

BBS

THE
BULLETIN
BOARD
SERVICES
MAGAZINE

November 1995

US \$3.95

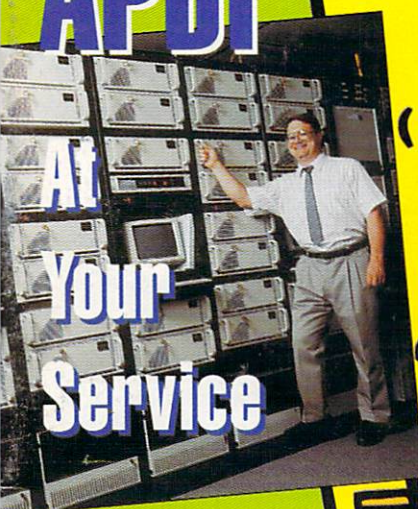
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At Your Service



Netted Boards
Shareware
WWW

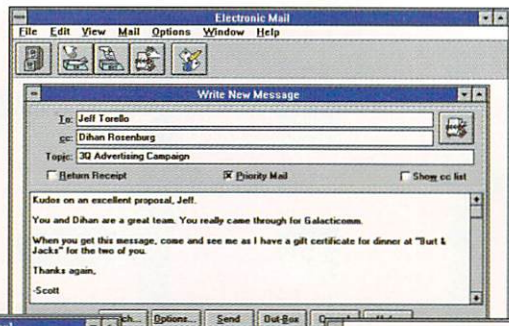
Starting a
BBS is half
the battle.
To make it
succeed

see
pg.10



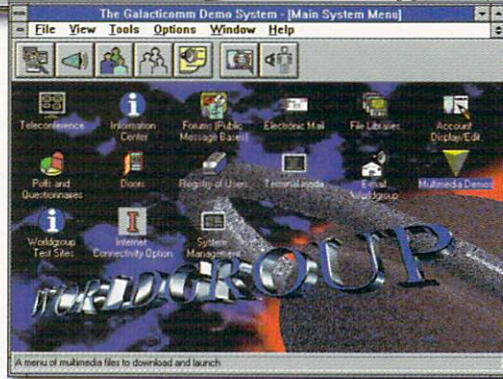


Worldgroup Manager: Users access and navigate your system with Worldgroup Manager, a Windows client. With the click of an icon, users are connected and logged in to your system.



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.*



▶ *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.*



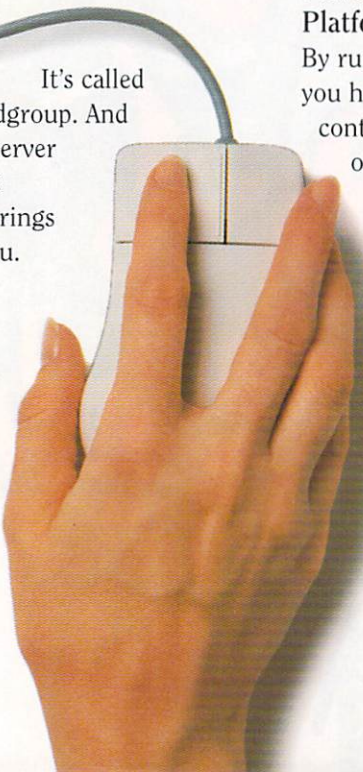
Open Your Windows to the

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 Galacticomm, 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.

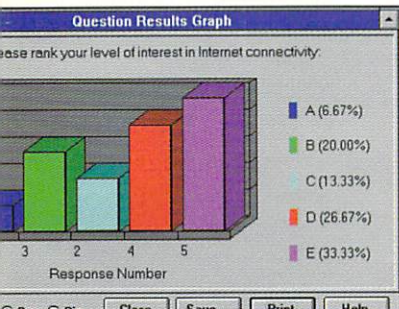
The client runs under Windows on your users' machines. Its multi-threaded architecture lets them do all sorts of cool things simultaneously. Like download files in the background, while reading new mail. Or auto update

new versions of applications transparently. Local caching, "look ahead" and client-driven intelligence maximizes performance at 2,400 or 28,800 bps.

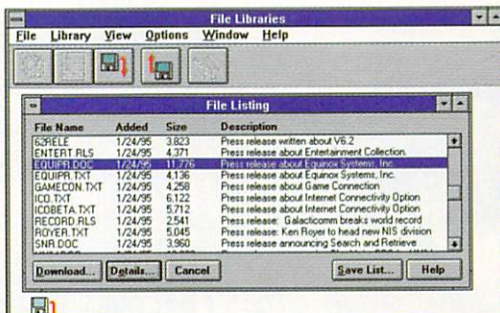
You can customize all the icons and menu pages out of the box. With Worldgroup's multimedia features, you can have a "splash" screen with a BMP image and a WAV or MIDI file, graphic menu backdrops, real-time video and more.

There's even a "launch" client/server utility that downloads and launches files for your users, such as Adobe Acrobat files, Word documents and PowerPoint presentations, in one easy step — while the user is online.

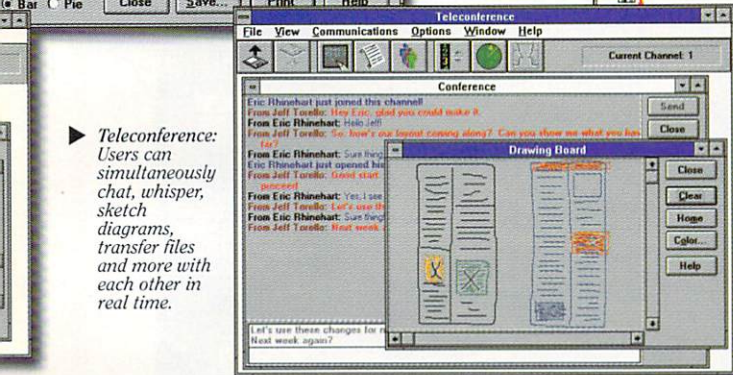
You can use Visual Basic and C to create your own custom client/server applications (we provide source code). Or, just plug and play dozens of add-on applications from our network of Independent Software Vendors.



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

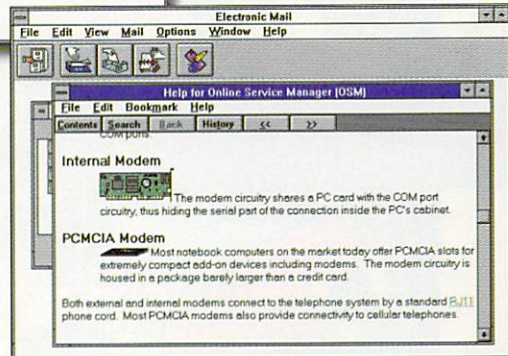


► *File Libraries: Users simply tag the files they're interested in and select the download icon. Files can be downloaded in the background while users enjoy your other services.*



► *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.*



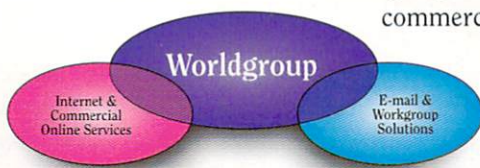
World of Online Computing

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 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.



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

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 Galaticomm 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 Galaticomm 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 and access our home page by pointing your Web browser to <http://www.gcomm.com>.



WORLDGROUP™
Online Interactive Software

GALATICOMM
Bringing your vision online





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.

Scalable graphics with embedded TrueType Font technology

Instantaneous image previews

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

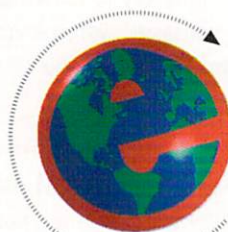
Simultaneous uploading and downloading

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*".



excalibur
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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NOVEMBER 1995

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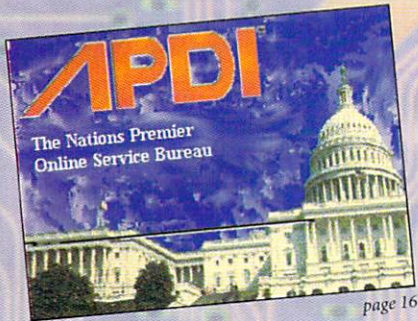
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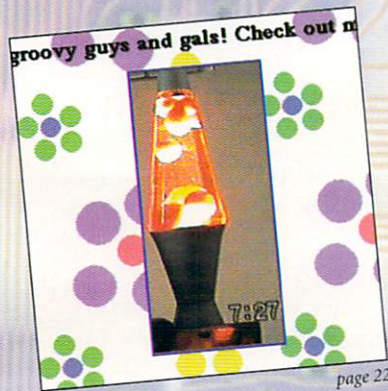
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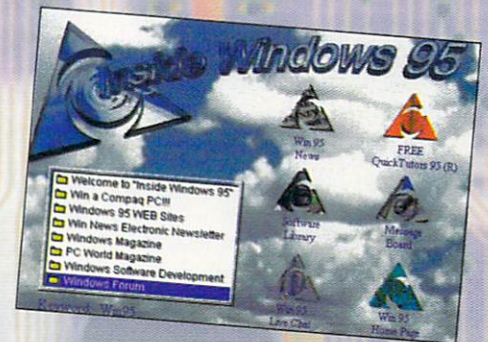
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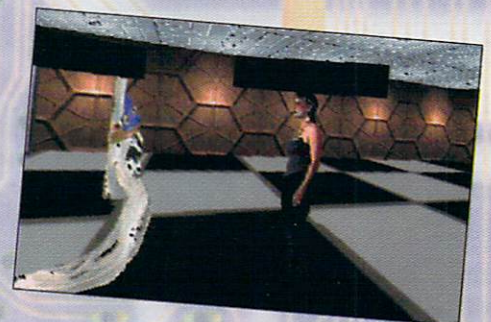
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readme.txt

B-B-Business

For the Doubting Thomases to whom BBSs are nifty toys rather than tools for business, we offer two accounts this month as argument to the contrary.

First up is a call to action for the thousands of system operators out there (and the innumerable would-be sysops preparing to toss their hats in the ring). It comes from writer John Hedtke, and he's got a little advice: "Be prepared to work." However that's not the theme of this, the second installment of his two-part series on starting a BBS — just an undercurrent.

The heart of the story looks into the numerous ways you can create a bulletin board that's (yes) profitable, and a viable extension of your business, or a business in itself. In so doing, Hedtke imparts loads of tips and even serves up a few secrets on the side.

Whether it's a sports BBS or a venture to bring local companies online, if you're willing to put something into it, Hedtke's instruction helps you get plenty out. Page 10.

If all that sounds good sans the "setting up" and "work" parts, there are other options. One of the best (if a tad more expensive) is a service bureau. And one of the best service bureaus we've seen is Application Programming & Development, Inc.(APDI).

APDI will listen to what you want from an online service, then build, launch, personalize, maintain, monitor, and upgrade the BBS from their site or yours.

Sound unlikely? Why not ask some of the little organizations APDI calls clients, like, say, the U.S. Patent Office. Page 16.

If after digesting the pieces you still view BBSs as anything less than powerful apparatuses of boosting cash flow, offering customer service or reaching out to new markets, I suggest you go back and read again.

Elsewhere in this issue Dave Kramer (Webwise) takes us on a tour de farce of some of the more humorous sites on the Web, Michael

Kuykendall (Macintosh Online) looks at RIP graphics through his Macintosh, and Lazlow Jones (Technoraves) listens to the fallout from the release of Microsoft's Windows 95.

As always, our extensive lists of dial-up, Telnettable and Web BBSs continue to grow this month. And we've got a BBS contest brewing (more on that later).

So take it all in, then drop us a note about what you like and what you think we should consider deleting in the future.

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Call 800-663-1886 for more information.
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Suggested Retail Price

TeleFinder 4.0 Ships

Spider Island Software's TeleFinder BBS is now shipping in its latest format, version 4.0. The threaded, multi-tasking server lets Mac, Windows and DOS users transfer files and email, chat, or participate in networked conferences over LAN, regular telephone, ISDN or Internet connections.

Look for 80 simultaneous connections on a PowerMac using less than 12 megs of RAM; thumbnail images of entire folders in a photo-grid; background file transfers; SMTP and MIME support; and, Finger.

The retail TeleFinder goes for \$675 for two nodes and unlimited Mac, Windows and DOS users. Licenses for 1, 4, 8, or unlimited nodes go for \$100, \$250, \$375, and \$475 respectively. TeleFinder 4.0 is a free upgrade to V 3.5 users and \$95 for those using earlier versions.

Spider Island can be reached at 714.453.8095 (voice). The demo board is at 714.453.8190 or spiderisland.com.

Worldgroup Takes Unix

It's in beta.

For those running Unix, "it" is Galacticomm's Worldgroup for Unix that went into testing in September.

The tremendously popular Worldgroup will soon be available as a

NEWS

client/server-based Windows interface to the traditional Unix paradigm.

"Worldgroup for Unix will enable organizations to launch a fully interactive online system with a multimedia user interface exceeding the power of the World-Wide Web," said Scott Brinker, CEO and president of Galacticomm. "With Worldgroup's client/server architecture, Oracle databases, Internet applications, online shopping, and much more can be securely offered to customers, prospects, distributors, vendors, the press, and the world at large."

Worldgroup follows The Major BBS

for Unix, making it the second generation of Unix software from Galacticomm.

The Unix Worldgroup offers users a Web-similar environment, but with hypermedia navigation, moving tickers, and multiframe animation with sound effects.

Callers using the free client on the Windows 3.x or Windows 95 platform and are given graphical access to email, group message forums, file libraries, teleconference, polls and questionnaires, and integrated Net services.

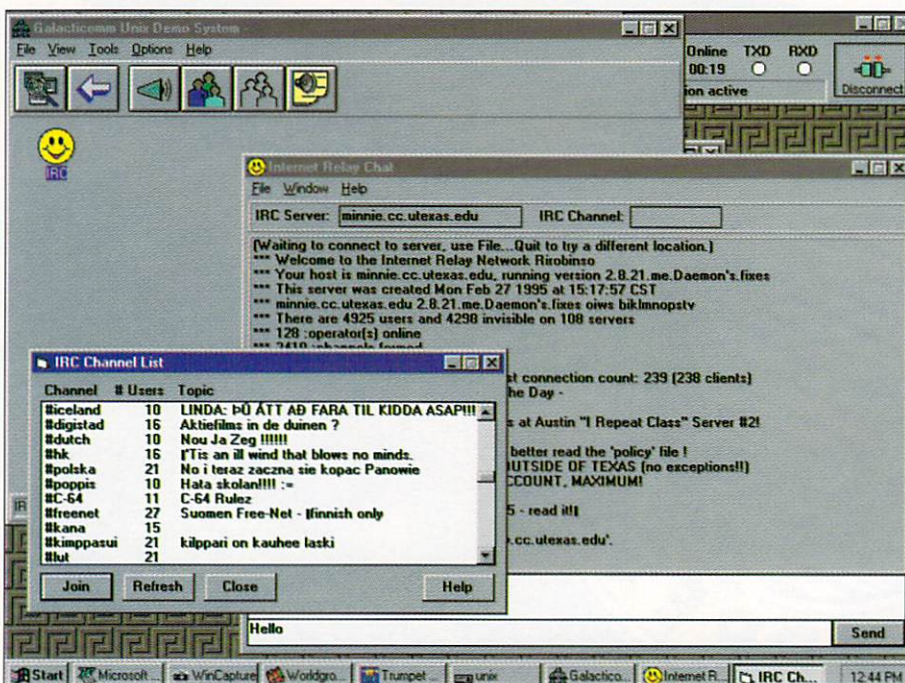
User-Defined Applications (UDAs) let sysops run Unix text-based applications as menu options. Sysops can also add databases, spreadsheets, shell accounts, system utilities, and other apps as UDAs.

The Unix Worldgroup also comes with an HTTP/1.0-compliant Web server, which is able to handle users with VRML (Virtual Reality Markup Language) and Java browsers.

Full SMTP email and NNTP newsgroups are supported, with file attachments being automatically MIME encoded and decoded for single-step file transfers. And users coming in through other platforms (Mac, for instance) can connect via Net tools like Eudora and newsreaders (due to the POP3 compatibility). The protocol enables mail pickups from the Win 95 Universal Mailbox with the Win 95 Plus Pack.

Worldgroup for Unix also supports Telnet, FTP, Rlogin and IRC.

The base price for an eight-user



WWW

license is \$1,695 and is available for BSD/OS 2.0, Linux 1.1+, SCO ODT 3.0, Solaris 2.3/2.4, UnixWare 2.01, and Digital Unix.

Call the Unix demo system at 305.583.1759 (modem) or Telnet or FTP to unix.gcomm.com. Reach Galacticomm (voice) at 800.328.1128.

Parental Guidance for the Net

For the empowered parents trying to keep up with technology their kids are growing up with, a little help is always welcome. Short of diving headlong into the online world for a first-person sam-



pling of what it's all about (probably the best solution), parents have some new tools they can turn to.

SurfWatch is the groundbreaker. The software hit computers this year with a flourish, enabling employers and parents (whoever) to block access to unwanted sexually explicit Internet sites.

First released in a Mac version, the \$49.95 software is available for Windows, too. After a simple setup procedure, the password-protected program hides in the background on

CONTINUES...

World-Wide Board

Without a doubt BBSs are beginning to make the migration to the Web. That's the old news. What's new is we're not talking about simple signpost Web pages anymore (though numerous boards are successfully pitching these), but actual BBSs reached with a browser, rather than the old terminal.

The Software Creations (SWC) BBS camp has been working toward this interactive Web-based bulletin board idea, and come up with pretty impressive results. Their so-called "Web BBS," authored in "C" and full

of extensive CGIs, can maintain a record of file scans, for instance, so the next time a member logs on a new list is waiting. The numerous links on the SWC Web are heavy on continuity and simplicity, not to mention most actually do something significant.

Dan Linton, SWC chief, said that in the short time the Web BBS has been up,

14,000 subscribers have signed on, an estimated 4,000 of whom came from the dial-up BBS.

As for the site itself, click on the Files Sections and you're presented with a page of various file areas. Enter a file area and start downloading. Transfers are handled by HTTP protocol and thus require no FTP session. Additionally, the

Web site and the SWC dial-up BBS are integrated by the TCP/IP network and a Novell IPX/SPX network, essentially allowing the two systems to share downloadable files.

There's also bulletins, an online store "Door" (actually something called a WAM, or Web BBS Add-on Module), rudimentary chat, and a time bank — the site requires users to log in and tracks time used.

Linton says real-time chat will be implemented soon, and done so in a fashion different from what we've seen thus far. Linton also said he has plans to sell upgrades to Web

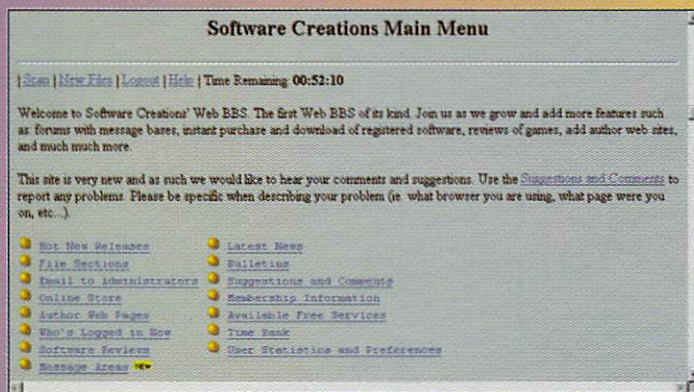
BBS, but that sysops will receive the early version free. Price of the upgrade? Under \$100.

Searching is very BBS-like as well. Users can scan through all file names and descriptions in a few blinks.

SWC is offering full access to its Web BBS with monthly and annual rates from \$85 for three hours a day for a year to one month at one hour a day for \$4.95. Sign-ups can be taken from the Web, too, with quick credit card verification.

Current dial-up members can transfer their accounts to the Web BBS, otherwise they have to sign up as a newcomer.

Check out the pages at <http://www.swcbbs.com>, or call SWC direct (voice) at 508.368.8654.



your desktop and waits. When a user dials the Net via SLIP, PPP or ISDN and attempts (or accidentally) hits a Web/FTP/Gopher site or newsgroup SurfWatch deems to have explicit material (they've programmed in over 1,000), a pop-up screen warns the site has been blocked.

But what about sites created since your version of the software? That's where the SurfWatch Subscription Service comes in, automatically providing updates to your database of blocked sites (\$5.95 a month). For further blocking, custom site databases are available so password-holders can include their own list specific preferences to block.

Check out SurfWatch's Web site at <http://www.surfwatch.com> (where software can be purchased), or call

800.458.6600. Call Ventana Communications Group for retail reseller orders at 800.743.5369.

Also in the blocking business is Framingham, MA, Microsystems Software. The company recently released Cyber Patrol for Mac and Windows that also blocks restricted Web, FTP and Gopher sites, as well as IRC and Usenet.

The Interface is clean and simple to use, but comes with a bit of a learning curve, especially for parents who have yet to venture online, or on a computer at all.

Built into Cyber Patrol is a "Cyber



NOT List" of researched sites "containing material parents may find questionable" according to the company. (The list is updated weekly and can be auto-downloaded within the program.)

The list is split into categories and access can be managed to the file directory or page level, which means access can be allowed to approved material at an IP address and not restricted material.

The sites on the NOT list were determined by a team of parents and teachers, Microsystems said, based on criteria that include sexuality, racism, violence, drugs, alcohol and other subjects.

Time of day access can also be set, as well as the number of hours of use per week.

Loading at the Windows/Mac start-up, Cyber Patrol drops into the background to block access at the Winsock level.

Parents or employers can choose categories they wish to block and can override blocks as they see fit. Additionally, the password holder can add sites and desktop programs they want to block.

Controls included in Cyber Patrol prevent disabling or renaming blocked applications. Still, Microsystems admits, no program is "hacker proof."

Cyber Patrol lists for \$49.95, including a six-month subscription to the CyberNOT List. Subsequent six-month subscriptions sell for \$19.95. The home page can be found at <http://www.microsys.com/CYBER/> where Cyber Patrol can be purchased or taken on a test run. Call them voice at 508.879.9000.

Offline

by John Baynham



One Well of a Site!



