

# BBS

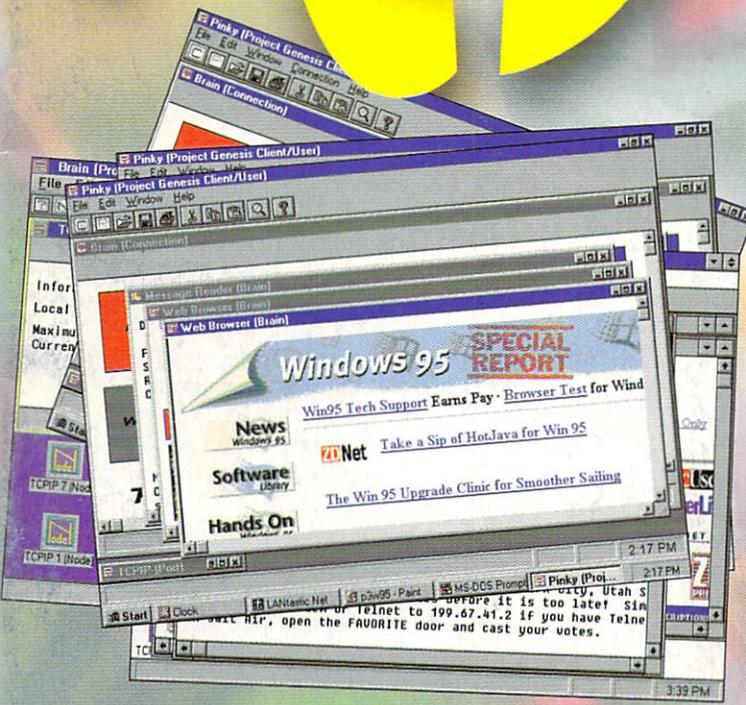
THE  
BULLETIN  
BOARD  
SERVICES  
MAGAZINE

December 1995

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# PCBOARD

Gets  
Netted  
Goes  
Graphical



bbs.notebook

Top Downloads Telnettable BBSs

Shareware Goodies

NovaServer



# Wow! You can do this

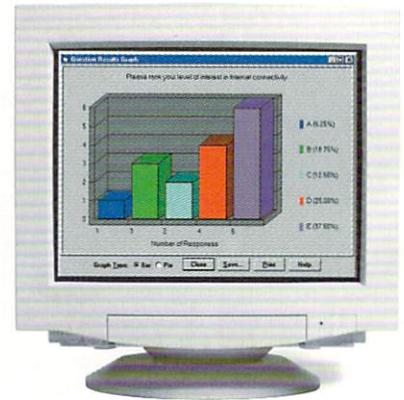
Users easily manage their mail online or offline with distribution lists, file cabinet, address book, in box, out box and more.



Create stunning menu screens, complete with hot spots, customizable buttons, list boxes, moving ticker displays, animation, sound effects and more.



Offer surveys, applications, tests, data collection forms and more, and allow users to immediately view tallied results online.



Configure up to 10,000 discussion areas or Internet newsgroups for users to exchange ideas on a variety of topics.

## A Powerful Client/Server Online Environment

Extend your workgroup environment to the outside world. Run your own graphical online service on one computer. Add multimedia presentations. Support up to 256 users on a single computer. With Worldgroup, it's easy.

Only Worldgroup, Galacticomm's premier client/server online platform, allows you to design an online system that's customized to your vision and configured to your requirements.

The freely distributable Windows client provides an exciting graphical interface and brings application-specific intelligence to your users' PCs. And your server can run on a single DOS or UNIX computer.

Animations, 24-bit graphics, hypertext links, digital audio — any look and feel you envision can easily be created for your Worldgroup interface.

## A Secure, Full-Featured Platform

Offers users a rich suite of interactive applications — with e-mail, group message areas, teleconference, polls and more.

The server manages all security issues through its Locks and Keys architecture, ensuring rock-solid system integrity. Users can access your service via modem, LAN, ISDN, the Internet and X.25 networks.

For non-client users, ASCII, ANSI and RIP terminals are also supported, bringing you the widest possible audience.

## A Single Internet Solution for DOS or UNIX

You can become an Internet access server with the Worldgroup Internet Server for DOS or with Worldgroup for UNIX. Provide SLIP/CSLIP/PPP accounts to authorized dial-up and LAN users so they can browse the World-Wide Web.

Allow your users to exchange Internet messages with SMTP e-mail, NNTP newsgroups and POP3 mail delivery capability for cross-platform compatibility.

Promote your products and services over the Internet with a stunning multimedia Web site. Forms, imagemaps and secure Web pages are all supported on this standard HTTP 1.0-compliant Web server.

# over the Internet?!!

Users can chat, whisper, sketch diagrams and exchange files with each other in the multiuser conference.



Set up your own Web site to promote your products and services over the Internet.



Users can browse through full-screen file listings and easily download files of interest.



Online help is available at every window, with explanations on how to use Worldgroup's services.

You can even create a hypertext link for Web callers to download your client program so they can enjoy Worldgroup's fully interactive services.

## A Gateway to the Internet and a Site on the Internet

Take advantage of the Internet as a global TCP/IP network for workgroup applications. Give your users access to the Internet with telnet, rlogin, ftp, finger and IRC client capabilities.

And, you can let Internet users access your system's services with telnet, rlogin, ftp and finger server support.

## Visual Basic and C Extensibility

With the Worldgroup Client/Server Developer's Kit you can customize your sys-

tem to suit your needs — and even create your own add-ons — using Visual Basic on the client side and Borland C++ for the server side.

But you don't have to be a developer to benefit from Worldgroup's open architecture. You can plug and play dozens of add-on applications from Galaticomm and our network of Independent Software Vendors.

Offer online shopping, voice/image teleconferencing, group schedulers, document management, fax servers, SQL databases and more.

## Make the Connection to Worldgroup

You can make your service accessible via modem, LAN, serial link, TCP/IP, ISDN and

X.25 networks. Only Worldgroup gives you this flexibility.

Discover for yourself the most open, cost-effective way to provide a successful online server. For more information, call your favorite Galaticomm dealer or call us direct today.

**1-800-328-1128**  
(outside the U.S./Canada, 954-583-5990)

Or browse us at  
<http://www.gcomm.com>

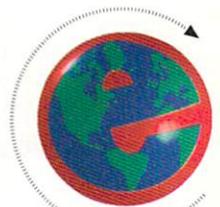


**GALACTICOMM**  
Bringing your vision online

**Excalibur BBS lets you do more things** like download a file and play a game and hit the Internet and preview a photo of a hot redhead and preview a photo of a red hotrod and design a menu using TrueType fonts and object-oriented or bitmapped graphics which according to **BBS Magazine** "make the likes of America Online pale" and chat with an attractive sysop who's impressed with the size of the new online database and the fact that you got the terminal for free and you're really glad you can keep on chatting while you download yet another file and think to yourself no wonder **Windows Magazine** named Excalibur to their Top 100 list because after all what other BBS lets you do so many tasks so well **at the same time.**

**Excalibur** BBS For Windows

Modem into the Excalibur BBS HQ at **918.496.8113**. **Voice** 800.EXCAL BBS.  
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COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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DECEMBER 1995



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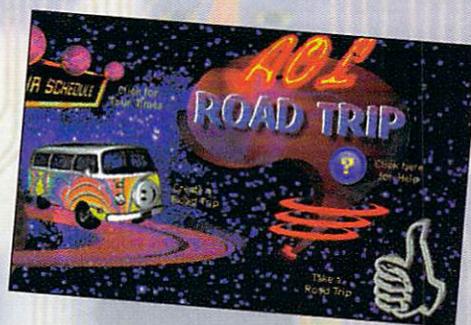
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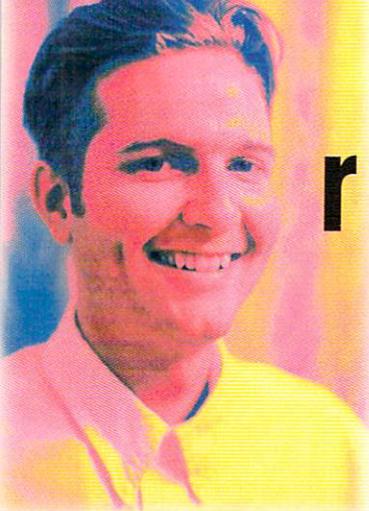
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# readme to txt

## Projecting Genesis

It's been 12 years since Fred Clark released the initial version of his PCBoard BBS software. What a difference a decade's time makes.

In late September Clark Development Company held its first "PCBoard/Online Communications Conference" to familiarize sysops with three major developments set for release in intervals between now and mid-1996.

For sysops wondering when Clark would offer tools to give PCBoard callers access to the Internet, to allow Net surfers to enter PCBoards from the Dataway, the wait is over. And for those scratching their heads over why there's been no graphical client/server system with the name PCBoard on it, we have an early look at the makings of a major step in that direction for callers and sysops of PCBoard software: Project Genesis. Check page 12 for all the details.

While on the subject — and not to leave Mac sysops out of the game — Michael Kuykendall (Macintosh Online) has an in-depth report on the

new NovaServer from ResNova. The update is totally Netted, ripe with flashy graphical capabilities and is even PC friendly. Check it out on page 46.

"The holiday season is just around the corner, and no one knows the true meaning of Christmas better than we Americans: shopping." So says Jacquie Kramer (Future Tense) as she shops around for the best ways to do your holiday buying online. But is it safe? Look to page 76 for answers.

In the stampede to get online, many businesses are blinded by the lure of snagging a new mass audience as they scream for attention with dull shovelware and (yawn) repackaged content in their online sites. Have they underestimated your savvy? Lazlow Jones (Technoraves) has some thoughts on page 22.

And no issue of *BBS* would be worth its salt without a substantial listing of bulletin boards to call and Telnet. Look to our "Netted Boards" and "A-List" for the latest in what's hot online.

Rick Robinson  
editor@bbsmagazine.com



# BBS

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### PUBLISHER

Richard Paquette  
publisher@bbsmag.com

### ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

John P. Carcione  
carcione@bbsmag.com

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Richard W. Robinson Jr.  
editor@bbsmagazine.com

### WEST COAST ADVERTISING SALES

Wayne J. Fields, 714.770.2955  
advertis@bbsmag.com

### DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

Terry Wilson  
terryw@omni.voicenet.com

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tess Heder, Hank Hurteau, Steve Janas, Lazlow Jones, Dave Kramer, Jacqui Kramer, Michael A. Kuykendall, Maria Langer, Modem Mage, Gaelyne R. Moranec, Terry Rossi, Shari Steele, and Deanna Warren.

### PRE-PRESS PRODUCTION

Beth Tomasello

### NEWSSTAND CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

William A. Townsend

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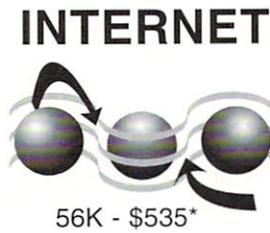
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## Online Sales Forecast: Sunny & Hot on the Web

Four years from now look for online sales to reach \$24.1 billion, likely due to both the boom in the PC market and the ever-increasing popularity of the Internet, according to SIMBA Information's most recent report.

"The [World-Wide] Web will be a marketer's first choice for promoting products and services," said Karen Burka, managing editor of the report *Online Services: 1995 Review, Trends & Forecast*. "As long as the Web offers the potential for a larger audience and lower start-up costs, advertisers are going to flock to the Web, rather than consumer online services."

According to SIMBA, by 1999 there will be over 26 million online subscribers.

"The Internet, especially the World-Wide Web, has jolted the industry," said Lorraine Sileo, SIMBA's editorial director, "and opened up doors to many different possibilities of information, entertainment and communications technologies."

The report states that worldwide online services sales grew to \$13.8 billion in 1994 (a 16.4 percent change over 1993) and will continue to increase at an annual growth rate of 11.9 percent.

Much of the focus in the online industry has been on end user/consumer services, accounting for just 5.2 percent of online industry sales in '94. But it will grow to account for 13 percent by '99, SIMBA says.

The Online Services series, published annually since 1990, looks at the online services market by content and access providers, and examines the trend in companies operating as vendors of their own content via the Internet.

For more information or a copy of the \$845 report, contact Tom Schmalzl at 203.834.0033, extension 178.

## Complete Online Presence — In One Neatly Wrapped Package

We've all heard the phrase "plug-and-play" bandied about when it comes to seamlessly adding this or that to your system. Now there's a new definition: plug into any outlet and you're ready to

# NEWS

play sysop with an Internet/online presence.

It's not quite that simple, of course, but Logicom, Inc., has come pretty close with what it calls the Total Internet Turnkey System.

Using Galacticomm's Worldgroup software and a Pentium-based AST P-100 tower PC, the Turnkey System combines a Web server, online service, Net server, and fax broadcast server in

Galacticomm's Ad Ticker, DataSafe Publication's VisaMan, Fax/Online by Galacticomm, EZ Fax and Fax Blaster by ProDesign, and Quick Credit 900 by Logicom.

- AST P-100 with 16 megs of RAM, 1.2 gigabyte hard drive, enhanced IDE, video card with one meg of VRAM, two internal and three external bays, two 16550 UART serial ports, five ISA, two ISA/PCI Bus, NE2000 Network

Interface Card, and a CTX SVGA 14-inch monitor.

- 16-line Stallion Intelligent Serial Kit.
- Eight modems (six USR Sportster28.8K modems, two Supra 28.8K Fax/Modems).

- Preconfigured

FastComm Frame Relay Adapter, 50 ohm Terminator.

- Basic installation and customization.
- 30 days free support.

Beyond hardware and software, Logicom has struck a deal with national Net service provider DataXchange to offer from direct 56K connections to full T1 access.

To make things even easier, Logicom says it can arrange financing — through Finova, a division of the Finova group — for customers with approved credit.

"By combining all the necessary



a single package.

"The Web is excellent for a billboard-like approach to marketing," said Harris Fellman, Logicom's director of sales. "However, more and more companies that we speak with want more than just a Web site. They want a truly interactive online presence."

The system contains the following:

- Galacticomm's Worldgroup for 20 users.
- Vircom's MajorTCP/IP
- Add-on software including Menu Magician by High Velocity Software, Bulletins Pro by Labyrinth,

# WIRF

hardware, software, services, and financing, companies will have a near-zero learning curve..." said Edward Bush, Logicom vice president. "Today's businesses don't have the time to learn how to set up Web servers and online services, they just need it done."

Look for the package to be available for around \$10,000, or \$350 a month (on a three-year lease).

There's still the cost of connecting to the Internet, however, which is not included in the package deal, as connection cost varies from city to city.

For more information contact Logicom (voice) at 800.764.4266, or Telnet to logicom.com. The Web site is located at [www.logicom.com](http://www.logicom.com).

## AOL Aims Local

Apparently seeking new markets, America Online has taken to the avenues and boulevards in launching a new "local affiliate program" to service customers on a more regional level.

Called Digital City, the program began recently with Washington D.C. as its launch city.

The affiliate program is available at no extra charge to AOL subscribers, and offers loads of resources for residents, former residents, and anyone

planning a trip or a move to the nation's capital.

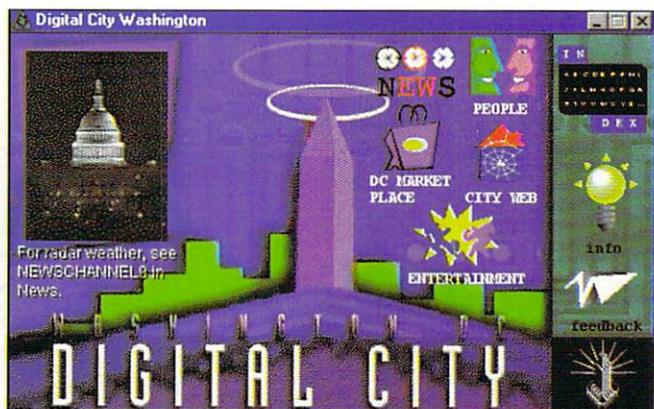
What members can currently do in the Digital City of Washington is check on the latest local news, weather and traffic, observe calendars of local events, choose a neighborhood restaurant, sell a car/home, search for a job and chat live with others interested in Washington on a local level.

So what's the rub? Well nothing, really. Except doesn't this all seem familiar?

Local BBSs are doing this already, in varying degrees, in nearly every U.S. city.

An AOL spokesperson said it isn't the intention of Digital City(s) to go head-to-head with local boards. And indeed, in most cases they won't. But sysops just might want to note this as another potential competitor to add to the growing list.

"Digital City represents the idea of community that AOL has become famous for," said Bob Smith, vice pres-



ident of AOL Enterprises and general manager of Digital City. "This is the local online service AOL members will build themselves. We expect to expand Digital City to additional cities in the coming months."

AOLers wishing to check out the new service should use the keyword "Washington."

## USR Acquires ISDN Systems Corp., Strikes Deal with MCI

U.S. Robotics Corporation in August acquired ISDN Systems Corporation, a leading developer of broad-level Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and Frame Relay-based client/server products.

According to USR, the deal frees them up to take advantage of applications that require ISDN-only connectivity, and positions the company to maximize opportunities in the growing worldwide marketplace for ISDN and Frame Relay access products.

ISC's product line includes ISDN and Frame Relay PC adapters and boundary access devices for telecommuting, Net access and branch office networking applications.

ISC has aimed a good deal of its resources toward developing software-based core technology to run adapter and server cards operating under Win 95, Windows 3.1, Windows NT Server and Novell Netware.

U.S. Robotics also announced that MCI has selected their Total Control Enterprise Network Hub for MCI's Internet software, access products and services.

The Enterprise Network Hub will be installed in MCI's points of presence nationwide for access to networkMCI Business, the software-based services including an electronic shopping mall, easy Net access and high-speed network connections to the Internet.

The enterprise Network Hub's high bandwidth and modular design enables the addition of new WAN transmission standards and protocols, according to USR, such as ISDN access (available later this year) as well as new remote access server technologies.

Enterprise Network Hubs bought by

CONTINUES...

MCI combine incoming T-1 capabilities with V.34 28.8 Kbps high-speed modem technology, as well as LAN access capabilities via the integrated NETServer Card.

USR can be reached at 800.USR.CORP.

## Group to Develop Platform for Net Content Selection

It's been discussed for some time, but a labeling system for the online community might soon be in place due to the efforts of a broad group of publishers, telecommunications companies, Internet and online service providers, and software firms working together



under the auspices of The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

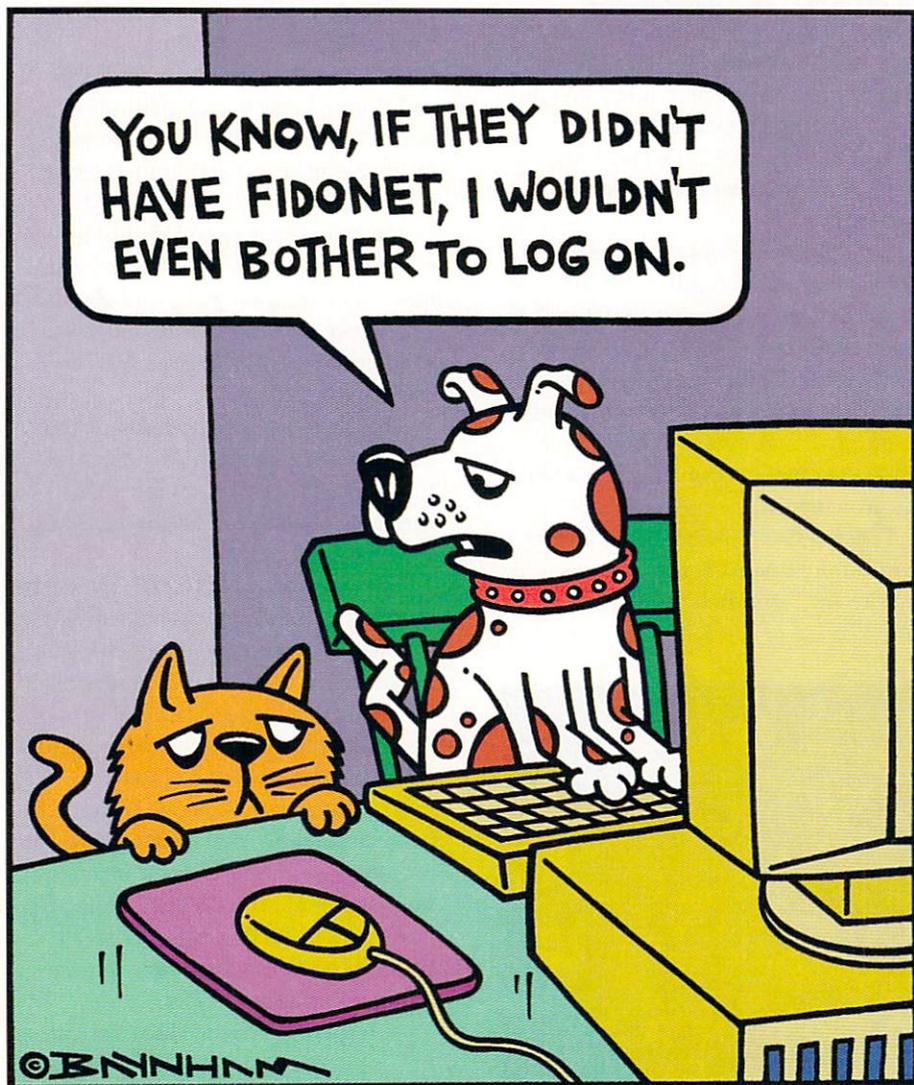
The group hopes to develop an easy-to-use labeling and selection platform, called PICS (Platform for Internet Content Selection), that empowers people worldwide to selectively control online content they receive through personal computers.

PICS is the result of a merger of independent efforts by the W3C and the Information Highway Parental Empowerment Group (IHPEG). IHPEG was formed in July by Microsoft, Netscape and Progressive Networks. W3C, located at MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science (LCS) in Cambridge, MA, and at the Institut National de Recherche en

CONTINUES...

Offline

by John Baynham



Partial results of what is being called "the first statistically defensible study of Internet users" were released in late September by O'Reilly & Associates, publishers of the study, and likely so to some disbelieving eyes as the final tally of U.S. Internet users was set at just 5.8 million.

"This number, while surprising to some, doesn't diminish the Internet's importance as a place to do business," said Dick Peck, O'Reilly's vice president of business development. "Three years ago there was virtually no Internet market. Our findings confirm that today, nearly six million people in the United States are using the Net and the audience is growing rapidly."

The study, *Defining the Internet Opportunity*, was commissioned by O'Reilly & Associates to determine demographic profiles and user buying patterns of the existing U.S. Internet market. It was conducted by the Online Research Group (a division of O'Reilly) and Trish Information Services, and sponsored by various companies shelling out thousands to have their own questions asked of the study's participants.

For purposes of the project, O'Reilly defined "Internet users" as U.S. individual residents over 18 years of age who have direct access to the Internet and use email, as well as one or more Internet-specific tools (FTP, Gopher, Telnet or Web browser). Those who connected to the Net only through a commercial online service were excluded (however commercial online service users are profiled separately in the study).

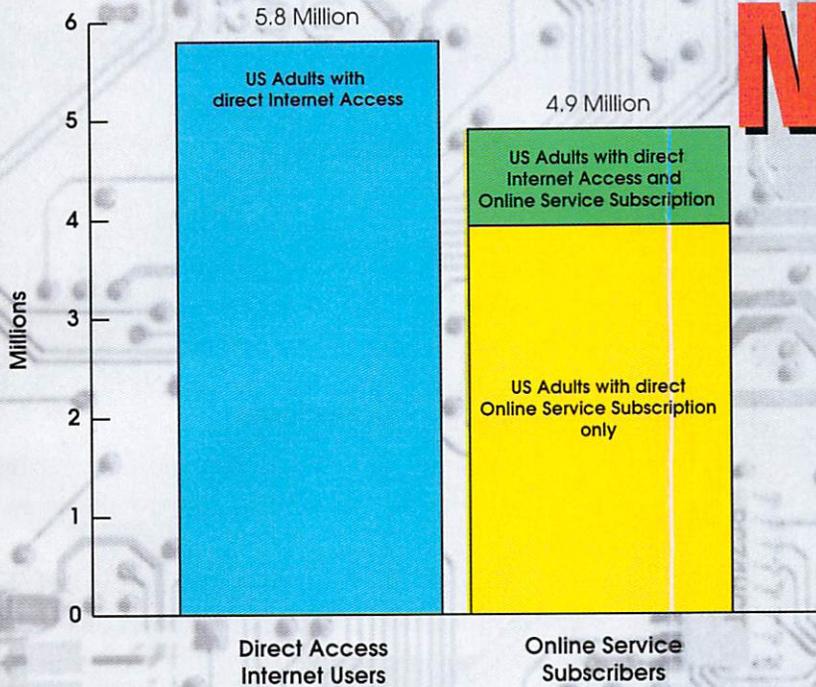
According to O'Reilly, the study was the first to use Random Digit Dialing (RDD), a time consuming and apparently expensive methodology. Sampling error is put at less than one percent, based on having completed screening interviews with 29,901 individuals.

According to O'Reilly, prior studies of Net users were based on estimated numbers of users per host, or used self-selecting samples — neither of which produces accurate results.

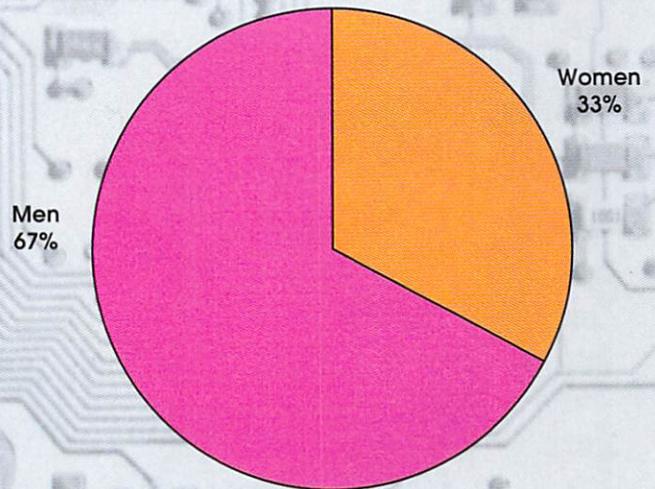
For more information/details on the methodology behind the study, and for info on purchasing the complete work, check out the Web pages at <http://www.ora.com/survey/> or contact Florence Kanuk (to buy the work) at 800.998.9938 — [florence@ora.com](mailto:florence@ora.com).

# Net Study Results

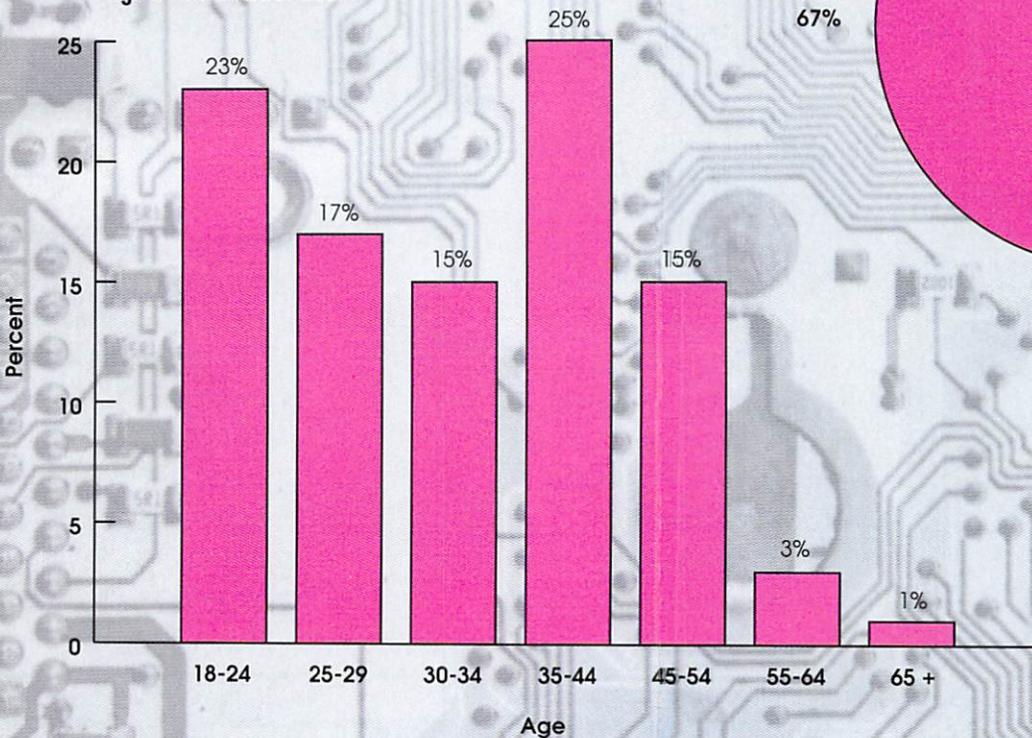
### Size of US Adult Online User Population



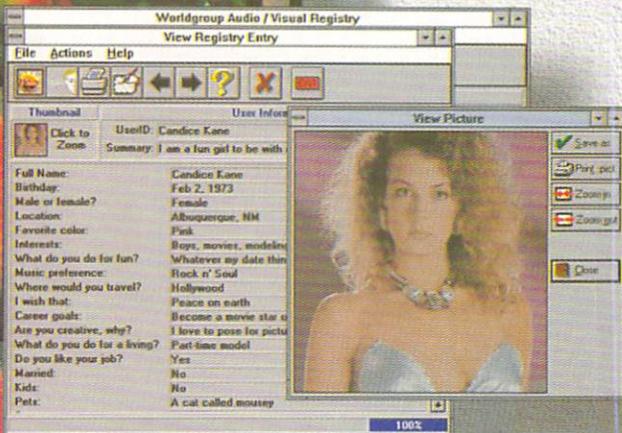
### Gender of US Internet Users



### Age of US Internet Users



# You Oughta Be Into Pictures



Hey, you might not make it *in* pictures, so how about the next best thing?

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In addition to our own software and services, ProDesign also

represents the very best in Independent Software Vendor add-ons from such companies as Vircom, Logicom, Humanware Systems, Cincom, Labyrinth and HighWaterMark.

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Call today to place your order or to receive our free catalog!

Informatique et en Automatique (INRIA), in Rocquencourt, France, convened the PICS group to address technologies needed to support categorization and selection of information available on the "global electronic networking infrastructure."

The list of companies and organizations contributing expertise to PICS is impressive, including: Apple, America Online, AT&T, Center for Democracy and Technology, CompuServe, IBM, IHPEG, Information Technology Association of America, Interactive Services Association, MCI, Microsoft, MIT/W3C, Netscape Communications Corporation, Open Market, Prodigy Services Company, Progressive Networks, Providence Systems/Parental Guidance, SafeSurf, Spyglass, SurfWatch Software, Time Warner, and Viacom's Nickelodeon.

