

BBS

THE
BULLETIN
BOARD
SYSTEMS
MAGAZINE

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U.S. Robotics

On the move with V.34



Internet
Mac
Shareware

BBS Notebook:
Flea Market BBS,
PigPen BBS,
Ten Forward BBS,
TSW OS/2 BBS

ExcaliburBBS for Windows

It's bold
beautiful
brilliant,
and it's here.



excalibur

(But can it stand up to DOS?)



File Name	Size	Date	Description
132716	06/22/1994	Specimen in Hand	
274474	06/22/1994	Mount Head in the	
col_cad.gif	170406	06/22/1994	Mount Head in the
lab2.gif	168075	06/22/1994	The Square Character
lens2_1.gif	143262	06/22/1994	Assault in Trenches
lensam.gif	60748	06/22/1994	Picture of a Girl F...



You are the **cybervisionary.**



You start with a brilliant idea...



You prototype your concept on a small scale quickly and inexpensively...



You smoothly integrate multi-user applications as you need them...

You have a **vision**. Bring your company online. Tie the workgroups to the customers. Distribute all kinds of information and electronic media. Or maybe launch a new business in cyberspace.

You need more than just a BBS — you want **an open platform** for creating your own online service. A system that is tailored to your mission. And nobody can do it better than you.

Start Right the First Time

The Major BBS® Version 6.2 gives you everything you need to **get started**: e-mail, forums, polls, file libraries, QWK, teleconference, a user registry, and more. Right away, you can plug in one or two modems in a DOS-based 386 or better and go online.

Customize your look and feel with the built-in Menu Tree™ and text block editor. Use Locks and Keys™ security for intuitive access control. Create unlimited user classes for accounting and system management.

Enjoy auto-generated **RIP graphics**, MHS importing/exporting, full multi-lingual support, time analysis and user reports, CD-ROM utilities, remote Sysop management, “doors” to an auxiliary

machine, an activity audit trail, auto-cleanup and timed events — hundreds of special features designed to make your life as Sysop a **success**.

But that's just the beginning...

Expand Your Horizons

Next, you can integrate a wide array of add-on options. Installation is as easy as “A:INSTALL”. The Major BBS takes full advantage of **DLL technology** to dynamically link these features into your system.

For instance, *Fax/Online* lets you provide outgoing fax-mail and fax database services to your users. *Search and Retrieve* gives you a full document database, with support for graphics files and fax attachments. And **Internet** mail and newsgroups can pipe right in with the *Major Gateway/Internet* package.

Other DLL extensions available from Galacticomm include *Shopping Mall*, *The Major Database*, *Entertainment Collection*, *Dial-Out*, and a special version of the *RIPaint* GUI design tool.

Use the Menu Tree designer to place these new options in the most convenient location. **Full security control** lets you decide which users will have access.

And because these DLLs are written in C and Assembly, they provide far greater **performance and flexibility** than script languages or xBASE derivatives.

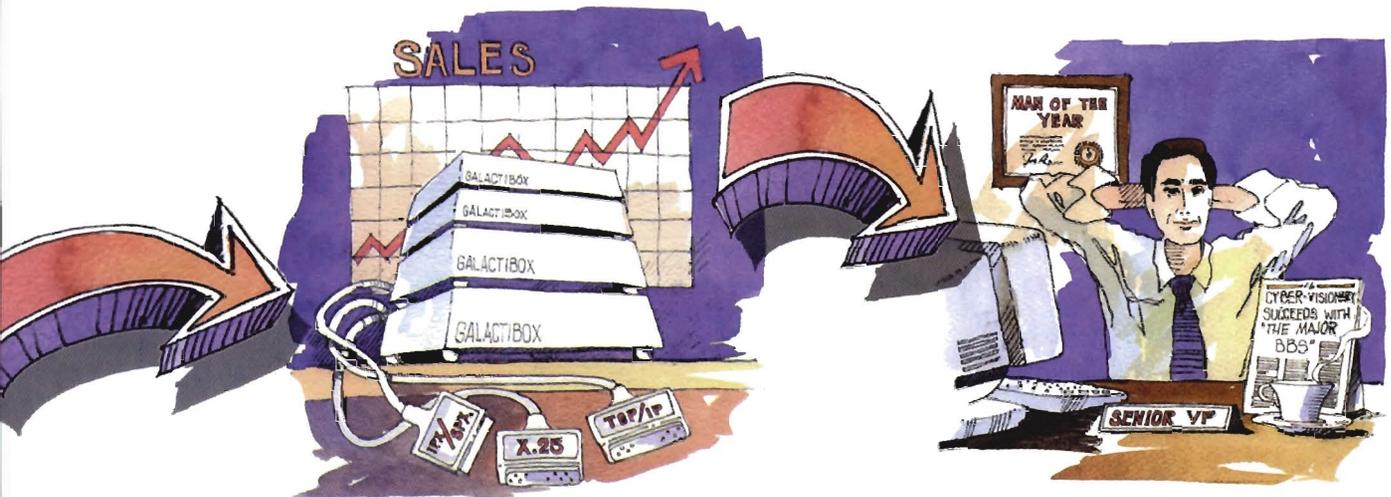
You Need It? You Got It...

Over 150 independent software vendors offer a wealth of products you can cleanly add to your system as DLLs. Plug in software such as:

- multimedia document servers
- MLS photograph databases
- credit card verifiers
- FIDO, QWK, RIME mail support
- online bidding networks
- employment classifieds
- 1-900 payment and tracking
- interactive multiplayer games
- worldwide “chat” networks
- automatic call-back verifiers
- contact management databases
- alternate user languages
- photograph dating services
- online purchasing systems
- satellite news delivery
- remote management tools
- and much, much more...

Each of these products integrates directly into your system, taking full advantage of our **open architecture** and

We just provide the tools.



As you grow, you add more lines, hook up your LAN, connect to the Internet...

And you experience the success of your own, unique online service.

multi-user environment. No other BBS platform gives you this power.

"Doors" even let you interface to client/server databases and other DOS applications, as well as the programs written for multinode BBSes.

With the Freedom to Grow

As your system takes off, you can add **more lines without the headaches** of multitaskers or stacks of computers. Simply add *User Six-Pack* licenses and hook up more modems.

ONLY THE MAJOR BBS GIVES YOU THE POWER TO SUPPORT OVER 100 SIMULTANEOUS HIGH-SPEED USERS ON ONE PENTIUM-CLASS MACHINE.

In performance tests reported by *Boardwatch Magazine*, The Major BBS handled **104 simultaneous file transfers** at 14.4 modem rates (1750 cps), and over 64 at 28.8 modem speeds (3300 cps). In most real world cases, even more simultaneous users are possible.

You can use multiport hardware such as the GalactiBoard and GalactiBox to easily **manage huge numbers** of internal and external modems. (Galacticomm is the only BBS manufacturer with multi-user

hardware design experience.) The Major BBS also works smoothly with non-intelligent hardware by vendors such as DigiBoard and Boca Research.

And Connectivity For All

Only The Major BBS gives you the ability to support modems, serial connections, IPX/SPX LAN channels, direct X.25 circuits, and TCP/IP sessions — all on one computer. Each channel group can have different menu branches and security controls, at your option.

The *Advanced LAN Option* lets you create a bank of channels that will dynamically accept calls from computers around your office — directly through your **Novell LAN.**

You can also provide **national and international** access at low cost via the *X.25 Software Option* and a PC XNet card — you avoid the inefficiencies and expense of a PAD.

Our new *Internet Connectivity Option* lets you integrate a **TCP/IP stack** directly into your BBS. You don't need a separate machine to provide telnet in, telnet out, FTP client, and FTP server features to your users. Anonymous FTP and Internet surcharges are also supported.

A Bright Future Awaits You

There are few limits to what you can accomplish with The Major BBS. The full **C source code** to the BBS is available, to give you the ultimate flexibility. Write your own add-on options, or tweak a particular function to your exact needs.

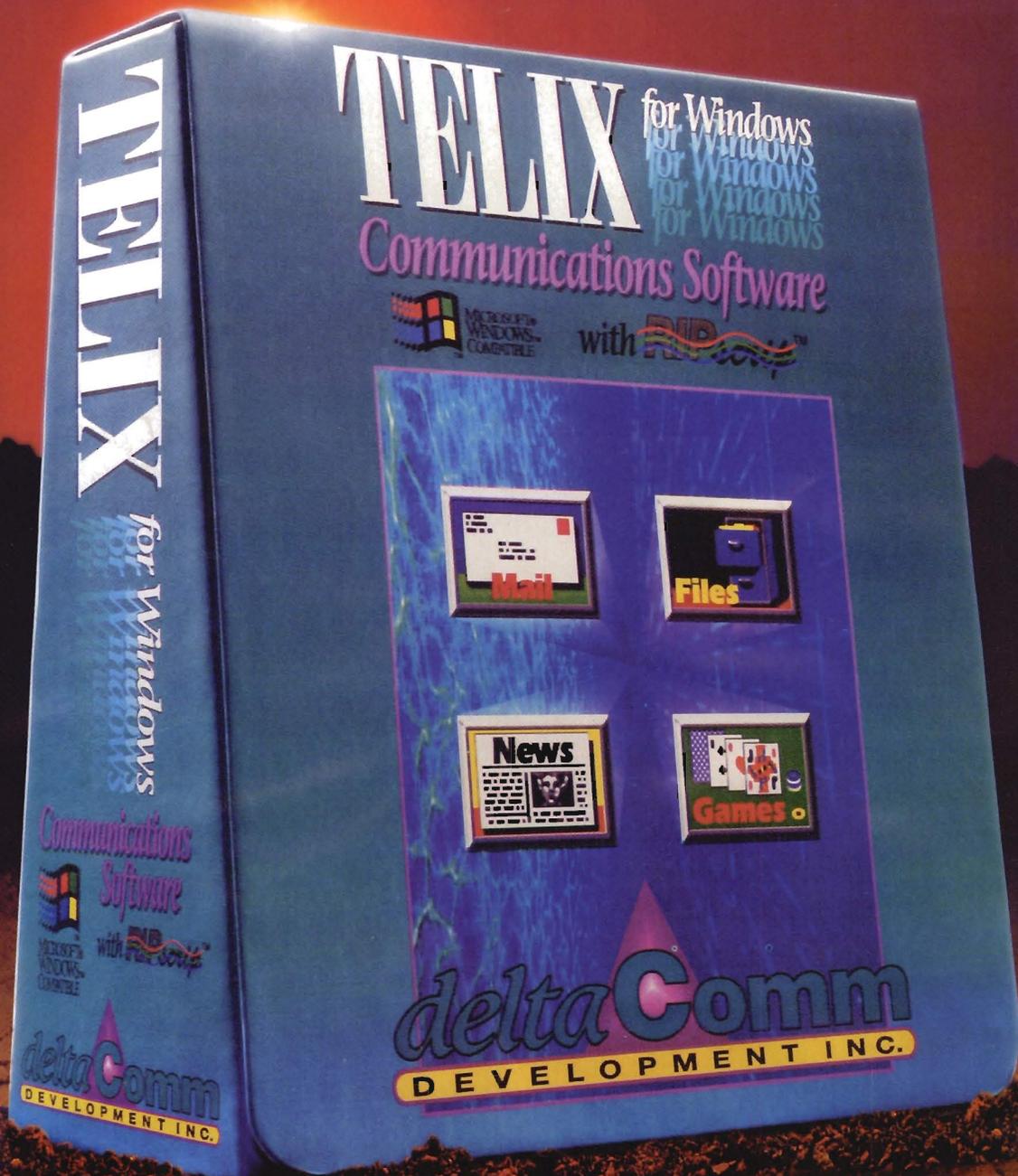
And to address the needs of very high-end applications, Galacticomm has launched a **UNIX technology** division to provide The Major BBS platform on mini-computers and supercomputers.

Integrated solutions, consulting, and custom development are available from *Ambassador* dealers worldwide. **World-class support** is available to you via voice, fax, BBS, CompuServe, and the Internet. A quarterly magazine called *The Major News* provides you tips and tricks, as well as a **resource** for third-party products and services. And regular software improvements bring you the latest in online technology.

For more information, give us a call at 1-800-328-1128 (or 305-583-5990 outside the U.S. and Canada). And let's turn your visions into **reality.**

 GALACTICOMM

The Dawn of a New Era...



A New Age In Telecommunications Is Here!

Telix for Windows is the bright new star in graphical communications, sporting a rich feature set that runs rings around the competition and file transfer speeds that approach the speed of light. Graphics, menus and text are integrated with TWO powerful scripting languages in one stellar multimedia package. Built-in **RIP** script support turns an ordinary call into a graphical odyssey. Call today for a free demo, and discover how your system will evolve with Telix for Windows.

Call now: 1-800-859-8000

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Rusty Edie

Call a different kind of BBS. "We are the Friendliest BBS in the World." Our name says it all. Edie and I are a couple of burnouts from the 60s. We didn't like rules then and we don't now. Come on in and relax; you will be among friends. We have a huge adult section, including over three gigs of adult graphics, as well as a fine selection of public domain and shareware programs, including over a gig of family-type graphics. But that's not what sets us apart. When you call the first time, you'll know what no amount of words can tell you, you are Home. That's right, put up your feet and enjoy yourself.

We live by three no's: "No Censorship, No Rules, No Hassle."

You'll find us like no other BBS:

- We answer your messages and comments.
- We answer your on-line pages.
- We post our address.
- We post our voice phone number.

Rusty n Edie's BBS
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Youngstown, OH 44512

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 HST only216-726-1804
 Compucom216-726-3584
 Hayes V-Series216-726-3619
 All (V32 etc.)216-726-2620
 Fax216-726-3595



readme.txt

A matter of taste.

I made the point here before that arguing DOS against Windows against Unix against Mac, etc., is a waste of paper. Which platform and which operating system is best able to handle the reams of new connectivity options pelting us from all directions is something each sysop and caller must decide for him or herself.

Each has benefits others may not, and sometimes outweighing the desire to have a particular feature is one's personal preference for elements inherent in this system or that one. So to take a stand defending one or the other can be likened somewhat to my telling you blue is a better color than green. Truly, it's a matter of taste. (Whew, diplomatic enough?)

I use this preface to counterbalance the slew of "wowees!" we encountered from callers and sysops regarding a software package we're exploring in this issue.

The software is Excalibur BBS, a bulletin board system for Windows that's been in beta for the past several months. (Beta schmeta, the pre-commercial release is already being run by many as a full-fledged BBS.) And it essentially takes the Windows environment and places it online. There are remarkable graphics, multi-chat, GIF previews, and plug-ins for the callers. For sysops there's simplicity galore, the option to run the board completely in the background and one nifty make-my-life-easier feature after another.

But there are drawbacks, too. Excalibur is a fledgling company and as of this writing v1.0 hasn't even hit the streets.

On the other hand plans are already made for Internet connectivity and Excalibur for "Chicago," the next Windows. Page 16.

USR (U.S. Robotics) is no fledgling, but you wouldn't know it by the hip advertising, great service, industry-leading technology, and flat-out great modems. Young companies tend to be underdogs and underdogs tend to scratch and claw a little more than the others. But USR's been around for years. What's going on?

We take a broad view of the company and its products and let you decide.

Page 10.

Rick Robinson, *Editor-in-Chief*
rick.robinson@bbscd.com

PLANET CONNECT IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BBSSES!

In Less Than One Year, Planet Connect Has Become The Primary Link For The Exchange Of BBS Data In All Regions Of North America. To Hear About These Changes Read The Following Comments From Some Of Our Users.

"I have been on the Planet Connect Satellite service for the past six months. The service has been excellent. Our BBS membership has increased substantially. I would strongly recommend Planet Connect to anyone who plans on running a quality BBS."

Connie Andrews-SysOp The Nexus BBS, Fredericksburg, VA (703) 898-7205

"I just couldn't believe the truly staggering amount of data that started coming into my BBS. My users really ate it up. I've added more than 50 new areas and my phone bill never goes up."

In Your Face BBS! (505) 891-1424 Greg Rosler-SysOp Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

"My long distance phone bills were killing me, at about \$900.00/month for connecting to various mail networks and downloading the latest popular files. Now I get several times that volume of message conferences for only \$30.00 a month! It's an incredible deal! And, I'm receiving so many new shareware files, I have to purge them from time to time, because I can't keep up! Can you imagine, having so much data sent right to your hard disk, that you have to be selective about what to keep? But I'm not complaining, I'd have to pay a small fortune for this kind of service via land line just for the message areas alone! Keep up the great work."

PC Cool Baby BBS, Mark Krieg-SysOp, York, PA

"I have been with Planet Connect since the first beta test early in 1993 and I must say that I have had absolutely zero problems since that time. As one of the first 'betas' I have been a very satisfied sysop to say the least. I wholeheartedly recommend the system to any sysop wanting a timely and extremely reliable mail and file system. This system WILL bring about change in the way that bulletin board systems send and receive echomail and shareware file areas."

The Atlanta Information System BBS, Mark A Hopkins-System Operator, Atlanta, Georgia

"Since purchasing the Planet Connect system, the BBS's income has increased by 500% due to the fact my BBS became the first BBS in the community to carry a full feed of Usenet at very low fixed cost, rather than paying hourly fees as most BBSes offer. It is WELL worth it and I strongly recommend it to those who want to cut down high cost in phone and service costs and make incomes from their BBS!"

M.T.C. Online BBS, Richard Reed-SysOp, Chesapeake, VA

"Ever since I've started my BBS 4 years ago, I could never afford receiving more than a dozen conferences because of high long-distance costs. But now with Planet Connect, I have over 500 online, and more file distribution nets than I would have ever imagined receiving, without any extra costs! Believe me, you'll be looking at your satellite dish with a great big smile..."

CompuBBS, Paul Cormier-SysOp, Edmundston, NB Canada

"The Planet Connect System has greatly enhanced my BBS with a wide variety of both mail conferences and downloadable files. It also has vastly reduced my long distance phone charges. Planet Connect is THE vehicle that can turn a small BBS into a full-service online information system!"

The Twilight Zone BBS, John Hrusovszky-SysOp, Auburndale, Wisconsin (715) 652-2758/2700

**For more information contact:
Planet Systems, Inc.
1065 Cosby Highway
Newport, Tennessee 37821**

**Voice: 615-623-8300
Fax: 615-623-8751
BBS: 615-623-9889
Fidonet: 1:3615/50**



NuIQ Delivers Talking BBS for Visually Impaired

LARCHMONT, NY — NuIQ Software Inc. is shedding light where before there was none. Or is that sound?

The company, maker of Powerboard BBS software, has released a complete BBS system for blind, visually impaired and dyslexic sysops.

Called Powerboard Speech (PBS), the system's code has been altered to transmit speech through a voice synthesizer allowing those without sight to operate and call a bulletin board.

"PBS will introduce many voice-synthesis users to a 'usable' BBS package providing them with equality with their sighted counterparts," said John Altmeyer, a visually impaired Indianapolis sociologist who served as technical advisor for the project. "Also, blind and visually impaired people network among themselves and PBS will enhance the process."

PBS looks and functions just as a typical Powerboard BBS, only prompts, bulletins, messages etc. are sent orally as well as visually. And RIPscrip graphics can be added for sighted callers.

"No longer are we providing software for a handful of hackers who see running a BBS as an avocation participated in the wee hours of the night," said Scott Brown, NuIQ president. "The recent commitment of most of the BBS software manufacturers to add programming languages is in effect a realization that we no longer know what each customer will do with our software. We feel providing software for the blind and visually impaired is one of the next steps."

PBS is offered at \$99 for a four-line system and available through Powerboard Speech's support BBS at 317.784.2422, or directly from NuIQ at 914.833.3479 (voice), 834.7830 (BBS). Altmeyer can be reached directly at 317.782.3488.

FILEX BBS — for Windows

SANTA BARBARA, CA — Excalibur isn't the only one creating a total MS Windows BBS. Durand Communications Network, creators of the Genesys Database and the remarkable FILEX, has released FILEX BBS.

NEWS

Dubbed a fully client/server, all Windows, multi-user BBS, FILEX BBS is actually a child of the company's FILEX API product.

"We designed a collection of easy-to-use modules and created the FILEX BBS," said Andre Durand, DCN CEO. "These modules include Email, Messaging, File Library, Chat, Accounting and Security."

Durand said the release will place in the hands of businesses, entrepreneurs and government agencies the tools needed for hammering out their own online services.

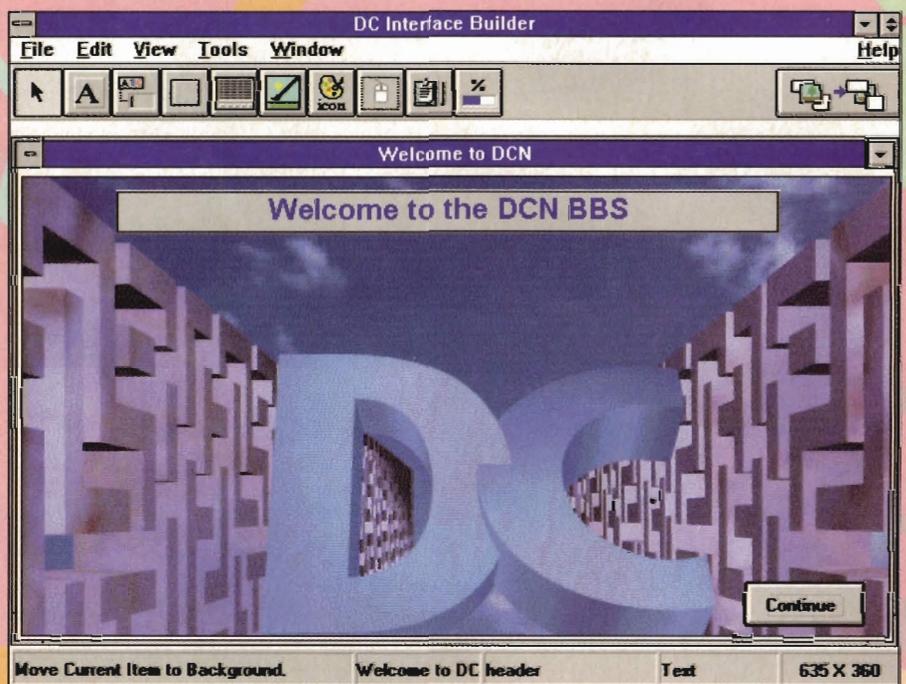
Included in the BBS package is DCN's new online graphical protocol called WIP (Windows Interface Protocol) for creating dynamic online screens with the look and feel of a true

Windows interface.

According to DCN, the purpose of this new graphical protocol is to give providers the ability to create real Windows screens that transmit over the modem pronto.

To develop the WIP files, Durand created the DC Interface Builder, a Windows utility with mouse support and online help that walks users through the process of drawing Windows menus. Once created, the DC Interface Builder saves the file as text — the next step is to place it online.

The WIP allows for 24-bit color menus and embedded compressed images, Windows icons, buttons, text, and pick lists. WIP menus can be viewed by end-users through a shareware terminal program provided by



WIRE

DCN in Windows or Mac platforms.

For more information, contact DCN at 805.961.8700.

Leapfrog: A Marriage in BPS Heaven

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. — Galacticomm, Inc., makers of The Major BBS, and Equinox Systems, Inc., manufacturer of SuperSerial Technology (SST) intelligent multiport boards, have teamed up to develop a multi-user BBS package that, quite simply, screams.

Called "Project Leapfrog," the result of the collaboration is 128 simultaneous file transfers at 38,400 bps and 104 simultaneous transfers at 57,600 bps, all while maintaining peak performance of the system. One test even topped 230,400 bps.

Results like these were achieved on a single Pentium machine — a P5-60 computer running The Major BBS v6.2 and the new Equinox driver. A 128-channel Equinox SuperSerial XP Expandable Multiport I/O Subsystem was attached to the BBS via a single slot ISA interface card. RJ45 serial cables were then run to five 486-66 "exerciser" machines for downloading.