The eclectic online community of BBSers

known as The WELL, based in Sausalito, CA, has taken to the Web in a big way.

With its recently unveiled WELL Engaged! (a Web-based interface to The WELL's conferencing system), members can point and click their way

around conferences ranging from media, art, literature and Generation X to jazz, parenting and spirituality.

Reading and responding to posts and email are now done with a simple click.

And Personal Library Software's (PLS) search engine has been integrated to allow for swift inquiries into The WELL's whole conferencing base for concepts and specific subjects.

"WELL Engaged! has fundamental advantages over any other Web conferencing systems existing today," said Bruce Katz, CEO of The WELL, in an August statement. "The organizational structure of WELL conferences allows users to selectively track those conferences which interest them and search those conferences for discussion of particular interest."

The WELL also offers The Whole Works Internet Toolkit (included as part of a \$15 PPP registration fee, where users can dial in from scores of cities worldwide), a suite of applications accompanied by a TCP/IP stack and dialer.

The suite includes the latest version of Netscape, Eudora for mail, clients for Telnet, FTP and a Newsgroup reader. There's also a Gopher client, but it accommodates Mac only.

Dip into The Well at <http://www.well.com> or call (voice) 415.332.9200 for more information.

Version 2.1 Tops the Banana

Banana Programming has announced more new features for BananaCom Custom, the blindingly simple communication program sysops can have customized for their own boards.

It's version 2.1, and now includes a batch and upload facility, as well as an improved modem scan function, according to the company. Now BananaComm will automatically scan for the modem and detect its speed during installation, as well as test for possible com port conflicts.

"We found 95 percent of our incoming support calls were because the user was experiencing some type of com port conflict," said Banana Programming's Paul Wheaton, who said V 2.1 also includes a feature that will perform an even more thorough

scan of the hardware.

Beyond all that, look for auto Super Kermit, a good protocol for file transfers across Telnet sessions, and the ability to view JPEG and text files at once during download. The new JPEG feature also lets a BBS show a thumbnail JPEG in the corner of a full-screen ANSI graphic — all this is in real-time, too.

Banana Programming can be reached at 406.543.1928 (voice) or 406.543.8234 (modem).

Have A Crappy Day

Take a note! And if you hurry you might be able to get "The Masked Basher" to send a nasty note to your "crappy boss".

Huh?

That's right, somebody out there — a self-proclaimed "corporate dropout" calling himself The Masked Basher — has put up The Crappy Bosses Day Web site to service the tired, the week and the downtrodden who have come to that state after dodging the slings and arrows of a horrible boss.

"I woke up one day and decided that I had taken too much abuse from my dysfunctional boss. So, like thousands of other people who leave big business every year, I quit and formed my own company," said The Basher, whose company is appropriately named The Rude and Obnoxious Press and carries the motto, "Have a crappy day."

"We're inviting everyone in the world to send their boss's email address," The Basher said. "Then, on October 16th, The Rude & Obnoxious Press will send anonymous email messages to all the unsuspecting, crappy bosses out there, just to let them know they aren't appreciated."

If your so inclined, the crappy-looking site is located at http://www.neosoft.com/~ro_press/ro_home.htm.



Online Lexicon

@ — When you're talking Internet, the @ (at) symbol simply serves as a divider between the user's ID and the domain name in the address: editor@bbsmagazine.com.

Archie — Use this tool to search Internet FTP archives around the world. Searches can be narrowed right down to the file name.

Bandwidth — A diminishing resource? Actually it's more like a measurement of the top speed your system can send and receive information over the Internet.

Commercial Online Service — Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference anymore, between BBSs and the so-called online services that is. Traditionally they were Prodigy, CompuServe, AOL, etc. But now local BBS sysops have captured large, paying markets using great software and backed up with even better content. So who's who? You be the judge. It may come down to service and support.

Freeware — Almost what it sounds like. Freeware is software you are free to use, but not free to manipulate.

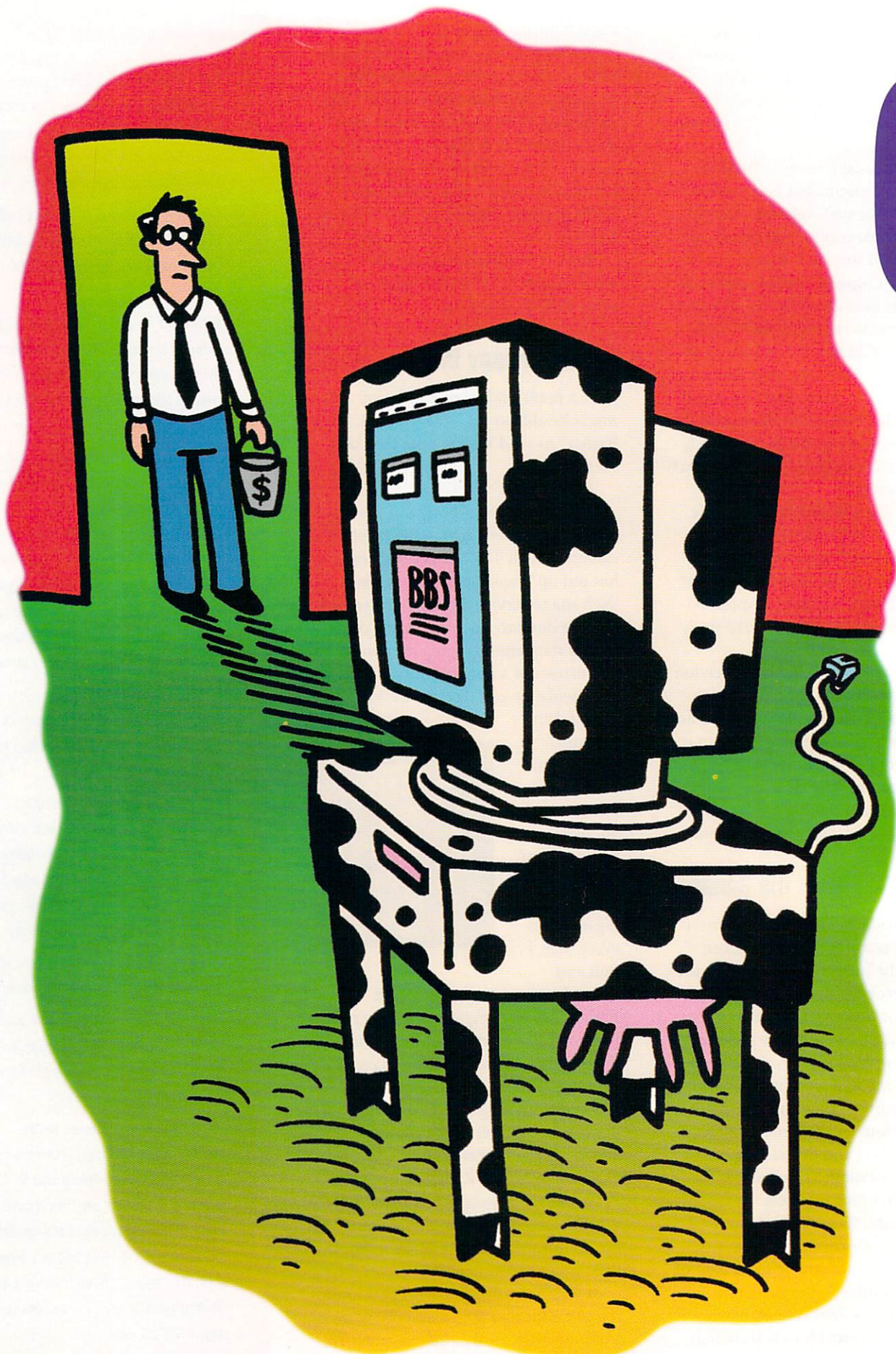
GUI — Graphical User Interface. Something that takes the plain old text sometimes seen on BBSs and adds the ability to point and click your way around using a mouse. It usually means color, graphics and, for many, simplicity.

Newbie — When you read it here it's not derogatory. We just mean "newcomer".

Snail Mail — That which came before email. If you're sending a letter to Aunt Martha through the U.S. Postal Service, it's riding snail mail.

Zip — When you're asked to "Zip" a file, you'll want to compress it using a program called PKZip. This'll take that big program or file and squeeze it down to a more manageable size. Let's say this LEXICON.DOC file was 100,000 bytes in size. If I "Zipped" it the file might end up 50,000 bytes or less and be renamed, say, LEXICON.ZIP.

0



pen for Business!

Now that you've got a BBS, how do you make it pay?

My article in the preceding issue addressed how to set up a bulletin board service with the least effort. This time I'm going to show you ways you can use your BBS to make a little money.

by John Hedtke
Part 2 of 2

There are two basic ways to make money with a BBS: you can either sell memberships and services on the board (treating the BBS as a business itself) or you can use the BBS as part of another business (to advertise, take orders, and provide customer support and information). Both paths offer a

CONTINUES...

chance to spend vast amounts of time and money... and also the possibility of making huge profits.

Treating the BBS as a Business

Probably the most popular fantasy of new sysops is that of setting up a large, multiline BBS with chatting, forums, huge message boards, files, games, and Internet access. Subsequently, the sysop will assuredly reap vast profits, work at home 20 hours a week, and become famous in the BBS world.

All this is truly possible, but is it going to be practical? My previous article talked about setting up a BBS like this, but now let's look at some of the economic details.

Let's say you're going to set up an eight-line BBS. Typical costs and configurations are as follows:

Item: 486-66 w/16 MB RAM, 2 1-giga-byte hard disks, 4X CD-ROM, tape drive, DigiBoard
Cost: \$3,000

Item: 8-14.4k modems @ \$100 each
Cost: \$800 (More for 28.8s, of course)

Item: Business phone lines (installation)
Cost: \$200 to \$500

Item: Business phone lines (monthly service)
Cost: \$200-\$500

Item: BBS software
Cost: \$0-\$400

Item: CDs, files, backup tapes
Cost: \$400

Total startup and first-month costs —
\$4,600-\$5,600

As you can see, you'll need between \$4,600 and \$5,600 just to get started, (unless you've got lesser ambitions or already have some equipment; see below) and perhaps between \$2,000 and \$6,000 for your telephone expenses. Don't assume you're going to make money immediately, either. Prudent businesses have operating capital in the bank for their first year's expenses.

To set the prices for memberships, you need to figure out what your expenses are, then estimate the number of people likely to buy memberships over a year, and divide.

If your first-year expenses are

\$8,000, you'll need to sell 200 annual memberships at \$40 just to break even. That's a lot of memberships — figure that you'll sell one membership for every five people who try the board (you'll need a free trial membership for people, too).

TIP: Insurance is a good idea. If you're set up in a spare room of your house, your household policy may not cover the BBS because it's a business asset.

But wait, there's less! You're going to need to do some kind of advertising,



whether it's taking out ads in national BBS magazines or local newsletters.

And it would be nice to make some sort of profit on all of this, too. So your membership prices will have to reflect these costs as well.

Can you do all of this cheaper? Of course you can! You may already have a computer and modems you can press into service, phone service might be cheap in your area, and you may be able to provide some of your start-up costs with pre-sold memberships at a discount. But remember there are fixed costs that must be dealt with: the phone bills will come in no matter how many

people are calling you.

Selling It

What will actually sell memberships varies. As you can see from ads in the BBS magazines, there are all sorts of profitable BBSs. In general, selling a mix of chatting, conferences, files, and online games is a good place to start. Adult files and chatting sell well but may cause legal or BBS policy issues. BBS networks for messages and mail are fairly standard for larger BBSs, and Internet access (usually for an additional membership fee) is increasingly common.

NOTE: The costs and technical expertise necessary for providing Internet access vary enormously. Unless you're familiar with the Internet, you may want to skip offering Internet access until your BBS is up and running as a profitable enterprise.

Finally, a little market research before you begin can pay off handsomely.

Almost all of your memberships will come from the local calling area. If there are already a number of boards established that provide first-rate file downloads, you may have a much easier time building a BBS membership that looks to your BBS for messages and networking. It may be much easier for you to define your own market niche and fill it than to go head-to-head with other established BBSs.

Business and Corporate BBSs

The preceding section discussed how to make money with BBSs as a business themselves. This section shows you how to use a BBS to make money as an adjunct to a business. Corporate BBSs can directly advertise products, display price lists, disseminate public information, and act as service representatives. Corporate BBSs can also perform tasks inside a company, including acting as a messenger service and transferring files and other information.

Some of the ways you can use BBSs in a business environment include:

- Customer support
- Exchanging information
- Recruiting
- Mail and message systems
- Forums and sharing ideas
- Telecommuting
- Direct sales

Although you'll see BBSs in most high-tech companies these days, these applications can benefit large offices in any industry.

Customer Support

The most common use for BBSs in high-tech industries is for customer support. A business BBS can act as a 24-hour service representative, giving customers technical support and installation instructions, providing customers with suggestions on ways to use products better, and taking customer complaints and suggestions. You can also use the BBS to download add-on programs, updated drivers, and patches to software.

Support BBSs can handle frequently asked questions. A well-written answer to a question can be read by dozens or even hundreds of BBS users, preventing many extra phone calls to the support department. Users who have invented novel methods of solving problems will frequently tell other people how they did it. As a result, many support questions posted on the BBS can be answered by other BBS users.

Exchanging Information

Businesses often use BBSs as a central source of information. For example, one major company installed a BBS for sharing general information and announcements with all its divisions, and for transmitting files and spreadsheets between divisions. Using the BBS cut the time people spent making long-distance calls each day from four hours to ten minutes.

Recruiting

BBSs are excellent recruiting tools. You can post job openings and descriptions on a BBS. Prospective candidates can fill out a questionnaire or send a message expressing interest in a particular job.

Mail and Message Systems

BBSs are faster than courier services, and you have the added advantage of being able to receive a file, change it, and return it, all within a few minutes. Many companies use BBSs to upload and download contracts and related files during negotiations when the participants are away from the main office.

Forums and Sharing Ideas

The advantage of a BBS over a network email system is that everyone can see a forum on a BBS, but not everyone has to participate. In other words, the BBS is acting very much like a regular cork bulletin board on the wall near the coffee pot. Posting a discussion on a BBS allows both active and passive participation, and you can see how the discussion has progressed simply by reading the preceding messages.



Telecommuting

Telecommuting is working at home and using a BBS to send and receive projects and assignments. A wide variety of people, including architects, word processors, programmers, clerks, documentation specialists, auditors, real estate appraisers, editors, and actuaries, hold jobs related to the manipulation and transfer of information. The people who hold these jobs can benefit from telecommuting, and the greater flexibility offered to employees improves both productivity and morale.

Direct Sales

A BBS can be a 24-hour salesperson. Customers can dial in at any time, look at online catalogs of merchandise (and even download pictures of products), and place orders with credit cards or pre-approved accounts. The BBS gives you a competitive advantage by accommodating customers (particularly long-distance customers) who might normally have a hard time reaching you during regular business hours.

Ways to Use BBSs in Business

Applications for BBSs in business are limited only by your imagination.

Here are some ways you can use BBSs in business settings.

Hospitals and Clinics: Many hospitals and clinics have set up BBSs on which a patient can phone in and "talk" to a consulting nurse about general medical questions. These can provide a good source of basic information for people who don't have a regular doctor or who need to ask a question late at night.

Hotels and Resorts: The BBS can act as an online reservation desk. For ski or fishing resorts, you can also use the BBS to post weather, fishing, or sports information.

Advertising: You can also sell ads (usually posted as bulletins) to local businesses that rent equipment or provide services.

Insurance Agents: BBSs can be a boon to insurance agents. The user can log in and enter any of a selected series of questionnaires that will then let the agent provide rapid quotes for insurance. With a little more effort, you can provide actuarial and financial projection programs that will let customers determine many of their insurance needs on their own.

Lawyers: A BBS lets clients see how things are developing and leave messages for their lawyer. Even if a lawyer is not available, the client can leave detailed questions, something that is not usually practical to do with an answering service. The lawyer can then review the client's question, compose an answer, and put it on the BBS for the client to examine later. Lawyers and clients can also post messages in a

forum. This provides a complete case history and supports participants in a case who cannot meet regularly.

Publishers and Typesetters: Most publishing houses and printers use BBSs to transfer files. BBSs are a fast, inexpensive alternative to express mailing manuscripts and diskettes. A BBS can also solve computer incompatibilities — if the files were prepared on a Windows or DOS computer, they can be uploaded to a BBS and then downloaded on a Macintosh.

Radio Stations: BBSs at radio stations use boards as a listener forum, soliciting real-time comments about the music, requests, and general input, just like a listener hot line. In addition, the BBS can also be used to announce upcoming musical events sponsored by the station, including concert dates, times, and ticket information. The BBS can also have song lists for specific shows available for downloading.

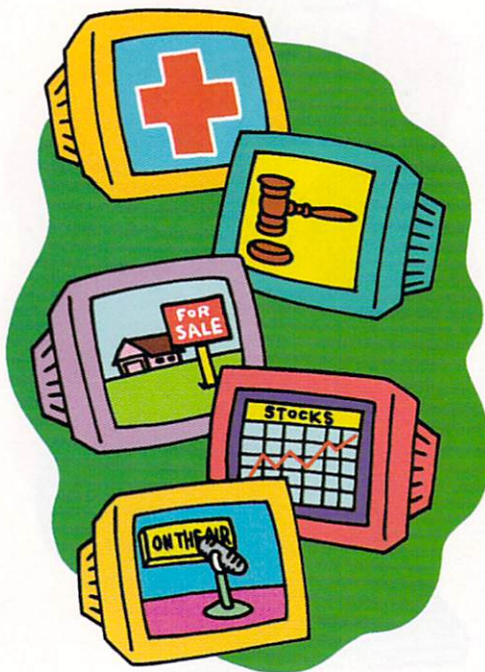
Real-Estate Agencies: For a real-estate agent, same-day or even same-hour information is the difference between making a sale and hearing about it. Many agents maintain private BBSs for clients listing the available properties and prices, with access for a small fee for interested home buyers. The main advantage to using a BBS in this industry is speed of communications. A choice property can be listed, shown, and sold in the time it takes for a letter to get from the real-estate agent's office to a potential client. By listing property information on the BBS as it becomes available, clients can find out about a property within a few hours of its becoming available.

Stockbrokers: One stockbroker I know installed a BBS as a free service to current and potential clients. The BBS contains general information about the stock market in downloadable text files on topics such as over-the-counter stocks, IRA accounts, and recent developments in state and federal legislation. The BBS also has a library with information about new books about the stock market. In addition, there is an online glossary of terms used in the business. Clients can request brokers to track a specific stock by setting up a file on the BBS. The brokers then enter the

stock's daily closing price.

BBS users can also utilize the BBS to set up brokerage accounts. Clients can also upload and download orders, files containing company analyses, spreadsheets, and statistical information. By relegating some of the more routine requests for information to the BBS, the broker can service a larger number of customers effectively.

Unions: Union locals are using BBSs to keep the local's members informed on union news. It can also serve as a forum for straw polls and disseminating general information. During labor negotia-



tions, getting timely information out to union members can be critical.

Wholesalers and Direct-sales Organizations: A BBS can keep the company's field staff informed of the latest developments. In many businesses involving direct sales, such as the wholesale food industry, prices and inventory change constantly. Many companies have used BBSs as a way to let dealers and field representatives receive the latest price sheets. Sales orders can also be entered quickly by tailoring a questionnaire to ask for the appropriate sales information. With this system, a food sales representative can

phone the company headquarters from a client's office on an 800-line check the current price and availability of an item, use this information to close the sale, and then enter the sales information necessary to reserve the items in inventory and start processing the order.

The Wrap-Up

Running a BBS for profit is not a casual thing: for-profit BBSs require a fair cash outlay and a substantial continuing outlay of time and money.

Nonetheless, you can make a decent profit and work at home besides. The most successful BBSs have several dozen lines and offer a big range of services. But always remember that if you want to make money with a BBS, you need to treat the BBS as a business, not a hobby. You should enjoy what you're doing, but it's still going to be work.

NOTE: a BBS is not always the best solution for distributing information. Sometimes a paper routing system or an occasional conference call between offices will work better and more cheaply. If your only solution is a hammer, pretty soon every problem will start looking like a nail.

Business BBSs do best at distributing information that changes frequently and that must go to a number of people separated from the source of the information and each other. Make sure that the BBS's intended users understand how to use it by teaching classes in basic telecommunications or writing a simple set of procedures. Then enlist as many helpers in remote offices as you can. Appoint someone in each office as a BBS resource to answer questions for other users who may be having problems.

All in all, making money with a BBS is challenging, but it can be rewarding. Take time to plan and don't overextend your resources, and you should be able to do okay. ■■■■

*John V. Hedtke is a columnist and the award-winning author of 12 books, including the 3rd edition of *Using Computer Bulletin Boards*, *Peachtree*, *Accounting for Windows Made Easy*, and *The Windows Shareware 500*. He can be reached at johnhedtke@aol.com or jhedtke@oz.net. John lives in Seattle. Copyright 1995 by John V. Hedtke. Portions used by permission of MIS: Press, a division of Henry Holt & Co.*

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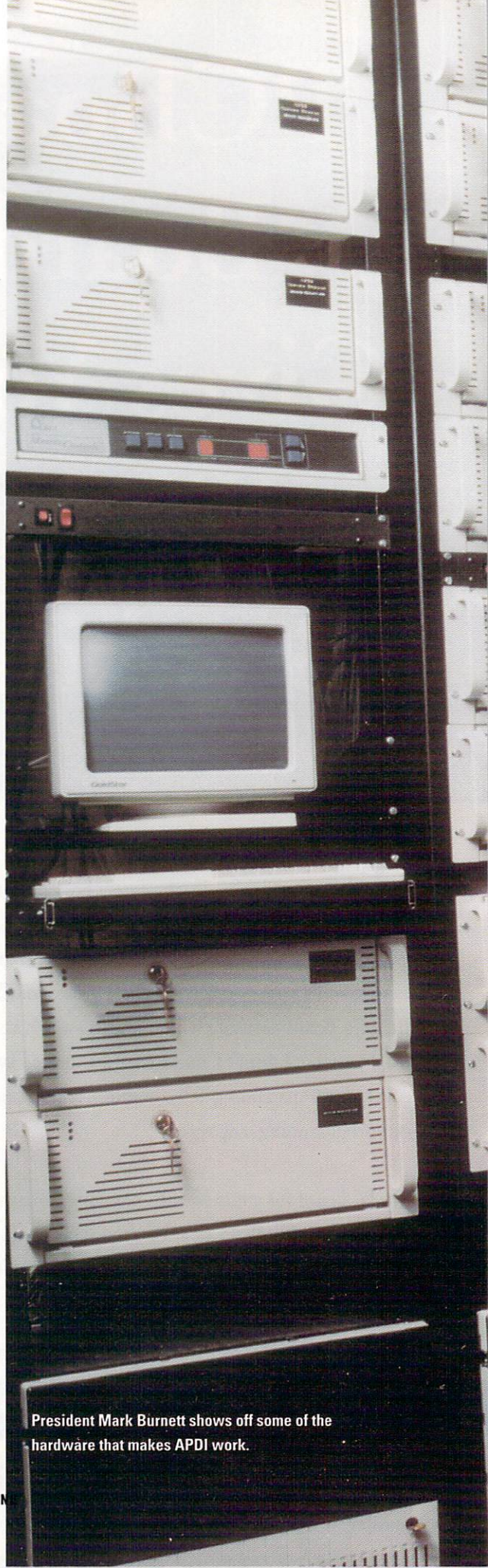
So you think you've identified the perfect application for an online system. You see it as one that will either save your company thousands of dollars or create sources of revenue not previously possible. The idea is solid. Now, how to make it reality?

