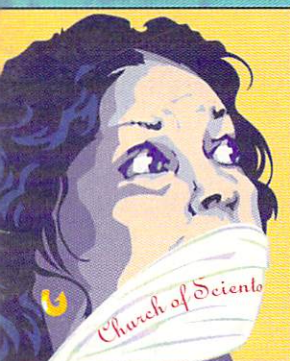


# BBS

THE  
BULLETIN  
BOARD  
SYSTEMS  
MAGAZINE

April 1995  
US \$3.95  
Canada \$4.95  
70992-35460



**Netlaw:**  
Gagging the Net

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BB's BBS,  
The Hour Glass BBS,  
The Town Square BBS

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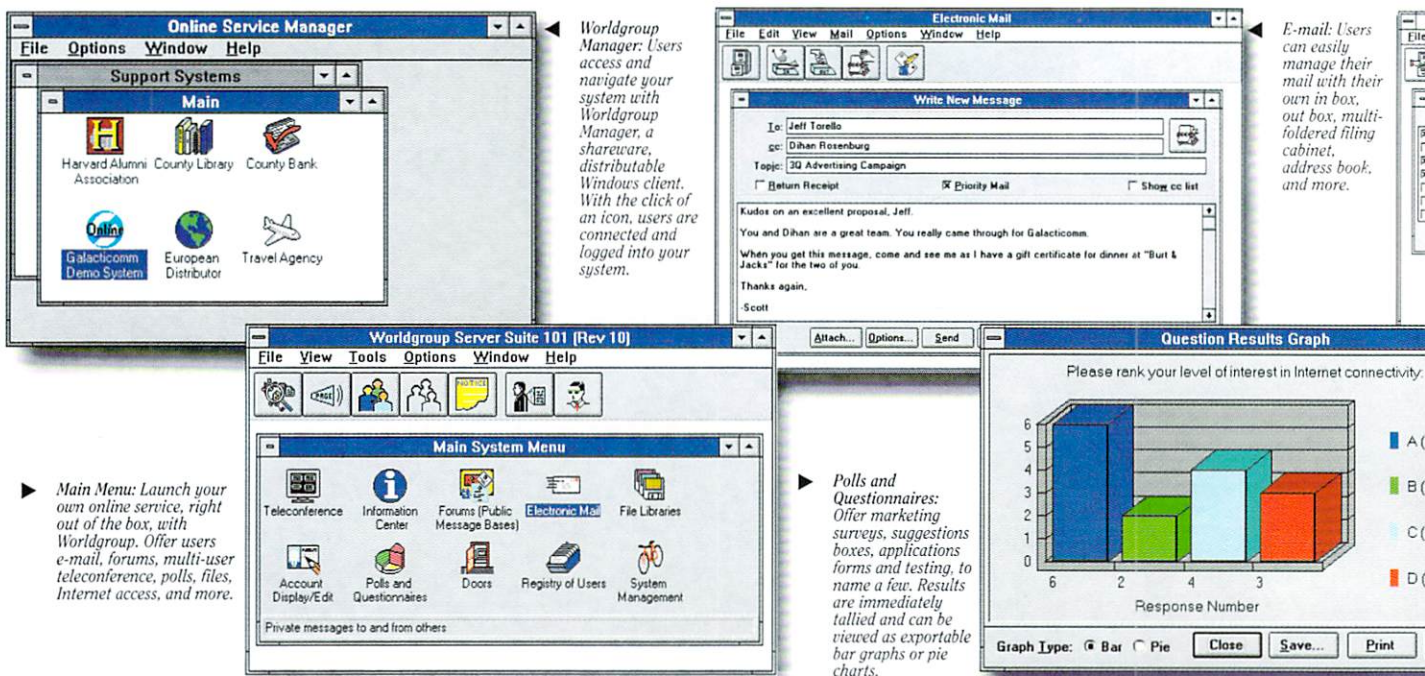
# thrive

## Successful Boards

& how they got that way



0 70992 35460 3



*Worldgroup Manager: Users access and navigate your system with Worldgroup Manager, a shareware, distributable Windows client. With the click of an icon, users are connected and logged into your system.*

*E-mail: Users can easily manage their mail with their own in box, out box, multi-folded filing cabinet, address book, and more.*

► *Main Menu: Launch your own online service, right out of the box, with Worldgroup. Offer users e-mail, forums, multi-user teleconference, polls, files, Internet access, and more.*

► *Polls and Questionnaires: Offer marketing surveys, suggestions boxes, applications forms and testing, to name a few. Results are immediately tallied and can be viewed as exportable bar graphs or pie charts.*

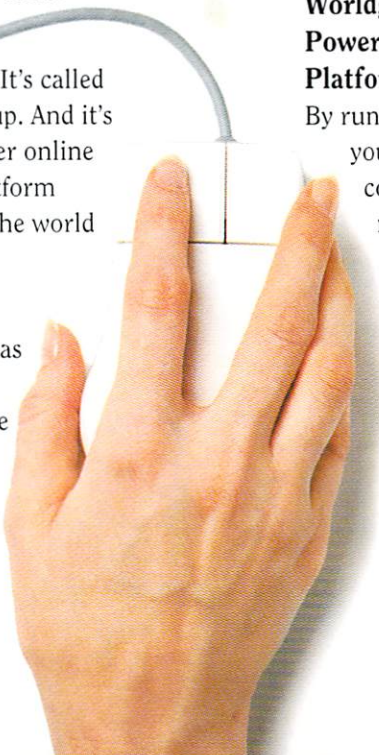
# Open Your Windows To The

## Worldgroup.™ Bring The World A Click Away.

The newest, smartest generation of online software isn't coming from Microsoft. Or CompuServe. Or America Online. It's coming from you—and Galaticomm, the creator of The Major BBS.®

It's called Worldgroup. And it's a client/server online software platform that brings the world to you.

Think of Worldgroup as the bridge that links the people and resources within your



company to the world beyond. With the click of an icon, you can network your entire business world—customers, stockholders, prospects, field staff, distributors, vendors, the press, and more—**together online!**

## Worldgroup. The World's Most Powerful Client/Server Online Platform.

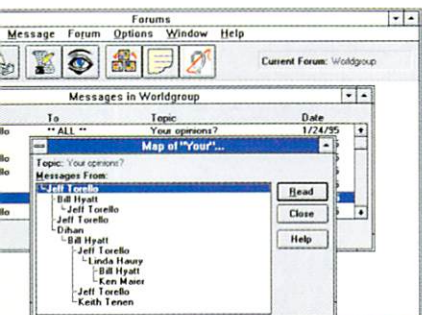
By running your own online service, you have 100% control over the content, presentation, and revenue of your system. And Worldgroup's client/server approach makes it easy for anyone to use.

The shareware client runs under Windows on your users' machines. Its multi-threaded architecture lets them do all sorts of cool

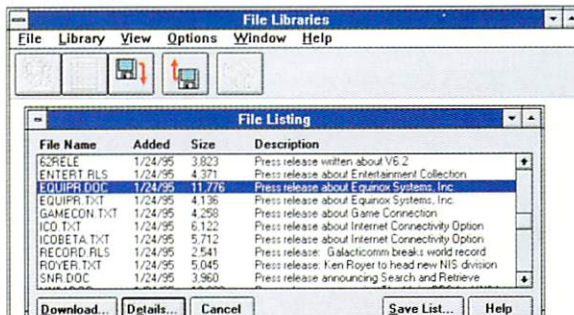
things simultaneously. Like download files in the background, while reading new mail. Or auto update new versions of applications transparently. Local caching, "look ahead," and client-driven intelligence maximize performance at 2,400 or 28,800 bps.

You can customize all the icons and menu pages out of the box. Or, use our Visual Basic API to create your own client applications and add multimedia JPEG images, WAV sounds, and AVI movies. Better yet, just plug and play dozens of add-on applications from our network of Independent Software Vendors.

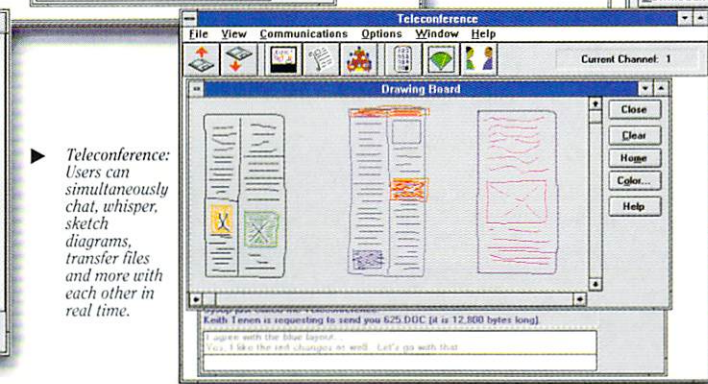
The server runs on a single 486 or Pentium DOS machine and can handle up to 256 users online at once. Locks and Keys™ security



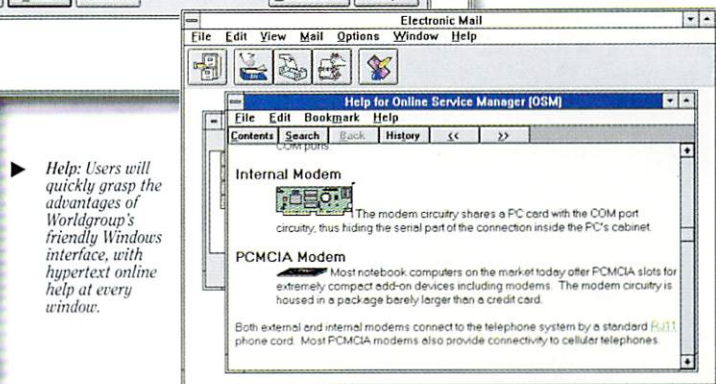
*Forums: Create up to 10,000 group message areas or Internet newsgroups for users to exchange ideas on a variety of topics. A map even helps users track conversation threads visually.*



*File Libraries: Users simply tag the files they're interested in and select the download icon. Files can be downloaded in the background while users enjoy your other services.*



*Teleconference: Users can simultaneously chat, whisper, sketch diagrams, transfer files and more with each other in real time.*



*Help: Users will quickly grasp the advantages of Worldgroup's friendly Windows interface, with hypertext online help at every window.*

# World Of Online Computing.

provides airtight access control. Full system accounting and reporting is built in. And in addition to client/server users, you can still support ASCII/ANSI/RIP terminals.

## Worldgroup. Beyond the World-Wide Web.

Worldgroup's client/server interface works just as well over the Internet as it does with dial-up modems. We're talking full-fledged interactive applications, not just documents. In addition, ftp server and basic WWW server capabilities are also supported.

But it doesn't stop there. You can make your service accessible via

modem, serial ports, TCP/IP, Novell LAN, ISDN, and X.25 networks such as CompuServe and SprintNet.

## Worldgroup. The Best Of Both Worlds.

Worldgroup gives you the best of workgroup software and commercial online services. E-mail, group discussion areas, file libraries, teleconferencing, surveys, and more are all built in. You can gateway to existing message systems via MHS or UUCP. And that's just the beginning.

## Worldgroup. A World Of Resources... A Phone Call Away.

As a Galacticomm customer, you'll also receive excellent documentation

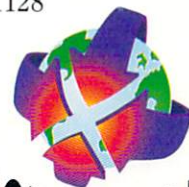
and world-class support. In every way, we will work with you to make your online venture a success.

So open your Windows to the powerful, smart new Worldgroup of online computing today. Call your Galacticomm dealer or call us at 800-328-1128 (or 305-583-5990 outside the U.S. and Canada).

You can also send e-mail on the Internet to [sales@gcomm.com](mailto:sales@gcomm.com) and access our home page by pointing your favorite Web browser to <http://www.gcomm.com>.

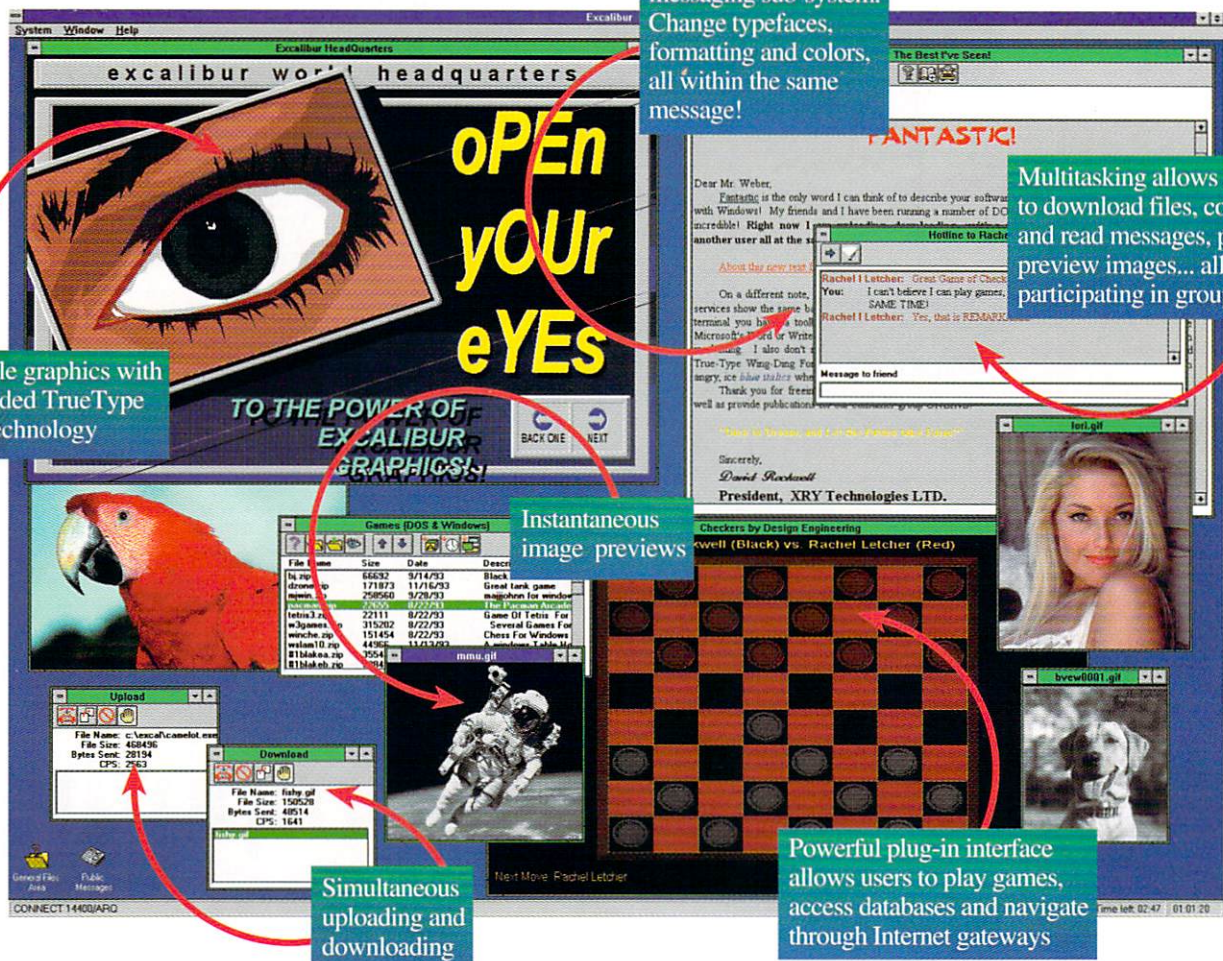


*Worldgroup provides a communication model that brings the inside world and the outside world together in a secure, productive environment.*



**WORLDGROUP**  
Online Interactive Software

**GALACTICOMM**  
Bringing your vision online



Scalable graphics with embedded TrueType Font technology

Online WYSIWYG messaging sub-system. Change typefaces, formatting and colors, all within the same message!

Multitasking allows users to download files, compose and read messages, plus preview images... all while participating in group chat.

Instantaneous image previews

Simultaneous uploading and downloading

Powerful plug-in interface allows users to play games, access databases and navigate through Internet gateways

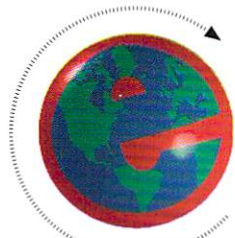
# Excalibur BBS

Excalibur is the bulletin board system taking the world by

storm. It was the first system of its kind to run entirely under Windows™ and continues to set the standard of measure. Because Excalibur is built around an accelerated bi-directional protocol, users can upload and download files, chat with other users, and compose messages ... *all at the same time!* Utilizing our proprietary graphical interface, users are able to design their own menus and screens incorporating object oriented graphics, bitmapped graphics, and TrueType fonts. This means no two Excalibur based systems are the same! Advanced error correction and data compression offer reliability and

convenience to all users, even those without error-correcting modems.

As for expandability, Excalibur offers true Plug 'N Play abilities. Imagine doors that are both hassle free and easy to use. By using Excalibur's *Application Programming Interface (API)*, third party developers have created everything from Internet gateways and databases to shopping malls and interactive games. The possibilities are endless. Modem into Excalibur HQ/USA at **918.496.8113** or call 800.EXCAL.BBS (800.392.2522). In Canada, modem into Excalibur HQ/Canada at 905.508.8872. Find out what users worldwide are heralding as *"the next generation in BBS software"*.



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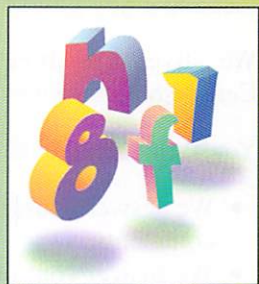
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Rusty

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

Voice .....216-726-4217  
HST only .....216-726-1804  
Compucom .....216-726-3584  
Hayes V-Series .....216-726-3619  
All (V32 etc.) .....216-726-2620  
Fax .....216-726-3595



# readme.txt

## Ciao Europa!

Four and a half years ago, *BBS Magazine* began publishing for readers in the U.S. and Canada. A couple of years later we successfully launched in Australia. Next was South America, where response was equally tremendous: "For so long we've waited for something like this," one Brazilian gentleman called to tell me.

Now, as a sort of final step, we enter Europe. Yep, with this issue *BBS Magazine* is available streetside in all major European cities, and some smaller ones in between. Whether you're in Frankfurt, Paris, London or Rome, we bid you welcome — sorry we took so long.

Seems all day long we field requests from people who want to know — Right Now — all there is to know about starting a BBS. Some crave what we can't always give: technical support and a hand to hold.

Others, the Doubting Thomases, aren't quite sure this cyberworld actually exists, and doubt whether system operators are making the tidy profits they read about. So rather than jabber at length to these well-meaning and rightly inquisitive greenhorns, we decided to lay out a handful of BBSs that have been serving the online populous for years — including one going strong for 13 years.

We asked the sysops to briefly tell their stories, illustrate what systems they're using and offer a tip or two to all the would-be sysops out there.

Though we've always looked at the merging BBS/commercial service/Internet world primarily from a caller's perspective, it's no secret there's a surge of end-users trading hats with the sysop. And for good reason: software's cheaper, quicker, and more versatile than ever; powerful Macs and PCs can be bought like blenders — off the shelf with no assembly required.

The kicker? The pool of callers is gigantic, and growing at such a terrific rate that nobody's been able to maintain an accurate accounting.

Put those together, throw in our innate desire for information, insatiable hunger for games, images and shareware, a curiosity for people whom we might otherwise never meet, not to mention the capacity to leapfrog business competitors, and you're more pressed to find a reason not to get into BBSing than the other way around.

But even with all that on their side, virgin sysops will still find plenty of minor pitfalls along the way. (If not, the pitfalls can always find them.)

Nevertheless, examples set by the five seasoned boards featured in this issue should at least press the point that this kind of business can be developed successfully ... and is.

The proof begins on page 10.

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



## Comparing Procomm Plus to WinComm PRO? Just make sure you're comfortable with your decision.

Introducing Delrina WinComm PRO™ 1.1. It's the first truly powerful communications software that makes going on-line a pleasure. Instead of a pain.

As you'd expect, you get all major protocols, all popular terminal emulations, built-in script recording, a GIF Viewer to display graphics images, and a lot more. What you might not expect is to get them in a clean, crisp interface that's not only organized, it's fast, friendly and intuitive. And remarkably easy to use.

But you also get features you won't find in Procomm Plus®. Like a customizable icon-based phonebook. An integrated Backscroll Buffer with split screen capabilities. COM port sharing with WinFax PRO™. And to help you sleep better, automatic virus detection as you download files.

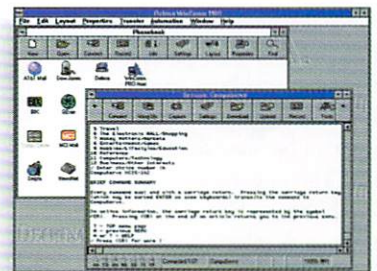


There's even Delrina Internet Messenger™, the easiest way ever to send, receive and manage e-mail on the Internet.

Best of all, you can get WinComm PRO in the Delrina Communications

Suite™, which also includes Delrina WinFax PRO 4.0, the best-selling, full-featured fax application in the world. Two best-of-breed products for one low price.

Call for information. Better yet, see your dealer and take home Delrina WinComm PRO today. You'll rest better tonight.



With WinComm PRO, all the most popular on-line services are just a click away.



December 1994



May 30, 1994

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**DELRINA**  
1-800-776-9043

## PCBoard 15.21: Easier to Install, Safer to Use

MURRAY, UT — The relentless team of programmers at Clark Development Company (CDC) is at it again. Just half a year after the major release of PCBoard 15.2, CDC has gone and added a heap of new features.

The new version (15.21) seems to have two goals: convenience and security.

On the convenience side, CDC has included several pre-defined systems configurations from which sysops can choose during installation (the experienced need not apply).