"Our focus is to deliver the highest performance platform for launching an interactive online service on a single 486 or Pentium-class machine," said Scott Brinker, Galacticomm's president and CEO. "This joint development with Equinox introduces a whole new generation of performance for our customers — right in time for 28.8 modems and ISDN modems to take off on a wide

scale. No other online service platform comes close."

Galacticomm said the integration of the Equinox driver was made possible by the Galacticomm Custom Device Interface (GCDI), an open API that allows developers to create add-on connectivity for The Major BBS.

Equinox is the first independent vendor to create a GCDI driver and with The Major BBS's modem, serial, Novell LAN, X.25, and TCP/IP support, the benefits quickly muscle out any drawbacks. Future development, said Brinker, could include GCDI options for direct ISDN, ATM, frame-relay and other network protocols.

The Equinox driver runs \$259. For more information contact Galacticomm at 800.328.1128.

ResNova — Ripped and Webbed

HUNTINGTON BEACH — ResNova Software, makers of the NovaLink Pro (BBS) for Macintosh, has announced plans to develop RIPterm 2.0 Professional for Mac and Windows. The

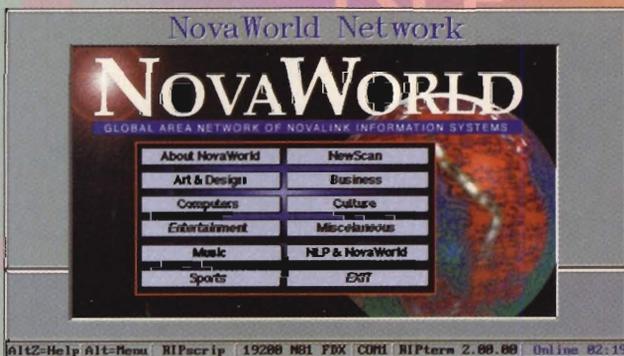
development is a joint venture between ResNova Software Inc. and Telegrafix Communications Inc.

"The package will be published and marketed through Telegrafix, the creators of RIP" said Jon Kantor, ResNova's CEO. "We've had a good working relationship with Telegrafix. The joint effort is a perfect match. The combined effort of the two companies will result in the development of a world-class terminal program."

"RIPscrip 2.0 is a powerful tool that fundamentally changes the way people use computer networks to work, play and communicate," said Patrick Clawson, president and CEO of Telegrafix: "It's fast, fun and easy. It allows any person, anywhere to take part in the Information Revolution."

RIPscrip 2.0 can dynamically integrate graphics, photos and text. Sysops can create screens with text, digitized sounds and high-resolution JPEG images with up to 16.7 million colors. And with speeds of 14,400 or higher baud, the images appear almost instantaneously. The new device-independent bitmap icon format (BMP/DIB) gives sysops cross-platform compatibility, so screens appear virtually identical on both a PC and a Macintosh. Also, RIPscrip 2.0 allows the import of both Adobe Type 1 and TrueType fonts, so an almost unlimited number of fonts can be used on the screens. Other features include the ability to handle serial communications and multimedia effects simultaneously — music can be played and graphics displayed without interrupting any incoming information. RIPscrip also has many advanced video capabilities such as off-screen bitmaps, color masking, palette manipulation, image scaling, color reduction, and global/local video coordinate systems.

The new RIPterm program will support rates from 300 to 115,200 baud. Protocols supported include ASCII text, QuickB, Kermit, Xmodem, Ymodem, and Zmodem. Terminal emulations include RIPscrip, Novaterm, ANSI,



Example of RIPterm 2.0 emulation for the PC on a NovaLink BBS.

Doorway, TTY, and VT100. RIPTerm 2.0 has keystroke macros and a dialing directory that can hold up to 1,000 different numbers.

Additionally every RIPTerm Pro for Mac and Windows will include Novaterm emulation for dialing into NovaLink Pro BBSs.

RIPTerm 2.0 will be priced at \$10 during an introductory period.

Kantor said RIPTerm for Mac should debut in the first quarter of 1995.

For information contact Telegrafix Communications, Inc., 16458 Bolsa Chica, Suite #15, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Call 714.379.2131; fax: 714.379.2132; BBS: 714.379.2133; email: 76357.3572@compuserve.com.

area can contain a hypertext document such as email, public forums or server announcements. Any text or graphic can be a "Hot Link" or "Anchor" to other HTML documents. For example, users will be able to send email and post public messages that contain pictures, sounds, movies, and links to other material found on a local machine, LAN or the Internet.

When a user presses on the Hot Link, it retrieves anything that can be identified by a URL (a URL, or Uniform Resource Locator, specifies how to get information on the Internet).

Common uses for these Anchors are to play sounds, display high-resolution pictures, download files from FTP

servers, purchase products online, and link to other HTML documents on the World Wide Web.

To sysops this means HTML will allow external applications to return graphical results and allow the users to do graphical manipulations. Indeed HTML gives users more control over their environ-

ment, as they will be able to create their own private hypertext documents, with links into favorite areas.

"HTML affords NovaLink the ability to create a virtual environment where information is shared across the network eliminating the need to clone documents."

For further information, contact ResNova Software, Inc., 5011 Argosy Drive #13, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Or call 714.379.9000; fax: 714.379.9014; BBS: 714.379.9004; email: sales@resnova.com.

Mr. Sysop Goes to Washington

Seems BBSs have evolved into something anyone can handle. The U.S. government has gotten into the act (actually some agencies have been online for years) with a few boards of their own. There are many more than what's here, but they bored us to tears or didn't

answer our calls. A few that did include:

- Federal Register Electronic News Delivery (BBS). Laws, news, announcements, public documents, and more — 202.275.0920.

- FedWorld BBS. Government BBS network with press releases and speeches, job info and stats — 703.321.8020. Telnet: fedworld.gov-new.

- Government Printing Office (BBS). Info promulgated by various government agencies — 202.512.1387.

- Office of Government Ethics BBS. No comment, Ethics regulations, training session info and reports — 202.523.1186.

- U.S. Small Business Administration (BBS). Information from the SBA on biz development, office listings, etc. — 800.697.4636.

Do-Over!

In a recent issue we slightly overstated the abilities of a product from Durand Communications. The product: FILEX v2.0. The Overstatement: We said callers to the Windows host could view host files remotely. Well, they can't. Not yet, anyway. Callers can, however, drag 'n drop the files and read them off their own systems — no matter what the format.

The Skinny

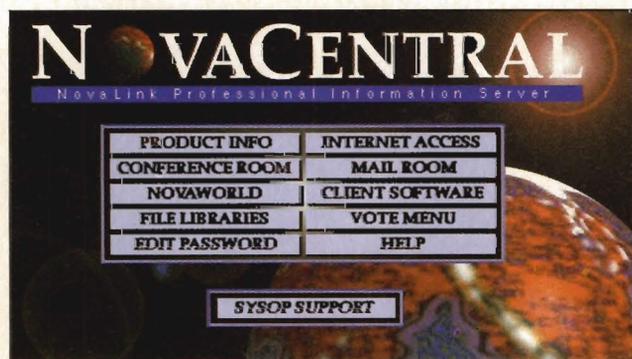
DAYNA COMMUNICATIONS INC. started shipping in August its PCMCIA mobile access server for AppleTalk clients.

IBM has joined COMMERCE NET for what's being called the initial large-scale market trial of electronic commerce on the Net.

NOVALINK TECHNOLOGIES, INC., in August began shipping NovaModem 144, a 14,400 bps data/fax modem that enables voice-messaging on a single PCMCIA Type III card.

INFINITY COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC., has released a device that turns an everyday fax machine into an optical scammer.

MEDIAPOINT has released its Windows Zip-COMM 3.1, a product integrating data, fax and email. ■■■■



Example of Novaterm 3.11 emulation for Mac on a NovaLink BBS.

RESNOVA ADDS WWW TO NOVALINK PRO

ResNova has announced World Wide Web support for NovaLink Professional 4.0, expected to be released by the end of 1994.

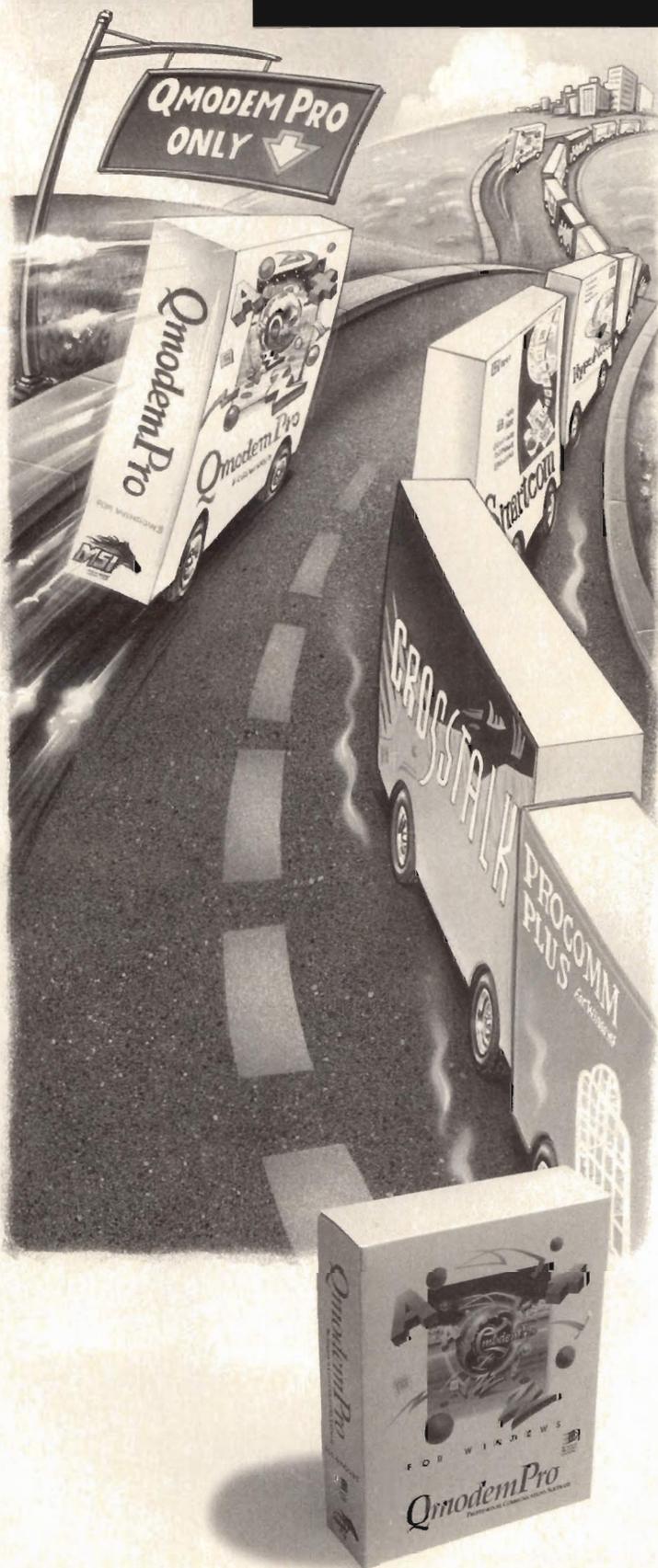
NLP 4.0 will include Novaterm for Windows and HTML (Hyper-Text Mark-up Language) support.

Kantor said ResNova is committed to bringing the resources of the Internet to everyone who has access to a computer. This will be accomplished with a series of products that enhance user interfaces, giving non-technical users easy navigation on the Internet.

The NovaLink server will allow users, without direct Internet connections, to access Internet mail, Usenet news and World Wide Web via modem, X.25, AppleTalk, and telnet connections.

ResNova will incorporate a hypertext editor so document creators can be more specific about fonts and document layout. With NovaLink, any message

Think Of It As The Fast Lane On The Information Superhighway.



QmodemPro for Windows by Mustang Software zooms past the competition. With no roadblocks in sight. This feature-filled, power-packed communications software makes it easy for Windows users to dial into BBS systems. It's the first program to support both data and fax communications from a single phonebook. With a modem that supports adaptive answering, you can receive both fax and data calls while in Host Mode, a limited-feature BBS program that lets you set up your PC to receive incoming modem calls. You can also send a fax directly from any Windows application using the QmodemPro for Windows printer driver. It's easy. It's all in one integrated package. And it's available now.

QmodemPro for Windows is the first Windows product to support RIPscript graphics, so you can plug into the thousands of BBSs offering graphics and full mouse support online. It also has more than 30 of the most popular terminal emulations, 10 built-in file transfer protocols including Zmodem, CIS B+ and Kermit, plus up to 40 programmable macro buttons. QmodemPro for Windows also lets you associate icons to each entry in your dialing directory, so you can create a true Windows phonebook. Each phonebook entry tracks up to 5 numbers, and groups of entries can be saved and dialed.

With QmodemPro for Windows, file transfers are made easy with features like drag-and-drop uploads from the Windows File Manager and live .GIF file viewing during downloads. The built-in .GIF viewer lets you zoom .GIF and .BMP files, or mark and copy portions of the picture to the Windows clipboard. You can put the Windows multitasking environment to work: use it to transfer files in the background while you work in your word processor or spreadsheet applications, or get in a few quick games of Solitaire. No other communications software does Windows like QmodemPro.

QmodemPro's new script language, SLIQ, gives you unparalleled power, speed and flexibility. With the AutoLearn feature, you can let QmodemPro record your scripts automatically without having to learn how to program. SLIQ scripts are compiled for fast, secure operation, plus we include a powerful script debugger and text editor.

QmodemPro for Windows also supports sound cards, so you can play your favorite .WAV file automatically when you connect to a BBS, and during other events like a successful fax transmission.

Whether you're a BBS beginner or a seasoned modem user, you'll find QmodemPro for Windows to be a flexible, easy-to-use communications tool, with twice as many features as competitive products. And at a better price: only \$99 retail.

(DOS version also available)

If you want to get on the information superhighway, don't get stuck in the slow lane. Move ahead fast with QmodemPro for Windows by Mustang Software.

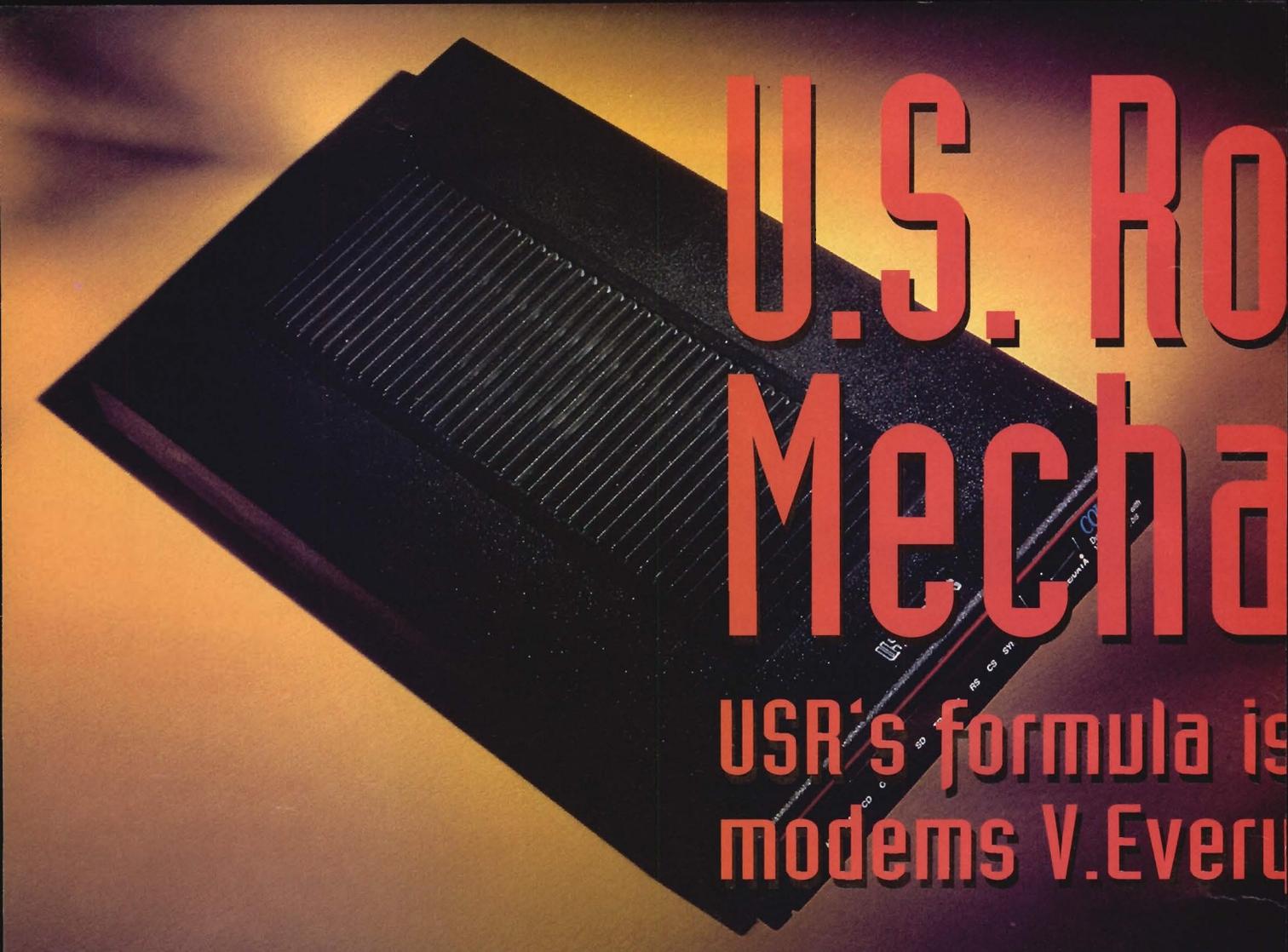
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U.S. Robotics Mechanical Men

USR's formula is
modems V. Every

It was the greatest known company in the galaxy.

This was years ago, however, when the firm was called U.S. Robotics and Mechanical Men — long before modem chipsets and 28.8Kbps connections; back when all USRMM created was synthetic, metallic people.

Times changed and the country's need for androids diminished with the end of the Cold War, but the demand for communications didn't.

And in a show of incredible diversification, USR dropped the MM division, put modem development and networking at the top of its priority list and gave itself a running start toward once again becoming the greatest known company in the galaxy.

While it might not have happened exactly this way (USR did get its name from science fiction writer Isaac Asimov's "I, Robot," where U.S. Robotics and Mechanical Men ranked as the galaxy's best company), for many out there the story might be as plausible as anything else... especially when you consider the way USR has seemed to come from the shadows lately, beaming to market reliable high-tech at decidedly low-tech prices.

A modem design and manufacturing company at heart, U.S. Robotics of Skokie, Ill., has maintained an edge over the competition in image and in fact. Heck, net sales were nearly \$200 million in 1993 and estimated at \$366 million

botics and the nical Modems

so 'right-on' they can call their
thing and get away with it.

this year by the finance heads at Forbes. Employee numbers have grown to 1,400.

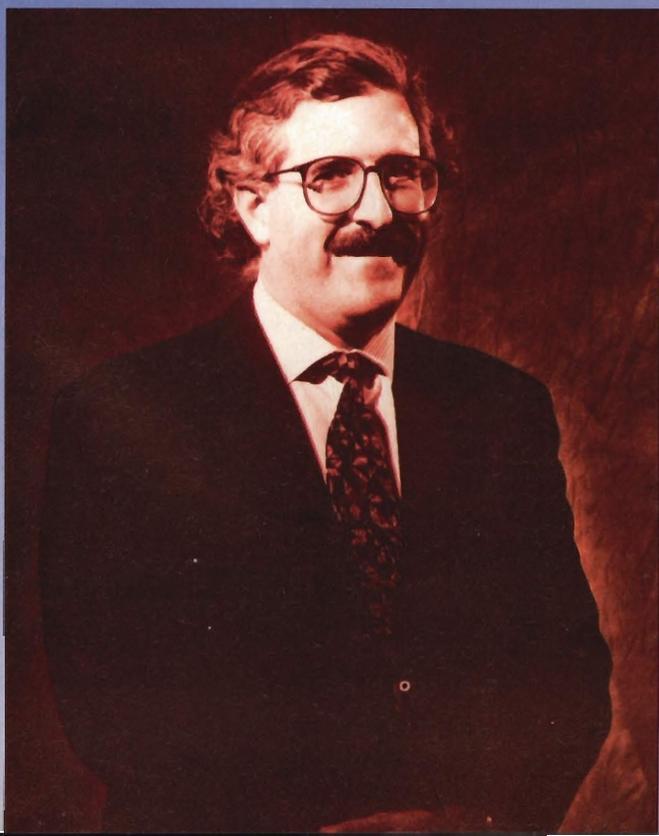
But from where we sit USR hasn't achieved its place up there with superpowers like Hayes (actually, it outsold Hayes in the high-end arena and was picked over Hayes and others in a survey of resellers in the fax board/modems category) by simply churning out dandy modems. Instead, they have managed to consistently lead the industry by delivering first on the latest technology and developing their own chipsets — giving mass to what elsewhere floats around as touted vapor.

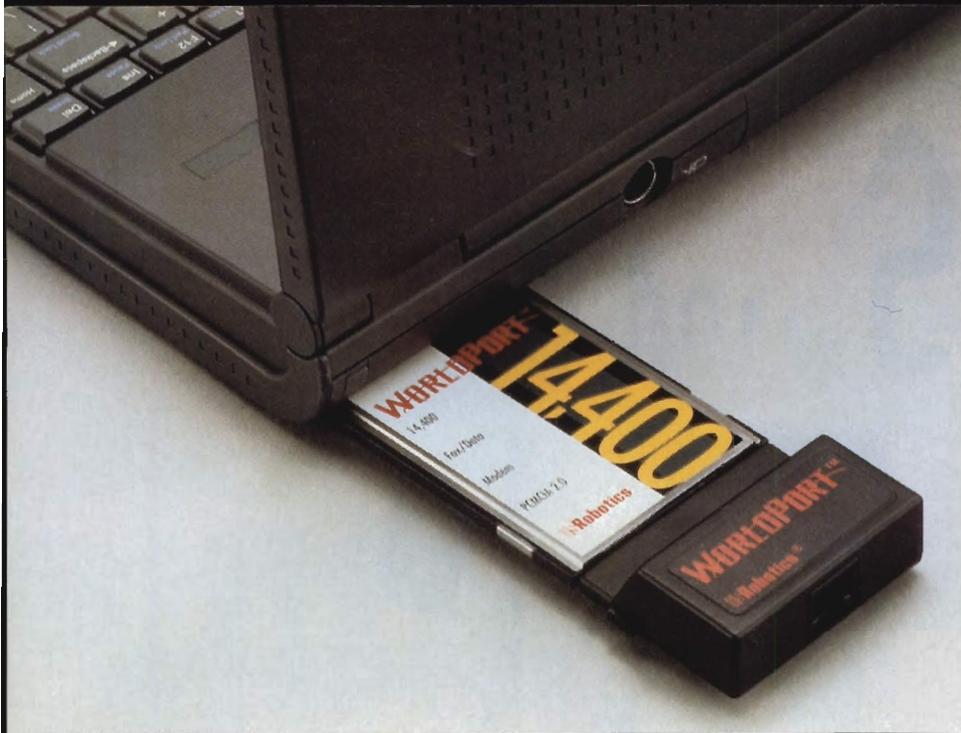
This ain't your father's modem

The latest to emerge from USR's labs at presstime — labs that keep the factory lit 24 hours a day, every day — is the "V.Everything."

CONTINUES ...

U.S. Robotics CEO,
Casey Cowell





USR 144 PCMCIA.

Even before shipping began, it seemed USR was everywhere — in the press, on the Net and on plenty of backs in the form of flashy T-shirts.

And there's a reason for the attention: Courier now carries the ability to connect automatically with any other modem at that modem's highest speed, supporting all international standards and popular proprietary protocols. There's support for the Rockwell V.Fast Class, V.32 terbo and ITU-T V.34 for 28.8 Kbps.

