What more do I need? I do have Mosaic but I'm not getting much help from here.

→ Reg Williamson
regwillm@ada01.keele.cc.ac.uk

→ By the sound of things, you must be using Terminal to access a system prompt on the mainframe through which you get Internet access. If this is the case, you will be unable to run Mosaic as it

requires a direct (i.e. TCP/IP) connection to the Internet.

However, you can still use the World Wide Web (albeit still in text mode) by Telnet to this site:

telnet telnet.w3.org

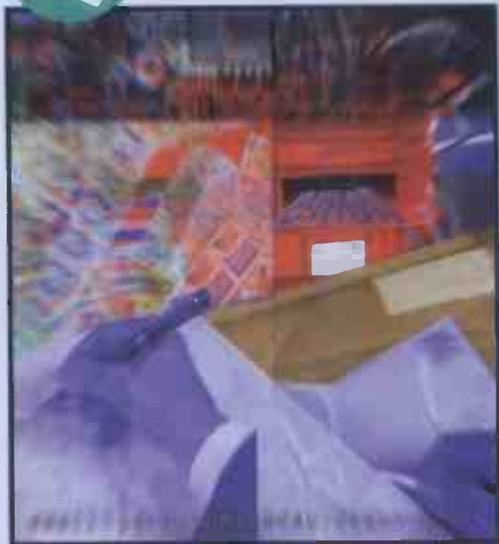
If you are in any doubt, ask the system manager of the BT mainframe. You never know your luck – you might be able to get a full connection after all. In this case you will need a program called Winsock to act as a link between the mainframe and Mosaic. Have a look at the feature in the January issue for more details.

Q I'm stuck. Please let me know where can I get FAQs concerning Telnet and Usenet. Thanks.

→ Manfred Hellrigl
lgai@vumiax10.br.vlr.gv.at

→ There are FAQs available from a variety of sources on the Internet. One of the best is available from the following, appropriately-named anonymous FTP site:

address: rtfm.mit.edu path: /pub/usenet/rec.answers



We may not have received many Valentine's cards in the I&CT office, but we did get oodles of loving letters from our adoring readers. By the way, what time is love?

Outlaws?

Dear I&CT,

I am doing a project on computer crime, encompassing computer hacking, implantation of viruses and computer pornography.

I read your excellent article on Phreakers in issue two so I thought you'd be the people to write to. As a novice I am trying to investigate the legality surrounding the Internet. I have so far been unsuccessful in finding out the general information I need on where the Internet is based, who runs it, the number of members it has, whether there is any legal control placed over the network and its subscribers (if so, by whom?) and, lastly, what the procedure is for subscribing to the Internet (the costs and paperwork involved).

→ Tariq Khan
London

→ This may not be what you want to hear, but:
1. The Internet is not strictly based anywhere, as it is really more of a concept than an actual 'thing'. Basically it is the link between a collection of

- computers and networks all over the world.
- No-one runs it (see 1.). Certain companies or organisations may charge you for access to it, but they don't strictly own it.
- Any guess at the number of users is a wild estimate – the current one stands at over 20 million users.
- Because there is no single body controlling the Net, legal control is difficult – basically there is none. In the same way that governments have no control over the satellite signals that come into their air-space, there is no control over what happens online. However, Net users themselves have built up a set of rules of behaviour or 'Netiquette' which, if broken, can result in some serious flaming (angry, abusive or basically 'slagging-off' messages).
- You don't strictly 'subscribe' to the Internet. What you do (in very basic terms) is pay a 'service provider' who then gives you a phone number and some software which allows you to connect to the Internet. (See page 92 for a list of UK providers.) The cost of this obviously depends upon the provider you use and what sort of service you are getting, but you usually pay a joining fee (£10-30) and a subsequent monthly or yearly charge (£10-£20/month).

Internet Italia

Dear I&CT,

As an Italian I am interested in getting onto the Internet in Italy. Would you kindly let me know the names of the Internet service providers in Italy or, if none exist, the addresses of those in the UK?

→ Roberto Menicagli
Worthing

→ For the full lowdown on UK service providers, see our comprehensive feature in issue three,

How do they do that?

Dear I&CT,

You'll be pleased to know that I've now bought the first two issues of Internet and Comms Today. What's more, I'll probably buy the next few issues as well – if it's still available, that is.