"The organizations participating in PICS are committed to developing a viewpoint-neutral technology platform that will empower organizations and individuals to categorize and selectively access information according to their own needs," said Albert Vezza, senior research scientist and associate director of MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science, who is spokesman for the working group.

"IHPEG is very excited to be working on PICS with the W3C," said IHPEG founder Rob Glaser, who serves as Chairman of PICS. "Having widespread, unified industry participation will significantly accelerate our efforts." Glaser also is President of Progressive Networks.

PICS has set out two goals for itself:

1) To "catalyze creation of easy-to-use tools that give groups, organizations and companies the ability to develop their own content labeling schemes, which can be shared with, and used by their constituencies. Content could be categorized and labeled in a variety of ways, such as current movie ratings or the Library of Congress cataloging system. Additional content categorizations could include pricing, access or copyright restrictions."

2) "To Build upon existing filtering technologies and catalyze creation of easy-to-use ways to empower individuals to selectively access or block certain content.

For more information and various scenarios for implementation, check out <http://www.w3.org/pub/WWW/PICS/> on the Web.

## VBASIC Library from EMS

EMS Professional Shareware has released the 17th edition of the VBASIC Library on CD and diskette, containing 1,441 Microsoft Visual Basic programs, utilities, vb's, code fragments and other file collections chosen specifically for Visual Basic users.

The package ships with a directory database describing all products in the library and all commercial products for Visual Basic programmers.

A nice feature of the collection is its searching ability. The directory may be searched by product name, type, vendor, release date or with a free text search; the directory lists product types from business, buttons and calendar to system utility and text.

The \$59.50 library is available through EMS at 301.924.3594 and comes with a 30-day money back guarantee. ■■■■

## BBS Spotlight

**WHO:** VideoShark Video BBS

**WHAT:** BBS with resources for video renters/buyers

**WHERE:** Tinley Park, IL

**SOFTWARE:** Worldgroup

**ACCESS:** 708.429.0553

When you patronize Ray Hanania's VideoShark Video store in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park, you'll not only be greeted by 10,000 ready-to-buy/rent videos, but sitting on the counter right next to the cash register is something you're not likely to see in any other retail store: a BBS.

"We have more than 600 customers now surfing the system using their home and business computers," said Hanania, a former reporter who currently publishes a bi-monthly newspaper along with running the store. "Customers or anyone who accesses the system can comment on any new video release, engage in conversation with other customers or store employees, in multi-topic forum areas that we offer. We also have a library of documents and video information that they can read online or download for later use."

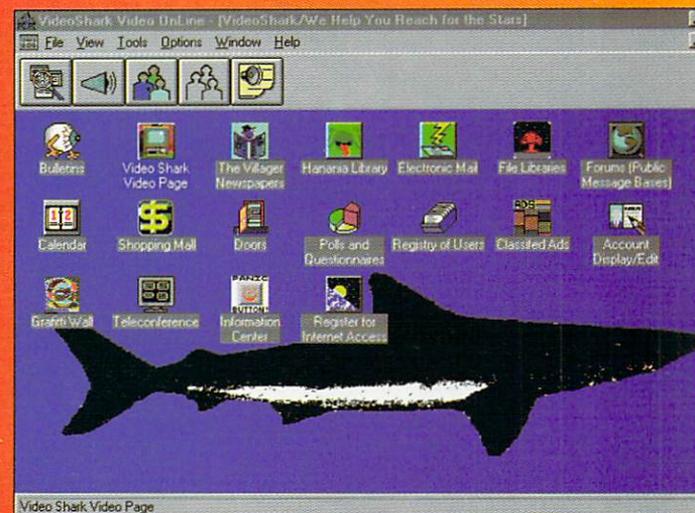
Callers have the opportunity to buy videos right through the board (a 486 box running Galacticomm's graphical Worldgroup software), and also reserve flicks for pickup later that night.

"We are slowly building up our online mall services to include new sell-through titles as they are announced by movie distributors," he said, pointing out that "the process is simple: customers can select a product and then use their credit card to make the purchase. The computer then processes the charge request and, if approved, the customer and system operator are notified of the sale."

Videos are then shipped to the caller or held at the store.

Though there's no Net connection yet, Hanania said he is planning to offer an 800 number for free access nationwide.

Other plans include a most ambitious one — putting the store's entire inventory online.



Gets  
Netted

PCBoard

Goes  
Graphical

At its first “Communications Conference” Clark Development looks to the future of BBSing with Net tools, graphical cross-platform software and a broader focus.

Clark Development Company, one of the oldest and most decorated manufacturers of online communications software, sprung to life in a big way this fall at its first annual PCBoard/Online Communications conference in Utah, announcing **three major developments** for sysops of its BBS software.

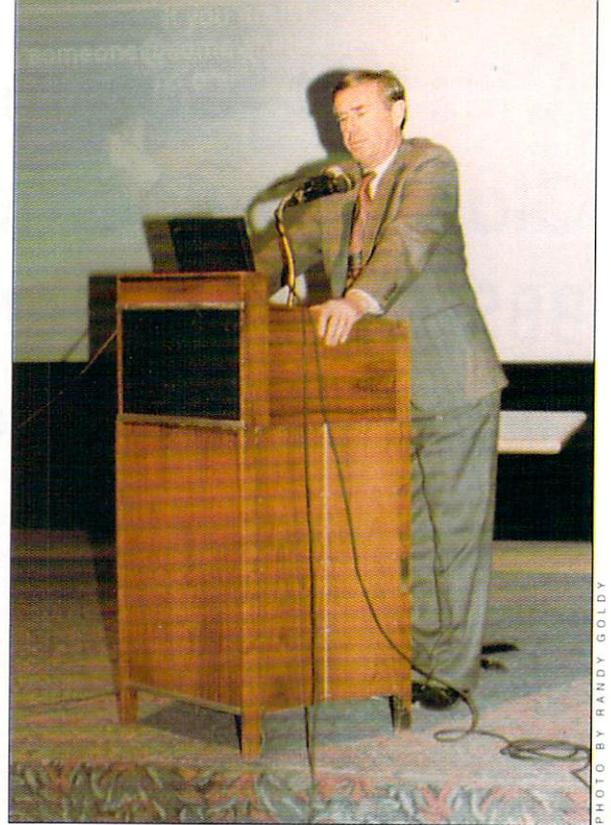
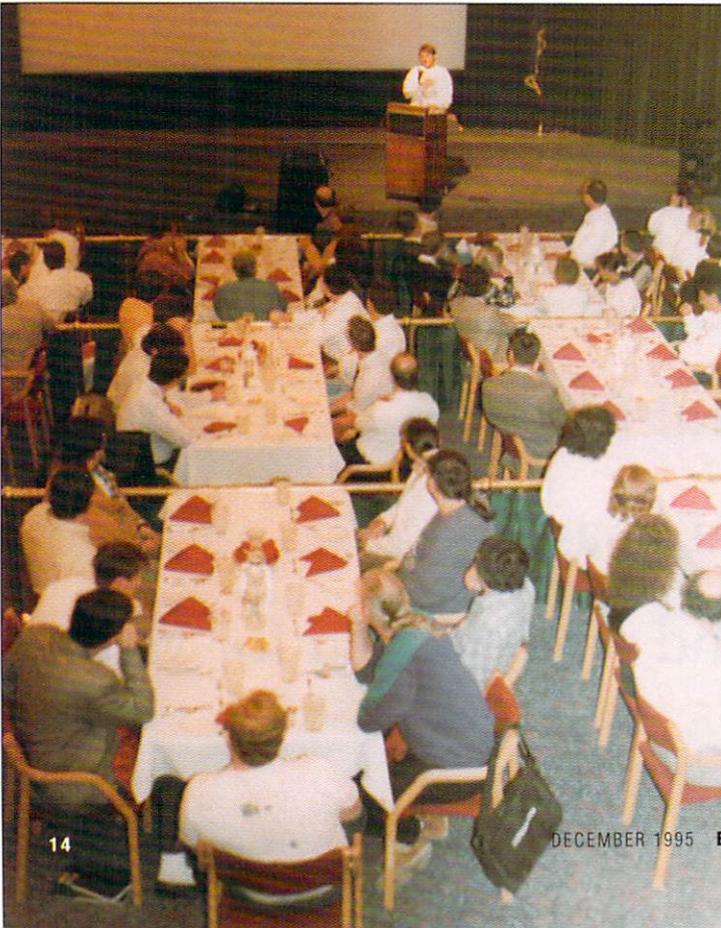
The show took place in the crisp valley town of Park City in late September as over 100 sysops convened the first night for a keynote address delivered by CDC’s Vice President and General Manager Steve Klingler. Klingler spoke of PCBoard’s past successes and, more importantly, its future, and what it held for veteran and coming PCBoard sysops.

CONTINUES...

Specifically, the announcements came with the assistance of a video presentation highlighting CDC's Internet connectivity packages and its planned multi-platform graphical client/server BBS called Project Genesis. For those wondering where CDC has been while the industry moved toward Net connectivity and a more graphical system, this was their answer.

"We had several goals for the conference and I'm happy to say that all of our expectations were met," said Klingler. "We announced three new products — the PCBoard Internet Collection, the PCBoard Internet Suite and Project Genesis. And the conference gave us the opportunity to meet with our customers one-on-one and ask for their feedback and suggestions."

Steve Klingler announces CDC releases at the conference dinner.



Gordon Peterson, State Information Technology Coordinator, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for the state of Utah, addresses conference attendees on technological developments in the state. Utah depends heavily on PCBoard software.

Klingler said he was pleased with the turnout, especially considering advertising for the show reached sysops a little late thanks to the U.S. Postal Service. Not to make that mistake again, CDC plans to begin promotion for next year's conference well in advance.

The three-day event brought together sysops who did make the trip for scores of conference sessions covering everything from beginning Fidonet to Genesis cross-platform development. Guest speakers included Alan Bechtold of *Sysop News & Cyberworld Report* (a former *BBS Magazine* columnist), Dennis Fowler of *Computer Shopper*, Association of Online Professionals (AOP) leader Dave McClure, Jim Ackerman and Steve Weisenburger of Stevens & James Marketing, and Software Creations' Dan Linton.

The intimate atmosphere at the show, coupled with the many gratis dinners and luncheons, proved conducive to bringing together old friends and newbies for discussions of client/server, Internet, the impact of the Web and what BBSs might hold for the future development of the so-called info-highway (choose your own metaphor here).

Overseas resellers huddled with members of the computer press and associated sysops, while a representative of Netscape Communications met with attendees for what was likely some interesting exchanges.

But all was not business, of course. CDC chief Fred Clark arranged for a trek through Park City's surrounding mountains via ATV. The less adventurous, on the other hand, could opt for an hour in the saddle through the mountains, ballooning, and a curious ride called the Alpine Slide which had attendees literally dropping a couple thousand feet down a concrete half-pipe atop a piece of plastic equipped with little more than four wheels and a hand-brake.

But beyond all the niceties — those that if you were not present probably are of little interest — there were some serious issues being hashed out as CDC brought to the table what is perhaps its most significant releases in years.

## Sweet Internet

Actually two separate releases fall under this heading: the PCBoard Internet Collection and the PCBoard Internet Suite.

Put simply, the Collection (scheduled to ship presently for \$499) is a set of tools providing direct access to the Internet from PCBoard BBSs. The Suite goes a bit further, making PCBoards accessible to the Net public with inbound Telnet, Rlogin and FTP.

As Klingler puts it, "As the Internet matures and cost of access continues to go down, many Internet Service Providers [ISPs] will go out of business because they don't offer their customers anything more than cheap access to the Internet...when many ISPs have gone out of business, the BBS community will still be here offering superior value, service and access to the Internet."

Callers to a PCBoard system running with the Collection will be able to utilize standard text-mode Net access tools like Telnet, Rlogin, FTP, Gopher, Archie, Trace Route, Finger, Ping, Whois and NTime. Additionally, the Collection includes SLIP and PPP modules giving users the freedom to use their own Winsock driver.

"The SLIP component allows your callers to receive a TCP/IP feed to their desktop," said Klingler, "so they can run graphical Internet clients like Netscape and Mosaic."

The Suite differs in that it lets sysops offer access to outside users through Telnet and Rlogin, and to files through FTP.

CDC says the FTP end will allow anonymous access to public file areas and controlled access to the BBS file areas based on user name and password.

SMTP and NNTP servers are also included

CONTINUES . . .



Aside from educational sessions...

**"BBSs provide content, customer service, and a sense of community. Not only are they a great way to get onto the Net, they are also a great destination once you're there."**

Steve Klingler, Clark Development

...attendees accompanied CDC chief Fred Clark on a trek through the mountains.



in the Suite so sysops can offer callers real-time news and email.

"And we've thrown in an IRC Chat module so that users on the BBS can chat in real-time with other Internet users world-wide," said Klingler.

CDC says the Suite is planned for release within in the next few months, at which time pricing will have been set.

Hiring was beefed up at CDC for the new product releases, said Klingler, noting that in that past few months alone "we hired three more programmers, another technical writer and added five people to our sales and support department. We also promoted two people from technical support into the programming department. We now have 25 employees and we are still interviewing for positions in both the sales and programming departments."

Klingler emphasized that it's becoming increasingly important for BBSs to be connected to the Internet and that the new Internet Collection and Suite "provide all the functionality that PCBoard BBSs need to stay competitive."

"BBSs provide content, customer service, and a sense of community," Klingler said. "Not only are they a great way to get onto the Net, they are also a great destination once you're there."

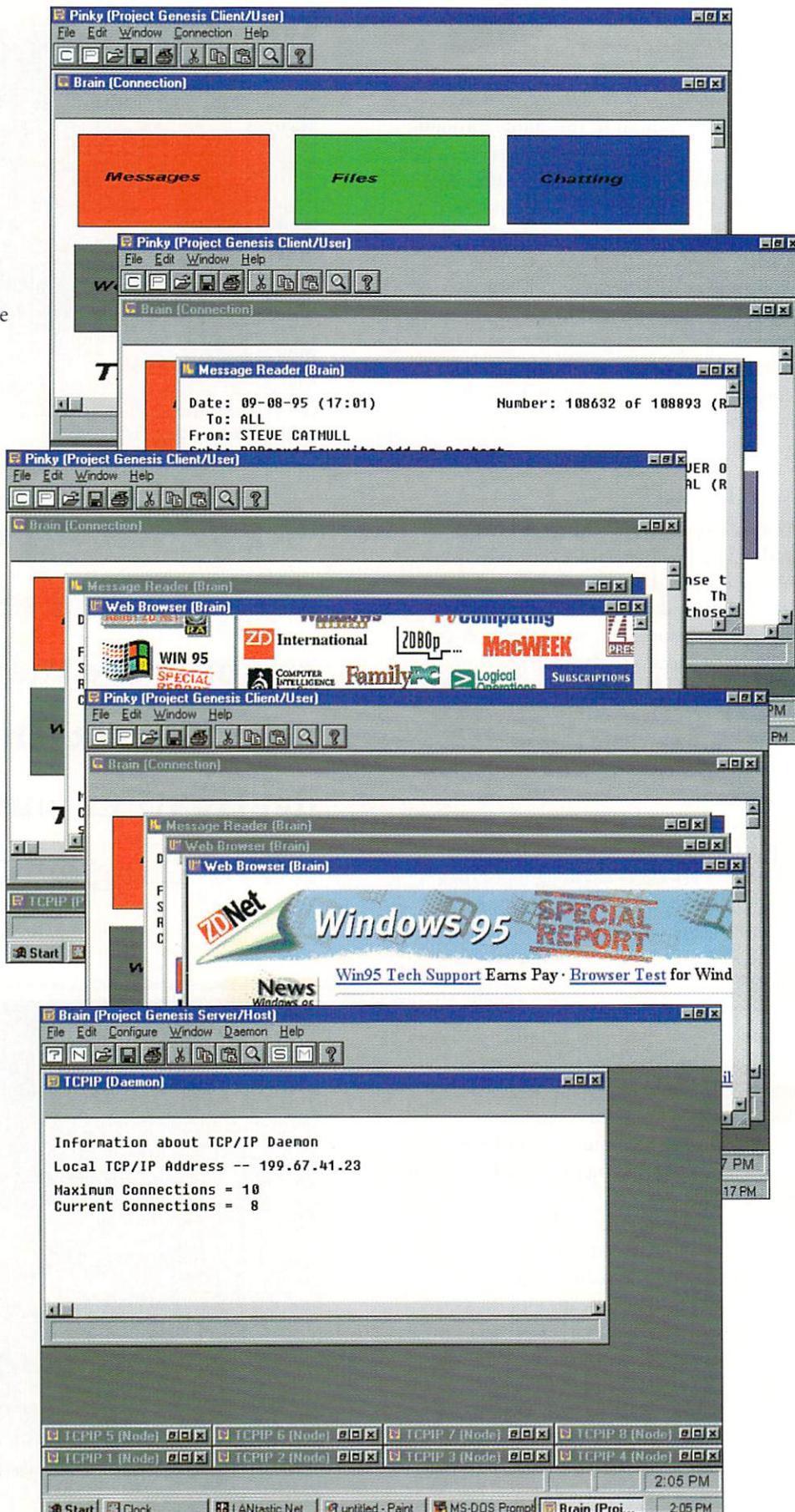
## Project Genesis

CDC has also announced what it calls Project Genesis, a graphical multi-session/user online system, unique in that it's designed as a multi-platform system "for maximum connectivity and expandability."

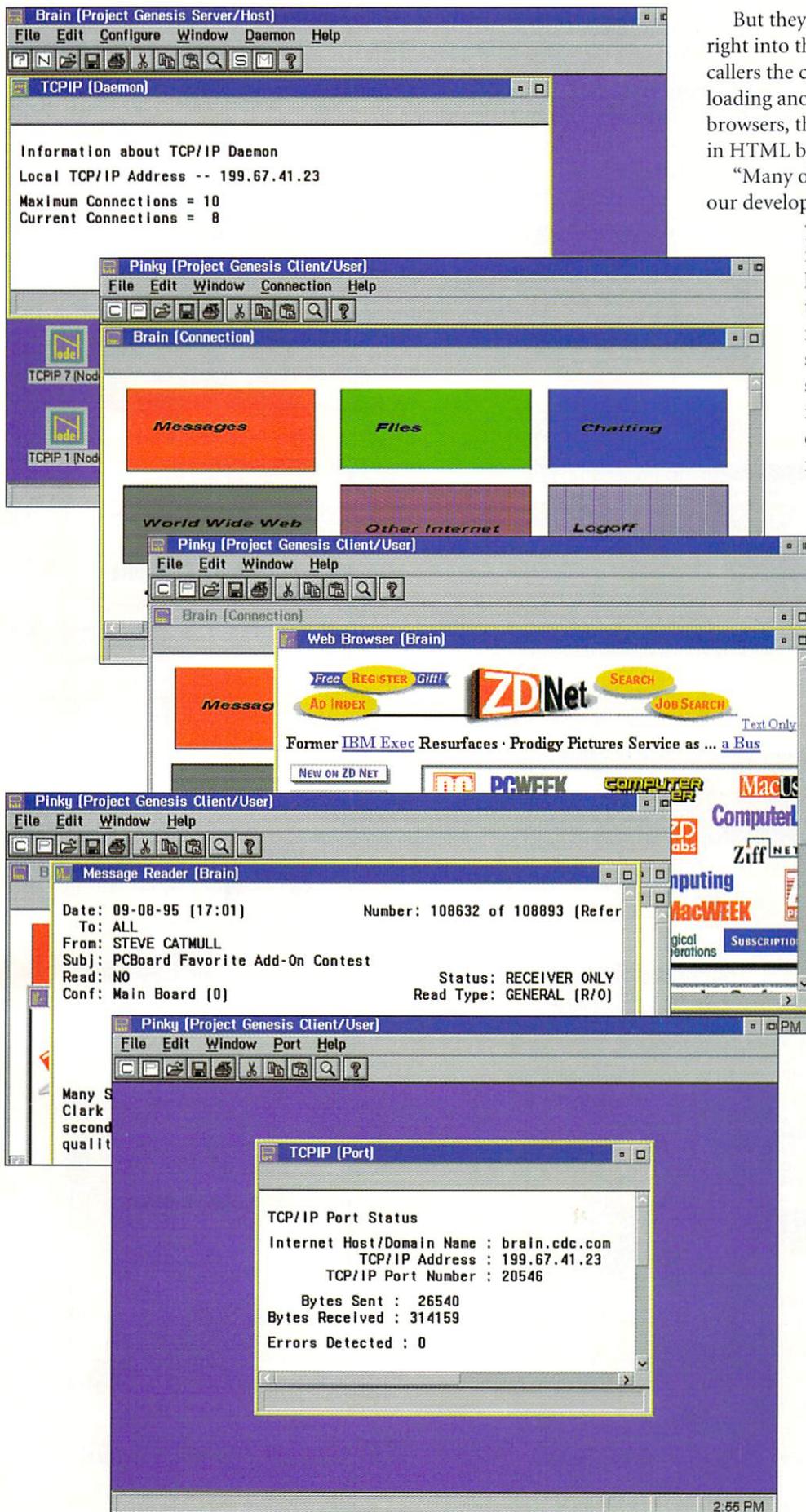
The server side software is scheduled for Windows NT, Windows 95, and OS/2. Clients are in development for Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT, OS/2 and Macintosh.

All clients will have identical interaction on all platforms and across platforms. As well, callers can dial in with any terminal program and receive a basic ANSI/ASCII interface.

Upon its release in the second quarter of 1996, Genesis will provide TCP/IP services out to client machines so callers can use their graphical Windows software to access the depths of the Internet while on the system.



The Project Genesis client/server as seen in Windows 95...



...OS/2...

But they won't need a Web browser. Designed right into the client is an HTML viewer that'll give callers the convenience of surfing the Web without loading another application. And speaking of browsers, the Genesis host will also be accessible in HTML by standard Web browsers.

"Many of the ideas used in Genesis date back to our development efforts on PCBComm several years ago," said Klingler. "PCBComm fell victim to a buggy commercial library that we were dependent on but the vendor was unable to produce a fixed version that would allow us to ship the product. Ever since then our staff has continually come up with ideas that would make PCBComm even better if we ever decided to resurrect the project."

CDC never did resurrect PCBComm, but they did use many of its features in Project Genesis. And the cross-platform issues encountered with PCBComm provided valuable insight, Klingler said, as they began development on Genesis.

"We didn't finally start working on Genesis in earnest until March of '95 when we dedicated a single programmer to the project, to create the foundation and standardize on the development tools that would be used by the rest of the team," he said. "In July we brought on three more programmers to accelerate the development, and in October we assigned two more programmers to the project with a third expected in November."

The multi-threaded client (dubbed Pinky) and host (Brain), after the cartoon characters, lets callers read messages, transfer files, chat and browse Web pages simultaneously.

The server will support many nodes per machine, according to CDC, multiple tasks per node and can be run on many PCs. As for the client in this respect, expect multiple connections per machine and multiple tasks per connection. The client will connect to hosts via modem, serial ports, shared memory, TCP/IP, IPX, SPX, ISDN, X.25 and TAPI.

CDC says "Project Genesis is easily

CONTINUES...

expanded to support additional port types, user defined applications and can interface with other Windows or OS/2 programs on both the client and server platforms.”

“With Project Genesis,” says Klingler, “we have been able to combine the awesome connectivity of the Internet and the World Wide Web with over 10 years of experience designing and developing PCBoard bulletin board software.”

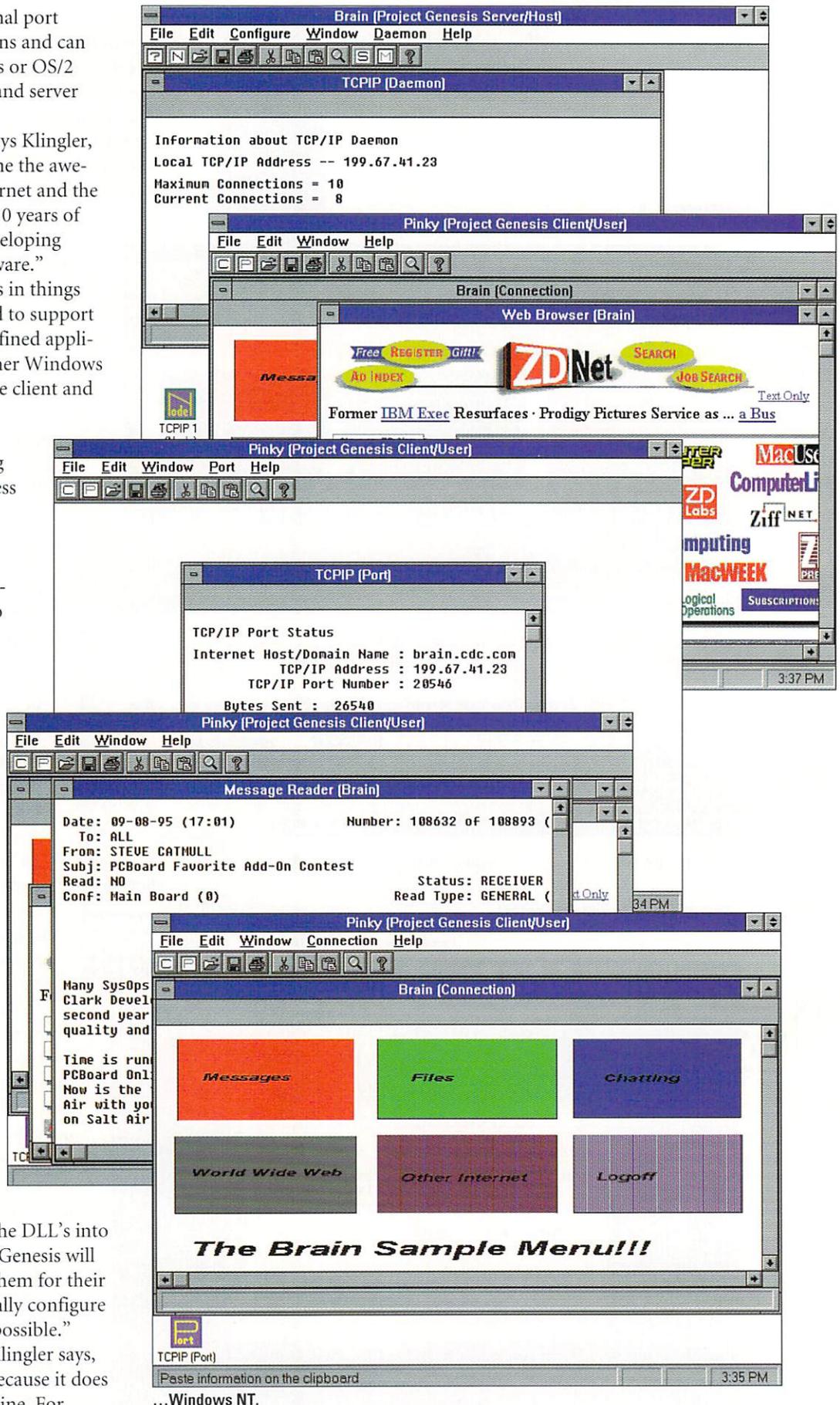
And that experience shows in things like Genesis’ ability to expand to support additional port types, user defined applications and interface with other Windows or OS/2 programs on both the client and server platforms.

Says Klingler: “Genesis is based on standards, including HTML. This makes dual-access from both the Genesis Client and Web browsers easier to manage. It also means that sysops can use any of the various HTML authoring tools to create content for their systems.”

As for sysops looking to make the jump to Genesis, CDC says the system offers a good deal of simplicity in the setup process. We put it to Klingler directly, asking exactly what sysops can expect and whether he suggests Genesis truly is the “simple solution” many claim to offer.

“Although Genesis is extremely flexible and powerful, it is also very easy to configure and to use,” he said. “For example, when you install a new Communication DLL or an Application DLL, you don’t have to edit INI files or run setup programs. You simply copy the DLL’s into the designated directory and Genesis will detect their presence, query them for their functionality, and automatically configure the new module as much as possible.”

As for the newbie sysop, Klingler says, “Genesis is a great solution because it does not require a dedicated machine. For example, home users can run it in the back-



ground on the same PC they use to play games, type letters and balance their checkbook.

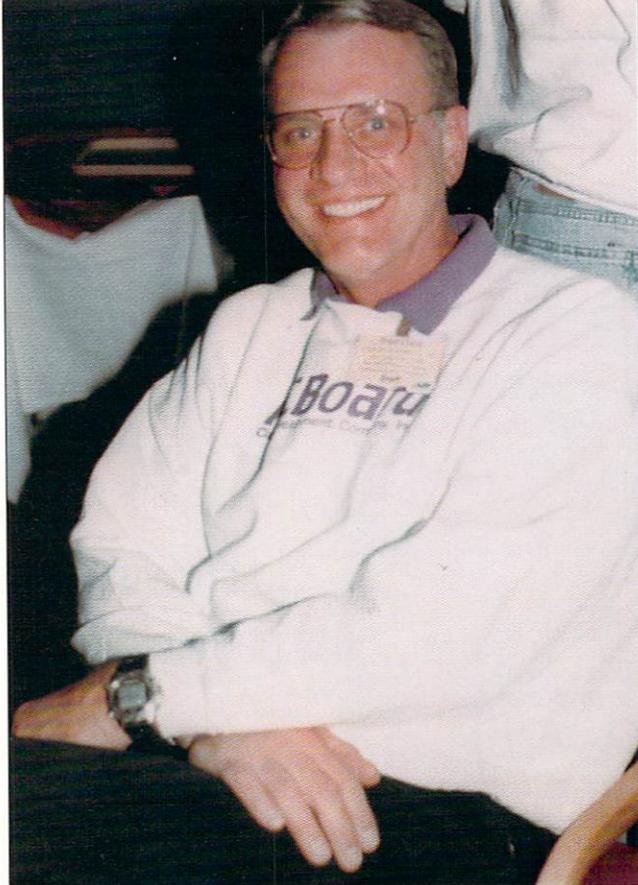
"Larger systems will choose to run Genesis on a dedicated machine, or on several PCs networked in an LAN or WAN environment."

With all this interconnectivity, it's apparent that CDC does not view the Net as an adversary. However, it's not necessarily seen it as an advocate either. The reality lies between.

Responding to our questions on this issue, Klingler said "We don't see it as an issue of BBSs versus the Internet at all. They are very complimentary technologies. The Internet is a massive network of computers, and an increasingly popular and cost effective way of connecting to your favorite BBS. It has also given us standards such as HTML. But there are many things that traditional BBSs do better than anything currently on the Internet. That's where we come in. Genesis brings together the best that BBSs and the Internet have to offer.

Plus, Genesis is not dependent on the Internet. You can run Genesis as a stand-alone system, and that's important to a lot of businesses, government users, and hobby systems that either don't want to or can't afford to be connected to the Net."