And, due to a bit of forward thinking and something called "upgradable design" (begun by USR two years ago), the company has nearly 30 products upgradable to V.34 through its free FLASH ROM software download, daughterboard upgrades and EPROM (chip) upgrades.

"Compatibility is a key concern for both our resellers and customers," said Michael Seedman, USR vice president and GM, upon the modems' release. "The new Courier platform provides a level of compatibility that no other company can match. We're providing the most connectable modems on the market for a very reasonable price."

For those confused by V.this and V.that, follow this guide: V.32 standard represents 9,600 bits per second (bps); V.32bis can send data at 14,400 bps — an area USR conquered a couple years back by taking a risk on new technolo-

gy, and doing so first; V.32terbo can handle 19.2; and, V.Fast and V.34 operate at 28,800 bps. In practical terms, with the V.Everything connected to another 28.8, expect to transfer a meg in about five minutes.

And with USR's own Adaptive Speed Leveling (ASL), unlike any other V.34, the Courier senses line noise and

interference then levels off at a comfortable speed. Without ASL, a modem would be dogged by start-stops and consequently take considerably more time to transfer files.

USR has obviously afforded untold time and effort in the area of R&D, but in the often-overlooked domain of customer satisfaction they may have excelled even more. There's the beefed up technical support staff (increased four times over in the past year) and the general reaching out to first-timers and old hands alike.

"We spent a lot of time last year examining the different ways we interface with customers," Seedman told a trade publication recently, "from how our staff answers the phone, to the number of technical support people available and how they resolve issues."

Result? A tech-support wait time of between one and four minutes, often less.

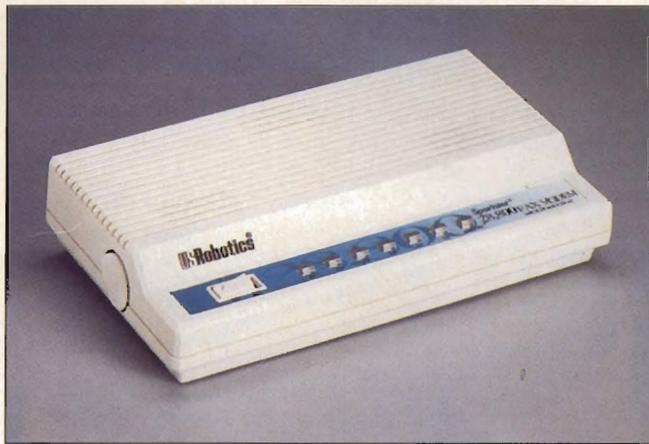
CompuServe connections

USR's connections have been impressing users long before the V.Everythings.

"Companies such as CompuServe have standardized on our modems for their central site network and local



Total Control, USR's access platform for hybrid networks, connecting remote users through a variety of analog and digital WANs. TC interfaces with Token Ring, Ethernet, X.25 and can support ISDN and frame relay packet networks. In other words, remote users can access data no matter where they are, from virtually any LAN.



Sportster V.34 Data/Fax with V.FC and V.32bis.



Courier V.34 Data/Fax with V.FC and V.32bis.

points of presence," said USR's Lauri Lentz. "We're also very strong in the bulletin board arena. One of the reasons we've done well in these markets is because of our strength in compatibility. Information services, such as CompuServe, have a tremendous variety of modems connecting to them and they need to know that the modems they have installed will meet the challenge."

This is all a far cry from the days of the acoustic coupler in the '70s. It was then that USR's top-of-the-line device cruised along at only 30 cps. The new Courier can beat this a hundred times over.

Casey Cowell, USR chairman, president and CEO, may be the only one who can attest to this first hand. After 16 years, he's the last of three founders, which included Paul Collard and Steve Muka.

Today, out of an Art Deco factory built in 1932 for a pharmaceutical manufacturer, USR markets the tools for the drug of the future: communication. Five products/brands of its own include: Courier, Sportster, WorldPort, Shared Access, and Total Control (with various versions of each).

Said a USR spokesperson: "Most people are familiar with Courier — it's our flagship product and is designed for speed and compatibility. The Courier 'V. Everything,' which we've been shipping since mid-August, is the only modem to support V.34, V. Fast Class and V.32 terbo, ensuring that you'll be able to connect at the highest speed possible."

How much speed? Expect 3,200 cps when transferring a .ZIP file and a blis-

tering 6,800 cps on a straight text file.

USR's two other modem lines are Sportster fax and data modems (priced with the home and small business market in mind, says USR), and WorldPort PCMCIA and external portable modems. The Sportster is widely credited (or damned, depending on your view) for ripping the bottom out of modem pricing. At a time when most competitors were ready to "stick a fork in it," USR sold Sportsters at such a breakneck pace they wound up with just one problem — lack of supply.

That accounts for consumer

modems, but USR is covering other bases as well, namely networking.

The company's Shared Access products, for Novell networks, are placed in two categories: remote access products and fax servers.

The Shared Access Fax server provides an unlimited software license with any number of users on the LAN (Local Area Network).

The Shared Access COM server and LAN modem both support remote node and remote control applications, as well as dial-out.

CONTINUES ...

V. Younameit: U.S. Robotics' latest

- Courier V. Everything. Here is the only modem to support all three high-speed modem protocols.
- Sportster V.34
- Rackmount and PCMCIA. USR is releasing a portable product for PCMCIA 2.0 slots. Like all the V.34, this modem will be backward-compatible with ITU-T V.32bis for 14,400 bps data transfer and other slower protocols. It will include ITU-T V.17/14.4 bps fax capabilities.

USR is also on schedule this fall for a variety of V.34-compliant cards for use with its Total Control Enterprise Network Hub and Transaction Processing Hub rackmount systems. Products include quad analog, digital and analog/digital cards (four modems per card), and dual card V.34 analog modems (two modems per card).

The products will allow backbone services, online services, corporate data centers and Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) to take advantage of V.34 capabilities.

- Shared Access LAN modem 2.0. Details on the V.34 were not yet available but the 2.0 (which includes dial-in remote node/remote control capabilities, dial-in PPP support, dial-out capabilities, and dial-up LAN-to-LAN routing) is currently upgradable to V.34 through FLASH ROM software download.
- Shared Access COM server. Remote control, message/mail routing and modem sharing. Upgradable to V.34 through FLASH ROM.

This, especially, has caught the eye of potential and current sysops, according to USR. The reasons are simple: the product is essentially a PC with a high-end modem and network interface card, providing a compact, reasonably cost-effective platform for running a BBS.

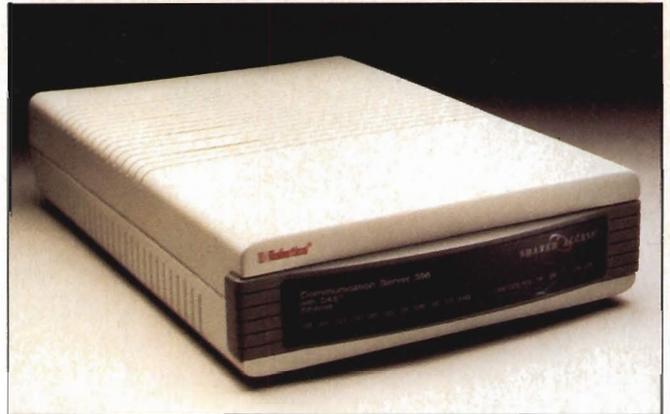
But the powerhouse of the USR line is easily Total Control. Here is a WAN (Wide Area Network) communications platform including modems, X.25 PADs, T-1 interfaces and interfaces to Ethernet and Token Ring networks, all SNMP manageable. Total Control is currently being utilized by the likes of Advantis and MCI Telecommunications Corporation (formerly BT North America), and supports applications such as transaction processing and dial-in remote access.

And when it comes to Internet, USR manages to double up on the market — Total Control for the Internet providers, Courier and Sportster for the clients.

Looking to the future, as USR seems to do a lot of these days, the corporation sees a variety of opportunities, including ISDN. Although company reps stated flatly that USR is "in the access business," it's not hard to imagine it entering other areas. Mechanical men, perhaps?

The suggested retail price for the Courier V.34 external

with VFC and V.32bis is \$595 (\$545 internal). For the Dual Standard V.34 with HST retail price is \$795 (\$745 internal). Remember, actual street prices are usually considerably less. However, for the latest information on all USR products and sysop prices call 800.DIAL.USR. For the BBS call 708.982.5092. ■■■■■



Shared Access Comm. Server 386.

USR Timeline

USR designs, manufactures and markets data communications systems and products for data centers, networks, transaction processing centers, regional Bell operating companies and, of course, BBSers. Begun as a modem manufacturer in the late 70s, the now-public company (NASDAQ: USRX) ranks as a major player in internetworking equipment manufacturing. Two divisions have been set up within the company: the Personal Communications Division (modems and personal communications) and the Corporate/Systems group (where corporate customers, RBOCS, Internet service providers and value-added networks are handled).

- 1982 — USR introduces Password, the industry's first 1200 bps auto-dial modem to use standard, off-the-shelf microprocessors.

- 1985 — Introduced the first "affordable" 2400 modem, the Courier 2400.

- 1987 — Unveiled the Courier HST 9600 modem, the first under-\$1,000 high-speed device designed for PCs and workstations.

- 1988 — Released the Courier HST Dual Standard, the first industry standard CCITT V.32 modem that also communicates at high speeds with the installed base of Courier proprietary modems.

- 1989 — Established EEC sales and manufacturing capabilities with the acquisition of Miracom Technology Ltd., now U.S. Robotics Ltd. (U.K.).

- 1990 — Introduced Courier V.32bis modem with Adaptive Speed Leveling, the first full-duplex 14,400 bps asynchronous/synchronous modem with the capability of adjusting transmission rate both backward and forward.

- 1990 — Net sales for fiscal year 1990 increased 50 percent to \$56.4 million from \$37.5 million in fiscal 1989. Net income increased 144 percent to \$4.7 million from \$1.9 million.

- 1991 — Became a central figure in portable-to-WAN network access through the acquisition of Touchbase Systems, Inc. The WorldPort portable product line now has portable fax/data modems designed for laptops, palmtops and PCMCIA applications.

- 1991 — Net sales for fiscal 1991 increased 40 percent to \$78.8 million from \$56.4 million in prior year. Net income increased 55 percent to \$7.3 million from \$4.7 million in '90.

- 1991 — Successfully raised \$28.3 million through the initial public offering, in which 2,380,000 shares of common stock were offered by the company.

- 1992 — Entered the LAN-WAN connectivity market with the launch of Shared Access remote LAN access products. The Shared Access line has since been expanded to include products for network-based fax and LAN-to-LAN routing.

- 1992 — Established a strategic partnership with Advantis (a joint venture between Sears Technology Services, Inc. and IBM), to supply both Enterprise Network Hub and Transaction Hub technology, thereby entering the Wide Area Network marketplace. These communications systems provide central data sites with network integration and reduced transaction verification times.

- 1992 — Net sales for fiscal 1992 increased 43 percent to \$112.4 million from \$78.8 million in fiscal 1991. Net income advanced 49 percent to \$10.9 million from \$7.3 million in fiscal 1991.

- 1993 — Successfully raised \$20.7 million through the followup offering of 1,000,000 shares of common stock offered by the company.

- 1993 — Introduced products for high-speed cellular data transmission based on the HST Cellular protocol and adaptation of the company's proprietary 16,800 bps HST technology.

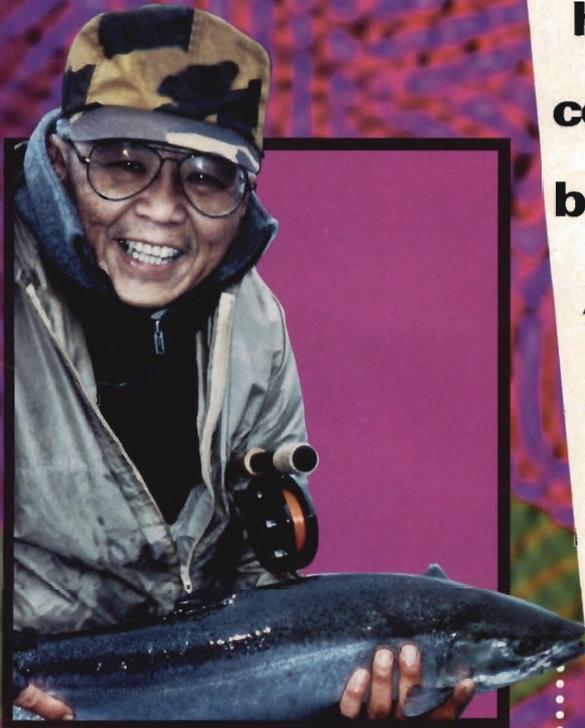
- 1993 — Acquired 100 percent of the common stock of Suresnes, France-based P.N.B., s.a., a designer and manufacturer of data communications products for IBM-compatible personal computers and workstations and a leading international supplier of products for portable computers. The acquisition gives USR a stronghold in Europe.

- 1993 — Net sales for fiscal 1993 increased 68 percent to \$198.2 million from \$112.4 million in fiscal 1992. Net income climbed 57 percent to \$17 million from \$10.9 million in the prior year.

- 1994 — Introduced Courier "V. Everything" modems, the company's first 28,800 bps modems and the only products (at presstime) to support all three industry-recognized high-speed protocols: V.32terbo, V. Fast Class and ITU-T V.34. Based on USR's DSP (Digital Signal Processor) technology, the products are a result of agreements with both Rockwell International Corporation and AT&T.

"7 1/2¢ a minute! That's less than \$5 an

hour – one of the lowest online costs I know of. It's up to 40% better than the competition."



Allan Liu, BBS user and SysOp,
Fly Fishing Network 914-245-9770

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Excalibur BBS: Opening Windows to the I-Way

Excalibur BBS takes MS Windows online, and then some.

If you don't like the look and feel of Microsoft Windows, you might as well forget about Excalibur BBS.

The new software from Excalibur Communications takes all the ease and versatility of Windows and puts it online in a BBS package made for the technically disinclined and the visually insatiable.

For Windows users, this adds up to a godsend. For DOSers? Well, let's just say a conversion might be in your future.

But Excalibur is not about Windows vs. DOS-based systems. It's about simplification, quick, clean graphics, thumb-nail images and multitasking. And it's about power and grace, the description Excalibur Communications hopes will be conveyed to users as it was to moviegoers of the film by the same name.

Early reviews might confirm it. Excalibur has enjoyed some of the best returns in recent memory during its 10-month beta testing. Many sysops we spoke with were astounded at what was being offered callers. Still, roughly the same number had concerns over limitations on the part of the sysop. And though Excalibur Communications gladly drinks in the praises, the company has not become inebriated with it, swiftly turning problems and complaints of beta testers into new features.

It was in 1992 that Eric Weber, Excalibur chief, decided to do a Windows imaging database. Building on the experience of his company of five years — Picture Data, which created online databases for the jewelry industry — he figured on a sure thing. Weber formed Advanced Imaging Technology to handle the task. But with a non-existent advertising budget he just "couldn't penetrate the market," he said. So with a product 90 percent complete on Jan. 7 of 1993, Weber looked at '90 Windows market research num-

bers decided to abandon the database plan and instead build what had been missing — a true Windows BBS.

"We started immediately on development," Weber said. As he tells it, he and his team sat down and wrote all they wanted to cram into the package then fired off a technical profile "press release" to PC Ohio. That was a Friday. By Monday calls were coming in from as far away as South Africa.

Now, as Excalibur v1.0 heads for the market, sysop beta testers around the world have become its best advocates — preaching its benefits to the choir of Windows users and to skeptical Windows-haters.

Many callers are already sold (beta testers were given a discount and free upgrades to the commercial version). On the Net, the commercial services and BBSs, the chatter has been rising about what Excalibur can do. And what it can't.

One beta sysop said his only complaint was the wait for the commercial release. He said he's been running a Spitfire board for six years and still is (something other sysops said they plan to do — run both boards simultaneously). He said he had the BBS up and running in three hours and that v1.0 "should be awesome" as long as Excalibur keeps its promise of batch mail capabilities and Door (plug-in) enhancement.

Since the beginning of this year, Excalibur's consumer base has been doubling every three to four month's.

"We now have over 2,000 private and corporate beta sites worldwide," Weber said in late August. "We have been astounded at the response."

Weber, with subjective enthusiasm, sums up Excalibur this way: "Never before has there been a bulletin board system engineered with the features of Excalibur. By utilizing the Windows environment, we have created a BBS system which is 100 percent GUI oriented, transfers binary color graphics screens and bitmap icons across the modems faster than conventional ANSI or ASCII screens. In addition, our ability to fully multitask is unprecedented."

Our tests found the heart of this statement to be true. Even tempering our passion with skepticism, it's difficult to find a deep downside.

When calling an Excalibur board, users find themselves in the environs of a jazzed-up Windows App. Callers must remind themselves now and then they're actually online to a BBS and not some slick offline program. The comparisons to an AOL have been many, but ultimately false. This system's graphics capabilities make the likes of America Online pale.

The key to the graphics lie in Excalibur's WYSIWYG screen designer called Merlin. This nifty tool allows sysops to draw menus and graphical screens by simply dropping or drawing objects right on the screen: buttons, TrueType fonts, circles, rectangles, polygons, patterns, and BMP images. Once the pictures are placed, Merlin associates "actions" and embedded logic with each.

Since Excalibur was designed to be a graphical BBS, the images are smooth and screen redraw is very fast. And callers can scale the Window to any size he or she chooses. And the screens rescale on-the-fly to match each caller's resolution.

It takes a little getting used to but colorful, convincing graphics come pretty quick. Again, it's not form without function — these graphics carry out complex operations with the click of the mouse. Excalibur includes some ready-made screens for sysops to get started with.

On the sysop-control side there's Arthur, the program stuffed with sysop utilities, many familiar to DOS sysops. These allow you to create multi-level security files and define your conferences and file libraries. Arthur takes advantage of Windows by using the drag and drop element. For the sysop, the process of taking files out of the New Uploads directory and placing them in the Games directory is a matter of selecting, dragging and deselecting.

Also, sysops can embed comments in GIFs and add lengthy file descriptions for users to read. And if you've got Caller-ID, Arthur "Stuffs" the caller's number into the Excalibur user-base. In other words, as a sysop you'll always know where calls are coming from.

Arthur's features continue with the "logs." All user transactions are logged for later viewing with 20 log choices, beginning with a credit to each user. When a caller d-loads, his initial credit is trimmed by the amount of the particular d-load assigned.

Another logging procedure is the byte ratio — the sysop can define a byte or file ratio allowing d-loaders to take, say, 10 files for each one uploaded. Then there's the calendar period. Want a user to have only three-day access? Just assign it.

Camelot is another element of Excalibur's iconized desktop. Simply put, this is the communications server that allows callers to connect to the system and the sysop to monitor user activity.

The Holy Grail is Excalibur's engine.

It's "really the heart of the software and runs completely in the background," said Weber. "It is our database DDE engine and requires zero maintenance."

Here is where the user, file and message bases are handled. With the Grail integrated, sysops can quickly look up data on any user in a blink — up to one million, claims Excalibur.

And most importantly, Grail has been designed to

allow third-party developers to write add-on utilities, as many have already. Sysops are provided with all the documentation necessary to write the TPAs.

Excalibur also supports CD-ROMs. If the CD is working under Windows, expect Excalibur to run it.

The terminal program for Excalibur has one key downside — that it's necessary. First-time Excal-BBS callers are presented with the opportunity to download the client free. A system is already in place so this action takes no effort from the sysop.

The terminal is as easy as one could want. When entering standard dialing information, callers can also key in their logon and password. Thus, a connection brings them right into the board — no sign-on, etc. There's also an email phonebook built in so you'll never again be searching your desk for an address.

Once on the system, the caller is treated to CD-quality sounds attached to buttons and screens; GIF viewing while d-loading (not to mention quick low-res previews before d-loading); simultaneous uploading and d-loading; brief descriptions along the bottom of the screen of everything actionable the mouse grazes; group and private chatting, and messaging while up or downloading; completely noise-free transmission for non-error correcting modems;

CONTINUES ...

Try Excalibur for yourself. Call these boards to see the variations sysops are formulating..

- Excalibur HQ BBS: 918.496.8113, Tulsa, OK.
- Bitchin' Vision: 918.488-0486, Tulsa, OK.
- Compuvision: 804.548.1988, Virginia Beach, VA.
- Cyberspace: 804.495.0091, Virginia Beach, VA.
- Cyberworld: 201.261.3121, Paramus, NJ.
- Heavy Fun!: +39.680.0700, Rome, Italy.
- Interface: 708.559.1225, Chicago.
- John Galt Line: 918.749.5792, Tulsa, OK.
- Power Windows: 905.508.5224, Toronto, Canada.
- The Wormhole: 918.749.5946, Tulsa, OK.
- WinConnect: 215.542.9059, Philadelphia.

Excalibur Q&A

We asked Eric Weber, president of Excalibur Communications, what he considered to be the key benefits of Excalibur BBS for Windows. Here's what he said (the formatting is ours):

• CLIENT AND HOST MULTITASKING:

Multitasking is one of our key features. Users can download, upload, read messages, chat, and perform other functions simultaneously. From a user productivity point of view in either the home or office, this is a big plus in our eyes. In addition, an Excalibur BBS is not required to be run on a dedicated machine. Users can fully multitask outside of the Excalibur applications and let the BBS run by itself in the background. The corporate user can use their executive assistant's computer to serve as the company BBS server and let him/her do their daily work, or the home user can let the kids (or parents) type reports, work on databases, play games, and more, all in the foreground while Excalibur runs in the background. Best of all, no additional software is required.

• PLUG 'N PLAY DOOR SUPPORT: Rather than have another application take control of our BBS via shelling out to DOS or porting to another Windows application, our software achieves the ability to add-on 'Plug-ins' (Doors) directly to the software by running .DLLs (Dynamic Link Libraries). By not relinquishing control of the modem between different software packages, there is little room for error. To the end-user, it appears that the software add-on has been 'hard-coded' into the software while for the sysop, adding a door literally takes seconds and only a few keystrokes. The end result is the ability to create complex database retrieval and entry systems, multi-user games, virtual malls, multi-lingual translation and system support, and more.

• EASE OF USE: People who did not have the knowledge needed to juggle transfer protocols and terminal emulations and decipher text-based menus can now point and click. All it takes is knowing how to use a mouse. We bring total point-and-click ease of use to telecommunications. In fact, some large name companies use our software to connect field agents and train personnel, which may not have been possible previously with a text-based system.

• INTERNATIONALIZATION: Windows has given us the capacity to give automatic foreign language support via DLLs, which allows us to provide greater ease-of-use for foreign customers or anyone wanting a multi-lingual BBS.

and, Usenet and Fidonet support.

Weber's background is not rife with an expected list of hacking experiences. The 32-year-old attended Tulsa University for two semesters until his "entrepreneurial drive moved me away from my collegiate studies." The whiz programmer behind Excalibur, Tim Robinson, 32, is a computer science graduate from Taylor University in Indiana and teaches C++ and Windows programming at Tulsa Junior College in his spare time. The company employs a staff of three full time and five part-timers.

Questions have already arisen about Excalibur's Internet offerings, which have been spare in beta and whether the system will compete in the area of connectivity.

Weber counters that email is already available via third party programs and that a full Internet gateway version of Excalibur should be ready in early '95.

"This program will cover all the basic Internet features: FTP, Internet Relay Chat, Usenet, email, and more," said Weber. "We plan for this to be released as a 32-bit application written specifically for Chicago (Windows 4.0). Excalibur Communications is readying its own Internet domain and servers for dissemination of product literature and support.

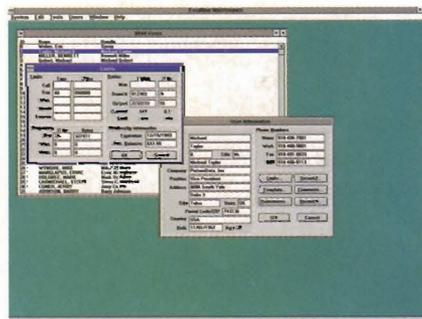
There are currently some dazzling mouse-driven graphics available to DOS boards that have kept most callers and sysops satisfied for the few years they've been available.