“Just select one of our pre-defined configurations during installation and you’re ready to run, complete with conferences, file areas and bulletin menus already defined,” said Steve Klingler, vice president of CDC. “Now you can literally install a new PCBoard BBS from start to finish in less than five minutes.”

The pre-defined installations include configurations for tech support, sales, corporate and hobby boards.

Other additions to v15.21 are Shared Secret Logons, built-in Fido mailer/tosser, upgraded PCBMail for Windows and a better Internet/UUCP. A closer look at these follows:

- Shared Secret Logon combats the problem (or potential problem) of crackers equipped with TCP/IP packet “sniffers,” which can be used to steal passwords. The new version supports the MD5 Shared Secret algorithm, which allows a caller to log into a system with a code that cannot be decrypted, but can only be used to confirm a “shared secret” — the password.

- The integrated Fido mailer/tosser offers easy Fido login, multi-network support, EMSI, FTS-0006 and FTS-001 protocols, manual or auto execution, event-driven and forced polling, and inbound and outbound routing.

The tosser supports Fido and non-Fido specific echoes, Netmail, MSG, command-line execution, and provides secure conference access.

- PCBMail, the MS Windows email software fully integrated with PCBoard,

# NEWS

has been improved with secure access and smoother word processing. And hot keys have been attached to several common commands.

- Improvements to PCBoard’s Internet/UUCP gateway include the ability for sysops to import multi-part messages received on different mail runs. PageSat mail bags were also added.

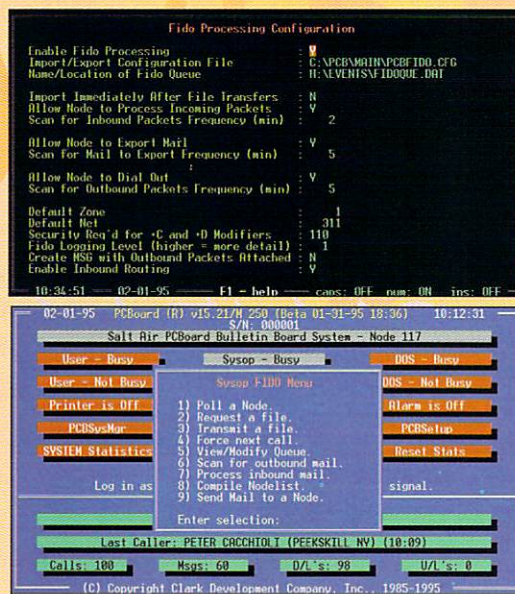
PCBoard remains \$150 for a two-node system. Call 800.356.1686 for more information (voice) or 801.261.8976 to download a free demo system.

## Unzipping the Net

Bristol, CT — Keeping up with the habits of BBSers is one way to assure a healthy software release. That’s the lesson in WinZip v5.6. Nico Mak Computing, Inc., publisher of the new WinZip — a Windows GUI for compressing/decompressing files — has included support for popular Internet file compression formats TAR, gzip and Unix compress.

“Unlike CompuServe and most other online services, not all parts of the Internet have standardized on ZIP files,” said developer Nico Mak. “This new version of WinZip lets you work with popular Internet file formats using the same easy to use drag-and-drop interface.”

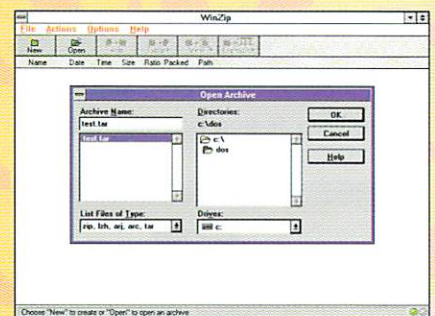
Some of the highlights here are built-in Zip and unZip, TAR, gzip, and Unix compress; full drag and drop support; optional support for ARJ, ARC and LZH; and, optional virus scanning.



- A new PPL will also be released, bearing the version 3.01.

As for PCBoard itself, look for features like the NORIP switch, which disables automatic RIP graphics detection, a PAD switch to force PCBoard into PAD when working with packet-switched networks, new macros, improved FOSSIL efficiency and a new Bulletin Search capability.

Despite the added features,





# WIRE

Demos of the software are currently available as wzbeta56.exe in the winzip directory at ftp.winzip.com and on many BBSs. To get the complete version (\$29), call 800.242.4775.

## Is it War? Ask Newt

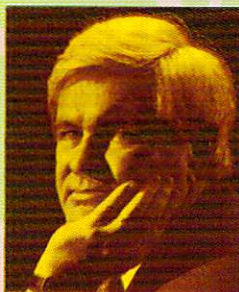
WILTON, CT — A bidding war for online services?

That's what one industry-watcher asserts will happen if the Newt Gingrich congress has its way with current restrictions on the RBOCs (regional Bell operating companies).

Alan Brighish, president of SIMBA Information Inc., wrote in the company's Electronic Information Report newsletter that the two publicly traded online services — America Online and CompuServe — are likely to command double their current value if government-imposed restrictions are loosened.

"The RBOCs are still the only telcos that don't have a major interest in online services," Brighish said. "But if legislation is passed this year that will allow the RBOCs into long distance (and free them to own a national online service), they will have to play catch up."

Brighish said he expects bids to top \$2 or \$3 billion for each, possibly as soon as 1996. (AOL is currently valued



at \$900 million; CompuServe is figured to be worth \$1.3 billion at current stock prices.)

The Report is a weekly newsletter monitoring trends and developments in information services.

## Dialing for Dates

WOODLAND HILLS, CA — We're quickly becoming an online world; however, virtual mates probably aren't in our collective near-future. The kind that breathe will continue to do just fine.

The method of finding those living mates, on the other hand, has changed dramatically. Scrap those stinking singles bars (do they still exist?). Forget about shelling out big money for video dating (as if you would?). Instead, set a course for adventure: it's time for a new romance — on the loooove boards.

Well, it's not so lascivious as it might sound, this making of dates online. And it's not necessarily about love. In fact "upscale" BBSs are popping up all over to cater to the SWPs (single working professionals), those poor souls logging too many hours at



the office to even think about a life outside the cubicle.

One slick example is The Singles Network, which uses the Windows-based system Excalibur to let callers point and click their way around profiles, photos, open chat, private chat and email.

"With the growing interest in online facilities, why not be able to log on where every individual is looking for exactly the same thing as you are, to meet other single people in a safe, no obligation situation?" asks Darren Polish, president of The Singles Network.

Is that a trick question?

And with modems becoming commonplace in the office, we have to wonder if virtual rendezvous' will not wait for after hours.

The Singles Network can be reached at 818.883.5065.



## Business, Trade and Travel — South of the Border

With trade between the U.S. and Mexico apparently on the rise, Americans are more than ever looking for accurate business information and data regarding commerce with the southern border nation — especially in light of its recent economic troubles.

That's where Mexico OnLine comes in. The San Diego-based information service (not to be confused with Mexico Online, described later) offers members access to biz data on Mexico collected from the National Trade Data Bank and other related government agencies, as well as articles compiled from numerous publications.

Featured on the system are trade

CONTINUES ...



study reports which cover hundreds of different business sectors. There's also info and conferences on travel and culture.

Internet access is planned for spring (read: telnet). Until then the pay service can be sampled (free) at 619.698.5753.

As for Mexico Online, the non-profit service based in Florida (yes, there's some dispute over the name), tourist information is the focus. Mexico Online — sponsored by Travel Online, the Mexican Government Tourism Office, Moon Travel Handbooks and others — offers info on transportation, hotels, restaurants, festivals, and entertainment. There are also tips for the budget traveler and an online library of travel articles.

Callers here can ask questions, post messages, search discount air fares to Mexico and download travel info from the Tourism Office.

"Our aim is to help foster a better understanding of Mexico," said Byron Lutz, managing director, "and aid the traveler as our two countries work to build a closer social and economic relationship."

The service is free and can be reached by modeming 407.582.7801. Or call 407.582.8320 and ask Lutz for configured telecom software (\$2 for postage).

## Word Me

BOYNTON BEACH, FL — Keyboard? Telephone? Pager?

Some of each, it seems.

At least that's what Motorola would like you to believe of its new WordSender — dubbed the first of its kind telephone and keyboard device,

allowing users to input and send text and numeric messages over telephone lines.

The device resembles some kind of teleboard hybrid, designed to enhance the way alphanumeric messages are dispatched. Its bottom line functionality: to permit any user to send a pager owner written messages without the assistance of those pesky operators. Type your message and fire. The phone does the rest (operating as a regular telephone in the off time). Say you're IQ inhibited? WordSender promises plenty of help screens. Look for it to be available soon for \$249.

Contact the Motorola Pan American Subscriber Paging Division at 1500 Gateway Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33426-8292, for more info.



## Companies, Individuals Hooking Up with Galacticomm's ICO

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL — Virtual classrooms. Instant interaction across the globe — without the phone bills. Medical, scientific and business research. Shared access to global databases. These are just a few of the applications Galacticomm says users have found for its Internet Connectivity Option (ICO), its recent product that adds TCP/IP support to The Major BBS. ICO supports telnet, FTP, basic WWW server and more.

"This new release further cements The Major BBS's connectivity advantage," said Scott Brinker, Galacticomm's president and CEO. "Now, users can access The Major BBS via modems, LAN, serial links, and (optionally) ISDN, the Internet and X.25."

ICO allows Major operators to launch their own sites on the Internet,

supporting over 100 simultaneous dial-up users and up to 64 TCP/IP connections on a single 486 or Pentium machine.

The Major BBS can attach to the Internet through either a dial-up SLIP connection (over a regular high-speed modem) or a dedicated line (56K, fractional T1, or T1) to any qualified host provider.

Paul Smith, sysop for Country Music Online, a Nashville, TN-based entertainment system, said, "We originally set up the Internet Connectivity Option to provide our users with Internet access, but we're finding it's also bringing us a tremendous amount of business. Internet users from all over the world telnet in to our system. It's amazing, really, because we haven't even advertised yet — it's all been from word of mouth."

Greenpeace International, a branch of the world's largest environmental advocacy group, has also had a successful ICO debut.

"For the first time, the European and worldwide staff of Greenpeace can inexpensively reach large indexed public and private databases across the world," said sysop Bob Lyons. His organization also plans to make its public database available over the Internet.

Galacticomm has also announced plans to integrate SMTP and NNTP — the protocols for transporting mail and newsgroups across the Internet — in a future release of ICO. Until that time, Galacticomm will include a free copy of its Major Gateway/Internet with ICO for dial-up UUCP access to Internet email and newsgroups.

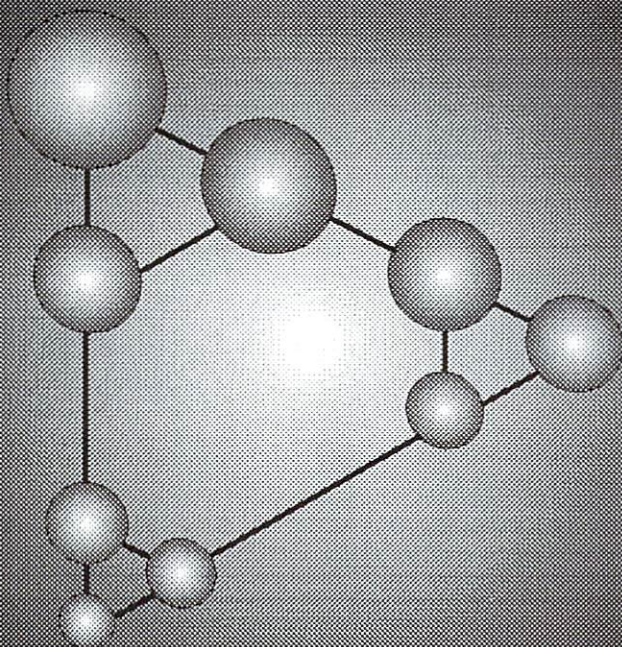
ICO lists for \$995. Galacticomm products are available from any Galacticomm reseller or by calling Galacticomm direct at 800.328.1128 or 305.583.5990, outside of the U.S. and Canada.

## The Skinny

HEWLETT-PACKARD and SHIVA CORPORATION have entered a strategic partnership to co-develop remote access hub capabilities for telecommuters, remote sites, mobile professionals and workgroup access to online services. ■■■■■

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## How five successful BBSs got that way — and what you can learn from them.

We're frequently called upon to serve as ad hoc consultants to the many eager callers/readers who want to try their hands at sysoping. We do this happily, as time permits, but lately it seems our resources are far too squeezed dish to out juicy tips — via email and phone — on starting a BBS in between issues of the magazine.

That's when the lightbulb illuminated over our collective heads, the result of which has been finagled onto the following pages.

Our plan of action was to pick the brains of those running some of the most consistently popular and oldest (i.e., successful) bulletin boards around.

Of course we couldn't prod them all (hey, our staff is too busy doling out advice to callers and future sysops), but the sampling we came up with seems to represent the field quite nicely.

We looked at where these five boards have been

and the steps they took to get where they are today, asking questions about hardware, tactics, philosophy and pitfalls. In some cases "secrets of success" are revealed, so pay attention and make sure you've got a pen handy. In others, there's just pithy, effectual moral support — and perhaps a few good ideas to steal.

Consider this a public service of *BBS Magazine*, not to mention the sysops disclosing their stories. Or just consider it an alternative to our free tech support.

*The editor*

# Channel 1

## THEN

**ONLINE:** September, 1986.

**GOAL OF THE BOARD:** To develop as a commercial online service.

**EQUIPMENT:** AT 286 computer running PCBoard. One hundred megabytes of hard drive space and 100 subscribers.

**LINES:** 2.

## NOW

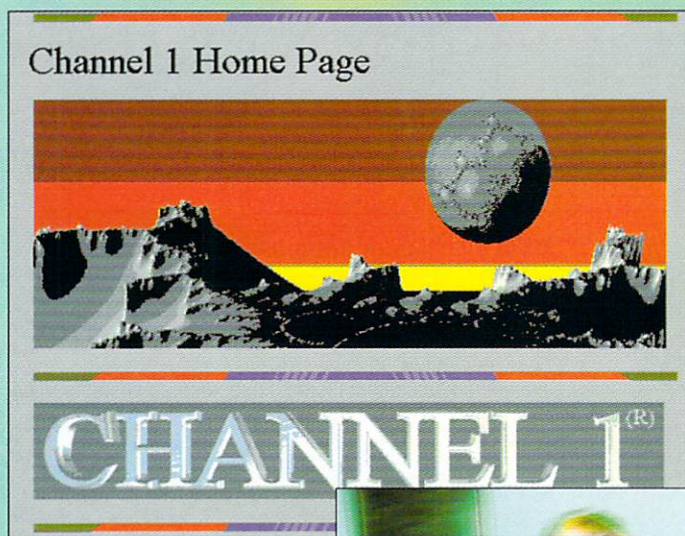
**EQUIPMENT:** Over 50 gigabytes of space with a 486 for each node; running PCBoard.

**SUBSCRIBERS:** 8,000.

**LINES:** 140.

**TRAFFIC:** 3,000 calls per day with 1,000,000 calls/year — over 4,000,000 calls since 1986.

**HONORS:** Zoom/Dvorak Best General BBS Award ('92).



simple as possible. For example, each caller is given full use of a 386 or 486 PC.

Other pluses here are the SLIP/PPP access to the Net, closing stocks, financial news, MVP Games Software, RIME, ILink, P&BNet, Usenet, and a simple menu-driven interface. But the real reason Channel 1 has thrived, according to Miller, is not so much files or the networks by themselves, but the “years of long, long hours and no vacations.” The work and the constant attention is the key, Miller suggests.

Asked how the board has changed over the years, Miller fires four key descriptives any sysop should be adopting as a mantra: “bigger, better, faster, more features.”

And customer service pops up again here, as Miller says the board has maintained its level of focus on customers — apparently enough to keep callers happy for over eight years.

“A BBS must be Internet-connected, preferably directly,” offers Miller, as advice to would-be sysops. “The stand-alone BBS is ‘dead.’ Little echo-nets are irrelevant. Maintenance, customer-service, presentation, features are important.”

And what about competition with the commercial services like America Online? “The Internet will assimilate everyone,” Miller said. “Large commercial services will have problems competing and differentiating themselves as will the little guys.”

## ACCESS

**VOICE:** 617.864.0100

**144:** 617.354.3230

**28.8:** 617.349.1300

**TELNET:** bbs.channell.com

**FTP:** ftp.channell.com

**WEB:** www.channell.com

**LOCAL ACCESS:** CRIS

## SYSOPS

Tess Heder

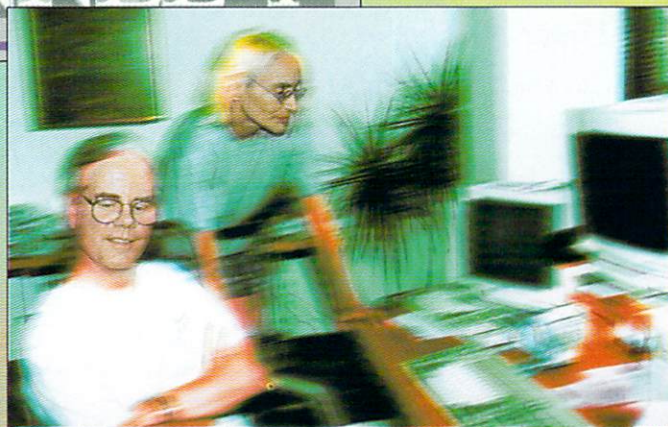
Brian Miller

Jamie Walsh

Brian McGovern

**“The stand-alone BBS is dead.”**

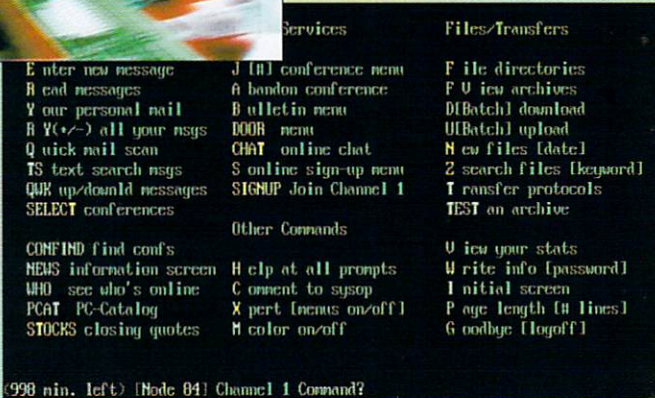
—Brian Miller, Channel 1



Channel 1 was founded in 1986 to deliver “high-performance, quality-oriented BBS and online services,” according to the sysops. Architect Tess Heder and psychologist Brian Miller built the board into what they now call “an easy-to-use on-ramp to the Internet and a major off-ramp if you already have access to the information superhighway.”

Both Miller and Heder agree their intention from the start was to run the system as a full-time business. Doing so has allowed them the flexibility (and time) to build one of the best-organized collections of shareware and public domain software of any BBS. To get to those files, the pair has made access as

CONTINUES ...



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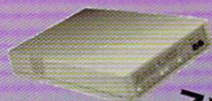


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# ExecNet

## THEN

ONLINE: 1986

GOAL OF THE BOARD: Info exchange among network pros.

EQUIPMENT: One 60MB hard drive system.

LINES: Two lines connected to 2400 baud modems.

## NOW

EQUIPMENT: Several Novell servers and Unix systems with 15+ gigabytes of storage, not including CD-ROM drives. Three T1s provide full Internet connectivity, including telnet, ftp, gopher and SLIP.

SUBSCRIBERS: 5,000

LINES: 40 nodes.



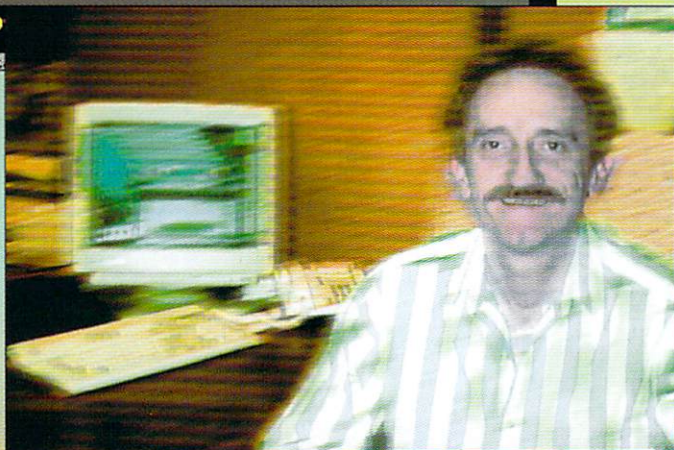
(997 min left) ExecNet Node 9

PCBoard (R) v15.21/M 250 (Beta

Andy Keeves started ExecNet in 1986 (then called "The Executive Network") simply as a means for exchanging information between LAN professionals — Keeves' business.

"Although we were running on a Novell Netware server even at that time, our nodes were 8088 machines," said Keeves, who places his background "heavily in computers" — all the way back to the '70s, with mainframes, minis and micros.

"Everyone currently involved with ExecNet has been involved in the computer field either on the hardware or software side for well over a decade. As a Novell Gold system integrator, our focus was on local and wide area networking mostly. The system was nothing more than an extension of this in the late '80s," said Keeves.



**"After all, as a business, we must cater to our customers. And yes, our callers are indeed our customers and no longer 'guests' — as older BBS ideology used to dictate."**

**—Andy Keeves, ExecNet**

The years have brought many changes to ExecNet — subtle ones in the early days, not so subtle of late. "But growth became natural due to competitiveness, I suppose," he said.

"We were working with PCBoard software from Clark Development and eventually became an alpha site for the software," he said. "We began incorporating some of our own ideas into the system by developing third-party add-on software for it and, over the first few years, ExecNet had become known as the system where you were likely to find new features."