I query the mag's future availability (should that be viability?) for one reason: issue two contains approximately 14 pages of advertising! Hell, how do you manage to keep going? Well, either your publisher has extremely deep pockets, I&CT is a charitable institution, Paragon has a very understanding bank manager or advertising is thin on the ground. I can't make up my mind which it is. Can you help?

With less than 20% of this magazine's pages being devoted to advertising I doubt whether any I&CT staff (especially the editor and the publisher) get any sleep at night – unless they're on something.

Anyway, I give I&CT 7 out of 10. Don't feel too disappointed, as I've not even surfed the info-highway yet!

→ Ray J. Howes
Eureka! Publishing

P.S. If one yearns to become an Internet guru, is it absolutely necessary to sport a Mohican haircut and have various parts of one's anatomy adorned and pierced with pieces of metal? If so, I'll forget it!

→ Are you by any chance referring to 'Net guru', Davey Winder? Does this mean you have been reading another, leading brand of Internet magazine? Shame on you! The beauty of interaction via the Internet is that your appearance really doesn't matter (read our feature on Internet Dating – p.46 – for real proof of this).

As for your views on our advertising content – yes we do sleep at night, and we manage to live rich, fulfilling lives during the day, too! What's more, I would think most readers would rather get more stunning, incisive and entertaining editorial per pound than have to search through pages of ads. Fret not, I&CT, the UK's best-selling Internet mag, is here to stay and will be offering a hotline to what's online for years to come.

MAILBOX



What's best for BB?

Dear I&CT,

What an excellent magazine!!

I only noticed I&CT after the second issue. To my surprise it was not solely based around the Internet, which a fair few of us do not have the money to subscribe to. I found the articles on FidoNet extremely useful in understanding some of the common but non-explained terms. Up until now I had no real idea what a point was!! Being a newcomer to comms, it was hard to find understandable material on the subject without shelling out £20 for a book.

I am currently setting up my own BBS and being overcome by the complexities of FidoNet and Trapdoor on my Amiga. There seems to be a distinct lack of reviews of old and new, commercial and shareware BBS software. Having taken out my frustrations on my keyboard, after downloading all the BBS software I could find, I'm still not sure which package I should buy. A number of people have now suggested I invest in the £200 DLG Professional BBS package. How can I know whether this is worth my £200. How about following up your point software review with some BBS reviews?

Keep up the great work!! :-)

→ **Julian Young**

Ripon, Nth Yorks

P.S. I loved the article on Phreaking, perhaps something on the use and future of ANSI would be good. I found the idea of ANSI music in Virtual Net intriguing, tell me more!!! ;-)

→ *No, stop, it's all too much! What have we done to deserve all this praise? Apart from produce a corker of a mag, that is. We've had loads of interest in our FidoNet articles, an area other mags seem to ignore, and we'll be keeping up the good work.*

As for setting up a BBS – turn to page 80, if you haven't already, and you'll see great minds think alike!

(back issues can be bought from our subs and mail order dept – see page 76.) or see page 92 of this issue for a list of the names and phone numbers of UK service providers. EUNET and PIPEX both have a presence in Italy, but they deal mainly with business users. However, they may know of Italian service providers for single users.

Not the Nine O'Clock News

Dear I&CT,

Having bought issue one of I&CT, may I congratulate you on producing an excellent magazine. But would you please remember that not everyone owns an IBM computer! Because I use an Atari 1020 ST I could not use Internet, even if I could afford it.

Your comment about the antipathy to home computers by some sections of the 'traditional' press is certainly true. I have used computer comms since the days of the old Prestel MicroNet and I suspect that part of this 'problem' stems

from the publicity given to hacking and software piracy, now added to by the horror stories of juvenile corruption through software pornography.

However, I suspect that there is another side to this 'problem'. As you say, there are still some editors who don't seem to know a great deal about computers, but those journalists who have learned to make full use of their computer communications equipment have realised that many bulletin boards allow members immediate access to accurate world-wide news and information!

With the 'press' now servicing a dwindling market decimated by television news and ever-rising costs, computer communications are set to become another competitor, over which they (and their agencies) have absolutely no control!