But Weber argues his system can do just what they can, only faster.

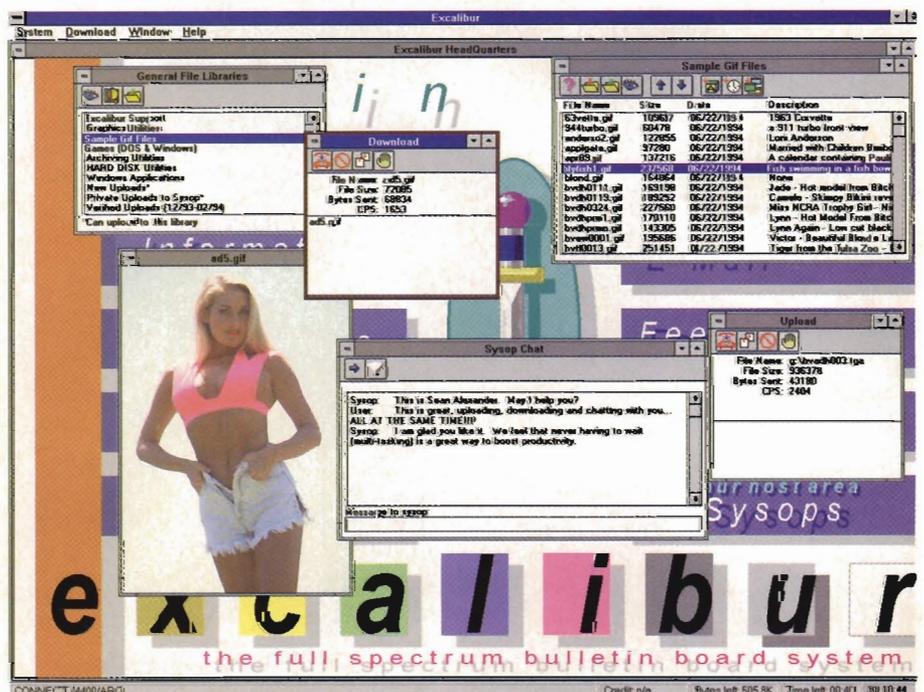
"Our system, by transmitting completely in binary form, does the same task using as little as 1/4 the number of bytes," he said. "As a result there is a noticeable difference in speed between Excalibur and other graphic BBSs."

In fact, based on our experience, the

CONTINUES ...



LEFT: Screen shows user settings for Michael Taylor. Displayed are his general user information and his file byte and time limits as well as credit \$ remaining and expiration date.



BELOW: Screen shows concurrent uploading of a file, downloading of a GIF file with built-in realtime viewing, and chatting with sysop.

Full Text Searching

Need to add powerful full path text searching software to your business BBS? Cheetah is the solution!

Cheetah was designed by APDI, a leader in the BBS service industry. APDI listened to corporations, associations and government agencies who need a simple full text searching software to work with their BBS. From these talks APDI designed and developed Cheetah.

Cheetah enables you to search online for any combination of words in seconds! Cheetah lets your users access large amounts of data quickly and easily.

Cheetah also performs phrase and proximity searches. Users can specify word proximity within a paragraph or sentence and the file viewer conveniently highlights all found text.

Unlike other full text searching software, Cheetah was specifically designed for BBSs. Cheetah keeps track of users' time left on the BBS, mode settings, modem status and even allows users to download their search results using any compression software they choose.



Cheetah handles text and images — newsletters, magazines, even government regulations!

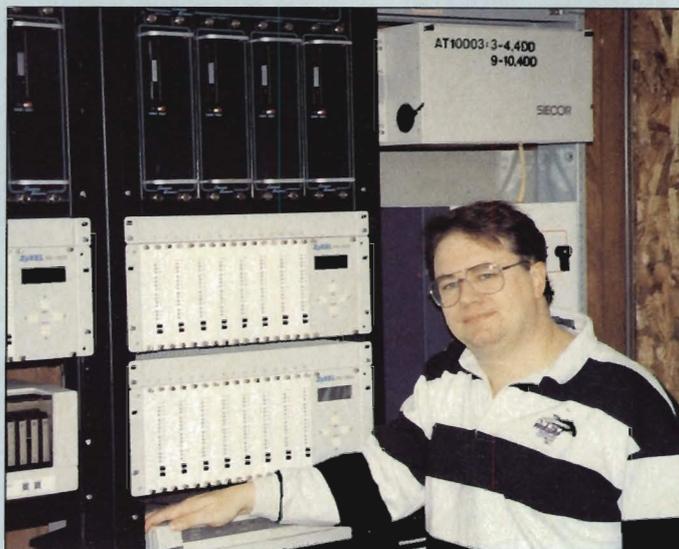
Cheetah is available in both serial port and Digiboard versions and works out of the box on Novell networks. Cheetah comes with an unlimited user license per BBS.

New Cheetah 1.5 version now shipping

- Images, GIF files
- Document Date support
- Sysop Configurable menus
- Auto open databases
- Menu-driven maintenance program
- Usage reports
- Unlimited hit lists
- Open multiple databases
- RIP support

Cheetah 1.0 can be purchased at 50% off while supplies last.

So if you work for a corporation, association or government and run a BBS, or just have the task of building one, call APDI at 1-800-785-APDI and find out more about Cheetah's ability to give your users what they need.



Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS Service Bureau

"The BBS Service Bureau"

Companies looking for a serious BBS company to provide a wide range of services are choosing APDI. APDI is devoted to providing professional BBS services to corporations, associations and government agencies throughout the United States.

Typical APDI clients are organizations that need turnkey BBS solutions or advanced technical on-site support. APDI provides installation and support for WildCat!, Galacticomm, PCBoard, TBBS, and Searchlight. APDI is a Certified Mustang Software Integrator (CMSI).

APDI frees up precious time for you and your staff to concentrate on marketing your new BBS.

Most of APDI's corporate customers find it advantageous to let APDI run the BBS for them at APDI's location. APDI provides all equipment (like the BBS center shown above) and handles all technical support and navigation issues on your BBS. APDI's fiber-optic cabling ensures crystal clear connections and communications to your bulletin board system.

Many businesses wish to put a database online but find it difficult to locate programmers with the skills to assist them. APDI has a skilled database development staff and is on the FoxPro and Paradox development teams.

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Fine Print

Excalibur is written in Borland C++ with a 32-bit compiler and runs under Windows 3.1, Windows for Workgroups 3.11 and Windows NT. A Chicago (Windows 4.0) version is near completion. Its key features include:

- Windows 3.1, 3.11, and NT and future Chicago, Win 4.0 compatibility.
- Powerful database engine, Holy Grail, accessible to any program utilizing DDE.
- Arthur, the visual system operator program featuring drag and drop file management.
- Merlin, the WYSIWYG screen editor for the non-artist.
- High-speed display of binary graphics, menus and icons.
- Bezier curves for smooth graphics.
- TrueType fonts.
- Rotatable text and fonts.
- Three levels of image previews: full-color, grayscale and thumbnail views.
- Previews: Bitmap (BMP), GIF and Targa (TIF) graphics.
- True Windows multitasking.
- High-speed file transfers.
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- Simultaneous two-way upload/download ability.
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- Built-in CD-ROM file library and descriptions loader.
- Multi-user chat.
- Caller-ID capable.
- Online credit card processing utilities.
- 2400-28.8 V.FAST modem compatible.
- Local Area Network support.
- Fax, Usenet, Fidonet, ExNet, and Internet front-end/tosser compatible — via third parties.
- True Plug 'n Play addition of Doors via .DLL links.
- Free example .DLL plug-in doors and games, complete with source code and SDK.
- Capable of running up to eight modems via a single CPU utilizing a multiport board.
- Windows NT Remote Access Service WAN Capable.
- 32-bit Windows 4.0 and fully Internet compatible versions planned.

screen redraw was significantly faster with Excalibur when using a slower modem but with a high-speed device the difference became a little less dramatic.

As for Excalibur's future, aside from the Internet and Chicago development's, Weber says the company plans to move further into multimedia. With .WAV file compatibility already built in, he said MIDI sound-tracking is not too far off. As well, Weber said there will likely be a Macintosh client available in the

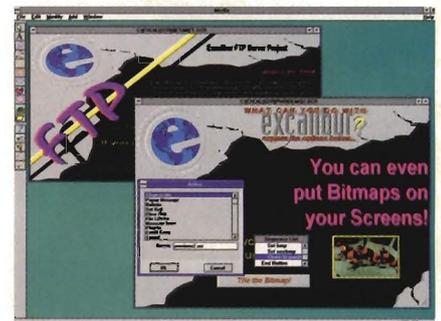
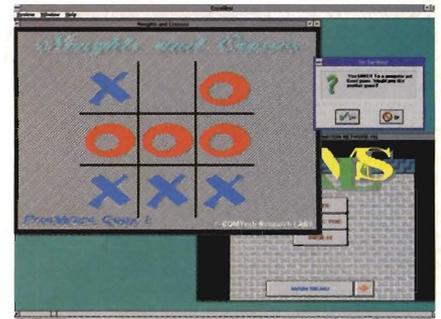
months ahead and the ability for DOS-based terminals to access Excalibur boards is also a probability.

At presstime Excalibur v1.0 was slated for a fall release through retail channels and its home office in Tulsa. A two-node system will be available for \$199; four nodes: \$299; eight nodes: \$399; and \$225 for each additional eight nodes. For more information, Excalibur's support BBS can be reached at 918.496.8113. They can be reached by voice at 800.EXCAL.BBS.

RIGHT TOP: Noughts and Crosses (tic tac toe) plugin. Using the plugins, or doors, users are presented with multiple screens with separate activities happening in each screen.

RIGHT BOTTOM: Working on two screens in Merlin using Merlin's MDI interface. Also, double clicking on the sequence window allows for editing the button action.

BELOW: This Arthur screen shows an open files library for GIF files, a list of conferences, email listing, listing of file libraries, and the ports listing. Comm port 4 has been double clicked to expose the port settings. Also clicked was modem settings showing how com 4 is currently configured.



The screenshot shows the 'Excalibur Maintenance' window with several panes:

- Files for 'Sample GIF Files':** A table listing files with columns for ID, Name, Size, Date, and other attributes.
- Conferences:** A list of conference titles and IDs.
- E-Mail:** A list of email addresses and names.
- Ports:** A table listing ports, baud rates, network names, and modes.
- Libraries for 'General Area':** A list of DLL files and their paths.
- BB44 Users:** A list of user names and handles.
- Part Settings:** A dialog box for configuring a specific port (COM4).
- Modem Settings:** A dialog box for configuring modem parameters like baud rate, parity, and flow control.

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RIPaint	\$169.00	Shopping Mall C Source	\$289.00
Fax Online	\$179.00	Search and Retrieve C Source	\$239.00
Major Gateway/Internet	\$179.00	Dial-Out C Source	\$239.00
The Major Database	\$389.00	Entertainment Collection C Source	\$289.00
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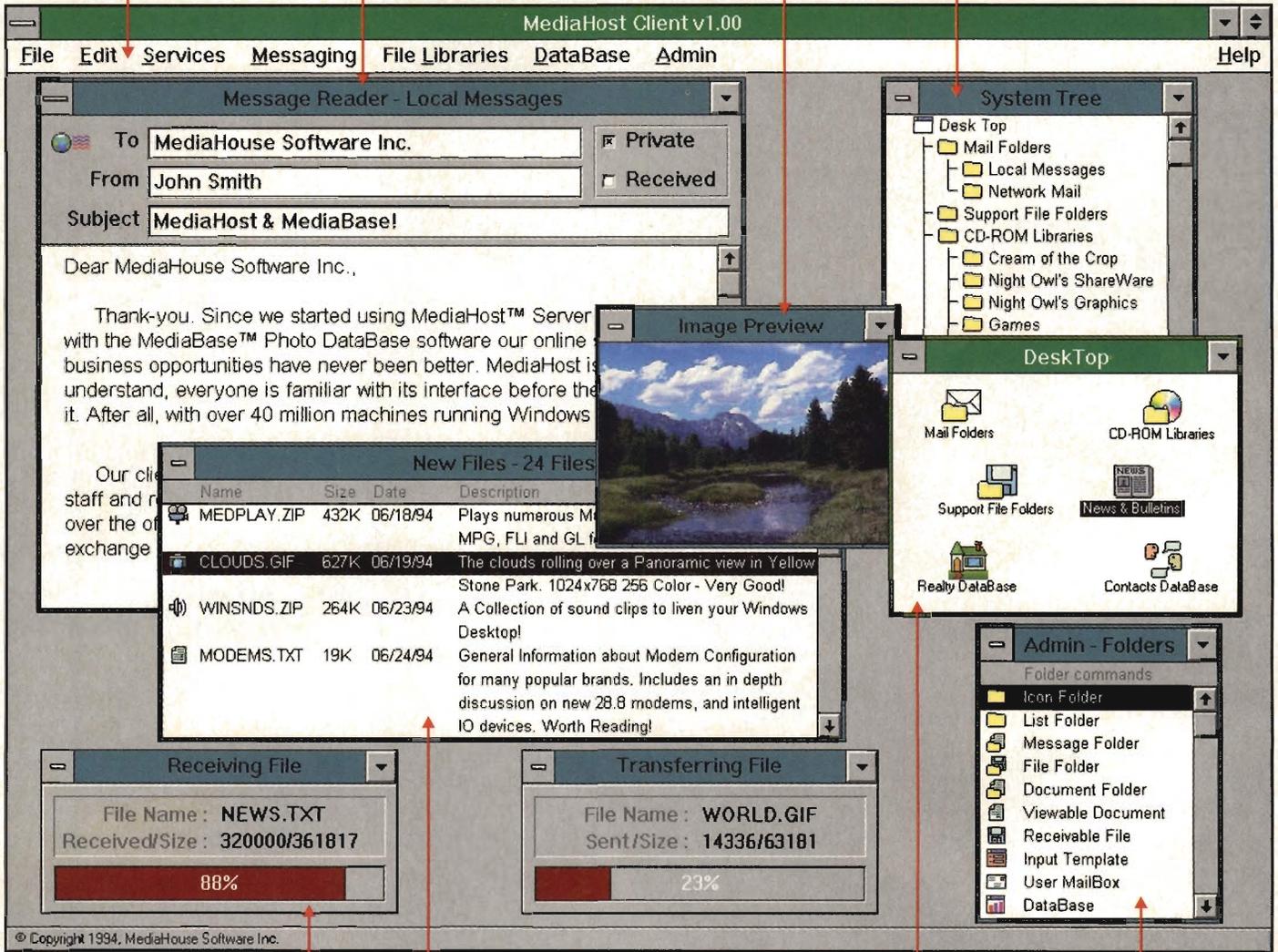
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Upload and download concurrently while maintaining full use of system features such as chat, messaging and files.

File areas support seamless CD-ROM imports and multi-line descriptions. Users can preview graphics and read text files.

Menus, templates and screens can be customized easily to suit your application requirements using the MediaHost Designer and MediaHost Icon Editor.

Drag and drop administration and design whether you are connected locally, on a network or calling from remote.

MediaHost blends e-mail, conferencing, and popular BBS functions together to create an Online System that goes far beyond the capabilities of conventional mail and BBS packages. MediaHost can be accessed equally as well from remote, locally or across a network allowing you to use it for internal mail, work-group communication, resource sharing or as a dial-in system. MediaHost uses an advanced bidirectional packet protocol for it's multi-tasking Client/Server that allows users to fully interact with the system and conference with other users concurrently.

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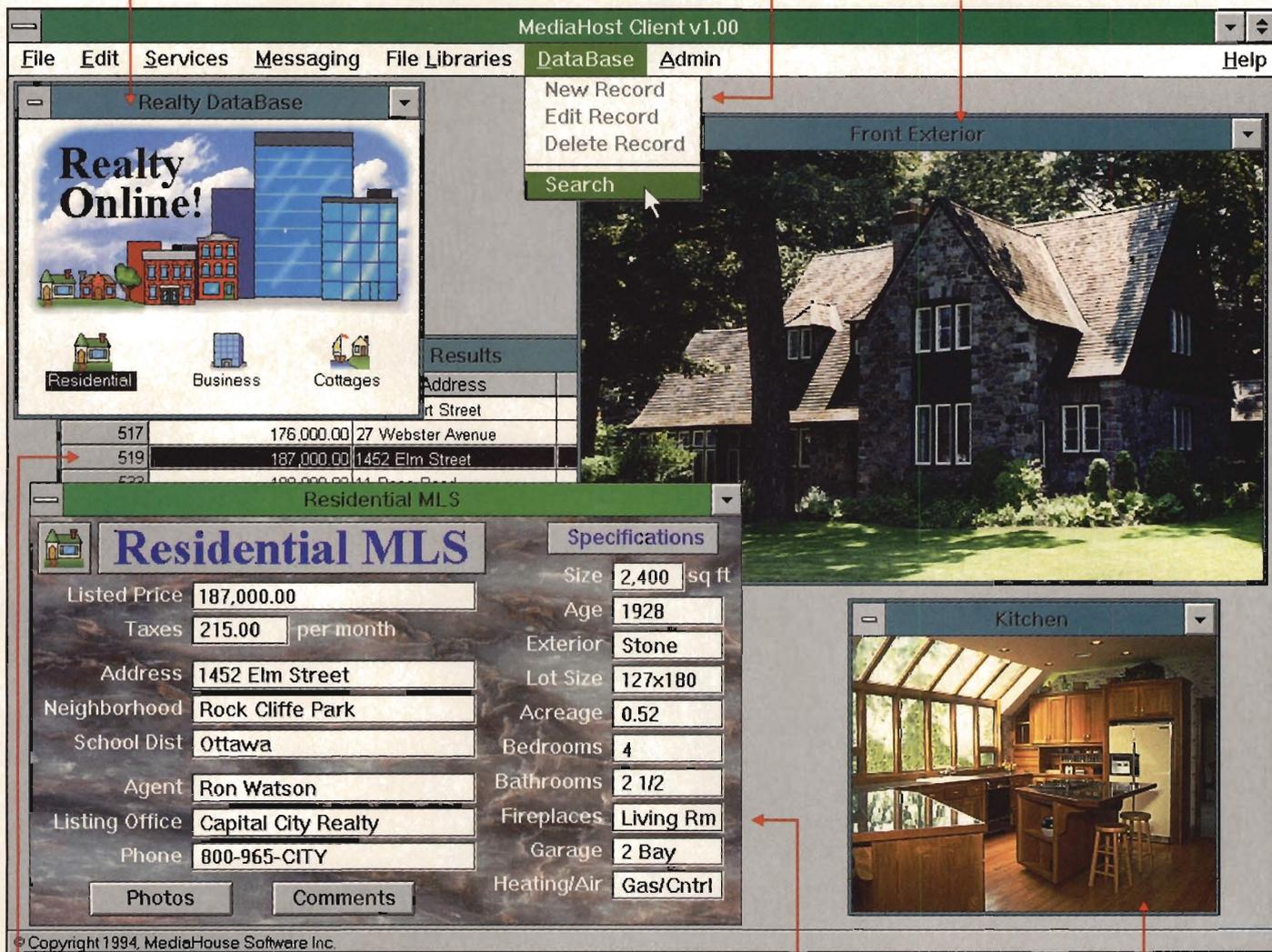
24 bit Photos

Remote Access

Custom database menus are easily created in the MediaHost Designer and Icon Editor. The MediaHost system supports 16 and 256 color icons.

Pulldown menus allow users to quickly perform powerful database queries. Pulldowns can be customized in the MediaHost system to suit your application. The Admin pulldown is only displayed to users having system administrator access.

Images are sent seamlessly in the background using the MediaHost bidirectional protocol leaving users to interact with data already on their desktop.



Databases and query results are displayed in a spread sheet format which offers quick browsing through records. Like any other window on the desktop, they can be closed or reduced and put out of the way until they are required later in a session.

Custom templates can be created in the MediaHost Designer to display database records. MediaBase will integrate with most database software. You decide what fields in the database your clients can view.

MediaBase offers support for multiple high quality 24 bit images, for each record in the database.

MEDIABASE for Windows



MediaHouse Software Inc.
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MediaBase provides a powerful and natural interface for your online database application. Database queries are displayed in a spread sheet format, just double click on the entries to view photos and information pertaining to that record. A powerful query engine lets your clients quickly find the information they are looking for by defining their search criteria. Photos and data are sent seamlessly in the background while your clients interact with data already on their desktop. Whether you are setting up a Real Estate, Contacts, Tourism, Shopping, Customer support, Inventory or any other type of database across a network or from a remote location MediaBase offers the right interface for your application.

Big Boards in the New Age

*Media Giants, Biz Reports, TV Factoids,
Usenet, and Sesame Street*

Business Booms at AOL: A Case in Point

Steve Case was recently named the 1994 Entrepreneur of the Year in the field of services by Inc. Magazine. Case, President and CEO of America Online, co-founded the company in 1985 and is widely recognized as a visionary in the field of interactive services. His AOL has just surpassed the 1,000,000 subscriber mark which is a tripling of users in the past year. The secret? It appears to be an easy to use interface and strategic partnerships with other media giants.

Media Giants indeed. They make up a large part of the AOL services and this month I'll look at two of them.

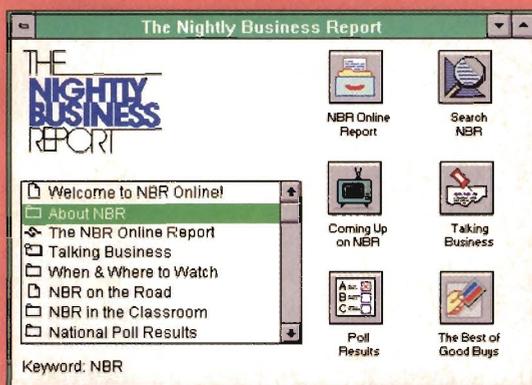
The Nightly Business Report, the longest running television daily news program, and AOL have announced the launch of NBR Online. NBR Online allows AOL subscribers to read and search program transcripts, interviews with market analysts and CEOs, business briefs, personal finance tips, and commentaries from noted economists. Users have the ability to post to the NBR's bulletin board where topics range from financial issues to current business trends. NBR reporters will also be scheduled to participate in online chat sessions.

NBR, which airs on public television stations nationwide, helps fulfill a key educational role. NBR Online will likely follow suit with forums for sharing ideas on the latest in economic education starting this fall. Teachers' guides and other educational materials are also being planned for NBR Online.

Capitol Cities/ABC is also preparing

My Children," "General Hospital," "Mike & Maty," and "One Life to Live"); and, ABC Radio.

The Capitol Cities services will cover different formats based on the type of audience associated with the shows. ABC Sports will offer interactive sports polls and online trivia, Good Morning America will offer an online edition of its "Good Morning America Extra" newsletter, and ABC Radio will offer forum discussions regarding the top news and issues.



to provide interactive news, entertainment and information services to AOL subscribers. The service will begin this fall (possibly before presstime) and will offer special interactive programming for each of the Capitol Cities units. These include ABC News shows ("World News Tonight with Peter Jennings," "Day One," "Turning Point," "Nightline," "PrimeTime Live," "20/20," and "This Week with David Brinkley"); ABC Sports; ABC Daytime series ("Good Morning America," "All

CIS adopts Usenet

Coupled with CompuServe's roll-out of Lotus Notes services, the online giant announced Usenet discussion groups are now available. As part of CompuServe's strategy of offering Internet services to members, thousands of Internet discussion groups (or newsgroups) are now available to members.

CompuServe members can access the newsgroups through the a new interface similar to the familiar CIM (CompuServe Information Manager) interface. CompuServe hopes this will enable users to quickly take advantage of the breadth of the newsgroups with minimal pain and suffering often accompanying the learning of new interfaces and commands.

"We are introducing a very user-friendly interface into the vast resources offered by the Internet," said Charla Beaverson, Internet project manager at CompuServe.

Taking notes: Lotus Notes is taking

the corporate market by storm and CompuServe has announced services for its subscribers to take full advantage.