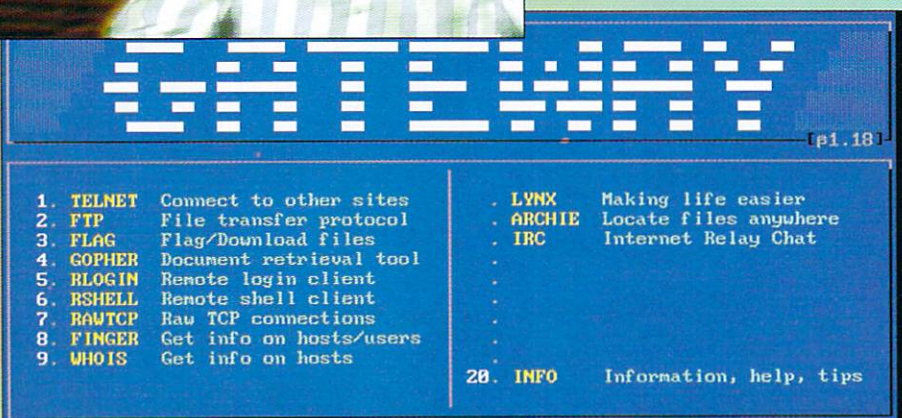
Keeves said the board's core business has changed a great deal, along with the PC industry overall. This called for growth in system resources, along with the associated costs.

"We looked for ways to recover some of those costs," Keeves said. "Thus the system began to offer subscriber access in addition to the original free lines."

Eventually, without a significant promotion on our part, it had become a small cost center within the original company, though it was not 100 percent self-sufficient."

Keeves said the changes in his LAN business placed more importance on ExecNet as a possible business, thereby prompting an attempt at start-

CONTINUES ...



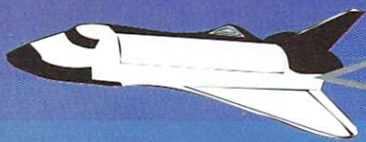
(997 min left) ExecNet Node 99: Gateway Command (enter=Exit)? ( )

PCBoard (R) v15.21/M 250 (Beta 01-26-95 17:52)

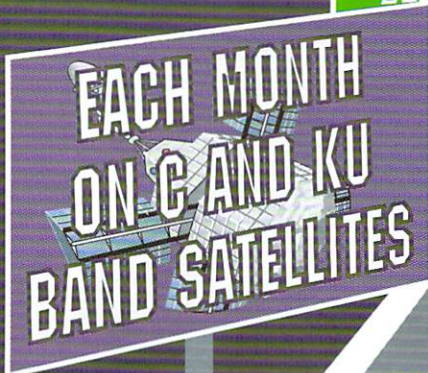
114K

18:15





**VIA SATELLITE**



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ing an online service.

"No, not quite the scale of a CompuServe," he said, "but our budget wasn't the same either."

Since then, the system has undergone serious expansion in equipment as well as software. Today ExecNet consists of several Novell servers and Unix systems. It houses some 15+ gigabytes of storage, not including CD-ROM drives, and 40 nodes.

"Running a commercial online system was surely not our idea on day one," said Keeves, "but the transition was a natural one."

"We were one of the first systems to break the daily limitation barrier traditionally associated with BBSs," said Keeves, "by allowing callers to stay on as long as they wished, to upload and download as much as they wished at any given time—within the limitations of the membership they acquired."

Additionally, ExecNet has been offering Internet news and mail for many years, having started "when only a very few dared to venture in that direction." Today they offer full Internet connectivity, including telnet, ftp, gopher and SLIP.

"You are likely to find more than a half a million messages on ExecNet at any given time, not to mention the 15-25MB of new files being posted here daily," said Keeves, who pointed out a trend of callers making use of three T1 circuits by connecting via the Net.

ExecNet's near future includes more concentration on information, including news, business and general topics," said Keeves, acknowledging "much of this is a painful transition due to the cost of continued equipment upgrades necessary to support the desired features, and due to the cost of acquiring much of the available information. Some of the tasks not readily visible to the caller involve our transition from a DOS platform to OS/2 and upgrading routers and other connectivity equipment to support new features."

Keeves claims there is no single reason for ExecNet's success. At least "none that I can think of," he said.

"Most of the features one finds on the system are a by-product of listening to those who use the system and attempting to implement their ideas and wish lists. After all, as a business, we must cater to our customers. And yes, our callers are indeed our customers and no longer 'guests'—as older BBS ideology used to dictate."

And voice support and timely response are vital for most

businesses, Keeves says, suggesting BBSs are no exception to this rule.

But what about today's sysops? Is it easier now than it was for the "pioneers?"

"I am not real sure if starting a new BBS today is easier or more difficult than years ago," said Keeves. "While hardware costs have decreased, the expectations of the callers have increased significantly. If one is not prepared for serious work and investment (both time and financial) they likely will not be successful today.

"There is still room in the picture for niche-oriented systems, but they will become harder to find as the online industry continues to grow up. Connectivity will become an ever-more complex issue as information services mature. Competition is healthy."

And what's Keeves opinion of the competition put up by the Big Board commercial services?

"The large commercial services will be slowly pushed by BBSs, and the larger BBSs will be pushed to compete with them more as technology progresses. While the roots of systems such as ExecNet can be clearly traced to the original concepts of BBSing, they have come a long way from those days and comparison becomes more and more difficult.

"If one wants to start a BBS as a business today, they must, by necessity, treat it as any other business—plan it, implement it and sell it. BBSing is growing up."

#### ACCESS

VOICE: 914.667.2150

FAX: 914.667.4817

BBS: 914.667.4567

TELNET: gateway.execnet.com

VIA BBS DIRECT: /go execnet

FTP: ftp.execnet.com

WEB: coming soon

EMAIL: execnet.support@execnet.com

#### SYSOPS

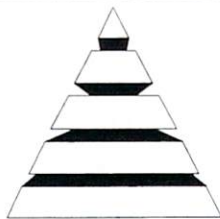
Andy Keeves

Paul Miles

Jeff Black

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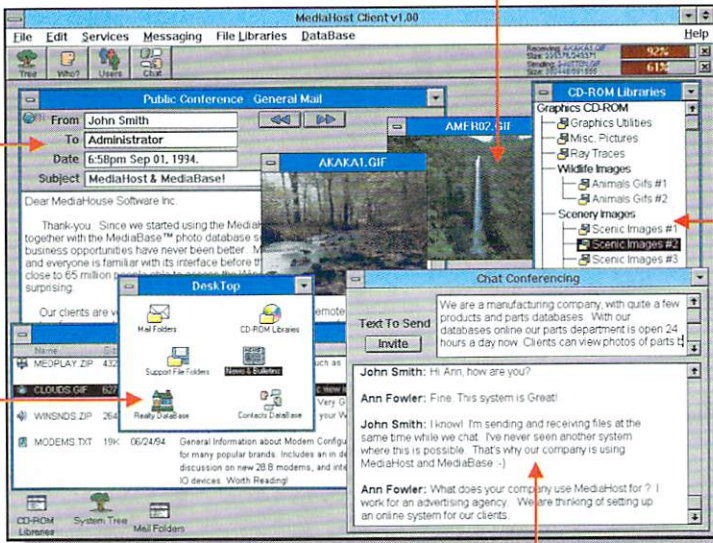
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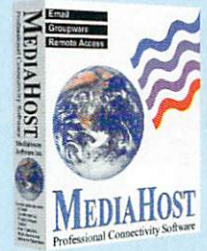
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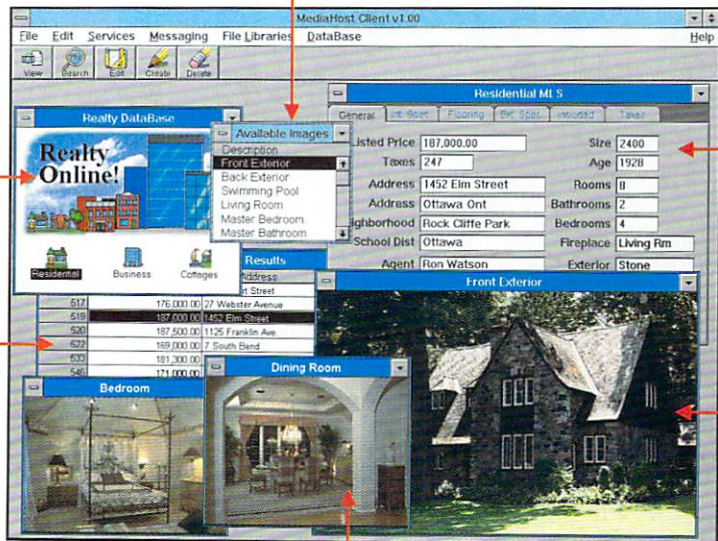
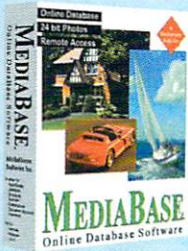
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# EXEC-PC

## THEN

**ONLINE:** Thanksgiving, 1982.

**GOAL OF THE BOARD:** To offer business software and information.

**EQUIPMENT:** IBM (a real one!) XT with 30MB of hard drive space using RBBS.

**LINES:** One line connected to a 1200-baud modem.

## NOW

**EQUIPMENT:** The BBS runs on a large Novell network via Arcnet and fiber optic network cards. Software is custom. Internet system is a SUN Spare server with USR V.Everythings.

**SUBSCRIBERS:** "Tens of thousands."

**LINES:** 280 lines on the BBS...100 via the Internet.

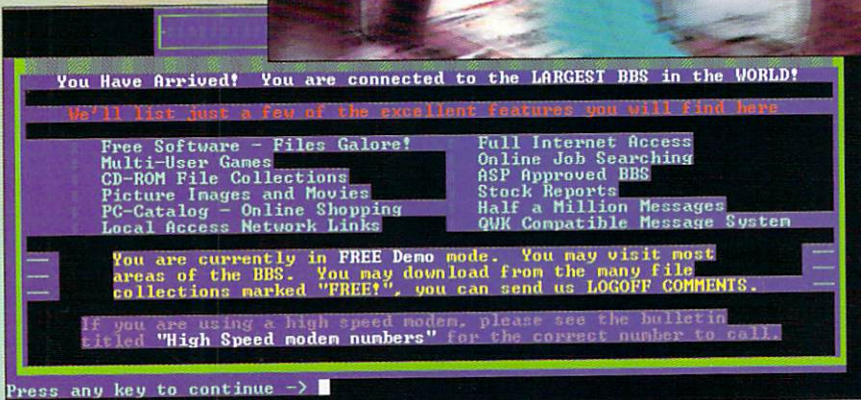
**TRAFFIC:** About 7,000 calls on the BBS per day; about 3,000 calls on the I-net system per day. Total approaches 1,000,000 callers on the BBS every 5-6 months. Every millionth caller gets that number of hundred dollars in computer equipment. The next one is 10 million, worth \$1,000.

**HONORS:** Dvorak Telecommunications Award.

Exec-PC was launched by Bob Mahoney primarily on faith. Mahoney, a general purpose computer programmer at the time, looked into the future of computing and saw everything going online. So he took his tiny, single-line system catering to the business community and bumped it to six lines and soon found, to his

**"Fill a niche."**

—Greg Ryan, Exec-PC



surprise, callers were actually willing to pay for the service. So he did the only natural thing: he quit his job.

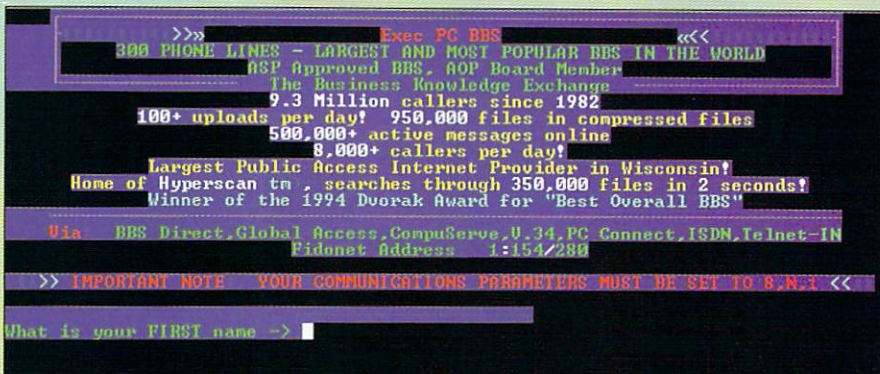
Over the next few years he and his wife built the system into a 280-node board running on custom software catering to thousands from many countries.

After a decade of solid growth, in 1993, Mahoney hired his first two employees — a hardware junky and a BBS guru.

By 1994, Exec-PC carried three additional recruits, all hired to get the system fully wired to the Net.

According to Greg Ryan, Exec-PC's vice president of operations, the philosophical focus of the board has changed somewhat over the years: "Although many of the roots remain in the business end of the online world," he said, "Exec-PC now supports all walks of life including entertainment related, business, medical, private corporations, and general interest."

The proof of the diversity is what Exec-PC holds for callers — a general file library, perhaps the largest collection of shareware



in the country (40GB and 75 CD-ROMs totaling 650,000 files), and a unique file location mechanism. There are also games, messaging (full Fido link), travel and stock info, and online magazines.

And they're an "excellent Internet provider for a very reasonable rate, including SLIP/PPP connections," Ryan said.

When asked how the board has remained successful for 13 years, Ryan had only two words for us: "customer support." And

this seems to be true for any kind of board.

Caller support won't guarantee a successful board, but lack of support can almost always guarantee failure.

As for advice to newcomers jumping into the fray, Ryan suggests sysops "find a large- to medium-sized city without a good BBS in it and start one there." If that's possible anymore.

He warns one should "be ready for rapid

growth" — to be prepared to handle it while maintaining current callers' needs. Secondly, Ryan advises an Internet link, suggesting in today's market, "Internet connections are a must."

Another piece of advice Ryan offers newbie sysops is to "start up a niche board with a large, open-ended potential clientele." Fill a need that's been overlooked. Or, where possible, create a niche. Keyword: specialize.

Many BBSers have been contemplating their fate in the face of competition from the large commercial online service. Ryan says only the large BBSs (such as Exec-PC) have cause for concern, for only they "will be competition."

"The small BBSs will still serve the community as they always have: providing free or low-cost access to general purpose files and information," Ryan said. "The local chat boards will offer a lower cost and local way to cyber-socialize than the online services."

#### ACCESS

VOICE (TECH SUPPORT): 414.789.4200

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FAX: 414.789.1946

FTP: ftp.execpc.com

WEB: www.execpc.com

TELNET: bbs.execpc.com

V.34: 414.789.4500

V.32BIS: 414.789.4360

2400BPS 414.789.4210

#### SYSOPS

Bob Mahoney

Greg Ryan

Curt Shambeau

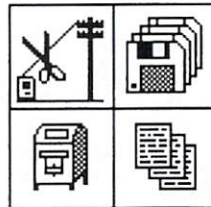
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# 96

## Philadelphia Spring, 1996

# PC-Ohio

## THEN

**ONLINE:** Sept. 1, 1985

**GOAL OF THE BOARD:** To be the best board in Cleveland.

**EQUIPMENT:** Tava PC clone using RBBS and then PCBoard 7.1 and a 30MB hard disk.

**LINES:** One phone line with a USR Courier 2400-baud modem.

## NOW

**EQUIPMENT:** Micropolis SCSI hard drives in two 486-33 file servers, with 13GB of hard disk space. PCBoard.

**LINES:** 50

**SUBSCRIBERS:** 5,000

**TRAFFIC:** 1,000 calls per day

**HONORS:** Computer Shopper's Best BBS in America, '91 and '92.

When he started the BBS in an extra bedroom of his house, Norm Henke just wanted the best board in Cleveland. He ended up with one of the best in the country.

"There were only a few systems online in 1985, and we thought we could do better," said Henke, who at the time was a purchasing agent for Computer Warehouse. "We have out-lasted all those systems."

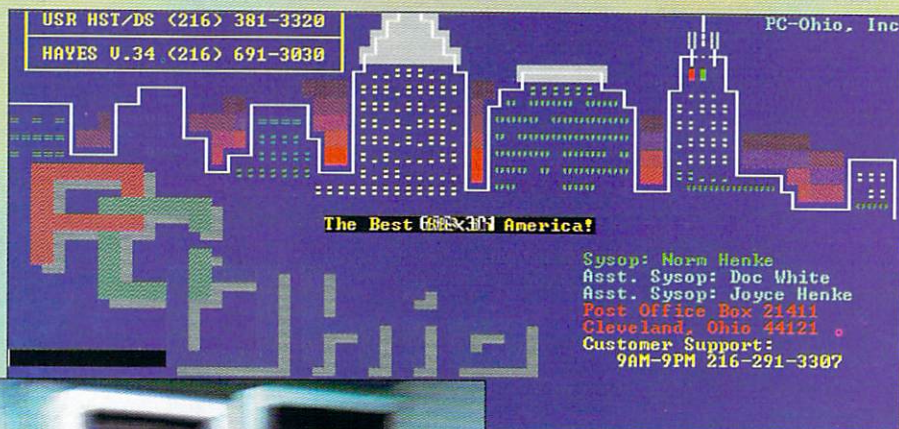
Today the board is one of the oldest continuously running systems around, and has been noted for its quality by Computer Shopper by being named the Best BBS in America in both 1990 and 1991.

PC-Ohio is a general purpose, "all-in-one system," says Henke. "We have just about everything that a caller would want in one place."

The board carries files, messages, chat, games and Internet email (all at one flat rate for

callers). And, as Henke is quick to point out, "we will be adding full Internet access (by Spring '95) using MurkWorks' BBSNet. As a BBS Direct system, PC-Ohio is also accessible as a local call from more than 100 cities in the US.

Henke says he has always aimed to create a BBS that would appeal to him as a caller. Living up to your own standards seems a simple task at first glance. But the fact is, it takes plenty of market research and testing and retesting of different formulas. To do this "we review what other systems are doing and learn from their mistakes and successes."



Henke says. "We review callers' suggestions and add features that are in demand, Internet email being a good example."

Henke said he made one major philosophical change to the system about two years ago. It was a big one.

"We decided to remove all "adult" material from the system. The many discussions at ONE BBSCON in 1993 lead us to believe we would be better off without X-rated GIFs and other Adults-only material," he said. "Recent events in Florida and California (where sysops were prosecuted for adult material on their boards) have shown us that we made the right choice."

Henke's board grew at a rapid and regular pace through the 1980s, jumping from a single-line system to 5, 9, 15, 24, 30, 40 and then 50 nodes. The file space has expanded in leaps in bounds as well, from the original 30MB to a total of 13GB today. In 1987, Henke joined Fidonet (the board's first net).

"We ran a separate Opus BBS long before any other PCBoard sysop had ever heard of Fidonet. The first PCBoard based

**PC-OHIO - THE BEST**

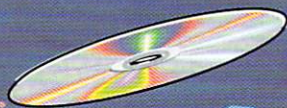
Doors may be opened by entering the word OPEN followed by either the door's number or name at the Main command prompt or enter the number or name below

##	Name	Description	##	Name	Description
1	MAIL	Com-Mail Mail Door	11	SPORTS	Daily Sports Info
2	XPRESS	Silver Express Mail Door	12	CDSUB	Subscribe to BBS Digest
3			13	FNLSKAN	Fidonet Modelist Scanner
4	QMAIL4	Qmail 4 Mail Door	14	STORY	Story Board (Writing)
5	PCCAT	PC Catalog On-Line	15	USBBS	USBBS List Search
6	CHARGE	Credit Card Charge Door	16	JOBS	Job Search Door
7	READER	Download 1stReader Demo	17	CLASSIFY	Classified Ads
8	UOTE	Public Opinion Voting	18		
9			19		
10	PWRLIST	Customizable File List	20		

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## "Starting a BBS now is much easier than it used to be."

—Norm Henke, PC-Ohio

network that we joined was RIME. Then we got into Smartnet, Intelc, Ilink, U'NI-net, Nanet, Rosenet, and Friendsnet," he said. And in 1991 "we used PCB-UUCP to add Internet email."

Planet Connect's satellite services were also introduced.

Henke said when he began the BBS he never thought any significant money would come from it—let alone the nice living it provides.

"Our hope was to at least cover monthly expenses like the phone and electricity," he said. "It took five years to break even and we have been able to grow steadily each year since then."

The turning point came in 1991, when at a network conference he learned that the key to a successful BBS was its ability to accept credit cards payment.

"Obtaining a merchant account was necessary to be able to make real money," Henke said.

About the same time, PC-Ohio had blossomed into more than a part-time obsession, and so a decision was in the offing: get a merchant account, quit work, run the board full time—or simply give up on its potential. It took about 30 days to get the account, said Henke, and perhaps a minute or two to quit his job at the community college.

Henke attributes much of PC-Ohio's success to longevity and reliability. These are, you might say, their secrets to success. In other words hang on, keep plugging and always be near by to offer callers help.

"We have the reputation of being a quality system that is 'up' all the time," Henke said. "We offer the features and privileges that callers want at a very reasonable price. A lot of our success is due to luck. We were in the right place at the right time to start a BBS. Cleveland has been such a wonderful location for us that we would not consider ever moving to another city."

But what about starting a board in today's market? Tougher or easier?

"Starting a BBS now is much easier than it used to be," Henke asserts. On the other hand, "making money at it is

much harder than ever because of the tremendous competition in the market."

"The first thing we suggest to people who ask for help on setting up a BBS is to go to their local computer store and buy all the current BBS magazines that are available. They should also buy a copy of 'Creating Successful Bulletin Board Systems' by Alan Bryant. Then they should go through all the magazines, read all the software ads and contact the companies like Clark Development (creators of PCBoard) to get demo copies of the software they want to evaluate.