→ **Brian Wigglesworth**

Wateringbury, Kent

→ *The mis- (or under-) representation of the Internet by the media is a growing concern for Net-loyalists. I believe that the current atmosphere of suspicion, accusation and ignorance is due to faults on both sides. Enthusiasts are always cynical about any 'outsider's' interest in their particular activity. A piece in the 'general' press about the Net is bound to draw ridicule from experienced Net-users, but then, the piece wasn't written for them. This doesn't excuse the sloppy research and deliberate, hysteria-inducing misinformation behind much of the mainstream press's Net coverage, but is everything on the Net the Lord's pure and honest truth? Hopefully, before too long, the Net will become just another medium of mass communication, and we can all stop worrying about the medium, and start concentrating on the message.*

Out of the black and into the red

Dear I&CT,

Just got your launch issue despite the fact that, due to running up a massive phone bill playing the X\$X Net game *The Black Room*, I've now agreed with my mum to stay off the Net until the new year, hence the 'snail mail'...

It's the interactive aspect of the Net (which, unlike CD-ROMs, is more than "click here for more info") that's the big attraction for me, but it is under-utilised. The X\$X game is definitely written for interactivity. (Its success may be due to the fact that X\$X are, rumour has it, an off-shoot of the former KLF, and *The Black Room* is, supposedly, the missing link between their former incarnation – The JAMMS – and their current persona – The K Foundation.) I'm surprised that more programmers aren't able to envisage that a CD-ROM is potentially only the 'acquisition format' for entry into an essentially 'Net expandable' gaming/communication industry.

Obviously, until access can be truly live through accelerated data transfer rates, this idea is somewhat restricted to text-adventures (as with early adventure games) My idea is that a player could buy a CD-ROM containing access to Net files (obviously updating elements of the disc, 'live'). This would be the beginning of a wider concept of 'computer gaming'.

Do any other readers have examples of games or other CD software which use this kind of idea?

I've heard of another KLF-related release from 1992 (on the CDTV) which used this idea but this was before I knew what 'Net-access capability' and such terms meant...

Any thoughts or further info from you info-freakoes out there?

Yours celibately (until 1995) in Net-terms.

→ **Daniel Kennedy**

Cardiff

→ *Many computer games makers are now realising that interactive games (as in games that can be played with or against other human players) are the way forward out of the recent gaming rut. Many games are now out which, while they are not quite the gaming revolution you describe, do at least offer the chance of live, multi-player action. We covered the new, wide world of network gaming in our first issue, but we will be returning to the needs of lonely gamers in our next issue, with a look at bulletin board games.*

Listen to the radio

Dear I&CT,

So many Internet magazines have come out recently, but yours definitely stands out – brilliant articles that don't succumb to the hype seen in other mags/newspapers.

The hacking/phreaking articles were very interesting and were sufficiently technical. I am relatively new to the Internet and a beginners' guide on FTP and Usenet would be welcome!

When looking at your title, Internet and Comms Today, I was hoping that there would be a section on radio communications. An article covering packet radio or satellite/microwave links (part of the Internet does survive through these links, after all) need not threaten the coverage of computer networking, but it would make sure that this superb publication stays the best!

→ **Ben**

ben@cryton.demon.co.uk

→ *We will be looking into the wider spectrum of communications in future issues, but we will still be concentrating on computer comms. Still, I hope you will be interested in our future features on portable comms, using laptops and radio modems!*

Email us with your thoughts,
at

letters@itoday.demon.co.uk

or write to: Letters, Internet

and Comms Today, Paragon

Publishing, Durham House,

124 Old Christchurch Road,

Bournemouth BH1 1NF.

Get Connected

A quick guide to getting online...

There are four things you require to gain access to the Internet; a computer, a modem, some software and a service provider. The first item on the list is down to you, you can get on line with any modern computer but the availability of software

to access various areas of the Internet differs across machine formats. You can get modems from a wide range of sources and there are dozens of models to choose from. Some service providers can supply you with one, but wherever you get it from the rule is the faster, the better.