Lotus Notes is a work-flow manager, its claim to fame being its replicating document database. With replication, users in different parts of the world can edit copies of a document database and then replicate the changes up to a server where all the edits are sorted out and passed back to individual, geographically dispersed users.

CompuServe users will benefit from all this through two new tools for Notes: Electronic Mail Exchange and Internet Mailing List Service. With these services, Lotus Notes users can have their Internet, CompuServe, MCI Mail, AT&T Mail or cc:Mail delivered to the Lotus Notes environment. Since Notes uses a proprietary mail handling system, this is a valuable service. Users can also request Internet Mailing lists and have them automatically delivered to the Notes Client.

Be warned the service is not cheap — \$22.80/hour with a \$10 minimum. But if you need connectivity to your Lotus Notes Desktop, it's a small price to pay.

OS/2 users can also enjoy a native OS/2 CIM coming with the Beta 2 CD of IBM's upcoming release of OS/2. The OS/2 version of CIM will be distributed free to all beta testers and included on the Bonus CD. The plan for general release includes a coupling with the IBM release of OS/2 (later this year). CIS users will be able to download it online for a \$10 fee, offset by a \$10 usage credit.

Prodigy Service c/o Sesame Street

Kids can now enjoy the Children's Television Workshop classic "Sesame Street" online at Prodigy.

The Sesame Street area is set up to be a fun and educational experience for both kids and adults, complete with a parents menu for coaching the little ones along.

The children's area of

Sesame Street proved really enjoyable and the screens were colorful and full of our favorite characters. Big Bird, Cookie Monster and the rest of the gang lead the kids into interactive learning. There are Reading, Writing and Arithmetic sections for children in all age groups.

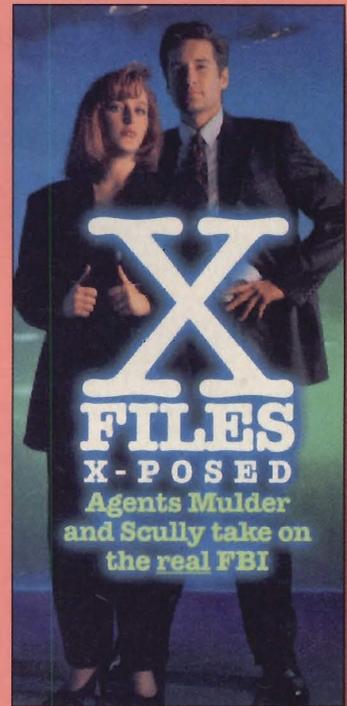
After receiving a screen of balloons, each inscribed with a different message, kids are encouraged to double click on one to be taken to a lesson. (Parents can cheat and get instructions on what to do, by the way.) I picked the balloon with the colorful numbers "123." The screen displayed a Sesame Street character under a conveyor belt with five or six candles on it; next to the table were four cupcakes. The conveyor belt had a lever which when clicked dispensed a candle over to the cupcake area. The idea was to dispense four candles (one for each of the cupcakes) then click on the cupcakes to make the candles fall into place on top of them.

Jump "Sesame" to experience this fun learning area with your children.

Another neat area on Prodigy is the CBS Online section.

One of my favorite TV shows happens to be David Letterman's Late Show, therefore I couldn't resist checking out the biographies posted of the cast and crew.

A nice advantage of doing this on Prodigy (as opposed to another service) is that you get color pictures and sound clips. Using the Prodigy for Windows software and a sound card, you can hear clips from your favorite CBS show while viewing a full-color GIF of the scene. The pictures also come in handy while shopping at the CBS store — in my case, for a Late Night sweatshirt.



Delphi and the X-Files

Delphi users can now join the new X-Files Special Interest Group (SIG).

The X-Files SIG is devoted to the one-hour hit TV show on the Fox Network. The show features an unconventional FBI agent, Fox Mulder, who takes it upon himself to investigate a group of unsolved cases, known as the "X-Files," which he believes involve paranormal phenomena. The SIG is what you would typically expect from an online service provider with Delphi's trademark flair. The X-Files SIG has the usual Database (files section), Conference (chat) and Message sections, but then there's the Internet services, too, which have been Delphi's claim to fame. X-Files SIG goes can access many Internet gophers and the latest information, ravings and ramblings regarding UFOs and paranormal phenomenon. The gophers feature everything from UFO sightings to letters to Congress demanding protection from alien beasts. Also available are the Usenet discussion groups like alt.tv.x-files and alt.alien.visitors. If this is a little to far out for you you can always drop your plastic at the X-Files store, which features approved X-Files wares. If you're an X-Files fan you have to check this one out.

CONTINUES ...

But if you're a Rolling Stones fan, let them know by sending email to resilient rockers' official Net address at stoness@delphi.com. The email address goes along with the Voodoo Lounge SIG at Delphi. SIG members can get the latest news from the wires about the tour and try to win giveaways, from tickets to the show to merchandise at the Stones electronic store. In the front office at Delphi, things are ever-changing as well. Since Rupert Murdoch and the News Corporation (one of the world's largest media companies) took over, Delphi things have been anything but stagnant. In late summer there was more ladder-climbing. Daniel Burns has been promoted to chairman of Delphi Internet Services and newcomer Dr. Alan Baratz has been named CEO.

Dr. Baratz comes from IBM and was a key player in IBM's role in the NFS-NET project. The NFSNET is the nationwide backbone of the Internet. More recently he was heading up IBM's High Performance Computing and Communications Multimedia Division. Only time will tell if a little of Big Blue will turn into Big Green (\$) for Delphi.

GENie faces the New Age

New age thinking and lifestyles are the subjects of the new NewAge Roundtable on GENie. Even the page number "1122" was picked by a numerologist as being a powerful number. The Roundtable is full of information about New Age living and easy to find with the NEWAGE keyword.

New Age philosophy is based fundamentally on a spiritual approach to living, which I am not sure includes computers and online services. But GENie users will get a great deal of practical, down-to-earth information here.

The Roundtable bulletin board contains categories such as "New Age Living in an Old Age World" where users share their experiences trying to live the New Age lifestyle and how it affects daily life. Topics include raising children, discrimination against New Agers and how society is turning New Age living into a marketing ploy. If you turn deeper into your soul, there are Bulletin Board categories for meditation, tarot card readings and discussions regarding the works and philosophies of

many New Age teachers like Alice A. Bailey, Jane Roberts and Yogananda. The Roundtable has special sections for tarot readers, topics range from purchasing a deck of tarot cards to interpreting the cards themselves.

The software libraries in the Roundtable are typical of those found in discussion-type forums, with essays, poems, articles, and reference material dealing with New Age topics. IBM users can download electronic Ouija Boards, Tarot Readers, programs for numerology, and biorhythms.

New Age GENie users can participate in the real-time conferences in the Roundtable. The second and fourth Thursdays chat features discussion of tarot, led by Nina Lee Braden, a professional tarot reader and teacher. Ms. Braden appears to be well-known in the Roundtable for her expertise in the subject matter. According to the Roundtable announcements, additional conferences will address topics such as aromatherapy, yoga and meditation. Check out the NewAge Roundtable — it's a learning experience for some, just an experience for others. ■■■■

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BBS NOTEBOOK

BY ROB BROWNE

The Flea Market BBS

Elgin A.F.B., FL

The PigPen BBS

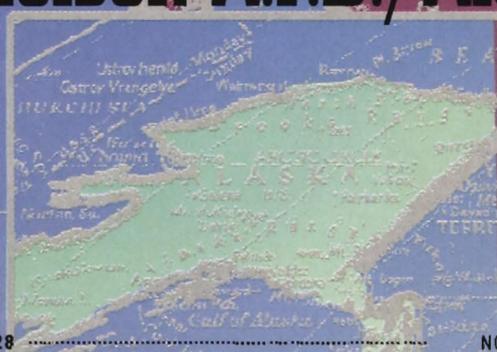
Fayetteville, NC

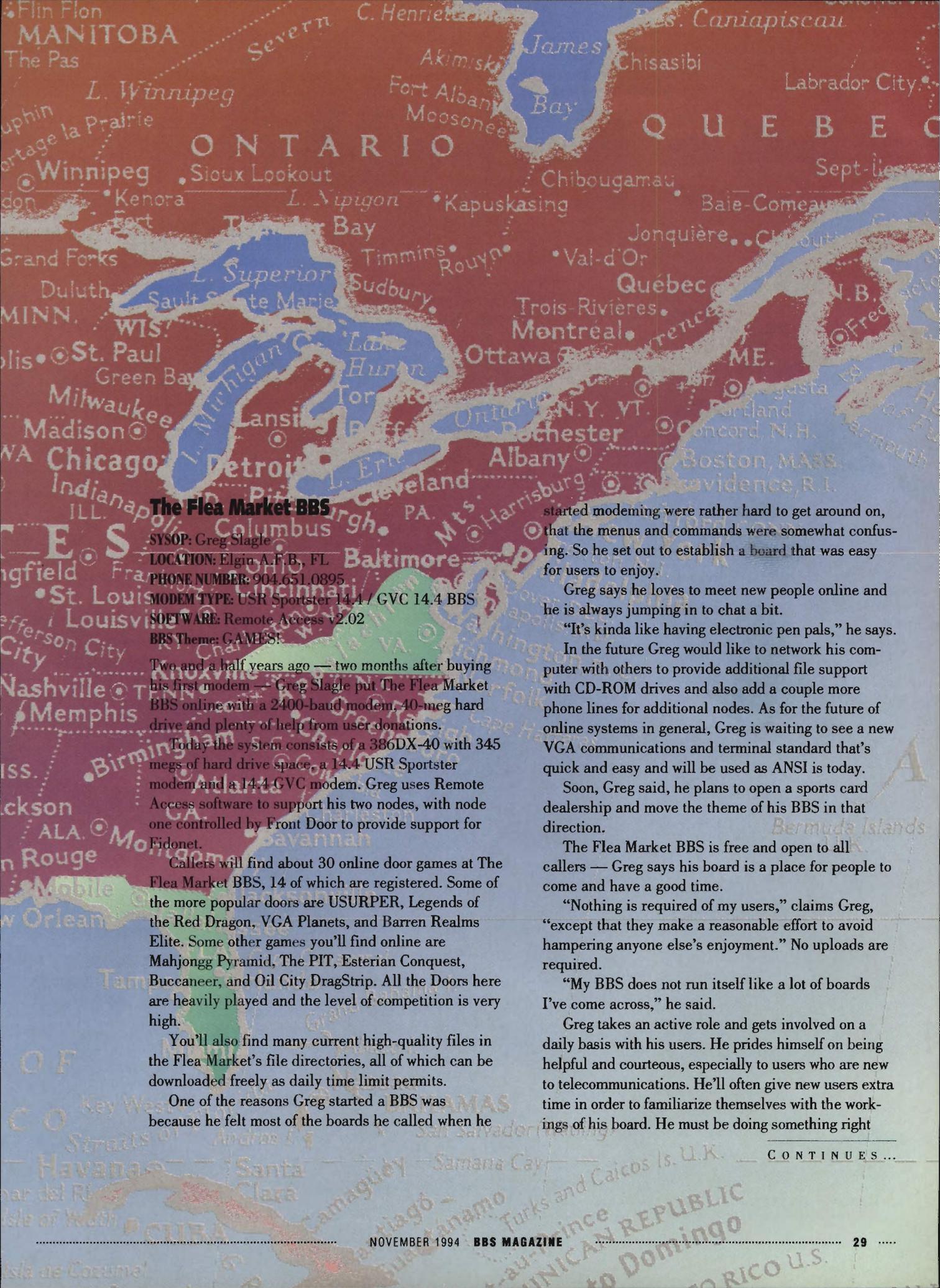
The Ten Forward BBS

San Diego, California

TSW OS/2 BBS

Eielson A.F.B., Alaska





The Flea Market BBS

SYSOP: Greg Slagle

LOCATION: Elgin A.F.B., FL

PHONE NUMBER: 904.651.0895

MODEM TYPE: USR Sportster 14.4 / GVC 14.4 BBS

SOFTWARE: Remote Access v2.02

BBS Theme: GAMES!

Two and a half years ago — two months after buying his first modem — Greg Slagle put The Flea Market BBS online with a 2400-baud modem, 40-meg hard drive and plenty of help from user donations.

Today the system consists of a 386DX-40 with 345 megs of hard drive space, a 14.4 USR Sportster modem and a 14.4 GVC modem. Greg uses Remote Access software to support his two nodes, with node one controlled by Front Door to provide support for Fidonet.

Callers will find about 30 online door games at The Flea Market BBS, 14 of which are registered. Some of the more popular doors are USURPER, Legends of the Red Dragon, VGA Planets, and Barren Realms Elite. Some other games you'll find online are Mahjongg Pyramid, The PIT, Esterian Conquest, Buccaneer, and Oil City DragStrip. All the Doors here are heavily played and the level of competition is very high.

You'll also find many current high-quality files in the Flea Market's file directories, all of which can be downloaded freely as daily time limit permits.

One of the reasons Greg started a BBS was because he felt most of the boards he called when he

started modeming were rather hard to get around on, that the menus and commands were somewhat confusing. So he set out to establish a board that was easy for users to enjoy.

Greg says he loves to meet new people online and he is always jumping in to chat a bit.

"It's kinda like having electronic pen pals," he says.

In the future Greg would like to network his computer with others to provide additional file support with CD-ROM drives and also add a couple more phone lines for additional nodes. As for the future of online systems in general, Greg is waiting to see a new VGA communications and terminal standard that's quick and easy and will be used as ANSI is today.

Soon, Greg said, he plans to open a sports card dealership and move the theme of his BBS in that direction.

The Flea Market BBS is free and open to all callers — Greg says his board is a place for people to come and have a good time.

"Nothing is required of my users," claims Greg, "except that they make a reasonable effort to avoid hampering anyone else's enjoyment." No uploads are required.

"My BBS does not run itself like a lot of boards I've come across," he said.

Greg takes an active role and gets involved on a daily basis with his users. He prides himself on being helpful and courteous, especially to users who are new to telecommunications. He'll often give new users extra time in order to familiarize themselves with the workings of his board. He must be doing something right

CONTINUES ...

because he and his board have callers constantly coming back for more.

The PigPen BBS

SYSOP: Paul Lewis

LOCATION: Fayetteville, NC

PHONE NUMBER: 910.487.0363

MODEM TYPE: Infotel 14.4

BBS SOFTWARE: Spitfire

BBS MOTTO: *Put on yer boots and come on in.*

Paul Lewis had a strong interest in ANSI screen designs and used that

interest to launch a bulletin board. His involvement grew into what is now known as the PigPen BBS located in the southern part of North Carolina.

Paul is a programmer and uses part of the board to support his door software. One of those doors, the most popular, is a game called Yankees and Rednecks, a role playing type of amusement with serious southern overtones.

Paul runs his BBS on an IBM PS/1, 386SX computer, with a 546-meg hard drive, a BSR CD-ROM drive, a Mitsumi CD-ROM drive, and an Infotel

14.4 modem. His system supports 120 file areas filled with current and up-to-date shareware, along with 25 online doors.

If you like playing online games, Paul keeps quite a few of them online and available to users, some of which are Trade Wars 2002, Legend of the Red Dragon, Barren Realms Elite, Solar Realms Elite, Land of Devastation, The Pit, and USURPER. On the lighter side there's Fresh Water Fishing, Food Fight and Concentration. The Pigpen definitely caters to the serious online gamer.

The PigPen BBS is a free access system, but Paul does extend premium access to users willing to contribute financially. After validation, a regular user will get 45 minutes of daily access time available with a 30-minute per call limitation. Eight files or a total of 1 meg may be downloaded daily by a regular user.

Besides the many file directories Paul keeps online, he also has the two CD-ROMs filled with files. More than 10,000 files in all. On our visit we found the Pier-2 Shareware collection and also the Software Vault Gold collection, which in itself has 57 different directories with something on it for everyone.

As if Paul doesn't have enough to do

CONTINUES ...



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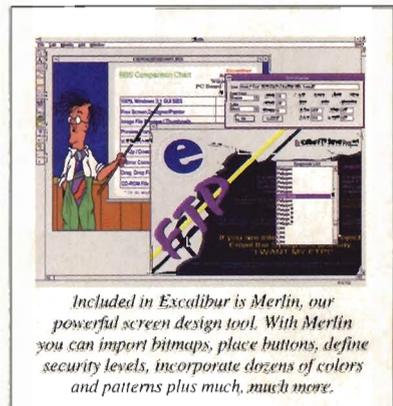
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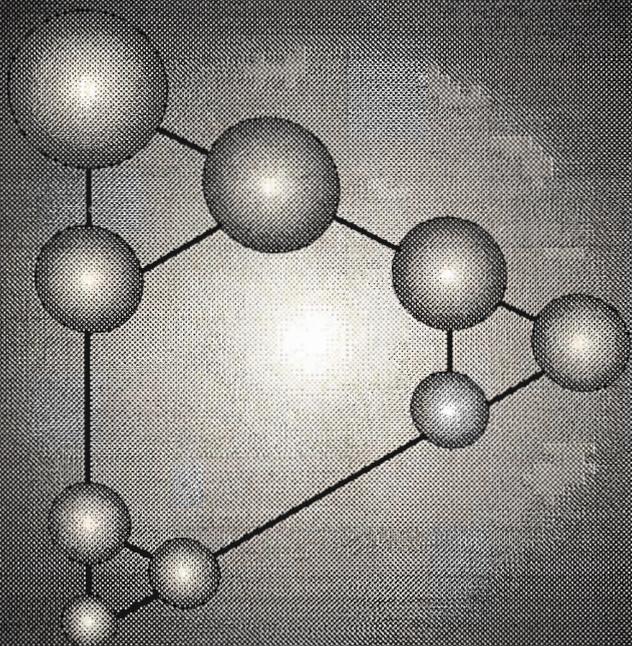


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keeping his BBS up and running for his users and supporting and updating his Door software, he also takes it upon himself to be home to "The List," a Fayetteville/Fort Bragg complete BBS listing.

In the future, Paul would like to add a second node to the PigPen BBS and a six-pack CD-ROM unit. He also wants to write more Door software — an online registration door for his other works, for instance. Best of luck to you, Paul.

phone line toll-free for the entire San Diego county in the hopes of attracting even more regular callers.

Ten Forward BBS runs on WWIV software which Zimm spent most of 1993 teaching himself to program so he could modify his board at the source-code level. This is what gives his BBS a unique and personal appearance. Every so often he makes changes to alter his system and adds more personalized touches. Robert claims he has yet to get any negative feedback on any of the mods he has implemented.

After Ten Forward was up and rolling, Robert decided to add message networks to the system, so he joined WWIVlink. After a new version of the software supporting multiple networking was released, Robert added five additional nets — including the "International Federation of Trekkers Net," commonly known as IFtNet. Other email networks you'll find on Ten Forward BBS are WWIVnet, ICENet, SOLARnet, and STARTREKnet.

CONTINUES...

The Ten Forward BBS

SYSOP: Robert Zimmerman

LOCATION: San Diego,
California

PHONE NUMBER:

619.994.TREK (8375)

MODEM TYPE: USR

Sportster 14.4

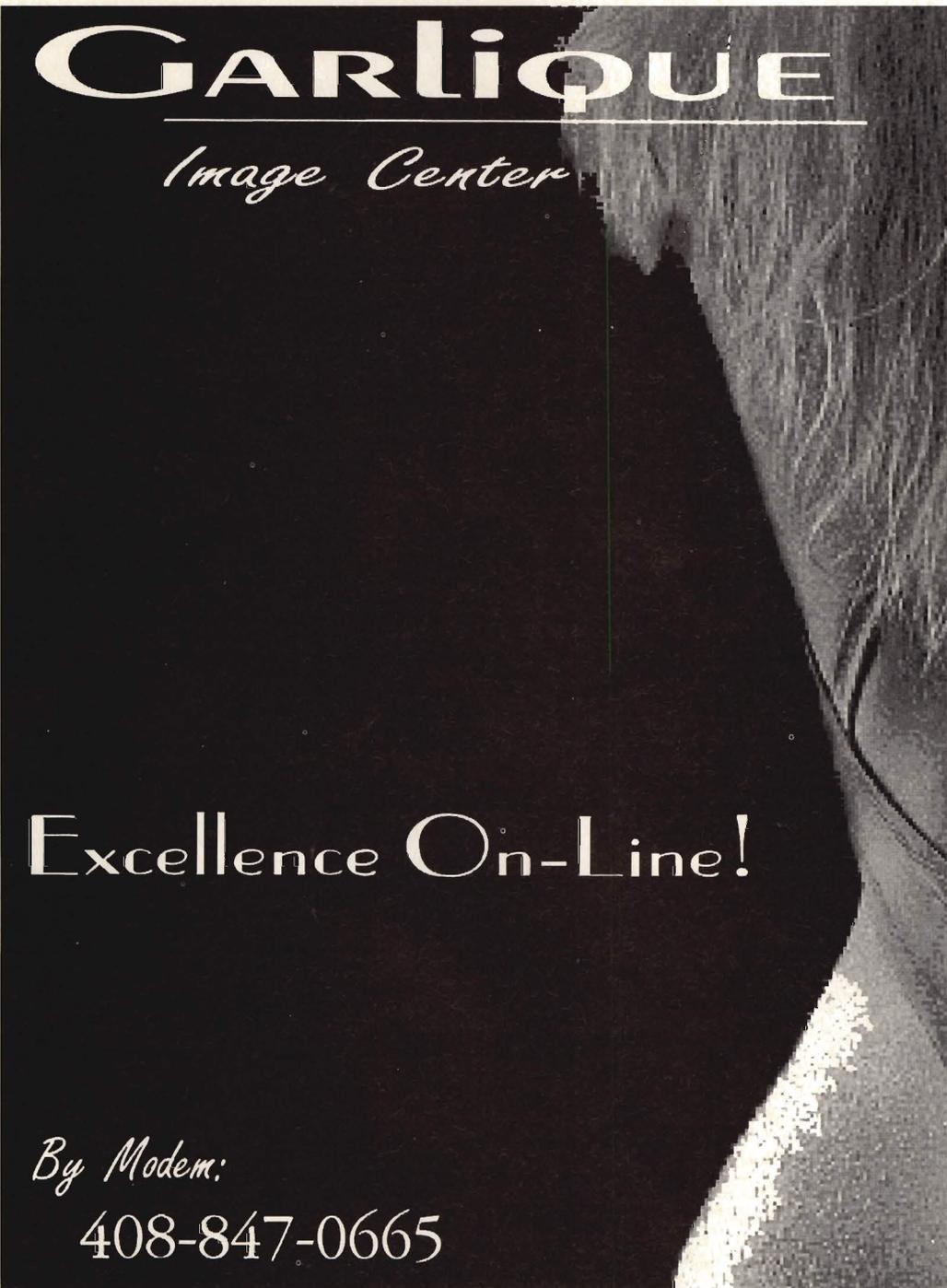
BBS SOFTWARE: WWIV

4.23 (heavily modified)

BBS MOTTO: *Star Trek and
Science Fiction "The Best
Xeno Bar in the Galaxy."*

Robert Zimmerman, or Captain Zimm as he is known by his users, started his BBS in the beginning of 1992 when, as a student of Coleman College, one of his classmates introduced him to the world of telecommunications.

From that moment on he was fascinated and hooked. After about six months of using other boards he decided to create his own. His BBS started out on a modest 286/12 clone with a 40-meg hard drive and 2400 baud modem. Later the board was put on a 486/33 with 540 megs and a USR Sportster 14.4 modem. The BBS has grown to be considered one of the best and largest science fiction and Star Trek-oriented bulletin boards in the San Diego region. Recently, Captain Zimm added another



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You'll find more than a dozen door games at Ten Forward BBS including King of the Board Trivia, Star Wars Trivia, Klingon Trivia, Kannons and Katapults, Aces High, Net Runner, Murder Mansion, and the most popular one of the day, Trade Wars 2002 version 2.