To begin you have to find the appropriate hardware and software, (as discussed elsewhere in this issue and issue 9/95), then there is sometimes the learning curve related to customizing the BBS features to meet your needs. And what about multiple communication lines, modems, Internet access, usage tracking, security issues, legal issues, data maintenance, on-going user support, etc.?

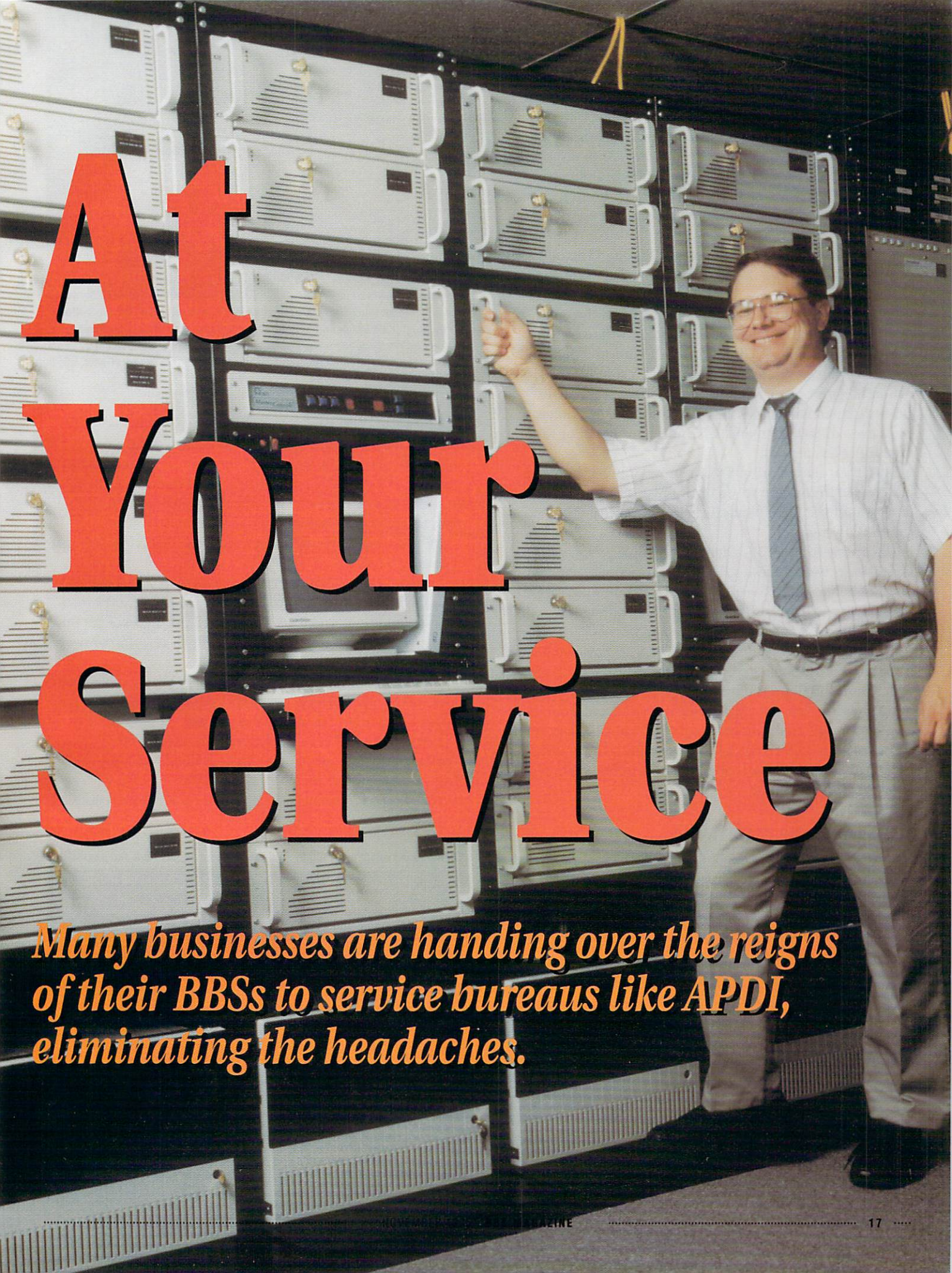
The task can be daunting.

If this scenario sounds familiar, you'll be pleased to know there are alternatives. And one of those is a BBS service bureau.

CONTINUES...



President Mark Burnett shows off some of the hardware that makes APDI work.



At Your Service

Many businesses are handing over the reigns of their BBSs to service bureaus like APDI, eliminating the headaches.

BBS service bureau?

BBS service bureaus exist primarily to relieve you, the BBS operator or sponsor, from the task of learning technical details related to implementing and operating an online system. The bureau will often assist in the system design and then implement the online service in their specialized facilities, supplying all of the computer hardware, software and communication facilities. This leaves you, the client, free to concentrate on maintaining the system's data and promoting usage of the board.

One of the major service bureaus of this kind (if not the major one) is Application Programming & Development, Inc. (APDI).

Launched in 1990 by a group of technicians who coded an online system from scratch for the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), APDI now boasts 15 full-time staff and operates over two dozen online systems for some of the nation's bigger organizations. Current capacity at APDI's Service Center, which is located just outside of Washington, D.C., exceeds 500 simultaneous connections handling thousands of callers per day.

APDI was started primarily as a programming shop, but has evolved to concentrate on operating BBSs for those who don't want to get their hands dirty from the nitty-gritty of running a system.

According to APDI President Mark Burnett, "Over the past several years we have seen so many organizations spend thousands of dollars on BBS hardware and software which are currently sitting idle because clients mistakenly thought that BBSs were simple to set up and easy to maintain."

For the absolute beginner that can be true; however, many BBS software companies are addressing this issue head-on with simple install procedures to get a board up and running in short order. Still, there's the issue of maintenance and hardware and future modification — all of which APDI accommodates. And while APDI will go to a customer's site to install a BBS, their main business is implementing online systems at their own service facility.

Beyond Hardware and Software

First and foremost, according to APDI, the company impresses on prospects that a successful online system is far more than simply hardware and software.

"In fact," says Director of Business Development Lee Hevner, "these elements represent only a small portion of the total cost of a successful online system. It is our job to make sure the client recognizes all of the other related costs."

With all clients, APDI first works through a process of system design and analysis. Starting with a clear statement of goals, a detailed questionnaire is completed which defines all elements of the system. Such issues as user interface, communication options, data formats, menu structures, security requirements, and reporting requirements are addressed.

"The up front design effort cannot be skipped" according to Hevner. "This process separates fantasy from reality and leads us to a detailed design document which provides a clear understanding of the service to be provided. It forms the basis of a contract between APDI and our customer."



APDI President Mark Burnett (center) shares a joke with Jim Harrer (yellow shirt), president of Mustang Software, and Galaticomm President Scott Brinker, at the company's booth at BBSCON. APDI uses Galaticomm's Worldgroup software and Mustang's Wildcat! product to run its clients' BBSs.

Finding the right fit

BBS software is changing and improving at a dizzying pace, and APDI says it retains the flexibility of recommending the best software available for a client's requirements. (As new products and revised versions enter the market, APDI road-tests and offers them as an option to clients.)

Whenever possible the company recommends off-the-shelf software.

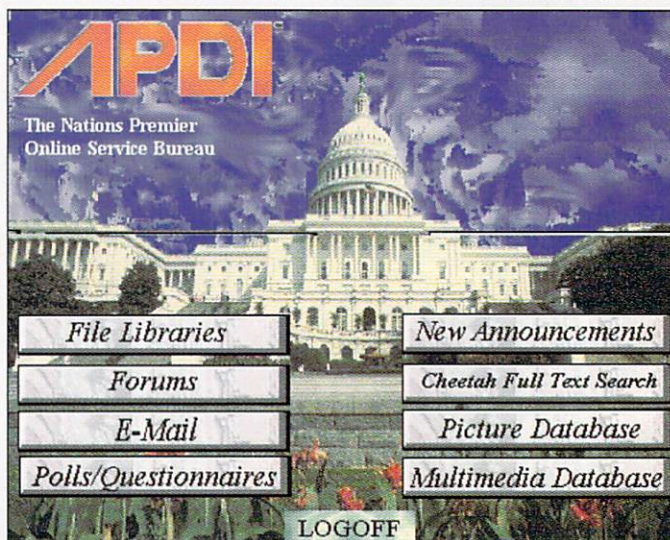
In fact, most systems currently operated by APDI use either Galaticomm's Worldgroup software or Mustang Software's Wildcat! product. And if an off-the-shelf package will not do the job, APDI's programmers can develop a customized system to meet the requirements.

"We only offer to utilize BBS software which is 100 percent rock solid," said Burnett. "After all, as a service bureau, it is up to us to support the users of these products."

Currently APDI is a strategic business partner of Galaticomm and one of only three Certified Mustang Software Integrators for Wildcat! software.

APDI offers its clients a wide range of user connect options

Each online system operated by APDI has its own unique look and capabilities.



as well. Among these are regular dial-up lines, 800 number connects, Telnet, and X.25 packet switching connects (allowing local calls from throughout the U.S. and many international locations).

All communication lines enter the service facility via fiber optics, and APDI has recently entered a strategic relationship with Bell Atlantic to offer full ISDN connection capability.

Clients can mix and match any of these connection types for their system (e.g. three dial-up lines, two Telnet connects, and two ISDN connects). And additional lines can be added at any time system activity demands. Online systems operated by APDI can also be accessed directly from the World Wide Web. "This flexibility of connection quantity and type is extremely difficult to duplicate by organizations attempting an in-house installation. It is a major factor in our clients deciding to out-source their system to us," according to Burnett.

After identifying the appropriate hardware, software and communication elements, APDI technicians customize the system to provide the capabilities as specified by the client, including presenting a unique "look-and-feel." Users of the online service can have no indication the system is running anywhere other than in the client's offices. APDI even answers tech support calls from system users generically.

Like APDI's design process, the implementation process also follows a defined methodology. Well-defined performance criteria must be met before a system is released to the user population. The startup process includes alpha testing and beta testing, during which the kinks are worked out of the system and feedback from beta users is solicited.

In the startup period, the service bureau supplies clients assistance that goes beyond just the technical aspects. The company says it advises on all phases of the system, including data collection and presentation, legal issues, virus protection and the creation of marketing materials and user help packets.

"Over the years we have seen hundreds of ideas and implemented dozens of online systems. We have seen systems succeed and we have seen them fail. We have a good feel for what works and what doesn't," said Burnett. "We want our clients' systems to be successful every bit as much as they do.... And, quite honestly, we don't accept all of the business which is offered to us. We will not implement a system which is not supported by a sound business plan and thus has very little chance for success. That would be a waste of our time and their money. APDI is only successful if the systems we run are successful."

Operation and maintenance

Okay, the BBS is implemented to the customer's specifications and users are connecting. Time to relax, right? Not exactly.

Says APDI, this is where the real advantages of using a service bureau kick in.

For instance, APDI commits many resources to maintaining and operating released systems. Data is backed up daily and technology is constantly being refreshed. But perhaps most important during the operation phase of a system is what APDI points to as its Help Desk. Since even the best online service is completely useless if callers cannot connect to it, the company provides all systems with a professionally staffed Help Desk capability from 9 a.m. to midnight week-days (24-hour/seven days a week coverage is also available) to

"APDI is only successful if the systems we run are successful."

— Mark Burnett, APDI

assist callers in connecting to their system. If a user of any board has a problem connecting, they call APDI, not the sponsoring organization., and receive step-by-step instruction.

According to Hevner, "Second only to the quality of the online data, no single element is more important to the success of an online system than continuous support of the user. And support at the level provided by APDI is prohibitively expensive for an organization to provide in-house. This is another reason organizations choose to out-source the operation of their on-line systems to APDI."

The service center

A mistaken impression exists out there today that BBSs are run solely out of basements, garages or the wiring cabinet. Though many are, the reality is that professional business systems often require a state-of-the-art environment. APDI has built its Service Center in an attempt to provide this environment.

"We operate mission critical online applications for some of the largest organizations in the country. These online systems are essential to daily business," said Burnett. "Unscheduled downtime is not acceptable to most of our customers."

To achieve the best opportunity for continuous operations, all systems operated at APDI run on completely redundant hardware and mirrored data servers. Any glitch encountered by a server immediately kicks in a second server without interruption. In addition, all systems are connected to industrial strength UPSes which maintain power for a minimum of two hours in the event of total power failure. Even this capability is redundant, however, as APDI has its own natural gas powered generator which supplies juice for an indefinite period of time.

Is it for you?

BBS service bureaus can be used by anyone from entrepreneurs to the largest organizations in the country.

CONTINUES...

The APDI Help Desk on the job.





Sue Jivoravivat, APDI treasurer, and Lee Hevner, director of marketing, with several products from companies utilizing APDI's services.

"Dating services, lotto online and purely entertainment boards would do best to look elsewhere," according to Hevner. "We target professional business applications, and among our most successful vertical markets are publishers, associations, financial service organizations and corporations. Each of these market segments have applications where cost justification and opportunities for new revenue streams abound."

An emerging market for APDI services exists in the form of back-end processing for CD-ROMS. Publishers and information providers who distribute information periodically (e.g. monthly) via CD are supplementing their product with a feature programmed into the CD that automatically dials an online system at APDI to download daily data. Other CD producers are programming "buttons" in their software that allow users to place orders from the CD automatically, by dialing a service at APDI which collects ordering and payment data and then transmits it to vendors for fulfillment. Still others are distributing millions of free CD-ROMs of all types that a user can test drive. If they want the full product they click a button on the software interface which transmits to a system at APDI payment information. The bureau then transmits back a key to unlock the full features of the CD.

"The applications for online systems are tremendous and businesses are just now starting to understand the power of these capabilities" said Hevner. "APDI is positioned to provide customized online systems to meet these needs."

The money factor

APDI charges its clients an initial setup fee for implementation and customization of each online system. Then there is a monthly charge based upon the number of simultaneous connects dedicated to the system (APDI's largest client has 300 connects). APDI does not charge based upon system activity, information downloads or other variable factors.

"We find that professional organizations want a firm number which they can budget for every month, not one that varies all over the map," states Burnett.

And make no mistake, operating a professional online system through APDI is not exactly cheap. Unless an organization is willing to commit at least \$25,000 per year to operate and maintain the system, then APDI's services are not for them.

"When put in perspective, however, running a system at APDI costs far less than hiring (or diverting) one or more employees in-house to manage the system. And with APDI an organization can be assured of a professional system operating in a professional environment," according to Burnett.

APDI further offers clients the opportunity to start the system at APDI's service bureau and after a period of time bring it in-house when all is running smoothly.

"So far we have had only one organization take us up on this offer and they are now trying to figure out how, politically, to move it back" said Burnett. "People just don't realize what it takes to keep these things running 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

What about the Web?

"The advent of the popularity of the Internet and the WWW [World Wide Web] has increased our business several times over," according to Burnett, who says the Internet and the WWW are not replacements for BBSs, but complementary elements.

As mentioned, all BBSs run at APDI can be accessed via a Telnet session on the Internet allowing access with little or no communication charges. A Web home page can "front end" any of APDI's systems, enhancing the visibility and marketing of the BBS. In the final analysis, however, professional organizations prefer to conduct secure business and confidential information exchange within the secure confines of their own proprietary online system; a system with multiple levels of security and one which requires a password to enter. In other words, a BBS.

And, while some people may find this hard to believe, says Burnett, surveys which APDI has conducted of potential system users show that there are a lot of people out there who do not use the Net and don't plan to use it in the near future.

"When one of our customers decided to switch access methods from phone lines to Internet only, they lost half of their audience. They put the phone line option back in very quickly," Burnett said. "Most of our clients are very pragmatic about this. The days when everyone uses the Internet are several years off."

Still, APDI's use of the Net is extensive. Systems that operate this way are seamlessly integrated with the Internet in several areas. Internet email is a common option which APDI integrates into client systems. The bureau can also include access to specialized Internet Newsgroups. And while APDI can build a system for an organization with full Internet access capability, most clients do not want to become Internet service providers. Their purposes for the online system are much more focused than that, and allowing users to browse the Internet is not one of those purposes.

Online services are proliferating as more and more of the population is able to connect. Professional organizations and businesses are discovering online applications that are easily cost justifiable, yet the logistics and of implementing a professional online system are sometimes beyond the current capabilities of many existing MIS departments. For them, the BBS service bureau just might be the solution.

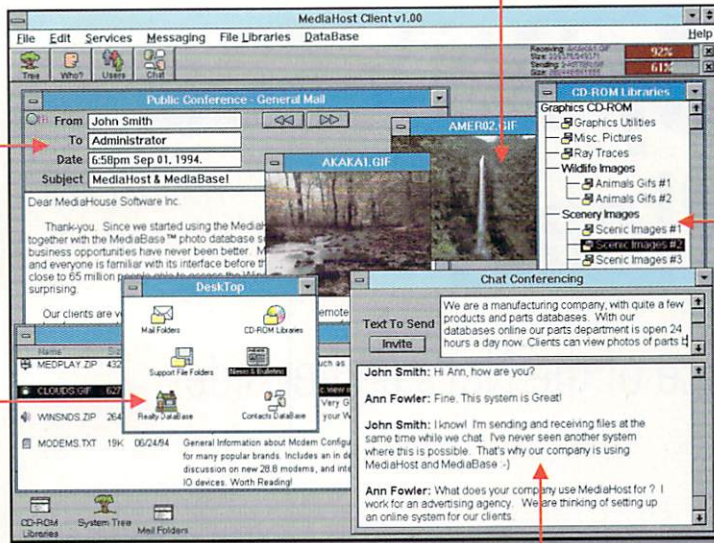
For more information, APDI can be reached at 1-800-785-APDI. ■■■■

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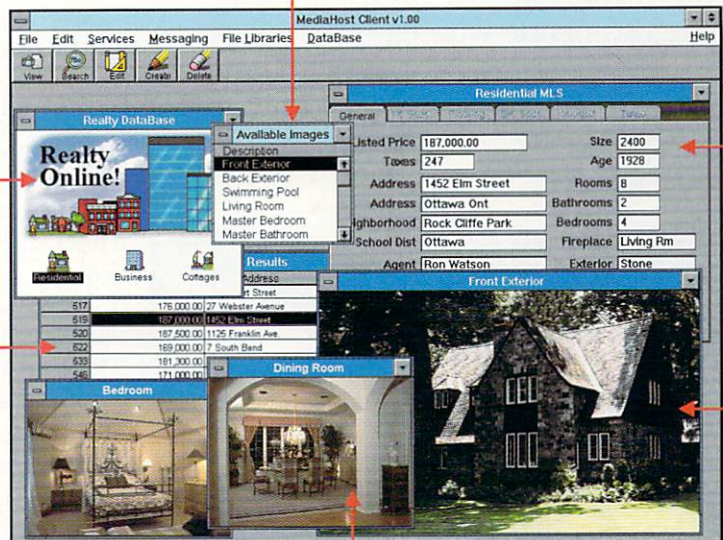
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Take My Web Site, Please!

A tour de farce of the Net's lighter side

You can find just about any flavor of humor on the Web. In fact some sites are funny by virtue of the fact that they exist at all. For instance, take a look at Brian's Lava Lamp at

<http://www.arl.wustl.edu/~brian/Office/LavaLamp/> without cracking a smile. Go on, I dare ya. I mean, here's someone who has enlisted a NeXT computer to do nothing more than monitor the status of a small, quasi-useful indoor appliance!



Well, it brightened my day.

Almost as amusing is the Amiga computer in Pittsburgh, PA., devoted to speaking messages typed by bored passersby to a bemused cat. Say a few words to the nice kitty at <http://queer.slip.cs.cmu.edu/cgi-bin/talktocat>. Then, for an even bigger laugh, see what others have said. (Warning: Some of it's not going to be rated G.)

Typical Fare

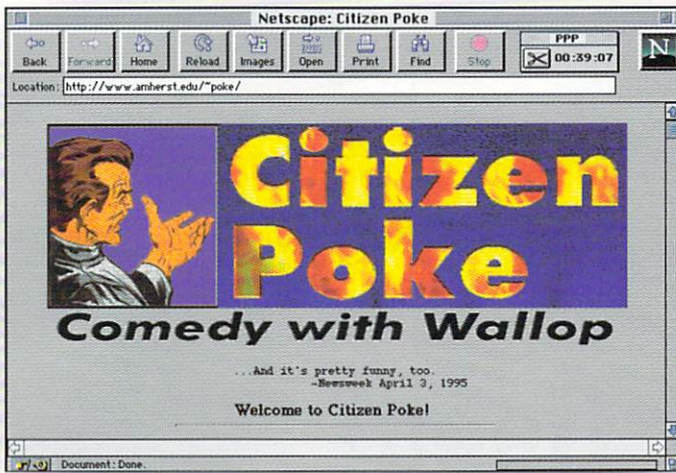
Anything that's funny outside of cyberspace has surely been collected, chronicled, indexed, cross-referenced, coded and, on some sites, even randomized. As that spaghetti sauce company would say, "It's in there."