Pricing for Genesis has yet to be set. For more information on any of the releases, contact CDC (voice) at 801.261.1686, or dial the demo system (not yet running Genesis) at 801.261.8976. And CDC has prepared video tapes of the sessions covering nearly every aspect of PCBoard. These are available for sale through the company. ■■■■



Twelve years on, Clark Development chief Fred Clark is still plenty enthusiastic about what the future holds for his PCBoard and its coming incarnations.

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### ASAP Software

Voice: (708)-465-3700  
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Voice: (519)-642-0731  
Fax: (519)-642-0733  
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London, ON N6A 3C4  
Canada

### Egghead Discount Software

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FAX: (216)-494-7797  
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### SoftChoice Canada

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Toronto, ON M6K 1Y9  
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### Software House International

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Somerset, NJ 08873

### Software & More

Voice: (801)-272-9425  
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Salt Lake City, UT 84109

### Software Spectrum

Voice: (214)-864-3984  
2140 Merritt Dr  
Garland, TX 75041

### The Programmers Shop

Voice: (800)-421-8006  
FAX: (617)-740-0064  
90 Industrial Park Rd  
Hingham, MA 02043

### Softmart, Inc.

Voice: (215)-524-7440  
Oaklands Corporate Center  
457 Creamery Way  
Exton, PA 19341-2508

## Top PCBoard Resellers/ Consultants

### DDS Data Systems Co., Ltd.

Voice: (886)-2-231-1660  
9 Fl, Chung-Ho Rd  
Taipei, Taiwan

### Studerus Telecom AG

Voice: (41)-1-923-3523  
Grabenstrasse 8  
Nanikon, 8606  
Switzerland

### Unalis Corporation

Voice: (408)-262-5628  
Fax: (408)-262-2513  
1619 S Main St  
Millpitas, CA 95035

### World Data Network, Inc.

Voice: (703)-648-0808  
FAX: (703)-716-3090  
BBS: (703)-620-8900  
11088 Thrush Ridge Rd  
Reston, VA 22091-4722

### High Speed Tech

Voice: (718)-833-4949  
Fax: (718)-833-7876  
Pierre Barkett  
249 Bay Ridge Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11220

### Rusty & Edies

Voice: (216)-726-4217  
Fax: (216)-726-3595  
BBS: (216)-726-2620  
7393 California Ave, Ste 7  
Youngstown, OH 44512

### Excellnet Ltd

Voice: (972)-3-921-1334  
Fax: (972)-3-969-4111  
P.O. Box 380  
Rishon, Lezion 75201  
Israel

### TSD Systems, Inc.

Voice: (407)-331-9130  
Voice: (800)-331-9130  
Fax: (407)-331-8130  
851 E State Rd 434, Ste 106  
Longwood, FL 32750-5364

### Online Technologies

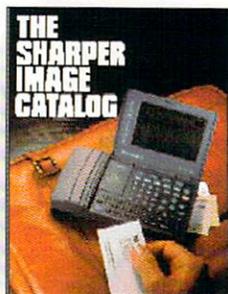
Voice: (301)-738-0001  
1207 Parrish Drive  
Rockville, MD 20851

# Joy to the Web!

No crowded malls, heavy catalogs —  
just people buying with credit and a mouse.

**H**oliday season 1995 marks an important first event: It's the first time that I — and a growing number of Net travelers — will do some of our holiday shopping on the World-Wide Web.

This time last year, it just wasn't ripe. Shopping on the Web seemed a bit too risky. Netscape's Secure Sockets Layer encryption hadn't quite emerged from a rock in Mountain View, Calif., and sending out your credit card number into the ethernet still seemed a tad unwise.



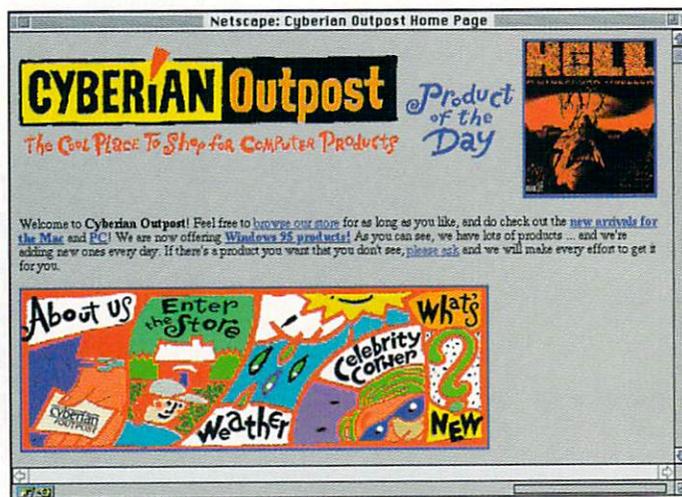
This year, things have changed. Sure, some international hackers showed that the 40-bit encryption key in Netscape's browser was crackable, but what are the odds that: a) someone will intercept your entire secure session and b) they'll want to spend the 10 to 30 days it'll take to crack your credit card number? The computing power required alone is pretty prohibitive.

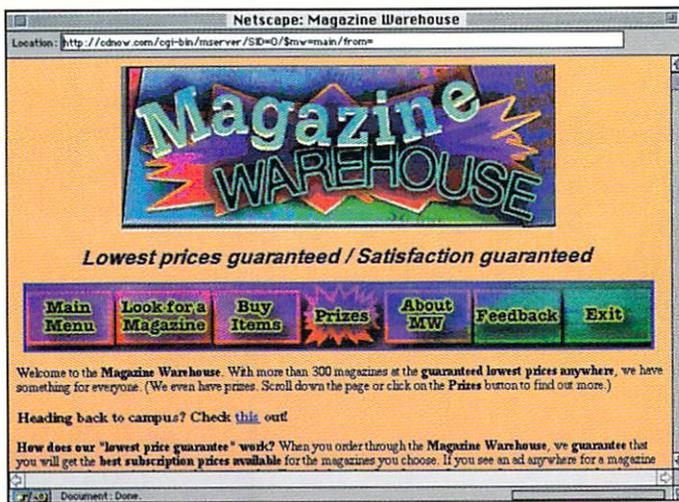
At any rate, I'll have no qualms about spending my dough on the Web. As long as I can find what I need without leaving the house, I'll be a happy camper. For instance, where can I find those odd and exotic presents I'm known for without spending three weeks tromping through malls, boutiques, and strip-mall hell?

## Cyber-shopping starts here

If all you want for Christmas is computer software and hardware, go no further than the Cyberian Outpost at <http://www.cybout.com/>. This company has a really good reputation on the Net. Get this: They actually post realistic software ship dates on their Web site! They service both Mac and PC audiences quite well, and they even have a discount bin online. What more could you want?

If more high tech fare (the kind that doesn't require its own CPU) is your idea of the perfect gift, you're in luck. The





Sharper Image Company just weaved its own corner of the Web at <http://cybermart.com/tsi/>. There are some cool things here, in categories like "Home & Safety," "Electronics & Gadgets," and the unmistakable "Great Gifts." (Honey, if you're reading, I've been eyeing that Turbo Tie Rack...) And ordering is just click-easy.

Other catalog sales companies have set up shop at cybermart.com as well, including Spiegel's digital catalog (<http://cybermart.com/spiegel/>) with home, fashion, and electronics offerings, as well as catalog offerings from Nature's Bloom (<http://cybermart.com/nb/index.html>), Sundance (<http://cybermart.com/sundance/>), and Gallery Glassique (<http://cybermart.com/glass/>). If you ask me, the "cybermall" has arrived! Well, there's no food court yet...

## Movies, tapes and more

For the true videophile, there's nothing that compares to a laserdisc movie. If you know someone with a laserdisc player, Ken Crane's Laserdisc Store, at <http://www.kencranes.com/laserdiscs/>, is the place to find that obscure title. Looking for CDs and tapes? Try CDnow, which boasts 165,000 titles and products at their site, <http://cdnow.com/>. The site also sponsors Magazine Warehouse — in their words, "megs of mags" at <http://cdnow.com/mags/>.

## Foods & stuff

For the coffee connoisseur, you can preview and subscribe to The Coffee Journal at <http://www.bid.com/coffeejrnl/>. Wine fans can order a bottle of primo vino from the highly rated Sam's Wine Warehouse in Chicago (<http://www.ravenna.com/sams/>).

If you can't let a Christmas pass without some sort of holiday munchie, you can order tins of gourmet popcorn from The Corn Popper at <http://www.graphi.com/cpopper/cphome.html>. Or try shopping for peanuts and candy at The Peanut Roaster Virtual Store, located at <http://www.peanut.com/peanut/>. And for some horribly fattening sounding cookies (appropriately dubbed "Fat Cat"), visit the Adobe Oven site at <http://www.indirect.com/www/adobeove/index.html>. They'll even send you a sample pack for the \$10 cost of shipping.

Oh, and if you can't figure out what to cook this holiday season, a trip to Recipenet, at <http://www.indi.net/welcome.html>, should straighten out this little wrinkle.

## The cyber-shopping experience

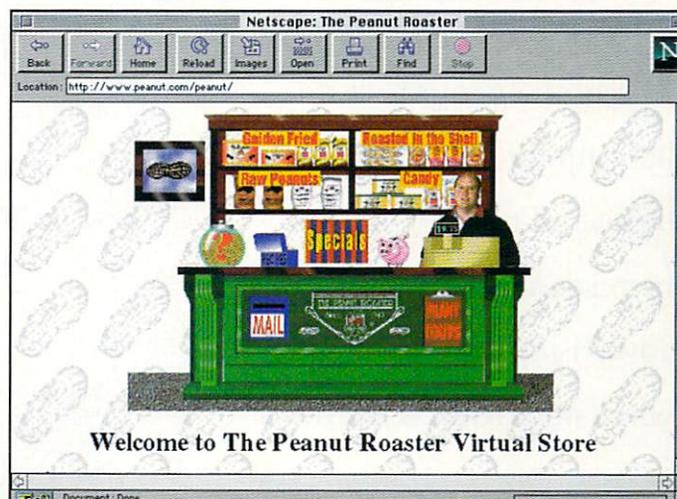
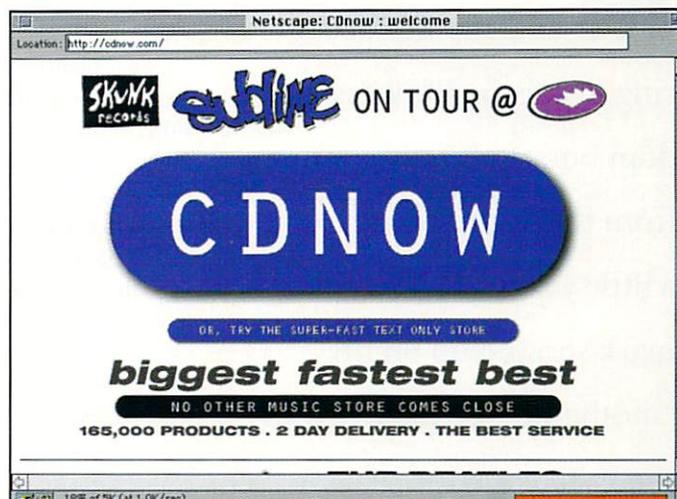
A word about what it's like to cyber-shop: While preparing this article, I started at cybermart.com and began clicking away. From there, I found many of the sites described here. In much the same way as one browses a shopping mall, Web sites are interlinked — so you literally can spend an afternoon just clicking from site to site, without stopping to think about the fact that you're shopping virtually, and not in a physical space. The amazing part is that this virtual mall is constantly growing, so its potential greatly outweighs the limitations of a real mall.

So far, there's no sign of Hickory Farms on the Net. So you may still have to get in the car, turn the key, and drive down to the local mini-mall for a few of those last-minute gifts. (You did get something for your boss, didn't you?) But for a growing number of items, the only key you'll need is the encrypted one that secures your transaction on the Web.

## Overheard on the 'Net

"Save a tree, use FTP." ■■■■■

Got a cool new site to tell us about? Or a ROTFL .sig quote for "Overheard"? Dave Kramer can be reached at [reeltime@omni.voicenet.com](mailto:reeltime@omni.voicenet.com).



# MELTDOWN

Even if your hardware holds, you still gotta avoid getting tangled in the Web.

**M**y first clue that anarchy was occurring inside the PC was random bursts of static coming from the sound board. Next a little yellow exclamation mark showed up on my “motherboard resources” in the system section of Windows 95.

“All is fine.” I thought. A Microsoft engineer set this baby up for me! If you can’t believe all the neat-o commercials and the grand advertising campaigns, then what, my friend, is truth?

Then late one Saturday night, upon firing up the PC, I was greeted with the following devastating phenomenon:

First, reality slowed, like the last few seconds before impact in a car collision. In those harrowing moments I imagined “boo-weep, boo-weep” resonating from my computer. Instead the speakers began hissing as I was sent simultaneous error messages and beeping. I half expected to hear the monotone “ten seconds to reach minimum safe distance” announcement as, you guessed it, my motherboard melted into oblivion.

Resulting thought: Computer meltdown is detrimental to product imaging and branding.

The marketing spin doctors execute guerrilla warfare tactics and sweep it under the rug like death at Disneyland. Laptops are melting down. Hard drives are grinding into digital dust. No, the sky’s not falling, but motherboards are melting. What’s going on here?

Defective computers are rushed out by the hundreds, if not thousands, to supply the demand of a market comprised of sometimes oblivious consumers that mill about behemoth com-

Location: <http://www.netcreations.com/boring/i2.htm>

## Big Companies, Boring Sites

*and how to avoid getting on this list*

Some inspiration for this page is owed to Bart Ziegler, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal for his article “In Cyberspace, the Web Delivers Junk Mail”

**The purpose of this site** is to point out problems with existing sites and give some suggestions as to how they could be reworked and improved. It is not intended as a forum for bad-mouthing sites or companies. Hopefully this information will be useful not only for the maintainers of the sites critiqued below, but for the reader in developing his own web presence.

### Monsanto

Monsanto is a huge corporation. They’re the ones that brought us NutraSweet, Ortho lawn chemicals, and Wear-Dated carpet. That’s pretty interesting stuff and I’d really like to read about the origins of NutraSweet, or how Wear-Dated carpet actually works (in non-hype). (Call me strange, but I’m the kind of person who likes the little factory tours on Sesame Street :) Unfortunately none of this information was to be found on the pages that followed...

## The child-like hooting of "I've got a Web page, I've got a Web page!" often falls on deaf ears. Why? Companies screen in their all-important logo, provide some "cool" non-threatening link, a contest or two to acquire research information, and then wonder at the public's general ambivalence to it all.

puter/warehouse stores filling shopping carts full of products they will never understand. And all this consumption occurs out of apparent necessity.

On the other end of the blind consumer is the tip of that consumption/capitalism iceberg: advertising.

Advertising agencies, lulled by the comfortable decades of traditional static print and broadcast mediums, jump head first into this new dynamic medium, yet balk at having to spend precious dollars to keep it dynamic. The child-like hooting of "I've got a Web page, I've got a Web page!" often falls on deaf ears. Why? Companies screen in their all-important logo, provide some "cool" non-threatening link, a contest or two to acquire research information, and then wonder at the public's general ambivalence to it all.

Demographic information from overseas consumers, a far cry from the target market, often saturates the data rendering it all but useless.

The result?: dead, static Web pages.

Let's suppose, dear reader, that you are an advertising executive at a large agency preparing a proposal outlining a three-year plan for the "New Media Ventures." The client, in all of their Internet savvy, demands to be part of this "revolution" and not be left out of the "wired world order."

Remember, these ventures can cost exorbitant amounts of money. Companies are throwing down many thousands if not millions of dollars to be included in the "revolution." A decision on your part to develop an Internet dud could propel your professional future into that of a snowblower salesperson in hell. You better get a handle on where this is all going. Good luck.

Which brings us to the "I've got to pay to maintain this thing?" phenomenon.

You Webmasters will identify with this. Companies scream for a Web page, and, once it's developed, do one of two things: scoff at keeping it dynamic, or completely ignore the patterns of consumption behavior and fill the site with irrelevant marketing

garbage only the execs deem important.

For many products and services, the necessity of a Web page is arguable. In these cases, the Web needs to be an image-only vehicle. Throwing together nonsense and posting it on the Net often ends up creating a negative reaction — not whatcha want.

How good does a surfer feel about a Web site that takes forever to load and ends up being not worth the wait? I'd say less than smashing. Then when the consumer sees a billboard or print ad, the bad image is re-enforced, "Yeah, I saw their Web page. What a joke."

The Webmasters, BBS sysops, Internet philosophers, and advertising execs are left to flounder in their similarly silicon-colored ivory towers.

So where *is* all this all going? Everyone has a theory. The big argument among propeller-heads used to be about platforms. Now that everyone and their mother is on some sort of online service, the argument shifts.

And, at the risk of sounding random, let us not forget the truly downtrodden of this heyday. These are the lonely souls who are employed by product support help lines. Those unfortunate few who get to know, on a personal basis, every ma and pa who bought a Pentium in the midst of all this buzzy hubbub and who consequently screech loudly at their inability to get on this Internet thing everyone on the block is talking about.

When the chance arises, confront one of these poor souls. Their stories ring true as those of a 60 year-old waitress at a truck stop between metropolitan cities.

They have witnessed the dark, strange and weird tales of the lonely, confused consumer passing in the night.

And then there's the original platoon — those in the "I told you so" category who are considered the experts of the online explosion, as they were

the original on-liners. Forced to deal with a consumption-crazed frenzy of novices who swallow upgrades with hungry smiles, these sysops and managers are forced to incorporate the inadequacies of the newest "cool thing" to seemingly maintain a stance of progressiveness. And this maintenance requires large amounts of monetary and mental resources, as new software and hardware saturate a market still riddled with flaws.

But back to the dilemma at hand. Your proposal is due within hours. You're an expert right? You're on top of this new media. Do you go the course of the "Everything is soon to be digital cable/Internet access?" What new Netscape encryption flaw am I worrying about this week? Do I put all my compressed audio/video eggs in one fly-by-night software basket? Anyone for a Hot cup of Java? Some new HTML tricks?

It's late. You're listening to some of that "keep 'em calm music" on a clogged customer support line, reading about the revolution touted on the outside of the glossy box of the component that just crashed your system. What to do?

Shutdown. ■■■■■

*Lazlow Jones writes and produces the Underground Technofile, a show about Internet and technology, for the Underground Network, an alternative radio satellite network in New York. The Technofile is syndicated on over 30 stations nationwide. Email him at lazlow@undernet.com or www.undernet.com.*

### Includes...

This really doesn't include much. Some samples of whatever junk I've found. None of it is very original. It's hard to find any traces of originality on the net. Everythings been tried already seems.

I choose to include anything that I've found interesting. Those who seek all the "cool and hip stuff" the net offers in order to become "true net surfers" should search [elsewhere](#) and need not bother. This page and the addresses contained within are for the [truly boring people](#) only.

### Misc. links...

Just some sites that I relate to.

# Roadtrips, Web Pages and Free Software!

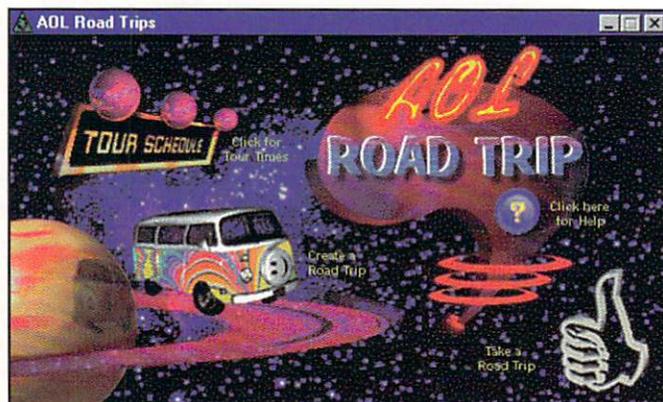
Commercial services keep rolling out the goodies

Ever log on an online service only to find you haven't any idea what to do? That won't happen on AOL — the meek and the lost can join an AOL Roadtrip and take a complete tour of America Online and the Web. I joined a tour already in progress, the 10 a.m. NEO-BYTE Trip, greeted by a pleasant tour guide:

Roadie RAB (guide): Hi BBSMag, glad you stopped in. :)  
Roadie RAB (guide): To catch up, just click on URL HISTORY  
Roadie RAB (guide): on the right, then double click on the  
Roadie RAB (guide): first item in the list. :-)

My screen then was divided into several panes: a Web window and a chat window. The chat window is where the tour is led. The Tour Guide, in my case Roadie RAB, can actually drive your screen, switching you from Web site to AOL service and giving you time at each tour location for self inspection.

Roadie RAB (guide): Our next stop on the WWW will be the  
Roadie RAB (guide): Great Smokey Mountains, pictures by  
Roadie RAB (guide): photographer Al Hearn. :-D  
Roadie RAB (guide): Displaying URL  
Roadie RAB (guide): <http://www.mindspring.com/~ahearn/smoky.html>  
Roadie RAB (guide): SWilk, welcome :)  
Roadie RAB (guide): When you get to a Web page, click on any  
Roadie RAB (guide): of the hypertext, usually the blue lettering,  
Roadie RAB (guide): and you will go to an area within that page .  
Roadie RAB (guide): You know it is possible to click on an item  
Roadie RAB (guide): or lettering when your mouse "arrow"  
Roadie RAB (guide): becomes a "hand" :D You can also click  
Roadie RAB (guide): on graphics. :)  
Roadie RAB (guide): We will spend 2 minutes here. :-)

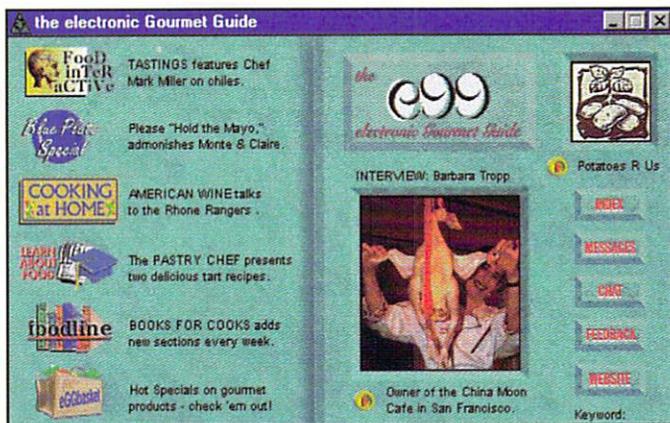


A typical AOL Road Trip visits a group of selected service resources or Web sites (or both), and you share your impressions of those sites with other people in a special chat room. Guides call your attention to highlights along the way. If you're really adventurous AOL gives you simple tools to create Road Trips if you want to be a guide.

To get started, go to the keyword "Roadtrip" and just click on the hitchhiker's thumb to see a list of ongoing trips, or click on the Van to create your own Road Trip!

**In AOL's Greenhouse: fruit you can eat.** The Greenhouse project was designed to bring innovative content from all over the world to AOL's member community, with the service footing some or all of the bill. One of the new content providers now online is The Electronic Gourmet Guide, known on AOL and the World Wide Web as eGG.

The goal is to break traditional rules associated with cook-



ing shows and use diverse content and programming to allow you to, in eGG's own words, "get inspired by new tastes and techniques, become schooled in the fundamentals by experienced educators, make dinner online with the nation's leading chefs, explore the food chain and converse with the producers of the foods we most like to eat, buy and prepare."

The eGG is divided into six content areas:

- 1) **Food Interactive** — The most creative, interactive programs yet created for the culinary enthusiast, including ones with prizes for the gourmet lifestyle.
- 2) **Cooking at Home** — Cooking and entertaining ideas for the dedicated home chef.
- 3) **Blue Plate Special** — Features and Special Event programming.
- 4) **Learn About Food** — Interactive instruction by real professors and educators.
- 5) **Foodline** — Reference, libraries, archives and cookbook reviews.
- 6) **The eGGBasket** — eGG's online shopping channel of unique products for the culinary enthusiast.

In addition to the six content areas, you can also visit the eGG's home on the Web through AOL.

In fact eGG was selected as a Greenhouse participant based on the work done at their Web site. Still, the content on the Web varies much from that on AOL. Go to the keyword "EGG" on AOL and whet your appetite.

## CompuServe

The World Wide Web is now open for publishing to members of CIS.

CompuServe members will soon be able to claim their own spot in cyberspace using a new service that lets even novice users design, build and publish their own personal home pages on the Web. It's all a thanks to Home Page Wizard and Publishing Wizard, unique authoring and submission tools that make publishing on the Web easier than ever.

The Home Page Wizard, which really requires no technical experience, uses advanced technology to eliminate many of the hassles associated with designing and submitting a Web page. It offers drag-and-drop editing, templates and helpful hints to aid in the design of attractive, personalized home pages. It provides the ability to add hotlinks that can jump to any other site on the Web, the ability to insert images and

numerous other features.

"Home Page Wizard offers unprecedented access to the Web. It eliminates the difficult technical jargon and the complex submission process in order to offer the fun and value of the Web," said David Pool, executive vice president for CompuServe's Internet Division. "Anyone who wants to stake their claim on the Internet frontier can do so with CompuServe's Home Page Wizard."

Once members design their pages, they can automatically test it in the browser of their choice to ensure it looks exactly how they intended. CIS is also providing a way for users who wish to scan and insert their own pictures. Members just mail the hard copy to a service that'll return the images on disk. It's then up to the user to drop them in.

Then a click away is Publishing Wizard. This will beam the completed page out onto the Web where Net surfers around the world can immediately visit CompuServe members' URLs in their new home on the Internet. The Publishing Wizard obtains the members' personal URL (<http://compuserve.com/home/USER'S NAME>) and also offers unique flexibility that lets users upload other HTML files so they can build a home page using other popular authoring tools.



This will likely become the largest home-made web community on the Internet.

The community will be searchable so users can find home pages based on a variety of topics. For example, members can search for other individuals who have posted information about dogs, people named Smith or cooks who have posted great chicken recipes on their home page.

CompuServe's Home Page Wizard and Publishing Wizard software is free to all members. As part of the \$9.95 monthly membership, users will be able to create home pages up to one megabyte in size.

If that is all a little too serious for you, then Comedy Central, the only 24-hour cable comedy network, is now on

CONTINUES...

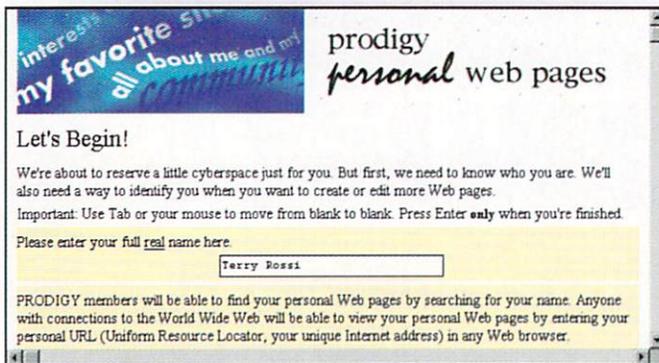
CompuServe with all the popular shows — “Absolutely Fabulous,” “Politically Incorrect,” “Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist,” and more. You can access program and schedule information, download clips, images and sound bites, and get interactive with the mavens of comedy.

The Comedy Central area gives you the opportunity to play the big cheese and make programming suggestions, vote in the “Politically Incorrect” poll and upload your favorite jokes in Quick Laughs. Hot Files presents users with an assortment of downloadable clips and images from Comedy Central favorites, such as “Mystery Science Theater 3000,” “Saturday Night Live,” and “The Young Ones.”

Stand-Up On-Line, a coming feature, puts the user center-stage in an online comedy club. It’s a closet-comic’s dream where you can try out your “bits” and get real-time feedback as to whether you should get an agent or keep selling pretzels on the corner. To access Comedy Central on CIS, GO COMEDY.

## Prodigy

Having unveiled its “Personal Web Pages” for members (like CompuServe), I couldn’t help but dig into Prodigy this month and create a brand-new Web page for myself. (If you are interested it is <http://pages.prodigy.com/NJ/Southern/bbsmag>.) It was a genuinely fun experience and the folks at Prodigy have lots of tips, images and guidelines for you to get comfortable with the new language of HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) used on the World Wide Web.



The first step in creating your personal Web page should happen offline. Burn a few brain cells and think about the page you want to create, then what you’d like to talk about — your work, your hobbies, your family, a special interest, or a hodgepodge of content. Then dial up Prodigy and click on the Internet link from the main screen. Here you’ll be asked to create a unique username and password that allows only you access to edit your Web pages. Once you have created an “account” you are presented with a form template to create your page.

This is where your off-line work comes into play, as the form template is much like a blank sheet of paper. Keep in mind what you write is entirely your own — your thoughts, your links, your views are published to a possible audience of millions around the world.

When you’re done, click the “submit” button and, congratulations, you’re on the Web.

There are a couple of elements Prodigy needs to add to the Personal Pages programming, however. For instance the program doesn’t check for valid HTML syntax so it’s possible for you to make formatting mistakes which are often hard to track down. The program also could be a little more informative about adding graphics and the syntax needed to use them.

In other Prodigy news, the Web browser has been improved to allow for a direct email from the web, faster and longer caching for visited Web links, and more robust network error checking. The P2 interface is also being continually enhanced, with an occasional download required at session startup.

## Delphi

Do I call it Delphi, News Corp., InternetMCI or “the yet to be named service”? Seems the long overdue restructuring of the first giant Internet access provider (Delphi) is suffering from mergers and joint venture syndrome. As you may have heard, the to-be-named service is part of a joint venture announced in August by MCI and News Corp. to launch new, Internet-based online services for consumers and businesses. The joint venture will provide a wide range of interactive products and services, including a comprehensive guide to the Internet, a variety of games, an engaging online space for children, and a host of specialized programming developed jointly with News Corp. companies like TV Guide, Fox Broadcasting, Twentieth Century Fox, fX, HarperCollins and News Corp.’s worldwide news properties, as well as a wealth of other non-affiliated partners.

The venture will include all of the current online, interactive operations of both MCI and News Corp., but since they apparently don’t know what to call it, the companies have invited the cyberspace community to enter an online contest to name their revolutionary new service. The contestant who submitted the best name was to receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

“We’re appealing to one of the most discriminating — yet democratic — segments of our society to help us name our new service,” says Scott Kurnit, newly appointed chief executive officer and president of the joint venture. “The cyber generation spends its time flaming, lurking and posting, so we thought it would be fun to involve them in shaping the future.”

The problem is that the winner was supposed to be announced on August 31, but as September wore on, I still hadn’t seen a name for the new service. Is this just another delayed launch for the new Delphi or did Rupert (as in Murdoch, CEO of the news giant) just get stingy with the cash?

Meanwhile the no-name service (on the Web) is sprouting up new pages and content, while Delphi, the character-based service, looks like it has cobwebs growing on it.