The local users of Ten Forward are like a big family. Captain Zimm and many of his users meet every Tuesday night at the Round Table Pizza Parlor and have a party.

The file transfer section is known as the Cargo Bay and consists of only up-to-date shareware, including the latest in IBM-PC compatible games and utilities. The McAfee Anti Virus software can also always be found there and is made available to all new users.

Robert is very much involved in the BBS community. In September of '93 he joined the San Diego County Sysops Association, a group organized to keep sysops aware of laws regarding the operation of their systems and what they should and shouldn't include on their boards. They also try to keep the media from sensationalism — the idea that BBSs are evil creations whose sole purpose is to distribute pornography to minors. Many of the members of the SDCSA are also members of the EFF (Electronic Frontier Foundation), the watchdog group that helps sysops keep informed of legislation Congress tries to sneak past us.

As for the future of Ten Forward, Robert plans to add a second node (which may be online before this review is published) and someday hopes to have as many as 32 nodes. He says he's also anxious for the BBS world to take on more real-time interactivities like chatting with picture transmission.

TSW OS/2 BBS

SYSP: Lori Martin

LOCATION: Eielson A.F.B., Alaska

PHONE NUMBER: 907.372.1624

MODEM TYPE: PPI Pro-Class PC288SA V.FC

BBS SOFTWARE: Wildcat! 4.0

BBS MOTTO: *Largest OS/2 Support BBS in Alaska and home to BeakWare Software!*

In January of 1991 The Sports Wire (TSW) BBS was put online running Remote Access software. About six months later the switch to Super BBS was made and ran until about a year ago when Wildcat! took over.

It's an old story by now, the one where callers become sysops because they're fed up with the plethora of non user-friendly BBSs. That's what happened with Lori Martin and her husband, Kevin.

As time went on Kevin found himself very busy at work and just didn't have time to put into the BBS, so Lori took command. At the time, the system was being used primarily by callers who wanted to play door games. When Lori started using the OS/2 operating system, she decided to move her BBS in that direction.

She joined Team OS/2 and turned on the Fido OS/2 echos. She also linked up with OS/2net and started picking up all the OS/2 file distribution she could handle. Since the sports theme never really took off, she made the decision to become a support system for OS/2 and try to help other OS/2 users. Lori also includes some MS-DOS, Windows and UNIX message echos along with their associated file distributions. While Lori promotes and supports OS/2, she also caters to her users who don't feel OS/2 is right for them. Lori tries to be a real

service to her users and not just another BBS.

TSW is operated on two computers running OS/2 software. The server is a 386DX/40 with 16 megs of RAM and the requester is a 486DX2/66 with 8 megs of

RAM. Both machines are equipped with a CD-ROM unit, VGA cards and between the two there's over a gig of hard drive space. One node has a PPI Pro-Class 28.8 modem and the other has a MicroCom DeskPorte 28.8.

Email networks carried on the BBS are Fido, OS/2net, RIPnet, WildNet, and the MSI Support network. There is definitely no shortage of echoed conferences, some of which Lori moderates such as the Star Trek conference on Wildnet and the RIP General and RIP Chat conferences on RIPnet. She also moderates the Alaska Chat conference which is a local Fido echo.

Lori's BBS is active year-round, except for the middle of the summer when for about a month things really slow down. (They only have about a month of true summer weather as compared to 9 months of snow and temperatures below zero. That's when the system usage really heats up. When it's minus 65 degrees outside and dark almost 24 hours a day, calling a BBS can be quite therapeutic.)

Lori currently has 14 door games online for her callers. Some of these include Net Runner, The Pit, Land Of Devastation, Barren Realms Elite, Planets T.E.O.S., Mind Bender, Iron Ox, and others. The most popular, which is easy to see on the Door Menu program, BDoor, written by Kevin, is Land Of Devastation.

The file areas here are packed. There are 38 different directories on the hard drive along with additional files on CD-ROM. Special directories are included for OS/2 support files and there is an exclusive directory for Kevin's BeakWare Software products.

Lori is also into RIP drawing and provides her users with RIP graphic menus and bulletins and even features a RIP gallery door.

In the future Lori would like to expand to a multi-node system and add a larger hard drive to bring in file distributions outside of OS/2. She also would like to offer full Internet access including FTP and telnetting capabilities, since as yet there is none in the area.

Lori is a devoted sysop and goes to great lengths to give her users what they want, providing a terrific BBS for all callers from the novice to the high-tech power user. Make the journey to Alaska and call the TSW OS/2 BBS. ■■■■



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Multiple command shells	Yes	No	No	No	No
Intelligent DigiBoard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Int14h device support	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Standard serial ports	Up to 10	No	Up to 4	Up to 2	Up to 2
Caller ID security	Yes	No	Extra	Extra	No
Nested security logic	Yes	No	No	No	No
Multichannel chat	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private user chat	Yes	No	Extra	Yes	Yes
Offline reader support	Yes	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra
QWK networking	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
FidoNet import/export	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PostLink (RIME) support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra	No
Includes RIPscrip menus	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Novell/DOS LAN support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Enhanced CD-ROM support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Incoming FAX support	Yes	No	No	No	No
Chat between doors	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Bidirectional file transfers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
DOS door support	11 types	2 types	2 types	No	No
FILE.ID.DIZ support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	No
Offline NetMail	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
Offline/Remote file requests	Yes	No	No	No	No
Real-time configuration	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/94, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Third party utilities may be required for some message network technologies.

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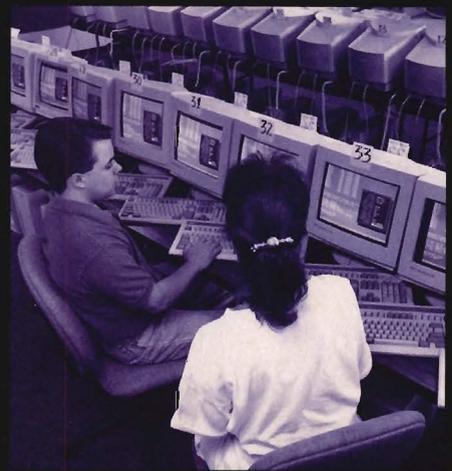
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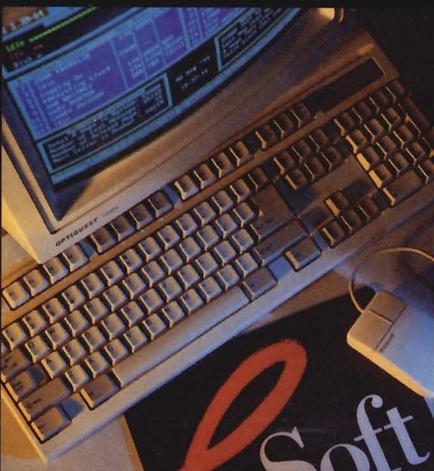
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- ▲ The test was conducted in the eSoft Testing Lab. Each PC represents one BBS user.
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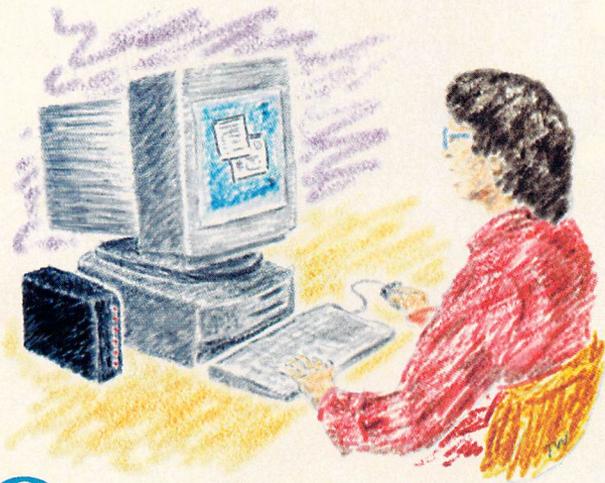
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The ABCs of BBSing

Setup, dial, connect, roam, converse, and download. How to do them your first time out.

On a recent visit to a computer software store, my 14-year-old nephew did what thousands across the country probably did that same week — bought his first 2400 baud modem. (It's not cutting edge, but \$40 is a lot for a teenager to spend without knowing what the benefits will be.)

Sound familiar? I remember well the beginning of my own modeming experience. I also remember the steps that should be taken to begin modeming or BBSing, steps that aren't all that difficult. And when you know them, the fun begins.

Once you have the modem in the machine, the next step is a matter of deciding what software to use to run the modem.

Short of a review, I like those that allow drop-to-DOS (jump to the command-line) and support today's highest speeds and Zmodem (the swift protocol). As a System Operator (sysop), I really appreciate a 14,400 modem coming in at 14,400 and using Zmodem. It's a reliable, quick connection.

"But all I have is a 2400 baud modem!" you say?

No problem. There's nothing wrong with beginning

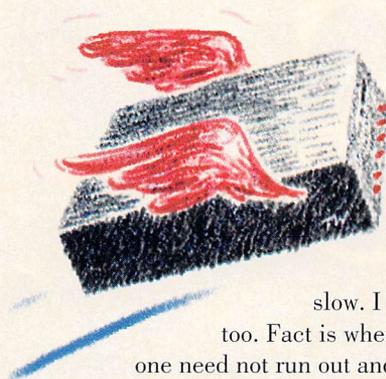
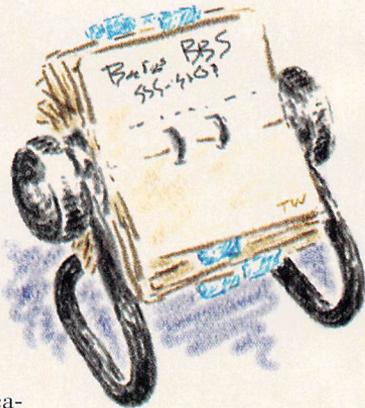
slow. I began that way, too. Fact is when starting out, one need not run out and buy the best all at once.

Now you need a number to call. Knowing the number of a local BBS is

the best way to start — no need to search for other numbers yet. Check the BBSs listed in this magazine for a local connection, ask at an area computer retailer or jump down a couple of steps for alternative three.

Most communications programs have an option to capture the modem session to a disk file. Check your documentation to see if your program has one, then turn it on BEFORE you dial up. This is a good way to make a record of your important caller information, especially the password, until you have it permanently recorded OFF the computer.

Capture will allow you to quickly save the files lists you looked at and all the features you found on the BBS. You'll have a good record after you hang up, to rate whether the BBS is worth calling again. Call up the local BBS and observe the rules posted, leave an introductory message to the



sysop, then look around the board.

Many BBSs have a listing of other BBSs in the vicinity, so write down all the local numbers you find. Look around a little more to get the feel of the BBS and before you log off, write a thank you note to the sysop for the use of his board.



You've gained a lot on your first call. As a first-timer you demonstrated good behavior by writing two messages to the sysop — we really like callers to acknowledge us. If there were other BBS numbers to call, you've got them. And you know the basics of getting around online. Now your modem will begin to pay off.

Call the other boards, repeat the process of going by the rules, writing the sysop and writing down any new local numbers you come across.

Call local numbers and maybe one out-of-state board at first. In-state toll calls are usually more costly, besides, there's plenty to be learned from calling outside your area. But keep in mind large phone bills tend to take the fun out of modeming.

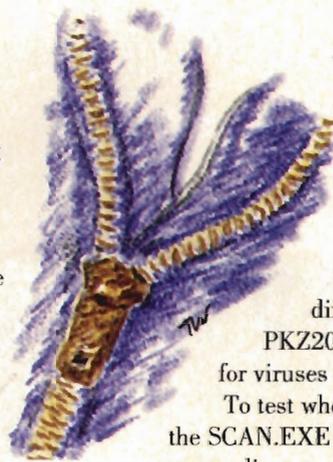
On your next BBS call, you'll need to download an archiver. This is a program or set of programs that will

decompress the files you will be downloading later. The most common method of compressing files for downloading and uploading on BBSs is the ZIP method. Read, follow and get to know how your communications software handles file transfers (uploading and downloading files) before you attempt to download. Your first download should be PKZ204g.exe or the latest revision of this file. Once you have successfully downloaded it, look for McAfee Associates' Virus Scanner and download that, too. Again, write the sysop and offer thanks for access and at that time, ask no more than two of the many questions you'll likely have. The sysop will appreciate your interest in learning and won't be overloaded with questions.

Depending on your level of DOS knowledge, you may need to consult the DOS manual about the following information:

Once you are offline, make a directory called ZIP and copy the PKZ204g.exe file into it. Now go to the ZIP directory. Type PKZ204g and press the enter key. This will open up the compressed collection of pkzip.exe, PKUNZIP.EXE and other programs. Place the files in your utility directory, or a directory listed in the path statement of the AUTOEXEC.BAT.

Now make a directory called SCAN and put the zipped virus scanner file into the SCAN directory. Go to the SCAN directory and



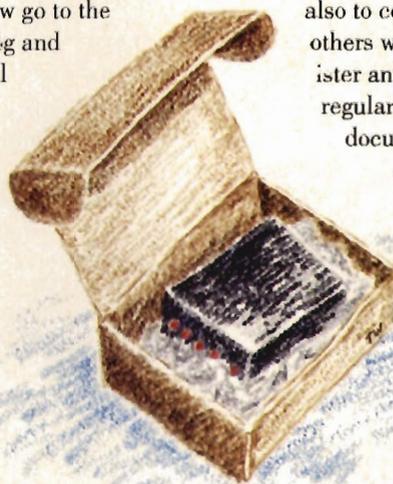
enter: PKUNZIP (name of the file) and press enter. The file will expand giving you SCAN.EXE and all the other accompanying files. Place the files into the same directory you placed the PKZ204g. You can now scan

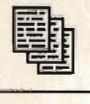
for viruses from any directory. To test whether you correctly have the SCAN.EXE file in the DOS path, go to any directory on the current drive and type SCAN C: and press the enter key. The virus scanner program will begin to scan for any viruses that might be found on the computer's hard drive. Scan all the drives you have. You should come out fine with no virus infection.

These steps accomplished, you're ready to enjoy BBSing, since you can now make use of the zipped files from BBSs. Look around and see what files interest you. Remember that many boards have a ratio for downloading, so

share your favorite programs with many boards. Remember also to communicate with others while online and register any shareware you use regularly. Read all the documentation that

comes with the PKZ204g.EXE and the scanner program. You're set to begin a great journey.



		<h2>Macintosh Online</h2> <p>404-988-9904</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PD/Shareware• Software Giveaways• 300-14400 Baud• Demos• Tech Info• More!!! <p>Over 130 different conferences!!! Large free Classifieds section.</p>	<p>A Mac GUI BBS!</p>
			
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Watch It, Display It, Hear It, Play It

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CINEMA

by DareWare, Inc.
CINEMA3.ZIP

There are some very powerful graphic programs out there that will let you do all kinds of things to a graphic file. You can "dither," crop, resize — do almost anything you wish.

There are also similar programs for sound and music files that allow you to change pitch or perform a complete rewrite. Those are great if that's what you enjoy doing. But what about the rest of us? What if all we wanted to do was display some graphic files and listen to a tune now and then? And wouldn't it be nice if it could all be done with just one program? If you agree, you might be interested in a program called CINEMA from DareWare.

CINEMA will play VOC, WAV, CMF, and MIDI files. It will also display PCXs, GIFs, FLIs, and GLs. There are no special drivers to install other than what you already have with your sound board. There is no option to print anything, so no printer drivers are needed. The only special requirement is that you install the program files in a directory in your path.

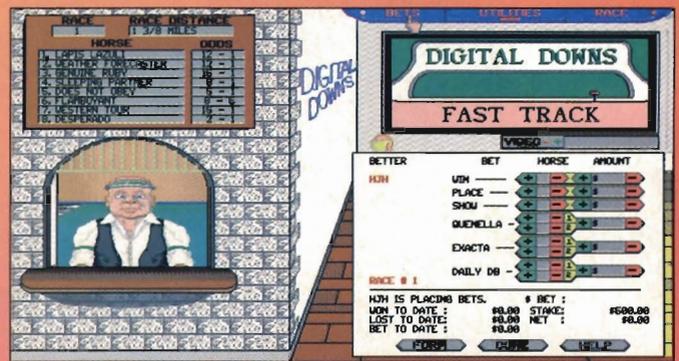
Though there's nothing flashy about CINEMA (you can't alter graphic or sound files in any way), graphics can be displayed with one of the many "special effects" included.

Bottom line: if all you want is a way to occasionally display graphics or check out some sound files, this is a program that could be just what you're looking for. With the \$19.95 registration you will receive an advanced version of CINEMA and a bonus program.

DIGITAL DOWNS V1.3

by Accidental Software
DD13A.ZIP & DD13B.ZIP

Can't make it to the track today? Try your luck with DIGITAL DOWNS. This is a very well done program that can give



you and your friends hours of racing action without losing your shirt.

Once the game is loaded and you've entered your name and the amount of your "bank roll," everything else is easily accessed with your mouse. You'll be shown a list of entries with the approximate odds and all you need to do is click on the "+" and "-" keys to select your horses and the amount of the bet. You can place money on WIN, PLACE or SHOW/QUENELLA, EXACTA or DAILY DOUBLE. Once that's done, select RACE from the top menu bar and away they go. Afterward you can even view the "video tape" replay of the race.

An especially nice feature is the BET window. Once there, a list of the entries for that race is displayed above the teller. The odds for each horse is shown and will go up or down as the bets are entered. If you click on a horse, a short racing history is shown and if you click on the FORM button, a page from the daily Racing Form is displayed with the opening odds for each entry. The odds will keep changing right up until race time, so keep an eye on them. And remember, favorites don't always win.

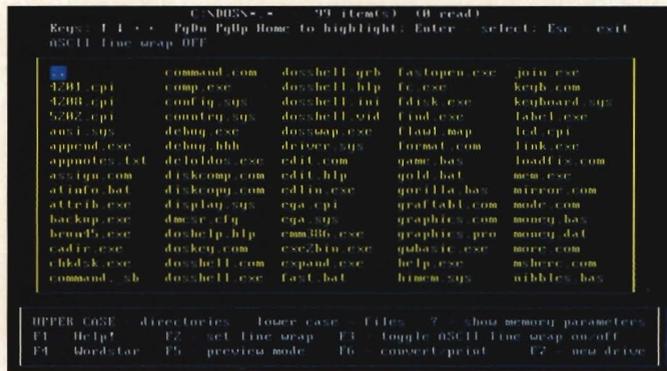
The unregistered version does have a few limitations, but not to the point where it hinders play. The \$15 registration gets you a version with more horses, more sounds, ability to have up to eight players, and other various enhancements. It's a pretty good deal if you like this kind of game, better or not.

DIGITAL DOWNS requires at least a 386, EGA or better and a mouse. Sound Blaster cards are supported.

VIEW V9.5

by Malcolm Drury
VIEW95.ZIP

I know, I know, there are plenty of programs for displaying text files. I'm sure we all have our favorite, but whatever you're



now using, I urge you to take a look at VIEW by Malcolm Drury. It could very well make you change.

The name VIEW is just a bit modest as it does so much more than simply read a text file and display it on the screen. Besides ASCII text, VIEW will display WordPerfect, Word, Write, AMI Pro, and Wordstar formatted files. Not only can you read these files, but you can also reformat and convert them to ASCII text.

There are two ways to use VIEW. If you want to read just one file, type VIEW FILENAME. Or, simply type VIEW to display all the files in the current directory. From there you can scroll through the file list or jump to another drive or directory.

Most of what you need to know is right on the screen and more can be seen by hitting the F1 key. While the file is displayed, you can do text searches, tag blocks of text for printing or saving and much more. If you use either 2COL or JETCOL by Tony Caine, VIEW has a direct interface for these products.

Not happy with VIEW's colors? Simply customize your VIEW with the enclosed configuration file. You can customize other features as well, including printer setup and memory configurations.

As I said, VIEW is a poor choice of names for this program. Mr. Drury should have really called it something like MEGAVIEW or SUPERVIEW. It's truly worth adding to your toolbox. This program is updated regularly, so look for the latest version. Suggested registration for VIEW is \$20.

BBS Software & Hardware

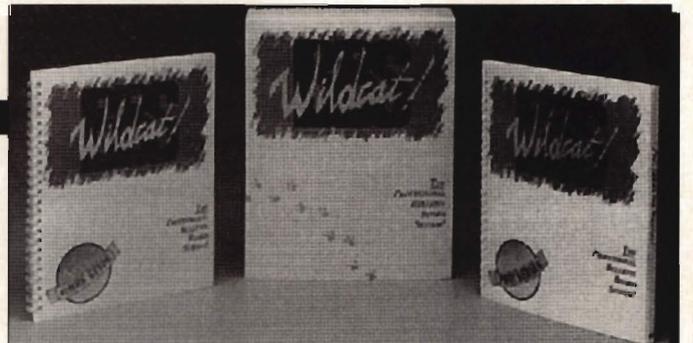
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C-Net's Salvation?

RM Software comes to the rescue of C-Net 64 and 128.

RM Software is the official owner of both C-Net 64 and C-Net 128, though there are other C-Net products such as C-Net DS v2.5, owned by Beverly James Products, and C-Net Amiga, which is still owned by Perspective Software.

C-Net 128 can connect with other like systems via the Pearako Network.

"The Pearako Network is the best network ever written for C-Net 128," said Fox. "We had quite a few different networks over the years. This one has been in use the longest."

More than simply transferring messages, the network is capable of sending and receiving BBS lists, entire message bases, mail, feedback, online store orders, and files. Currently about 36 boards are participants in the network.

Although current modem speeds are just 300 to 2400 baud, the next version of C-Net 128 should boast 9600. Many sysops prefer to use a Creative Micro Designs RAMLink as their primary disk drive to speed BBS access time — however when combined with a SWIFTLINK cartridge to attain higher baud rates, this can cause memory conflicts and lockups. Hence, one reason the next version of C-Net has experienced delays.

According to the logs of Cave of the Cerberus at presstime, the international headquarters BBS for C-Net 64 and

128, 9600 baud routines will be released "soon." Please note that a SWIFTLINK cartridge is not necessary for the Commodore 128 if using a 9600 baud modem, or higher, if only accessing it at 9600 baud.

Cave of the Cerberus BBS offers not only support for BBS sysops but also a good look at what future sysops can expect. ASCII, Commodore color/graphics, ANSI color only, and ANSI color and graphics are fully implemented, as well as the choice of viewing the BBS in either 40- or 80-column formats.

Statistical data about the BBS is displayed in a colorful and visually pleasing way in various forms at log on, including the total number of calls to date, with a breakdown of the male to female caller ratio, baud rates used, and computers that were used to call the BBS. A graph illustrating the number of calls vs. the time of day is also displayed.

It's interesting to note that Cave of the Cerberus has had more IBM callers than Commodore 64/128 callers, by a slim 7 percent margin. According to the statistics shown, I'm in the minority among callers, as males outnumber the females by about 93 percent!

Among other statistics of interest to sysops is a listing of the number of carrier detects, carrier losses, log-offs, nor-

Rosemarie Fox and friend Peter Scordamaglia are both state-certified emergency medical technicians in New Jersey and Florida, but in the Commodore world, they're noted for rescuing C-Net 64 and 128 from obscurity.

In June of 1993, they formed RM Software and purchased C-Net 64 and 128 from Perspective Software, keeping the BBS packages alive and well-supported.

mal disconnects, exceeded time limits, and network linkups for the week prior. The board also offers to read the user biorhythm for the day.

For file transfers, C-Net 128 offers New Punter, Xmodem, Xmodem CRC, Xmodem CRC 1K, Ymodem Batch, and ASCII protocols. ASCII, of course, would normally only be used when transferring text files.

Users can customize their accounts on the BBS, too, with different help levels, the choice of a "More" prompt or not (useful so the user doesn't see several "More" prompts while buffering text) and an adjustment for time zone (since many callers are not from the local time zone). Other modifications include forwarding options for mail so it can be sent to another user name or to another BBS within the network, as well as selections for screen width, screen height, linefeeds, and graphics mode (Commodore or IBM). The BBS is set to offer ANSI color only or ANSI with both color and graphics.