Top ten lists? We got 'em. (Hell, I even wrote one once.) Take a look at <http://paul.spu.edu/~zylstra/comedy/lists/index.html> for the Top Ten Reasons to take a look at <http://paul.spu.edu/~zylstra/comedy/lists/index.html>. Hmm, maybe I just made that up. Of course, you won't know unless you take a look.

So what if they're a year old. Pentium jokes never go out of style. And, now even more convenient, the Canonical List of Pentium humor is at <http://www.infi.net/~cashman/humor/canonical/pentium.html>.

You want something more topical. Have I got a site for you. The Wrecked Humor Collection at <http://www.infi.net/~cashman/humor/>. When I checked, it was chock full of Hugh Grant, Susan Smith, and (naturally) a litany of O.J. Simpson jokes. By the time you read this, there is destined to be a fresh batch of controversy — and the jokes will surely follow.

I never knew there were so many light bulb jokes. Thankfully, someone created the Random Lightbulb Joke Generator. Plug in to <http://www.crc.ricoh.com/~marcush/lightbulb/random.cgi> with Netscape 1.1N or later, and you'll get a new joke every ten seconds. Just don't forget to change the



channel after a few hours; the results of prolonged exposure to light bulb jokes have not been studied by medical science. Fortunately, there's also a batch of links to other humorous sites to divert you, if you can break the spell.

Like to make fun of corporate America? Who doesn't. Well, there's no better place to start than The Gallery of Advertising Parody at <http://www.dnai.com/~sharrow/parody.html>. The punch-line? Some aren't jokes.

Parody is surely the greatest flattery on the Web. To see what I mean visit the What Snooze Page (a sarcastic take off on the NCSA What's New page) at <http://www.digimark.net/mfu/whasnooz.html>. Among the gems are PGE (Pretty Good Euthanasia) and Top Ten Rejected Wired Magazine Covers. Another parody site is The Squat (<http://theory.physics.missouri.edu/~georges/Josh/squat/>), which appeared within weeks of the debut of the soap opera-ish Web site called The Spot (<http://www.thespot.com/>).

Spawn of the Net

The Internet has its own indigenous forms of humor, and much of it has been preserved for future generations who don't have a clue what they're in for. (Heh heh.) For one thing, there's the international sport of the Net: Barney hating. That anthropomorphic dinosaur has the face that launched a thousand newsgroups — most of them devoted to new and exciting methods of disembowelling the purple beast.

Now, thanks to the magic of the Web, you can take Barney apart yourself. Surf to the Barney Fun Page at <http://ugweb.cs.ualberta.ca/~gerald/barney/>, where you can pick a weapon and go to work! Or, join the Jihad to Destroy Barney on the World Wide Web (<http://deeptht.armory.com/~deadslug/Jihad/jihad.html>) and discover the six degrees of separating Barney's head from his shoulders.

If you can't squeeze enough humorous hate and loathing out of Barney, it's time to jettie to Australia for a dose of The Bastard Operator from Hell. The fully serialized antics of one loathsome system administrator are chronicled for your pure chewing satisfaction at <http://www.st.nepean.uws.edu.au/stuff/bofh/>.

On a more unpredictable note, there's always the Usenet Oracle. If you're new to the Internet or just stick to the back circuits, the Oracle is an all-knowing being that dispenses some of the most sage-worthy advice ever devised to anyone who sends a query via email.

Actually, the Oracle is a humorous farce wherein the sender of a question is suddenly an authority on whatever random query she or he gets saddled with — at the price of sending a question. The results are often hilarious, and they're collected at the Best of the Oracle, located at <http://paul.spu.edu/~zylstra/comedy/oracle/index.html> on your radio dial. You can also find Oracle memorabilia at The Usenet Oracle Index, just a short click away at <http://www.pcnet.com/users/stenor/oracle/index.html>.

'Zines

Finally, there are stacks of humor e-zines on the Web. Foremost among them is Citizen Poke (<http://www.amherst.edu/~poke/>) at Amherst University. Released monthly in Adobe Acrobat format, past features include 10 Steps to Beating Jury Duty, sexual harassment trading cards, and, for those lazy students of pop culture, O.J. Cliff Notes.

Or, perhaps, the Ooze is more your style. Based at <http://www.io.com/~ooze/>, the site boasts such articles as From the Editor's Dumpster, Rejected Metaphors for the Information Superhighway, and Stupidest Mac Shareware (which includes "Ooze: The Game").

For the more sophisticated palate, there is a somewhat more disciplined collection of Editorial Humor at <http://virtumall.com/newsstand/EditorialHumor/main.html>. The site boasts sample cartoons to get you interested in the printed magazine of the same name. As a bonus, subscribers get a password to access more online booty.

Cap off your tour de farce with the Britcomedy Digest, which has features and links for fans of "Black Adder," "A Fish Called Wanda," "AbFab" and "Red Dwarf," to name a few. Check in at <http://cathouse.org/BritishComedy/BD/>

And for those with really short attention spans, the one sentence short stories at <http://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~lestat/short.html> should suffice. Of course, if you have a really short attention span, you probably didn't read this far.

Ah, the irony.

Overheard on the 'Net

"I hope life is not a big joke, 'cause I don't get it."

Dave Kramer can be reached at reeltime@omni.voicenet.com.



Are Your Windows Open?

(It's raining hysteria)

The four ambassadors slowly enter the steely cathedral through the 50-foot flashing monitor-laden doors. Smoke billows before them a 30-foot-wide computer animated Windows 95 logo. A deep bass explosion accompanies pillars of fire as the logo speaks.

"You dare disturb the great Goz?"

One steps forth, "Oh great Goz, we request back control of our computers."

An ear shattering explosion from a cannon hurls Win 95 CD-ROMs like shrapnel piercing the prominent leaders, who now lay on the floor, slain: The king of neon-colored Wiredville

.....
"Oh great Goz, we request back control of our computers."

(the 51st state of the union), the CEO of McDisney CNNBSBSTV, SKGT-CIBM leader Steven Spielberg, and Mr. Start-Me-Up Mick Jagger.

All kinds of doomsday scenarios were drawn before the release of Windows 95 this summer. Some viciously opposed the onslaught of the upgrade by mighty Microsoft, and painted the pre-95 release hoopla as preapocalyptic warnings.

Others have moved backward, to the safety of decade-old operating systems like Commodore 64s and Vic 20s

(which are Internet compatible, by the way). One woman even claimed to have infiltrated Microsoft and exposed a religious cult that will use Windows to elevate Bill Gates as the one true Messiah.

Every known medium worldwide has been plastered with comments on it. Obviously, something much bigger than an \$89 platform upgrade is occurring here.

Following Gates's screaming newborn, public reaction has been more interesting than the platform could ever hope to be. The question is, why was there so much anti-Microsoft sentiment if 80 percent of users were running the old Windows anyway? These are the folks who brought us the glow of the old faithful C:\ prompt. Should they have stopped there? Well, here are several responses received after I posted inquiries about reactions to Win 95:

The "They're robbing us blind" argument:

A Microsoft employee recently emailed me this response:

"I've been here for 4.5 years. When I joined it was 6,000 employees... it's now 16,000. But remember, IBM is

200,000. So we're actually kind of small. IBM makes \$52 billion in revenues — \$10 billion in cash in the bank, AT&T over \$70 billion in revenues, HP \$10 billion in revenues, Apple \$8 billion in revenues, then let's not forget all the Japanese companies — Sega, Nintendo, Fujitsu, etc. etc. etc. Microsoft is only \$5 billion in revenue with \$5 billion in the bank."

Response: So that's why Bill Gates didn't have change for the soda machine in that Coke commercial? Is he broke? Are Coke and Microsoft going to merge and change that damn "I'd like to buy the world a Coke" jingle to "I'd like to buy the world Windows 95, and multitask in harmony?"

The "Windows 95 is the same as Mac" argument:

Comic strip artist Henry Payne depicted Bill Gates sketching the Win 95 logo using an Apple as a model. Macintosh interface designer Bruce Tognazzini recently said that the new platforms are still duplicating the original cigarette burns in the original Mac platform. Others feel the same:

"Yeah, I've seen Winblows95 (sic) too, and wasn't impressed with technological 'innovations' that were on the Mac ten years ago. Are you really impressed with Microlimp including Centipede as part of Lose95 (sic), a weak videogame also ten years old?"

— SGSardi

Response: Um, it beats solitaire.

The "Bill Gates is out to ruin me" argument:

"Mr. Gates considers people who report problems with his software to be personally attacking him. He uses his power and money to stomp people into the ground.

"During family medical emergency on August 21, 1991, Microsoft attempts to have me committed during after (sic) arrest fails when I pass test. I'm now having my cognitive differences used in an attempt to make me look insane. The cops assaulted me very badly and mocked me about Bill Gates and Microsoft. Both my children witnessed this and were traumatized by it.

"Microsoft is crawling with cult people. Rick (Microsoft employee) was a New Age Christian. Like most of his type he began talking about Revelations in the Bible. Then he started in with this stuff about Bill Gates being the Messiah. Though his words kept saying he was going to rid me of this demon he perceived in me, he was definitely attempting to assault me."

— Joan Grove, Seattle WA

Response: Please, please, take the medication. (To see more of her grievances, head to <http://www.halcyon.com/redrose/joan.html>).

The "It's a memory hog" argument:

"I have windoze (sic) 3.1 on my system because it shipped with my computer, and as far as I am concerned it is a memory gobbling hog. I use it very little. As far as windoze 95 goes, that is one piece of software that will never reside in my system. Just to show you how serious I am, I have in my hot little hand a slackware version of linux... it will be installed later on this week as the rest of the brainwashed public installs the microscum (sic) messiah.

"I'm so sick of all the hype and I can only hope that there is a collective crash of systems on Thursday night as all these lamebrains try to install that hacked piece of code."

— Cassis in NY

Response: That collective crash was cash registers. Sell your computer and buy some stock.

"I won't never use Windows 95, not if it was the last OS on earth. (I'd use my Vic-20 first)."

— Casale in Philadelphia

Response: See if you can get a grammar checker for that Vic-20.

The "IBM OS/2 Warp platform does the same thing" argument:

"I've been using OS/2 for the past three years. WinBloze (sic) 95 ain't nothing new or exciting for me!!! I've got the features already!!!"

— macwarp

Response: This is beginning to sound like the VHS/BETA wars of the early 80s.

The "huh" argument:

"Color me square, but who's Bill Gates?"

— Susan in Missouri

Response: 10: print "wake up" 20: goto 10.

The "Windows is for stupid people who can't figure out computers" argument:

When MSN was unveiled overseas, one person coined it "the McDonaldisation of the on-line world." In the same vein, core Internet users scoffed at the flood of AOLers hitting the Net, labeling them as newbies and asserting that stupid people are trying to figure out computers.

Response: Stupid people have figured out computers. Run for your life.



Windows is an operating system that cost hundreds of millions of dollars to develop, over 1,000 people to write and is comprised of 11 million lines of code. It seems the question is, "What do people want in an operating system? No nonsense ease of use?" Windows 3.x delivered that, somewhat.

What is the perfect operating system? Is it Windows 95? Will Bill Gates buy us all a Coke? Is there a secret religious cult inside Microsoft? Can I go to confession from my laptop?

These reactions are amusing, indeed, and in many cases extreme. It's interesting to note that most email was critical and the positive feedback scarce. This may be what I call the "pizza delivery" phenomenon which I experienced in my teen-age days of slinging pies.

On occasion a customer would call, bellowing complaints and insults at the store manager, grumbling that they weren't given the perfect pizza. No one ever phoned overwhelmed in culinary delight. Instead, they voted with their dollars by calling back in the future when they were ready to have their junk food intake upgraded. ■■■■■

Sling Win 95 complaints and other stuff at Lazlow at lazlow@undernet.com

Hunt 95

The quest begins for Windows tools and toys

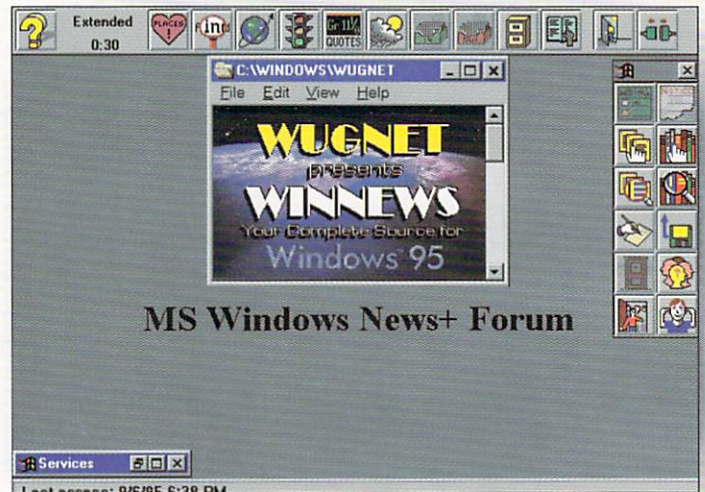
Along with a million others, I rushed to the computer store within four days of Windows 95 being released — \$89 in hand. I read the printed manual, or at least the title page, and dove right into upgrading my new laptop to the touted wave of the future in operating systems.

For those who haven't guessed from my previous columns, I have to admit I purchase and run almost every O/S you can stick on a PC. I have Windows, Windows for Workgroups, Windows NT, OS/2 and FreeBSD Unix. I like them all and the last thing I needed was another one; however I'm a tech-weenie at heart, and the one thing I couldn't do the latter part of August was drive past a computer store without knowing I was still running yesterday's software.

"Would you like a receipt, sir?"

Back to the laptop. I use it primarily for communications, access to all the online services, direct and dial-up connections to the Internet, and outgoing faxes. I also have a PCMCIA network adapter and use it to connect to my Novell LAN, Microsoft Network, and TCP/IP networks. The reason I'm sharing all this is that I was wondering just how far "plug-and-play" would take me. Answer: pretty far, it seems. I had only one problem with the PCMCIA card services supplied in my Toshiba, and once I allowed 95 to disable them and use the new 32-bit services, the minor configuration issues went away.

After I had the installation finished it was all pretty boring; the only thing I was looking forward to was logging onto the new Microsoft Network. So I quickly dialed up the big three and MSN to search for the latest and greatest tools and toys for my new O/S.

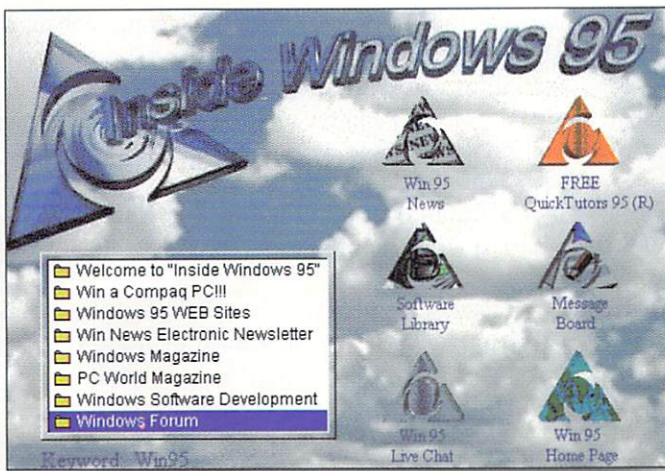


CompuServe

First stop was CompuServe. It seems that if I'm looking for support or software, I always call CIS first and this time, as usual, I wasn't disappointed. I did a quick search for "windows 95" and clicked off on the first keyword "WINNEWS" which gave me my first look at WinCim under Windows 95. At first I was pretty disappointed, because upon entering the forum, WinCim began to download a forum logo. (The forum logo is generally pasted right in the center of the WinCim screen.) The forum logo was encased in a Windows 95 window — however I quickly realized the forum logo was a picture of a Windows 95 window and not the window itself. OK, my mistake.

After reading the forum news file, I realized that the WINNEWS forum, which is operated by WUGNET, is part of the CompuServe Windows 95 Support Center (GO WIN95) holding a wealth of information and software.

The first tool I downloaded was the Windows 95 version of WinZip. If you've never used WinZip I encourage you to check it out. It's a great shareware program that gives you total



control over your compressed files in a very thorough and graphical environment.

After I installed WinZip I was able to uncompress and experience some of my downloads. I grabbed some great animated cursors, bitmaps and images to show off my new support for Windows 95. Microsoft's new O/S handled them all.

I encourage you to check out both the WinNews and WIN95 forums on CIS to hunt your own treasures.

AOL

Next stop was America Online. I was looking for a good image capture program for 95 after being told by my editor that my old standby Hijack Pro was producing "weird" images under Windows NT. I figured it might also break down under 95, so off I went.

I followed the same procedure as on CIS, and clicked on the search button looking for "windows." AOL produced two services: the Windows Forum and Windows Magazine Online, both of which were accessible via keyword WINDOWS.

After clicking the Windows Forum icon I was presented with an icon for AOL's Win 95 Center (Keyword: Win95). After AOL auto-downloaded some new art, up came a rather pleasing interface for something called the Win 95 Center, complete with news, software libraries, World-Wide Web sites and an offer for a free Windows 95 tutor.

According to the center's introduction, "You'll find tips from Microsoft (check out the "WinNews Electronic Newsletters" section), World-Wide Web links to areas of interest and much more. AOL already has the best collection of Windows 95 files available and, as always, our message areas are a great place to get help from peers and experts about Windows 95 issues."

I quickly went to the Software Library and started looking for my screen capture program. Unfortunately AOL's claim to the best collection of Windows 95 files available did not include a screen capture program. I did however find one in the standard Windows software libraries — the program GrabIt Pro (GP50.ZIP) by Software Excellence By Design Inc. The file description makes the following reference: "The Chicago Computer Society magazine Hard Copy had this to say about GrabIt Pro: 'In short, GrabIt Pro will increase your

efficiency at least 50% and probably (no kidding) 80% or More!'"

I'll let you know if it helps me. By the way, it turns out that GP50.ZIP is indeed a Windows 95/NT v3.51 program that just hasn't made it into AOL's Win 95 Center.

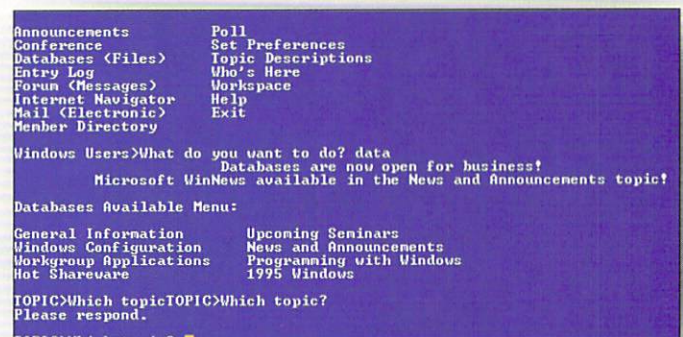
I also enjoyed the Windows 95 Message Boards, which were well written and full of useful information. One particularly interesting category was "Tips and Tricks." I found many of those good un-documented features along with some need-to-know type information.

Delphi

My next stop on the Win 95 quest was Delphi. I stumbled into the Windows Users Forum (GO COM WIN) brought to us by Jim Blakely [FRODOH] and Valda Hilley [VHILLEY], co-authors of "Windows 3.1 Configuration Secrets" from IDG Books. It seems that Delphi has just upgraded this forum from a Custom forum to an official Delphi SIG. I quickly found the database, Delphi's naming convention for a file library. In there I honed in on "1995 Windows" — my assumption is that the Delphi folks named the menu option this instead of "Windows 95" so that users could take advantage of the command line completion feature of VMS, the system on which Delphi runs.

Unfortunately, the file collection was really small — a total of 10 files — however it wasn't a wasted phone call because I did find a utility I was looking for. The program RoboDUN is a freeware scripting utility to use with Microsoft's Dial Up Networking in 95. I downloaded it to test out the dial-up PPP connection I use while on the road.

After finding the screen capture utility for 95 in the standard file libraries on AOL, I figured it might be worth a try on Delphi as well. It was. Going up one level to the standard windows database (file libraries), I found a few more 95 utilities



including one which was right up my ally: CLNUPW.ZIP, or CleanUp For Windows. This little jewel allows you to scan one or more disks to identify and remove unnecessary files, save them to a directory, create (and optionally execute) a batch file, or print a list of files. CleanUp will identify files with the same name in any directory and display them in the main window. You can also display a graph of the space used by

CONTINUES...

your largest directories. Alternatively, you can choose to view all files on the disks, zero length files, backup files (*.BAK), or tagged files. In any view, you can Tag and Untag files for deletion with a plethora of selection criteria.

Prodigy

Convinced that there must be more great shareware out there, I logged into Prodigy and received some more of the facelift I told you about that last month. The Prodigy user interface is really starting to shine — I especially the new “Dear Member”, Prodigy’s suggestion box for the next generation of the service.

I quickly went to the computing section and the Ziff Davis Shareware Club, where I was happy to see the opening screen featured a Windows 95 logo.

If you’ve never used ZDNET on Prodigy before, you’re missing one of the best things online. ZDNET’s claim to fame in my opinion is a feature called “Preston’s Picks.” Preston Gralla is the man behind the picks, and he rounds up some of the best software tools for Windows and its step-children. I find his picks to be excellent and particularly liked one called DOCMAN.ZIP, which Preston describes as follows:

“If you can make any sense at all or find any real, useful purpose for the Documents section of the Windows 95 Start menu, then you’re a better person than I am. Among its many shortcomings: you can’t add individual documents to it, and you can’t delete individual documents or groups of documents from it. As far as I can tell, that makes it well-nigh useless. DocMan

(Document List Management System) changes that, turning it into a true power tool. This great little program allows you to add and delete files from the Documents menu easily. With it, you’ll find the Documents section something that you turn to again and again instead of something that you tune out.”