"The prospective sysop has to decide: 'do I want to have multiple lines on one computer using software like TBBS, or set up a network of computers to have one line per computer?' Each method has its benefits and drawbacks. We have chosen to stay with one line per computer to achieve maximum performance for each caller."

And Henke suggests that sysops launching a system some distance from any metropolitan area should look into services such as that offered by Planet Connect—one way to significantly reduce long distance charges.

On the subject of competition a la commercial services, Henke says that while the likes of CompuServe and AOL have size on their side, they lack the personal touch that every sysop brings to his or her BBS.

"A feeling of community exists among the frequent callers to a successful BBS that cannot be matched by the 'big' companies. Popular BBSs like PC-Ohio can have many of the features of CompuServe without any of the drawbacks of a big corporation that does not know any of its customers."

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Node license*	\$299	\$799	\$440	\$508	\$895
Programmable	Yes	No	Extra	Extra	Extra
Multiple command shells	Yes	No	No	No	No
Intelligent DigiBoard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Int'l 4h 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. \*for 8 nodes Wildcat!IM requires a 250 node license, PCBoard/M requires a 10 node license, TBBS requires a 16 node license.

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# Rusty & Edie's BBS

## THEN

**ONLINE:** May 11, 1987

**EQUIPMENT:** IBM XT with a 20MB hard drive. TCOMM.

**GOAL OF THE BOARD:** Have Fun. End of rules.

**LINES:** Two lines on 2400 baud modems.

## NOW

**EQUIPMENT:** Four 486/66 servers. Fifteen 780MB SCSI drives, three 1.2GB and two 386MB ESDI drives totaling over 15GB of disk space. One hundred forty-one systems from 33 MHz to 12 MHz. Modems range from USR Dual Standards to CompuCom 9600s. Networked with Novell Netware. PCBoard 15.2.

**SUBSCRIBERS:** 6,000

**LINES:** 128

**TRAFFIC:** 3,000 calls a day.

Russell (Rusty) and Edwina (Edie) Hardenburgh were as unlikely a pair as any to begin a BBS in 1987. On the other hand, things being as they were in those days, an insurance sales manager and General Motors employee had no more disadvantages than others diving into the murky waters of BBSing.

Oh, except for the fact that it took Rusty 10 days to figure out how to download for the first time.

"I finally figured it out," he said. And before he knew what was happening, Rusty, like most of us, found himself to be an all-out downloading junky.

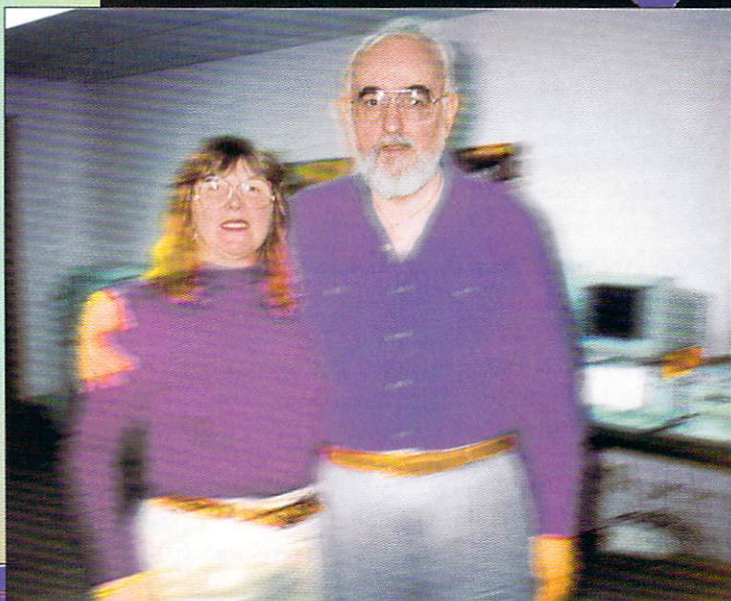
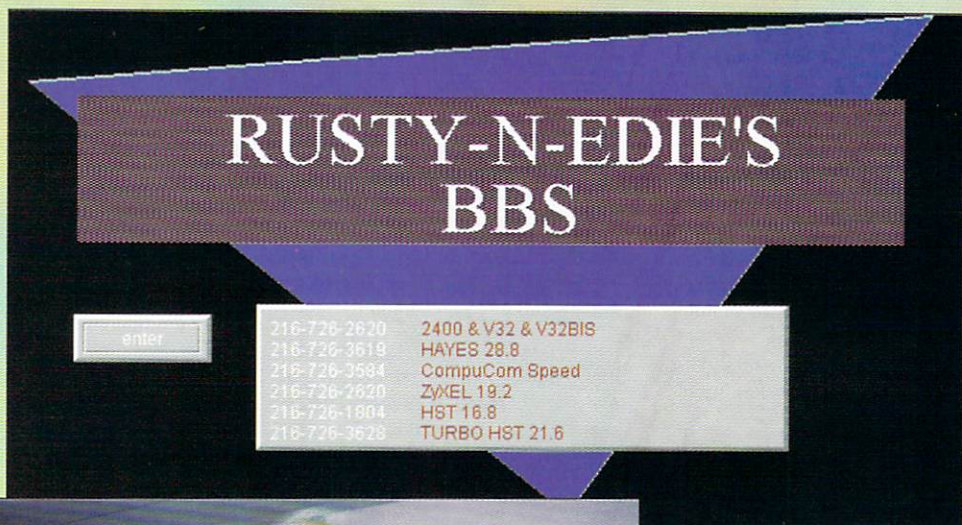
So to remedy the cost of all the calling and avoid the silly questionnaires put forth by sysops, Rusty decided to set up a "no rules BBS," naming it after he and his wife and adding the expression "The Friendliest BBS in the World."

Those first callers logging on found only two messages setting the tone of the board: 1) Have fun 2) End of rules.

There was no time limit, no questionnaire, no ratios, and no hassles.

Soon they were averaging 10 calls a day (today it's 3,000).

Software changes included a jump from TCOMM to PCBoard ("The most flexible and wonderful BBS software ever



made," says Rusty) and a 386. But by 1988 things were "getting out of hand" and callers were unable to log on due to the traffic. So they asked for donations to help build the system, expecting little to nothing.

"Much to our surprise the money poured in and we turned it into new nodes," said Rusty, "as fast as we could."

Today Rusty & Edie's is a board boasting "all the latest shareware, and a huge adult section. "We are still the friendliest BBS in the world."

But some callers always find ways to disagree (a point new sysops should keep in mind). Though he and Edie post their number and address, answer pages, etc., there's always the odd caller complaining, "I thought you were friendly?"

Not one to take full responsibility for such complaints, in those situations Rusty simply remarks to Edie:

Rusty n Edie's BBS main menu

Messages	Utilities	Files	Misc.
C)omment to Sysop E)nter a Msg Q)uick Msg Scan R)ead Msg(s) R)E)ply to Msg R)M)Re-read MEM # T)S)Text Search Y)our Personal Msg	ALIAS) On/Off M)ode (Graphics) P)age Length Set U)iew Settings W)rite Change user info X)port On/Off Conferences A)bandon a Conf. J)oin a Conf.	D)ownload a File D)B)Download Batch F)ile Directories F)LAG) File for DL L)ocate File Name N)ew Files (Date) T)ransfer Protocol T)EST) a File U)pload a File U)B)Upload Batch Z)ippy Dir. Scan	B)ulletins C)HAT) to Chat G)oodbye or Bye H)elp I)ntial Welcome N)EWS) Display O)perator Page D)OOR) to Open S)cript Question S)ELECT) Conf. # W)HO) Else is On

TABS) or TABS25) A new 1-900  
 Registration service Read BLI 20  
 HIGH SPEED MODEM CALLERS, READ BULLETIN #12 FOR THE CORRECT NUMBERS TO CALL  
 Time 10:51 (995 left)(Bytes 10,000K left) Main Board Command?  
 Time 10:51 (994 left)(Bytes 10,000K left) Main Board Command?

"You wanted it named after you, you have to help." Actually, Edie had never even touched a computer when she agreed to the name.

To potential sysops, Rusty suggests the tactic of including your spouse's name, assuring that "it works great."

Rusty said the board's philosophy has changed little over the years, and that he simply wants it to continue being very caller friendly.

For those future sysop's, both Rusty and Edie suggest being "as nice to your callers as possible" and "to specialize in something."

And though R & E's success happened "by accident," they say, there are lessons to be learned from that standing policy of theirs: "no time limits, no ratios and no hassles."

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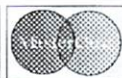
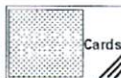
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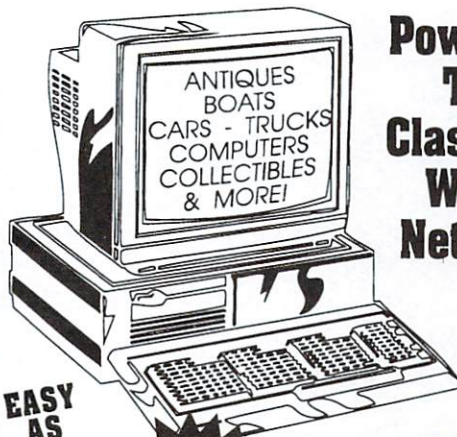
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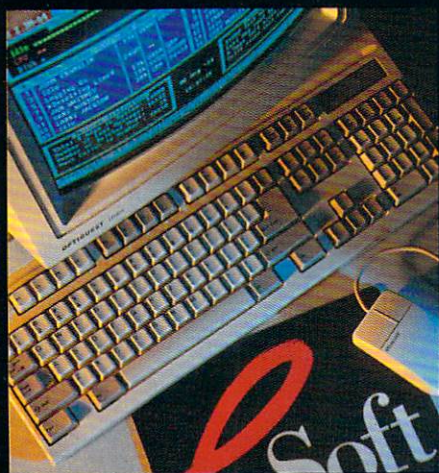
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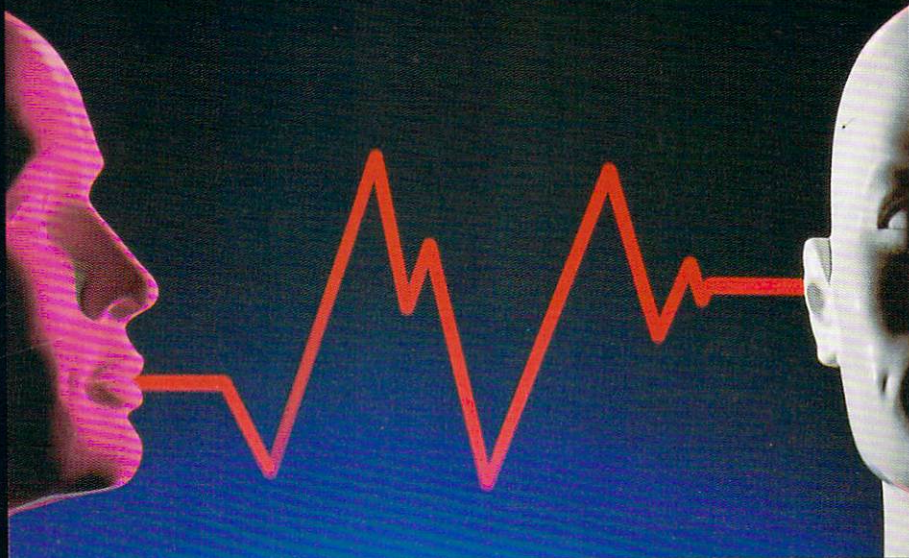
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## CompuServe a better bargain

CompuServe has announced new "Standard" rates that significantly cut connect time charges and mail charges, and allow access to more basic services. The rate change also reduces U.S. and Canadian WATS-line charges, eliminates European prime-time communications surcharges, and raises the monthly membership fee by just \$1.

Effective late last winter, connect charges for access at 9.6 and 14.4 Kbps dropped by 50 percent to \$4.80 per hour. This is CompuServe's third price reduction in connect rates in three years.

And while it's cutting prices, CompuServe is also enhancing its basic service package, giving members

access to more than 100 services at no additional charge — compared to the previous 78. Members also will be able to send the equivalent of 90 three-page electronic mail messages at no additional charge, compared to 60 previously. Overall email costs have been reduced by as much as 80 percent.

communications surcharge will be eliminated. In the U.S., Wide Area Telephone Service surcharges will be cut by 31 percent, to \$6 per hour. The Canadian WATS line charge will be cut by 41 percent to \$20 per hour.

In an effort to keep up with the Internet's popular IRC (Internet Relay Chat) sites, CompuServe has also lowered its CB Club pricing plans. For a monthly sign-up fee of \$10, CB Club members will be charged \$2.50 per hour, or members can choose a monthly sign-up fee of \$30 for an hourly rate of \$1. CB Club members also receive a reserved handle on CB Simulator.

Joining the CB Club will result in considerable cost savings for members who spend significant time on

the Simulator. For example, if a member joins the CB Club paying the \$10 monthly sign-up fee and uses CB for 10 hours a month, the effective cost per hour is \$3.50. Joining the club and paying the \$30 sign-up fee results in a cost-per-hour of \$2 — if CB is used for just an hour a day or 30 hours a month.

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### KEYWORDS

CompuServe  
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be used, and rates are effective 24 hours a day. Communications surcharges may still apply. In addition, CB Club members can also play such Entertainment

Center games as chess, backgammon and StarSprint for the same low rates.

For complete information about pricing plans in your location, GO CHOICES: for more information on the CB Club and a full explanation of the cost savings, GO CBCLUB. To access the CB Simulator, GO CB. To access the Entertainment Center, GO ECN.

For sports fans like me, *Sports Illustrated* — the top sports newsweekly — is now available on CompuServe, offering members access to the magazine's content, the ability to interact with SI staff, and the capacity to order SI merchandise.

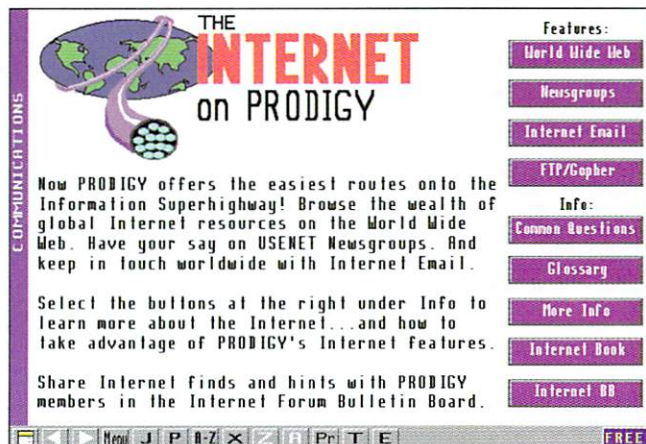
The articles and selected images of the latest publication will be available beginning Wednesday of each week. *Sports Illustrated* offers on CompuServe not only its quality reporting and photographs, but also an historical sports quotes feature and electronic letters to the editors.

In addition to the weekly magazine content, *Sports Illustrated* offers the SI Forum, SI Archives and the SI Store. The SI Forum is a gathering place for members to interact with *Sports Illustrated* writers and editors, as well as other sports enthusiasts. Currently available in a series of files in Library 1, "Nebraska 1994" is a special collector's edition of *Sports Illustrated*, commemorating the national championship in college football.

The SI Archives provides a means to search back issues of the magazine for articles on a particular topic of interest, while the SI Store furnishes access to the SI Insider Authentics catalog of apparel, videos, and other merchandise. A section for Subscription Services allows members to purchase a subscription, enter subscription change of address information, or contact SI

customer service.

To access the *Sports Illustrated* menu, a part of CompuServe's extended services, GO SIMAGAZINE. The SI



Forum, SI Archives, and SI Store are available from this menu or individually.

In addition to connect charges and any applicable communications surcharges, each article from the SI Archives that's viewed online or downloaded incurs a stiff \$1.50 charge. To access the SI Store, a part of CompuServe's basic services, GO SIST.

## Prodigy catching members with Web

As part of Prodigy's commitment to the Internet, they have released their World Wide Web client, giving subscribers access not only to the Web, but also to FTP and Gopher sites.

And in so doing, Prodigy once again shows that it knows just how to bring a product to the market.

The new Internet tools for Usenet Newsgroups and now the World Wide Web are really nicely done. For those of you not familiar with the Web, flip over to Mike Robinson's column — or login to Prodigy.

A new Internet user on Prodigy will be happy to find the wealth of information put there to help them

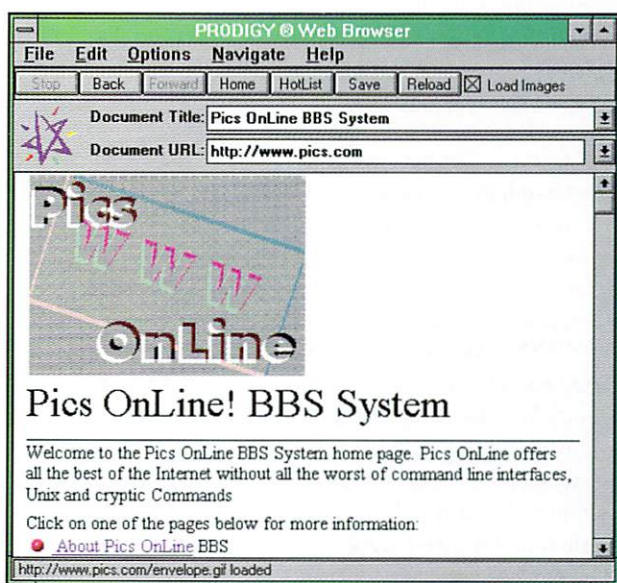
get started. New users first have to "sign" an online agreement which states that the Internet may contain adult-related material and that your surfing is at your own risk. Once you've agreed, you sign up family members to whom you wish to give access. From there it's off to the main Internet Menu.

Selections on this menu include The World Wide Web, Newsgroups, Internet Email, Gopher/FTP, and the Internet Bulletin Board. The menu also includes an info section including Common Questions, an Internet Glossary, and an Internet Book, which you can download to learn the ins and outs of the Net.

Using the WWW, FTP and Gopher is all accomplished by the same tool, the graphical browser, which allows you to connect to any URL (Universal Resource Locator). Once you're in the browser, Prodigy's home page is loaded — the home page is the equivalent of a main menu. From there, users are welcome to explore the Internet by following links, using some of the great guides to WWW like the Yahoo site at <http://akebono.stanford.edu/yahoo>. If you haven't tried the Web, wait no more: GO INTERNET on your next visit.

As a point of reference, two weeks after offering the Web browser, Prodigy had served over 100,000 Web users — at a rate of 12,000 a day — making it the largest Web access provider in the world.

CONTINUES ...



## Advantage AOL

A few months ago I told you about AOL's latest software upgrade and the functional multimedia capabilities it had both for users and content providers. Finally, someone has made good use of the richness of the new menus.

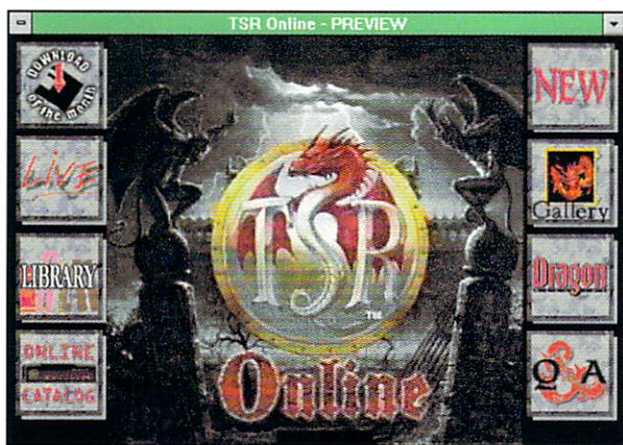
TSR, Inc. announced the opening of "TSR Online," giving AOL members access to TSR art, adventures, stories and game designers. TSR is the first game and book company to build a complete graphical forum on AOL.

When AOL members reach the TSR Online screen, they are greeted with the company's logo and two menacing gargoyles. Surrounding the eerie scene are buttons for eight different interface areas: Gallery, DRAGON Magazine, Q&A, New From TSR, Download of the Month, TSR Live, Library, and Online Catalog. Three of the areas (Q&A, New From TSR, and TSR Live) have been available for a few months, while the rest should be online by April.

"Gallery" includes 30 to 40 of TSR's most famous illustrations from Easley, Elmore, Parkinson, Fields, Ruppel, Brom and others. New art will be added on an ongoing basis.

With TSR Online, *DRAGON Magazine*, the world's most popular gaming magazine, goes digital. It will include stories from the paper edition and otherwise unpublished pieces.

"Q&A" features celebrity guests to field your gaming, convention, industry, or personal questions. "New From TSR" contains the industry's hottest gaming, convention, and book news. "Download of the Month" offers sneak previews of products, software, game supplements, player submissions and more. "TSR Live" is TSR's live gaming and chat window. "Library" carries errata files, software, rules additions, modules, monsters, and even complete gaming systems! "Online Catalog" lets you shop in the subterranean vaults of old and new products.



The system administrator, Rob Repp, leaked to me that TSR will give members special T-shirts, modules and prizes when they discover secret windows in the forum; however, no hints in this area.

AOL has also created a new Imaging Resource Center as a "hub" of information on America Online for PC users interested in scanning hardware, software and techniques.

Plans for the hub include continually building the area to be a comprehensive online reference manual of facts and tips, both in the written word and graphical representation dealing with 2-dimensional imaging.

In The Imaging Resource Center, users will find lists of contact information for publications and software and hardware manufacturers dealing in imaging. The digital images and Utilities libraries from the main PC Graphics Forum have been made accessible from this area for ease of access. AOL has also gathered online industry specialists under the Resource Center and Industry Connection icons.

AOL users visiting the Center are encouraged to join in the discussions



and upload their own work.

The Center is an extension of the PC Graphics & Animation Forum. While it mainly focuses on the PC platform, all scanners are encouraged to stop by.