Several "places to go" are offered at the main menu prompt, including some unique options: "Dating", for instance, is a networked matchmaking forum for singles over the age of 18. Others include Messages, Email (private mail), News files, P files, which is where program files for C-Net Sysops are kept, and UD, the regular files area. A couple of other areas include a BBS Lister and a Voting area.

About 50 message-base sigs are currently available on Cave of the Cerberus and include many message topics both for C-Net and other BBS software, including Commodore, Amiga and IBM software.

A nice touch to the software is the addition of various different and changing quotes, which the user sees at different menu prompts.

Cave of the Cerberus BBS also has an online store in which users can order C-Net BBS software and other products. The online catalog includes over 100 items.

With C-Net's networking abilities, users on other networked BBSs can browse through the online store and place orders right there on the board.

C-Net 64 does not have networking ability and is still at version 12.0.

Fox stated she would like to upgrade

the software but hasn't yet found a programmer to work on it. With a new programmer, one of the projects Fox said she'd like to see would be a networking program similar to the one available for the 128.

C-Net 64 is available with all documentation for \$50 from RM Software.

The BBS package for the 128 version was updated in January of 1994 and sells for \$100, including shipping and handling. It includes Pearako Network software, a disk of online games and text files, C-Net 128 manual, dongle and registration form. The dongle, a device which is inserted in the joystick port of the computer, is required to run the BBS. Without it, files will not load. RM Software also gives free Voice/Technical support and free unlimited BBS support with access to the C-Net file areas.

For more information, contact RM Software (voice) at 201.843.3116 or call Cave of the Cerberus, BBS headquarters for C-Net 64 and 128 at 201.845.8250.

Correction

In last month's issue, it was suggested that to save graphic macros within QWKRR128 offline mail reader, to follow the graphic trigger with:

```
@a=^  
<graphic macro goes here>  
<with additional lines>  
<here>
```

This is not correct. It should be:

```
@a=  
<graphic macro goes here>  
<with additional lines>  
<here>
```

Note that the macro trigger has no additional pipe or up arrow on the first line.

Gaelyne Moranec is a freelance writer active in the Commodore community. She is Editor of CEE-64 Alive!, a disk magazine, and co-sysop of Ancient Heart BBS. She can be reached with comments or suggestions via Fidonet netmail: 1:239/1004, Internet: gaelyne.moranec@wolverine.com or in care of this publication.



Rusty

Edie

Dual Eliminator

Rusty n Edie's BBS announces the introduction of their **Dual Eliminator**. Simply plug your phone line to the Dual Eliminator and then plug the Dual Eliminator into your modem. This device consists of 2 passive electronic filters that handle both high and low frequency noise from the phone line. Both high and low frequency are independently adjustable with knobs that mount on the front of the unit. Surge protection is provided by an electronic varistor.



A light emitting diode, also mounted on the front of the unit, glows whenever the device is eliminating noise from the phone lines. This device can solve the majority of noise problems associated with telecommunications today, and is sold with a 30-day, money-back guarantee. They sell for \$25 each plus \$4 shipping and handling. To order, call Rusty n Edie's at 216-726-4217, fax to 216-726-3595 or call their BBS number 216-726-2620; they will accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

Rusty n Edie's BBS
7393 California Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44512

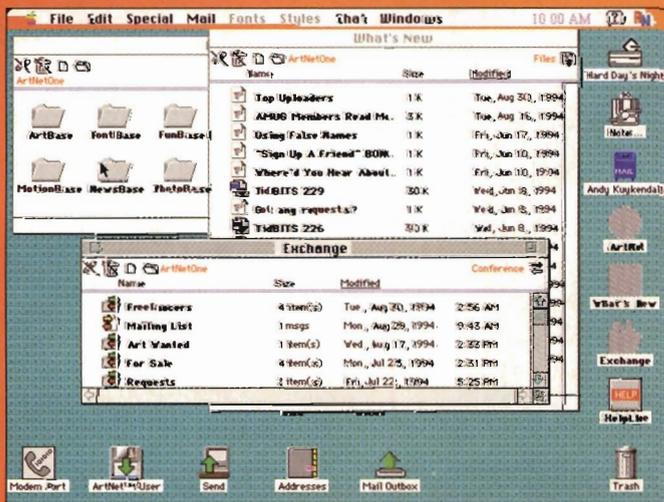
A Host is a Host is a Host

Not! All have their merits but ultimately the choice is yours.

Many people ask me to recommend host software for running a bulletin board on their Mac. I only have one piece of advice for these users: find out for yourself!

If you ask any sysop what the best host software is, he or she will always suggest the package they are using (naturally). So I recommend ignoring people's advice and discovering a favorite on your own.

ArtNet, 404-885-1487, is an example of a TeleFinder BBS. Its main emphasis is support for graphic designers and illustrators.



But wait! Don't put down the magazine yet...When I say make up your own mind, I suggest you do as I did: contact each of the host software companies and request a demo version of their host software be sent to you, along with a current price list. Also, if you are a non-profit or user group, mention it when you order information (most companies offer special discounts to non-profits and user groups).

I'll discuss several of the prominent packages available for the Mac, some of which can be found only online.

But first, a few things to think about when choosing a host package: How many lines do I want? Do I want a command-line interface or a graphical user interface? How much do I want to spend (usually the dominant factor)?

You should also know that almost any Macintosh, from a Mac Plus on, can run a BBS, but the most powerful packages require a 68030 and higher to run effectively. Speed on BBSs can be increased by getting a faster drive, because much of what a BBS does is access the hard drive to gain information.

You can also load as much of your BBS as possible into RAM in order to speed up access, for RAM is much faster than any hard drive available. You can do this by adding a RAM disk from your control panel (as much RAM as is available from your configuration).

Your disk cache should also be set at a megabyte for optimum performance. Additionally, FWB Hammer has a SCSI accelerator that's supposed to increase disk access time dramatically.

If you want to go beyond two phone lines, you'll need to add a multiport serial card or a SCSI expansion box. The SCSI expansion box connects like a hard drive to your SCSI chain, but adds four additional serial ports to the system.

Graphical user interface

Now to the hosts. There are several different commercial BBS packages available for the Mac, such as NovaLink Pro 3.1, First Class 2.5 and TeleFinder 3.2. These three packages are graphical user interface hosts, requiring client software to use the Mac-like features.

NOVALINK PRO 3.1. NovaLink offers many services such as email, message forums, file libraries including CD-ROM, databases, real-time conferences and chats. Also access to public networks including the Internet and Fidonet, high-speed text searches using AppleSearch, and gateways to popular email packages.

NovaLink clients can logon through serial, AppleTalk, Communications Toolbox, X.25, and TCP/IP connections. NovaLink Pro has its own scripting language, NovaScript, that can fine-tune the performance and capabilities of your server.

It can distribute server loads among multiple Mac computers for greater capacity. A single Mac Quadra can handle 40 to 60 simultaneous users (depending on connection type).

Adding additional CPUs gives NLP virtually unlimited expandability.

NovaLink's MacTCP support means that anyone using the Internet can telnet into an NLP server. And users can telnet out.

NLP supports Internet standards for email (SMTP) and Usenet newsgroups (NNTP). NovaLink also supports UUCP through an external gateway. Finally, NovaLink provides direct TCP support without using the Macintosh Communications Toolbox.

The software supports NovaTerm Graphics for Mac users and RIPscript for Windows and DOS users. NLP also supports more than one configuration file, so that sysops can offer alternate user interfaces to their clients. For conventional terminal programs, NovaLink supports ANSI, VT100 and TTY, so that anyone can logon to your server regardless of platform type and it automatically generates a graphical and command-line interface for each type of interface supported.

Contact: ResNova Software, Inc.
5011 Argosy Drive, Suite #13,
Huntington Beach, CA 92649.
Sales: 714.379.9000.
Info Server: (BBS) 714.379.9004.
Internet: Sales@ResNova.com.
Fax: 714.379.9014.

FIRSTCLASS 2.5. FirstClass offers complete office email, network conferencing for electronic discussions, conferencing,

multi-platform, and language support.

One of FirstClass's greatest strengths is its multitasking graphical interface. Modem access is efficient and permits background transfer of files (in both directions simultaneously) even while reading mail, chatting or using other system features. Sysops can also create custom icons and background pictures for its GUI.

FirstClass has the ability to access and search CD-ROMS or other volumes online and send mail to any user or conference to which the BBS user has access.

To boot, sysops may accurately track what users have uploaded or downloaded through its statistics and billing features.

Contact: SoftArc, 416.299.4723.
Fax: 416.754.1856.
FirstClass BBS: 416.609.2250
Internet: sales@softarc.com

TELEFINDER 3.2. TeleFinder 3.2 runs on all Macs from the Plus through the Quadoras, is 32-bit clean, System 7 savvy, and includes full balloon help for the user. Its administrative and program modules can be fully controlled via AppleEvents. Some of its features include multi-node chat (up to three nodes), instant messages, use of styled text in text files, online previews of GIF and JPEG images, QuickTime movies and PICT files, expanded file descriptions up to 32K, resizable email windows, automatic template for email, and capability of managing up to 32,000 users.

TeleFinder's multi-server architecture supports multiple BBS nodes running on separate Macs on a network. Additionally, TeleFinder's full implementation of AppleEvents supports advanced functionality such as automatic online registration, full remote administrative capabilities and control of the BBS's server programs.

TeleFinder Group Edition also supports a find-file function. Caller and file-transfer statistics are given as well.

Contact: Spider Island Software
714.569.9260; Fax 714.669.1383.
BBS 714.730.5785.
Internet: support@spiderisland.com,
AppleLink: D4955.
America Online: SpiderIsla.

Command-line user interface

As mentioned, there are several command-line user interfaces and shareware-type host programs available, such as Mansion, Hi BBS, Hermes II, Public Address v0.9b9, Second Sight, and WWIV.

Hi BBS has recently suspended sales of their software, so discussing its features is pretty pointless. Also, WWIV has not been updated since 1992 and supports only ANSI and VT100 access. So we'll skip it, too.

MANSSION. Mansion will run on a Macintosh Plus or better and supports speeds from 300 to 38,400 baud. Mansion also allows the sysop to use multiple drives for file libraries, supports the use of CD-ROMs and uses several different flavors of Xmodem for downloading. It allows up to 32,767 conferences, 999 library sections, 32,767 membership accounts, and up to 999 messages per conference. A couple of Mansion's key features include ASCII graphics and the ability for users to move very quickly around the BBS using the teleport command.

Users can page the sysop if there is a problem or use the help folder provided with Mansion to help with such topics as using the conferences, downloading files, sending messages, and so on.

Mansion also has the dexterity to assign sounds to certain key events — events such as when a user pages the sysop, when mail is sent to the sysop, when a caller drops carrier or times out, and at what speed the caller's connected. This is a useful feature I have not seen in other host programs — as long as you're not in an area where noise can be a problem.

Users also have great searching power with Mansion. They can search for other members, search for members with similar interests (users can enter up to a 40-character string upon first logging in), check for new messages addressed to them since their last call, or can look for new files since last logon or from any date they choose.

Mansion provides much support for the sysop, offering a detailed account of the activities on your conferences, generating a list of applications that have

CONTINUES ...

not been approved by the system and giving you information about the activities of callers such as number of messages posted, files uploaded and downloaded. The software also creates logs of any errors the BBS encounters, a log file used by Mansion external applications and a list of logons to the BBS. And it allows the sysop to do a fast local login to get on the board quickly, without having to input account name and password.

Finally, Mansion allows the use of external applications written for the software and scripting capability to enhance the BBS. It has a random quote feature built in, allows callers to send packages (files) to other members and allows the sysop to send garbage across the line before hanging up on a user — a feature good for some obnoxious callers I've come across (grin).

Contact: ZSys Software, Box 65981, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265-0981. The ZSys BBS (Mansion support BBS): 515.279.3073.

America Online: MarkT15.

Fidonet: 1:290/2.1.

Internet:

Mark_Toland%cedsm@uunet.uu.net.

HERMES II. Hermes II is distributed as keyware (i.e. you can use it for 30 days, but if you don't register within that period, the software will not work). Registering Hermes II gives you a serial number allowing you to use it further.

Hermes II will run on the Macintosh Plus and above. However, most standard Macintosh modem cables are not designed for use with Hermes II. You will need to buy a custom Hermes II BBS cable in order for the BBS to both detect carrier loss and manage flow control. This can be bought through the software manufacturer, Computer Classifieds.

Hermes II must be run on System 6.0.4 or above. It also requires that you install the Macintosh Communications Toolbox if you don't use System 7. It also requires 2,000K of memory to run — more if you run more than one node, have file directories with more than 200 to 300 files each, or run external applications. It supports both ANSI and VT100 mode.

Hermes allows up to 64 file directories, 10 message forums, with up to 30 sub-forums within each.

The software supports many features

such as external applications, CD-ROM and Tabby support, threading in message forums, even an internal screen saver. Hermes also has a feature called "Multiple Feedback," which will allow feedback to be sent to co-sysops or any other users. The users to be sent mail can be configured by the sysop.

Hermes has a feature called the File Manager for uploading new files and deleting or editing files already online. You can also select files for deletion and select whether you want file libraries to be sorted alphabetically or by date. And descriptions can be added to files from the File Manager.

As far as sysop options, Hermes II will allow both a local and a fast logon, and provides many options in user features that a sysop may set up for each user, such as whether the user can post, chat, send email, etc. Moreover, it allows the sysop to decide if the user can post or read anonymous messages, list users, change a message, or see upload info. Also, you can restrict any user below a certain age from accessing certain areas of your board.

Sysops can chat with callers,

CONTINUES ...

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—BBS Magazine, 4/93

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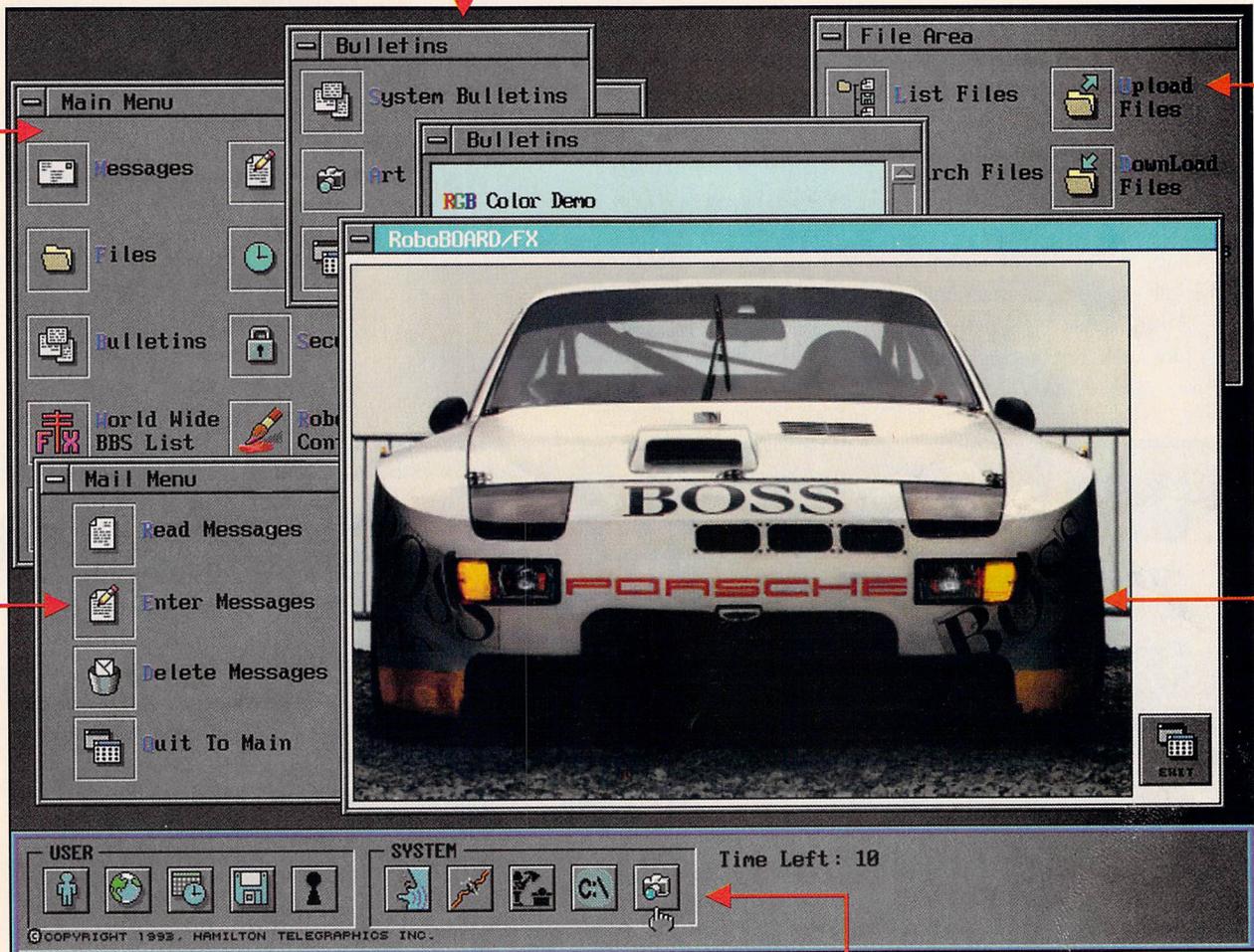


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RoboBOARD can display 640x480x16 VGA to 1024x768x256 SVGA graphics on both the SysOp's and the Caller's end of the connection! Click on the buttons to edit user settings, chat, and even capture screens in GIF format. UART, Fossil and DigiBoard support included!

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The Infamous Basement BBS, 404-256-2648, is a Hermes II board offering its users over 60 Fidonet message echoes, 2 CDROMs of shareware/public domain software, and a wide variety of graphic images, utilities, and applications.

scquelch them (prevent them from typing any commands while you are modifying something such as their access), give temporary sysop privileges, hang up on a user with no warning, send garbage characters simulating line noise then hang up, or tell the caller his or her time has expired and disconnect.

Finally, Hermes has a few features I especially like such as allowing you to create, store, retrieve, and send form

Contact: Hermes II
Computer Classifieds,
12819 SE 38th, #101,
Bellevue, WA 98006.
Fax: 206.643.2316.
BBS: 206.643.7830.
206.643.2874.

PUBLIC ADDRESS V0.9B9. Public Address offers serial/modem, AppleTalk ADSP

letters including validation messages, expired accounts, etc. There is a status bar on your screen that displays information about who's online now and that user's statistics, who called last and the number of posts, uploads and downloads for the day.

Hermes II also gives you the power to create a "Trash Users" file — keeping offensive handles off the board.

and TCP/IP-telnet connections, all-asynchronous serial I/O, as many ports/lines as memory will allow, as many concurrently connected users as memory will allow, as many BBS users as disk space will allow, no maximum number of message bases or transfer directories, and as many messages or files in each message base or transfer directory as disk space will allow.

It also supports Xmodem (Checksum & CRC), Ymodem, Ymodem-G, and Zmodem transfers, uses a very fast 16-color ANSI screen driver, supports external mailers, and can sublaunch an external mailer for events as well as crashmail.

Public Address is completely modular, that is, everything the online user sees is controlled by modules, which can be added and rearranged by the sysop. The interface information for writing modules in Pascal, C and C++ is currently available to all those who are interested on the author's BBS.

The interface consists of more than 200 routines passed from the application/engine. This documentation also

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multiple networks. Not to mention the world's largest online shareware collection (over a million files plus over 50 CD ROM collections), a horde of online games and information

in the world

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to the smallest details.



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Cider City, 404-419-3681, is a Macintosh And Apple II BBS run on the Second Sight host software. Cider City is the only Apple II support board for the 7 southeastern states, and is networked through Fidonet.

contains the source code to all stock modules.

Contact: Public Address v0.9b9,
Internet: colengc@efn.org.
Support BBS: 503.485.7781 (28.8K baud)

SECOND SIGHT 3.0. Second Sight 3.0 is a commercial package originally written by Scott Watson. He's the hailed author of the Mac comm shareware package Red Ryder and, besides Raymond Lau (Stuffit), is one of the few people to

a copy of Second Sight, a modem cable, modem, and a telephone line.

Second Sight is a menu-driven system. That is, it operates by offering the connected client a list of choices. There is no limit to the number of menus that you can define.

Second Sight also supports group mail, i.e., a single message can be broadcast to a group of users, vs. just one. Sysops can also use the NewUser Survey and LogOff Survey at logon and logoff time.

actually make money off of shareware (grin).

Second Sight 3.0 is a full-featured multi-line, color ANSI supporting host package requiring 750K of RAM per node. The number of nodes is limited only by machine memory and NuBus slots available (NuBus slots are required for additional serial ports). Each node would consist of

Contact: Second Sight
The FreeSoft Company
105 McKinley Road,
Beaver Falls, PA 15010.
412.846.2700.; Fax 412.847.4436.
BBS 412.846.5312.

Thanks to James Barry, coordinator of the Macintosh BBS FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), for his input in this month's column. This FAQ is posted about once a month to the following Usenet groups: comp.bbs, alt.bbs, alt.bbs.allsysop, and comp.sys.mac.comm. There are many contributors to the Macintosh BBS FAQ, including James Barry, Bill Linder, Danny Haynes, Eric Hoffman, Darryl Wattenburg, and Mark Pappas. If you would like to add to the FAQ, please send your info to James at his Internet address: jmbarry@infoport.com, or you can leave a message on his BBS, InfoPort BBS, at 303.429.0291.

Michael A. Kuykendall has written for several computer publications, is sysop for the Online Macintosh Users Group BBS and can be reached via Internet at andykirk@aol.com.

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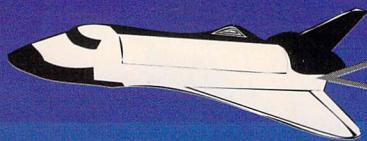
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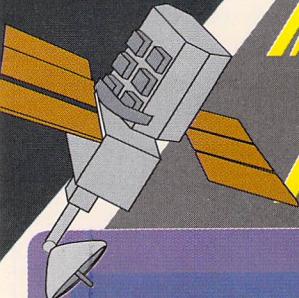
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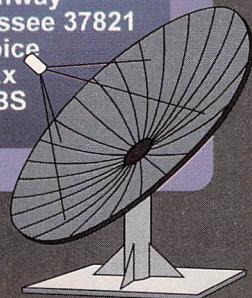
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INTERNET**

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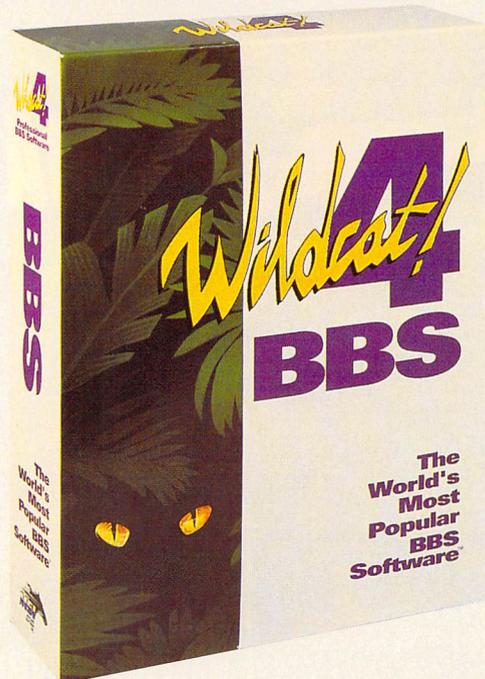


PLANET CONNECT TV is now on the air each month bringing you the latest information about the BBS business and the Information Highway. Each show can be received on a standard C or Ku band satellite tv system or viewed from video tape.