Getting online

There are two ways to access the Internet, firstly, as mentioned above, you can get a proper 'dial-up' account with a service provider or you can find a bulletin board service (BBS) that offers Internet services and get a form of access from them. This

Bibliography

While practically all information about the Internet can be found online it is also scattered across the far corners of the Net. Ye olde paper based books bring much of this information together so we can recommend the following which are available from good bookstores or from Computer Manuals on (021) 706 6000.

The Internet Unleashed	SAMS Publishing	£37.95
Internet for Dummies	IDG Publishing	£7.99
Quick Ref	Hayden Books	\$29.99
Internet Starter Kit for Macintosh	Hayden Books	\$29.99
Internet Start Kit for Windows	Random House	£17.49
Netguide		

is usually limited to just a few hundred popular newsgroups and email access.

Software to get on the Internet will be provided by your service provider. However there are a variety of mail reading packages and, more recently, World Wide Web browsers to choose from. The last decision you will make is which service provider to use get online with. The choice is growing on a weekly basis but the main factor to take into consideration is most likely to be the damage to your phone bill.

If you already have a computer then you're already half way home – the five most popular makes in the UK are PC compatibles, Macs, Amigas, Atari STs and Acorns. The PC and Mac are standard office equipment and as such have the most software available. The others have loyal home user bases and the amount of Internet software is growing for each one.



Service Providers:

If you want full Internet access then you need a service provider. We're not going to mess about here – we recommend you check the following list if you are after full Internet access. CompuServe does not, as yet, offer full Internet access, and is highly expensive on top of that.

You're really looking for a service provider with a connection point nearest to you (ring around since the difference between local calls and long distance is pretty big) to keep phone bills down. Please note that EUNET, Lunatech and PIPEX are primarily business service providers, although PIPEX do offer a package called SOLO for the home user.

Name	Phone	Price	Serves
Aladdin	(01489) 782221	£25 init + £15 per 20hrs	Solent
Atlas	(0171) 3120400	£25 init + £36 per qtr	Major cities
Cityscape	(01223) 566950	£50 init + £180 per year	Major cities
Demon	(0181) 3711234	£12.50 init + £10 monthly	Major cities
Direct	(0181) 3170100	£10 monthly	London
Dungeon	(01366) 383047	£10 monthly	Cambridge
EUNET	(01227) 266466	£300 init + £450 per qtr	Global
Genesis	(01232) 231622	£25 init + £15 monthly	N. Ireland
GreenNet	(0171) 7131941	£15 init + £5 monthly	London
Pavilion	(01273) 607072	£17.75 init + £17.75 monthly	Brighton
PIPEX	(01223) 250120	from £50 init + £180 per year	Global
U-Net	(01925) 633144	£12 init + £12 monthly	Warrington
Zynet	(01392) 426160	£20 init + £18 monthly	Exeter

Modems

You need a modem. We recommend the US Robotics Sportster 14.4 or 28.8 and the Hayes Optima 28.8. The prices range from about £100 for the 14.4 Sportster, to close on £500 for the Optima. A general rule of thumb – the faster the modem, the better, so go for a 28.8 if you can possibly stretch that far. But don't go lower than a 14.4.

The important phrases to remember when buying a modem are V32bis, which relates to the modem's speed and V42bis which allows the modem to compress files, saving you time. Add Fax to your list if you want the facility of sending faxes by computer. PC owners have the added complication of picking an internal or external modem. External modems are easier to set up, while internal ones save space.



ted!

Your computer

Amiga, ST and Acorn owners have a somewhat less easy time on the Net, compared to Mac and PC owners. For a start these machines often don't come with a hard disk in their basic package, which is something of a necessity when dealing with anything more than email.

Software is another potential problem. Luckily Demon Internet and Delphi provide Amiga packages while Demon also have an ST package with which to get online. Currently there is no Web software out for the ST yet, although it should be available shortly.

What is the Internet?

Usenet	Over 11,000 newsgroups (ie public discussion areas) on just about any and every topic imaginable.
Email	Electronic mail – the best reason for going online
FTP	Allows you to download files from other machines.
IRC	Talk to other people via your keyboard, in real-time.
Gopher, Archie etc.	Programs to search out information on the Net.
Telnet	Gives you direct access to another computer.
World Wide Web	The latest addition, allowing multimedia information to be viewed from your computer.

Software

Most service providers should give you all the required software to access the Internet. You can't just use a regular comms package. The basic Internet software kit should consist of the following elements.