## Delphi's InterNav

Delphi has announced version 1.2 of its InterNav software. It is, of course, a free download to all Delphi users. InterNav 1.1 (or later) users may save some time online and download an upgrade archive which can be extracted on top of the existing installation. GO INTERNAV to get the latest software.

The most notable change in version 1.2 is the ability to point and click your way through Delphi menus. To go along with this, Delphi menus and prompts have been enhanced to be more reliable than ever. The first word of all menu items, all numbers on numbered menus, and commands that appear within prompts, are now highlighted in blue. If you position your mouse pointer over any of these highlights, the pointer will change into a small hand with an outstretched finger, and a single click selects the word and sends it as a command to Delphi. The right mouse button sends a <Return>, and can be used to respond to "More?" prompts and select default actions anywhere.




Messaging from InterNav's Forum, Usenet, and email editing windows has been greatly accelerated. This includes the use of signature files (signature files allow users to add a "tagline" to messages with their email address, etc.) which can now be automatically appended to email as well as Forum and Usenet messages.

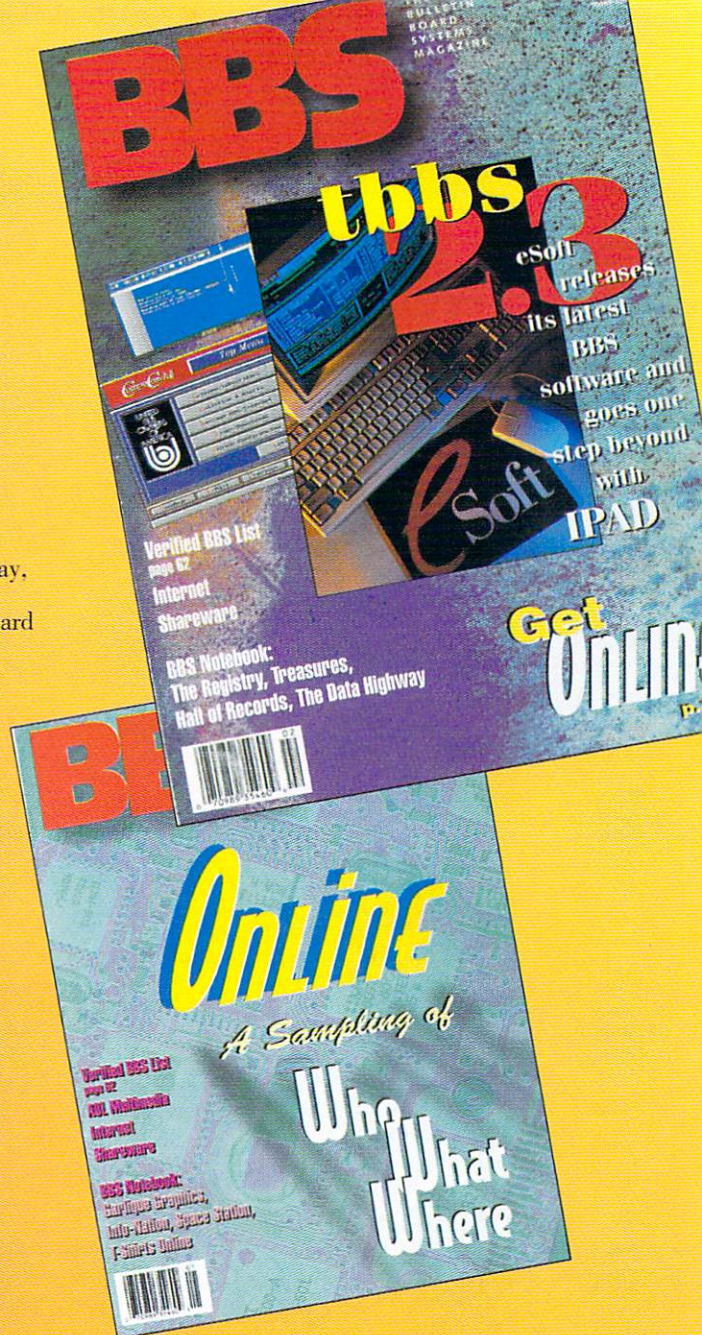
In addition to these obvious changes, a number of not so obvious enhancements have been made in the automated login scripts. They're made to be more reliable, for instance, giving more helpful advice when things do go wrong. The Announcements window now automatically closes when you select another action, giving you a full size terminal screen for better readability; the font selection has been simplified, and now supports italics.

Rounding out this release is a new look and feel, with new icons for main features such as the Main Menu and Go To buttons. ■■■■



# BBS Magazine

*BBS Magazine* is not only your ticket to the evolving information highway, it's also your road map.  With features on the latest in bulletin board software, interviews with top industry insiders and news and reviews of everything making its way into cyberspace, *BBS Magazine* has become required offline reading for anyone getting online.  Each month we look at the best and brightest BBSs, as well as those just getting started, and review the most informative books on BBSing and online services. Every issue features our expert columnists commenting on all aspects of life online. From the best deals on modems to our look into the Internet—it's all there. *BBS Magazine* is written for you, the BBS caller. The stories are exciting, informative and often entertaining.  We won't waste your time, but we *will* get you connected.



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# Is Free Speech Too Expensive?

*One church's  
threat of  
litigation over  
newsgroups  
is rattling  
providers.*

Church of Scientology

**KEYWORDS**  
alt.censorship?  
How to fight back

# A new threat to free speech hit the Internet recently. And it came from an unexpected source — the Church of Scientology (CoS).

System administrators all over the Internet reported threats of lawsuits from attorneys for the CoS and the closely associated Religious Technology Center and Bridge Publications, Inc. These threats apparently were designed to convince sysadmins (or sysops) to discontinue the carriage of certain newsgroups that involved discussions of the Church of Scientology and its teachings, solely on the ground that some of the messages sent through those newsgroups allegedly involved infringements of CoS copyrights or other intellectual property rights.

The notes from the CoS claimed that certain users were either anonymously or admittedly posting certain published and unpublished copyrighted materials, including certain of the confidential Advanced Technology materials. These confidential materials, the posts claimed, were stolen from CoS.

"There is reason to believe that the materials which are uploaded by these users may also be downloaded by other users, and that these activities may be occurring through the systems which are linked into the Internet." The two newsgroups under attack were alt.techology.clearing and alt.religion.Scientology.

The note went on to ask sysadmins to lock out the two newsgroups from their systems to eliminate the potential for reposting and downloading.

This is very disturbing. Using the threat of litigation to shut down entire newsgroups, or to persuade sysadmins who did not originate any allegedly wrongful messages to shut down newsgroups, is highly inappropriate.

Electronic communications are in

their infancy, and most of the providers are not big corporations, but rather small operators who cannot afford protracted litigation, even if they are in the right. The mere threat of a lawsuit could result in some sysadmins refusing to carry all sorts of contentious newsgroups simply because they could not afford to put on a case to show that they should not be held responsible for another party's alleged wrong.

Rather than attempting through threats of lawsuits to induce innocent sysadmins to censor speech, Church members should participate in Usenet discussions to make their views known and refute erroneous posts — in other words, to answer allegedly wrongful postings with more speech. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis articulated in 1927: "If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and the fallacies, to avert the evil by the processes of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence."

If CoS claims that a copyright violation or other wrong not remediable by speech has been perpetrated by a particular person, then it should confine its legal threats to that person — not direct them at an innocent sysadmin who did no more than forward a message, and certainly not at the innocent participants of a newsgroup seeking to exchange views through the newsgroup channel. Even if CoS cannot determine the identity of the person perpetrating an alleged wrong against it, that provides no excuse for cutting off the free flow of information over the net.

Events like these show us how important it is to search for new paradigms for handling disputes that arise from time to time.

A better way to deal with this particular dispute would be to submit the claims and counterclaims to arbitration or mediation, perhaps in a proceeding conducted over the net among the parties to the newsgroup discussion. Any party to this debate who refused to participate in such a forum would, of course, have to explain why it had done so if a case were brought in a more traditional court.

CoS should leave the innocent sysadmins out of their fight. They should not take actions designed to cut

off the free flow of information through the Net. Where there are legitimate disputes about particular messages or the wrongful actions of particular individuals, those can and should be addressed — perhaps most efficiently through the new communications medium itself.

For those of you who want to help, an Internet petition opposing CoS's bullying tactics is being circulated by Jon Noring. To sign it,

1) Prepare an email message. In the main body (NOT the subject line) of your email include the ONE-LINE statement:

SIGNED <Internet e-mail address>  
<Your full name (optional)>

You need not include the "<" and ">" characters. 'SIGNED' should be capitalized. As stated above, your full name is optional, but highly recommended. If you do supply your name, please don't use a pseudonym or nickname, or just your first name — it's better to just leave it blank if it's not your full and real name.

Example: My e-mail signature would be:

SIGNED ssteale@eff.org Shari Steele

2) Please DON'T include any other text in your message.

3) Send your message containing your signature to the following Internet email address:

cos-petition@netcom.com

4) Within a few days of receipt of your signature, an automated acknowledgment will be emailed to you for email address verification purposes. You do not need to respond or reply to this acknowledgment when you receive it.

*Shari Steele is Director of Legal Services of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing freedom and openness in computer-based communications. Send your legal questions to Shari at ssteale@eff.org.*

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- Padraic Boyle, PC Magazine

"Mustang deserves credit for creating a superb successor to its already impressive BBS program."

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# Addison DOS Haus

*Addison, Illinois*

# BB's BBS

*Atco, NJ*

# The Hour Glass BBS

*Tucson, Arizona*

# The Town Square BBS

*Pasadena, Texas*



## Addison DOS Haus

**SYSOP:** Leroy Hein, Jr.

**LOCATION:** Addison, Illinois

**BBS PHONE NUMBER:** 708.832.7754

**MODEM TYPE:** Zoom 14.4 Internal

**BBS SOFTWARE:** Wildcat 4.01

**BBS MOTTO OR THEME:** *Something for everyone.*

Addison DOS Haus is a terrific BBS that truthfully has just what its motto claims: Something for everyone.

Leroy Hein decided to become a sysop and put a system online back in June of 1993. Using a 486SX/20 computer that had a 100-meg hard drive and a 2400-baud modem, the Addison DOS Haus was born.

CONTINUES ...

**Addison DOS Haus is a free service open to all callers. Contributions and donations are accepted, of course; Leroy uses the money to register Doors.**

The need for speed made Leroy upgrade his modem to a 14.4 shortly after going online. Not long after that it was a new motherboard, then a new CD-ROM drive, and then a second and much larger hard drive.

The DOS Haus began as a Powerboard BBS and stayed that way until August of 1994 when Leroy decided to make the change to Wildcat! Leroy went with Mustang's Wildcat! because he always liked it as a user; when calling Wildcat! boards himself, he always thought it was easy to get around on. So during a trip to his local computer outlet, he bought it on impulse.

When we asked Leroy why he ran a BBS, he said, "I started one, I guess, out of curiosity." He quickly went on to point out, "now I do it because I thoroughly enjoy it."

Leroy maintains about half-a-gig of current files for his users to download, along with files from a CD-ROM collection he makes available to users using the EZROM CD Software. There are 18 CDs to browse through and swipe files from. CD file requests are processed quickly, he says, plus you can browse and download files immediately from the online CD.

The CD collection consists of the Nightowl CDs, volumes 10 to 14, Pier 3 to 5, Phoenix 4 and 5, Monster Media '93 and '94 (1 and 2), Cica for Windows, and Cream of the Crop volumes II and III. Addison DOS Haus is also a distribution site for T&J Software Door programs.

Today the system is run on a Packard Bell 486DX2/40, with 6 MB of RAM. Inside is a Seagate 107 MB IDE hard drive and a 420 MB Western Digital IDE hard drive.

A good number of callers use this

BBS to access the Wildnet email Network. The Wildnet conferences, with their many topics, are a big feature of this board.

At present, there are 57 Doors available to users, 31 of which are registered. Some of the more popular Doors include Bordelo, Junkyard, BBS Magazine, King of the Board, Paycheck, Card sharks 6.0, Tractor Pull, Triple Yahtzee, Superslots, and Tele Hang.

Other Doors providing information are World Facts, US Census Information, USBBS listings, three Bible Doors, an online Legal Advice Door, various other online magazines, and the FedJobs Door (Federal job listings), which is updated each week.

Hein is a longtime Postal Service employee and plans on being a sysop for just as long. To fill that time some plans for Addison DOS Haus include turning it into a multi-node system and upgrading to a Pentium-based system.

Leroy said he'd also like to add a six-disc CD-ROM changer and, somewhere down the road, add Fidonet Conferences.

# BBS

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Addison DOS Haus is a free service open to all callers. Contributions and donations are accepted, of course; Leroy uses the money to register Doors. "I get quite a few first-time users," Leroy says, "and I will try to help them in any way that I can."

Leroy said that if any member needs more time, all they have to do is ask.



## BB's BBS

**SYSOP:** Bob Browne

**LOCATION:** Atco, NJ

**PHONE NUMBER:** 609.768.6585

**MODEM TYPE:** US Robotics Sportster 14.4

**BBS SOFTWARE:** RBBS-PC/CDOR

**BBS THEME:** *Friends, Files, and Doors Galore!*

BB's BBS was actually started in 1988 by this writer as a small, private system used by service technicians to test modems and video terminals, and then PCs with modems. The technicians began leaving numerous messages to each other forcing expansion of the message system.

Then the customers being serviced by the technicians got interested, and called to communicate with the techs via email. After that, software upgrades were being made available to customers through the file section, so it too had to expand.

At first we were using software called Maxi-Host—later changed to Mega-Host—but as the demand for more features came about, we switched to RBBS software.

As business would have it, the climate changed and the need for the system evaporated. So I did the sensible thing—took the board home and turned it into a public BBS. This is how the board got its start.

I needed a name for it and wanted it to be recognized as mine, so after considering Data Field and Bit Stop it simply became BB's BBS, using my initials—it had a nice ring to it.

After learning how to set up the RBBS software and how the software was developed by contributing sysop/programmers, I knew that it was the software I wanted to use and support. The sysops and programmers behind RBBS are a great bunch of people who are always willing to help out a new user through Fido and the RBBSnet message networks. And there are plenty of support boards to call directly.

It might not be the easiest software package out there, but it is one of the most configurable—it lets sysops totally personalize their BBS. And with the help of the Cellar Door modification package, even more features and cosmetic enhancements are possible.

BB's BBS is open to all callers and we try to have something for everyone. We maintain a fairly large file area with only current shareware releases and other files, like graphics and text documents.

You'll find a large selection of Doors online that are very active and popular among the users—games like TradeWars 2002, The PIT, Super Slots, Fresh Water Fishing, Online Bowling, Scrabble, and about 40 more. The Scrabble game is one of the most popular with about 10 games going on at any one time. Almost all of the Doors are registered, so users can be assured they are getting the most action they can.

BB's BBS is a member of the RIME Network and carries a selected group of RIME conferences in which users can partake.

The RIME network provides BB's BBS users with general chat-type mes-

**BB's BBS is a home-town local board that offers users many of the features other boards charge yearly subscriptions for. It's basically a public service BBS and offers its features to anyone for free.**

saging along with private email to other RIME nodes.

We also carry a selection of Wildnet conferences along with southern New Jersey's own email network known as SNJ-Net, for which we also act as a mail hub.

Callers can also gain access to a private adult area of the board by sending in a registration form. The adult area is like a second BBS within BB's that has its own separate files, messages and door games.

Future plans include adding nodes to accommodate more users and larger hard drives to keep up with uploads, as well as maintaining a larger selection of files in both the main board and the adult area. Files are getting larger these days so we definitely look forward to the bigger drives.

Right now the BBS is run on a somewhat modest system. We use an AMD 386DX-40 motherboard and a couple of

CONTINUES ...

```
You Are Connected With:
BB'S BBS
Message Networks
Carrying National and State Wide
Electronic Message Networks.
RIME, WildNet! and Hub for SNJ-Net!
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Free Software available for ALL to
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All types of software and graphics
available to users at NO charge.
.QWK Mail Services
Network mail available through a
mail door for Off Line Reading.
On Line Games and More!!!
Games to play Online! Compete
with other users. OnLine library
of stories and informative articles.
More ([V],N,C,A,J)?
```

Maxtor hard drives hooked up to a Perstor Controller card. The system has a built-in Colorado Jumbo 250 tape back-up system and is wired with a US Robotics Sportster 14.4 internal modem.

Down the road we will network this computer to another, probably with Lantastic, so we can give users a second node for additional access and also to provide real time multi-player games and real time chat.

BB's BBS is a home-town local board that offers users many of the features other boards charge yearly subscriptions for. It's basically a public service BBS and offers its features to anyone for free. We do ask for donations from users and offer extended access to those who do make contributions.

No file ratios are enforced and users may download files as their time limit permits — up to a daily limit set according to usage. Right now the limit is 10 files per day.

Donation for extended access can be as low as \$5 for a month or \$35 for a full year. All contributors get additional online time with no download limitations.

So if you're ever browsing for a BBS to call that offers all the features of the "Big Boys" in BBSs, give BB's a call. We think you'll be glad you called.

## The Hour Glass BBS

**SYSOP:** Lyn Borchert

**LOCATION:** Tucson, Arizona

**PHONE NUMBER:** 602.326.2999

**MODEM TYPE:** ZyXel 16800 model U-1496

**BBS SOFTWARE:** QuickBBS v2.80 Zeta-1

**BBS THEME:** BASIC Programming and Novell Networking

Lyn Borchert started The Hour Glass BBS back in 1989 running Opus software on a Leading Edge computer with a 32 MB hard drive. He found himself quickly getting involved with RBBS Net and Fidonet, and as things progressed, he discovered the Quick BBS package by Adam Hudson. He said he immediately fell in love with the product and has been a Quick BBS board ever since.

Lyn, a computer professional dealing in sales and service on PC-based systems, is heavily involved in BASIC programming as a hobby. He said he's also an authorized reseller of Novell products and includes Novell and networking as part of his board's theme.

Lyn finds himself always answering users' questions and getting into conversations concerning both BASIC programming and Novell networking.

Over the years the system has continued to evolve and is now being run on a small Novell network with the

actual BBS on a 386 computer and all the data and files for download located on the Netware file server.

As CD-ROM technology came of age he added three CD-ROM drives so there's definitely no shortage of files for users to download.

Lyn's currently running a single-line BBS, even though all the hardware is in place to start a second node. He says he is basically waiting until the registrations for a consecutive six-month period would support the cost of another phone line before he actually installs it. According to Lyn, Tucson is still a little behind most major metropolitan areas when it comes to BBS users.

"Maybe it's because we have a larger than average population of retirement-age people," Lyn says.

As a result, registrations are still a rather sporadic thing and Lyn says that every larger system that starts up in Tucson doesn't seem to last more than a year — probably due to lack of subscriptions.

"I really don't view my BBS as a business and as such, to justify the expense of more than one node, I'd like to see the users paying for those benefits," Lyn said. "I enjoy it as it is. I really like installing new programs and writing utility programs to assist in automated maintenance."

Lyn has a few of his own door programs online currently. He has a JackPot Lotto Door that users can play once a day in which they stand a good chance of winning extra online time, or possibly extra file credits. He's also written a BBS list door since he couldn't find an existing one that worked reliably and to his liking. The same is

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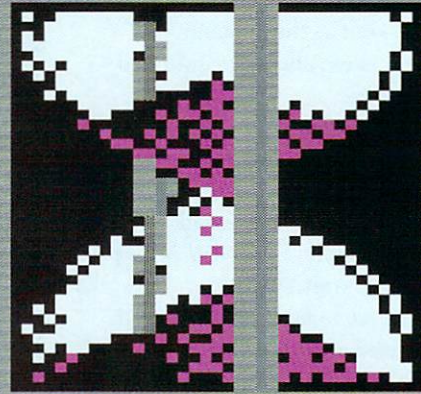
THE HOUR GLASS BBS

SysOp  
Lyn Borchert

Running  
QuickBBS v2.80

Home of:

- Request-It Door
- At The Polls (ATP) Door
- LUE QuickBBS User Editor
- Jem Disc Shareware CD-ROM
- Net-Working BBS List Door
- Quality Computer Services



Enter First and Last name? (No Initials)

true of his voting booth door program called "At The Polls," which has met with good success on the board.

Lyn says he runs the BBS for two main reasons: he enjoys playing with the software configurations, and adjusting the look and feel of the board and the features available; and to have easy access to support echos for various software and programming packages.

The Hour Glass BBS has about 200 to 300 MB of recent files on the hard drive. Nothing over a year old is allowed and older files are deleted nightly. Users cannot upload files where the executable file in the archive is older than one year.

There are three CD-ROM drives online which only registered users can download from, but everyone can browse through. This is so unregistered users can see what they would get if they decided to register. A registered user has access to approximately two gigabytes of downloadable files through the CD-ROM drives and hard drive combined. Since CD-ROMs often are six months to a year behind in files, Lyn reserves the hard drive space for the more recent files to fill in that gap.

Door games online include TradeWars, Legend of the Red Dragon, Barren Realms Elite, and Rise to Power. Lyn says the most popular one right now is Legend of the Red Dragon.

We asked Lyn why he chose the software he runs, to which he replied, "In the beginning it was simply because of the full control over the menu system and the very fast response to key presses."

With QBBS there is no need to wait for a menu to display before making your selection. If you are a reg-

ular user and know the commands you can simply hit them one after another and move almost instantly to anyplace on the board."

Lyn continued: "The closest thing to that feature at the time was command stacking where you type in all the commands separated by commas and then press enter. Obviously, since then, many more BBS programs have come out with these key features. However, I

CONTINUES ...