Contact Planet Connect for additional information and program dates:
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*Drew Sprang
The Polaris BBS
Mansfield, OH*

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*Hugh Mitchell, M.D.
Doctor On Board
St. Catharines, Ontario*

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*John Tracey
NJ Intelligence Agency BBS
West Orange, NJ*

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*Dan Dunn
Atlanta Information Exchange BBS
Atlanta, GA*

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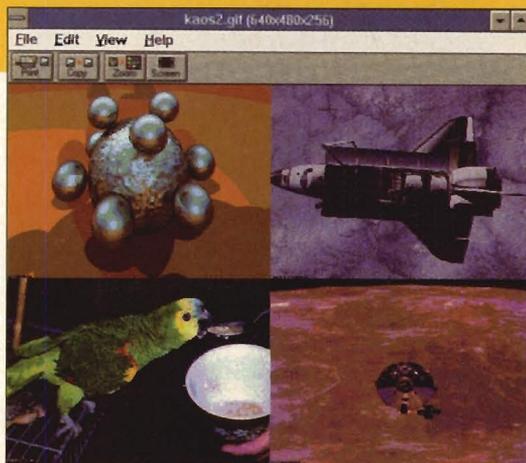
*Tony Harrison
Shadowgate BBS
Sterling, IL*

"I checked out QBBS, RBBS, PCBoard, BBSXpress, Spitfire and others—Wildcat! was the easy winner."

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The Graphics Exchange System
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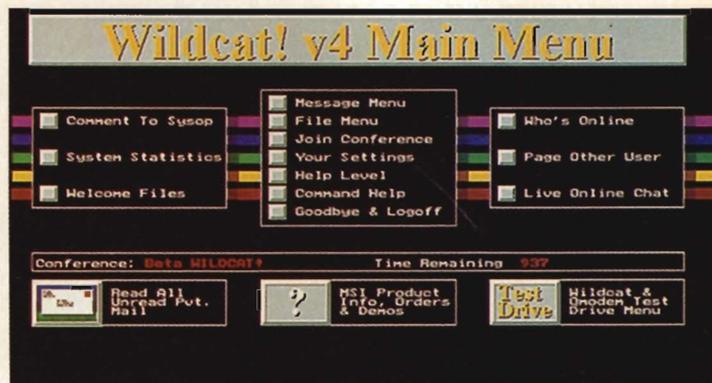
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BBS

Virtual Commerce

*Right or wrong, bottom-liners
have arrived on the Net.
And they mean business.*

Thanks to everyone who responded to September's column about the not-so-wonderful actions of the Canter and Siegel law firm. While most of you seemed to agree with my negative opinion, several readers did indicate that commerce on the Internet is good overall — as long as that business is conducted in a tactful manner. And most intriguingly, I even got two letters from lawyers who listed (at great length) the various options we had to “put them out of business.”

Doing business on the Internet has gotten plenty of attention lately. There is obviously great benefit in the ability to easily buy and sell goods and services across the Net. But as our law firm has shown, the lack of regulation allows for easy abuse of the system. Now, try to mention regulation to the average Netter and the quick answer is, “No Way!” Unfortunately, there is no easy answer. In the meantime, keep surfing.

NetCash

Want to spend money on the Internet? OK. The question is, how? A small company in Maryland might have the answer — “online money.”

Bob Houston originally formed the idea when he wanted to buy a product via electronic mail. He came up with NetCash and NetBank.

NetCash starts with you dialing 900.983.2274 via modem where you will get \$10 in NetCash. Then you can buy and sell items easily across the Net via NetCash strings. Without going into detail, essentially there are a series of email messages that go back and forth handling each transaction.

NetCash is an intriguing system. In a time when more and more transactions are electronic, no-cash

exchanges, this only makes sense. It can be somewhat awkward, though, and NetCash is by no means the “final solution” to money transfers in cyberspace. To “cash out,” for instance, you need to have a merchant account number (readily available and free) and the exchange rate is somewhat high.

Still, it's an idea whose time has come. It just needs to grow A LOT before it will really succeed.

Pine upgrade

A while back I wrote about my favorite email program, Pine, perhaps originally an acronym for “Pine Is Not Elm” and now better interpreted to mean “Program for Internet News and Electronic mail.”

Well, the folks at the University of Washington have done it again. There are so many additions to the new version of Pine (3.90) that many are wondering why it isn't just being called version 4.0. According to the release notes, version 4.0 will offer even more functionality and will also include the yet-to-be released version 4.0 of the IMAP API (the interface through which Pine handles mail).

For those of you who equate free programs with a large number of bugs or limited ability, let me assuage your

fears: Pine is probably the most stable and reliable program I have ever seen.

Pine 3.90 comes packed with stuff. Unlike most free programs, the documentation is pretty much complete: release notes, installation help, technical information, and built-in help. Of course the source code is there for you to compile and if you've got one of several popular platforms the binaries are already there.

The Pine distribution also comes with Pico (Pine's Composer) and IMAP (see definition below). If your site does not have Pine, encourage your system administrator to install it.

For those who don't like a UNIX workstation, there's also PC-Pine, which runs over a packet driver, Novell's LAN Workplace, Sun's PC-NFS, and even a semi-GUI Windows Socket version. And all the versions are exactly alike (except where such differences would not make much sense).

Some of the features include: built-in message printing, Usenet news reading/posting, multiple incoming mailboxes, message bouncing, customizable headers, and message piping. For your UNIX system, Pine 3.90 really is a must.

Tech terms

IMAP: Interactive Mail Access Protocol. IMAP is a protocol which Pine and other mail programs use to handle electronic mail. For those of you who use Eudora, or other similar editors, you've probably heard of POP — Post Office Protocol. POP is a simple ask-and-fetch mail protocol. You connect to the server, see if you have mail waiting, and if so, retrieve it. All mail is kept on your local machine.

IMAP is quickly succeeding POP. It allows you to save mail either locally or remotely. With IMAP, you're always connected to the server, so you instantly know if new messages have arrived. Using a mailer like Pine, I can read mail on my workstation, office PC or home computer and since I've set it up to stay on the server, all of my messages are available.

Internet stats available

The InterNIC (Network Information Center) has recently made available two sources of network information. These two services, Infoguide and the Scout

Report, will enable the average Internet user to receive current information about various Internet usage. Infoguide is accessible through World-Wide-Web and gopher and will replace the previous InterNIC information database.

Netters will be able to retrieve NSF Network News, quickly access other Internet informational organizations and even retrieve the Scout Report.

The Infoguide can be reached via WWW at <http://www.internic.net/> or gopher to is.internic.net.

The Scout Report, a weekly release of network activities, is updated each Friday. Each issue features new Internet highlights, as well as topics such as bandwidth utilization and other statistics. It can be retrieved at either of the sites mentioned above, as well as via email at majordomo@is.internic.net. The body of the message should include the sentence: "subscribe scout-report id@your.site.name."

TCP/IP in operating systems

I told you recently about how Microsoft will be including TCP/IP with the next release of Windows. Apparently

Chicago will be released in the first quarter of '95 as a stripped-down version, missing items such as built-in TCP/IP, with the full version being released a few months later. In the same vein, it looks like Apple will be including TCP/IP in its next operating system, version 7.5, for the Macintosh.

Offline

Really want to learn about networking? READ, READ, READ. A particularly good book is *Internetworking with TCP/IP, Volume I*, written by Douglas E. Comer.

Internetworking is a great place to start learning the technical aspects behind the Internet. Volume I, subtitled "Principles, Protocols, and Architecture," will give the reader a good introduction to how the Internet actually works. If you like the style of this book, there are two additional volumes covering other topics. Published by Pneumatically Inc., and is usually available in bookstores for about \$50. ■■■■■

Mike Robinson can be reached at mrobinson@wharton.upenn.edu

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AT&T Cuts Prices on DataPort Modems

AT&T's DataPort modems have proven to be very popular with sysops since their introduction two years ago. To stay on top, AT&T has taken an aggressive approach in the war for BBS territory by staying competitive on sysop pricing. Secondly, their revolutionary Optical Line Interface (OLI) has successfully reduced line noise and enhanced transmission quality. Add in a limited lifetime warranty and toll-free technical support and service, you've got an almost irresistible package.

Since we last examined the AT&T sysop discount offer, the price has been cut an additional \$10 to \$15 for each model. The current pricing structure (as of presstime) is as follows:

MODEL	MODEL NUMBER	LIST PRICE	SYSOP PRICE
v.32bis & Fax, External	3710-A2-201	\$289	\$165
v.32bis & Fax, Internal	3721-B2-001	\$259	\$150
v.32bis & Fax, Mac	3710-A2-202	\$299	\$175

All models also include QuickLink II fax and terminal software. PC models include versions for both DOS and Windows operating environments.

AT&T has yet to offer a modem in the V.FastClass (V.FC) or v.32terbo proprietary transmission schemes. At this point, it must be assumed that their next set of products will jump straight to the ITU-T V.34 standard. Since the ratification of V.34 finally came to pass in June, it won't be long before there are plenty of choices.

The Amazing OLI

Here's a brief semi-technical look at this revolutionary design called Optical Line Interface. Even more detailed information is included as part of the standard sysop applications form (ATTSYSOP.TXT) on their support BBS. The OLI has two major design and performance advantages over the transformer-based line interface circuits used in other V.32bis modems.

First, the OLI has a more resistive impedance which allows it to attain a much more consistent "match" to the impedance of the telephone network, reducing both the amount of near-end echo for the AT&T DataPort modem and the far-end echo for any remote modem. As a result, other modems are able to

perform more reliably when they connect to the DataPort modems than when they connect to modems with traditional transformer-based designs.

Second, when the Optical Line Interface is used to transmit and receive signals, the addition of harmonic distortion products to the signals is greatly reduced. Since harmonic distortion can adversely affect the transmitted signal and the near-end echo signal, the performance of the DataPort modem and the remote modem are both improved as a result.

When a V.32bis modem's near-end echo signal includes these harmonic distortion products, its near echo canceler is unable to compensate for them and they pass through to the receiver as noise. Even worse, these distortion products may be boosted by the modem's equalizer circuit as it tries to compensate for the signal attenuation which occurs in the network. When the presence of these unwanted signals begins to affect the modem's ability to accurately interpret the receive data stream, errors will result.

Since the Optical Line Interface reduces both the near-end echo level and the injection of harmonic distortion products, the DataPort modem is able to send data more reliably under a wider variety of network conditions. When you also consider the reduction in far-end echo and harmonic distortion for the remote modem, the benefits of the OLI are hard to ignore.

For more information contact:

AT&T Paradyne
c/o Tony Bradshaw
Sysop Pricing Program
8545 126th Avenue North
P.O. Box 2826
Largo, FL 34649-2826
MS LG-219
Fax: (813) 530-2398

Price and performance

I've boiled down all the price and performance data from the manufacturers into a simple chart (see Table Ia). The minimum performance level is v.32bis (14,400 bps), since this is the worldwide high-speed standard. All modems also must have v.42bis for error correc-

TABLE Ia — 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 Paradyne	3721-B1-001* \$150	3710-A1-201* \$165 PC \$175 Mac	N/A	N/A
CPI/ ViVa	ViVa 14.4 \$180	ViVa 14.4 \$196	N/A	N/A
Digicom Systems	Scout Plus \$266	Scout Plus \$276	N/A	N/A
	9624PC+ \$340	9624LE+ \$350		
Hayes Corp	Optima 144B* \$179	Ultra 144 \$249 Optima 144+FAX* \$179 PC Optima 144+FAX* \$179 Macintosh	N/A	Optima 288+FAX v.FC 28.8k \$288
Intel	SatisFAX/400 \$249 Faxmodern 144i \$99	14.4 EX \$269 SatisFAX/400e* \$245 Faxmodern 144e \$109	N/A	N/A
Microcom	N/A	N/A	N/A	DeskPorte FAST v.FC 28.8k \$249 TravelPorte FAST v.FC 28.8k \$249
MultiTech	MT1432BC \$400 MT1432ES \$400 MCA	MT1432BA* \$400 MT1432MU* \$300 MT1432BL* \$450 MT1432PCS \$575	N/A	N/A
Practical Peripherals	N/A	PM14400FXSA* \$190 PM14400FXMT* \$125	N/A	PC288SA V.FC 28k \$240
Supra Corp	SupraFAXModem* \$129	SupraFAXModem* \$149	N/A	Supra V.FC 28k \$199
Telebit Corp.	N/A	T3000 v.32bis \$399 QBlazer v.32bis \$299	N/A	WorldBlazer TurboPep \$429
USRobotics	N/A	HST Dual Stand. Courier v.FC* \$249	N/A	HST Dual Stand. Courier v.FC* \$249 ComServer 486 v.FC/HST for Ethernet \$995
Ven-Tel	PCM144FAX* \$195 PCMV.32bis* \$480 MCM144FAX* \$380 MCA	EC144FAX* \$215 ECV.32bis* \$525 RMV.32bis II* \$425	N/A	N/A
Zoom Telephonics	VFP V.32Bis* \$99	VFX V.32Bis* \$119 PC \$130 Mac	VFP V.FC 24k \$99 VFP V.FC 28.8k \$139	VFX V.FC 24k \$119 PC \$130 Mac VFX V.FC 28.8k \$159 PC \$170 Mac
ZyXEL	U-1496B* 16.8K \$299 U-1496B+* 19.2K \$389	U-1496E* 16.8K \$299 U-1496E* Rack \$249		U-1496E* v.32terbo 16.8K \$299

* 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. 2. Consult manufacturer for details on availability of Caller ID voice-mail, or callback security (any modem above). 3. These prices NEVER include shipping and handling, which is always extra. 4. V.34 is the new name for what used to be called V.FAST

CONTINUES ...

tion and data compression to make this list. The right-most column of Table Ia shows all modems faster than 14,400 bps that support at least v.32bis standards.

In practice, I recommend only V.FC (28,800 bps) modems for sysops. The V.FC offers 50 percent more throughput

than v.32bis for only about 25 percent extra cost. It is possible that some manufacturers will discontinue V.FC modems from production as soon as v.FAST/v.34 (22,000 to 28,800 bps) modems go into production. However, this is no reason to purchase an old v.32bis type modem. Beware of upgrade

plans to V.FAST/v.34 modems: these can run you from \$100 to \$300 for such an upgrade.

More than a modem

Some vendors offer more than just modems to the sysops who join their program. For example, Hayes Corp. offers 50 percent to 70 percent discounts on the high-speed serial ports and ISDN adapters. Other vendors offer big discounts on modem rackmounts. A rackmount reduces the tangle of multiplying power supplies and becomes economical for sysops planning on eight or more of the same brand modem. See Table Ib for a complete listing of modem accessories available.

Buyers restrictions

If you're the sysop of a BBS that has been operating 24-hours per day for the last six months, then you're automatically eligible for any of these discounts. Table II shows the minimum operating requirements as given by each manufacturer. Some manufacturers only require that you are currently running a BBS at time of ordering. A few, such as Hayes, 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 twelve 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.

Most manufacturers allow you to purchase up to one modem per incoming BBS phone line. The only exception is Zoom, which allows up to two modems per existing phone line. However, if you plan to purchase more than four modems at the discount price, then you should talk to someone before placing your order. Multiple modem orders may require you to submit copies of phone bills as proof. At that point, there may be traditional quantity discounts available.

Nearly all of the modem vendors are accepting VISA and MasterCard for

TABLE Ib — SYSOPS MODEM ACCESSORY DISCOUNTS BY VENDOR

VENDOR	PART #	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	SYSOP PRICE
Hayes Corp.	08-00593	ISDN PC Adapter	\$450
	08-00509	ISDN System Adapter	\$450
	08-00456	ESP 2.0 Enhanced Serial 1-Port	\$ 69
	08-00456	ESP 2.0 Enhanced Serial 2-Port	\$ 89
MultiTech	CC216A	Rackmount for 16 modems. no PS	\$175
	PS216A	Power Supply for RackMount	\$ 85
USRobotics	N/A	High-speed Dual-Async Serial Card	\$ 50
Ven-Tel	DS1200-3PR	Rackmount for 16 modems. w/PS	\$425
ZyXEL	N/A	High Speed I/O (1P/2S/1G) 1 16550	\$ 30
	N/A	High Speed I/O (1P/2S/1G) 2 16550	\$ 45
	RS-1602E	Rackmount for 16 modems. w/PS	\$499

TABLE II — SYSOP BUYERS RESTRICTIONS - IMPORTANT!

VENDOR CONTRACT	BBS MUST HAVE BEEN UP AND WORKING FOR...	AFTER BUYING IT, YOU MUST USE IT FOR...	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MODEMS YOU MAY BUY...	CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FOR PURCHASE
AT&T Paradyne	6 months	6 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard American Ex.
CPI/ViVa	2 months	12 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard
Digicom Systems	currently	6 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	none
Hayes Corp.	6 months (may be waived)	unspecified time	1 per phone. Max. 4, may be negotiated	VISA MasterCard
Intel	currently	12 months	1 per phone. Max. 4.	VISA MasterCard American Ex. *
Microcom	In the next 3 months	6 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard
MultiTech	currently or plan to	unspecified time	1 per phone. No Maximum	none, must have Cashier's Check
Practical Peripherals	currently	unspecified time	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard
Supra Corp.	currently	unspecified time	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard
Telebit Corp.	currently	6 months	Up to 6 on first order	VISA MasterCard only
USRobotics	6 months**	6 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard
Ven-Tel	6 months	6 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard
Zoom Telephonics	6 months	9 months	Double the # of current phone lines on the bbs	Visa MasterCard Amex
ZyXEL	3 months	6 months	1 per phone. No Maximum	VISA MasterCard

* Indicates no personal checks accepted.

** US Robotics waives prior operating requirement when proof of registered BBS software is supplied.

TABLE III — 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	
Digicom	(508) 262-1412	SCOUT.TXT	(508) 262-1277	wolfgang@netcom.com
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.	(805) 496-4445	SYSBBS.TXT	(805) 497-4774	GO PPIFORUM (CompuServe)
Supra Corp.	(503) 967-2444	SYSOP.TXT	(503) 967-2400	supra@supra.com
Telebit Corp	(408) 745-3861	SYSOPUSA.TXT SYSOPINT.TXT	(800) TEL-EBIT	support@telebit.com
USRobotics	(708) 982-5092	SYSDEAL.TXT	(708) 982-5010	support@usr.com
Ven-Tel	(408) 922-0988	SYSDEAL.TXT	(408) 436-7400	
Zoom Teleph.	(617) 423-3733	ZOOMBBS.ZIP	(800) 666-6191 (617) 423-1072	Jett@ace.com
ZyXEL	(714) 693-0762	ZYXEL.TXT	(800) 255-4101 (714) 693-0804	sales@zyxel.com

orders. However, Digicom and MultiTech still do not accept credit cards for orders. In those cases, you must submit a cashier's check or money-order. Personal checks often require additional clearing time which just holds up your order.

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 YYZ modem from Acme Modem Co." would be perfectly acceptable in all cases.

Most vendors will expect you to create a special account on your BBS for them to verify at least one of your phone numbers. They don't like to have to sign on without a pre-existing account.

Order processing and availability

Delivery times and schedules vary radically, so your mileage may vary. My own experience with Hayes Corporation is that they will generally ship sysop orders within 48 hours. I have also ordered from Practical Peripherals and they have a mandatory three week waiting period before they ship. On the far extreme, US Robotics guarantees a two to six week waiting period. Remember, the manufacturers are doing you a favor by offering discounts below retail.

For Canadian, European, and other sysops outside the U.S., you may or may not be eligible for a discount offer. Please check carefully ahead of time to avoid disappointment. You may

want to check with their European subsidiaries before contacting the U.S. office.

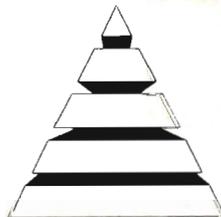
Update information

If you have information about manufacturer discounts, please contact me through one of the following ways:

HAL 9000 BBS:
313.663.4173 or 663.3959
Fax: 313.663.6861
Internet: sysop@hal9k.com

U.S. Mail:
Victor R. Volkman, Sysops Disc.
P.O. Box 130206
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0206

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indeed... power, prestige and millions!"

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MOSAIC Mania

A glance at the Mosaic book market turns up four new volumes/software

bundles to help beginners learn the elegant interface of Mosaic and cruise the edges of the Net and World Wide Web.

From O'Reilly & Associates comes the *Mosaic Handbook for Microsoft Windows* (\$29.95) by Dale Dougherty and Richard Koman, bundled with Spyglass Mosaic for Windows v1.0 on floppy; *The Mosaic Handbook for the X Window System* (\$29.95) by Dale Dougherty, Richard Koman and Paula Ferguson, bundled with NCSA Mosaic from Spyglass for X v2.4 CD-ROM; and, *The Mosaic Handbook for Macintosh* (\$29.95) by Dale Dougherty and Richard Koman, bundled with Enhanced NCSA Mosaic from Spyglass for the Macintosh v1.0 on floppy.

From Ventana Press comes *Mosaic Quick Tour for Windows and Mac* (\$12) by Gareth Branwyn. The illustrated book comes with no software (although Mosaic is available free on the Net, many BBSs and online services).

For information on the O'Reilly publications call 800.998.9938. For Ventana call 800.743.5369. All books are currently available in bookstores.



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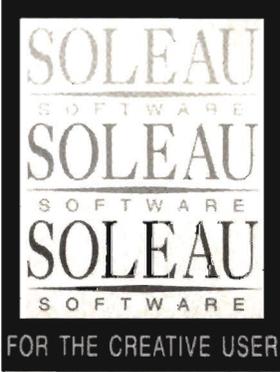
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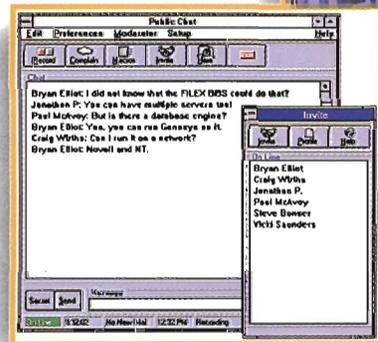
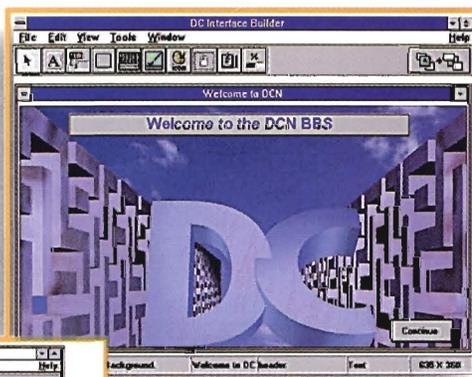
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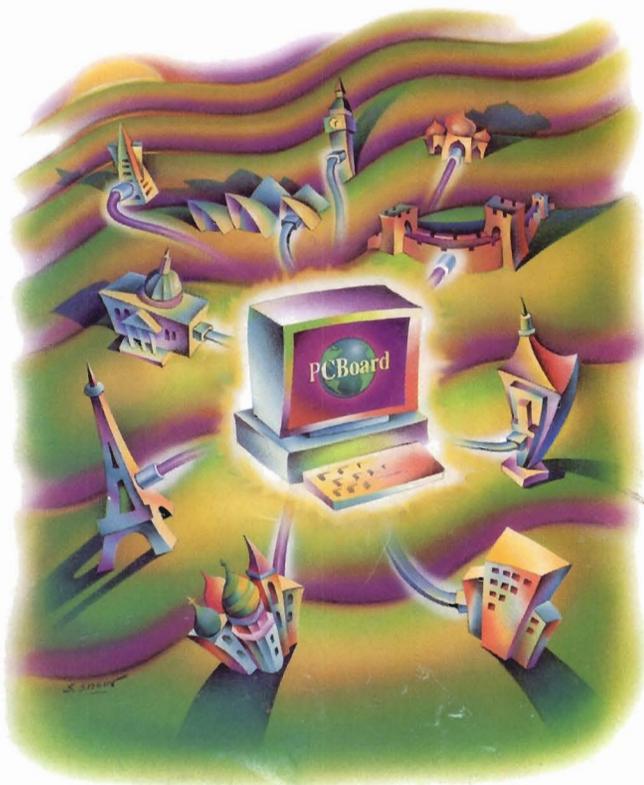
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