## MSN

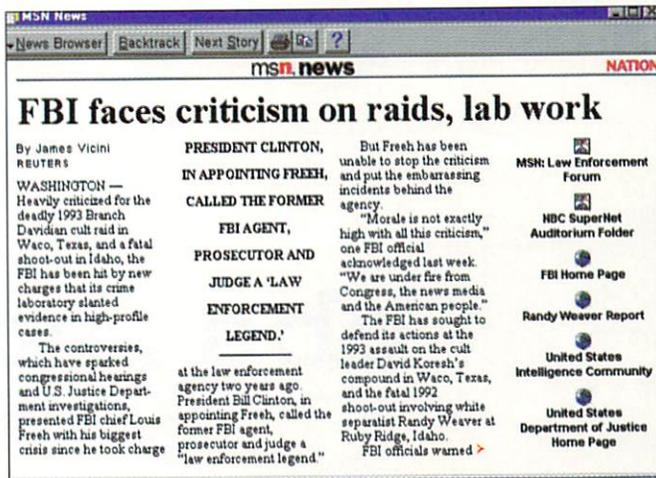
Last month we took an initial look at the new Windows 95-only Microsoft Network. I must admit that my first impression was not one of elation. The system was/is slow and the

GUI was not as intuitive as Windows 95 itself.

But as I continue to explore MSN, I am finding features of the system that I do indeed like. One in particular is the MSN News feature.

MSN News is the closest thing to an online newspaper that I've ever seen. It comes complete with column-style newsprint, audio, video, MSN and Web links.

The news comes complete with "sections" — The World, The Nation, Sports, Arts and Entertainment, and Business. The articles are interesting, written by national columnists and



popular news services, and, of course, are timely.

Another good deal is Microsoft is giving away software and demos for some of its programs. Check out MSN Today for the specials of the day. MSN was giving away a scaled down version of Microsoft's Encarta the last time I was on. For Windows 95 users, PowerToys, the Internet Explorer, and the CD-ROM extras are all online.

*Terry Rossi is a founder of Enterprise Wide Technologies, an open systems consulting firm specializing in world-class manufacturing. He has been a sysop and BBSer for over 10 years.*

# BBS Software & Hardware

## This Month's Specials

Worldgroup (8 line) .....	\$395
User 6-packs .....	\$189
Internet Connectivity w/ MGI .....	CALL
Major Gateway Internet.....	\$179
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# bbs . notebook

BY STEVE JANAS

To qualify for possible review in BBS Notebook, call The Livewire BBS at 609.235.5297. From the main menu, type ADDBBS and follow the prompts.

## The Blackhawk

**Sysops:** Jason Green, Ben Muscott, Dan Norton, Duke Green  
**Location:** Harrison, MI  
**Data #:** 517.539.6274  
**Modem Supported:** 14,400 BPS  
**BBS Software:** Searchlight 3.5

This board, according to the opening screen, is the only one in the area to feature RIP graphics. That area, says Jason Green — one of three teenagers and one father who serve as a committee of sysops for the board — is Harrison, Michigan, which is only now awakening to the possibilities of computer connectivity.

"This calling area only has a few hundred people who have modems, and only about 25 are active in the BBS world," Jason says. In fact, only recently, thanks to a local community college, has the area become serviced by any kind of Internet access provider at all. The board isn't connected and, because of the cost, will not be any time soon, Jason says.

It's run from a rather modest 386SX/25 PC equipped with a 580MB hard drive, Jason says.

"That's all we really need," he says, "because that's faster than the

modems will transmit."

Mainly what the board provides is a professional-looking local general interest BBS whose designers have a flair for the graphic possibilities RIP software offers. The opening screen impresses with its dynamic arrangement of multi-colored streaks, and other screens are equally noteworthy. The main menu is laid out over the image of a hawk (part of the board's motif; online, Jason goes by

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**Mainly what the board provides is a professional-looking local general interest BBS whose designers have a flair for the graphic possibilities RIP software offers.**

the handle Captain Hawk — it doesn't mean anything special, he says), and the button that launches the CD-ROM doors produces the logo of the Doors — as in the 1960s-vintage rock band — when it's clicked. Pretty clever.

That particular conceit is exploited even further: once the Doors logo is wiped from the screen (it drowns in a sea of red that, quite frankly,

takes a little longer than it should to do its work) each one of the file options, laid out on six online CD-ROMs, is identified with the name of a band member. Jim Morrison's name, of course, is the biggest.

Jason says there are even more graphic possibilities on the horizon. By the end of the year, he says, the board will have upgraded to Searchlight 4.5 software, into which will have been integrated more complex RIP 2.0 graphics.

One of the aims of the board will be to build a virtual community with a more "user-friendly" environment than the current system, Jason says.

"The main menu will consist of a drawing of a city," he says, "where users can go to other areas just by clicking on the area (such as the carnival for games)."

Any current user curious about what this might look like can download an advance copy of the screen (the document is called LOGTWO.BMP) from the NEWFREE file area, Jason says.

About the users, Jason doesn't really know how many the board has attracted in its six years of existence. There is only one phone line, so multi-node chats are impossible. However, the message area has of late become popular with area teenagers, he says, who are drawn by the board's large selection of games.

The language they speak to each other has led Jason to uncover a strange paradox.

"They all leave stupid messages that have no meaning," he says. "But when they all do that, you begin to understand some of it."

## New Jersey Land

Sysop: Charles Bailey

Location: Neptune, NJ

Data #: 908.918.8682

Modem Supported: 14.4 BPS

BBS Software: PC Board

Sysop Charles Bailey says he started New Jersey Land "out of the ashes of a failed voice-mail system." As with his first endeavor, he intended this project to be a money maker, by giving local real estate agents an online home for their listings, accompanied by GIF files.

The board is that, but, as Charles says, "It has grown into so much more. It is a community of people."

As the name suggests, those are mostly New Jersey people. The board is hooked into a New Jersey network known as JerseyNet, which features the expected personal ads, classifieds and varied correspondences between citizens of the Garden State.

There's limited Internet access, which is provided by the UUCP connection that comes installed in the PCBoard software Charles runs the board from.

He says his users are pressuring him into establishing full Net access, and he is currently testing out a system whereby he'll have a home-made LINUX machine available for telnetting, and which will be hooked up a LAN into the 486 the board now calls home.

Charles keeps his 15,000 files and his system information on a one gigabyte hard drive, which is complemented by six online CD-ROMs. At the moment, there are two phone lines hooked into 14.4 baud, but as part of his planned upgrade, Charles has acquired a set of five US Robotics 28.8 baud modems, which he expects to have installed and operational by year's end.

Membership is a very reasonable \$10 for two months of full access, but that number is likely to rise once the board gains full Net access.

"The price is undetermined, but it'll probably be in the \$7-\$10 per month range," Charles says.

As for the content on the board, there are a couple of nifty features that set it apart from others. One is the opening screen that informs the user of significant historical events that occurred on whatever date it happens to be (I dropped in on the 208th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution). For a personal touch, the board will tell you your horoscope, and if you want to hassle the rich and famous, it will give you their email addresses (although somehow I don't think that President@Whitehouse.Gov will give you the inside line to Bill Clinton).

One feature I enjoyed was the per-

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**The board is hooked into a New Jersey network known as JerseyNet, which features the expected personal ads, classifieds and varied correspondences between citizens of the Garden State.**

sonalized match maker service that asks the users a set of detailed questions before calculating their compatibility with other users. I answered them, mostly truthfully, and was given one screen full of females and, ahem, three screens full of males to choose from.

Compatibility was measured by percentage, calculated according to the number of identical answers on the questionnaire, I would imagine. My best match among the women had a 40 percent compatibility; her name — and I'm sure this is what's on her birth certificate — was Joy Ride. However, she wasn't my best

overall match. That was found among the men. In fact, he was none other than the sysop, Charles Bailey.

Go figure.

## PostFUN

Sysop: John Mitchell

BBS Location: Kansas City, MO

Data #: 816.942.5641

Modem Supported: 9600 BPS

BBS Software: Telegard 2.7

This is a small general-interest board run by an attorney in the Kansas City area. Sound like a hobby? It is. Sysop John Mitchell makes no bones about that. His software is an older version of the freeware Telegard, although John says he plans to upgrade to the 3.0 version once it's available. The total number of files available for download is a whopping 265.

Still, there's stuff of interest here, especially for users curious about the legal issues involved with BBSing. Being a lawyer, John supplements the games (which are of the garden variety) with Fidonet echos that cover law and disorder, civil liberties, BBS legal issues and others.

"I am definitely in favor of speaking freely," John says. "Users on my board can say just about anything they wish, and on some areas they can say 'anything' they wish."

There are no chats (reasonable, considering there's only one phone line) and no Internet access. But that's okay, John says, because there's no fee to get full access ("What," he says, "do you think I would dare charge for a set-up like this?"). The only thing new users have to do is leave John a message.

In addition to Fido, the board belongs to PODS, the Pagan/Occult Distribution System. Yes, counsel is a warlock. One particularly interesting feature found by launching the "games" door (no CD-ROMs) is a game that quizzes the user on Wicca, the female-centered religion whose practitioners are often accused of witchcraft. They're multiple choice; if you get the answer right you get points.

CONTINUES...

I got the first question right, but the system kind of flaked on me for the second and I never found out if I was right or not. Too bad. The question was a compelling one: "How many witches were burned in the Salem witch trials in 1962?" I didn't think there were any witch trials in the 1960s, but then I'm not sure what became of McCarthy after he was run out of Washington.

The machine the board runs from is a home-built 386DX/40 which John says he constructed component by component.

"Its brand name could be 'E Pluribus Unum,'" he says, "for it is decidedly one out of many."

John says he first came to BBSing in 1992, when he bought a 2400bps modem. One of his first discoveries online was a Kansas City-area board run by a fellow lawyer called — cleverly enough — Juris Diction. John got hooked, and started Post-FUN in May of 1993.

And about that name: John credits the telephone company for dreaming it up.

"When I first started my BBS," he says, "it was part-time on my voice phone line, which was 767-8386, which spells out 'post fun'. The name sounded good, and I note with pride that it appears nowhere else on the Fido node list."

## Nerville

**Sysop:** John Guarnero  
**BBS Location:** Schererville, IN  
**Data #:** Node 1: 219-736-4957  
Node 2: 219-736-6282

**Modems Supported:** Up to 28.8 bps  
**BBS Software:** Wildcat! 4.11

This BBS is a midwestern enigma with a bit of a split personality. It wears its politics on its sleeve — certainly not unusual in the online world — but the politics make for an eclectic mix.

What do I mean? Consider this: the board possesses a conservative bent that quite frankly rankled this Clintonite when he came across it. The very first screen a user encounters features a drawing rendered in

ANSI graphics that shows a demonized Bill Clinton. Next to it is a countdown numbering the days he's been in office. This period is referred to as "America Held Hostage."

Further, the board contains weekly summaries of the TV shows from that paragon of sober political discourse, Rush Limbaugh. Check here if you want a recap, in precis form, of how Mr. Limbaugh believes raw sewage dumped into the ocean actually fosters the creation of marine life.

.....

### Check here if you want a recap, in precis form, of how Mr. Limbaugh believes raw sewage dumped into the ocean actually fosters the creation of marine life.

But lest you think the board is solely an organ of America's right wing, I have to point out that right next to the Limbaugh summaries on the main menu is a pro-environment selection that calls up a database of all the endangered species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There's also something called the "critter corner" that selects a critter of the month and gives a text bio. When I logged on, that critter was the Mephistis Mephistis, or striped skunk. Its spray can nail you at a distance of 15 feet — did you know that?

Anyway, politics is not even the board's main focus. Essentially, it's a message board with a growing user base whose cries for more reliable access and better graphics have prompted sysop John Guarnero to add a second node this fall, and upgrade early next year to Wildcat! version 5, which will support the graphics John wants to integrate.

"I went to two nodes because users were complaining about how hard it was to get on to node one

during peak hours," he says. "The only real advantage is that node two is lightly loaded."

The board is free, but to get access to that second node — which does not open up any special services to the user — a donation of \$10 is requested.

Other upgrades John has instituted include adding a PC with a Pentium 100 Mhz processor and 16MB of RAM to the 486DX/66 the board has resided on since April of this year, when it was launched. The two boards are linked together through a LAN, and combined, they have five online CD-ROMs and more than three gigabytes of file areas.

John's adventures with the latest PC processor has left him in a bit of a sardonic mood, so in the message area, he has included a number of Pentium jokes. Some are so esoteric they'll only get a rise out of a true programmer, but others are more suited for general consumption. There is, for example, a "top ten" list of suggested slogans for Intel's chip. My favorite? Number five: "We fixed it. Really."

As for other features, John has included several game doors, a matchmaker program for users to link with one another, a daily weather forecast for the northern Indiana/southern Illinois area, and a wire news service that provides headlines, sports, and entertainment. The latter feature costs John \$225 a year, a cost he says he simply absorbs.

Finally, there's the issue of Internet access. There is none, yet. However, with the upgrade to the new Wildcat! in January, John hopes to work toward providing some form of Net access, whether it's simply email, or full-blown access. Look for that to happen in July of 1996. ■■■■■

*Steve Janas is editor and co-founder of Nexus Six magazine, the journal of gutter-tech. He welcomes news of new and noteworthy boards. He can be contacted at janas@aol.com.*

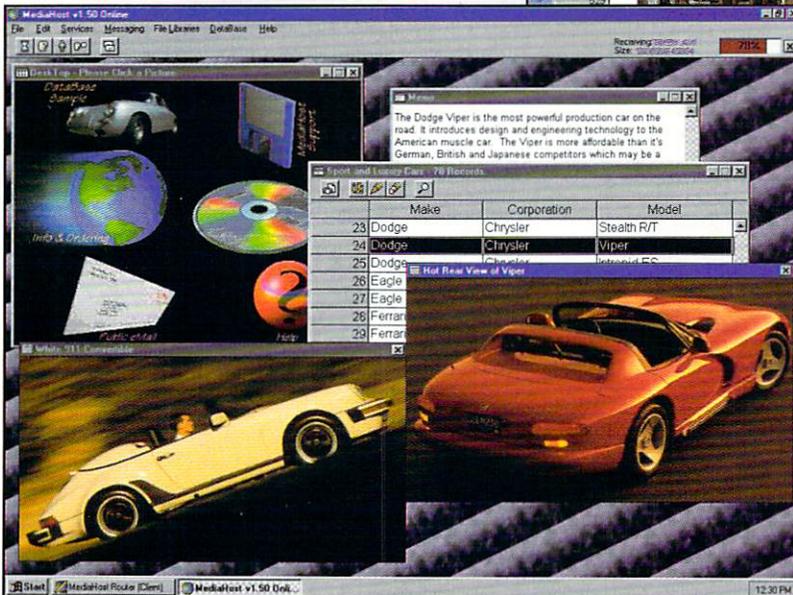
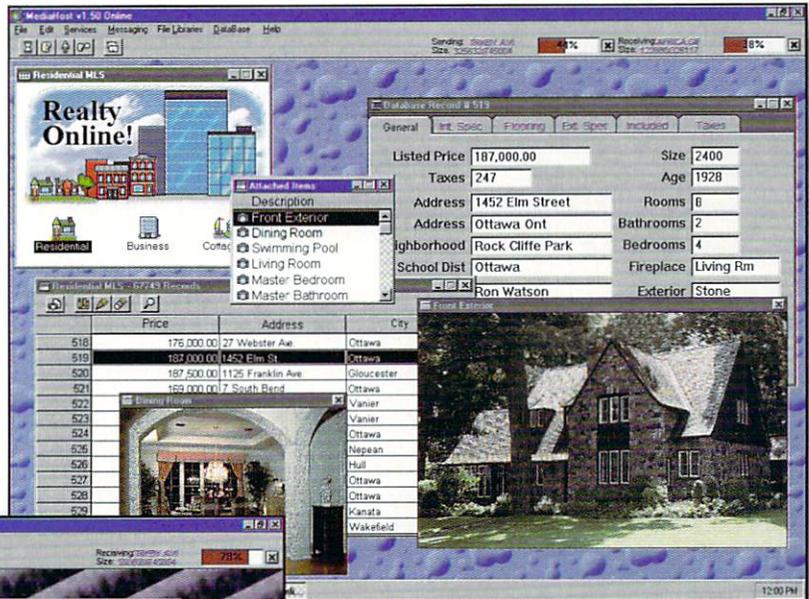
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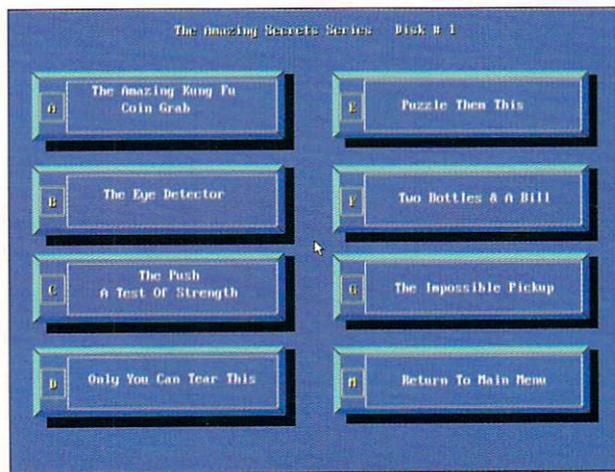
BY HANK HURTEAU

Following are top downloads as recorded last month on three BBSs across the U.S. Look for them on your favorite local BBS, too. Files such as QWK packets have been omitted, as have any graphic files. Descriptions are generated by author or bulletin board. Programs carried in the "Top Ten" download list don't necessarily denote a good program, of course — just one that's frequently downloaded. You'll have to be the judge when it comes to quality. And keep in mind: always look for the latest program, as one of the advantages to using (and registering) shareware is that you'll be privy to the frequent updates.

THE BARBER SHOP BBS 413.737.8634

Sysop: Richard Roy

- 1 CONF727.ZIP 109,668
PC-CONFIG V7.27 — Detects all the hardware in your PC and displays it on the screen. One of the best sysinfo-programs around, it comes with a CD-ROM benchmark routine. Finds Local-Bus and PCI boards, Cyrix, TI, UMC and Pentium CPUs; detects lots of VGA chips, APM functions, EPP BIOS, Green boards and all the standard stuff.
2 20SQR.ZIP 510,790
20-Squares v1.0s is a Windows shareware version of an ancient Egyptian game whose name is lost in antiquity, known today by archaeologists only as "the twenty squares game." The game features stunning images, great game sounds, original MIDI score, and MummyFacts™ of ancient Egypt. Easy, fun and educational.
3 ASECRETS.ZIP 144,273
Amazing Secrets — A how-to of amazing stunts and tricks. Includes fire tricks, strength stunts, psychic secrets, show-off tricks, impossible things and bar bets.



- 4 DERBY.ZIP 1,251,759
Home Run Derby by MVP Software. So, you think you're pretty good on the ball diamond, do you? But do you have what it takes to compete with the likes of Hurt Thomas, Barty Bunds, and Junior Griffin Jr? Can you go deep, take the ball out of the yard? Step up to the plate and take your whacks against the best. "BSPN" personality Bob Yukon calls the action in this hilarious baseball game. Req VGA. Supports most sound cards.
5 10MF2097.ZIP 2,741,769
One Must Fall 2097 — Welcome to the future of fighting from Epic MegaGames. In the year 2097, steel will bend and sparks will fly. You control a massive robot through match after match of strategic fighting action. Blazing animation, stereo music and sound for all major sound cards — one or two-player action.
6 AW065B.ZIP 108,292
ArtWorx v0.65 (Beta). Full-featured ANSI editor that blows away all others.
7 BARYON10.ZIP 2,427,231
Baryon is the greatest shoot 'em ever devised for the PC. You must pilot your ship against a relentless onslaught of alien craft, both in the air and on the ground. Features fast, smooth scrolling graphics with a fluid maneuverability and a rocking soundtrack. Requires 386SX+, VGA, four megs of RAM.
8 PSYCH10.ZIP 297,696
The Psychedelic Screen Saver Collection v1.0 — A collection of screen savers that generate hypnotic patterns. Included are 16- and 32-bit versions for Microsoft Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and Windows NT, as well as versions for Berkeley Systems After Dark v2.0.



- 9 **LABELGO.ZIP** 295,581  
 LabelGo for Windows 1.02 — A full-featured label design/printing program that prints labels, envelopes and checks. Can read data right from your existing databases (including remote servers) through Open Database Connectivity (ODBC). Features 21 barcode types: POSTNET, Code 39, UPC, EAN, and more.
- 10 **PLUG260.ZIP** 479,005  
 PLUG-IN for Windows v2.60 — Award-winning utility fills the holes in Win 3.1 and Win 95. Title Bar displays, alarms, scheduler, application installer, sound support (events, talking clock, etc.). PowerButton to access a multi-level QuickRun menu, custom cursors, nested groups, resource alerts, system info, screen saver hotkey, run with history list, and more. From Plannet Crafters.

## SPACE BBS 415.323.4398

### Sysop: Owen Hawkins

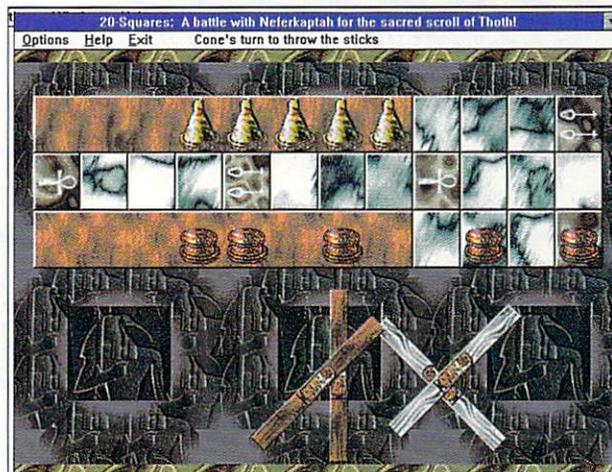
- 1 **SHEZ108.ZIP** 391,248  
 SHEZ v10.8 premier compression shell — ZIP, LHA, ZOO, ARC, ARJ, SQZ, PAK, UC2, HAP, RAR, Windows Compressed supported. One of the most full-featured compressed file shells around. New SFX identification routine to ID SFX ZIP files. New ALT-F4 command to add/update FILE\_ID from 4DOS desc. 386 version of SHEZ. Always look for the latest version as this is upgraded regularly.
- 2 **4DOS551.ZIP** 532,491  
 4DOS 5.51 — The award-winning COMMAND.COM replacement for MS-DOS, PC-DOS, DR DOS, OS/2, and Win 95, with command enhancements, over 50 new commands, and dozens of other unique command-line tools.
- 3 **SNOOP343.ZIP** 173,361  
 Snooper 3.43 — System info utility. Shows CPU/NDP, DOS, BIOS, memory, CD-ROM, disks, video, env, kbd, sound cards, ports, IDE model,

### One Must Fall



CMOS, disk cache, Stacker, Files & buffers, IRQs, DMA, modems, mice and port IRQs. Lets you edit CMOS, CONFIG, AUTOEXEC. Network and benchmark screens, detects 1100 MCA cards, and has auto-logging. New version adds detections, bug fixes. Ideal for tech support, HW inventory. File management, program launching, and 4DOS & NDOS compatible file annotation. For DOS, Windows, OS/2 & DV.

- 4 **FFF51.ZIP** 242,719  
 FileFinder v5.1 — Finds files and directories on normal, networked and CD-ROM drives and inside compressed files. Also locates duplicate files. Extremely fast and versatile. New to this version — search for file x days old, US, European, and Japanese style dates supported, default filespec when doing date or size search. Fixed problem with FFD showing duplicate directories.
- 5 **BROWSE11.ZIP** 13,692  
 BROWSE v1.1 — A fast browser for long ASCII text files such as books from Project Gutenberg. If the file is too long to read at one sitting, Browse can save your place, then when you return to the file, Browse sets you up exactly where you left off.
- 6 **LAWJK25.ZIP** 58,1140  
 Lawyer Jokes and Quotes, Windows V2.5. 220 — Jokes and 550 quotes give you the "Lowdown on doctors, lawyers & politicians." Easy to use program lets you Add, Edit and Delete. Written about in many newspapers & trade journals. With Quote-A-Day, toolbars, iconic subject menu, filters, browser, word search, and context-sensitive help.



- 7 **PCDRUM23.ZIP** 145,528  
 PC Drummer v2.3 — Latest version of the popular Sound Blaster drum machine program. Features programmable patterns, instrument placement (stereo), and more percussion instruments. Now works better with Sound Blaster compatibles, and interrupt 10. Req: 386+, mouse, Sound Blaster.
- 8 **P2DSK15A.ZIP** 356,024  
 Print2Disk v1.5a — By selecting "Print2Disk" from within your application you can redirect printer output to disk in form of a graphic image file format: DCX — multi page; PCX — no page break; PCX — multi page; TIFF — Group 3 (TIFF fax format); TIFF — GammaFax TIFF fax format; Req: Win 3.1 or Win 95, VBRUN300.DLL.
- 9 **PWTOYS95.ZIP** 146,116  
 PowerToys, UI enhancements for advanced Win 95 users — Can be easily installed on any recent build of Win 95. These enhancements were developed by members of the Microsoft Win 95 team, and are now being made available to Win 95 users at no cost.
- 10 **DLG1995.ZIP** 418,572  
 Disney 1995: Disneyland Fall 1995 Information Guide — An electronic, multi-media information guide. Excellent tips and ideas on how to make your visit to Disneyland better. Save money and see more of Disneyland. A "Top Pick" on America Online. Works with both DOS and Windows. Look for latest version.

CONTINUES...

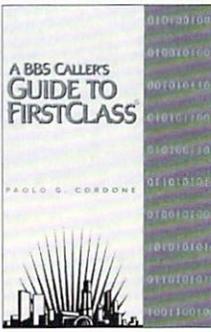
**Sysop: Chip Shapiro**

- 1 **PMPN110A.ZIP** 448,077  
PM PostNotes v1.10A — "PostIt" note utility for OS/2. Includes: small PIM w/graphical time-usage, true digital clock/calendar, hour/quarter/half-hour chiming, hour tolling, digital stop watch, event timer/reminder, program launcher.
- 2 **CLTN30.ZIP** 329,516  
Clinton DOOM! A must see! Version 3.0.
- 3 **GMBLMT95.ZIP** 216,167  
Gambler's Mate: Football Edition 1995 — Automated picks tracked through the year. 59.1 percent vs. the spread (414-286 since 1989). Uses 45 NFL Trends and two programs.
- 4 **ZPRO219.ZIP** 438,919  
ZIP'R Pro For DOS v2.19 — Hard drive Tripler. ZIP'R Pro stores programs in compressed form when they are not being used. Use ZIP'R Pro to automatically decompress a program, execute it, and recompress it again. Uses ARJ, LHA, PKZIP, or built-in compression. Integrate with a menu system, or use ZIP'R Pro's button menu. Works with networks and multitaskers. Easy to use push-button interface with mouse support.
- 5 **2SHOW105.ZIP** 204,364  
Release 1.05a of CompuShow 2000 — A hot new interface and all the graphics capabilities of CompuShow, the full-featured graphics display system for GIF, RLE MacPaint, PC Paint, PC Paintbrush, ColoRIX, EGA Paint, IMG, Dr. Halo, Targa, IFF/LBM/HAM, BMP, Tiff, and JFIF (JPEG) graphics on IBM compatibles with Hercules, CGA, EGA, MCGA, VGA, 8514/a, XGA, VESA and Super-VGA adapters, including hi-color SVGAs.

- 6 **AIR1.ZIP** 30,998  
Regular and Deathmatch WAD for HERETIC.
- 7 **CSHOW903.ZIP** 265,608  
CompuShow version 9.03a — The full-featured graphics display (and convert) system for GIF, RLE, MacPaint, PC Paint, PC Paintbrush, ColoRIX, EGA Paint, IMG, Dr. Halo, Targa, IFF/LBM/HAM, BMP, Tiff, JPEG, RIP Icon, PBPLUS, and PNG graphics on IBM compatibles with Hercules, CGA, EGA, MCGA, VGA, 8514/a, XGA, VESA and Super-VGA adapters including hi-color SVGAs.
- 8 **TICN09IC.ZIP** 4,355,649  
This is The OS/2 Icon Collection #9. Standard \*.ICO edition. Over 3,000 icons, many unavailable elsewhere.
- 9 **WINZIP60.ZIP** 313,724  
WinZip 6.0 for Windows 3.1 and Workgroups — Now supports McAfee WSCAN and other scanners. Brings the convenience of Windows to Zipping. External programs not needed for ZIP, tar, gz, z. "Recommended Download" — Windows Magazine 8/95. "Cadillac of Unzippers" — PC Magazine 3/14/95. "Slick and Intuitive" — Computer Shopper 5/94. Winner of Windows Magazine's 1993 WIN100 Award. "Best Utility" at the 1994 Shareware Industry Awards
- 10 **1DIR0110.ZIP** 57,187  
Fast color dir. program with many options, including sorting.

If you are a sysop and carry a Top Ten bulletin on your BBS, and would like to see your board listed here, please contact "Uncle" Hank at Uncle Hank's BBS or at [unkhank@ix.netcom.com](mailto:unkhank@ix.netcom.com)

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# Perfaxion

## Around the test track with geoFAX

**A** race car driver understands precision timing and knows intuitively that it isn't always the fastest car that wins the race. It's the combination of precision driving, speed and control that makes the difference. Racer Maurice Randall knows this all too well, and seems to have used these same principles in programming his new geoFAX.

When geoFAX began arriving in the mailboxes of those who had pre-ordered, many lives began to change: People who normally go to bed at a respectable hour were suddenly staying up late, experimenting with a new way of communicating with the outside world and with new high-resolution graphics capabilities. The barrier smashing didn't stop with fax and graphics, however, as geoFAX has proven that it is possible to push the 1200 baud limit of GEOS terminal programs with its own simple terminal program. One would hope that if a 9600 baud "simple" terminal program can be used in GEOS, others with more capability won't be too far behind.

What does it take to turn your Commodore into a fax-capable computer?

You'll need a fax modem capable of sending and receiving Group 3, Class 2 fax commands, a SwiftLink cartridge from Creative Micro Designs, Inc., GEOS 2.0 and geoFAX. A fast disk drive like an REU, CMD Ramlink or hard drive is recommended, especially for higher speed fax transfers, but geoFAX will operate with 1541 disk drives. Previously it was published that geoFAX would operate without a SwiftLink cartridge for slower modems, but when the software actually hit the market this

had changed.

The software for geoFAX arrives on a 5.25 inch disk, with a bright yellow paper tucked inside the disk envelope with "WARNING NOTICE !!!" clearly visible on it. The warning is to remind users NOT to run geoFAX from the original disk. When first run, the software asks the user to type in their name (or company name) and telephone number, which is then hard-coded into the program itself. The US FCC requires every fax to include the calling machine's phone number and the name of the person or company sending the fax. Along with this information, the geoFAX registration ID, unique to each copy, is also sent.