Microsoft Network

OK, here it is... A search for Windows 95 software would not be complete without a look into the new Microsoft Network (look for a full review of MSN next month). The MSN client is a standard component of Windows 95 and has been at the heart of much controversy regarding Microsoft allegedly attempting to monopolize the online market. Remember that

there are over 100 million Windows users, many more than all the online users combined.

I must admit my first impression of the software was not a favorable one. It was slow and the multi-tasking support of the system made it difficult to use. Windows were popping up all over and several times I double-clicked on an option and, when it seemed like nothing was happening, I clicked again, only to get a bogus error message that “The task could not be completed at this time.”

I also didn’t like the fact that to access all the features of the service (i.e. the Internet), I had to download what MSN

reports as an upgrade — eating up half an hour in the process. I just bought the darn thing, and I know there was plenty of room on the CD for MS to include this stuff. It just appeared to be either poor planning or a lame attempt to keep users online longer.

In the spirit of the quest for 95 software I did attempt to use MSN to find some new stuff. I found that after leaving the “Microsoft Central” main screen, I had to load several screens of file folders traversing through Computers and Software, then Software, then Operating Systems, then Windows 95, and finally to Free Stuff.

Then I hit the mother-lode... PowerToys.

PowerToys is a series of user interface enhancements developed by the members of the Windows 95 development team. The catch here is that it’s essentially unsupported software, hence its free status. The kit includes many simple little changes to your desktop, each of which

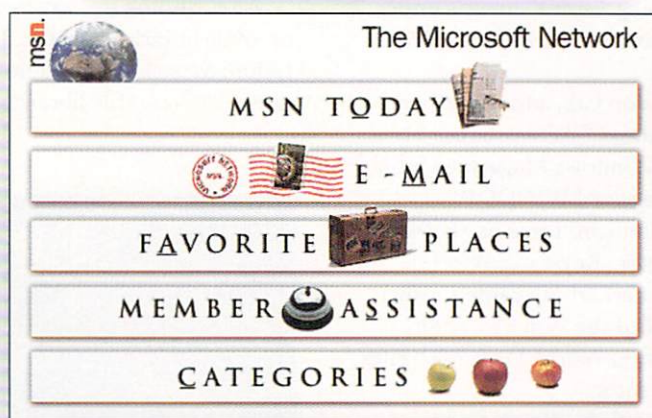
may speed up, simplify, or otherwise improve your navigation through the new O/S.

The tool I liked best was Xmouse. Xmouse gives the Windows desktop the functionality of X-Windows. When the mouse moves over a window, for instance, that window moves to the top and “gets focus”.

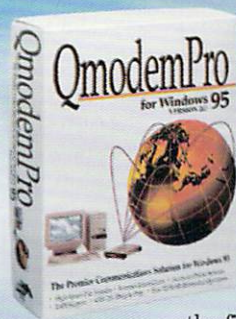
There’s lots there, so check it out.

All and all I think my quest was successful. Top ranked was CompuServe as far as the sheer number of files available for 95 users goes, and MSN will undoubtedly be filled to overflowing soon. And I’ll bet many of you will have your coffer filled by the time you read this.

Mine is. ■■■■



Don't Start Your Modem Without The 32-bit Power Of QmodemPro For Windows 95



You're a speed freak, right? You bought the Pentium and 28.8 modem, and you just upgraded to Windows® 95 to take full advantage of your computer's 32-bit architecture. So why are you using old 16-bit communication software that chokes the performance of Windows 95? Get on-line fast with the 32-bit POWER in QmodemPro for Windows 95 v2. It's

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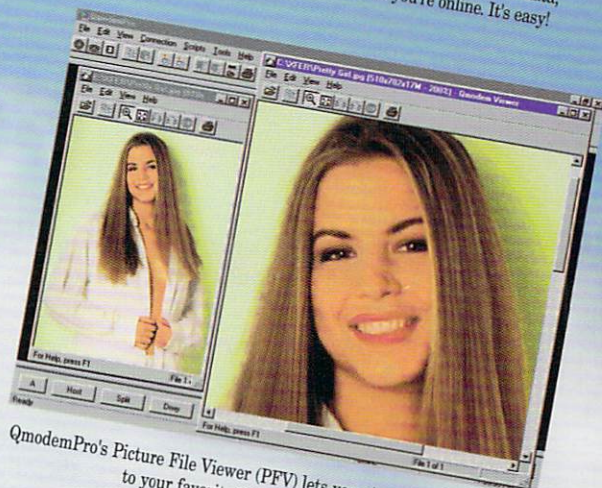


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* RSA Data Security, Inc. MD5 Message-Digest Algorithm
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bbs . notebook

BY STEVE JANAS

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

Vetlink

Sysop: G. Joseph Peck
Location: Tampa, Fla.
Data #: 813.249.8323
BBS Software: Osiris 2.11

There are actually 85 "vetlinks" scattered around the country, each one committed to the same mission as the original: namely, to stitch together a support network of friendship and camaraderie for veterans of America's armed forces.

The focus here is on war veterans. Sysop G. Joseph Peck did not actually go abroad when he served in the Army during the Vietnam War era, but he was severely wounded in an accident and understands the psychological, sociological and bureaucratic hurdles war vets face. Thus, Vetlink acts as a clearinghouse for information on dealing with the Veterans Administration at the same time as it provides group purgation with such features as the Wall, a Door that launches a database containing the names of each of the 56,000 servicemen killed in action

during the Vietnam conflict.

The board also allows old war horses to chew the fat about their memories of the service. The message areas are divided basically into two areas: the Korean War and the Vietnam War, with each section further divided according to what servicemen were actually assigned to do in each war. For example, in the Vietnam message area, there is a section devoted to what Joseph calls the river rats — soldiers who patrolled Vietnam's rivers in boats *a la* Martin Sheen in "Apocalypse Now."

The messages, ferried between Vetlink nodes via Fidonet echos, run the gamut from the boastful to the poignant. In one thread in the Vietnam area, Marine and Army vets traded quips over who had to put up with more grief during the war. Meanwhile, in the Korean War area, a Vietnam vet posted a message appealing for mail for his father, a Korean War vet who had just been institutionalized in a VA hospital in Massachusetts. He got several responses from other vets, total strangers except for having shared the intimacy of being under fire together in the same isolated backwater of the world.

Joseph says he founded the board in 1985 after 20 frustrating years liv-

ing as a disabled vet and trying to find a BBS that had the community of others like him.

"I looked for one and didn't find it," he says. "So if you can't find it, create it."

He admits that CompuServe does have a veterans conference, but "it's too much of a shotgun approach. The veterans conference is just one conference. There are many issues that do concern veterans: education, the VA, how do I process and how do I present my claims."

Each of those areas is addressed in a conference on Vetlink. In addition, the board helps vets cope with the lingering psychological effects of war.

Joseph even credits the link with saving some vets' lives.

On at least five occasions, a vet has logged on to a chat threatening suicide, launching a full-blown effort by the sysop to intervene, Joseph says. Fortunately the 85 individual vetlink boards represent a network of resources for Joseph to mobilize.

"If someone is in trouble, they contact me and I have the files here and I know the buttons to push," he says. "If I don't know I'll call someone who does know."

In addition to active participants of the board, there are what Joseph

calls "lurkers," vets who drop in without revealing their presence.

"They'll log on and see answers to questions they don't want to ask themselves," he says.

Joseph runs the board from a two 486 machines linked together via Ethernet. One machine, which Joseph calls his work machine, holds his personal files on a 700MB hard drive. The second machine, with a 420MB hard drive, carries the system information for vetlink and is attached to a CD-ROM drive.

The system runs on Osiris 2.11 software, which Joseph says he is currently in the process of upgrading so he can offer his users Internet access. Membership is free, he says, and will remain so even after the board is connected to the Internet. Joseph says he'll pay his provider out of his own pocket rather than ask his members to pay.

"There'll be no fee," he says. "Our veterans have already paid their price."

Intercity

Sysop: Tyronne Foy
Location: Richmond, Va.
Data #: 804.353.4160
BBS Software: RBBS

Richmond, Virginia's Intercity BBS began life as a basic message board about nine years ago, developed an affiliation with genealogists largely on the strength of its substantial Fidonet connectivity, and has now become something of an online gathering point for local African Americans.

Sysop Tyronne Foy, a one-time blues saxophonist, says he averages about 3,000 calls a week on the board's two nodes, and on any given day receives up to 800 Fidonet echos. It is that kind of activity that prompted the National Genealogy Society, which wanted to establish a presence in the Richmond area, to contact him about setting up a genealogy conference, Tyronne says. Now, in addition to running that conference, the board is a part of three different

genealogy networks. "And I'm still not a genealogist," Tyronne says.

More recently, after hearing about it in a conference on America Online, Tyronne set up his board as a node of the International Black, African, African American and Minority network, which carries conferences on black-themed topics centering on teen-age and family issues, male and female relationships, black/African art and, of course, genealogy.

Another black-themed network Tyronne has allied himself with is the Black Data Processors Association, a

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Another black-themed network Tyronne has allied himself with is the Black Data Processors Association, a Los Angeles-based network of black computer professionals formed about two years ago to discuss entrepreneurial issues, pass along job prospects, and hash out technical issues.

Los Angeles-based network of black computer professionals formed about two years ago to discuss entrepreneurial issues, pass along job prospects, and hash out technical issues. A broader mission of the network is to involve more African Americans in the computer world, Tyronne says.

"A lot of people are not computer literate," he says. "They're afraid of it. But that's where communication is going. It's all online."

Like many people, Tyronne got his first exposure to BBSs through work, when his employer, a computer firm, decided to set up a company board and asked Tyronne to run it. He did, until he left the company in

1987. For a while, he went without running a board of any kind.

"But then I got that little itch," he says.

He founded the board and struggled a bit over the name. Originally, he says, he wanted to name it "Intra-City" because of its location in the center of town. But he liked "Intercity," and went with that name. It turns out he's not the only one fond of it. An Australian board has exactly the same name, he says.

Tyronne runs the board from three PCs of varying speeds, all networked together. Two of the PCs, a 486/33DX and a 486/66DX, serve as workhorses for the board, while a third, 486/100DX, operates in what Tyronne calls an "R&D" capacity. Occasionally it gets pressed into active duty, however.

"If the lines are busy, I can fire it up," Tyronne says.

The board's 2 gigabytes of hard drive capacity is augmented by four online CD-ROMs. There are 370 message areas, 72 online games and 10 online databases that include information on travel, restaurants, and genealogy. Tyronne also runs 35 online magazines, including the online version of "USA Today."

Tyronne has the board set up with simple but striking color graphics, and an extensive list of bulletins greets the user after he logs on and identifies himself. He provides his users with email, but Internet access is limited and a bit convoluted. Tyronne subscribes to a number of Usenet newsgroups through a gateway in New Jersey, and he provides FTP and Web access through another gateway in Ohio.

Tyronne admits that it would be easier for him to connect the board to the Net directly, but as always, the issue is cost. He claims that the Richmond area is a "poor market," where users are unwilling or unable to pony up the monthly fee for full Net access. He also complains, like many sysops, of hostility at the hands of Internet providers, who look at

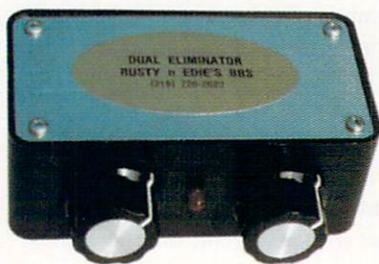
CONTINUES...



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

BBSs as competition.

"They assume we are the enemy," he says.

He believes prices will come down once providers realize how many potential customers they're pricing out of the market. He also believes that will be the end of the war between direct-access providers and BBS sysops.

"This is big bucks," he says.

The Regulator

Sysop: Steve Coker
Location: Charleston, S.C.
Data #: 803.571.1100
BBS Software: TriBBS 5.11

According to sysop Steve Coker, the Regulator BBS started out as an environmental board, with conference topics chosen to reflect Steve's occupation as an environmental engineer.

The environmental angle didn't take, however, and as Steve explains, "that theme was put on a back burner in short order."

No matter. The board is still a colorful and well-organized system, with a diverting selection of features (that include some not entirely uncommon Doors) and a promise from Steve that the whole thing will be upgraded sometime before the end of the year.

At the moment, Steve's running his system from a 386 PC loaded with 16MB of RAM and a 1.2GB hard drive. Additional files are kept on an online CD-ROM, and Steve has hooked an 800MBg tape drive into the system. There are two nodes here: a public node that supports modem speeds up to 28,800 bps, and a private 14,400 bps node.

The upgrade, which should occur sometime over the fall, will replace the 386 with a Pentium and add additional storage space, Steve says. Three more public nodes should go online as well, Steve says.

Internet access is strictly a Fidonet affair, in which registered members compose messages, and Steve calls them into an Internet

gateway. That may change too, Steve says, as he gets more ambitious with his Internet offerings.

"I'll add anything that is useful, supportable and affordable," he says.

Since the board went active on January 1, 1994, Steve has collected a total of 377 registered users. According to the membership bulletin, new users can get limited access for free, and if they're willing to pony up some cash, they get a selection of higher-access memberships. For \$5, a user receives a member status, good for six months. For \$10, one is upgraded to a benefactor, and for \$25 a user is dubbed a patron. Of course, appropriate access privileges accrue with each step up the membership hierarchy.

When users log on, they're greeted with the usual bulletins, plus a few witty bon mots that Steve either culled from Bartlett's or — who knows? — maybe even made up himself. A sample: "To err is human, to blame it on a computer is more so."

Users are often given the opportunity to participate in elections for BBS "team members." Among the positions available are those of ANSI artist, features manager and file critic. Users nominate candidates and cast votes for each position. They call it "modemocracy." Cute.

Arriving at the main menu, users equipped with RIPTerm software are presented an attractively laid-out selection of buttons to take them to the various features. Included are seven Doors that launch programs that are interesting, even if they don't hew to a common theme.

For example, one Door opens a text-only edition of the King James Bible, while another offers legal advice on everything from the tax deductions available to sysops to how to get out of jury duty. There's also a match-making program that links compatible users, and a graffiti wall on which a total of 12 lines of user wisdom had been scrawled

Another button opens a "reading room" in which the user can select from a list of 100 online publications. They deal mostly in shop talk: BBSs, electronics — that sort of thing.

But then again, that's exactly what a lot of people who go online are looking for.

The Secret Garden

Sysop: Kathy Landy
Location: Salinas, Calif.
Data #: 408.633.8022
BBS Software: Wildcat! 4.11

A divorced mother of two, sysop Kathy Landy writes in her bulletins that she came to BBSing because of her "continuing fascination with BBS systems."

She's built a fair one, with a mix of chat rooms and files presented in a crisp, clean Wildcat! point-and-click format.

By way of explaining herself, Kathy says she values the BBS experi-

ence as a "social outlet and vent for expressing my opinions on everything from Stroganoff to O.J. Simpson." Indeed. Given that preamble, you'd expect the Secret Garden to be a hotbed of hotheads, each one struggling with the others to grab hold of the pulpit, as it were, and deliver long, incendiary rants.

It is not that. While the 10 conference areas that were open to me, a casual browser (i.e., non-member) bore titles capable of piquing interest (one was called, simply, "imponderables"), most of the discourse I encountered more closely resembled Kathy's admonishment to willful users that she'd shut them out if they continued to adopt multiple personalities in the role-playing games.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to connect with Kathy personally to get the details on membership and the system set-up. Nowhere did it mention anything about membership rates, however, so maybe this board is one of those freebies. There is

email offered to users, but it doesn't appear to connect to an Internet gateway, except, perhaps, by way of a Fidonet echo.

The files are your typical games, screen savers and utilities. Scanning through them, I did get a hopeful flash of recognition when the word "Mac" appeared but, alas, it was not what I hoped it would be.

It seems despite all the good press (and the recent launch of a new operating system by a certain multi-billionaire that sells itself by mimicking our machines), Macintosh is still relegated to the online ghetto.

Oh well. It makes us that much more appreciative when we come across those little gems that our systems can use. You hear that, sysops? ■■■■■

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

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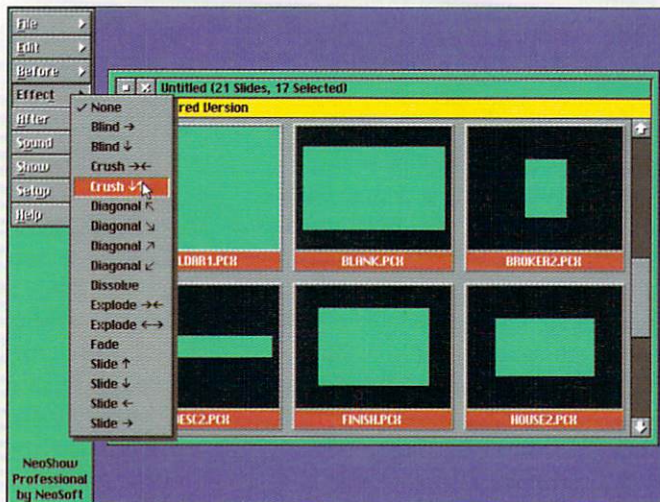
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Use NeoShow to create your own slide shows from PCX and BMP images.

Business or pleasure? How about both? This time, I've managed to find shareware that can help you work *and* relax... Enjoy.

DOS

NeoShow Professional 2.6c

NSP26C.ZIP
by NeoSoft Corp.
354 NE Greenwood Avenue, Suite 108
Bend, OR 97701-4631
BBS: 503.383.7195

On-screen "slide shows" have become an important part of business presentations. With NeoShow, you can use your DOS-based computer to create slide shows that incorporate PCX and BMP images, and even add sound effects to



For a new twist on the old breakout style games, try BreakFree, a three-dimensional version with sound, graphics, and special effects.

play back on SoundBlaster-compatible sound cards.

Use your mouse and NeoShow's menus to create a new slide show file, then add slides and sounds to it, specifying a transition effect and timing for each slide as you go. Note what you want to happen before and after each slide. Organize the slides in the order in which you want them to appear and let the show begin.

The screen goes dark and slides appear, one by one. Now, use your mouse or the Remote Control feature to advance the slides. The program is remarkably easy to use — you'll find yourself creating slide shows, as I did, in no time.

NeoShow requires an IBM-compatible PC with EGA or VGA graphics, DOS 3.1 or later, a hard disk, and a Microsoft or Logitech compatible mouse. A SoundBlaster or compatible sound card is required for playing sounds.

You can try NeoShow for 30 days, after which, if you continue using it, you must pay the shareware fee of \$35 plus shipping for the regular version, or \$89 plus shipping for the professional version, which lets you create standalone, executable (.EXE) slide show files.

BreakFree 1.0

BRKFRE1A.ZIP
by Software Storm
P.O. Box 2029
Orem, Utah 84059

When it's time for a break from work, BreakFree is a good program to turn to. This DOS-compatible game offers a three-dimensional twist on the old breakout style games.

In BreakFree, you have a number of

fireballs at your disposal with which to break through walls. Shoot the fireballs at the walls around you, and slap them back with an invisible paddle when they bounce at you. You can move the paddle right, left, forward, and backward by using the arrow keys or a mouse.

As you play, you'll find there are several kinds of walls, including breakable, unbreakable, power drain, and special effect. Hitting each type of wall yields a different effect. Some walls release objects that you can catch or avoid — you decide which to do as you get more experienced with the game. Online help provides enough information to get you started.

BreakFree requires an IBM-compatible running DOS, with VGA or better graphics. A 386/20 processor and SoundBlaster or compatible sound card is recommended. Users who pay the \$14.95 plus shipping shareware fee get a registered version on disk that features over 70 levels and more special effects. It also includes a level editor you can use to create your own play levels.

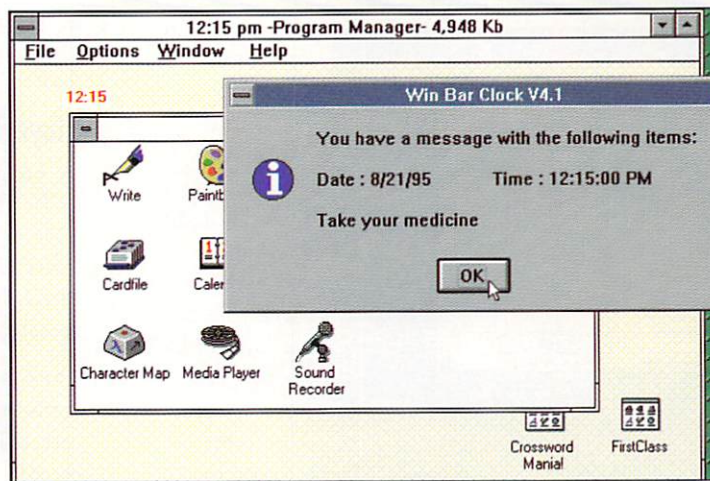
Windows

Win Bar Clock 4.1a

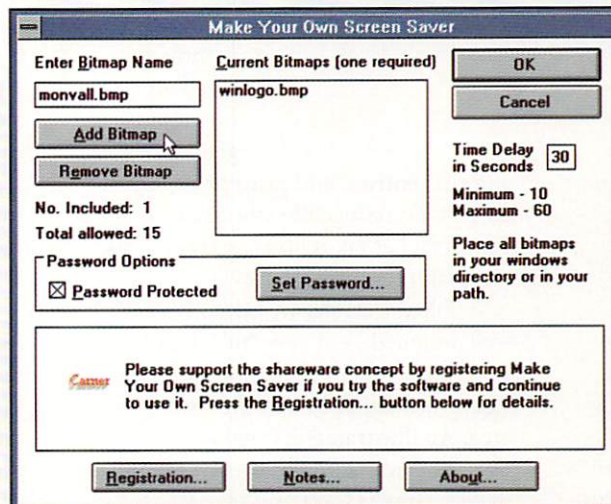
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by G.L. Liadis Software, Inc.
5167½ Saling Court
Columbus, OH 43229
BBS: 614-888-4749
GLLIADIS@aol.com

No room for a clock on your desk or in your office? If you're using Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later, you can use Win Bar Clock to put a digital clock in the title bar of the active window. If that's not enough, you can also have a floating "bar clock" anywhere on screen, letting you always know what time it is.

Win Bar Clock is fully customizable — you can change colors, font, and



Win Bar Clock does far more than just put a clock in your title bar.