Dialler	A program to get you online and logged in with your provider.
FTP	Allows you to download software from other computers.
Email	Lets you send and read mail messages.
Telnet	A program that lets you transfer to another computer.
Gopher	A search utility for the Internet, there are other types of searcher also available.
Newsreader	Lets you read the newsgroups.
Web browser	Gives you access to the extremely fashionable World Wide Web.

AMIGA

Program type	Name	Available from
DIALLER	amiganos	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/amiga/amiganos-with-ppp
EMAIL	Amigaelm	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/amiga/mail
WEB	Mosaic	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/amiga/mosaic
GOPHER	<included in Mosaic>	
USENET	GRn	ftp.src.doc.ic.ac.uk
TELNET	<included in AmiTCP>	
FTP	<included in AmiTCP>	
TCP	AmiTCP	ftp.src.doc.ic.ac.uk

ARCHIMEDES

Program type	Name	Available from
DIALLER	slipdial	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/archimedes/slipdial
GOPHER	gopher.arc	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/archimedes
WEB	arcweb	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/archimedes/www
TCP:	!TCP	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/archimedes
USENET	Readnews	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/archimedes
TELNET:	Termite	<available shortly>
FTP	Termite	<available shortly>

ATARI ST

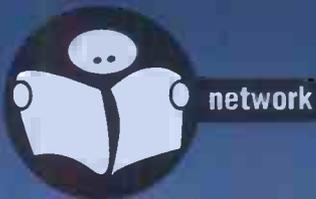
Program type	Name	Available from
DIALLER	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q
GOPHER	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q
USENET	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q
TELNET	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q
TCP	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q
EMAIL	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q
FTP	ka9q	ftp.demon.co.uk /pub/atari/ka9q

MACINTOSH

Program type	Name	Available from
DIALLER	ConiigPPP	ftp.demon.co.uk/pub/mac/
EMAIL	Addmail & Eudora	ftp.qualcomm.com
GOPHER	TurboGopher	ftp.demon.co.uk/pub/mac/
USENET	Newsatcher	ftp.demon.co.uk/pub/mac/
WEB	Netscape	ftp.mcom.com/netscape
TCP	MacTCP	<available from Internet Starter Kit for Macintosh book>
FTP	Fetch	ftp.tidbits.com

PC

Program type	Name	Available from
DIALLER	Winsock	ftp.utas.edu /pub/pc/trumpet/winsock
FTP	FTP	129.29.64.246 /pub/msdos
EMAIL	Eudora	ftp.qualcomm.com /pseudora/windows
USENET	Newsreader	ftp.utas.edu /pub/pc/wintrump
WEB	Netscape	ftp.mcom.com/netscape
GOPHER	<included in Netscape>	
TELNET	Telnet	*ftp.utaf.edu.au
TCP	<included in Winsock>	



network

Internet
TODAY

Network

Contract Opportunities

VOICE CONSULTANT

London 6 months +

Top level PABX consultant required to advise on the migration of banking voice network to Featurenet. Candidates should have a broad based background, and experience of MITEL / NY / SIEMENS networks. Long contract with possible term option. REF : 950006 / ICT

X.25 CONSULTANT

South 6 months

Experienced X.25 pad skills sought by major national bank. Table building type operation and fault analysis a major part of this long term requirement. REF : 942374 / ICT

LAN ADMINISTRATOR

London 3 months rolling

Highly experienced LAN professional required to administer and manage a complex testbed consisting of multiple LANs. Responsibility for hardware purchase and installation as well as running a small team. REF : 942439 / ICT

URGENTLY REQUIRED

WINDOWS NT
or
WINDOWS NTAS
all levels

Ref : NT / ICT



Central Response Unit
Tel: 0114 273 0281
Fax: 0114 275 3933
E-Mail:

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FUTURE

THE HUB OF '95 £30K Base £65K/70K OTE South

About to enter their second year this manufacturer of LAN hardware is already extending its impressive client base selling through resellers and direct to major blue chip accounts. Working with a small team of communications professionals your experience of selling to corporate clients will give you the chance to progress as the organisation expands. A superb opportunity to join an established yet 'still in start up mode' team of professionals.