**The Hour Glass BBS is a good place for users to get answers to questions about their computers and/or Novell Networks."**

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have not yet found one that has enough better features or all the features that I would like to have, so I haven't switched from QBBS. Remote Access is a close competitor to QBBS, but it lacks the speed. I've set it up a couple of times, but always ended up coming back to QBBS."

Three computers make up the entire system. The file server is a 386DX/40 with 8 MB of RAM (soon to be upgraded to 16 MB necessary for additional hard drives). It's running Novell Netware v3.11 and carries three SCSI drives — a Maxtor 340 MB, a Quantum 250 MB, and a Western Digital 150 MB. Lyn recently added a Teac double speed SCSI CD-ROM, too.

The BBS computer is a 386SX/40. It has a DAK double-speed external CD-ROM drive, a Mitsumi single speed internal CD-ROM drive, and a 125 MB IDE hard drive. The ZyXel 16,800 modem is connected to this machine and as soon as ZyXel starts shipping its 28,800 model Lyn said he'd be upgrading.

The third computer is used strictly for BBS maintenance, and for Lyn's personal use. It's a Cyrix 486DX/33 with a 340 MB Quantum IDE drive.

Currently, The Hour Glass provides access to Fidonet national and local echomail. They do have a local Usenet gate but Lyn is currently looking at software that will allow his users to enter and receive Internet email from the BBS.

As for future plans, another phone

line or two is in store and, of course, more drive space and more CD-ROMs. Lyn also claims he'd really like to get one of the Panasonic six-disc CD-ROM drives sometime this year.

What does the future hold for BBSs? Lyn says if nothing else it's bright.

"I see much growth in both the hobbyist area and more commercial boards. I think in the near future we will see more and more seamless interfacing between the Internet and hobbyist networks like Fidonet. That would make the cost of transferring files and messages over long distances more affordable for everyone involved. Provided, of course, that the telephone company and the FCC don't put a surcharge on modem usage."

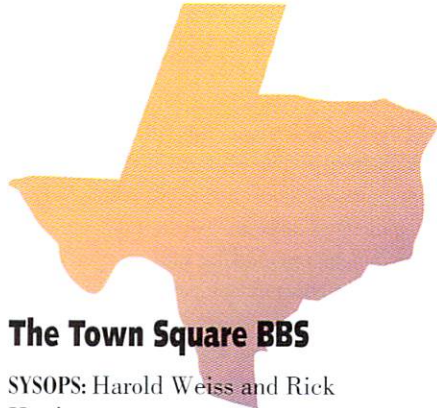
Lyn, who with a partner has a small computer service company specializing in Novell Networks, said, "I've been in this line of work almost as long as I've had The Hour Glass BBS online. As a result, The Hour Glass BBS (or me) is a good place for users to get answers to questions about their computers and/or Novell Networks."

Probably one of the more unique things about The Hour Glass BBS is the registration program (another one of Lyn's creations). New users can download the program which gives them full details about the board, and provides a way for them to easily register. Lyn intends to improve on the program and include snapshots of the board. The goal is to make it a good thing to have for anyone who is new to BBSing in general, as well as being an easy way to register on The Hour Glass BBS.

"It is my belief that most users are mainly interested in files," Lyn said, "and so I will continue to attempt to have the most recent releases and superior file handling software for my callers to use."

Internet newsgroups are something else Lyn is looking into at this time, but as of yet, he says there aren't any reasonably priced services for providing newsgroups.

"This really is a great hobby and it would be even more fun if it just weren't so expensive," he concluded. "If you build it, the users will come, but I think even if the users didn't come, I would have still built it."



## The Town Square BBS

**SYSOPS:** Harold Weiss and Rick Hawkins

**LOCATION:** Pasadena, Texas

**PHONE NUMBER:** 713.477.2681

**MODEM TYPE(S):** Zoom V.FC and US Robotics DS 16.8

**BBS SOFTWARE:** Wildcat! 4.01

**BBS THEME:** *A Good Network of Friends.*

Harold Weiss has been a sysop for over five years, beginning with a BBS called "Pier 7," a board that grew to be very popular and extremely busy with over 900 active callers from around the globe, garnering mention in Computer Shopper magazine. Things were really hopping.

Then about two-and-a-half years ago, Harold found himself unemployed and unable to financially support the BBS. Forced to shut down Pier 7, Harold was crushed.

Then things turned around.

He went to work for Radio Shack where he met Rick Hawkins (his current co-sysop) and together they decided to create a new BBS—Town Square was born.

Harold has made some interesting observations about BBSing, one of which touches on the mentality of some of those running boards.

For instance, one thing callers might notice is that when they spell out BBS in any of the documents, they refer to it as a Bulletin Board "Service" rather than a Bulletin Board "System".

"There is a reason for this," says Harold. "When BBSs originated, sysops ruled their systems like kings, forcing people to leave petty information about themselves, and enforcing file and message ratios, so callers had to participate in the message areas in order to play games or they had to upload two files for each file they wanted to download. These rules worked while BBSs were few, and users didn't have much choice."

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"Today there are thousands of BBSs across the country and it has become a callers market. If you don't like what you find here, there are hundreds of BBSs in Houston to choose from."

"We know that," he said.

That's why Harold (and Rick) consider their board a service, not a system.

They say they will eventually charge access fees so that the service can pay for its own phone lines, and allow them to allocate funds for future upgrades. You will find a very open and honest system here. There is no call-back verification, and they do not require you to upload files, nor do they force you to post messages in the message base. They like the fact that they are one of the few BBSs allowing such a courtesy on the very first call.

The only thing they request is that callers be polite and use common courtesy, following a few basic rules: "Do not use multiple accounts, do not upload commercial files, do not upload pornographic files, and keep profanity to a minimum in the public areas."

"We run a family BBS, and are proud to be invited into your home," said Harold. "Likewise, I invite you as a guest into my home, the 'Town Square.'"

Harold said, "When we originally started out, we wanted to go with a 'general' type of system, not specializing in any one point. I think as we've grown, though, the system has evolved into its own specialty. Its focus is 'fun!'"

"We have a lot of game players here and a very positive, fun atmosphere," Harold said. "We are one of the biggest TradeWars boards in Houston. I have written help files for TradeWars 2002 2.0 Beta 5 called 'Slice's War Manual' and it's been a huge success."

Harold told me he runs a BBS just for the joy of it. He logged onto his first BBS when he was in college back in 1986. A friend showed him how you could get all these real nifty games and files, and all for free! He said he was astounded. He spent about a week uploading here, downloading there, and constantly tying up the phone line. His roommates started to hate him for monopolizing the phone. Then he logged on a BBS that had Fidonet and

again he was amazed. He said he instantly realized there were people from around the nation he could converse with on almost any topic.

About then Harold knew he was going to be a sysop himself. Soon!

Harold also told me that he is an "Information Junkie." He loves being connected to the message echos, and being able to choose which echos he puts on his own board makes it that much better, he said.

The Town Square BBS has 13 CD-ROMs online and 800 MB of hard drive space. They carry over 40 different Fidonet echos and run about 20 different Doors.

Harold said they pride themselves on having very active Doors and welcome the game player with open arms and love other competitors.

One of the reasons Harold and Rick are running Wildcat! 4.0 is the "terrific new features and incredible flexibility you have so you can personalize your system inside and out."

When evaluating different BBS software packages, Wildcat!'s built in CD ROM support was one thing that Harold could really appreciate so they decided to run with it.

Here's a run-down on the equipment used to keep the Town Square online: a 486DX/25 as a file server with 8 MB of RAM, a 340 MB IDE drive, 540 MB IDE drive, a high performance four-port serial card, Tandy cartridge CD-ROM drive, a Tandy flip-top CD-ROM drive, a Pioneer DRM-600 CD-ROM six-disc changer and a Pioneer DRM-602X CD-ROM six-disc changer. Modems include a US Robotics 16.8 Dual Standard modem and a Zoom 28.8 V.FC modem.

The board is the Wildcat! 10-line version with the WcPro and WcCode add-on modules and the D'Bridge front-end mailer.

Some of the Doors you'll find at the Town Square are TradeWars, Legend of the Red Dragon, iMMortal (they're a Beta site), OutPost Trader, VGA Planets, Usurper, The Pit, Card Cuppies, Sink 'em, Kannons and Katapults, Netrunner, and Bomb Rescue.

In the future they'd like to offer Internet newsgroups and email accounts, probably through Planet

.....

**One thing callers might notice is that when [The Town Square] spells out BBS in any of the documents, they refer to it as a Bulletin Board "Service" rather than a Bulletin Board "System".**

Connect's satellite system.

Other plans include switching from DESQview to OS/2 for its multi-tasking abilities, but that depends on whether Mustang plans on coming out with a native OS/2 version and on how reliable Windows 95 turns out to be.

"I keep reading that the Internet is going to make all our single-line boards obsolete," Harold said. "I don't think so. I think the Internet has great potential as a global information exchange with newsgroups and email, but unless the costs to connect (as a host) drop, I don't see it replacing the hobby BBS networks that are already here."

"Internet is big business nowadays," Harold said. "I don't see prices dropping to hobby levels while there is still the potential to make money from it."

I have to agree with Harold. The BBS is here to stay. ■■■■

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## Newbie Necessities

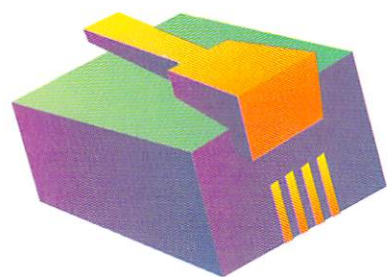
*You got the Mac, the modem ... and the headache.  
Here's how to avoid that last one.*

It's an old story — that noirish one with the famous duo New User and Modem.

The two characters meet, exchange niceties, a struggle ensues, the relationship disintegrates, and inevitably the plot races to a crescendo of cries. Getting online isn't always that easy.

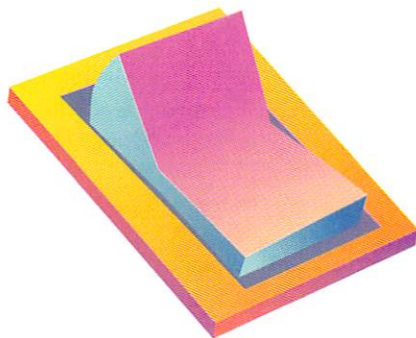
Many of the problems these two characters have — problems thousands of others Mac-modem newcomers experience — can be alleviated by carrying out a few simple checks beginning with the following:

**1.** Although this might sound stupid, make sure your modem is turned on. Many people hook all the wires and cables up, but forget to turn the modem on before launching the communications software.



**2.** Make sure the phone wire you are using is live (i.e., that you can make a call on it). Just because you have a phone jack in your home/office doesn't mean it's live. I always tell users to plug their phone in first to make sure it works. Also, check the rear of your modem to make sure the phone cord is plugged in to the line receptacle and not the phone plug.

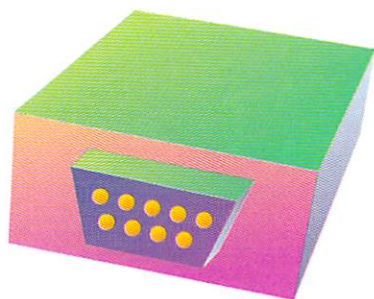
**3.** The wrong modem cable will stop transmission before it starts. Make sure you have the right type going from your modem and to either your modem or printer port. If you are using a modem of 9600 baud or better, you'll need a hardware handshaking cable. Why the handshaker? At 2400 baud and below your software can handle the flow of



### KEYWORDS

Modems  
Comm packages  
Modem commands

data coming in and going out of your modem pretty reliably. At higher speeds, however, software flow control is spotty. The hardware handshaking cable contains the standard serial con-



nection wires, plus a request to send (RTS) wire, as well as a clear to send (CTS) wire. By applying different voltage levels to the CTS wire, a modem can tell your computer to either continue sending data or to stop until it finishes dealing with the data already sent. Similarly, the computer can do the same by applying different voltage levels to the RTS wire.

**4.** No matter how advanced your communications package, you must have the settings right. Make sure to choose the right port, modem or printer. Most boards also use the settings of 8-N-1-F (8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit, full echo). If that doesn't work, try 7-E-1 instead. For an explanation of these terms, check this space in May.

**5.** If you connect to a board only to receive a string of strange looking characters with embedded text, you may have connected to an ANSI-based BBS. Look under your settings menu and click on the ANSI-PC BBS setting, then call back.

Now that you've made these simple inquiries, we need to test your communications software and try getting online.

First, type "AT," the attention command. The modem should reply with an "OK." This is simply a way of checking

if your modem is ready to accept commands and to see that it's in the command mode.

When you think of modems, there are only two states of existence, command mode and online mode — command mode for when you are querying the settings on your modem, making the calls, etc., and online mode when you actually connect to a board or service.

If your modem does not respond with an "OK" after you've issued the "AT" command, try the checklist mentioned before. If it's not there, you may have an older modem with one of two possible conditions.

Some older modems are case-sensitive when it comes to typing in your commands. Try typing in the "AT" command in upper case, then try lower case. Many of the older modems only respond to upper case letters. The other condition, which is not too common, is that you have a modem whose factory default settings will not allow it to echo back to you, unless you specifically ask it to. To get the modem to echo, type "ATE1." By the way, if you want to set your modem's setting back to its original factory settings, you can do that by typing "ATZ."



online. As for actual logon, keep in mind that each program follows a slightly different procedure.

Some other useful

Hayes commands are "A/", which repeats the last command you just issued, and "ATA" which tells your modem to answer the phone. If you want to jump from the online mode to the command mode, try typing "+++". This is useful if the BBS you've called locks up, or if you're stuck in an infinite loop.

You can also use this to query your modem on some of its settings without having to log off first. To return to the online mode, type "ATO" (that's an O, not zero). Finally, to hang up and drop carrier, type "ATH".

To learn more about the Hayes commands and the different settings (registers) on your modem, look in your modem's documentation. Almost all modems have a complete set of Hayes commands and a description of what each of the different settings does on the modem. But be careful not change your registers' values without knowing what you're doing — you may end up with that headache after all. ■■■■

*Michael A. Kuykendall, who has written for several computer publications, is currently sysop of the Online Macintosh Users Group (BBS: 404-988-9904). Comments and or suggestions may be sent to him in care of this publication, the BBS, or andykirk@aol.com.*



Next, try keying in a BBS number by issuing either ATDT or ATDP, followed by the number.

The "D" stands for dial, the "T" for tone, "P" for pulse dialing.

Incidentally, the number you enter can be just the numbers alone (5551212), or with a dash (555-1212).

Your modem ignores most non-numeric characters after the ATDT or ATDP command. There are a few characters it doesn't ignore, however, such as the "," (comma), "W", and the ";" (semicolon) characters.

# Pitfalls in Corporate Netting

*How to avoid the Net Requisite Paradox*

To say companies around the globe are rushing to get on the Internet is an understatement equal to suggesting “OJ gets a lot of press.” These business interests have heard *ad nauseam* about an infinite frontier of commercial prospects, and are practically begging to get wired.

**KEYWORDS**  
Intel's mistake  
Tips for corporate  
netters

“Boss, we’ve just GOTTA get online!”

It’s a smart, if old, idea for sure. Using the Internet to broadcast and retrieve information is becoming much like using the phone, only with far more powerful results. That said, you’d assume these corporations would understand by now just how powerful the Internet is. After all, if they’re so adamant about being connected, there must be a reasonable degree of faith in the karma of this dataway and those who feed it, yes?

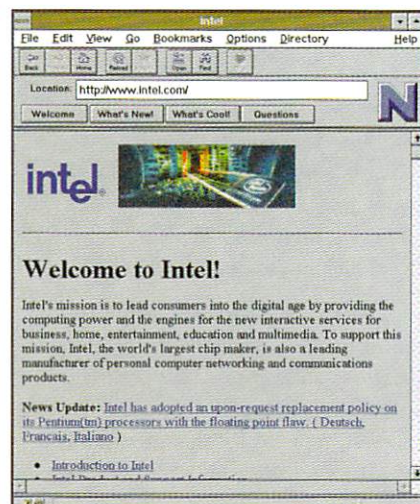
Unfortunately, this apparently isn’t the case. At least not completely. Don’t believe me? Just look at Intel’s recent screw-up of the decade.

By now the Pentium bug is just another sorry footnote in the history of computers. But the circumstances surrounding the revelation of its faults is an illustrative and royal example of dissing those who should be most important to you — Netters. And it also displays an utter lack of respect for the medium.

But let’s back up.

The Pentium chip, for those locked in solitary in late ’94, had a bug in the

floating point division circuitry that caused significant errors in certain divisions (not all that unusual in the grand scheme of things — bugs, that is). The Pentium glitch was found by a researcher doing heavy mathematical calculations. After eliminating as many possibilities as he could, he decided that the error was related to his Pentium chip. So, naturally, he posted a message to the Internet, asking for secondary confirmation.





At first, response was slow. Then users around the world began to concur that there was a serious problem, and within a week the Internet was buzzing with talk of the bug — and what Intel might be planning to do about it. But it wasn't until weeks later in December, when the trades and dailies were running front-page stories on the bug, that Intel deemed the problem troubling enough to act upon.

Consequently, as we now know, the company was trashed for the slow response. Perhaps it will just take some time for the corporate world to respect the significance of this boundless mesh of networks. But until that day, I think we'll continue bearing witness to what can appropriately be dubbed Net Requisite Paradox.

## Avoiding NRP

So if we all agree that the Internet played an important part in the Intel debacle, the next question must be, from a business person, "How do we prevent this from happening to us?" Glad you asked. I've compiled a few guidelines that should help you avoid these problems.

### HAVE A PRESENCE ON THE INTERNET

The annual cost of having an FTP or telnetable site on the Net is fairly small, compared with the cost of recovering from such public relations nightmares. If I need to find out something about Novell's products for instance, the first place I look is their Net connections — gopher, FTP, Web, and electronic mail, for starters. I don't make phone calls or otherwise search endlessly for oftentimes incorrect information when I can get it quickly and right the first time on their Web site. If Intel had a workable Net presence, then users might have gone there first for information instead of reading the rumors. In Intel's defense, they did have a web site (<http://www.intel.com>), but it was not promoted enough to make the masses aware. Intel's mistake: better promote your Internet access!

### YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE INTERNET

Ever try to control the media? How about the weather? There are too many people involved and they don't represent your interests. The Internet is

comprised of millions of users around the world, and they probably couldn't care less about your financial well being. Especially if you show disregard for them, a la Intel.

### ONCE YOU HAVE A NET PRESENCE, TREAT IT LIKE YOU WOULD YOUR OTHER PUBLIC RELATIONS CONNECTIONS

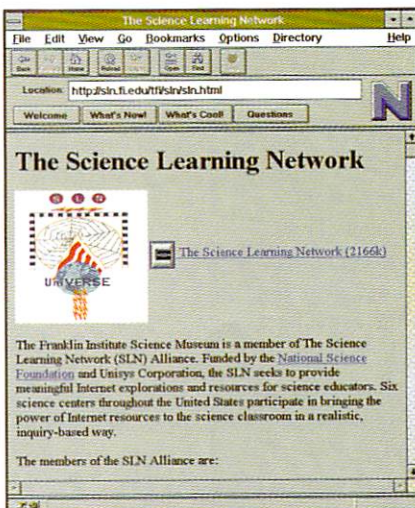
Some companies make the mistake of setting up an FTP site and then putting so little on it that users just end up frustrated trying to dig out information. And often these FTP or Web sites are filled with such outdated information, it is a waste of time. A software company wouldn't advertise a phone line for customer support manned by technicians trained only in last year's version, would it? So if you set up a Web or FTP site, make it worth my time and your money by actually having useful things there.

### LIKE ANY OTHER CONTACT TO YOUR COMPANY, PUBLICIZE YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION

Have your sales and customer support groups actively maintain electronic mail accounts. Include email, Web, and FTP locations in support materials, brochures, product manuals, etc. The best Web site in the world does no good if your customers don't know it's there. Needless to say, these steps won't solve your public relations or customer service problems overnight. But then, maybe that's what Intel thought.

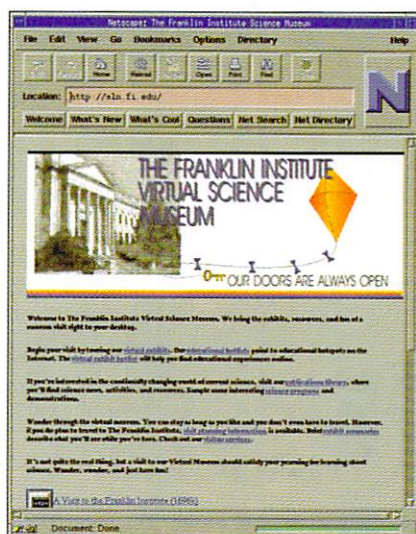
## Webucation

I've been watching a local Web site for



a few months now that's really coming into its own. It's the home page for the Franklin Institute — located in Philadelphia — and was created when The Franklin Institute teamed up with Unisys and others to create a partnership labeled the "Science Learning Network."

Its focus is providing information to children around the country, perhaps even globally, by making museum resources available via the Internet. This network is comprised of the Franklin Institute and five other national museums.



This project, founded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Unisys, joins museums in Pennsylvania, California, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Minnesota. Each museum is coupled with an elementary school in its region to begin the program, with Unisys providing hardware for these schools. Each museum has its own specialty, the Philadelphia museum's being, of course, Benjamin Franklin.

You can reach the Franklin Science Institute home page at the following URL: <http://sln.fi.edu>. And as you'll see, this virtual museum proudly states "Our Doors are Always Open." Currently, there's an MPEG video of the museum for your viewing pleasure. The MPEG is rather large — approximately 1.7 megs — so you'll need a viewer that can display hefty videos. Try it out. ■■■■■

Mike Robinson  
 mrobinsn@wharton.upenn.edu.