Make Your Own Screen Saver lets you do just that — using up to 15 bitmap image files.

font size. It can display the date, time, memory, system resources, and personal messages, too. Use the alarm feature to set reminders and the timer feature to track the amount of time you spend online.

But Win Bar Clock goes far beyond simple timing functions. Use it to edit system files, access system commands like Exit and Restart Windows, jump to DOS, or reboot; dial the phone, launch other programs, and get complete information about your system setup.

You can configure all these options and more with a Center Console you display by clicking the right mouse button on the clock.

Win Bar Clock requires an IBM-compatible computer running Windows 3.1 or later and VBRUN300.DLL. Try it for 20 days before either uninstalling it or paying

the \$15 shareware fee. Registered users receive a version that excludes the shareware reminder as well as three additional Windows programs on disk.

Make Your Own Screen Saver 1.5

MYOWNSS.ZIP
by Carner Enterprises
13298 Rocky Ridge Road
NW
Silverdale, WA 98383

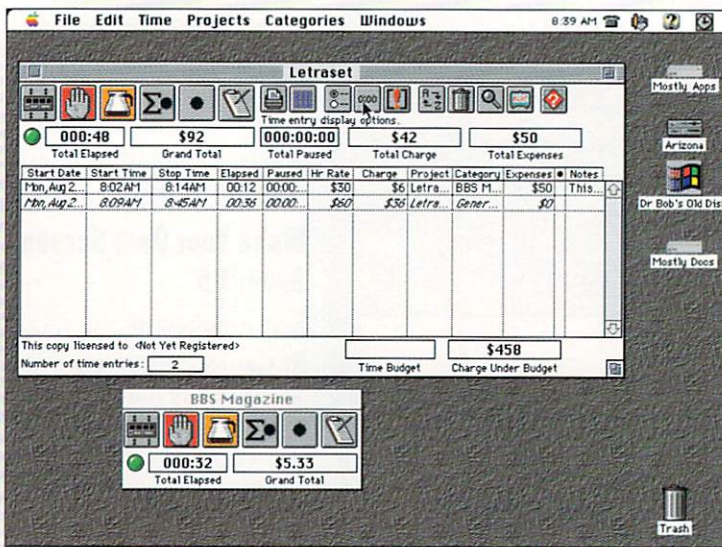
Everyone knows that a screen saver is an important piece of software that can protect your computer investment. Make Your Own Screen Saver is a Windows-compatible screen saver file that lets you specify up to 15 bitmapped images to display when your computer is inactive.

Install Make Your Own Screen Saver by copying it to your Windows subdirectory. Then open the Desktop control panel and choose Make Your Own SS from the Screen Saver menu. Click the Setup button to configure it.

You can add up to 15 BMPs to a list of images that will display when the screen saver is activated. Specify the amount of time each image is displayed — the default value is 30 seconds. If you like, you can specify a password to protect your computer from intruding eyes when you step away from your desk. If you use this feature, you'll have to enter a password in order to clear the screen saver and continue working.

Make Your Own Screen Saver is simple and easy to use. It requires an IBM-compatible computer running Windows 3.1 or later and Windows 3.0 or later compatible bitmap image files. If you continue to use Make Your Own Screen Saver after a reasonable trial period, pay the shareware fee of \$8 to register it. Make Your Own Screen Saver is distributed as a fully functional file, and its author depends on your honesty for compensation.

CONTINUES...



TimeTracker lets you keep accurate records of the time you spend on projects — so you can submit accurate bills to clients and customers.

Macintosh

TimeTracker 2.7.5

by Maui Software
189 Auoli Drive
Makawao, Maui, HI 96768-9313
billm@maui.com

One of the biggest problems facing consultants and other professionals who bill by the hour is finding an accurate way to keep track of time spent on various billable tasks. If you've got a Macintosh on your desk, TimeTracker might just be the solution. It combines timing and record-keeping features that make it easy to maintain exact records of billable time spent on tasks.

TimeTracker works with categories, projects, and documents. Categories are tasks with associated hourly rates. Projects are identifiers for billing purposes and documents are collections of TimeTracker entries that can correspond to clients or customers.

To keep track of work done for a specific client, you create or open a TimeTracker document for that client, choose a task and project, and start the timer. TimeTracker creates an entry for that task and records the start time, stop time, rate, charge, and other information. You can stop or pause the timer by clicking buttons on TimeTracker's toolbar. Have as many documents open as memory allows, making it easy to switch from tasks

and sort entries, and print or export entries. To reduce the amount of space TimeTracker takes up on screen, users can just minimize windows.

Toolbar buttons are attractive and well designed — if you can't figure out what one of them does, point to it and a description appears in the toolbar area. An illustrated manual in DOCMaker document format accompanies TimeTracker and covers every aspect of its operation.

TimeTracker requires a Macintosh running System 7 or later. It's a "fat binary" application that can run in native mode on a PowerPC. But if you continue

using TimeTracker after a trial period, you're expected to pay the \$25 shareware fee. Payment of the fee removes a per-document time limitation and the shareware reminder that appears each time you start the program. A portion of the shareware

done for one client to another.

TimeTracker is extremely well thought out and includes every feature a user could want. You can set time increments for billing, edit entries to include expenses and comments, create document budgets, search

fee is donated to help preserve the Hawaiian environment.

PlayerPRO 4.4.2

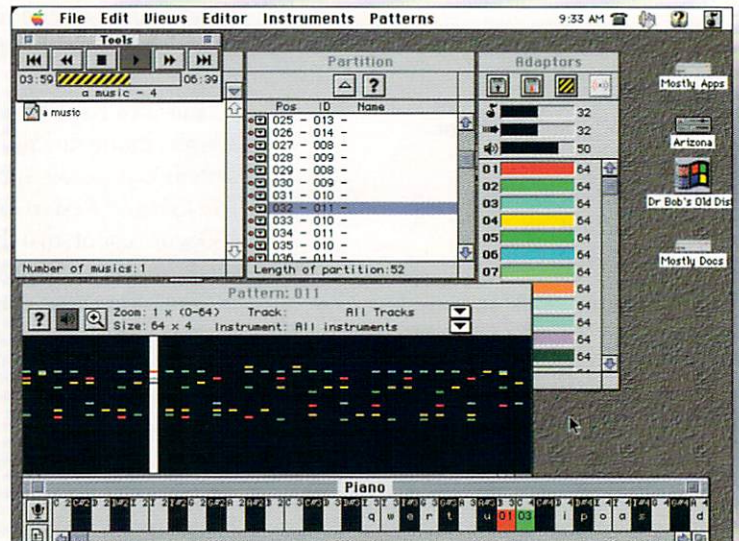
by Antoine Rosset
16 BD Tranchees
1206 Geneva
Switzerland
ProOnline BBS: +41 22 738 26 26
rosset@dial.eunet.ch

The Macintosh has always had built-in sound capabilities, either through its internal speaker or the sound out jack capable of accepting headphones or powered speakers. No category of software shows the range and flexibility of Macintosh sound more than "soundtracker" programs. These programs play special MOD format files, which are popular on the Amiga, Atari ST, and IBM computer platforms.

Now there's PlayerPRO — a deluxe soundtracker program that offers all the features you'd expect to find in a MOD player, and then some.

Open a MOD format file with PlayerPRO. (It comes with one you can use if you don't have any others.) Click the Play button on the Tools palette to start playing the file and watch as its progress is tracked in the Tools, Partition, Pattern, and Piano windows. You can change the tone, speed, and volume of play with sliding controls in the Adaptors window.

These are only some of the windows and controls PlayerPRO offers. It also



PlayerPRO is a soundtracker application that you can use to play, edit, or create MOD format sound files.

includes a variety of analysis tools, including Fourier's analysis, oscilloscope, tubes, and animations. And the sound plays flawlessly, even when PlayerPRO is the background application or is hidden from view.

If you want to create or edit MOD files, PlayerPRO also offers a variety of music editing tools. You can write music through classical or digital partitions, playing MIDI instruments, or opening and working with MIDI files. The shareware version provides enough information to get you started editing MOD files and connecting MIDI devices to your Macintosh so you can use them with PlayerPRO.

The software requires a Macintosh running System 7 or later. It is a "fat binary" application that can run in native mode on a PowerPC. Although not required, stereo speakers are highly recommended. Users paying the shareware fee of \$20 receive documentation and a complete version that excludes the shareware reminders. A CD-ROM disk full of MOD format files and instruments is also available from the program's author.

Newton Files

eWorld Access 1.1
by Giles Road Press
P.O. Box 212
Harrington Park, NJ 07640-0212
BBS: 201/767-6337
GilesRdPrs@eWorld.com

If you use your Newton for NewtonMail and spend a lot of time on the road, you might be interested in a truly portable list of NewtonMail/eWorld access numbers. Be sure to check out eWorld Access 1.1. This Newton paperback is a listing of all 2400 baud eWorld access numbers in the United States — the same numbers you'd use for NewtonMail.

The file, which takes up only 93K of Newton's precious RAM, appears in the Extras drawer with the name eW Access. Each entry includes the area code, city name, phone number, and a code identifying the network as either SprintNet or MCI/British Telecom. You can change the font size and style for the listing to make entries more legible, and copy phone numbers right into the Phone Number field of Mail Prefs.

eWorld Access requires a Newton-compatible PDA and the Macintosh or Windows Newton Connection kit to install it. It's distributed as freeware. Oh yes — one thing I forgot to mention: I wrote it.

Finding these Files

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

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

Maria Langer is a freelance writer and computer consultant who has been running a BBS since 1989. She is the author of several computer books and is currently hard at work on a new Microsoft Excel book for Peachpit Press. Contact her at gilesrd@intac.com.

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

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

Learn How Interactive Multimedia Can Expand Your On-line Experience

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

See How You Can Deliver More Information At Greater Speed

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

The Client/Server Model Provides A Number of Advantages

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

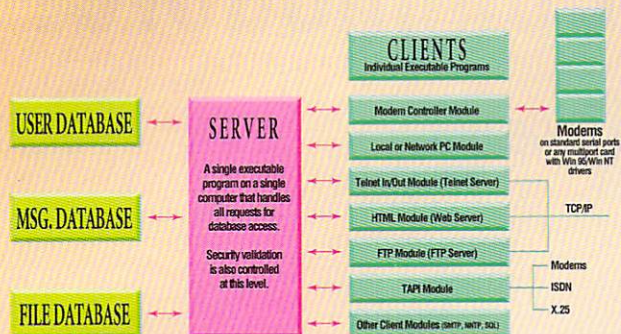
- 32-bit Windows multitasking means no additional multitasking software is needed and 16-32 lines can be run easily without loading multiple copies of the BBS.
- The server controls all access to messages, files and other system information, isolating the core of the host activities to provide secure,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

Project
ANNIHILATOR
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TOP SECRET

Of 32-bit BBS Much Longer

Single PC Running Windows 95 or Windows NT



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

Build A Powerful New BBS With Annihilator Server And Client Modules

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UUCP Client – handles dial-up Internet e-mail and newsgroup support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Do You Speak Commodore?

Deciphering the code of C=

Psst... Hey, guess what. I just bought an SL cart. But can I use it in my RL and still use my REU, too?"

Don't you wish people would just spell it out? Those abbreviations and acronyms, I mean — are they just to make life miserable, to keep most readers in a state of confusion? Is the convenience of saving a few key presses on behalf of the "in-the-know" worth the pain it causes the rest of the computing public? I think you know the answer.

Not long ago a Commodore user who had been away from BBSs and the Commodore scene a few years came into a conference and remarked that we seem to be speaking a new language. Taking this as a hint, I set out to scour the conferences for words and jargon in order to assemble a glossary of commonly used terms when Commodore users get together to talk about our favorite computer. To evaporate the fog of confusion, I've tried to present common words, slang terms and abbreviations we frequently use and give a bit of detail about each item. Going a bit further, when discussing software (if it's available on BBSs for downloading) I've included the file name.

Associated Companies

CBM — Commodore Business Machines. CBM is often used as shorthand for anything which relates to Commodore computers.

Escom — The German company which purchased Commodore Business Machines.

CMD — Creative Micro Designs, Inc.

SSI — Software Support International.

CW — Commodore World magazine.

Q-Link — Now defunct Online Service which was strictly for Commodore users.

Hardware

C-64 — (C=64 or C64) The Commodore 64 computer, or a program that runs in 64 mode.

C-128 — (C=128 or C128) The Commodore 128 computer, or a program which runs in 128 mode.

Flat 128 — The original C-128, which uses external disk drives. The name is derived because the keyboard and CPU are together in the same case.

128D — The second generation C-128 which came with an internal 1571 disk drive and has a separate keyboard.

C-64/128 — Anything relating to both the Commodore 64 and Commodore 128 computers.

1541, 1571, 1581 — Commodore disk drives. The first two use 5.25-inch DD floppy disks, the other uses 3.5-inch DD disks.

FDxx — Disk drives by Creative Micro Designs which have two model numbers, FD2000 or FD4000. They use 3.5-inch DD or HD disks. The FD4000 can also use ED (Enhanced Density) disks.

CMD HD — Creative Micro Designs hard drive. These units come in sizes of 20 megabytes through 1 gigabyte.

RAM — Random Access Memory. RAM can be added to the Commodore computers by use of add-ons such as the REU or RAMLink.

REU — RAM Expansion Unit. A device which plugs into the cartridge/expansion port of the computer, and is used as a temporary storage device.

RAMdisk — Although for all intents and purposes it's used as if it were a disk in a drive, it's not a "physical" or "real" disk. It's a "disk" in RAM, usually used with an REU. Data in the RAMdisk will be lost when the computer is turned off unless the RAM has a battery backup.

RAMLink or RL — This is a device manufactured by CMD and used in the Cartridge Port. Defined in Commodore World Magazine as a "Virtual Storage Device," it makes use of SIMM and REU memory, and functions (among other things) as a "hard drive in RAM." It runs on its own power supply and stores files in RAM between uses of the computer.

Cart — Cartridge. Any cartridge which is used in the Cartridge/Expansion Port of the C64/128.

VDC — Video Display Controller (or chip). A feature of the 128, the VDC uses its own memory chips, separate from the computer memory. "Flat" 128s came with 16K VDC memory, 128Ds made for North America came with 64K. The stock 16K can be upgraded to 64K.

PAL/NTSC — Technically, this is a color standard for TVs, but it's commonly used to indicate all differences between North American (NTSC) and European (PAL) systems, such as the timing and screen length the computer can display.

PS — Power Supply or Post Script, depending on the context it's used in.

PSU — Power Supply Unit.

SIMMs — Single Inline Memory Modules. SIMMs, which can be used by the RAMLink, are four megabytes by eight or one megabyte by eight, 30pin, 100ns or faster.

DOS — Disk Operating System. Many computer systems simply refer to "DOS" as an operating system for the computer itself, but in Commodore use it also refers literally to the physical disk drives and their operating system.

JiffyDOS — CMD's alternative to the standard Commodore DOS. It's considered by many as an upgrade, as it uses keyboard short cuts for disk commands, and it speeds up the disk drive load and save times. To be effective, it requires replacing chips in both the computer and the disk drives.

17xx — Referring to any of Commodore's 1700 series REUs.

1902, 1084, 1802 — Commodore Monitor model numbers.

CGA monitor — An older style PC monitor which can be used by C128s.

RLDIRECT chip — An IC chip available from CMD for the RAMLink. It allows simultaneous use of the SwiftLink cartridge and REU.

Kilobyte, Kb or K — 1,024 bytes. In common use, it stands for an approximation of "1,000", especially when referring to the speed of a modem or the size of a file. Commodore users often confront this for the first time when modeming, since we normally think of file sizes in terms of the number of disk blocks it uses. 1K is approximately four disk blocks.

Megabyte, meg or mb — 1024k. Often refers to memory or disk storage space. 1MB = 4,096 disk blocks.

Commodore Operating Systems

Commodore computers can have differing operating systems, which means the entire system can function differently from its "native mode."

Native CBM Mode — The operating system available when the computer is first turned on (BASIC).

CP/M — Control Program for Microcomputers. An operating system available for the C128, which has some similarities to MS-DOS. It uses the same disk drives as Native CBM mode, but uses the drives differently.

RAMDOS — This is software used so an REU can be used as a RAM disk.

GUI — Graphic User Interface. Any Operating System that uses graphics and pointers (a mouse or joystick) to represent programs and disk files.

GEOS — Graphic Environment Operating System. The GUI system

developed for the Commodore, pre-dating Windows and the Macintosh. Both GEOS 64 and GEOS128 are commercially available from CMD.

Unix — Unix is used by many systems which are connected to the Internet.

ACE — Advanced Computing Environment (64/128). ACE is very similar to Unix. ACE14A.SFX (through ACE14E.SFX, five files).

CSDOS — Chris Smeets DOS. C128 operating system similar to MS-DOS. This system has utilities for creating and dissolving compressed files, including other platform archives such as ARC, LZH and PKZip 1.x. CSD0S-15.ARC, CSASST1.SFX, CSASST2.SFX, CSXTRA45.LZH.

Commodore Software

SEQ — Sequential file. Usually a text file, but sometimes used for data storage by programs.

PRG — Program file. In BBSing it is sometimes used as slang when discussing software. A program file is usually (but not always) an "executable" or "runnable" file.

Docs — Documentation or instructions for software. Doc files often end with ".doc".

TXT — Files ending with .TXT are text or readable type files.

ASCII — American Standard Code for Information. A universal computer code for English letters and characters.

PET ASCII or Petscii — Commodore's Standard Code for Information. The characters are in a different order from standard ASCII. Lowercase letters in ASCII appear as uppercase in Petscii. Many CBM programs can save text as either Petscii or ASCII.

PD — Public Domain. Software placed in the Public Domain. Free.

Freeware — Software which can be used for free, but the author retains all rights to the program. It is not the same as Public Domain.

Shareware — Software which requires the user to pay a fee to the author. Some may have features

CONTINUES...

which are only available once the user pays the shareware fee.

Rego — Australian Slang for registration. Pronounced "Re-joe". These are shareware programs that are registered and have been paid for by the user.

Browser — Freeware program to read text and other files. BROWS-ER2.SFX

FGM — Fun Graphics Machine. A commercial C64 graphic manipulation program. FGM6DEM.SFX and FGM6DOC.SFX (demo).

GIF — Graphic Interchange Format. These files end with the extension of ".GIF" and were designed as a universal graphic format that could be used by many different platforms.

SID — The sound chip the Commodore uses. Many music and sound files have a file extension of ".SID".

TWS — The Write Stuff, commercial word processor.

PC3 — Paper Clip III, commercial word processor.

Zed — C128 PD text editor. ZED077.SFX

BBR — Big Blue Reader. A commercial program that can copy files to and from MS-DOS disks. Requires a 1571, 1581 or CMD disk drive.

LRR — Little Red Reader. A freeware program which also copies files to and from MS-DOS disks. LRR200.SFX

LCP — Little Computer People. A commercial game.

File Compression

Omega-Q — A general purpose disk utility. From the now defunct Q-Link, it decompresses many Commodore archives. OMEGAQII.SDA

CSDOS — Sometimes mistakenly referred to as program to dissolve non-Commodore archives, particularly because many use the CSDOS Operating System only for this purpose. CSDOS-15.ARC, CSASST1.SFX, CSASST2.SFX, CSXTRA45.LZH

CSX01 — Dissolves MS-DOS ARC files. A "stand alone" program from

the same programmer as CS-DOS. It includes modules for both the C64 and C128. CSX01.SDA

LZH — LHArchive. A compression method used on Amiga and MS-DOS computers. CSDOS can create and dissolve lower versions.

LHARC128.ARC

SFX — Self eXtracting archive. These are .lzh files which can dissolve themselves when run on the 64 or 128.

LHARC128.ARC

ARC (CBM) — ARC250.4, a C64 archiving system. The .ARC files it creates are not compatible with MS-DOS archives of the same extension. ARC250.SDA

SDA — Self Dissolving Archive. A Commodore style .ARC file which has been modified so it can be uncompressed by loading and running the file. ARC-SDA.SFX

ARC (PC) — MS-DOS style archive. Can be dissolved using CSX01.

PKZip — MS-DOS archiving program. Commodore users cannot create files compressed in this format but can dissolve files zipped with PKZip version 1.x or lower.

ZIP — File compressed with PKZip on another platform computer, which can be dissolved using either NZP12817.SFX or Unzip101.SFX.

NZP128 — Unzip 128 utility. Includes utilities for the C64/128 and for RAMDOS users. NZP12817.SFX.

Unzip 64 — C64 unzip utility. UNZIP101.SFX.

ZIPCoded files — A Commodore disk compressed into files. The files begin with the letters a,b,c,d followed by ! and a filename (eg. A!BIGUS-DISKUS). ZIPUNZIP.SDA.

Modem and Telecom

Interface or RS232 Interface — Allows Commodore users to use non-Commodore modems. It connects to the User Port and is used for modem speeds up to 2400 bps (C64) or 9600 bps (C128).

Null Modem — A device that connects between two computers that are in the same location to transfer data

between them. Sometimes used to transfer files to or from other computer platforms.

14.4k modem — A modem which can transmit up to 14,400 bits per second.

28.8 modem — Modem which can transmit up to 28,800 bits per second.

ACIA — Asynchronous Communications Interface Adaptor.

UART — Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter.

SwiftLink or SL — An ACIA cartridge that connects to the Cartridge Port and allows communications up to 38.4K.

HartCart — A UART cartridge which connects to the Cartridge Port, similar to the Swiftlink but allows up to 57.6K communications.

Flow Control — The way data to and from the modem is controlled.

CTS/RTS — Hardware method of flow control.

Xon/Xoff — Software method of flow control.

Terminal Programs

Novaterm — C64, shareware. NOVA95-1.SFX (four files), plus NOVA95-DOC.SFX.

ACETerm — C64 and C128, freeware. Used within the ACE operating system. ACE14A.SFX (five files).

Desterm — C128, shareware. DES200-1.SFX (five files). Also, DES01.SFX and DES02.SFX.

Dialogue128 — C128, commercial.

Fritzterm — C64, shareware. FRITZTRM.SFX.