CHANNELLING INTO EUROPE £30K Base £60K OTE South & Europe

Dynamic individual who is a commercial strategic thinker and tacticle doer required for this expanding LAN/WAN manufacturer. As European regional manager you will have responsibility for the organisations channel/distribution development and work within a friendly professional team of industry leaders.

INTERGRATED SOLUTIONS £25K/45K South

This household name in data communications has the 'best of breed' products within it's portfolio and the technical support to provide their clients with the 'best of service' in communications integration. Your sales skills coupled with a charismatic personality and LAN/WAN knowledge will ensure an early interview and chance to establish yourself in a professional friendly company.

SCO UNIX and Network Support £30K + UK

Your next move could be into Network/DP Management or support with this leading engineering company and systems integrator that is expanding Nation Wide. Providing Technical Consultancy to intelligent users with the latest in Data and Voice Communications hardware you will be working with the latest client server architecture and a range of connectivity that will astound you. Commercially, Politically and technically aware then call now!



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FUTURE

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LIST FOR COMMUNICATION

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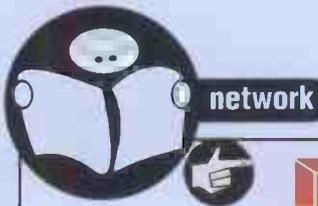
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The Zookeeper wonders just what the heck the Net is actually for...

I love the Internet. It needs to be said and I fancy shedding off that geeky image and allying myself with fashionable media types like Courtney Love, Tom Clancy and Timothy Leary. Come again? Since when was virtually hanging out with an ex-junkie, a right-wing paranoid and a certifiable nutcase the next step in hipness? Or perhaps in these millennial days, the Internet is becoming the height of cool post-modernism.

God forbid the Internet's fashionability. I rather preferred the days when you could open a paper and the only reference to nets was to do with catching a fine salmon in the polluted river down the bottom of the road. Well, tin of salmon. OK, tin then.

And this talk about the Internet having something to do with the Information Superhighway has to be a gag, eh? Superhighways conjure phallic images of gleaming turbo-cars whistling by on finely-grained ferroconcrete at 150mph, while happy citizens watch TV, eat food or do whatever it is people do when cars are driven by advanced computers. Contrast this with what we've currently got. To logon to the Information Superhighway, I have to load in eighteen different types of nerd-friendly bug-ridden software, handcrank up my admittedly top-of-the-range but still mind-buggeringly slow 28.8 modem, phone the bank to ensure my overdraft limit is going to be able to withstand the strain my online excursions are going to put on it, dial my local service provider Demon, which I now realise is perfectly named, since I have the devil's own time trying to connect to the bloody place, and then watch as the latest in interactive services trickles by at a crawl because 150 other people have decided to logon at the

same time as me. This is no highway. We're talking about something Dick Turpin might have recognised as a highway, not whatever it is Al Gore keeps banging on about.

Still, there are plenty of people who do believe in the thing, judging by the scramble to set up online service providers. Unfortunately, I wouldn't fancy being in these guys' shoes in about five years' time. The big boys are in town now and are starting to eye up the market with the hard eyes of predators already at the top of their respective food chains.

People who think that the days of online services are similar to the early days of the PC industry are not just barking up the wrong tree, but are in the wrong garden entirely. It's true that little guys like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs once felled giants like IBM but things are different. Gates is in charge now and Microsoft is not the bloated, slow, myopic giant IBM was.

Kiss goodbye to CompuServe. Demon, take a diabolical bow. I wouldn't want to be around when BT gets its act together and Microsoft Network comes boxed with every copy of Windows '95.

I get calls from all sorts of people trying to pick what passes for my brain. The other day, a University student phoned me wanting to know some stuff about the Internet for her dissertation.

Always happy to help someone get the benefit from a narrow technical education, I was happy to answer her questions, which, I must confess, had a slightly confrontational air. The conversation went something like this:

Her: "This Internet thing – why do you think it's being hyped so relentlessly?"
Me: "Well, that's because everybody hyping it has an interest in it being hyped."
Her: "Why?"
Me: "Because all the journalists writing about it are making a living from it, using it to write about it, or are working for companies which publish on it."
Her: "So do you think it's going to be as big as people say?"
Me: "Er..."