The documentation for geoFAX is in geoWrite format on the back of the disk, with individual chapters saved as separate files. A nice touch was the inclusion of a cover sheet with the geoFAX logo on it for the purpose of printing the docs. The first side of the disk contains the main software, several printer drivers and geoMorph, a "bonus" shareware morphing program.

### First glance

The geoFAX screen has an almost 3-D appearance, with functioning LED's above buttons which can be clicked to access the program options.

When converting geoPaint files,

the image of paper coming up from the 3-D fax machine appears, with the image being converted on the paper. Visually, it's a pleasure. Clicking on the options, such as AUTO, SEND, PRINT, or DISK brings up additional menus. The START button is used for beginning a fax send, the OFF button exits the program.

**Faxing** — When a fax is received, it's saved to disk as a fax document, which is a new type of file for GEOS. Once received, these documents can then be printed using the supplied printer drivers, or they can be converted to geoPaint format. Both printing and conversion processes are done from within geoFAX. The documents are saved in their original high resolution (204 dpi by 196 dpi) format, which is why it requires conversion to geoPaint (for viewing) and different printer drivers.

The software can convert geoPaint files to fax format "on the fly" while sending documents, or they can be converted to fax documents prior to sending. Since geoFAX relies on sending geoPaint files, a special type of printer driver called "Interceptor" is included so users can quickly convert geoWrite and other GEOS files to geoPaint format for faxing.

The modem speed can affect the quality of the document, covered in the manual that carries a list of recommended modem speeds for both incoming and outgoing faxes. On the low end, a 1541/1571 disk drive should use 7200 bps when sending a fax and 2400 bps when receiving. If using an REU, 9600 bps (or higher) can be used for both sending and receiving.

Once loaded, the geoFAX application is completely within memory. The disk it was loaded from can be replaced by another one for receiving faxes. This is especially helpful for those with only one 1541 disk drive.

**Graphic conversions** — For the first time, Commodore GEOS users have use of a full page scanner. Faxes sent from a fax machine are converted to a graphic, and once the image is saved to disk, it's ready to be convert-

ed to a geoPaint file and used for other purposes. Many users have already found interesting methods of faxing, such as connecting fax machines to their modem and having their own "flatbed scanner" facility. Others have been faxing themselves using other platform computers, sending graphics between the computers for use on either machine. When converting a fax document to a geoPaint file, different contrast adjustments can be set which affects the overall appearance of the image. The adjustments are: Bold, Clip Art, Photo and Light.

**Printing** — This has to be one of the most "printer friendly" software packages available for the GEOS environment. The manual lists 28 different printer drivers, and though not all were shipped, they will be sent to registered users upon completion. Printers supported include Epson 8/9 pin, Epson 24 pin, HPLaser/Deskjet, Cannon Bubblejet and Post Script printers.

Without exiting geoFAX, you can print either fax documents and geoPaint files. Unlike most other GEOS software, this program allows you to select the printer driver to use from within the program itself. It will search all available disk drives for the driver as needed, which means the printer driver does not have to be on the same disk as geoFAX itself.

## Afterthoughts

The software was designed with ease of use as one of its key elements, and in at least one manner, the initial release of geoFAX had a (minor) problem because of this. The initialization string is hard coded into the software and sent to the fax modem each time a fax is delivered. Some users who only have Pulse dialing had problems because the dial-out string is set for Tone dialing. According to Randall, the problem will be remedied with an option to toggle for tone or pulse dial in a free upgrade to those who bought and registered the original.

Another unforeseen problem was not with geoFAX itself, but with one

of the many different "DeskTop" alternatives used by GEOS, notably Gateway128 which crashes the system whenever it accesses a disk with the new geoFAX printer drivers. The printer drivers have a legal GEOS file-type number which Gateway128, unfortunately, doesn't recognize. The printer drivers can still be accessed from within geoFAX itself, but C128 users who use Gateway128 will have to find an alternative DeskTop to first copy the geoFAX program from the disk with the printer drivers onto another disk.

What holds geoFAX together, however, is the precision programming which has gone into it. It is well designed, very easy to use and has created new uses and new concepts for the GEOS environment.

If faxing, high-resolution graphics, and term programs with speeds above 1200 baud can be achieved, there's no telling what we'll be seeing in the next few years. There are other GEOS applications that Randall has been working on when not programming geoFAX or racing cars. Next on his project list is "The Wave," a C128 GEOS term program that will be the first to incorporate ANSI and other graphics into GEOS using high-speed modems.

geoFAX is available direct from Click Here Software, c/o Maurice Randall, P.O. Box 606, Charlotte MI 48813 — 517.543.5202 (vox) — for \$39.95 plus \$4 shipping and handling. Other distributors are also selling geoFAX. Creative Micro Designs, Inc. (800.638.3263) is offering special package "bundles" with geoFAX, modems and/or SwiftLinks. A Swiftlink cartridge bundled with geoFAX at press time was going for \$75. ■■■■■

*Gaelyne Moranec can often be found in the Fidonet CBM or PCWRITE (Multi-Platform Computing) echos. Comments or suggestions can be sent to 1:366/221.128, 3:800/809.128, or moranec@hal9000.apana.org.au. Her home page resides at: <http://www.msen.com/~brain/guest/GaelyneMoranec/index.html>*

# We Can't Keep The Future Technology Under Wraps

Project  
**ANNIHILATOR**  
The First True Client/Server BBS

**TOP SECRET**

## Become one of a few select SYSOPS to experience a preview release of the first true 32-bit client/server BBS

The seal on Mustang Software's top secret project Wildcat! BBS re-write, code-named *Annihilator*, has been broken to allow 5000 "leading-edge" SYSOPS a glimpse of this breakthrough 32-bit client/server BBS technology. Your reward, when you purchase one of the limited Pre-Release *Annihilator* CDs for only \$49 and learn the inside story, is a 75% discount off the purchase price when *Annihilator* is released later this year.

### Learn How Interactive Multimedia Can Expand Your On-line Experience

*Annihilator* takes full advantage of the new multitasking in Windows 95 or the robust server operations in Windows NT to provide a solution that brings full on-line multimedia to every caller. See how you can use *Annihilator's* built-in remote graphics to provide an exciting multimedia greeting, using familiar JPEG and GIF graphic editors to customize the caller interface.

### See How You Can Deliver More Information At Greater Speed

*Annihilator's* Preview CD will demonstrate how the true power of client/server functionality can be unleashed to provide a broad, BBS-based solution. Learn how to implement a BBS with a core information server, and route that information using a number of application clients at the Sysop's location. You'll be able to establish a true distributed processing system that delivers more information at greater speed, now *even* on a single PC.

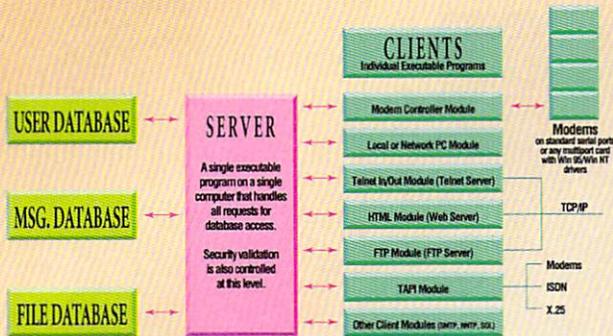
### The Client/Server Model Provides A Number of Advantages

The *Annihilator* Preview CD will show you how a SYSOP can offer a BBS on a desktop platform with the expansion capability to run any size on-line service.

- 32-bit Windows multitasking means no additional multitasking software is needed and 16-32 lines can be run easily without loading multiple copies of the BBS.
- The server controls all access to messages, files and other system information, isolating the core of the host activities to provide secure, private system access even to local users.
- Under *Annihilator*, the entire BBS configuration can be modified even while in full operation, but only by authorized personnel.

# Of 32-bit BBS Much Longer

## Single PC Running Windows 95 or Windows NT



The client/server model of Annihilator can be easily installed with the server and all clients running on a single PC. The computer can operate under Windows 95 or Windows NT Workstation or Server. This configuration offers the most compact system and allows for total management from the single BBS computer.

## Build A Powerful New BBS With Annihilator Server And Client Modules

Standard Annihilator modules included with every BBS create a foundation for the new client/server BBS:

**Server Module** – functionality for processing all database and configuration requests and operational characteristics of the BBS.

**Local Client** – a fully graphical connection for anyone connecting at the host PC or over a LAN.

**Modem Client** – answers the phone for all dial-in lines and presents the BBS in ANSI, ASCII or in full graphics.

**QWK Client** – handles QWK mail exchange between the host and other BBSs.

**TAPI Client** – provides a link to the Windows Telephony Application Program Interface and a mechanism for ISDN, X.25 and other connectivity.

**Graphical Remote Client** – a set of freely-distributed Windows programs for callers to experience full multimedia when connected. This 16-bit program suite operates on Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT and any OS/2 release with Windows support.

**Optional Annihilator modules increase the power of a client/server BBS:**

**UUCP Client** – handles dial-up Internet e-mail and news-group support.

**Internet Package** – accessories to handle TCP/IP support: Telnet Module, FTP Module, WWW Module, IRC Module, SMTP Module and NNTP Module.

**MAPI Client** – a mechanism to exchange messages between applications such as Microsoft Mail, cc:Mail, Lotus Notes, etc.

**wcCODE Package** – a new high speed, 32-bit development language so powerful that all standard BBS functions are written in it.

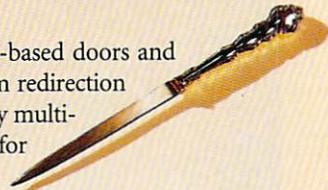
**Source Code** – for total customization of online activity, the wcCODE source for the BBS is also available for purchase (requires wcCODE).

**SQL Database Client** – provides full remote connectivity to distributed database processing using the SQL language.

**Reports Client** – reports BBS usage and statistics, and provides a means for manipulation, export and selection of database records using match criteria.

**Billing Client** – bill callers for any action performed on the BBS, includes report and invoice generation, pre-pay and post-pay models.

Annihilator fully supports all DOS-based doors and includes a program for DOS program redirection to any line. It can be connected to any multi-port serial card that includes drivers for Windows 95 or Windows NT.



## Buy The Pre-Release Annihilator CD For \$49\* And Save Up To 75% Off The Purchase Price

Instructions and information on the Pre-Release Annihilator CD provides SYSOPS with an inside look into the future of BBS technology.

Purchase of the Pre-Release Annihilator CD establishes eligibility for a 75% discount off the manufacturers suggested retail price when Annihilator is released later this year.

Only 5000 Copies Of The Pre-Release Annihilator CD Will Be Mastered. Get The Inside Track And Stay On The Leading Edge Of BBS Technology By Getting Your Copy.

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1-800-208-0616**

\*Add \$10 for shipping and handling

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Annihilator M2 (two node + local)	\$149	\$37	\$49	4th qtr. '95
Annihilator M16 (16 node)	\$349	\$87	\$115	4th qtr. '95
Annihilator M32 (32 node)	\$699	\$174	\$230	4th qtr. '95
8 Pack Node Increase	\$199	\$49	\$65	4th qtr. '95
UUCP Client (dial-up)	\$149	\$37	\$49	4th qtr. '95
Internet Clients (Telnet, FTP, WWW, UUCP, IRC)	\$799	\$199	\$265	4th qtr. '95
MAPI Client	\$799	\$199	\$265	Early '96
SQL Database Client	\$799	\$199	\$265	Early '96
Reports Client	\$149	\$37	\$49	Early '96
Billing Client	\$149	\$37	\$49	Early '96
CODE Development Language & IDE	\$149	\$37	\$49	4th qtr. '95
BBS Source Code	\$799	\$199	\$265	4th qtr. '95

MSRP (manufacturers suggested retail price), 75% off to purchasers of the special Pre-Release Annihilator CD, 66.6% off to Wildcat! SYSOPs with valid registration number.



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Although the BBS on the CD will be operational, it is not intended to be used as a commercial BBS because it will not have completed testing nor will it include full printed documentation. Each CD contains Annihilator M16 plus all modules available in 1995. Some modules, including the Graphical Remote Client are not yet completed, but will be made available electronically to Preview purchasers as they are completed. This Preview CD requires either Windows 95 or Windows NT v3.51 for operation. © 1995 Mustang Software, Inc. All names are trademarks of their respective companies.



With GeoClock, you can see the world at a glance and know whether it's day or night anywhere.

**T**ime. It's incessantly, unstoppably whipping past us. Worse, there's never enough of it. By the time we find more time, the time we've taken finding it has to be replaced by the new-found time. Ugh.

That's why this month I've reserved space to reveal some time-related shareware I've come across. If you've got the time now, check them out.

## DOS

### GeoClock v6.1

GEOCLK61.ZIP

Joseph R. Ahlgren

2218 N. Tuckahoe Street

Arlington, VA 22205

E-Mail: 70461.2340@compuserve.com

GeoClock BBS: 703.241.7980

Do you ever think about what time it is elsewhere in the world? Or whether it's day or night in Timbuktu? If so, check out GeoClock, a DOS-compatible program that'll satisfy your curiosity with a little graphical flair to boot.

Before you run GeoClock, start the GeoSetup program. This'll prompt you through the process of telling GeoClock where you are now. The list of pre-programmed locations is huge, covering practically the entire world. It lists dozens of towns and cities for my home state (New Jersey) and I found a location (Teaneck) only five miles from my office.

After answering a few more simple questions about my configuration, I was ready to run GeoClock.

When you first start GeoClock, a comprehensive help system appears. It provides information on every aspect of GeoClock and can be viewed on screen or printed for later reference. When you dismiss help, GeoClock displays a flat map of the world, with your location and major cities labeled.



**HAPPY.EXE will remind you of birthdays when you start up your computer — and even play "Happy Birthday" for you.**

## HAPPY.EXE v2.3

HAPPY23.ZIP  
by Nice SoftWare!  
P.O. Box 6136  
NL 2702 AC  
Zoetermeer  
The Netherlands

If you have trouble remembering birthdays, anniversaries and the like, you need a copy of HAPPY.EXE. This program, when installed and configured, will remind you of upcoming

birthdays each time you start your computer.

Copy the HAPPY.EXE files to a sub-directory on your hard disk and run the executable file (.EXE). Use the Input command on its Mutations menu to create a data file filled with the dates you need to remember. You can use options under the Birthdays menu to view past and upcoming birthdays. When you're finished, simply quit the program; to have it run automatically, add it to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

HAPPY.EXE offers a number of options you can set in the batch file line. For example, you can have it search for birthdays on the startup day alone, or have it look back or ahead a certain number of days. The program will play "Happy Birthday" on the appropriate day, sit quietly, or just play a simple tone.

HAPPY.EXE requires a DOS-compatible computer, is network compati-

ble and includes online help. Distributed as shareware, you're free to try the program for a month before paying the shareware fee of \$16.

## Windows

### Global Time Keeper v1.0

GTK10.ZIP  
by Timothy L. Hirtle  
P.O. Box 710911  
San Diego, CA 92171-0911  
Email: TimHirtle@aol.com

**Problem:** The world has 30 time zones. Boss/Teacher says you gotta know them all.

**Solution:** Global Time Keeper, a Windows-based program that will keep local time in every zone known to man.

When you first run Global Time Keeper, 30 analog clocks will appear on your screen, each set to a different time zone. The name of the time zone or a city within it appears in a bar at the top of the clock.

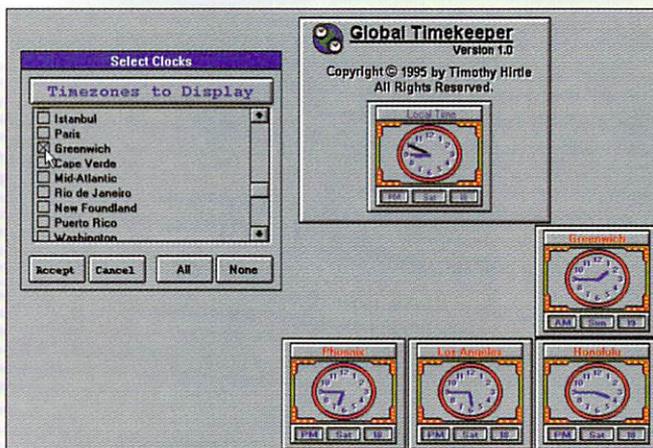
To change a clock's name, click it to display a menu of cities within that time zone. You can choose one of the cities from the list or enter the name of a city you know is in that time zone.

If you're not sure what time zone a city is in, no problem. A text file with time zone information is included with the program.

You can further customize Global Time Keeper by double-clicking the face of any clock. This displays the Settings dialog box, where you can tell the program what time zone you're in

and set other options. Choose Single Clock Format to select any number of the 30 clocks to display in windows on your screen.

Use options to minimize the clock window(s) or variously position them when you're working with other programs. Set hourly sound effects and reminder alarms for events.



**Global TimeKeeper can put up to 30 analog clocks for time zones around the world on your desktop.**

Daytime and nighttime areas are clearly illustrated. Even the sun and moon are displayed so you can see their location over the earth. The display at the bottom of the screen shows local sunrise and sunset, the sun's azimuth and elevation, and other information.

The unregistered version of GeoClock comes with four maps, all of which are fascinating in their own right: the world map, a view of Earth from space showing North America, the North Pole, and the 48 contiguous United States. You can show or hide latitude and longitude lines and set a variety of other options for the information display at the bottom of the screen, as well as set the time and date displayed. Users can even specify how much time, in hours, should elapse each clock cycle (By setting this to .25 or .5, you can create a nice animation of the sun's progress over the world and the patterns of daytime and nighttime it creates.)

GeoClock is far more than a simple world clock program. It's also a great way to learn about the movement of the sun, phases of the moon, and seasons of the year.

GeoClock requires a DOS-compatible 286 or better computer with EGA or VGA graphics. When you pay the registration fee (\$35) you'll get a version with additional features like zoom, distance measuring, and city and time display, as well as over 40 more maps.

HAM, an add-in program with features of interest to HAM, SWL, and DX operators, is also available from the author.

C O N T I N U E S . . .

And yes, you can use the program to set your system clock.

Global Time Keeper requires an IBM-compatible computer running Windows 3.1 or later. Try it for 30 days and then pay the shareware fee of \$20 to eliminate the nag screens.

## The Birthday Chronicle v3.9

TBCWIN.ZIP

by Ken Kirkpatrick Software

P.O. Box 981

Taft, CA 93268-0981

E-Mail: 72712.3156@compuserve.com

Ken Kirkpatrick Software BBS:

805.765.4321

Do you know what happened the day and year you were born? Unless your parents saved the newspapers printed that day, you probably have no idea what was "front page news."

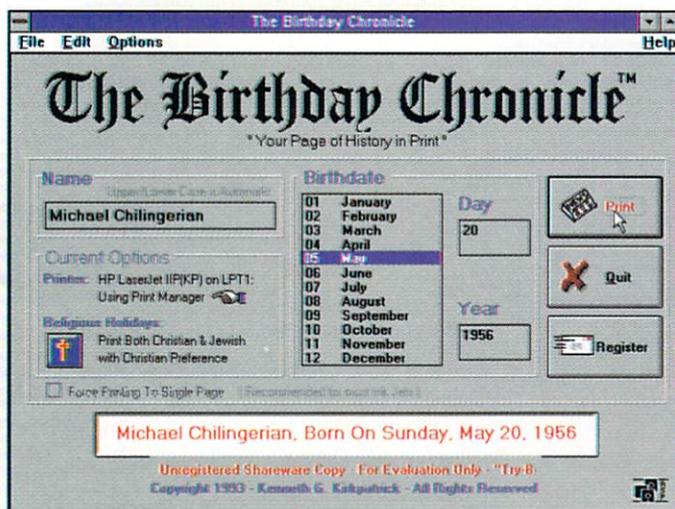
Now, with the Birthday Chronicle software and a computer running Microsoft Windows, you can find out.

Run the Birthday Chronicle and enter a name and birth date (enter a date of birth as early as January 1, 1900). Next, click the Print button.

The Birthday Chronicle searches its database for information about the day and year you entered and prints it out as a mock newspaper front page.

The Birthday Chronicle is a simple, straightforward program, but it does allow you to set several options. For example, with the religious holiday feature turned on, if the birth date falls on a religious holiday, a holiday graphic appears in the upper right corner of the page. There's also a batch printing mode for printing several birthday pages at once.

The Birthday Chronicle requires an IBM-compatible computer running Windows 3.1 or later and a Windows-compatible printer driver. Registered users get a version that removes the "Evaluation Copy" watermark from each printed page, removes the share-



Use The Birthday Chronicle to get a front page newspaper report of what happened the day and year you were born.

ware reminder from the main screen, and provides periodic updates and technical support.

## Macintosh

### VoiceCalendar v2.5

by Afshin Latifi

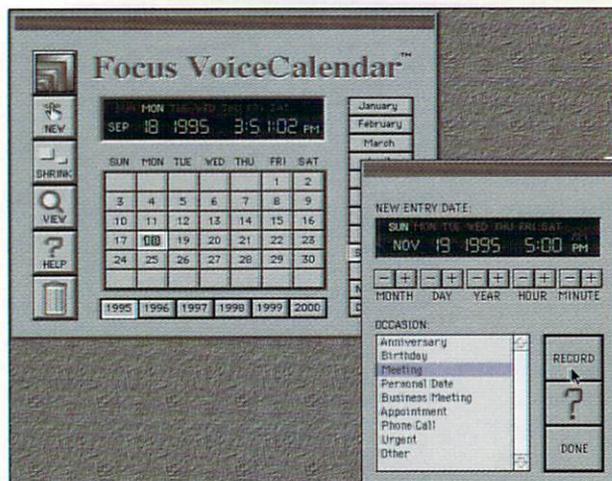
Focus Softworks

P.O. Box 2401

Santa Clara, CA 95055-2401

Email: latifi@aol.com

If you like to keep track of upcoming events but hate keying in all the details, Focus VoiceCalendar may be just what you need. This small Macintosh application works with your mouse and an external or built-in microphone to



Use Focus VoiceCalendar to set reminders without pressing a single keyboard key.

enable you to record sound messages for events — record all the details without making a single entry.

Focus VoiceCalendar's slick interface offers a calendar with the current date and time and access to most functions. Click the New button to display a dialog box where you can click to identify the date, time, and occasion for your reminder, and also click to start recording.

By default, you can record up to 16 seconds of sound, but VoiceCalendar's online help feature explains how to record longer messages if desired. Once the details of the event have been recorded, the date the message will play on will be highlighted. When the event's time and date arrive, VoiceCalendar can notify you by flashing the Apple icon in the menu bar, by playing a soft ringing sound, and/or playing the actual message.

You can set a number of options, like the notifications mentioned above, to customize the way Focus VoiceCalendar works. Since VoiceCalendar must be running in order to play messages when their event times arrive, it offers a menu command that automatically puts an alias of itself in the Startup Items folder so it launches automatically when you start your Macintosh. In addition, its main window can be shrunken down to a tasteful looking calendar/clock bar you can position anywhere on screen. And since VoiceCalendar requires only 350K of RAM, it's a very small burden to the average Macintosh configuration.

Focus VoiceCalendar requires a Macintosh with a 68020 or later processor, System 7 or later, and a built-in or external microphone for recording sound. For best results, Sound Manager 3.0 or later is also recommended. VoiceCalendar is distributed as shareware in a demonstration mode. Until you pay the registration fee of \$32 plus \$5 shipping, you'll only be able to record messages for events within 15 minutes of the recording time.

CONTINUES...

# Voyage into Cyberspace

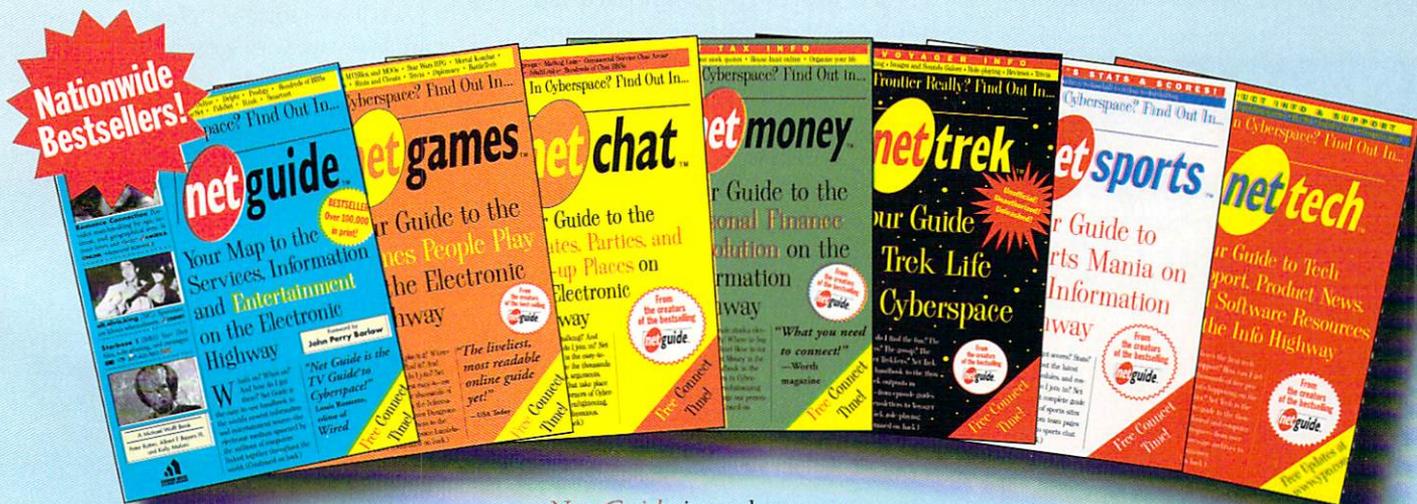
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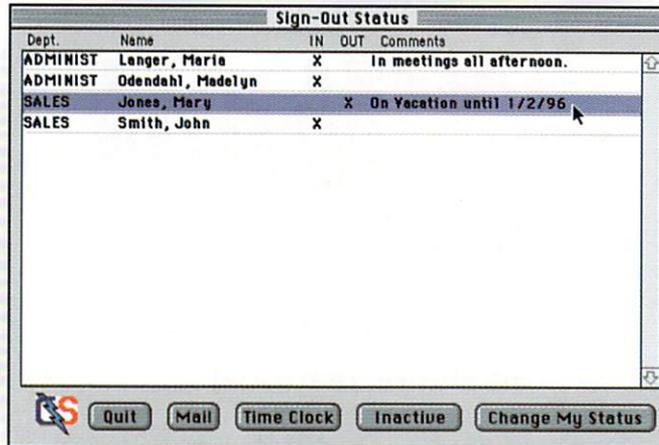
## SK Time Clock v1.12

by Mike Nudd  
ShopKeeper Software  
1005 Lakewood Lane  
Round Rock, TX 78186-4520  
Email: Shopkeeper@aol.com  
WWW: <http://www.copperhead.com/copperhead/>

With computers on nearly every desk in a workplace, it makes sense to computerize as many recordkeeping functions as possible. That's where SK Time Clock can help. This little program works like a sign in/sign out board to keep track of employee locations and work hours. It also provides complete email capabilities.

Launch SK Time Clock and use the password control dialog box to enter employee names and other information. The Sign-Out Status window displays a list of all employees you entered. To change an employee's status, click his name and then click the CS button at the bottom of the window. Use the Change Status window that appears to sign in, sign out, sign in and clock in,

or sign out and clock out. You can also enter comments that appear in the Sign-Out Status window for other users. Program capabilities are limited by the password level for the employee who launched the program. Someone



SK Time Clock lets you clock employees in or out so there's no wondering — and no need for noisy time clocks.

with an access level of 0 can enter or change information for anyone. Other levels offer more restricted access. You can, for example, prevent an employee from recording information for anyone other than himself.

All entries can be summarized and printed, exported for use in other programs, or as the basis of payroll input.

SK Time Clock also includes an email system that makes it possible to exchange email with other system users. Click the Mail button and enter your password to read incoming messages and send outgoing ones.

Whenever you enter your password at a password prompt, SK Time Clock tells you whether there are messages waiting for you. Many small companies might find this a simple and affordable electronic mail solution.

SK Time Clock requires a Macintosh with at least eight megabytes of RAM running System 7 or later, and a 640 x 400 pixel (PowerBook) or larger monitor. It can be used on one centrally located computer — on a receptionist's desk, for instance — or on separate computers connected via network.

To remove the shareware reminder message, register SK Time Clock for \$19 per computer. A special network file server version and a variety of other business recordkeeping modules are also available from ShopKeeper software.

## Newton

### SetClock v1.0

by Paul Rekieta  
E-Mail: [prekieta@eworld.com](mailto:prekieta@eworld.com)

If you'd like to know that your Newton has the absolute correct time, get SetClock. This tiny application uses your modem to dial into the National Institute of Standards in Boulder, CO, to get and set your Newton's clock.

SetClock installs at the end of the Preferences list as Automated Computer Time Service. Tap it to display the phone number for the clock and a status window. You can tap Options to display a Dialing slip to set your local area code and any dialing prefix, access code, or credit card

number. When you tap Call, Newton dials through your modem, connects to the remote system, gets the current date and time, and disconnects. The whole process takes less than a minute.

SetClock requires a Newton-compatible device with a modem. It is distributed as freeware.

Note: If you'd like the same kind of program for a Macintosh, be sure to check out SetClock by Jim Leitch. It's also free.

### Finding these Files

If you can't find these files on your favorite BBS, try mine. The Electronic Pen BBS is a two-line FirstClass-based system at 201.767.6337. Look in the Sharewaring conference folder that appears on your desktop for all the files covered in this column.

If you're on the World Wide Web, you can FTP these files from the Giles Road Press web site. Use your browser to view the URL <http://www.intac.com/~gilesrd/> and link to the Sharewaring page from there. ■■■■

*Maria Langer is a freelance writer and computer consultant running a BBS since 1989. She is the author of nine computer books and is currently hard at work on a new Microsoft Excel book for Peachpit Press. Contact her at [gilesrd@intac.com](mailto:gilesrd@intac.com).*

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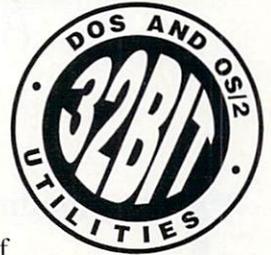
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ftp.netcom.com (/pub/sb/sbbs)

# NovaServer : All This and Internet, Too?

A truly multifunctional online service for your Mac.

The amount of ink the Net and World Wide Web are getting is incredible, to put it lightly. You can't pick up a computer magazine — heck, any magazine — these days without reading about how to access the Internet or set up your own Web site.

So it's no surprise many companies are feverishly looking to equip themselves with some type of online service/email/file server system. And when looking for such an animal, it seems everyone wants something with multimedia appeal, ease-of-use, and the ability to hook into the Internet.

Unfortunately for us Mac users, there are few companies out there offering host packages.