BBSing

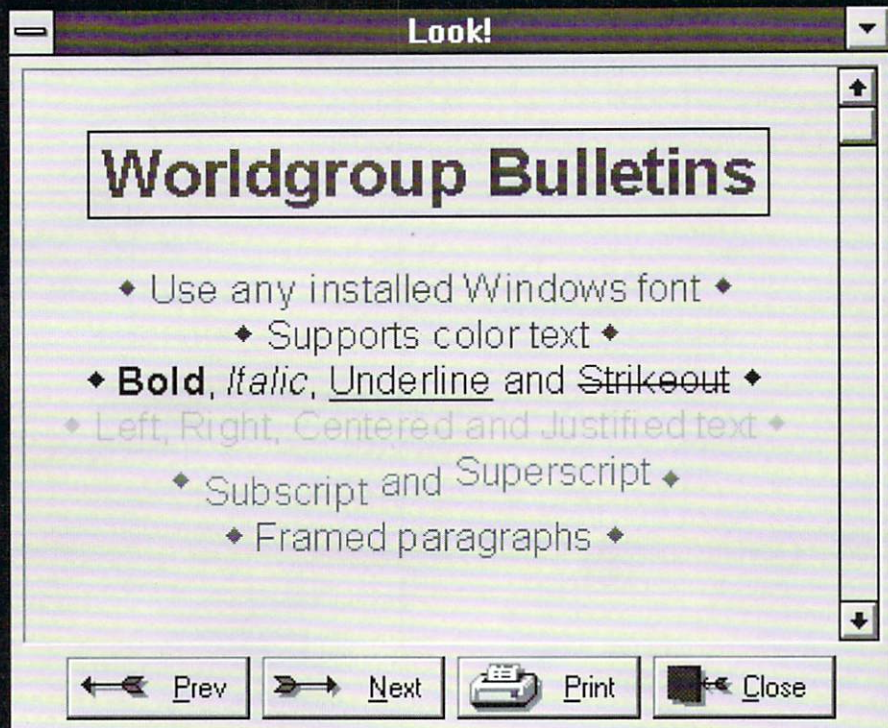
D/L and U/L — Shorthand for download and upload.

FREQ — File REQuest. Reserved for sysops only, but you can ask a Fidonet sysop to request files from another BBS for you. This is an established system for sysops to transfer files without going through the process of logging onto a bulletin board.

CONTINUES...

THE LABYRINTH PRESENTS...

Bulletins

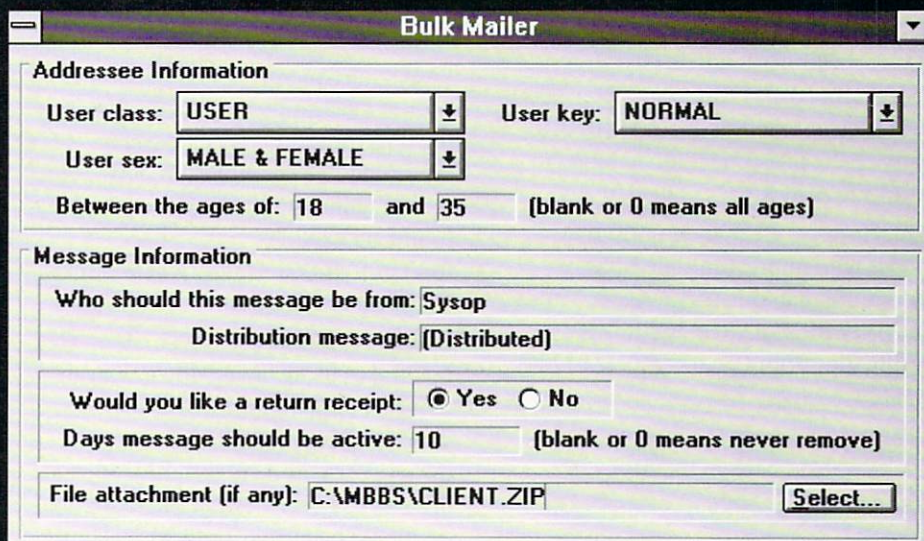


- Send bulletins by class, key, sex, age, or any combination of the four.
- Sysop uses a full WYSIWYG editor to create and modify bulletins.
- Bulletins can have a lifetime.
- Bulletins are created and modified online.
- Various text colors and styles can be used to jazz up the text.
- Users and sysops alike will enjoy a very simple interface.
- Supports ANSI/ASCII users too!
- Works on-deck (offline)!

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Bulk-mailer

- Works with the Worldgroup client and ANSI/ASCII users.
- All items have defaults.
- You can change the "from" field to avoid replies.
- Messages are not sent until the user logs on.
- File attachments are supported.



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VOICE (818) 398-9459

Newbie — A new user. Can mean either a new computer or new modem user.

SUE — “Stupid User Error”. Often the cause of things not working right.

Offline Mail Reading

Mail Door — A BBS program that creates mail packets the user can download, read and reply to while offline.

QWK — A specific format for offline mail.

OLR — Offline Mail Reader.

QWKie — C64 Offline Mail Reader. QWKIE31U.SDA

QWKRR — C128 Offline Mail Reader. QWKRR43A.SFX (and “B”), QWKRR43.TXT, QWKRRUT.SFX and QWKRR43T.ZIP.

CRR — CP/M Offline Mail Reader. CRR0160.ZIP.

DAT — Usually refers to the “messages.dat” file which makes up the messages part of the QWK format for offline mail.

QPX — Utility used along with CSX01 to dissolve QWK packets compressed with ARC and load the OLR. Included in QWKRR43UT.SFX for C128 users. A C64 version is available as QPX64.SFX.

QPE — Similar to QPX. Dissolves both ZIPped and ARCD mail packets but requires the use of CSX01 to dissolve ARC files. C64/128, included in NZP12817.SFX.

Interface! — C128 menu utility for those who phone multiple BBSs or use more than one registered version of QWKRR. UnARCs and unZIPs using files from CSX01 and NZP128. INTFV17.SFX.

REP — File extension for Reply packets to upload back to the BBS.

QPA — C128 utility used after reading and replying to messages offline. It changes the .MSG file to a .REP file by storing the mail as an ARC style file. Included in QWKRRUT.SFX.

Twit — “Idiot”, or anyone whose messages offend you. Some OLR’s have twit filters so you can skip read-

ing messages to or from twits.

Email — Electronic mail. Private messages usually sent through the Internet, but it can be used in reference to any electronic mail.

Email address — Internet addressing. Usually includes the recipient’s name and name of the domain (BBS or system) where mail is received.

Netmail — Fidonet’s means of sending private mail to other users on other BBS’s.

Netmail Address — The address used to send private mail through Fidonet. Each BBS connected to Fidonet has its own zone, region and node number.

Usenet Newsgroup — “Users Network” on the Internet. Similar to BBS conferences in that each newsgroup has its own topic.

UUENCODE and UUDECODE — Method of converting eight-bit binary files to or from seven-bit ASCII files. Once converted to a UUENCODE, the files may be sent as a text message and then decoded by the receiver.

Internet

IRC — Internet Relay Chat. A means for users in different locations to chat with each other in real time over the Internet. The C64/128 IRC channel is #c-64.

FAQ — Frequently Asked Questions. Usenet newsgroups have FAQ files so the same questions aren’t covered repeatedly. The commodore FAQ files (it comes in four parts) can be found via FTP:

`ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/comp.sys.cbm/main-faq/part*`

WWW — World Wide Web. A method of using linked documents to move from one document to another, depending on the choices the reader makes. The comp.sys.cbm FAQ files is just one example of what can be found on the Web at <http://www.msen.com/~brain/faqhome.html>

Lynx — A text-based WWW browser that can be used to access the World Wide Web.

FTP — File Transfer Protocol. A method of obtaining files on the

Internet. Two Commodore related FTP sites are ccnga.uwaterloo.ca/pub/cbm and funet.fi/pub/cbm.

Commodore or Related Conferences

RIMEnet:

Commodore — Commodore and Amiga topics.

Fidonet:

CBM — Commodore eight-bit computers (not Amiga or CBM-PCs).

CBM-128 — The Commodore 128.

CBM-GEOS — C-64/128 GEOS.

PCWRITE — PCWrite, Cross platform computing and emulators.

CPMTECH — CP/M computing.

Usenet Newsgroups:

comp.sys.cbm — Commodore eight-bit computing.

comp.binaries.cbm — Distribution of uuencoded binary files for Commodore eight-bit computers.

comp.emulators.cbm — Using Commodore emulation programs on other platform computers.

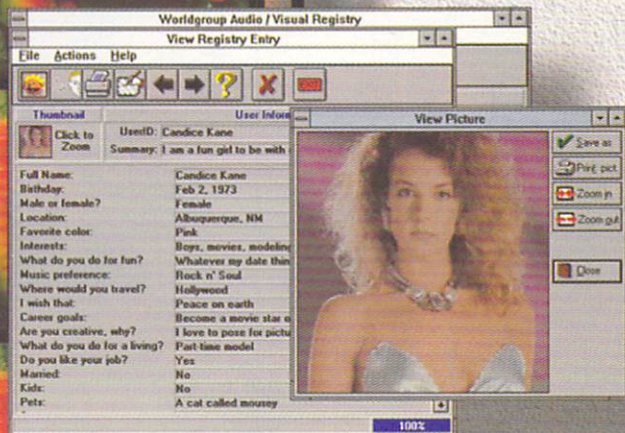
Correction

In the September 1995 issue of BBS Magazine, Commodore Connections column, it was stated that Novaterm 9.6 had been released as shareware. At press time the release is still pending (it may be available as you read this). A demo version will be released as shareware. The full version will be commercial (\$24.95) and will include the printed manual.

For further information, contact Nick Rossi at voyager@eskimo.com, or at his mailing address: Nick Rossi, 10002 Aurora Ave. N. #3353, Seattle, WA 98133, U.S.A.

Gaelyne Moranec can often be found in the Fidonet CBM echo. Comments or suggestions can be sent to 1:366/221.128, 3:800/809.128, or moranec@hal9000.apana.org.au. Her home page resides at: http://www.msen.com/~brain/guest/Gaelyne_Moranec/index.html

You Oughta Be Into Pictures



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

If you've ever considered running your own online service, there's never been a better time.

Worldgroup is the next generation of online server software, integrating all the multimedia capabilities of Windows and the versatility of an online environment.

No more tedious scrolling text, no more graphical display barriers, no more limits to what you can do.

With Worldgroup, you can present graphics, text, even sound to your users. Features like teleconference, e-mail and audio-visual registries make Worldgroup a friendly and fun environment. And with add-ons from several different independent software vendors, your online service's capabilities can expand even further, such as offering connections to the Internet, online shopping and a multitude of other features.

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Get RIP-ed!

...and emulate your way through DOS country

Just a few months ago I reached a major turning point in my life. I hit the ancient age of 30. While many of you may laugh at the minor relevance of this, for me it was a time of great reflection and soul-searching.



Figure 1

I was no longer a “twenty-something.” Would I have to give up Pearl Jam and Live for easy listening? Start taking my Geritol and stop staying up past 10 p.m.? I think not.

But I had to do something. First, I had to grow a beard. Seems to me every couple of years you need to grow something new. My kids love it — they ask me daily when I’m going to shave. Next, I went back and looked at a bunch of my memorabilia, including old software.

I’ve been “Mac-ing” since 1984, and possess some of the oldest software you can find for the Mac.

Remember the “Pepsi Caps” application used to show off the graphics capability of the fledgling Mac? Don’t worry, most do not.

I, on the other hand, still got it.

RIP Roarin’

You’re probably wondering what all this has to do with BBSs and Macintosh computing. Well, suffice it to say it has something to do with those caps.

Recently my editor asked me to evaluate RIP terminal software for the Mac and to check out some PC BBSs with RIP interfaces. (RIP stands for Remote Imaging Protocol, by the way, and essentially gives DOS boards a very colorful GUI.)

After a thorough terminal search, the only relevant package I could find was PowerConnect by Cambridge Computer Corp.

PowerConnect is a terminal emulation package capable of emulating a variety of terminals including RIPscript, DEC VT52/VT100/VT200/VT300 series, ADDS Viewpoint, Lear Siegler,

Honeywell/BULL VIP7700 and DKU series and Tektronics 4010/4014. Communications interface includes: Async., Comm. ToolBox, TCP/IP and VIP Sync.

It reminds me of my early days of using TTY and VT terminal emulation software. This is definitely NOT a package for novices, mind you, but fortunately there's an electronic user's manual over 100 pages long included (as a Common Ground document).

PowerConnect has a directory with lots of boards already listed, including the Cambridge BBS. One thing I determined very quickly is that RIP GUI BBSs are very popular and also very busy most of the time. To check them out meant late-night or early-morning calls — while everyone's asleep or at work.

I dialed several different kinds of PC boards. The Major BBS (produced by a company called Galacticomm) supports RIP graphics, as shown in Figure 1. But a funny thing I found is this board has the same look and feel as a marketplace and information board here in Atlanta, leaving me to wonder about the ability of The Major BBS to allow customization of the RIP graphics for their boards. Anyone running a Ripped Major BBS please feel free to correct me.

The next flavor board I visited was Wildcat! (Mustang Software), as shown in Figure 2. All of the RIP boards I checked out only allowed connections of 9600, and therefore it took some time for me to sign up as a new account, as a different graphical screen appeared for each bit of information. (Frankly, I prefer the NovaLink Pro and First Class single-screen approach, with different fields you can tab to and fill out.)

I also had some problems with dropping carrier during registration on several different boards. However, I'm not sure if it's the brand of modem or the quality of our wonderful lines that was to blame.

But after finally signing on and holding carrier, I did find plenty to enjoy graphics-wise on each of the boards. The lettering was colorful and large — clean enough for me to read easily. A standard main screen for a Wildcat! board may be seen in Figure 3.

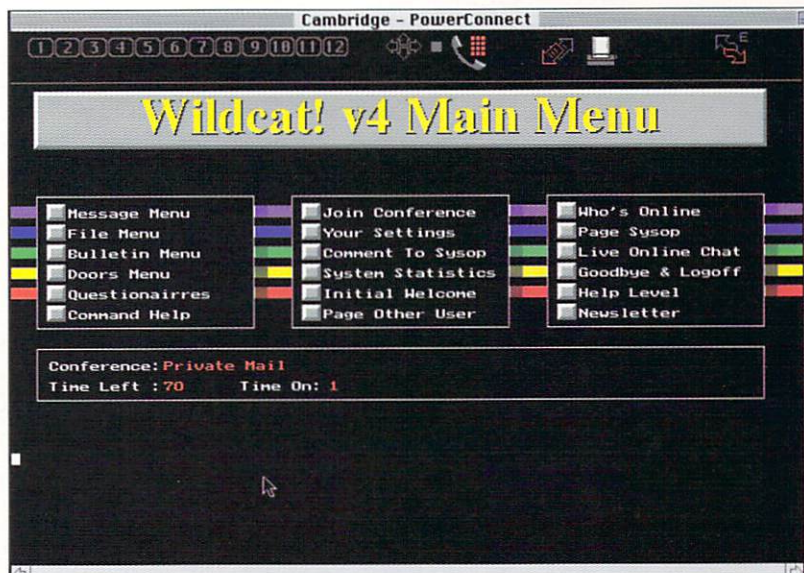


Figure 2



Figure 3

The use of buttons and being able to mouse-click my way through made the journey much easier.

Still, it all feels somewhat alien from my standard Mac interface. The lack of crisp icons and graphics makes me feel that I am definitely dealing with a PC, and that PC BBS software has a little way to go with the RIP graphics. I'm not knocking it, mind you, I just enjoy the use of graphics immensely and was occasionally experiencing bad flashbacks of those awful early Prodigy days.

On the whole, PowerConnect does a good job of supporting RIP graphics. However, PowerConnect does not support pattern flood fill; it fills with a

solid color instead. It also does not support animation of the color palette when flood fill is selected.

PowerConnect is shareware and may be used for thirty days, after which you must register the product or remove the software from your system. To register, contact:

Cambridge Computer Corp.
Product Registration
80 Mount Sanford Road
Mount Carmel, CT 06518-1210
203.288.6004
Internet: info@cam.com

CONTINUES...

Check out some of these new applications and utilities, available on many online services, BBSs, and Internet FTP sites.



ImageMaster 1.0 is a freeware utility made to handle really big disk images. You can use ImageMaster just like ShrinkWrap, but it's

specifically designed to handle large volumes like hard drives, removables and CD-ROMs. You can use ImageMaster to back up your old SyQuest cartridges, verify the integrity of CD-ROM builds, take a "snapshot" of your system configuration, mount volumes over the network, or create "instant RAM disks."



Mascot 1.4 is a freeware utility for First Class administrators that performs four different functions. It will take a desktop/conference

capture and convert it to a batch admin command to create those conferences/folders on another server. (This is good if you want to start gating a large number of conferences); take a corrupted desktop capture and convert it to a normal conference capture for use with programs such as Conference List Tool; take a return delimited list of conferences/folders (in a text file) and convert it to batch admin to create those conferences on a server; and, it will convert a user list to a comma delimited document, which can be imported to most database programs.



Guillotine 1.0d3 is a file utility that "decapitates" those ugly all caps DOS-like filenames. Just drop the offending files/folders on it, and the names will

become all lowercase. Guillotine processes the complete contents of dropped folders. Note: you will have to close and reopen the folder for the new name(s) to appear in the finder.



Mac-IBM-compare Version 2.0.4 compares the Mac and IBM machines CPUs, hardware (monitor support and expansion), operating systems

(includes number crunching), networking and printing; it covers not only present hardware/software statistics and features but also future possibilities. Despite its condensed and generalized format it still provides some thought-provoking reading on the relative merits, problems and deficiencies of Macs and IBM PCs. It also contains some FAQ answers about both machines and the PowerPC line.

Other RIP Programs

In all fairness, I need to mention two other products that support RIP on the Mac. NovaLink Pro for the Macintosh (from ResNova Software) has supported RIP graphics in their host software from its inception. There is also allegedly a program called RIPTerm for Macintosh from TeleGrafix (RIP creators) that's supposed to be a clean and simple application (much like PowerConnect). However, I couldn't get TeleGrafix to send me an evaluation copy to review for this column (they promised a copy, but it never arrived; they were also impossible to reach by phone). If it arrives, I'll deliver a report in the future.

Mail and Utils

I try to stick to answering questions about BBSs and Macs, for the most part, but I've had more and more queries each month concerning the Internet and how to connect using a Mac. Here are a couple of the questions, as well as a few new utilities and applications worth checking out.

Q: Is it possible to attach files (like graphics) to an email message from within Eudora?

A: Of course. In Eudora, if you look under the "Message" menu, you'll find the "Attach Document" command. Eudora will BinHex the file and attach it to the message.

Q: I close my connection under "Config PPP", then go out and launch one of my Internet apps or utils, but then the Config PPP window pops back up again. What's happening here?

A: Don't use the "Soft Close" button in ConfigPPP, use "Hard Close" instead. "Soft Close" will cause Config PPP to try to re-establish a connection whenever a TCP/IP application or utility is launched. "Hard Close," on the other hand, won't allow re-connection until you click the Open button.

Net Files



Cyber Link is a URL utility that allows you to use the Finder and its icons to keep track of and organize all the

places you visit while you're out surfing the Web. Cyber Link files are like Macintosh Finder aliases except they point to WWW files and documents instead of Macintosh files and documents. When you click on one in the Finder, the Cyber Link application sends a message to your Web browser telling it to go to that location. You can drop MacWeb URL files on the Cyber Link applications icon as well.



InterSLIP Timer v. 1.4.2 is a utility application to be used with InterSLIP that allows you to

keep track of how much time you spend on your SLIP account. InterSLIP Timer requires System 7.0 or later.



MacPPP Timer v. 1.4.2 is a utility application to be used with MacPPP that allows you to keep

track of how much time you spend on your PPP account. MacPPP Timer requires System 7.0 or later.



EasyTransfer is a file transfer utility that allows you to access files on Macintosh computers over the

Internet. It completely does away with the need to preprocess (BinHex) files before they can be sent. Throughput is very fast, too. It also supports run-time file compression.



Control PPP 1.1 is a control strip module that lets you connect or disconnect MacPPP and open

the MacTCP and Config PPP control panels to change your dial-up number, etc. It also indicates whether MacPPP is open or not by its icon, in case you have an internal modem. Control PPP 1.1 is postcardware.

Michael A. Kuykendall can be reached through the Online Macintosh Users' Group BBS, Macintosh Online, at 404.822.5929, or via his email address at andykirk@aol.com.

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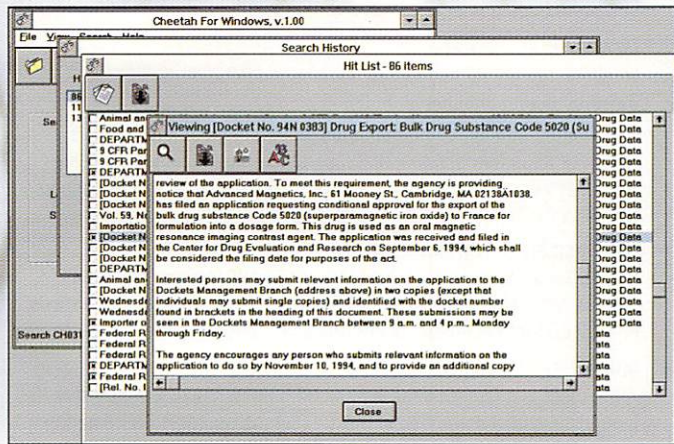
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Screen shot from APDI's new Cheetah for Worldgroup Product

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President Mark Burnett in one of APDI's Computer Rooms

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Jim Moriarty, United States Patent and Trademark Office

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Scott Brinker, President, Galacticomm, Inc.

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Jeff Kiely, CompuServe Network Systems



By Hank Hurteau

Following are top downloads as recorded last month on three BBSs across the U.S. Look for them on your favorite local BBS, too.

Files such as QWK packets have been omitted, as have any graphic files. Descriptions are generated by author or bulletin board.

Programs carried in the "Top Ten" download list don't necessarily denote a good program, of course — just one that's frequently downloaded. You'll have to be the judge when it comes to quality.