I personally think there is a lot of money to be made from the Internet, but as a media thing (not as some version of a telephone system) – whether from useful subscription Web sites or whatever. But is it going to be as big as people say? I wonder. The American experience is often bandied around but it's easy to forget that America is a much more different country to ours than we are sometimes prepared to accept. For instance, there's a culture of being technologically-minded which we don't share. Communities are structured differently. The country is huge and society more fractured. So it's hardly surprising that something able to communicate across vast distances and bring people together is so popular.

If, however, we can create a more British type of online community, you know, kind of shy, retiring most of the time, then once a year for two weeks invading the foreign language sections of the Net to party, dance and vomit vast quantities of information all over the place, then yes, I think it will be a success.

But first, we're going to have to stop thinking the Net can be things it won't be or cannot be. We're going to have to stop gorbliney about 'famous American stars' going online and try to get a few British ones out and about instead. So votes please to the usual address – let's see if we can't make the Net *really* fashionable. Now, that Beth from Brookside, bet she could do with knowing a thing or two about the Information Superhighway...



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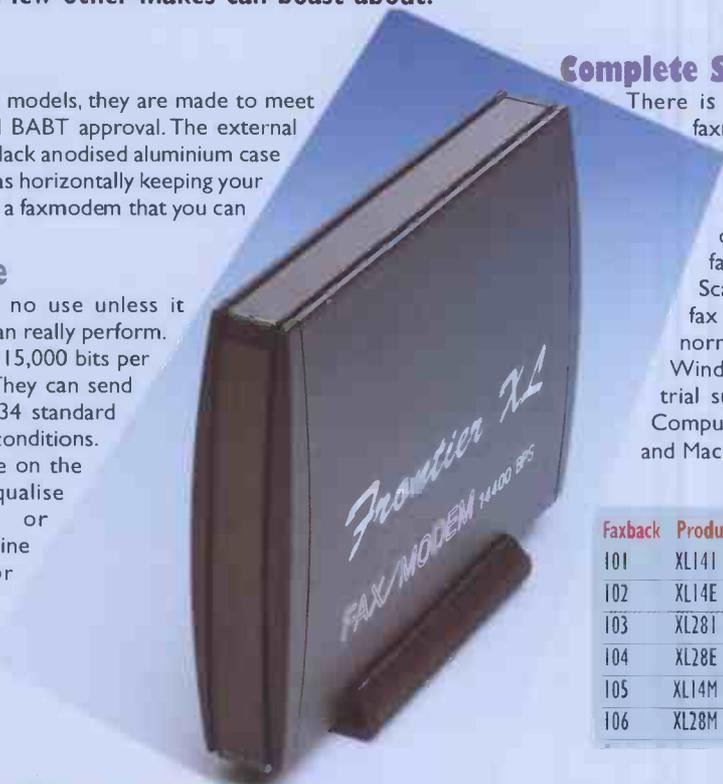
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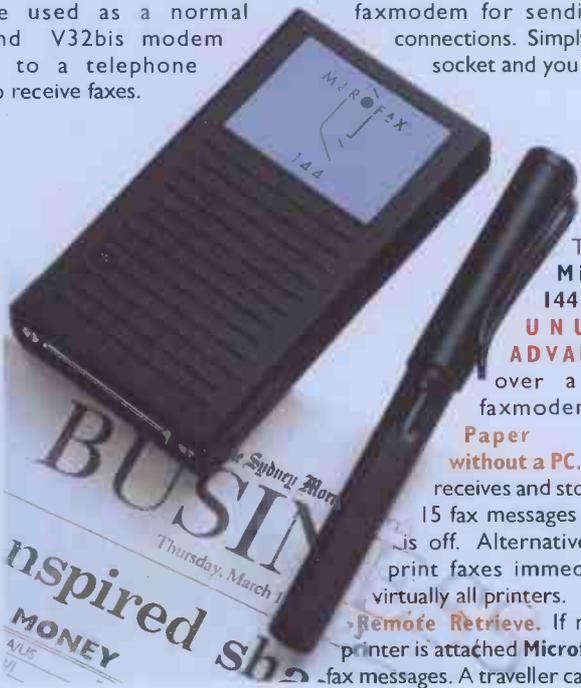
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