# Software for Soaring

*How to build (the coolest) paper airplanes...  
how to spot a warbler.*

Regular readers know I often seek out programs of the unusual variety. Given a choice between something little-known but intriguing, and something "bound for success," I'll choose the path less traveled. On a recent hike down that way I found three programs fitting nicely into the former category, but deserving of the latter.

## Greatest Paper Airplanes v1.0b

by KittyHawk Software  
GPA10B.ZIP  
Reg. \$29.95

So you think you know how to make a paper airplane. Think again.

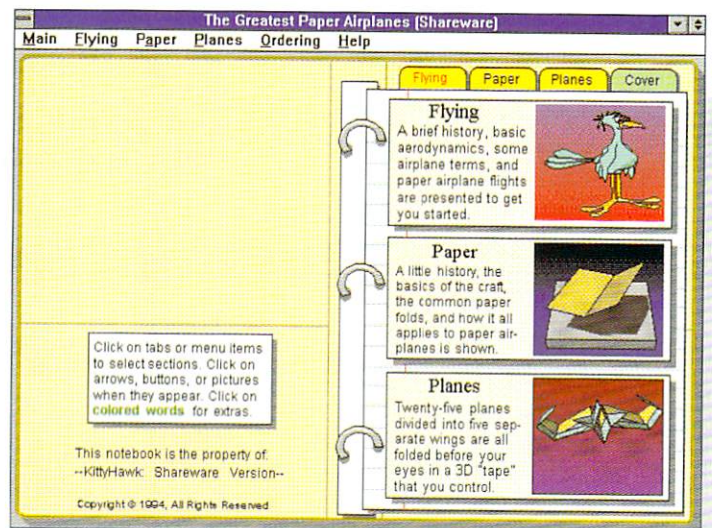
GREATEST PAPER AIRPLANES (GPA) is a Windows program packed with 25 of the wildest designs you'll find anywhere, each with its own step-by-step folding instructions.

When the program is first loaded, you're shown a notebook with its right side divided into three choices. The first is Flying, which gives you a brief history of flight, basic aerodynamics, terminology, and how to properly fly your finished

paper airplane.

Next is Paper. Here is a brief history of paper making, paper folding basics and common folds. But the real fun can be found under the heading of Planes.

When you choose Planes, you again are shown a notebook with five different styles of airplanes to work with. Under each are five planes fitting that category. After choosing the one you want to work with, the left side of the notebook will show you the finished



folded plane with written instructions for each step. The right side has a "VCR" that animates each step for you to play forward or backward at your own pace. Try some of the easier ones first to get the hang of folding.

The instructions are easy to understand, especially with the animation; however, you might find it more convenient to first print out your chosen plane.

As for the printing, you're given the option of outputting plain, decorated, or military-styled flying machines. You can even print both sides (the program simplifies this sometimes vexing task) giving the planes an authentic look. What you're left with is quite a show-piece.

GPA is really a fine piece of software for all ages. The graphics and animation are extremely well done, and by clicking on almost any colored picture, you're taken on a flight to another section of the program.

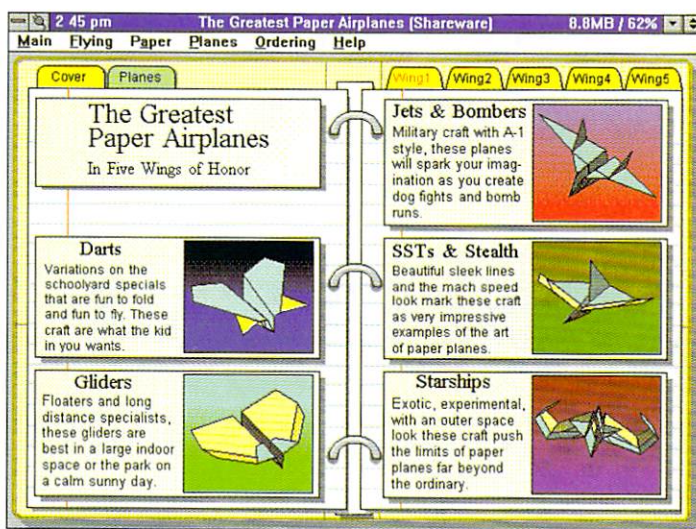
For \$29.95, KittyHawk will send you 25 more planes, a pad on which the planes are already printed with designs and fold lines, a screen saver, and additional software.

GPA requires Windows 3.1, a 386 or higher, a mouse, and at least two megabytes of RAM (four recommended).

## North American Wild Birds v1.0

by Due North Software  
 BIRD10.ZIP  
 Reg. \$20 to \$50

NORTH AMERICAN WILD BIRDS (NAWB) is very much like the many CD-ROMs with a focus on animals. NAWB is a complete reference program listing hundreds of birds with complete data on each. Although the shareware version has graphics of just five birds, you can get 500 more visuals



when you register. But clear some space: those images gulp it like pelicans — the entire registered package takes up over 17MB on the hard drive.

NAWB requires at least VGA, and SVGA is "required" to view the graphics (after running the enclosed SETVIDEO program to configure your video card). I was able to "fool" the program into thinking my VGA was SVGA, so you probably can, too.

Once you select a bird from the hundreds available, you're given quite a bit of information such as field marks, nesting habits, habitat, and more. If a picture or sound of that bird is available, it will display the image on the left side of the screen and echo its call. There are also sections in NAWB that help you identify the birds you might see.

The real power of the program can be found under the search option. Here you can search by bird types, such as Song Birds, Birds of Prey, Water Birds, and more. You can also search for an unknown bird by entering such things as color or marking, and then let the program try to find a match for you.

## GIF2XTS v5.5

by Chris O'Donnel  
 GIFXTS55.ZIP  
 Reg. \$40

If someone in your family is interested in doing cross stitch, you probably already know how terrifically expensive those necessary patterns can be. So

wouldn't it be nice to have the ability to create your own patterns?

Introducing GIF2XTS. Not only does this program create the patterns, but it will do so from any GIF file. There's a nearly endless supply of GIFs around, so projects will be in no short supply — and all you'll need to do is purchase the embroidery floss.

The program isn't flashy and doesn't have all the bells and whistles many have come to expect, but one look tells you this is a powerful program.

To create your own cross stitch pattern, you'll first need to set your printer. There are quite a few listed, so I'm sure you'll find a suitable driver. Then just run the program, load your .GIF file, and convert it. It's quite fast and a lot easier than you might think. Now send it to the printer and you're ready to get your needles out.

You're given a choice of four different sizes when you go to print. I suggest the larger size as the small size is hard on the eyes. The pattern is printed out in "strips," which are then taped together to get the whole picture. What you end up with is a grid with symbols in the squares that correspond with the color chart at the bottom of the page — just like the ones you pay top dollar for.

One feature of this program that you'll like is the included HOWTO.TXT file. You'll want to print this out and follow the step-by-step instructions. This file explains each step and tells you how to use some of the other features of the program, as you can do more than just convert and print.

Think of the possibilities; forgetting about all the available GIFs, if you have a scanner (or at least access to one), you can snap some of your favorite pictures into patterns. Or start a little business on the side creating cross stitch patterns for others. Either way, the software will pay for itself after just a few creations.

If you're a shareware author and would like me to take a look at your programs, send them to:

Hank Hurteau  
 8 Hendrick St.  
 Easthampton, MA 01027-2525.

Or upload to Uncle Hank's BBS at 413.527.8977. ■■■■

## QWK, Just the Fax

*New tools to make life a little easier  
and who to call for help*

### Sharing the PC hard drive

64NET

By Paul Gardner-Stephen

64NET is a network sharing system which allows Commodore 64 users to cable their C=64 (or 128 in 64 mode) to an MS-DOS computer, using its hard drive to load and run files on the Commodore.

The demo version can be found on Commodore support BBSs carrying the file name of "64NET172.ZIP."

At press time, 64NET was announced to have the ability to work within GEOS (Commodore) and will recognize and automatically decompress various archive types, such as CBM Zipcode or PKZip (including 2.04g).

64NET is an Australian product, designed by Paul Gardner-Stephen, and will be marketed in the U.S. by Performance Peripherals. A 128Net is also in under development.

The cost is expected to be about \$50 US, cable included. The commercial version includes the ability to copy files between the two computers.

### Faxing with GEOS

geoFAX

By Maurice Randall

The fax barrier has been broken for Commodore 64/128 users by geoFAX, with an additional "bonus" that allows for more than just sending and receiving information using a fax modem — graphics from any computer platform can be faxed to a Commodore user, who can then use the files in other applications.

geoFAX, written by Maurice Randall, runs under GEOS v2.0, and needs a 9600, 14.4K or 28.8K fax modem and SWIFTlink cartridge to operate to its full potential (though it can operate with 2400 baud fax modems without a SWIFTLink cartridge).

It can be operated in any configuration, such as a single-disk drive system or expanded systems. Incoming faxes are either printed upon receipt, or saved to disk. At press time, geoFAX required that the modem be able to transmit Group III, Class 2 faxes. Currently the author is working on including Class 1 faxing ability.

The geoFAX demo program can be downloaded from Commodore support BBSs under the name:



"FAXDEMO.SFX."

The complete version is available for \$39.95, plus \$4 shipping and handling from Maurice Randall, Box 606, Charlotte, MI 48813; 517.543.5202; or from Creative Micro Designs, Inc.

### QWKRR Program Support

QWKRR43T.ZIP (PKZip 1.x format)

A new concept in documentation for the Commodore platform, QWKRR43T.ZIP contains a QWK mail packet with the documentation for QWKRR128 v4.3x as individual messages. Because QWKRR has the ability to display the message header information as a list, each field of the header has been utilized to display information about the message. Users can quickly move to the message containing the info they want.

To dissolve the original

#### KEYWORDS

Cool tools  
Disk browsing  
Support boards

QWKRR43T.ZIP file and the QWK packet within it, users will also need UNZIP128 and QPE. These can be found in NZP12813.SFX by David Schmoll.

Rod Gasson came up with the concept for putting the documentation in QWK format so new users would be able to practice using the program before downloading and dissolving a packet.

This columnist did the actual implementation, transferring the documentation into .DAT (mail) format.

## Browsing directories

### BROWSER.SFX

Rod Gasson

This new program allows Commodore 128 users to browse through disk directories (including any CMD device, such as an HD Hard Drive or RAMLink) and simply move the menu bar over the file name to read (in Pet or true ASCII), view, or run the file.

Message .DAT files from QWK packets are displayed with the To/From/Subject information, colorized and separated from the text so it appears as mail on a BBS. The program displays ANSI screens and allows you to view program files as if you've listed them, but with the tokens colorized. C128 Basic files can be run from the Browser.

## Commodore support, BBS style

Finding BBSs and online services that support Commodore computers doesn't have to be a challenge. To provide a broad overview, I've included a list of BBSs and online services operating on several platforms. Many of these boards provide online rosters of other BBSs with Commodore people, and support for the computers.

### 221B BAKER STREET BBS

904.862.8643

Fort Walton Beach, Florida

*Modem Speed* — up to 28k bps

“V.Everything”

*System* — IBM

*Commodore Support* — Commodore users can use the name “Commodore Caller” and password “CBM” for easier access to the Commodore files area.

Offers Fidonet CBM, CBM-128, CBM-GEOS and PCWrite echoes. The Fidonet PCWrite echo allows discussion of Commodore/PC/Amiga emulators and other cross-platform computing, along with PCWrite support.

### ANCIENT HEART

517.752.3203

Saginaw, MI

*Modem Speed* — up to 28.8k

*System* — Amiga

*Commodore Support* — Commodore files, Fidonet CBM conferences

### CEE-64 ALIVE BBS

916.395.9733

Sacramento, California

*Modem Speed* — up to 14.4k

*System* — IBM

*Commodore Support* — Support BBS for CEE-64 Alive! disk magazine. Magazine subscribers given more online time. Extensive Commodore files online, local and international Commodore support echoes, including COMP.SYS.CBM, the Usenet news-group for Commodore users, and all Fidonet CBM echoes.

### C-NET DS-2 MAIN SUPPORT BBS

313.531.8108 *2400*

Redford, Michigan

*System* — Commodore 64

*Software* — C-Net DS-2 v11.6

*Commodore Support* — Beverly James Products; support for C-Net DS-2 v1.6, v2.0 and v2.5 BBS programs for the 64.

### C-NET DS-2, 128 AND DS2 NETWORK SUPPORT BBS

614.522.6563

Newark, Ohio

*System* — Commodore 64

*Software* — C-Net DS-2

*Commodore Support* — Support for DS2 Network v3.03, v3.04 and v3.1; C-Net DS-2 v2.0 and v2.5.

### CRS ONLINE

416.213.6002

Ontario, Canada

*Modem Speed* — 1200 to 14.4k bps.

*System* — IBM (PCBoard)

*Commodore Support* — Commodore files, Fidonet, Usenet, RelayNet, Nanet, and Global-Link Commodore support conferences, including CPM, GEOS and TPUG (Toronto Pet Users Group).

### DELPHI

800.695.4002

*Modem Speed* — up to 14.4k bps

At connect press <return> several times. Password: FREE (sign up for 5 free hours)

*Commodore Support* — Type “GO COM COM” to reach Commodore Computer support area. Commodore files, messages, online conferences, and COMP.SYS.CBM Usenet group support.

### GENE

800.638.8369

*Modem Speed* — up to 2400 baud

At connect type: HHHH <return>

At U# prompt type: SIGNUP <return>

*Commodore Support* — Type M625 to reach Commodore Flagship area.

Commodore messages, files, support for Creative Micro Design, Inc. products, and Parsec products. Real-time conferences with Commodore users and support.

### JELLYSTONE PARK BBS *cn 378*

519.256.1786

Windsor, Ontario Canada

*Modem Speed* — 300-2400 bps

*System* — Commodore 64

*Software* — C-Net DS-2

V.20+/DS2NET V3.04

*Commodore Support* — CBM C/G, ANSI, ASCII, Use “CBMCALLER” or “JP10” as name, and a password of “COMMODORE” for full access to the system, and unlimited time for files access. Local and networked CBM conferences.

### MUDPUDDLE BBS

214.321.1930

Dallas, Texas

*Modem Speed* — 300 to 14.4k

*System* — C128D w/CMD, JiffyDOS v6.01

*Commodore Support* — Support from owner and copyright holder of Supra 128 BBS system; 478 megs of Commodore files online; local and networked CBM conferences; games.

### OMNI WORLD 128

206.536.9353

Tacoma, Washington

*Modem Speed* — 300-14.4k

*System* — Commodore 128 with JiffyDOS.

CONTINUES ...

Software — Omni 128

Commodore Support — Sign on as "GUEST" to look around system. System development and free online support for Omni 128 BBS system. All online files are for support of the system. Local and networked message bases, games.

### THE PHOENIX NETWORK

Your local Sprint number (800.869.1155 (voice) if you don't have this number.)

At connect, type one of the following depending on your baud rate: for 300-

1200 baud, type <return> D <return>. For 2400 or 9600 baud, type D1. At the @ sign, type C FYREBIRD <return>. If you receive an error message, type G1260433 <return>. System — IBM (The Major BBS) Commodore Support — Commodore 64 and 128 message and file areas, Usenet COMP.SYS.CBM messages.

### SYSTEM CONTROL

817.268.6637  
Dallas, Texas  
Modem Speed — up to 28.8k  
System — IBM

Commodore Support — Log in as "Commodore Caller" and a password of "CMDR" for access to file area #3, Commodore files. Also carries all Fidonet CBM conferences.

### THE TALISMAN BBS

204.726.9485  
Souris Canada  
Modem Speed — 300-9600 baud  
System — Commodore 64; total of 445+ megs of hard drive space  
Software — C-BASE v3.2 by Gunther B. (gbriznieks@bix.com)  
Commodore Support — The Talisman is the home of Phantom Software. Updates for Dedit, Super Dedit and Partition can be found in the eighth UD section. 440 megs of storage for Commodore files; messages; games.

### WOLVERINE BBS

517.695.9952  
Freeland, Michigan  
Modem Speed — up to 28.8k  
System — IBM (PCBoard)  
Commodore Support — Commodore files, Fidonet, RelayNet, FamilyNet, COMP.SYS.CBM Commodore message areas.

Gaelyne Moranec is a freelance writer who might be found on any of these BBSs. However it's the last board where she parks her mail:  
gaelyne.moranec@wolverine.com



# Pics OnLine!

BBS

## What's OnLine?

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

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

**30 Minutes Free Access Per Day**

## BBS INCOME

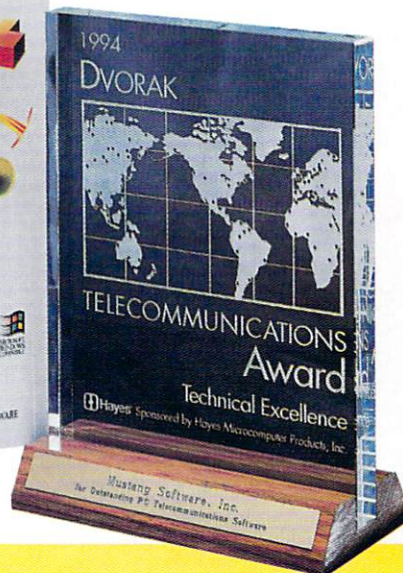
**Free** Report on how to go from \$0 to \$3,000 per month in BBS income in as little as 90 days!

This valuable report reveals money making information on how to operate a BBS for profit. It outlines powerful marketing secrets including unique ways of finding new subscribers and how to get them to pay you top dollar; guaranteed ways to generate other revenue plus the secrets to getting free publicity and being able to accept credit card payments; plus much more. Limited quantity.

InfoLink  
56089 29 Palms Hwy, Ste 254-CD  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
1 (619) 228-9653  
FAX 1 (619) 369-1185

Prepared by the publishers of the book  
*How To Successfully Run A BBS For Profit.*

# Winner Of The 1994 Dvorak Award For Outstanding Telecommunications Technology!



**W**e knew we had a winner on our hands when we introduced the most feature filled communications program of all time. Now that we've won this coveted award, the whole world knows QmodemPro for Windows is #1.

**QmodemPro™ for Windows is the first to give you data, fax and Remote Imaging Protocol (RIP) graphics — all in one outstanding package!**

No other program makes it so easy for Windows users to dial into BBS systems ... or to get so much done while on-line. Imagine — now you can upload by simply dragging-and-dropping files from the Windows File Manager to QmodemPro's upload window! We've also made downloading better with such features as a built-in .GIF viewer that lets you view .GIF and .BMP files as you download them.

The awards committee especially liked QmodemPro's easy-to-use interface and support for launching both fax and data calls from a single dialing directory. With QmodemPro for Windows, you can fax directly from *any* Windows application using our FAX printer driver option.

Ours is also the first Windows product to support RIPscript graphics, so you can plug into the thousands of BBSs offering graphics and full mouse support on-line. And that's *still* not all!

- Multitasking support lets you download files in the background!
- Sound card support, so you can play your favorite .WAV files for different on-line events!
- New BASIC-like script language gives you unparalleled power. Includes compiler and debugger!
- Over 30 of the most popular terminal emulations, including RIPscript, ANSI, DEC VT and TVI925!
- 10 built-in transfer protocols, including Zmodem, CIS B+ and Kermit!
- 40 programmable macro buttons per dialing entry!

QmodemPro for Windows is the most flexible and easy-to-use communications tool on the planet, with *twice* the features of competitive products ... and at the *very* reasonable price of only \$99 (suggested retail price).

## No-nonsense, unconditional 30-day money-back guarantee

Whether you're an on-line novice or a seasoned modem user, you can't go wrong when you go with the winner! Try QmodemPro for Windows for 30 days. If it doesn't win you over, just return it to the store where you bought it for a full refund. No questions asked!

**Buy the best communications software and we'll send you this mouse pad free!**

No other Windows communications program lets you get so much done with your favorite rodent. That's why we're offering you a free Mustang mouse pad when you purchase the experts' favorite communications program!



Mustang Software, Inc. • 6200 Lake Ming Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93306 • Phone (805) 873-2500  
Fax (805) 873-2599 • BBS (805) 873-2400

QmodemPro, the MSI horse logo and artwork are trademarks of Mustang Software, Inc. Copyright ©1987-1994. All rights reserved.

Call toll-free for more information  
or the name of the dealer nearest you

**1-800-663-1886**

Customer service hours: 8 am to 5 pm, PST, Monday through Friday

## HOW TO GET YOUR FREE MOUSE PAD

To get your own Mustang mouse pad, just pick up QmodemPro for Windows at your favorite software retailer before March 31, 1995. Then send back the registration card along with this coupon.

\*Buy QmodemPro for Windows between December 1, 1994, and March 31, 1995, and mail this coupon — along with your registration card — to receive a Mustang mouse pad while supplies last. Void where prohibited by law. Offer good for purchases of QmodemPro for Windows when coupon is accompanied with product registration card. Please allow 2-3 weeks for your mouse pad to arrive.

Send to: Mustang Software, Inc., 6200 Lake Ming Road, Bakersfield, CA 93306

BBS





# Modem Showdown

*V.34s go head-to-head in compatibility test*

**B**eing an all-knowing mage of modems definitely has its benefits. For instance I wanted to test all the newest V.34s without pulling the bottom out of my expense account getting them — not a problem.

With a wave of my staff (am I taking this too far?) and a few stealth tactics (see my Web page), I had plenty of hot-off-the-assembly line products to test. And what I discovered ranged from enlightening to exciting to disappointing.

Some of the compatibility issues were addressed here last time, so let's move on and take a look at their ability to talk to each other and how well they get along.

All modems are "stock" — no manufacturer-modified units for a magazine review, no special help from technical support staffs. Just me and more modems than you could wrap an RS232 cable 'round.