Spider Island, makers of TeleFinder, has only recently begun to offer some WWW support (which I will cover in the coming months). SoftArc, makers of First Class, recently told me at NetWorld/Interop that they don't see HTML support being implemented for a long time.

There is one company, however, that has been heavily involved in Internet support for some time. That company is ResNova, and their product is something called NovaServer.

## NS 4.02

NovaServer 4.02 combines more power than an email package, BBS or Web server alone. It allows callers to connect through an easy to use, fully customizable graphical interface for Mac, Windows and DOS. The NS server will communicate with any computer, independent of its operating system or terminal type. Once on the system, one can access electronic mail, message

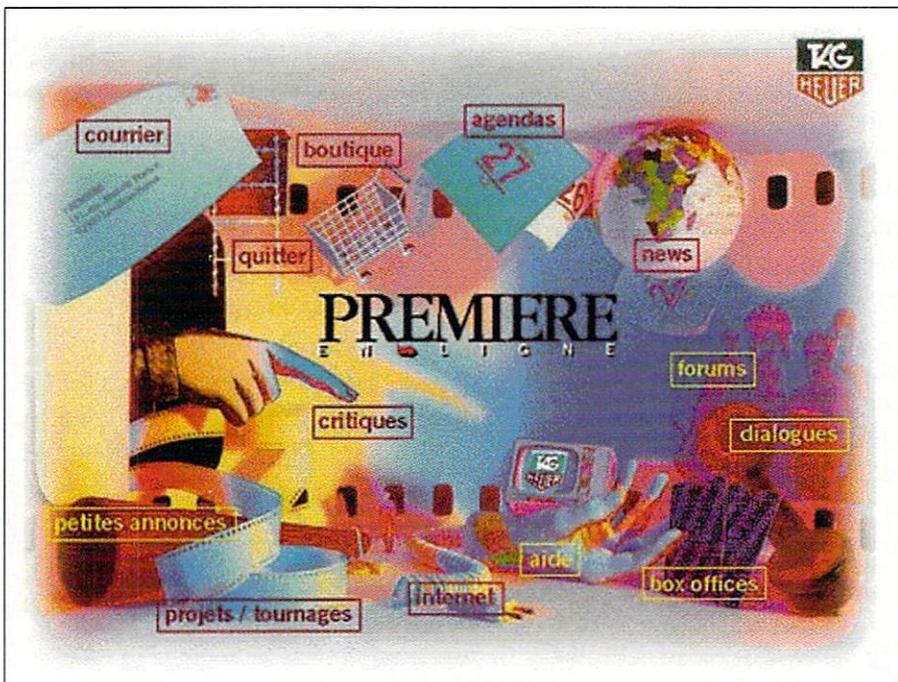


Figure 1. Premiere, a French online service. They love Jerry Lewis and being online!

forums areas, file libraries including CD-ROM, databases, real-time conferences and chats, as well as access public networks including the Internet and Fidonet, browse the World Wide Web, and perform high-speed text searches (via AppleSearch).

NovaServer sysops can write powerful scripts, gateway to popular email packages and create custom applications to boot. Plus, NovaServer clients can logon through serial, TCP/IP (across the Internet), AppleTalk (across a LAN) and X.25 connections. All that's required for access (from a Macintosh or PC running Windows) is the free NovaTerm client software. In fact any communications software that supports VT100, ANSI, TTY, or RIP graphics can connect.

### You got the look...

The first thing one is likely to notice about NS is the customizing available to sysops. (Examples are seen in Figures 1-5.) A sysop can use the icon-driven interface called NovaView, where the sysop simply drags tools from a floating palette to a folder to create menus. Or by using NovaScript — NovaServer's primary scripting system — you can control how the server presents text or graphics to callers.

NovaScript allows you to use clickable GIF or JPEG images of any size, or World Wide Web-style pages written in HTML (HyperText Markup Language).

In fact, HTML support is the heart of NovaServer. Every item on a NovaServer board (message forums, file libraries, etc.) has its own URL (Uniform Resource Locator which provides a path to a particular resource). Through HTML you can create a link that not only takes you to another Web page, but to any part of your server such as a message forum, file library, or searchable database. Every document on a NovaServer board can be an HTML document — email letters, message forum postings, descriptions in a file library, even text files or help messages displayed on your screen. And in each of these documents, you can have graphics, sounds, and more links to

other parts of the board or the Internet.

Some final notes on NovaServer's customized look-and-feel: through NovaScript you can manipulate text, files, and logs; request and collect user responses; access external programs; and, respond to system indicators and statistics including the date, time, num-

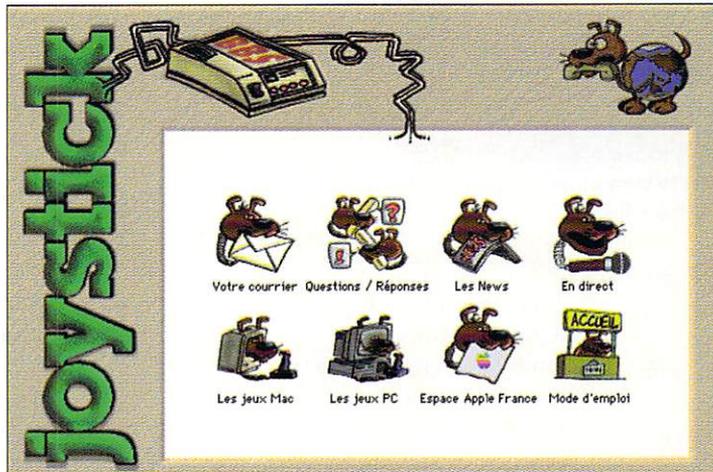


Figure 3. Joystick, another French service.

ber of downloads, etc. You're really only limited by your own imagination.

Another of NovaServer's tools, WindowScript, allows you to create custom cross-platform NovaTerm windows, or to replace any of NovaTerm's



Figure 2. NovaEurope, serving most of lower Bulgaria.

built-in windows (the email window, for example) with your own. If you're interested in providing custom RIP or ANSI support for your PC users, you're free to design custom RIP or ANSI graphics and completely redefine any of the text-based menus.

### Talk to me

NovaServer supports email and message forums like other host packages. But it is heavily loaded with many features such as the following:

- Unlimited message and file attachment sizes.
- Text in messages can include fonts, font sizes, colors, and style.
- Pictures can be pasted into messages from the Clipboard.
- Message reply has automatic quoting option.
- Message forwarding.
- Ability to sort messages by subject, sender, date, or number of messages in thread.
- Addressing Assistant automatically looks up and completes partial mail addresses for local recipients (start typing, and NovaServer will try to complete the name for you).
- Ability to send mail messages to multiple recipients.
- Automatic threading in message forums.

- Moderators for message forums.
- Purge forum posts after a specified period of time.

An example of a customized mail send feature is illustrated in Figure 6. As far as online discussions (chatting), NovaServer supports the following:

- Unlimited number of simultaneous chats and users in chats.
- Public or private chats and conferences.
- Chats and conferences may be part of a server design, or may be created by users on the fly.
- Listings show the participants in a conference or chat.
- Pseudonyms may be used as an alternative to user names.
- Moderators may eject chat or conference participants.

If you, as the sysop, need to broadcast a message to users that the system is going down for some reason, or tell them about a chat going on some-

CONTINUES...

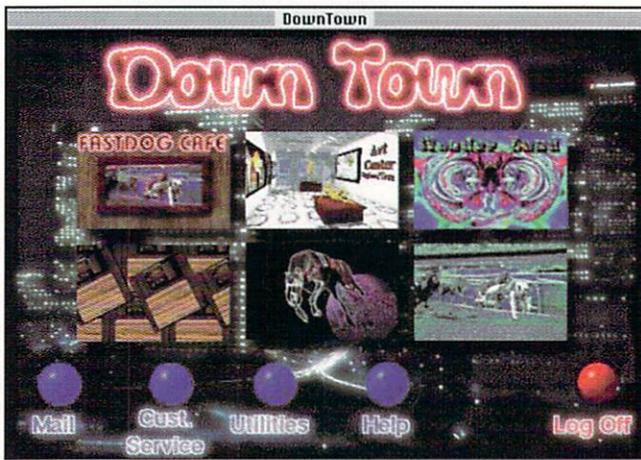


Figure 4. Greyhound Town BBS (408-262-1265) Main Screen. Gaming/entertainment board with excellent graphics.

where, you can immediately broadcast bulletins to all users online. In fact, even the callers can send instant bulletins to anyone else online. NovaTerm users receive bulletins/alerts in the Server Messages window, so as not to interfere with what they are doing

### What about files?

NovaServer has file libraries, of course, but also has additional features such as:

- Unlimited number of files in a library.
- Files in libraries can be stored on remote volumes or accessed directly from a CD-ROM.
- Administrators may screen files before releasing them to users.
- Unlimited file description length when a library item is opened.
- Preview picture files before downloading; supports PICT and "BBS-in-a-Box" preview formats.
- Sort files by file name, date, number of downloads, or new files.

Sysops can also create Personal File Libraries where multiple users access the library, but each only sees the files they uploaded. The only real limitation to the file libraries is that the number is limited by the Macintosh file system (the Mac operating system only allows so many files on a volume).

Figure 7 shows a file transfer.

### Internet support

One of the few Mac host programs offering extensive Internet support, NovaServer supports Internet-standard

electronic mail (SMTP), Usenet news (NNTP), Telnet capability, and even a Web browser.

An Apple-Search gateway lets you set up your own databases of keyword-searchable documents as well as allowing you to connect the users of your server to WAIS databases on the Net.

Users can Telnet in and out of a NS board, allowing worldwide access to/from thousands of services on the Internet — all from the server. Using NovaServer's support of HTML and its built-in Web browser, callers can move backward and forward through recent pages,



Figure 5. Long Island Globalink (516-265-9600). Well-rounded board with something of interest for most callers.

access favorite links provided via email from friends. In fact, sysops have tight control on their users' ability to connect to the Internet, being able to filter outgoing URL requests through lists of approved or prohibited sites and pages. ResNova plans in the future to not only make NovaServer boards fully accessible through World Wide Web, but also allow users to publish their own home pages.

### Can you help a sysop out?

Being a sysop can be a thankless, time-consuming job. ResNova has made the job a little easier.

NovaServer allows you to automate networking, account and message expi-

ration, and even backups. Sysops can assign access privileges by user or groups of users. They can also control access for World Wide Web and Telnet connections.

Accounts can be set to expire on a specified date and new accounts can be set to expire after a specified number of days. Users are limited, though, to only thirty character names/handles.

NovaServer keeps detailed logs of all activity on your board, from connections to posts, uploads, downloads and more. This is useful for billing customers if you charge by access or by-the-hour. You can also access an online user's profile by double-clicking on the user's name in the Server Status window.

Actually, NovaServer has an account database option supporting any standard ODBC compatible SQL server (including Butler from EveryWare Development and the Microsoft SQL Server) that allows for increased flexibility for account management and accounting solutions.

NovaServer can also allow you to quit automatically at a predetermined time, and perform automatic crash recovery that can bring the server back online without human assistance. There's also a BBS Biller HyperCard stack add-on option from Matterform Media that allows credit card authorization.

NovaServer has more features and abilities than we do magazine space. For the sake of brevity, here are some of the other major features I thought you might want to know about, if briefly.

CONTINUES . . .

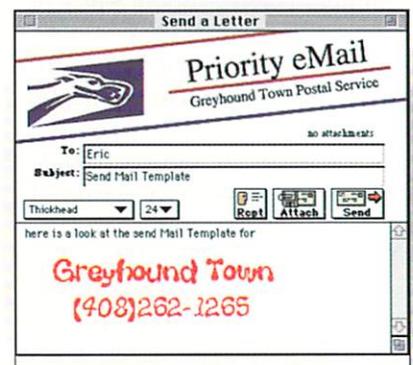


Figure 6. A customized email send feature in NovaServer (Greyhound Town BBS).



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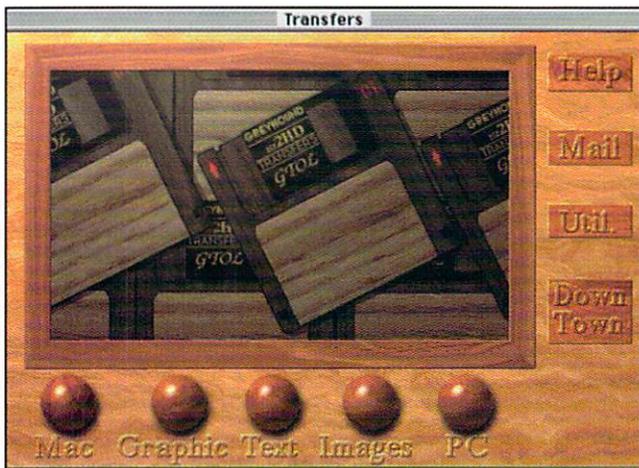


Figure 7. File transfer area from Greyhound Town BBS.



Figure 8. ResNova's support BBS NovaCentral's Main Screen (714-379-9004).

## NovaServer...

- is Power Macintosh native;
- can transparently divide your client load across two or more separate computers running NovaServer, keeping different resources on different machines (file libraries on one computer, message forums on another, email on a third, etc.);
- users can perform simultaneous functions online, including uploads, downloads, and reading messages;
- features Voting Topics for conducting polls and surveys; and,
- has new or altered graphics and sounds automatically update when the client connects — only new elements are transmitted.

Also of interest, the size of graphics NovaTerm can display is limited only by memory. NovaTerm uses sounds stored in Macintosh 'snd' format, but translates them so they can play on Macintosh and Windows and the Mac client can play QuickTime movies. NovaTerm users choose the language

for the menus and displays, the language being changed on the fly using a pop-up menu (NovaTerm currently supports English, German, French, and Dutch). Each server can support approximately 40 simultaneous modem connections and between 32 and 64 network connections —

multiple servers can combine to support additional users. And NS has gateways for AppleSearch 1.5, Fidonet, First Class, Microsoft Mail, SnapMail, QuickMail, and UUCP.

As with almost any other software package, NovaServer is not perfect. However, ResNova is very good on supporting their sysops, with updates and a special area for info, discussions and software updates on their support board NovaCentral (see Figure 8). ResNova also has some of the best tech support people in the business, according to many of the sysops on NovaCentral.

Fixes for bugs are also done in a very timely manner.

And with each new release I find NovaServer to be much more stable and less likely to crash (I've helped crash more Mac host software than I care to admit).

## Requirements

By this time you've figured out I find NovaServer to be an excellent program, providing companies and individuals with a workable solution for combining email, file serving, and Internet in one package. And they won't abandon you after the sale.

Bottom line, just from the screenshots displayed here you can see that NovaServer 4.02 allows you to create a server on par with the big online ser-

vices such as America Online or CompuServe.

NovaServer requires a Macintosh with a 68020 or later CPU, 8 megs of RAM, and System 7.x (Systems software versions prior to 7.5 require the Thread Manager extension). The NovaTerm for Macintosh (client) requires a Macintosh Plus or later model, 2.5 megs of RAM, and System 6.0.7 or later. NovaTerm for Windows (client) requires a 386 or later PC, 4 megs of RAM, and Windows 3.1, Windows NT, or Windows 95. (The client is a 32-bit application, so 3.1 systems require Win32S. For network connections, 3.1 will also require Winsock.)

For further info on availability and pricing, contact ResNova Software, Inc. at (voice) 714.379.9000, (server) 714.379.9004, (fax) 714.379.9014, or email sales@resnova.com. The Web page is <http://www.resnova.com>

*Michael A. Kuykendall can be reached through the Online Macintosh Users' Group BBS, Macintosh Online, at 404.822.5929, or at [andykirk@aol.com](mailto:andykirk@aol.com).*

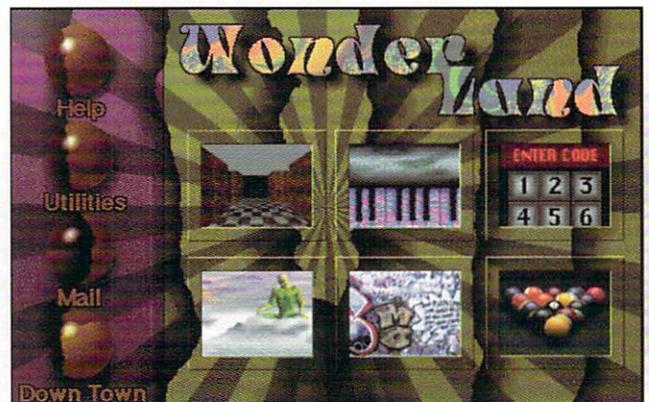


Figure 9. Gaming area from Greyhound Town BBS.

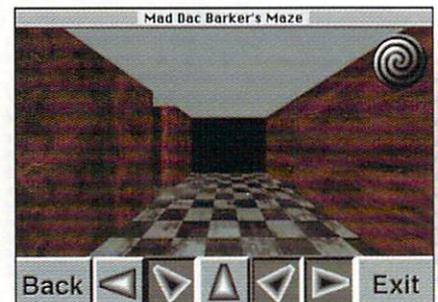


Figure 10. Greyhound Town's fully graphical multimedia online maze.

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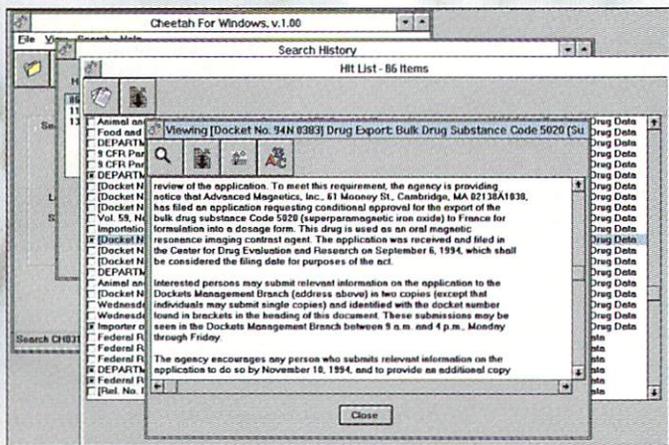
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- **Connect Method:** Toll Call, 800 Number, Local Call Nationwide, ISDN
- **Internet Access:** Telnet, World Wide Web, E-Mail
- **System Design:** Customized to present your unique image

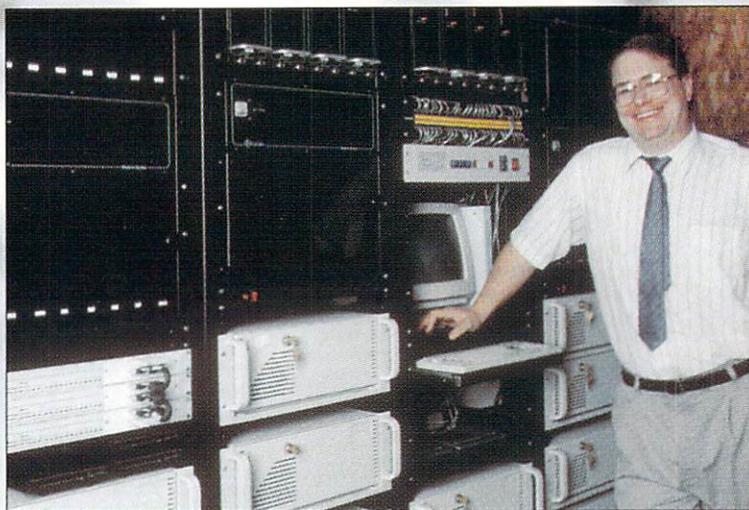
## On-Line Applications

APDI has implemented systems for some of the nation's largest organizations. We have developed service bureau applications for **publishing, associations, university courses, customer support, software distribution, CD-ROM order processing**, and more! If your project doesn't fit a standard application, we can develop a custom on-line system to fit your needs.



Screen shot from APDI's new Cheetah for Worldgroup Product

APDI's Cheetah product is the on-line industry's fastest and most powerful full text search and retrieval program. Search one or multiple databases using Boolean and proximity search phrases. Megabytes of data can be searched in fractions of seconds. You can take advantage of Cheetah on your system running at APDI's Service Center or you can buy the package to run on your in-house system. Cheetah is compatible with virtually all popular BBS programs including a new version for Galacticomm's Worldgroup!



President Mark Burnett in one of APDI's Computer Rooms

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# The Hayes Maze

A recent news release that startled many online biz insiders was simple in content, but carried all the charge of a fifth-level Mage's staff. For those who missed out, it read, for the most part:

## **Boca Research Acquiring Hayes from Bankruptcy**

Boca Research, Inc. is acquiring Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc., in a move that should shoot Boca Research, Inc. to the top of the modem market...

"The new company will keep the Hayes name because of its recognition in the marketplace. But products of each company will retain their current names," said Boca Research spokeswoman Gale Blackburn.

The move comes a month after the Norcross, GA-based company had filed its plan of reorganization. In November ['94], it had sought protection under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code.

The companies expect the merger to close in 90 days.

Many folks were stunned by this news. We all knew Hayes was under the Chapter 11, but word on the street had them coming out in a few weeks. Many insiders sat back to watch what this did for consumer loyalties. In fact I received many messages asking if I thought this was a good or bad sign for Boca/ Hayes fans and product owners.

Well, I thought it was merely a sign, not necessarily a good or bad one... yet. True to my feelings, this next press release crashed against the modem shores:

## **Boca Research, Inc. Announces Termination of Negotiations Regarding the Acquisition of Hayes Microcomputer**

Boca Raton, Florida, August 24, 1995 - Boca Research, Inc. (NASDAQ:BOCI) today announced that it has terminated negotiations with respect to the acquisition of Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. under the previously announced letter of intent with Hayes. In making the announcement, Boca Research indicated that Mr. Hayes' recent efforts to seek alternatives to the merger with Boca Research, his refusal to suspend these efforts during continued negotiations with Boca Research, and the course of negotiations over the past several days caused Boca Research to conclude that Mr. Hayes is not committed to the merger.

Anthony F. Zalenski, president and chief executive officer of Boca Research, said, "...as we pursued due diligence and negotiations with Dennis Hayes, it became apparent to us that there were fundamental differences between Boca Research and Mr. Hayes relating to the management of the combined companies. We determined that these differences would restrict Boca Research's management from taking the actions required to return Hayes to profitability and would jeopardize Boca's earnings growth."

And that's not all:

On September 1, 1995 Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc. reached an agreement with the committee that represents its creditors to ask the federal bankruptcy court to

extend Hayes' September 21 deadline to secure a means to pay off its debt.

"Hayes has negotiated with the Official Committee of Creditors Holding Unsecured Claims to petition the Atlanta federal bankruptcy court to give (Hayes) until Oct. 16 to find viable funding to pay off its creditors," Hayes officials said. The agreement also dictates that Hayes has until October 2 to raise \$15 million as part of its court-approved reorganization plan.

If Hayes cannot meet these dates, the parties will cede control to a "mutually acceptable" court-appointed trustee.

Barbara Smith of Hayes went on to say, "The parties must now file a motion with the court for an extension." She added that she was "unsure when the motion would be entered."

And just as my editor was screaming "Deadline!" the following information came across the wires:

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court rejected a deal between Hayes Microcomputer and its creditors. The deal would have given Hayes more time to raise the cash it needs to emerge from Chapter 11. If this would have occurred, and the company could not raise the needed \$85 million, the creditors would have received the right to replace Dennis Hayes. Since the court did not agree to this, though, Hayes has the exclusive right until Sept. 30 to propose a plan to emerge from bankruptcy court protection. After that time outsiders have the opportunity to submit competitive plans.

The creditor committee's attorney had previously stated that if the court failed to approve the deal, the committee would consider asking the court to appoint a bankruptcy

CONTINUES...

**TABLE I — SYSOPS HIGH-SPEED MODEM DISCOUNTS BY VENDOR AND MODEL TYPE**

VENDOR/ PRODUCT	14.4K V.32bis INTERNAL	14.4K V.32bis EXTERNAL	V.32TERBO, V.FC, V.34 INTERNAL	V.32TERBO, V.FC V.34 EXTERNAL
AT&T	3721-B1-001*	3710-A1-201*	\$175	N/A
Paradyne	\$150	\$165 PC; \$190 Mac		
CPI/ ViVa	ViVa 14.4 \$180	ViVa 14.4 \$196	N/A	N/A
Hayes Corp	Optima 144B* \$179	Ultra 144 \$249	N/A	Optima 288+FAX v.FC 28.8k \$259
		Optima 144+FAX* \$179 PC; \$179 Mac		
Intel	SatisFax/400 \$249	14.4 EX \$269	N/A	N/A
	Faxmodem 144i \$99	SatisFAX/400e* \$245		
		Faxmodem 144e \$109		
Microcom	N/A	N/A	N/A	DeskPorte FAST v.FC 28.8k \$249
				TravelPorte FAST v.FC 28.8k \$249
MultiTech	MT1432BC \$400	MT1432BA* \$400	N/A	N/A
	MT1432ES \$400 MCA	MT1432MU* \$300		
		MT1432BL* \$450		
		MT1432PCS \$575		
Practical Peripherals	N/A	PM14400FXSA* \$215	N/A	N/A
		PM14400FXMT* \$155		
Supra Corp	SupraFAXModem* \$109	SupraFAXModem* \$139	\$159	Supra V34 \$179
USRobotics	N/A	N/A	N/A	HST V. Everything V.34, VFC, FAX* \$249
Ven-Tel	PCM144FAX* \$195	EC144FAX* \$215	N/A	N/A
	PCMV.32bis* \$480	ECV.32bis* \$525		
	MCM144FAX* \$380 MCA	RMV.32bis II* \$425		
Zoom Telephonics	VFP V.32Bis* \$99	VFX V.32Bis* \$119 PC; \$130 Mac	VFP V.FC 24k \$99	VFX V.FC 24k \$119 PC; \$130 Mac
			VFP V.FC 28.8k \$139	VFX V.FC 28.8k \$159 PC; \$170 Mac
ZyXEL	U-1496B* 16.8K \$299	U-1496E* 16.8K \$299	N/A	U-1496E* v.32terbo 16.8K \$299
	U-1496B+* 19.2K \$389			

\* Modems with an asterisk include 14,400 baud FAX send/receive at no extra charge!

*Notes on Table I:*

1. All internal modems are assumed to be PC-AT ISA bus unless otherwise noted. Some manufacturers do not offer internals; be careful when ordering.
2. Consult manufacturer for details on availability of Caller ID or voice-mail processing options (any modem above).
3. These prices NEVER include shipping and handling, which is always extra, Typically \$5 - \$15 U.S. dollars.
4. V.34 is International (ITU-T) standard for 28.8K. This is not the same as V.FAST (generic name) or V.FC (Rockwell based 28.8K standard).

**TABLE II — VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

VENDOR NAME	CALL THEIR BBS AT THIS NUMBER AND...	...DOWNLOAD THIS FILE.	IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS CALL..	CONTACT VIA EMAIL
AT&T Paradyne	(813) 532-5254	ATTSYSOP.TXT	(800) 554-4996	t.bradshaw@paradyne.com
CPI/ViVa	(805) 499-9646; (215) 746-9948	CPIA.TXT	(800) 854-7600	
Hayes Corp.	(404) 446-6336; (800) USHAYES	H96SYSOP.TXT	(404) 840-9200	rlacy@hayes.com
Intel	(503) 645-6275	OFFER.TXT	(503) 228-9707	
Microcom	(800) 822-8224	SYSOP.TXT	(617) 762-5134	
MultiTech	(612) 785-9875; (800) 392-2432	PRICE.TXT	(612) 785-3500	
Pract. Per.	(404) 734-4600	SYSBBS.TXT	(404) 840-9966	GO PPIFORUM (CompuServe)
Supra Corp.	(503) 967-2444	SYSOP.TXT	(503) 967-2400	orders@supra.com
USRobotics	(708) 982-5092	SYSDEAL.TXT	(708) 982-5151 (800) 550-7800	support@usr.com CIS 76711,707
Ven-Tel	(408) 922-0988	SYSDEAL.TXT	(408) 436-7400	
Zoom Teleph.	(617) 423-3733	ZOOMBBS.ZIP	(617) 423-1076	CIS 71333,1527
ZyXEL	(714) 693-0762	ZYXEL.TXT	(714) 693-0804	sales@zyxel.com

trustee to run the company. We'll need to wait and see who makes the next move.

You might be wondering why the heck I'm talking about all of this in the Modem Discount section (as might my editor). Well, here's my logic. As I have said all along, making an investment in modems for your BBS is just that — an investment. You invest in the product as well as the company manufacturing and supporting that product.

Every maker of modems — be it Hayes, ZyXEL, USR, etc. — says, "We're #1, we're the leader, we're the innovator."

These are opinions, for the most part, and everybody's got 'em. But we need to know that when we make that investment in a critical link in our BBS, ISP, or other online system it's money well, and safely, spent.

Whether you are a million-dollar ISP or free BBS, the cash you spend represents a two-way commitment. You commit to promoting their product in some way (most Sysop/ISP programs) and the manufacturer commits to treating you like the true market influencer that you are. The manufacturer also commits to producing and delivering top-notch, reliable products.

A seven-year warranty is a great marketing device, and an even better

guarantee tool for the customer. However it doesn't do much if the company is not around in seven years.

So is a two-year warranty any less a feature given the constant state of flux and rapid changes in product platforms? Is the leader of today going to be the one teetering in bankruptcy court tomorrow?

I could be accused of stretching this argument a bit, and perhaps rightfully so (hey, they're just points to consider), but when you're dealing with a monetary investment it might be an argument difficult to overlook.

Therefore, this is a great time to evaluate not only the commitment of your modem company, but to also gauge your faith in them.

Will Hayes pull out of this and still be able to offer the same commitments to sysops as in the past? Will Boca find new energies from this brush with eating the big fish and re-focus their efforts? Will all of them be devoured by some yet-unseen big-fish manufacturer?

Personally, I think we may see each of the above to some degree. And it will all be to the benefit of the sysop.

Indeed Hayes, in some form or other, will most certainly be around in the years to come (though it seems to now be backing off a bit on its

aggressive User Group and Sysop programs). Perhaps the company will find other corners to cut and re-energize their online presence. Boca has displayed an eagerness to be a big fish in the modem pond — once you start thinking about swimming in the deeper waters it's hard to go back to the shallows. Look for them to aggressively attack on points of product and pricing in the next year.

Boca did a mere \$80 million in sales last year. That leaves a lot of room for growth in 1996.

And what about that big fish? Calendar 1996 may very well be the year the billion-dollar modem companies lead the way, but that leaves plenty of room for the smaller, hungrier ones like Boca.

As always it pays to keep on top of current events, products, and even attitudes from the various manufacturers. When manufacturers shine I'll be talking about it here. When they cast a dim glow, I'll be taking an even harder look.

## Sysop/Provider programs

I've included a couple of basic charts for those who believe a picture (well, chart) is worth a few pages of rambling text.

The minimum performance level is v.32bis (14,400 bps), but will soon be displaced by V.34. All modems

also must have v.42bis for error correction and data compression to make this list. The rightmost column of Table I shows all modems faster than 14400 bps that support at least v.32bis standards.

I recommend only V.34 for sysops. End-users can economically afford to now live by the same standards. The V.34 ITU-T standard offers 50 percent more throughput than v.32bis, at only minimal cost increases. It also offers a better chance at a high-speed connect (24,000–28,800) than VFC under minimal line conditions. Beware of upgrade plans to v.FAST/v.34 modems; various manufacturer programs vary greatly.

### More than a modem

Some vendors offer more than just modems to the sysops joining their program. For example, US Robotics offers substantial discounts off their CommServer 486 LAN product. Other vendors, such as ZyXel, offer big discounts on modem rackmounts. A rackmount reduces the tangle of multiplying power supplies and becomes economical for sysops planning on larger, multi-line systems.

### Buyers' restrictions

If you maintain a system operating 24-hours per day for the last six months, then you're eligible for any of these discounts. Some manufacturers only require that you are currently running a BBS at time of ordering. A few may actually waive the current operating requirement.

Once you receive your modem, you're expected to keep the BBS up and running between six and 12 months (requirements vary). Generally, the modem is yours to do whatever you want with after this period expires. Some manufacturers may ask you to never sell modems purchased on a discount plan. Modem resellers, such as computer stores, are generally excluded from participation in discount plans.

Nearly all of the modem vendors are accepting VISA and MasterCard for orders. Some also accept a cashier's check or money-order for prepay orders. Personal checks often require additional clearing time which just

holds up your order. C.O.D. is becoming less common, and is rumored for phase-out by several of the larger players over the next few months.

One requirement, which goes for nearly all vendors, is that they generally expect at least a one-line advertisement somewhere in your welcoming screens. For example: "Using the finest Model XYZ modem from Acme Modem Co." would be perfectly acceptable in all cases.

### Order processing and availability

Delivery times and schedules vary radically, so your mileage may vary. Many

manufacturers are placing orders on hold until they release V.34. Hayes typically shipped in 48 hours, and to the far extreme, US Robotics guarantees a two to six week waiting period.

For Canadian, European and other sysops outside the U.S., you may or may not be eligible for discount offers. Please check carefully ahead of time to avoid disappointment. You may want to check with their European subsidiaries before contacting the U.S. office. ■■■■■

*ModemMag@ais.net*



# Pics OnLine!

**BBS**

### What's OnLine?

- Hot Adult Graphics
- Multi-Node Chat
- Windows, Netware, OS/2, and Lantastic Network Tools
- Ham Radio and Shortwave Listening
- MIDI and Soundblaster Files
- QWK Packets for off-line reading of over 400 worldwide conferences
- Internet and Fidonet E-Mail Access
- 4.5 Gigabytes – New Files Daily

609-753-2540, HST & V.22  
609-753-2605, HST & V.32  
609-753-1549, HST & V.32bis

## 30 Minutes Free Access Per Day

To check out the A-list on the Web, go to <http://www.channel1.com/usbbs/home>

If you're a sysop and would like to be considered for the list, contact one of the following sites. Posting to the USBBS List at these sites will place you on the A-List.

BOBsBBS — 916.929.7511

Livewire/CD SUB — Download CDSUB.ZIP from The Livewire BBS (*BBS Magazine's* support board) at 609.235.5297 and register the CD SUB Door program for a permanent listing.

FTP — Download US PUB103.ZIP from oak.oakland.edu, create USBBS.DAT and send the completed file to BOBsBBS or [update@bobsbbs.uucp.netcom.com](mailto:update@bobsbbs.uucp.netcom.com).

Call 609.953.9110 (voice) for help.

*Derived from the USBBSLIST.*

## LEGEND

BBS TYPE	BAUD	MODULATION	SIZE	NODES	SUBSCRIPTION	INTERNET FEAT.
B	29	D	50+	3	\$	3

BBS TYPE
A = Auntie
B = PCBoard
C = Phoenix/Collie/Collosus
D = dBBS
F = Spiffire
G = GAP
H = PC-Host
I = TriBBS
J = SuperBBS
L = Telegard
M = OraComm/Major/Galacticomm
N = Genesis Deluxe
O = Opus/Maximus
P = GT PowerComm
Q = QuickBBS/RemoteAccess
R = RBBS
S = Searchlight
T = TBBS or TCOMM
U = UltraBBS
V = WWIV
W = Wildcat
X = BBS-PC, RyBBS, ROS, Fido, Citadel, Osiris, etc. or custom, unverified or unknown type
Y = T.A.G.
Z = TPBoard

BAUD
0 = 300
1 = 1200
2 = 2400
9 = 9600 or faster

MODULATION TYPE
V = V.32 or V.32bis
U = USRobotics HST
H = Hayes VSM
F = V.Fast, V.34 (1/25/95)
O = Other proprietary method
D = USRobotics Dual Standard (V32 and HST)
B = Hayes Ultra (V32 and VSM)

SIZE
Indicated in 100s of megs.
+ = CD-ROM.

NODES
Number of lines

SUBSCRIPTION
\$ = subscription; blank = FREE

INTERNET FEATURES
SERVICES CODE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
Mail X X X X X X X X
Usenet XX XX XX XX
FTP XXXX XXXX
Telnet XXXX XXXX

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
Must support 2400 bps or greater
100 MB of disk capacity
24hr/7 day service
Sysop must give REAL NAME

201-256-0691 NJ W.Paterson  
**Excal's Realm** John Norman  
Medieval, games, files.  
X 29 FV 6+ 1 1

201-331-1797 NJ Parsippany  
**Synergy Online** Jim Boxmeyer  
Shareware / adult.  
B 09 F 160 50 \$ F

201-399-4772 NJ Irvington  
**Innovative** Scott Drake  
Police/EMS/fire/general public.  
X 29 FV 10+ 1 3

201-437-4355 NJ Bayonne  
**Bytes'n Bits** MariusKirschner  
General interest BBS.  
B 29 FV 110+ 6 3

201-662-9274 NJ Guttenberg  
**The Dark House** Dan Lopez  
Adult, games, chat & more.  
W 29 FV 48+ 4 \$ 3

201-670-6718 NJ Ridgewood  
**Animal House** Ricky Gropper  
File / message BBS / gaming.  
B 29 FV 52+ 2 3

201-729-2602  
**Chuck's Attempt** Chuck Ammann

201-839-5401 NJ Ringwood  
**Garden of Eden** Frank Molino  
General access BBS, games, files.  
W 29 D 14+ 4

201-887-2020 NJ Whippany  
**Afterimage** A. Stramaglia  
Full Internet access services.  
M 19 FV 14+ 24 \$ F

201-945-1437 NJ Fairview  
**Sewer World** Dan Lopez  
Adult specialties, email, more.  
W 29 V 10+ 2 \$ 3

201-966-2848 NJ Madison  
**The Porch (N1)** Bill Northrup  
Email & shareware file exchange.  
Q 29 OD 14+ 2 3

201-989-8107 NJ Dover  
**MIT-Net BBS** Dennis Bixler  
Well rounded, for all ages.  
B 19 DF 168+ 10 3

201-998-0653 NJ Kearny  
**Closed Doors** Michael Almeida  
General interest.  
W 29 FV 50+ 2 1

202-635-1755 DC Washington  
**The Big Dogs** Rod Pinnick  
Entertainment and chat, general.  
M 09 FV 18 8 3

203-335-4073 CT Fairfield  
**Ffld Comm Conn** R. Scott Perry  
Community info, Internet access.  
M 09 V 11+ 8 \$ F

203-647-8967 CT Bolton  
**Construction Fm** Craig D. Mayer  
Construction resource. Remodel.  
W 29 HO 01 0 \$

203-693-9930 CT Canton  
**BBS** Charley Webb  
Files, games, Internet.  
X 19 FV 400+ 25 \$ F

203-774-6961 CT Brooklyn  
**NewEngland ONL** Michael Pederse  
News & information.  
Q 09 FV 25+ 2 \$ 1

203-886-1441 CT Norwich  
**Sea of Noise** Robert Szarka  
Text files, OS/2, & Internet.  
Q 29 VF 13 1 3

203-956-0655 CT Hartford  
**Monty's Python** Tom Cichowicz  
Adult, comedy, tech support.  
M 29 FV 999+ 4 3

205-383-4329 AL Muscle Shoal  
**Ninth Circle** Daniel Tidwell  
Creative writing, free thought.  
W 29 VF 10+ 3

206-402-3413 WA Bothell  
**Online Blues** Patrick Lynch  
Blues music, current & history.  
X 29 D 12+ 1 3

206-584-4309  
**The Wolf's Den** Keith Shinkle

207-368-5402  
**Grouchy Marx** Crouchy Marx

207-947-3105 ME Bangor  
**MSNCNTRL** Jim MacArthur  
Science fi/fact & tech support.  
W 09 FV 20+ 1 \$

208-327-9916 ID Boise  
**The Bodhi Tree** Kim Day  
Religion, especially Buddhism.  
X 29 V 8 1 7

208-664-2983  
**The Third Mill** Jim Fromm

208-666-4010 ID Coeur d'Alene  
**Anita's Place** A. Nikiforuk  
Women's area; community.  
W 19 V 12+ 1

209-357-5880 CA Winton  
**Bytes To Go!** Bill Morris  
Shareware, door games, 10 CDs.  
X 19 FV 13+ 2

210-233-4877/3312 TX Los Fresnos  
**Newberry BBS** Ken Anderson  
Message oriented/emerg. service  
B 19 FV 6+ 2 \$

210-520-8015 TX San Antonio  
**SA On-Line** C. Montgomery  
Business and community service.  
T 19 V 4 4 \$

210-658-7995 TX Converse  
**LID'S LOUNGE** Jeff Liddle  
Pharmacy, Commo and MacroNET.  
X 29 VF 1 1

210-675-4787 TX San Antonio  
**NecronoMion** John Clements  
Business, games, Wicca, adult.  
V 09 FV 14+ 2

210-688-3035 TX San Antonio  
**Modem Junction** Chuck Hammock  
Netmail, files.  
X 29 FV 13+ 1

210-699-1710 TX San Antonio  
**Tranquility** S. Blackburn  
Environment/outdoor recreation.  
B 09 FV 9+ 1

212-749-3268  
**Walter's BBS** Walter Parrish

212-868-0720 NY Queens  
**bdpa ny** Mike Holman sr.  
Nat'l black data proc. assoc., NY ch.

214-245-9315  
**USS Inverness** Jonathan McGirr

214-317-4345 TX Lewisville  
**TECHLINE BBS** Fred Gardner  
PC & Macintosh files-based BBS.  
W 19 D 350+ 4

214-351-9859  
**Collector's Ed** Len Hult

214-355-1835  
**Lonesome Dove** M. Peacock

214-403-9406 TX Plano  
**Zeitgeist** Bob Peterson  
Graphics; live Internet.  
W 09 FD 100+ 5 F

214-442-1396 TX Wylie  
**Bailiwick** D Cummings  
One of Dallas' free BBSes.  
W 29 F 18 2

214-517-4674 TX Plano  
**The Harvest** Nick Shaffner  
Files, programming (C,C++).  
W 09 DF 12+ 1 1

215-289-6041 PA Philadelphia  
**Kid's World** Bob Gasko  
BBS devoted to kids.  
W 19 V 2+ 1

215-321-1873 PA Philly  
**After-Hours** Tony Reesby  
Featuring 13 CDS online.  
W 19 UF 80+ 3

215-634-7613 PA Philadelphia  
**The Galley BBS** W. Jurkiewicz  
Games, messages, and freinds.  
X 29 V 4 1

216-324-6410  
**Comm. Netlink** K. Stevenson

216-381-3320 OH Cleveland  
**PC-Ohio** Norm Henke  
"Best BBS in America."  
B 29 VF 190+ 52 \$ F

216-639-9508  
**Scientist's BBS** Soo Kurz

216-726-9876 OH Youngstown  
**Roadhouse** Jim Haverstock  
Online games, unique files.  
V 09 FV 46+ 3 1

216-871-8203 OH Cleveland  
**The Spectrum** Aaron Erlandson  
 Fun. There no definite topic.  
 S 09 FV 14 2 3

216-951-9150 OH Cleveland  
**Flip Flop** Jim Barry  
 Local community interaction.  
 S 09 V 10+ 8 3

217-359-8457 IL Champaign  
**Comfrtibly Numb** Rob Remus  
 games, adult files.  
 X 29 V 9+ 1

218-326-4205 MN Grnd Rapids  
**Blue Sky BBS** Jack Blue  
 Family & business oriented.  
 W 09 FD 96+ 3 \$ 3

218-829-6340 MN Merrifield  
**Merribbs** Gil Pence  
 Shareware, business.  
 G 29 V 5+ 1 \$ 1

219-325-3655 IN La Porte  
**Rob's Arcade** Rob Swanson  
 Doors, files, 5 mailnets.  
 B 19 FV 61+ 2

219-744-4908  
**The Play Board** Jay Tipton

219-763-0826 IN Portage  
**Stalag 13 BBS** Keith Heitmann  
 Flight sims, combat & wargames.  
 I 29 F 30 1

301-353-1033 MD Germantown  
**IICS-DC** Bob Lau  
 Multimedia.  
 W 19 VF 160 6 3

301-527-1632 MD Gaithersburg  
**Americana Resc** Rick Moses  
 Antiques & collectibles.  
 W 09 F 12 1

301-698-5194 MD Frederick  
**Vampire Bar!** Darryl Pierce  
 OS/2 support, programming.  
 B 29 D 22+ 1 3

301-738-0000 MD Rockville  
**NETEAST** Howard Hartman  
 General access.  
 B 09 V 111 20 \$ 3

302-234-6760 DE Hockessin  
**Digital World** Brian Funk  
 Legal services, files, gaming.  
 M 09 VF 70+ 10 \$

303-244-8420  
**Mirror Image** Mark Feil

304-697-5769 WV Huntington  
**TeleTech** Travis King  
 Home of Associate Networks.  
 W 09 VO 14+ 1 3

304-723-2133 WV Weirton  
**MOB** Mike Perkins  
 Games, 6500+ message bases.  
 B 19 F 60+ 5 3

305-438-8999 FL Hollywood  
**FantasticPNet** Michael Sweat  
 Files, newsgroups, chat.  
 M 19 VF 13+ 16 \$ 3

305-572-4910 FL Sunrise  
**E.D.S BBS** Wayne Lampiasi  
 Employment/business support.  
 I 29 VO 13 1 \$ 1

305-792-9622 FL Ft Lauderdale  
**Info Interchg** Mitchel Waas  
 Massive info BBS, msgs & files.  
 Q 09 DF 200+ 6 F

305-828-4508 FL Miami  
**The File Room** John Wanamaker  
 Files.  
 B 99 D 25+ 2 \$ 3

305-966-2677 FL Miramar  
**Hobby Line!** Mike Dippel  
 Business ads, hobby, genealogy.  
 W 29 FV 14+ 3 \$ 7

305-975-5540 FL Pompano  
**Q'evils** Bruce A.Kniffen  
 Virus research/database.  
 W 29 F 14+ 9

305-989-3706 FL Hollywood  
**TUT BBS** Darian Porter  
 Games and files.  
 M 09 D 12 17 \$ 3

306-892-4213 SK N Battleford  
**Dig Diversions** Mike Ritchie  
 Fidonet backbones and filebone.  
 S 19 FF 18+ 1 1

309-664-0881 IL Bloomington  
**Advr Cnr OS/2** S. Kuntzelman  
 OS/2 support and shareware.  
 O 29 DF 41+ 1

309-836-1432 IL Macomb  
**Rod's Place** Rod Rouse  
 Files, messages, online games.  
 W 19 V 4 1

309-852-2165 IL Kewanee  
**CyberHawg RBBS** Kevin Clarke  
 General interest, FIDONet mail.  
 R 29 VF 6 2

## The A-List

310-212-7605 CA Torrance  
**Beginners Club** Vince Sheu  
 TeenNet.  
 I 09 V 10 1

310-493-3535 CA Seal Beach  
**Playbord** Jim Jensen  
 Online games.  
 R 29 F 6 1

310-559-5334 CA Los Angeles  
**WLA BBS** Gary Inman  
 Planet Earth Network.  
 B 99 FV 90+ 4 \$ 1

310-984-1075 CA Long Beach  
**Leo Grafix BBS** Rudy Hartmann  
 Christian, CalvaryNet.  
 T 29 DF 21+ 4

312-284-7133  
**4th Dimension** Jeff Jones

312-536-0829 IL Chicago  
**Black Female** Darnell Glover  
 Black females.  
 W 29 H 1 1 \$

313-581-0564 MI Detroit  
**Eroy's WrkShp** Jerry Zubrick  
 Software, programming, tips.  
 W 99 FD 62+ 3 3

313-665-5927 MI Ann Arbor  
**Snowshoe** Tom Winters  
 Fidonet, technical, science.  
 X 09 V 9+ 1

313-783-3719 MI Flat Rock  
**Strange Brew** Bill Buchanan  
 Programming, OS/2 & Linux.  
 O 19 O 14+ 1 1

314-230-5768 MO Ellisville  
**Inkwell Writer** Rose Ferguson  
 Writers/poets/seniors.  
 X 19 D 2 1

314-281-8598  
**Megabiter II** George Belcher

314-351-7150  
**The STL CATII** David Russo

315-458-3482  
**Dreamscape** Scott Brennan

315-475-3250  
**Bytronix** Mike Bettua

316-367-8490 KS Goessel  
**CCBBS** John Goerzen  
 Networks, programming, OS/2.  
 X 09 VF 4 1 3

316-788-7520  
**Griswold's Priv** Jim Kelland

317-662-8122 IN Marion  
**Hoosier BBS** J. Whitehead  
 File access, game connection.  
 M 29 V 10+ 4 \$

317-889-4274 IN Greenwood  
**Eagle** Ralph Moore  
 Files, CDs, Internet, genealogy.  
 B 29 DF 45+ 2 \$ 3

318-222-7064 LA Shreveport  
**Genesis BBS** James Pottorff  
 Rime mail network, conf areas.  
 B 09 D 14+ 2

319-366-1985 IA Cedar Rapids  
**Lighthouse BBS** Marge Robbins  
 SLBBS support/general user req.  
 S 09 V 4 1 3

334-666-0993 AL Mobile  
**The Anchor Inn** Jim Wilson  
 Registered LORD, Tradewars.  
 B 29 FV 16 1 1

334-677-7316 AL Dothan  
**sandstorms bbs** Kim Gransden  
 Adult, games, DOS, Windows.  
 W 29 VO 5+ 1

334-702-4713 AL Dothan  
**Shadow Net BBS** Phil Willis  
 Now running Wildcat in WIN 95.  
 w 29 b 10+ 1

334-774-9946 AL Ozark  
**FastBytes** Mark Feller  
 RaceNet FTS/QWK hub.  
 W 29 F 14 1

360-299-0491 WA Anacortes  
**Far Point S.** Chris Spry  
 Mission #2 support, files, fun.  
 W 09 VB 3+ 1

360-427-6854 WA Shelton  
**The TimberJack** Brad Gallien Jr  
 Fun, games, free speech.  
 Q 29 V 9+ 1

360-427-9173 WA Shelton  
**Horsey Folks** John Rogers  
 Horses.  
 S 09 V 5 1

360-956-0408 WA Lacey  
**CCO.NET (tm)** J. Goeller  
 Full access Internet service.  
 M 29 V 250+ 50 \$ F

401-621-4600 RI Providence  
**E\*Nest BBS** Stanley Ulbrych  
 General purpose board 3/84.  
 B 19 FV 320+ 31 F

401-683-5961 RI Portsmout  
**Ups&Downs** J. Barrett  
 Crafts, local info, Rime conf.  
 B 09 V 10+ 1

402-474-3747  
**Da Place BBS** Mark Fruehling

403-283-1107 AB Calgary  
**Foothills HAM** Chris Kringle  
 support for Amateur Radio.  
 B 09 DF 15 2

404-476-7880  
**Late Nite BBS** Bobby Nowell

404-478-9700  
**The Night Shift** Bill Hardy

404-773-7966  
**Warp Factor** Mark Stewart

404-936-0550  
**Music Conn** David Coleman

405-354-6937 OK Yukon  
**Chamber32Doors** Dave Mather  
 Music & games.  
 X 29 V 6+ 1 3

405-670-1367 OK OK City  
**Shadow Magic** Duane Robertson  
 Free speech & computing.  
 X 19 F 14+ 1

405-728-7124  
**Hotel California** Lloyd Lawson

406-256-1301 MT Billings  
**Grt Escape** S. Richardson  
 Games, and tons of fun.  
 W 19 D 14+ 2

407-292-6797 FL Orlando  
**Demanding Time** Lorie Gibbs  
 Chat, games, Internet email, files.  
 W 09 U 300+ 16 \$ 3

407-328-4294 FL Orlando  
**Home School** Kevin Freer  
 Educational.  
 W 29 V 5+ 1

continues...

## UNCLE HANK'S SHAREWARE REVIEW NEWSLETTER

Published bi-monthly, this newsletter takes a good look at some of the best Shareware available today. Each issue contains reviews from a wide variety of areas. Always in plain English.

For a sample issue, send \$2 to: Uncle Hank's Shareware, 8 Hendrick St., Easthampton, MA 01027

Send \$10 with this ad, you can subscribe for 1 yr. (6 issues) & save \$2.

Make checks payable to Hank Hurteau

# THE NEXT GENERATION BBS

PCBoard. Home of Trek Trivia Online. Lots of  
 Files, Message Networks, FidoNet 1:266/19  
 After Dark Adult Network.  
 Visa/MasterCard accepted online. 609.482.1336

407-574-0670 FL Deltona  
**SkyNet** Jeff Ballard  
 Largest files section in area.  
 X 29 F 52+ 5 \$

407-676-6233 FL Melbourne  
**Fishermans Net** Shawn Edwards  
 Christian, CalvaryNet.  
 X 19 D 3 1

407-684-1200 FL W. P. Beach  
**Eagles Nest** Mark Netzel  
 Online chatting & door games.  
 S 29 VF 10 4

407-687-8712 FL W Palm Bch  
**Bloomunit** Linda Bloom  
 For homeschool families.  
 X 19 V 13 1

407-687-9355 FL W. Palm Bch  
**BCS-BBS Line 1** John Benjamin  
 Internet & genealogy.  
 W 19 D 14+ 2 \$ D

407-722-5020 FL Melbourne  
**Online Lusions** Alex Rudloff  
 Chat & general all-around BBS.  
 W 19 VO 10+ 6 \$

407-735-7702 FL Boynton Bch  
**QuickSilver** Mike Moore  
 RBBS support, games, files.  
 R 29 DD 999+ 4 7

407-740-8353 FL Winter Park  
**Round Table** Allan Holtz  
 Armor accounting software.  
 W 19 V 7+ 1

407-745-0449 FL Jupiter Farms  
**The Confederacy** J. Blanchard  
 Messages.  
 X 19 D 1 1

407-750-7665 FL Boca Raton  
**New Power** Robert Di Salvo  
 Internet entertainment.  
 X 09 VF 100+ 80 \$ F

407-834-9468 FL Altomonte  
**Tech net** Steve Miller  
 Model search94, usenet, Fido.  
 B 99 B 11+ 2 \$ 2

407-859-7428  
**The Death Star** N Seabury

407-895-0076 FL Orlando  
**Sneaky Pete's** Jim Huddle  
 Communications & networking.  
 W 19 DF 8 1

407-932-0584 FL Kissimmee  
**Nivets BBS** Steven Webb  
 Epic games site, 288 modems.  
 W 09 FO 14+ 1

408-295-3949 CA San Jose  
**The Albatross** Chris Reimer  
 SF Bay area college scene.  
 W 29 V 5 1

408-364-2789  
**PereLine BBS** Tom Serface

408-384-8634 CA Marina  
**Steel Beach** Ronald Pugh  
 Programming, Linux, Internet.  
 Q 29 VF 11+ 1

409-755-3715 TX Lumberton  
**Grumpy D's** Doyle Welborn  
 Wave sounds.  
 O 09 D 14+ 1

409-769-4249  
**Wayne's World** Wayne Belvin

## The A-List

409-842-3251 TX Beaumont  
**BROAD REACH** Tim Beard  
 Sailing and aviation.  
 W 09 D 11+ 2

410-203-1850 MD Ellicott  
**The PNET BBS** Peter Gruessing  
 Shareware, freeware, games, util.  
 W 29 V 10+ 1

410-239-7473 MD Westminster  
**Shrwr Paradise** Bryan Rittmeyer  
 Science, TV, messages.  
 X 29 F 6+ 1

410-391-3633 MD Baltimore  
**East Coast Con** Sam Mumaw  
 Online store, files, forums.  
 M 29 D 13+ 4 \$

410-551-2586 MD Severn  
**The Edge BBS** Tom Collins  
 General interest.  
 X 09 FV 42+ 2 \$ 3

410-558-3882 MD Baltimore  
**Iguana Online** Bob Gerchalk  
 AOL-like interface; social & info.  
 M 99 V 21+ 2

410-687-4876 MD Rosedale  
**Rosedale Conn** Mike McCullough  
 General IBM interested related.  
 B 29 V 8+ 1

410-744-1102 MD Catonsville  
**File Exchange** Steve Cain  
 Files, mail and online gaming.  
 B 19 DF 42 2 1

410-893-6905 MD Forest Hill  
**TimeDistortion** Tom Vaccarino  
 40+ doors / 20K+ adult files.  
 W 29 VF 76+ 5

412-421-8561 PA Pittsburgh  
**Frank's Place** Frank Lisak  
 Family oriented IBM support.  
 W 09 VF 100+ 4 3

412-567-6782  
**entertain me bbs** Shawn Cupec

412-635-0934 Pa Pittsburgh  
**Microtech** Jack Lawrence  
 Windows / OS2 / genealogy.  
 Q 19 V 17+ 1 3

412-734-2129 PA Pittsburgh  
**AWESome.bbs** Tony Waters  
 Easy going BBS.  
 W 29 FV 12+ 1

413-443-7623 MA Pittsfield  
**Aspect BBS** Paul Doucette  
 Apogee dist site #1833, adult.  
 X 99 FV 14+ 2 \$ 3

413-527-8977  
**Uncle Hank's** Hank Hurteau

413-568-7016 MA Westfield  
**The Upper Room** Thomas Long  
 Christian forums, files, etc.  
 W 29 D 8+ 1 3

414-466-9983 WI Milwaukee  
**Edit Suite BBS** Jack Becker  
 Offline mail reading.  
 O 29 F 1 1 1

414-672-6630 WI Milwaukee  
**plainbrnwrapp** Freddie Reitz  
 Files.  
 W 29 B 3 1

415-453-2854 CA San Rafael  
**Sat database** Daniel Dufficy  
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 X 29 B 10 1

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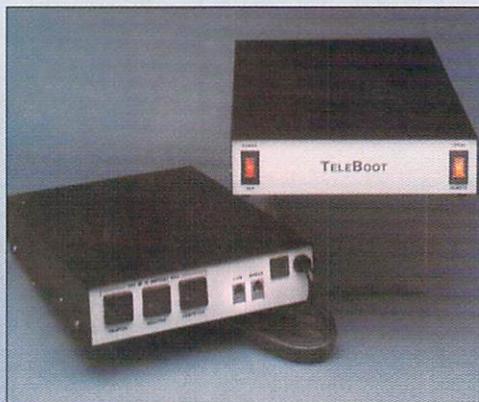
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 V 09 VV 13+ 2 C

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**Schunix-Pub** Robert Schultz

508-887-9592 MA Boxford  
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 F 29 V 9+ 1

508-966-4016 MA Bellingham  
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 W 09 V 60 1 3

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 Q 29 F 45 5 3

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**The RaLin BBS** Rand Nowell  
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 Q 29 V 2 1

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**eyes\_on\_sky** Mike Rushford  
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 B 09 VO 20 1 3

510-689-4022 CA Concord  
**Dr Jacks Thing** Jack Morcom  
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 W 29 VF 14 8 1

510-724-9296 CA Pinole  
**Greater Light** Michael Bryant  
 Christian service.  
 X 29 VF 19+ 2

512-328-2885 TX Austin  
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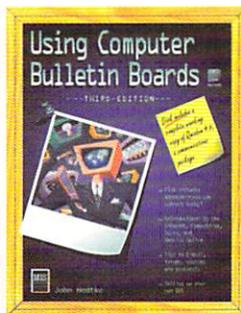
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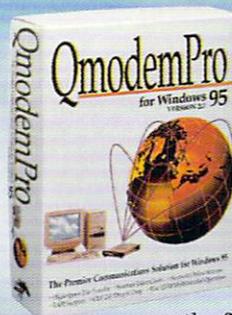
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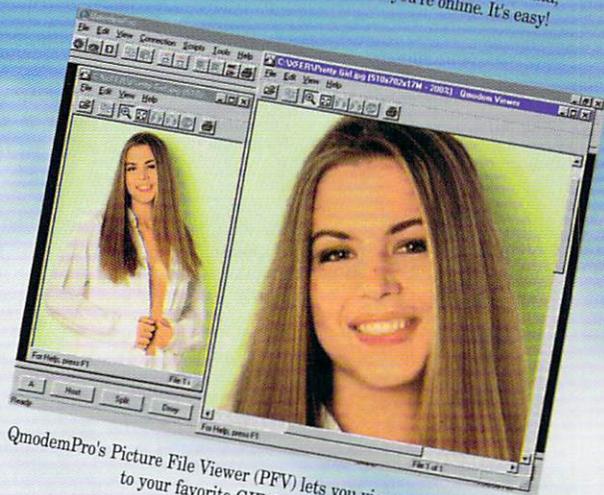


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**Maddog BBS** Ilya Kushnirsky  
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R 09 VO 2+ 1

718-251-1891 NY Brooklyn  
**The C Group** Mark Cohen  
Shareware, UFO's, paranormal.  
X 29 FV 40+ 1 7

718-266-5726 NY Brooklyn  
**Not Only Files** Mitchell Cohen  
OS/2 files, Usenet, IBMnet.  
W 29 F 100+ 2 3

718-281-0645 NY Bayside  
**Software Kitch** Fernando Ortiz  
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B 29 D 01 1

718-366-6165  
**Rama One BBS** Tommy Brunning

718-375-5561 NY Brooklyn  
**System X** Arthur Gorecki  
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B 29 DF 74+ 1 3

718-648-5199 NY Brooklyn  
**Zen Monastery** P. Starzynski  
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B 29 DF 5 1

718-743-2430 NY Brooklyn  
**Bklyn BBS** David Kaufman  
Topical discussion/networking.  
W 29 V 13+ 1

718-848-8342 NY Ozone Park  
**Squid Shack** Ron Kulick  
General.  
B 29 VD 5 1

719-540-9728 CO Colo Springs  
**Co. Connection** Scott Carter  
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W 09 FV 39+ 2 7