Vitals I looked at included true DCE rates (not useless CONNECT XXXXX messages), connectibility and throughput on some ITU-T test files. All tests were done on real-world phone lines and a simple line simulator capable of injecting noise, just to shake things up a bit. I made 20 connects for each item on the grid, and interpolated averages where necessary to make sense of DCE rates. In my opinion, these figures

CONTINUES ...



**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

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

VENDOR/ PRODUCT	14.4K V.32bis INTERNAL	14.4K V.32bis EXTERNAL	V.32TERBO, V.FC, V.34 INTERNAL	V.32TERBO, V.FC V.34 EXTERNAL
AT&T Paradyne	3721-B1-001* \$160	3710-A1-201* \$180 PC; \$190 Mac	N/A	N/A
CPI/ ViVa	ViVa 14.4 \$180	ViVa 14.4 \$196	N/A	N/A
Hayes Corp	Optima 144B* \$179	Ultra 144 \$249	N/A	Optima 288+FAX v.FC 28.8k \$288
		Optima 144+FAX* \$179 PC; \$179 Mac		
Intel	SatisFax/400 \$249	14.4 EX \$269	N/A	N/A
	Faxmodem 144i \$99	SatisFAX/400e* \$245		
		Faxmodem 144e \$109		
Microcom	N/A	N/A	N/A	DeskPorte FAST v.FC 28.8k \$249
				TravelPorte FAST v.FC 28.8k \$249
MultiTech	MT1432BC \$400	MT1432BA* \$400	N/A	N/A
	MT1432ES \$400 MCA	MT1432MU* \$300		
		MT1432BL* \$450		
		MT1432PCS \$575		
Practical Peripherals	N/A	PM14400FXSA* \$215	N/A	N/A
		PM14400FXMT* \$155		
Supra Corp	SupraFAXModem* \$129	SupraFAXModem* \$149	N/A	Supra V.FC 28k \$169
USRobotics	N/A	N/A	N/A	HST V.Everything V.34, VFC, FAX* \$249
Ven-Tel	PCM144FAX* \$195	EC144FAX* \$215	N/A	N/A
	PCMV.32bis* \$480	ECV.32bis* \$525		
	MCM144FAX* \$380 MCA	RMV.32bis II* \$425		
Zoom Telephonics	VFP V.32Bis* \$99	VFX V.32Bis* \$119 PC; \$130 Mac	VFP V.FC 24k \$99	VFX V.FC 24k \$119 PC; \$130 Mac
			VFP V.FC 28.8k \$139	VFX V.FC 28.8k \$159 PC; \$170 Mac
ZyXEL	U-1496B* 16.8K \$299	U-1496E* 16.8K \$299	N/A	U-1496E* v.32terbo 16.8K \$299
	U-1496B+* 19.2K \$389			

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

*Notes on Table I:*

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

**TABLE II — VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

VENDOR NAME	CALL THEIR BBS AT THIS NUMBER AND...	...DOWNLOAD THIS FILE.	IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS CALL..	CONTACT VIA EMAIL
AT&T Paradyne	(813) 532-5254	ATTSYSOP.TXT	(800) 554-4996	t.bradshaw@paradyne.com
CPI/ViVa	(805) 499-9646; (215) 746-9948	CPIA.TXT	(800) 854-7600	
Hayes Corp.	(404) 446-6336; (800) USHAYES	H96SYSOP.TXT	(404) 840-9200	rlacy@hayes.com
Intel	(503) 645-6275	OFFER.TXT	(503) 228-9707	
Microcom	(800) 822-8224	SYSOP.TXT	(617) 762-5134	
MultiTech	(612) 785-9875; (800) 392-2432	PRICE.TXT	(612) 785-3500	
Pract. Per.	(805) 496-4445	SYSBBS.TXT	(805) 497-4774	GO PPIFORUM (CompuServe)
Supra Corp.	(503) 967-2444	SYSOP.TXT	(503) 967-2400	supra@supra.com
USRobotics	(708) 982-5092	SYSDEAL.TXT	(708) 982-5151 (800) 550-7800	support@usr.com CIS 76711,707
Ven-Tel	(408) 922-0988	SYSDEAL.TXT	(408) 436-7400	
Zoom Teleph.	(617) 423-3733	ZOOMBBS.ZIP	(800) 666-6191 (617) 423-1072	CIS 71333,1527
ZyXEL	(714) 693-0762	ZYXEL.TXT	(714) 693-0804	sales@zyxel.com

are where the rubber meets the road, or highway, as the case may be.

Compatibility is the issue this time — next month I'll delve into throughput figures.

No modem can be judged the "winner," as none was perfect. And as I've said before, there's more to a good modem deal than pure performance — balance price, upgradability and performance to get the whole picture. But I'll let the charts speak for themselves, then let you and your wallet make the

final decision.

The Mage can be reached at [modemmag@ais.net](mailto:modemmag@ais.net). Also, point your Web browser at [www.cl.ais.net/~modemmag/](http://www.cl.ais.net/~modemmag/) for MM's page.

### Sysop/Provider programs

I've included a couple of basic charts to help those who believe a picture (well, chart) is worth a page or two of rambling text.

The minimum performance level is

v.32bis (14,400 bps), but will soon be displaced by V.34. All modems also must have v.42bis for error correction and data compression to make this list. The rightmost column of Table I shows all modems faster than 14400 bps that support at least v.32bis standards.

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

### More than a modem

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

**FIGURE 1. Connect % on 20 dial attempts and average DCE over number of connects.**

Orig. Modem	Answering Modem							
	AT&T	Etech	Hayes	Multitech	PPI	Supra	UDS	USRobotics
<b>AT&amp;T</b>	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%	80%	85%	100%
	21600	16800	16800	16800	16800	16800	16800	16800
<b>Etech</b>	100%	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%	0%	100%
	16800	16800	16800	21600	14400	14400	0	21600
<b>Hayes</b>	80%	100%	65%	100%	50%	85%	80%	70%
	14400	16800	14400	16800	21600	21600	16800	21600
<b>MT</b>	100%	100%	20%	100%	5%	40%	100%	100%
	16800	19200	14400	21600	14400	14400	19200	24000
<b>PPI</b>	100%	100%	70%	100%	90%	100%	20%	100%
	16800	19200	14400	19200	19200	19200	19200	16800
<b>Supra</b>	100%	25%	90%	80%	100%	100%	10%	100%
	16800	19200	16800	16800	19200	19200	14400	21600
<b>UDS</b>	0%	0%	50%	10%	10%	20%	20%	100%
	0	0	14400	21600	19200	19200	19200	16800
<b>USR</b>	100%	100%	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	16800	21600	24000	21600	16800	16800	24000	26400

CONTINUES ...

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## Buyers' restrictions

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

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

Nearly all of the modem vendors are accepting VISA and MasterCard for orders. Some also accept a cashier's check or money-order for prepay orders. Personal checks often require additional clearing time which just holds up your order. C.O.D. is becoming less common, and is rumored for phase-out by several of the larger players over the next few months.

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

## Order processing and availability

Delivery times and schedules vary radically, so your mileage may vary. Many manufacturers are placing orders on hold until they release V.34. Hayes typically shipped in 48 hours, and to the far extreme, US Robotics guarantees a two to six week waiting period.

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

If you have information about manufacturer discounts, please leave me a message at ModemMag@ais.net or to Modem Mage c/o BBS Magazine.

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# BOOK SHELF

## Managing Internet Information Services

by Cricket Liu, Jerry Peek, Russ Jones, Bryan Buus, and Adrian Nye  
400 pages, \$29.95

One of the best things about *Managing Internet Information Services* (O'Reilly & Associates, Inc.) is that in all likelihood, this book would have been published regardless of the amazing hype surrounding the Net these past two years. In other words, it's no slapped together cash-in-on-the-next-big-thing publication. At least it doesn't read that way—and that's really all that matters.

The sub-headline on the book is *World Wide Web, Gopher, FTP, and More*, owing to the over 600 pages of discussion and detailed explanation (at times painfully detailed) of why anyone would want to offer Internet services, how they can select the right services, and ways they can create, maintain and integrate them. If you didn't already know about the Web, Gopher, FTP, Finger, telnet and WAIS, here's your chance.

O'Reilly claims that by using the book as a guide, anyone with a suitable computer and Internet connection can become an "Internet publisher," distributing any kind of information with constant updates (how about a book/catalog that never goes out of "print" or date?).

The book's sections on the Web



ware. There's also important info on creating and arranging an individual service's features.

Security issues are not overlooked. Details on firewalls (air-tight methods of information security) and the protection of your users' systems are spelled out in certain terms.

*Managing Internet Information Services* is really a work of reference, written more like a textbook than a hip Netters' guide. We would like to have seen more of the (few) sketches representing system designs—if only to break up headings like "Compiling the WU Archive ftpd." But who wants to hold the 10 lb. book it would become with all those extra pages.

Get the book if you're serious about becoming a provider, or if you crave knowing everything about Net services. Check bookstores or call O'Reilly at 800.998.9938.

## Copyright Your Software

by Stephen Fishman  
\$39.95

Written like a huge outline, Stephen Fishman's *Copyright Your Software* (Nolo Press) covers the spectrum of laws surrounding software, computer databases, multimedia and code. The workbook-sized volume takes on the issue of copyright from the developer's perspective, explaining why he or she needs to protect material and how to go about doing it.

As has been shown in publicized cases in the U.S. and Europe, BBSs and online systems (through no fault of their own) have made it easier for the crooks to dupe software for personal use, which in the end fortifies the case

back this assertion, as they're instructive and hold plenty of technical information and examples, including illustrative samples of final results. Readers can literally follow along, connecting the dots on their own systems.

For the Unix system administrator, the book becomes a reference tool for building and maintaining the service soft-

ware. Of course copyrighting in and of itself puts no guarantees on software's safety—it can still be violated, just as thieves might steal your car, though it's a felony—but now you have the right to fight back.

One of book's biggest benefits is that it allows software publishers to copy-right without need of a potentially expensive attorney. Step-by-step instructions and forms to register a copyright are included.

For good measure, Mr. Fishman also offers case synopses of some of the more high-profile suits such as *Apple v Microsoft* and *Lotus v Borland*.

## Walking the World Wide Web: Your personal guide to great Internet resources

by Shannon R. Turlington  
350 pages, \$29.95, CD-ROM

Continuing its overactive coverage of the World Wide Web, Ventana Press has released an annotated guide to the Web and its resources—plenty of highs, no lows.

Written by Shannon R.

Turlington, the book describes stops at 300

sites offering the What, Where, Who and How of each.

Accompanying the bound version is a CD-ROM with Ventana Mosaic (the Web browser) and the Online Companion (located on the Web with a slew of sites from each chapter), which together give end-readers an on- and offline hyperlinked experience.

On the other hand: Sure the book points you to the Interactive Frog Dissection Kit and Moscow's Kremlin, but do you really need a book to discover these sites? With so many directories and linked pages on the Web today, it's a wonder anything remains unknown.

Also packaged with the book is an individual access code, which gives passage to a continually updated online version of the book, with hyperlinks to each site. ■■■■■



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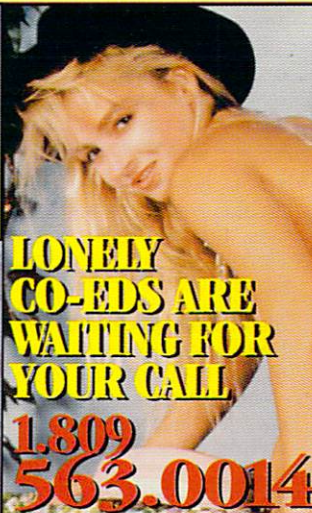
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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T H E

# LIVEWIRE BBS

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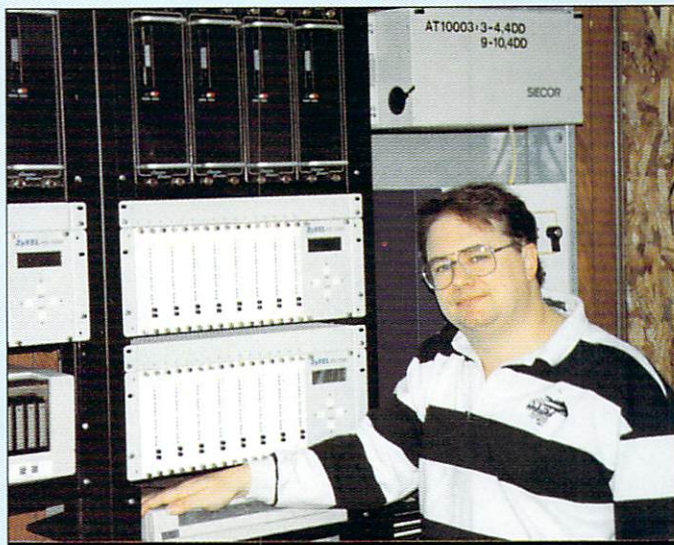
*Need to add powerful full path text searching software to your business BBS? Cheetah is the solution!*

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.

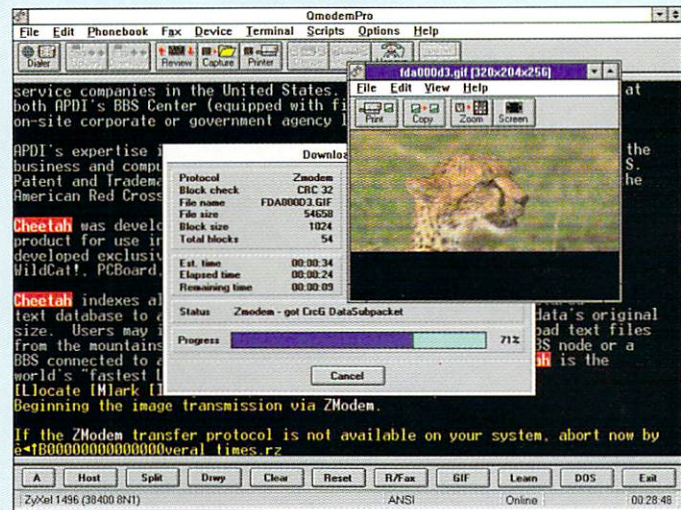
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Cheetah also performs phrase and proximity searches. Users can specify word proximity within a paragraph or sentence and the file viewer conveniently highlights all found text.

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Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS Service Bureau



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create beautiful native Windows menus with sound, text, icons and compressed images for users to view
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DC COMPRESS for Windows can compress TIF, TGA, BMP, PCX and GIF images to CMP or JPG
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## A True Windows Client/Server BBS



MINDWIRE, Where Minds Meet (formerly known as FILEX BBS™) is a fully client/server, ALL Windows, multi-user BBS which includes Email, Public Message Forums, File Library, Teleconferencing, Accounting, Billing, Security and dynamic WIP (Windows Interface Protocol) menus. Since MINDWIRE's server and client are based on Windows, companies can easily, and cost effectively, run their own online service. MINDWIRE enables the quick transfer of compressed image viewing (CMP, JPG, GIF, BMP, PCX, TIF, TGA) and free distribution of client software. MINDWIRE comes with an 8 user connection license

(additional 8 user licenses available) which allows for any combination of modem, Internet or ISDN connectivity.

MINDWIRE, developed by Durand Communications Network (DCN), works on a LAN and with Windows NT RAS Server for up to 256 modems per PC. To allow easy direct dial capabilities for non NT servers, simply add FILEX v2.0. Using the CLASS and MINDWIRE DEVELOPERS KIT, you can add-in your own custom database or entertainment applications which harness the power of ODBC, SQL and TCP/IP. MINDWIRE is Where Minds Meet, and the possibilities are endless!

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- B** Company Identity example of WIP image capabilities to showcase company products
- C** Application Icons WIP buttons with Windows icons
- D** Messages post bulletins and respond to message threads with spell checking capability
- E** WIP Navigator indicates WIP menu status
- F** Status Bar shows status of online session and indicates new mail
- G** Chat live teleconferencing with other members currently online
- H** Chat Forum choose from multiple forums the one you wish to join
- I** Write Mail write Email with attached images

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MDWA0195



# NEW PCBoard Version 15.2 offers Internet Gateway, Full Credit Accounting, Windows E-mail, dBASE File Access, Internal QWK, FIDO Mailer and more sensational benefits, all as "standard equipment" the other guys make you pay through the nose for, or don't even offer... And now you can try PCBoard for FREE



"I promised to offer the best value in Host Information Systems Software, and our new PCBoard Version 15.2 delivers big time, with at least 8 FREE, essential operating functions the competition charges you for or doesn't even have!"

Steve Klingler,  
VP/General Manager  
Clark Development Co.

By Jim Ackerman

Why is PCBoard the most widely used BBS software on the market today... used by 23 of the top 100 boards, including Software Creations, voted top BBS the last two years... and the only commercial BBS software ever, to win PC Magazine's prestigious... Editor's Choice Award!

The reason is unmatched flexibility and adaptability.

And now, with the release of the new 15.2 version, PCBoard is such a superior value, you can classify it in a league of its own.

You get more connectivity, accountability, and ease-of-use, because PCBoard gives you more standard functions than anyone else. The new 15.2 dramatically increases your system capabilities, and reduces your need for costly add-ons.

As a result, you can use PCBoard regardless of the size of your board, and regardless of growth or other changes that may take place in the services you offer, the hardware you run or custom add-ons you employ.

## Who wouldn't want these 8 essentials the competition considers options you must buy

**1** Why should you be charged extra for such an essential function as an Internet Gateway? You shouldn't! So, it's part of the standard package automatically built-in to PCBoard 15.2. Most other BBS manufacturers charge you for it... some charge more than their regular, standard package.

**2** Credit Accounting... surely the ultimate essential. PCBoard doesn't make you pay extra for things you must have. With the new Credit Accounting function, you can charge or reward the user for each activity and decide the charges for each; Operate on pre-pay or pay-as-you-go terms; Track in any kind of local currency you choose, or as credit units. And set your own peak times, including holidays. Again, maximum flexibility!

**3** Everyone on your network can now easily use the new, fully integrated Windows E-Mail application, PCBMail. No gateway needed because PCBMail uses

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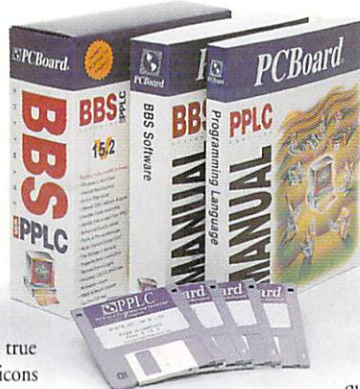
**4** You won't need a costly front end to add Fido access to your board. It's already part of PCBoard 15.2. Out of the box, your users can do the "Fido thing" right from your PCBoard message bases.

**5** Built-in QWK makes you popular with your users. And 15.2's QWK now includes Net Status and File attachments. What a time and money-saver!

**6** Now, unleash the power of dBASE III and Database Access, with on-line applications created with the award winning PCBoard Programming Language (PPLC).

**7** Your BBS can truly go worldwide with Multi-lingual capabilities. PCBoard 15.2 gives them to you, including support for 2 byte and reverse printing international character set.

**8** If you're ready for RIPscrip Graphics, registered PCBoard customers download PCBoard's RIPKit FREE, so your remote callers can choose between ANSI, ASCII and RIP, on your BBS. This out-of-the-box capability presents the caller with a true GUI interface, complete with graphics, icons and mouseable point-and-click menus. Once again, maximum flexibility and adaptability for you and your users.



## But wait... there's more

We've only scratched the surface. There's literally not enough space to cover it all here.

Like...you can use the same newsgroup names as the Internet on PCBoard because 15.2 supports conference names up to 60 characters long.

Save amazing amounts of time with our new, Automated, Rules-based File Maintenance Utility. Plus... local logins, 19 FREE PCBoard utilities, and even FREE support for MultiPort hardware, all "standard equipment" on PCBoard version 15.2.

## How can they do all that... and without raising the price to boot

PCBoard was designed with an open architecture, so flexibility, adaptability, reliability and stability were built-in at the start. That's why PCBoard can offer all of this functionality... all of this power... all of this value!

And even with all of these new benefits, the price hasn't changed. Begin as small as one or 2 lines for \$150.00, and grow all you want. Only PCBoard supports up to 1,000+ dial-in or local access nodes.

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**Who else gives you FREE Upgrades for a year... FREE telephone voice support for 12 months... FREE BBS support for life... and instantly installs as an upgrade from your FREE demo**

NOBODY does it all... and only PCBoard installs as an upgrade from your demo. Just imagine the time and headache you'll save, not having to set your entire system up twice! Once you try our demo, give it a complete shakedown, and decide PCBoard is for you, simply install your full program upgrade and instantly be operating without skipping a beat.

And don't forget... from the time you get your demo, we're behind you all the way. Customers get any improvements we make — FREE for a full year. Need tech support? Our "live-on-the-phone" support staff talks you through your questions. It's FREE! And for as long as you're a PCBoard sysop, you can count on FREE online support through our Salt Air BBS.

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Or call us at 800 356-1686 (or 801 261-1686) and we'll ship you a complete introductory kit, including FREE demo, comprehensive brochure, & special new... Guide To Setting Up Your Own BBS.

When you actually order by phone, and give the code from this ad, we'll also include a special 4 tape audio program from two nationally renowned direct marketers, to help you quickly and easily spread the word about your BBS, whether you're a hobbyist, or you see cyberspace dollar signs in your future. It's a \$47.77 value.

Naturally, our program is guaranteed for a full month. If you buy and then decide PCBoard isn't for you within 30 days, simply return the package for a complete refund. But keep the 4-tape audio program as a FREE gift from us, just for trying PCBoard.

**PCBoard**  
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For online demo users or new registrations: Baud rates up to 28,800 bps, no parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit. ASCII, ANSI, and RIP Graphics are all supported. We'll even let you download a copy of RIP Term, if you aren't already compatible.

CODE: BBS1