770-944-2470 GA Atlanta  
**PC Plus BBS** Tim Manns  
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B 29 V 10 1

770-967-6888 GA Flowery Br.  
**S/Ware Monster** R.P. Meggs  
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X 29 F 220+ 4 7

770-978-1153 GA Grayson  
**Binary Zone** K Bagheri  
GIFs, games, sound, utilities.  
W 29 FD 9+ 2 1

801-627-3351 UT Ogden  
**PCF** David Nielsen  
For posting, gaming, file transfer.  
X 19 O 1 1

802-433-1367 VT Williamstown  
**hillside BBS** david sutton  
File hunters paradise-adult.  
M 09 V 3+ 2 \$

803-679-0873 SC Effingham  
**GranPremierBBS** Stevan Hill  
Graphics, Windows, games.  
X 29 V 5+ 1

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803-763-1462 SC Charleston  
**Dave's World** Dave MacDougall  
AA/NA 12-step recovery.  
Q 29 VF 2 1 1

803-871-8761 SC Ladson  
**Carolina Chat** Robert McElwee  
Chat, DOOM, Multi-user games.  
M 19 VO 5 16 \$

803-873-5797 SC Ladson  
**Dazed&Confused** Bunny McElwee  
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B 19 FV 170+ 8 \$ 7

803-926-9810 SC Columbia  
**Capital Connec** Daniel Nance  
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W 29 DB 13+ 2

803-963-3773 SC Simpsonville  
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804-237-3823 VA Lynchburg  
**Browning's Wrld** Ralph Browning  
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W 19 VO 05 0

804-253-2307 VA Williamsburg  
**LightOTheBurg** Nelson Scott  
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W 29 V 10+ 1

804-420-2880 VA Chesapeake  
**Thin Blue Line** Scott White  
Law enforcement.  
Q 29 F 8 2

804-474-9635 VA Va. Beach  
**The Zone! BBS** Tony Babb  
Win 95, tech support, doors.  
W 19 F 100+ 20 3

804-590-2161 VA Matoaca  
**Servant of Lord** Dr C.A. Wootten  
Christian.  
W 19 BV 10 0 3

804-596-2131  
**Time Out! BBS** Mark Solomon

804-853-0636 VA Norfolk  
**Cupid's Playpen** Bill Agreste  
Entertainment.  
M 29 FV 680 0 F

805-489-1966 CA Arroyo Grnde  
**MCBBS** Jim Tinlin  
Games.  
Q 09 FH 14+ 3

805-499-5717  
**Formula 350** Eric Lundberg

805-735-3315 CA Lompoc  
**Granola Board** Deborah Taylor  
IBM files, games, internet.  
M 09 VF 50 31 \$ F

805-945-0349 CA Lancaster  
**Metropolis** Mike Johns  
Fidonet hub, Internet, games.  
T 19 FV 24+ 2 3

805-964-4766  
**The Seaside** Les Jones

809-283-6942 PR San Juan  
**Centus** Edfel J. Rivera  
Business related.  
W 29 V 7 1 2

809-781-4207 PR Guaynabo  
**Hurricane BBS** Luis Benitez  
Something for all.  
W 19 D 10+ 2 F

810-239-2919 MI Flint  
**Terminal Point** Ron Lauzon  
Programming, cyberspace.  
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810-412-8177 MI Clinton Twp.  
**ShareWarehouse** Rick Wadowski  
MS-DOS related shareware.  
B 19 DF 210+ 4 \$ 3

810-477-6695  
**The Soul Conn** Mike Demski

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**Comm Connect** Jeff Squires  
IGA-NET.  
Y 09 DF 10+ 1

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**The Casual BBS** Pat Cargill

810-685-9382 MI Commerce  
**The Office BBS** Bob McCurdy  
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W 29 V 12+ 1 3

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 W 09 V 20+ 1

812-898-2561 IN Terre Haute  
**Flaming Star** April Brown  
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 F 29 V 40+ 1 2

812-949-4904 IN New Albany  
**DataCom USA** Frank Fendley  
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 X 29 F 21+ 2 \$ 3

813-621-7547 FL Tampa  
**OneWay BBS** Dave Kenyon  
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 W 29 FD 47+ 2

813-857-9684 FL NPort Richey  
**TOoM** James Sumner  
 How-to.  
 X 29 FO 5 1 3

813-934-7881 FL Holiday  
**Planet Alderan** Dale Hutchinson  
 Star Wars support BBS.  
 B 19 D 20+ 1

813-942-0323  
**Genesis Network** D Thompson

815-727-1195 IL Joliet  
**Hookline** Mike McCormick  
 Hobby, fishing.  
 Q 09 F 5+ 2 3

815-795-6371  
**Squirrel's Nest** Neal Roberts

815-868-2422 IL McConnell  
**Boomtown** K. Zimmerman  
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 Q 19 D 14+ 1 1

816-747-8018 MO Warrensburg  
**Modemia** Rob Shaw  
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 W 29 V 13+ 1

817-280-9943 TX Hurst  
**Ocean Breeze** Ted J. Mieske  
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 A 19 V 10+ 1

817-355-9252  
**Contrails BBS** Joe Richter

817-468-8677 TX Arlington  
**PrimeTime Spor** Doug Ditto  
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 W 29 VO 5+ 1 \$ 2

817-565-9165 TX Denton  
**Mezzanine** Walter Bowen  
 Macintosh user support.  
 X 09 DF 23+ 1

818-353-8891 CA Tujunga  
**Mysteria** Phil Hansford  
 Metaphysics/occult.  
 O 09 DV 39+ 2 3

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818-448-0672 CA Arcadia  
**IntelNET(tm)** Fred Coles  
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 X 29 F 3+ 2 \$ 3

818-727-7639 CA Chatsworth  
**Sleuth** Mark Valentine  
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 S 19 V 30+ 3 \$ 2

901-278-6518 TN Memphis  
**Closed Doors** Peter Reilly  
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 F 09 VO 9+ 2 \$

901-327-1895  
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903-589-0575 TX Jacksonville  
**The Pride Lands** Ben Shiple  
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 W 29 VF 12+ 1

903-813-0287 Tx Sherman  
**Fly-N-High** Brandon Morris  
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 Q 09 V 5+ 1 1

904-254-0911 FL Daytona Bch  
**StarshipSirius** Anthony Malena  
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 M 09 FV 23+ 14 F

904-262-7329 FL Jacksonville  
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 L 09 V 1 1

904-323-8684  
**Up All Night BBS** Rob Warren

904-375-3500 FL Gainesville  
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904-438-2648 FL Pensacola  
**The Land** Donald Lee  
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 X 29 V 14+ 8 \$ 3

906-523-6215 MI Chassell  
**Chas. File Exc** Mike Croze  
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907-333-0565 AK Anchorage  
**POW BBS** Wade Hamel  
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 M 19 V 14+ 4 \$ 3

908-276-4405  
**The Vector** J Delvecchio

908-335-1135 NJ Holmdel  
**KDF** David Kaiserman  
 General.  
 W 19 V 11+ 1

908-354-6979 NJ Elizabeth  
**Comp. Junction** Jeff Shapiro  
 Messages, Internet email, doors.  
 W 99 FV 10+ 4 3

908-363-2760 NJ Lakewood  
**Byewise(tm)** Steve Hajducek  
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 B 29 FF 40+ 2 3

908-521-1357 NJ Monroe Twp  
**Eagle's Nest** Neal Newman  
 Wildlife conservation; general.  
 B 19 D 270+ 5 3

908-526-7271 NJ Raritan  
**Virtual Gamer** Joel Chambers  
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 W 19 FV 5 1

908-572-5762  
**Dataland! BBS** Rick Young

908-572-7490 NJ Edison  
**Adamscom** Mark Adams  
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 W 99 V 10 5 7

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**The Other Side** Jeff Groth  
 Something for everyone.  
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R 09 VF 05 0

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**In His Service** Lucky Hughes  
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F 19 D 4 2

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**Armour o Light** D. Klingelberg  
Christian files, CalvaryNet.  
F 19 D 3 1

909-925-9564  
**The Ouija! Board** Keith Burgner

909-947-2278 CA Ontario  
**The Berean Univ** John Carter  
Christian, CalvaryNet.  
V 19 D 3 1

910-292-1979 NC Greensboro  
**The Billboard** Bill Bailey  
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W 19 V 10+ 2 3

910-591-8512 NC Germantown  
**N State Online** Gary Dudley  
Internet access, shop online.  
W 29 D 2+ 1 3

910-595-8073 NC Walkertown  
**PC-Motorsports** Ronald Conrad  
Motorsports, NASCAR, RACE.GIF.  
W 29 DF 14+ 1 1

912-236-0083 GA Savannah  
**Wildd Cardd** Orvel Schrum  
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M 29 FV 12+ 6 F

912-328-9935 GA Warner Robin  
**Kitty's Cafe!** M. Mendez  
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W 29 F 14+ 150 \$ B

912-474-8010 GA Macon  
**Online Macon** Chris Coggins  
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M 29 FV 7 12 \$ 3

912-538-7950 GA Vidalia  
**Cornerstone** Michael Brazell  
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W 29 F 11+ 1 \$

913-784-7171  
**The Publishing** Mike Robinson

914-426-0729  
**Mirage Network** Brian Buffell

914-477-0264 NY Greenwood  
**The Lake BBS** Greg Wright  
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W 29 BV 13+ 2

914-528-4194 NY Mahopac  
**Computec BBS** Rik Line  
Computer tech support, business.  
I 19 D 10 1

914-621-2865  
**Drk Side of Moon** Peter Cacchioli

914-665-1725 NY Mt Vernon  
**Go Diamond!** C. Brewington  
Files.  
I 09 FU 4 1 1

914-667-9385 NY Mt Vernon  
**Joe Brown's** Joe Brown  
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Q 29 FU 14 1

914-683-3788 NY Valhalla  
**Skywave One** Larry Spinner  
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W 19 D 2 1

915-590-3817 TX El Paso  
**The Other Side** Sean Dunbar  
Family oriented.  
X 29 FD 20+ 3 3

916-247-1232 ca Redding  
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File distribution system.  
B 19 FV 253 10 \$ 1

916-332-4217 CA Sacramento  
**Sleepy Hollow** Chuck Sinclair  
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X 29 V 11+ 1 B

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**TDEC West BBS** John Young  
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I 29 D 16+ 2

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B 29 D 47 3 1

916-624-9368 CA Rocklin  
**StarshipEntprz** Aaron Bond  
DOS, PDA's, DOOM, tech, Trek.  
T 19 FV 35+ 3

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**VacationTravel** Ron Ablang  
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Q 09 FO 9 1

916-889-8410 CA Auburn  
**T.S.BBS.Around** Jon Anderson  
Files.  
I 19 V 1 1

916-929-7511 CA Sacramento  
**BOBsBBS** Bob Breedlove  
Home of the USBBS List.  
X 09 F 2 1

916-966-3115 CA Fair Oaks  
**Boater's Mktpl** Dale Gilbert  
Boating & watersports.  
M 09 B 3 2

918-272-7779  
**Black Gold BBS** Michael Cline

918-455-5806 OK Broken Arrow  
**Sword** Matt Weese  
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Q 09 FD 20+ 1 1

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**The Hub! BBS** W Farrimond

919-420-0065 NC Raleigh  
**Arena** Paul Newton  
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B 29 D 3 1

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T 09 V 8+ 5

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Color = New since last revision

<b>Industry BBS</b>	industry-dm.com	204.157.46.2
<b>A World Locally</b>	bbs.locally.com	205.147.78.131
<b>Absolute Connection</b>	a-c.in.net	199.0.62.164
<b>Access Nevada</b>	spillway.accessnv.com	199.2.253.3
<b>ACE InfoSystems</b>	aceinfo.com	199.190.76.2
<b>AdeptXBBS</b>	adeptsoft.gate.net	199.227.57.1
<b>Advanced Data Services BBS</b>	bbs.adsinc.com	199.190.70.3
<b>AECNET™</b>	aecnet.com	204.89.131.100
<b>After Hourz BBS</b>	ahbqs.com	204.134.204.10
<b>Afterimage Information Matrix</b>	aim.novasys.com	204.178.181.2
<b>Aladdins Palace</b>	aladdin.bc.ca	204.174.112.253
<b>Albuquerque ROS</b>	abq-ros.com	204.68.29.244
<b>Alien's SpaceShip BBS</b>	aliens.com	199.190.82.2
<b>Alien's World Wide Chat</b>	Free chat only BBS chat.aliens.com	199.190.82.10
<b>Almac BBS</b>	almac.co.uk	193.114.248.81

<b>Amateur Radio INTERNET BBS</b>	wb3ffv1.sed.csc.com	206.42.80.130
<b>America's Suggestion Box</b>	asb.com	165.254.128.1
<b>Anarchy Online</b>	anarchy-online.com	199.1.91.250
<b>Anarchy-X BBS</b>	bbs.ax.com	199.184.188.10
<b>The Annex!</b>	annex.com	204.74.67.1
<b>Another World™</b>	awol.com	204.160.88.13
<b>AOP BBS</b>		198.232.144.101
<b>Appraisal Profession Online</b>	apo.com	199.172.5.2
<b>Aquila BBS</b>	aquila.com	204.95.88.5
<b>Arizona InterActive Systems</b>	azi.com	199.190.114.2

<b>Boardwatch Magazine BBS</b>	boardwatch.com	204.144.169.1
<b>Boston Dungeon Society</b>	bdsbbs.com	199.242.194.90
<b>Brainstorm BBS</b>	bstorm.bgs.com	198.84.216.1
<b>Bryant Software</b>	bryant.com	199.45.158.193
<b>Canned Ham Bulletin Board</b>	anarky.tch.org	199.173.177.250
<b>Caribbean Online Network for Info</b>		204.183.157.10
<b>CCS World</b>	ccsnet.com	199.172.47.2
<b>CedarNet Online</b>	bbs.cedarnet.com	205.148.200.3
<b>Cetys BBS</b>	cetysbbs.mxl.cetys.mx	158.122.1.9
<b>CHANNEL 1®</b>	bbs.channel1.com	204.96.33.5



<b>ASERTEL Servicios On-line</b>	Web pages, telematic; multilingual. hermes.asertel.es	194.140.141.5
<b>AstroBBS</b>	astrobbs.com	204.215.32.26
<b>The Atlanta Windows BBS</b>	bbs.atlwin.com	155.229.44.2
<b>Atlantis BBS</b>	atlantis-bbs.com	199.4.124.69
<b>Atlas BBS</b>	gilroy.com	204.189.37.1
<b>Austin Clubhouse BBS</b>	club.fc.net	198.6.198.98
<b>Badlands</b>	Badlands.com	204.188.51.202
<b>Barney's Rubble</b>	rubble.fidouk.org	194.70.36.10
<b>Barter America BBS</b>	barter-usa.com	192.207.47.72
<b>BBS One Online Service</b>	bbs.prgone.com	199.18.119.129
<b>The Behavioral Health Network</b>	behavnet.com	199.190.85.2
<b>The Big Easy</b>	bigeasy.com	204.251.2.10
<b>The Black Dragon BBS</b>	Black-Dragon.com	166.82.197.95
<b>Black Gold BBS</b>	bgbbs.com	198.65.131.18
<b>Blastertronics BBS</b>	Blast.Neta.com	204.177.236.30
<b>Blitzkrieg Information BBS</b>	blitzinfo.com	199.190.90.2

<b>Christie's Internet Matchmaker</b>	bounced.email.net	199.33.241.97
<b>Cinci-Net</b>	cinci.net	199.6.38.4
<b>Cincinnati Multi-player Connection BBS</b>	Games; Worldgroup (Windows Interface). cinmpc.com	198.30.116.251
<b>The City Lights</b>	tblbbs.com	199.199.122.4
<b>Cleveland's Worldnet</b>	worldnetoh.com	204.248.180.53
<b>Clockwork BBS</b>	clockwork.com	199.234.182.56
<b>Close Encounters Adult</b>	Close.packet.net	199.1.77.17
<b>Closer To Home BBS Systems</b>	closer2.brisnet.org.au	203.4.149.98
<b>Cloud City</b>	cloud.com	199.190.94.2
<b>Club BBS</b>	club.gdl.iteso.mx	148.201.1.18
<b>Colossus Box</b>	colossus.com	198.3.118.19
<b>Columbus Online</b>	cols.com	205.133.92.2
<b>Comm 2</b>		199.92.200.58
<b>COMM Port OS/2</b>	juge.com	199.100.191.2
<b>Comp-U-Find Online</b>		199.79.146.33

<b>ComPart BBS</b>	compart.fi	193.64.198.201
<b>Compu-Plane</b>		198.68.17.57
<b>The Computer Factory</b>	tcf.com	204.212.163.100
<b>The Computerized AIDS Ministries</b>	hwbs.gbpm-umc.org	198.139.157.121
<b>ComputerLink Online, Inc.</b>	mbbs.compulink.com	199.166.254.2
<b>CONNECT 2000 BBS</b>	connect2000.com	204.177.193.251
<b>The Connection BBS</b>	connection.com	204.138.111.2
<b>Connections</b>	connections.ultranet.c	199.232.102.151
<b>Connections! BBS of Southern Hosp</b>		205.218.114.10
<b>ConXtion</b>	ConXtion.Com	199.190.84.2
<b>Country Online</b>	online.music-city.com	199.190.71.2
<b>Courier Online</b>	col.evansville.net	204.120.30.100
<b>COWZ - The Cattle Crossing</b>	cow.net	204.96.52.4
<b>CRIS (Concetric Research Corp)</b>	cris.com	199.3.12.13
<b>The Crystal Ball BBS</b>	theball.fileshop.com	199.79.146.181
<b>The Crystal Barrier</b>	bbs.tcbl.com	156.46.162.20
<b>Crystal Quill</b>	cq.cqi.com	199.125.162.3
<b>CSI Online</b>	csionline.com	205.148.205.2
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<b>The Cutting Edge!</b>	tce.net	204.193.159.10
<b>Cyber Warrior Network</b>	outland.cyberwar.com	204.97.1.4
<b>Cyber/Chat!</b>	cybercom.com	199.171.196.2
<b>The CyberDen</b>	cyberden.com	204.182.11.180
<b>Cyberia</b>	cyberia.com	205.160.224.1
<b>CyberKorea</b>		165.113.175.2
<b>Cyberlink</b>	lin.cbl.com.au	203.7.198.205
<b>Cyberspace BBS</b>	cyberspace.grnet.com	204.96.30.25
<b>Cyberspace7 BBS</b>	cyberspace7.ptd.net	204.186.5.1
<b>CyberStation</b>	Flnet.com	204.176.215.10
<b>Cyberverse</b>	cyberverse.com	134.24.3.50
<b>Dallas/Fort Worth MatchMaker</b>	dallas.email.net	204.181.110.2
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<b>DataSafe Publications BBS</b>	dsafe.com	199.190.74.3
<b>The Davasoft BBS</b>	dava.com	204.176.6.5
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<b>Delaware Valley On Line</b>	dvol.com	206.20.144.10
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<b>Digital Concepts BBS</b>	dconcepts.com	165.247.101.21
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<b>Digitec Online</b>	bbs.digitec.co.za	196.11.62.106
<b>Disk Jockey Online</b>	Live chat, forums, trivia, games, adult images & multimedia movies djo.com	204.119.8.55

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http://dkeep.com/sbi.htm  
Includes a "Guided Tour of Internet," BBSs from around the world.

**FTP:**  
dkunix.dkeep.com (in /pub/sbi)  
login: anonymous  
gcomm.com (in /internet)  
login: anonymous  
ftp.rahul.net (in pub/wco)  
login: ftp

**Finger:**  
sbi@dkeep.com  
(Information about the SBI List)  
sbiq@dkeep.com  
("Quick" Guide to Select BBS's on Internet)  
sbi-info@dkeep.com  
(Revision Information for current list)  
sbi-sysop@dkeep.com  
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**Dragon Keep International**  
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**Dream Link Online Information Ser**  
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**Dreamscape Entertainment Service**  
dscape.cyberstore.com ..... 204.244.18.12

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**DSP Information & Entertainment** dsp.com  
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rainbow.galviz.co.uk ..... 193.117.217.1

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elbs.id.net ..... 152.160.9.50

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e-universe.com ..... 199.67.39.129

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castle.elysian.net ..... 204.181.47.5

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bbs.empty.com ..... 198.30.235.51

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forest.novia.net ..... 204.248.24.1

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# BOOK SHELF

## Net Tech

by Kelly Maloni, Ben Greenman and Jeff Hearn  
\$19, 358 pages



Humans seem unable to leave well enough alone. We're always searching, charting, mapping, categorizing, pinning down, defining, or explaining away. What's unexplored never remains so for long; where there's darkness count on someone to shine a blazing light.

Holding the lantern in the book world is Michael Wolff & Company, whose Net books (co-published by Random House Electronic Publishing) have probed online games, chat, money, Star Trek, sports, and now "tech".

The latest guide is the first to reveal in a broad manner online computer information and support resources, putting readers in touch with the right people to help with those inexplicable computer problems. Readers can expect to find Web sites, chat areas, file archives, as well as access to some BBSs.

"Support and product resources are the lifeblood of all computer users," says Wolff, "and that includes everyone on the Net."

Some specific resources in the book include Windows 95 info; help with "antiques" like Amiga, Apple II, Atari, and Tandy; various multimedia; motherboards, monitors and memory; and, hundreds of vendors carrying thou-

sands of products.

All the information and online addresses are packaged in the familiar Net books style, neatly categorized alphabetically and by subject, and further divided by logical sub-headings.

While it may not be a must for locating the help you need, flipping through the book's pages sure can be quicker than waiting for one of those search engines during peak hours.

## What's on the Web (Fall/Winter '95/'96)

by Eric Gagnon, Lee Philip Stral, Edwinna von Baeyer and Christine Paustian. Contributing writers: Ric Bohannon, Sara Brown, Hilary Lane, Jon van Oast and Tim Windsor.  
\$23.95, 462 pages

Attempts to map the global Web continue with a new release from Internet Media called *What's on the Web*.

What this book lacks in production finesse — all black and white with fairly low resolution graphics — it makes up for in volume. Its nearly 500 pages locate, illustrate and describe in brief but informed vignettes 1,500 Web sites on subjects ranging from computing resources to sports.

The oversized, soft-cover tome collects these sites not just on the page but also on its own Web site called Jump

City (<http://www.jumpcity.com/>). Each site in the book carries a code that Web surfers can enter on Jump City and be linked directly with that page.

If a page has an associated Net news-group, expect the address to be listed right there next the URL. And handy icons let you know if the site is for commerce, links or straight content.

In using the book we found sites as varied as "Women's Hockey" and "ThreadTreader's WWW Contest Guide," a guide to the various contests running on the Web. None of the links we tried were bogus.

And if the guts of *What's on the Web* isn't simple enough for you, check out the book's final 86 pages. Dubbed the Web Index/Finder, this sections lists in alphabetical order thousands of sites, their titles, what kind of material can be found there, their Jump codes and page numbers. ■■■■■

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Customers can simply download the software from the Web site or request a copy on disk. The latter might be your best option, as the file appears to be quit a bear even for high-speed modems.

Cybercash plans to offer a second, cash-based payment system later this year. (<http://www.cybercash.com/>)

• **Checkfree Wallet** — Checkfree's Wallet is a straight-forward cash payment form. The company partnered with the aforementioned Cybercash earlier this year, and is planning to expand Checkfree Wallet's options using Cybercash's technology. The service does not require customers to pre-register before making a purchase — simply find a site that accepts Checkfree Wallet payments and follow the instructions. The new Checkfree/Cybercash product, which will be marketed under both names, is scheduled to be out by the time this reaches the newsstands.

For the latest, check either company's site. The new software will be made available for free initially, but

expect to start paying for the honor of using it at some point in the future.

(<http://www.checkfree.com/>)

Note: I'm keeping my personal opinions to myself this month for one major reason — the topic, namely the distribution of other people's money, is a rather sensitive one. Each site offers its own take on network security, but it is really up to the individual whether to take the plunge and send a credit card number over the Net. In my opinion there is little difference between telling an operator at an 800 line your card number and sending it to a site. Just be careful about which companies you choose to share your number with online, and keep records of every move you make. This comes straight from the experts — Cybercash, Checkfree and Digicash et al.

That having been said — charrrrge it! Last one to the mall gets stuck with the ugly orange plaid pants, size three. ■■■■■

*Know of a hot new online technology? Jacqui Kramer can be reached at [reel-time@omni.voicenet.com](mailto:reel-time@omni.voicenet.com).*



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# This Holiday, Cybercharge It

The holiday season is just around the corner, and no one knows the true meaning of Christmas better than we Americans: shopping.

The roar of the crowds, the mall Santa Clauses who look remarkably like the Salvation Army's St. Nicks, and, of course, screaming children who *have* to have the latest trendoid action figures or they will just die. Die!

Yes, the spirit of Christmas moves us here in the states all right... It moves us into our cars and down to the stores.

For years, our only real alternative has been to shop the catalogues which mysteriously appear each year beginning around August, when the feminine side of the world starts gift-hunting. (At least, that's what my mother-in-law tells me; I appear to be missing that gene. But I digress.) These catalogues generally come equipped with a convenient 800 number for orders — usually shipped three months later when all the great gear advertised actually becomes available. This leaves approximately 12 days before Christmas for returns and gripes, thus leading to the inevitable crush at every mall in the land. This is not to be confused with the Christmas Eve rush, mind you, which, although similar, is a wholly male event. I should know as I'm usually the only one at the mall the night before Christmas missing the Y chromosome.

The rapidly expanding ranks of electronic transaction companies are hopeful that these Kringle traditions will convince shoppers to stay home this year.

Stay home and shop via modem, that is.

Yes, this is supposed to be the year that "cybermalls" come into vogue, and everyone discovers how much easier it is to do their groceries by computer. These options (including the groceries — I kid you not) have been around for several years, of course, but have never really come into their own.

Except for a die-hard core of shoppers (estimated to be

about two or three percent of all Internauts), few have ventured into the hairy world of online shopping. The only thing stopping the rest of us has been a general fear of sending our most precious commodity, our credit card numbers, through the Internet.

## Cashing in

Today there are dozens of credit card encryption options, including three strong contenders for the throne: Digicash's ecash, Cybercash's Secure Payment Internet Service, and Checkfree's Wallet.

These three represent a very small portion of the myriad companies fighting for your virtual dollar. They also are the most prominent, and, therefore, are more likely to actually be accepted by vendors online.

Each system is geared toward the Internet because that is where the money is thought to be right now. They're also equally compatible with a BBS system, however. There is no fee for any transactions unless otherwise noted. As always, visit the home page URLs listed for each site for the latest information. Freeware and shareware have a habit of becoming payware overnight.

- **Ecash** (available for the Windows, Macintosh, and UNIX platforms) — Digicash's ecash offers the same convenience of a U.S. ATM card or Europe's debit cards, with an added bonus: The transactions are made directly from the user's home computer, thus eliminating the need for a physical card altogether. Also, the user is the only one who knows the password — even his/her bank is not privy to this information. To establish an ecash account, I would simply have my bank transfer the funds, which are translated into "ecash," to the computer from which all transactions will be made. I'd then find a vendor

who accepts ecash (check Digicash's home page for some ideas) and pay while online. The transaction is complete and the item can be sent out right away — in theory. Of course, little things like an item being out of stock might get in the way (as with the old way of purchasing), but hey — isn't it more fun to get that bad news via email? (<http://www.digicash.com/>)

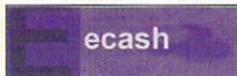
- **Secure Payment Internet Service** (available for Windows and Macintosh platforms) — Cybercash's Secure Payment Internet Service is essentially an encryption service for credit card numbers. Vendors willing to accept Cybercash have to go through a few hoops to set up a special Cybercash button on their site.



**CheckFree**  
Payment Services

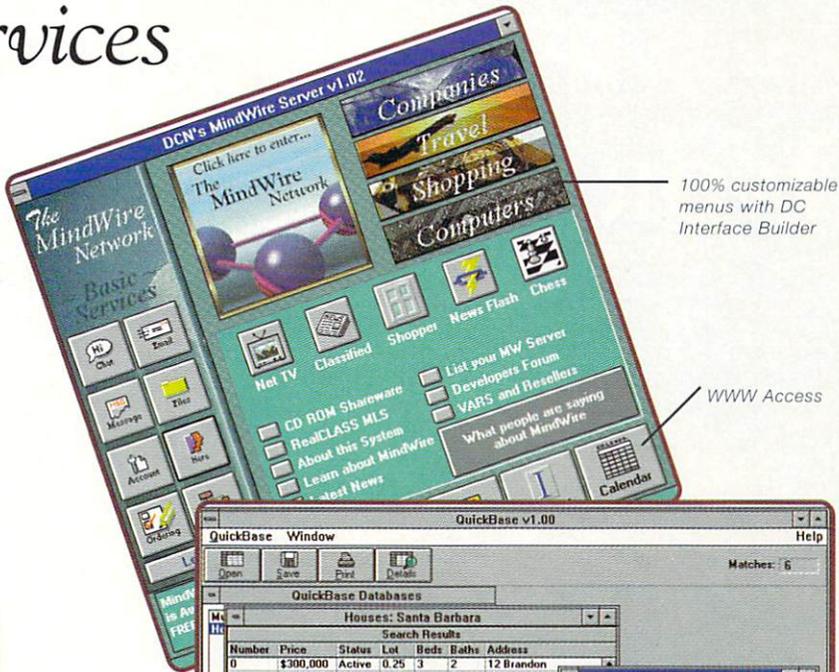


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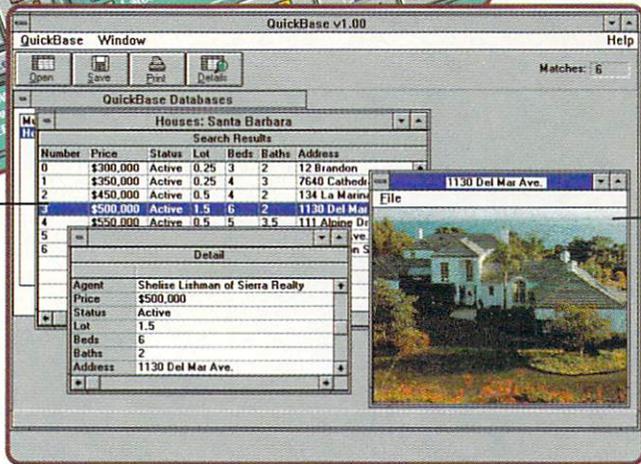
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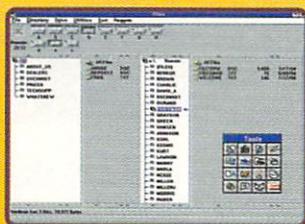
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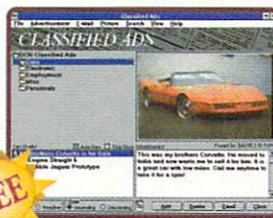
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