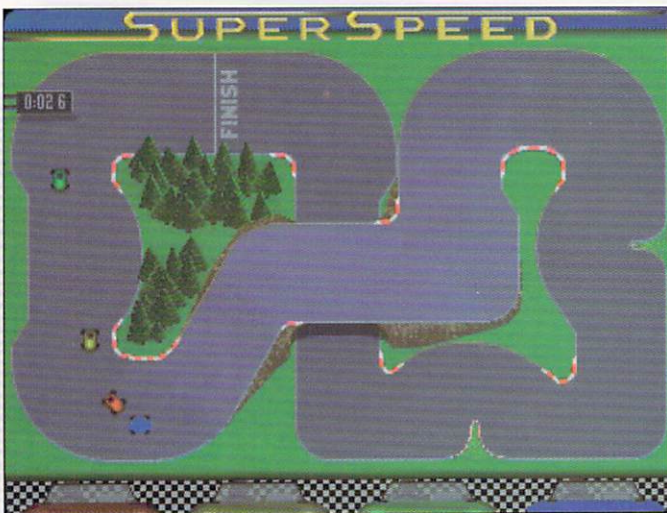
And keep in mind: always look for the latest program, as one of the advantages to using (and registering) shareware is that you'll be privy to the frequent updates.



ABSOLUT(e)LY TEMPORARY 702.254.8601

Sysop: Chip Shapiro

- 1 **WIN95TPS.ZIP** 3123
Tips for Windows 95. Helps you get past some annoying little "features" of Win95, such as autoloading at boot up instead of going to DOS, and how to fix the Start menu delay.
- 2 **2FIFFY5.ZIP** 267106
REoL TOUGH 2: Forbidden Mines. MAP01 replacement for Doom III! An old mine shaft has been converted to a demon's base of torture, with lots of work done to become their base! Recommended: 486/66 or better
- 3 **CSEVILDM.ZIP** 49086
Chainsaw's Evil: PWAD for DOOM II. You are in an evil place filled with happy spots in which you get to kill your friends, enemies and relatives. (Hmmm.)



- 4 **IDA304.ZIP** 529572
The Interactive DisAssembler v3.04. Full WYSIWYG interactive disassembler for i80x86, i8085 z80, i860, PENTIUM — Input: MS Windows, OS/2 files, EXE, NE, LE, LX, HEX, NLM etc.
- 5 **LOGI64.ZIP** 572628
Logitech Mouseware Enhanced Version 6.40 with cloaked drivers.
- 6 **SSUPER.ZIP** 252581
Super Speed Version 1.1. This speedy car racing game delivers pure action for up to four players. Challenge friends or compete against the computer's drivers. Eventful tracks with all the obstacles you usually prefer not to find in real life driving. Requires: 386+, VGA.
- 7 **WINZIP60.ZIP** 313724
WinZip 6.0 for Windows 3.1 & Workgroups <ASP>. Now supports McAfee WSCAN and other scanners. Brings the convenience of Windows to Zipping. External programs not needed for ZIP, tar, gz, z.
- 8 **AIRDRUM1.ZIP** 708083
AIRDRUMS is a Windows multimedia MIDI drum machine which does more than bang a drum. Sound Blaster Compatible, record MIDI instruments from external devices-like triggers, sequencers, keyboards, or even a PC keyboard. Play along with a CD, mix the levels while you record a MIDI file, all in a Ray Traced graphics program.
- 9 **FUZZY100.ZIP** 2078615
Fuzzy's World V1.00s — Pixel Painters releases its most spectacular game to date. It's wild. It's zany. It's...space golf? That's right, the most outrageous sport of the future is here for you today! Completely animated, outstanding graphics and music. Req: 4M RAM, VGA, HD, Mouse, 386/33 (486 recommended); Opt: Sound Card.
- 10 **SHEZ107.ZIP** 424037
SHEZ v10.7-<ASP>-Premier Compression Shell. ZIP,LHA,ZOO,ARC,ARJ,SQZ,PAK,UC2,HAP,RAR, WINDOWS COMPRESSED supported. One of the most full-featured compressed file shells around. Fixed problem with SMARTCOPY/MOVE. Added ability to NOT filter chars when autoloading 4DOS desc. file. Can config. SHEZ to NOT swap when performing 4DOS functions. Now includes 386 version of SHEZ.

Sysop: Rey Barry

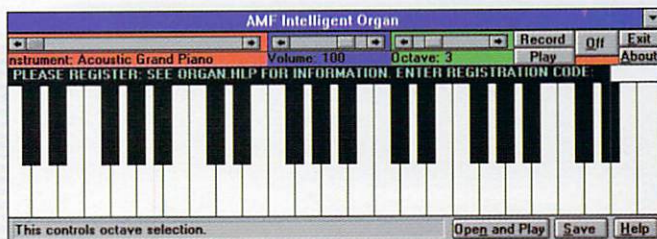
- 1 **COMBI113.ZIP** 47104
Combi cache v1.13. DOS 6 and downward compatible. Adds support of XMS 3.0 for Windows and XMS re-allocate function for MASM 6.0. The default installation parameters are changed to how 99 percent of users were setting them. Allocates all available XMS memory, creates RAM disk of maximum size and releases as much of its buffer as is available (i.e. total buffer size minus RAM disk boot sector, FAT and root directory size) unless told otherwise.
- 2 **BIN2ASC1.ZIP** 16008
Binary to ASCII converter to send any kind of binary file, GIF, ZIP, EXE etc. to an email message. Widely used on the Internet to include pictures and executables in email documents.
- 3 **FP-218E.ZIP** 585367
F-PROT version 2.18e The F-PROT anti-virus package contains a virus scanner combined with a disinfection program, as well as a resident monitoring program for intercepting known viruses. Free of charge for private users.
- 4 **FREEV17A.ZIP** 31004
Free v1.7a Free space mapping utility. Displays information on single drives, ranges or lists. Displays both bytes and true megabytes of space available, space used, and total drive space.
- 5 **FTASK123.ZIP** 49241
FTaskman v1.23 WIN Task Manager with many additional functions, such as showing invisible tasks/displaying icons of tasks. By Andreas Furrer (one of the most committed freeware authors).
- 6 **GLDWV21.ZIP** 283377
GOLDWAVE v2.11 WIN sound editor/player. Supports sound cards SB, SB16, PAS16, GUS. 16-bit stereo editing uses 386 — 32-bit instructions for processing. Super zoom magnifies a sample level for accurate editing. Direct editing with mouse. Editing functions: undo, cut, copy, paste, trim, mix, delete. Built-in support for WAV, VOC, IFF, AU, SND.
- 7 **0201TER1.ZIP** 555254
TERMINATE 2.01 Epsilon [1/4] Outstanding free multitask communications program for DOS, OS/2 Warp or Windows. Internet/ISDN speeds up to 115,200 bps while using integral QWK'em mail reader, File Navigator or playing its TETRIS game or a CD-ROM. RIPscrip and Fido. Powerful REXX-like Script Language. SmartPad, MouseMenu(TM). Comprehensive Fax Manager and cost management included. Long distance carriers, Zmodem, Compuserve B+, Kermit and voice calls. 8/21/95.
- 8 **0201TER2.ZIP** 583235 TERMINATE 2.01 Epsilon [2/4]
- 9 **0201TER3.ZIP** 264579 TERMINATE 2.01 Epsilon [3/4]
- 10 **0201TER4.ZIP** 535786 TERMINATE 2.01 Epsilon [4/4]

Fuzzy's World



Sysop: Hank Hurteau

- 1 **#1HP11-A.ZIP** 336054
HOCUS POCUS v1.1 by APOGEE! Part 1/3. Also needs #1HP11-B & #1HP11-C.ZIP. Scrolling action game like Mario Bros., with constant variety of levels, graphics, music, enemies and awesome parallaxing backgrounds. In a magical kingdom, Hocus must overcome many realms before becoming a full-fledged Wizard. Supports all major sound boards, like Ad Lib, GUS, PAS, SB & general MIDI. Three skill levels, joystick/pad optional.
- 2 **#1HP11-B.ZIP** 305906 HOCUS POCUS v1.1 by APOGEE! Part 2/3.
- 3 **#1HP11-C.ZIP** 303313 HOCUS POCUS v1.1 by APOGEE! Part 3/3.
- 4 **ORGAN.ZIP** 121611
AMF Intelligent Organ/Synthesizer for Windows. The first organ to offer features such as 127 instrument/voice selection, volume control, octave control and recoding capability as well as playback capability. This organ actually looks and works like an organ. Has an auto playback feature to makes it appear someone is actually playing! Works like a Casio keyboard but easier! <ASP>



- 5 **1_TAGENT.ZIP** 1452508
Teen Agent — One day a teenager is captured by two men in dark glasses and long coats. This could be a very interesting day. Get ready for a wonderfully humorous adventure. Teen Agent is a point-and-click animated graphic adventure that features detailed hand-painted backgrounds and 20,000+ individual frames of animation. REQ 286+. Supports SB, ADLIB, GUS, Mouse.
- 6 **ASECRETS.ZIP** 144273
Amazing Secrets, a how-to of amazing stunts & tricks. Includes fire tricks, strength stunts, psychic secrets, weird stuff, show-off tricks, impossible things, bar bets and "con jobs." Great fun.
- 7 **GIFSIZE.ZIP** 46151 Gifsize V 1.5 — Resize GIFs and produce zooms/icons from them. Use the mouse to specify areas. Requires mouse, VGA or SVGA graphics.
- 8 **ISHIFTER.ZIP** 287295
Shape Shifter Adventure. The weirdest, coolest, text adventure you will ever play. To win the game you must find the machine to cure Shape Shifterism. Once you find the machine, hopefully you can fix it and then turn it on to cure yourself.
- 9 **AIR233.ZIP** 119182
Aircraft Modifier V 2.33 for FS5 airplanes.
- 10 **AIRLIFT.ZIP** 131883
A really cool remake of the classic game Choplifter. Fly your chopper behind enemy lines and rescue hostages but be wary of the menacing tanks, jets and drones. Requires 386DX-40 or better, VGA (joystick optional). SoundBlaster or compatible highly recommended to enjoy the original soundtrack and digital sound.

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

Hank Hurteau can be reached at unkhank@crocker.com

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Q&A

BY TESS HEDER

Ask Tess

Q: While leading some online chats on my BBS, occasionally one of my callers asks to meet me or wants to visit my BBS. This always catches me off guard — especially in a group chat situation, since my BBS is all of one PC in my bedroom! Any suggestions about how to respond?

Chris from Pennsylvania

A: Here's my take on this type of situation. You certainly *can* say no. However, if you are truly interested in meeting a user who makes an inquiry, respond via a receiver only message outside of the group chat medium. Just tell the user while in group chat that this topic's out of bounds in your role as group chat facilitator. Once you switch your dialog over to email you're in a one on one situation, which you are on your own to handle responsibly.

Should you notice your users often talking about meeting each other or meeting you, you might encourage them to schedule a social event such as a BBS picnic, brunch or party. BBS social events can be a lot of fun, and strengthen the bonds between the members of your online community.

Q: Many people would agree that one of the best things about a BBS is the interaction with other people. This seems to be especially true with BBS Door games that feature multiplayer interaction. I am in the process of setting up a BBS and was hoping you could recommend some Multi-User Dimension (MUD) games and other types of multiplayer games.

Nate from Alabama

A: Yes, interactive online games are very popular and relatively easy to set up on your BBS. One of the major BBS software publishers packages a series of online games, all of which you can add to the system. Other BBS software users can select from literally thousands of independently authored BBS Door games. Some well known, fully interactive text adventure Door games include Legend of the Red Dragon, Lunatic and Tradewars. Widely played graphics adventures games include Land of Devastation and VGA Planets. Online board games, chess tournaments, trivia, card and sports games also have avid followings. Colorful ANSI or RIP graphics tend to distinguish BBS Door games from the MUD games — which populate the Internet and feature truly awesome, real-time global interactivity.

Q: I saw your Q&A in *BBS Magazine*. I am new to the Internet, etc. and am wondering what the policies are regarding advertising on various BBSs?

Email from America Online

A: Advertising policies vary from BBS to BBS, so your first responsibility as a curious user is to ask the sysop. With few exceptions, BBSs do not present paid-for advertising integrated with their content. And for the most part, public domain and shareware software files that distribute on BBSs are not pure advertising. Advertising often comes into play in a couple of ways, however. Buy/sell message bases and classified ad-type interactive online databases are very popular features on many subscription boards. Typically BBS users buy and sell from each other in these areas — which function sort of like ongoing electronic garage sales or flea markets. When it comes to the files and other informational goodies that circulate on BBSs, these are often packaged with a small file that identifies the author or the producer — another relatively non-invasive way folks can make themselves known and peddle their wares at the same time.

Q: I'm a new sysop and was wondering how to get callers. [Ah, the eternal question.] I've put up flyers but I'm only getting a couple of callers to dial in each day, and one or two who call once a week. What do I do?

Dan from New Hampshire

A: This is a tough spot to be in and one that new sysops often face. But, to be sure, electronic signs work a lot better than paper ones. Get an up-to-date listing of BBSs in your area. Call these boards and ask the sysops if you can post messages announcing your new BBS (many sysops will let you do this). And while you're at it, get your BBS listed, too. Make your message attractive, your BBS welcome screen engaging, and be sure you have good content — then hope for the best! ■■■■■

Tess Heder is co-founder of Channel 1®, winner of the Dvorak/Zoom Award of Excellence in Telecommunications 1992 — Best General Interest BBS. Contact her at:

BBS: Comment to sysop, 617.349.1300 V.34
Email: tess.heder@channel1.com
Fax: 617.354.3100, Attention: Ask TESS
US Mail: Channel 1, Attn: Ask Tess, 1030 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

ZyXEL Fires Back

Modem maker, at last, offers new line

Let's get re-acquainted with an old friend of the sysop/BBS caller. The friend, known as ZyXEL, has received little press lately, and as a company, they've actually been pretty quiet since last year. You see, ZyXEL waited nearly 12 months longer than most manufacturers to release a V.34 modem, probably hurting their reputation in the sysop community as well as the desktop market. They're back now, however, and ready to do battle with the Big Boys.

Where they've been...

The Anaheim-based extension of the Taiwan-based ZyXEL Communications Corporation was founded in 1988, with a charter "to be the driving force in modem communications by leading the field with proactive pricing, intelligent features, technological advancements, and aggressive marketing."

The company first entered the market with a high-speed data pump in 1990, followed by a full line of high-speed V.32bis modems in 1991. Subsequent products have resulted in an array of standard and intelligent features at low prices.

All ZyXEL V.32bis fax/modems (with voice) come with ZyXEL 16.8Kbps Ultra High Speed. The Plus Series offers advanced voice capability with Speech Compression and increased throughput of up to 2,200cps. The modems offer enhanced fax capabilities including V.17-14.4Kbps and G3 fax with automatic detection of fax or modem calls. ZyXEL ZFAX software supports up to 1,000 data, fax and voice mailboxes, while the Macintosh and Windows versions support up to 1,000 voice/fax mailboxes — all on one phone line. The entire line of ZyXEL internal, external, rack-mount, cellular and portable modems feature Call-Back Security with Password Protection as well as the ability to upgrade by firmware. ZyXEL high-speed modems even support distinctive ring for incoming fax or modem calls. They also sup-

port remote configuration through dial-up lines, and are designed to operate over dial-up or leased lines.

Where they're going...

Now ZyXEL has introduced their latest line of ISDN/V.34 modems, (a fact that's not exactly news by the time you're reading this, I realize) combining data, fax, voice and cellular. The new family of modems includes the ZyXEL Elite 2864 and the Elite 2864I. As you may be able to tell from the product designator, the key difference between these two units is with and without ISDN. The 2864 is upgradable to ISDN for a nominal cost. The ZyXEL Elite 2864 conforms to all ITU-T standards including the V.34 protocol. It will automatically fall back to lower speeds when communicating with slower modems or when line conditions degrade, and it maintains compatibility to ZyXEL proprietary 19.2Kbps and 16.8Kbps speeds.

What is obviously missing from both these units is support for the popular VFC and less popular V.32terbo protocols. ZyXEL seems to have taken the same ITU-T high-road that companies such as Motorola have also ventured upon. No word yet as to possible support for 33.6K V.34, otherwise referred to as V.34 Plus or V.34bis.

Did I say ISDN upgradable? With an optional ISDN line interface module, the ZyXEL Elite 2864 can be upgraded to a ZyXEL ISDN device. Users have two B Channels that can

be used for simultaneous communication. For example, one B Channel using ISDN can transmit information at 64Kbps while the other B Channel is transmitting analog data (using an external analog device such as phone or modem) at up to 28.8Kbps.

The Elite Series modem family allows ISDN's two 64Kbps B Channels to be combined for 128Kbps. ZyXEL is the first manufacturer to implement V.42bis data compression over ISDN.

It should be noted that both these additives are not standards for ISDN. Combining the two B channels, known as bonding, has yet to be standardized. Supporting bonding is only compatible among other ZyXEL ISDN modems until a standard B channel bonding protocol is adopted. The digital modems support AT&T 5ESS, Northern Telecom DMS-100, Siemens EWSD, and 1TR6 EDSS1 switches — with either NI-1 or custom protocols. The Elite 2864I supports Async/Sync PPP, rate adaptation ITU-T V.120, V.110 and also X.75. The ZyXEL 2864I digital modems automatically switch between ISDN mode and fax/modem mode without user intervention.

Traditionally, users had one telephone line that could be used for a single purpose. With the Elite 2864I you have the capability of establishing an ISDN connection AND a standard analog connection at the same time, with the same modem, with one standard ISDN line. Other manufacturers such as Motorola and U.S. Robotics have followed suit.

The Elite series of modems provides a number of other features not necessarily pertinent to the sysop or online service provider (OSP), so I'll skip those features.

ZyXEL also offers the RS-1602E, a Rackmount System for the ZyXEL U-1496RE Plus and the U-1496RE modem cards. The cards offer the identical features as the company's U-1496E Plus and U-1496E models.

CONTINUES...

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

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

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

Notes on Table I:

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

TABLE II — VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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

The Rackmount System was specifically designed for the demanding needs of the sysop and OSP marketplace. The RS-1602E is a nice solution for small businesses that need remote access to network resources and a managed voice/fax/data communications system at an affordable price. The ZyXEL RS-1602E allows you to manage the modem requirements of up to 16 lines from one centralized unit. The Rackmount System's compact size measures in at 7" x 19".

The RS-1602E is now available with a suggested retail price of \$799. The company is offering special sysop pricing for the Rackmount System and the U-1496RE Plus and U-1496RE modem cards. These offers are available to sysops in the United States, Canada, Mexico and South America. ZyXEL in Anaheim should be contacted for current pricing on this and all sysop offers.

It has been rumored that ZyXEL was suffering financially, primarily due to a lack of competitiveness in the V.34 arena. Indeed, resellers tell me ZyXEL experienced their first losing month last July. However with their re-entrance into this market, their ISDN entries, and their ever-present rack system, ZyXEL may be turning the corner. As with all new technologies, real proof will be in the

performance and long-term reliability of the products. If they perform as advertised, ZyXEL will be a welcome friend to the sysop community.

The modem turns...

New relations are forming in the modem industry, new employment opportunities abound in the fall months, and the face of the online community is, as always, changing.

I thought we'd be seeing a new face (or facelift) for Hayes and BOCA by now. But wait! Is that another Chaotic spell I sense? (See issue 10/95.) For instead we see BOCA sliding back out of the picture and yet another new look for Hayes on the horizon. What new friends will we be meeting soon in that camp?

Additionally, more new folks are joining the SUPRA team, bringing untold gifts and potential fortune. So stay tuned for more details.

And me? I'm but a simple Mage who brings to light what others might not see.

You can reach me at modem-mag@ais.net.

Sysop/Provider programs

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

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

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

More than a modem

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

Buyers' restrictions

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

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

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

ing less common, and is rumored for phase-out by several of the larger players over the next few months.

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

Order processing and availability

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

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

ModemMag@ais.net



Rusty

Eddie

Call a different kind of BBS. "We are the Friendliest BBS in the World." Our name says it all. Eddie 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 Eddie's BBS
7393 California Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44512

Voice216-726-4217
HST only216-726-1804
Compucom216-726-3584
Hayes V-Series.....216-726-3619
All (V32 etc.)216-726-2620
Fax216-726-3595

Hot Live Chat
& More...

The House
of
LOVE

305-425-0929

Must Be 18 to access call from home or office via Modem 8-N-1 Up to 28.8 Bps
24 Hours a Day

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

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

BOBsBBS — 916.929.7511

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

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

Call 609.953.9110 (voice) for help.

Derived from the USBBSLIST.

LEGEND

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

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

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| BAUD | 0 = 300 |
| 1 = 1200 | 2 = 2400 |
| 9 = 9600 or faster | |
| MODULATION TYPE | V = V.32 or V.32bis |
| U = USRobotics HST | H = Hayes VSM |
| F = V.Fast, V.34 (1/25/95) | O = Other proprietary method |
| D = USRobotics Dual Standard (V32 and HST) | B = Hayes Ultra (V32 and VSM) |
| SIZE | Indicated in 100s of megs. |
| + | = CD-ROM. |
| NODES | Number of lines |
| SUBSCRIPTION | \$ = subscription; blank = FREE |
| INTERNET FEATURES | SERVICES CODE |
| | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F |
| Mail | X X X X X X X X |
| Usenet | XX XX XX XX |
| FTP | XXXX XXXX |
| Telnet | XXXX XXXX |
| MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS | Must support 2400 bps or greater |
| | 100 MB of disk capacity |
| | 24hr/7 day service |
| | Sysop must give REAL NAME |

201-256-0691 NJ W. Paterson
Exclbr's Realm John Norman
General interest, Medieval.
X 29 FV 5+ 1 1

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

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

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

201-729-2602
Chuck's Attempt Chuck Ammann

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

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

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

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

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

203-443-3857 CT New London
BEYOND BBS Shawn Brogan
Geared towards the family.
B 29 VF 800 1

203-487-6134 CT Ashford
Stonehenge BBS Dave Swift
3D action games & general comp.
X 29 VO 10 2

203-488-2315 CT No. Branford
Interstate BBS Lewis Reid
Message nets, files, games.
X 19 VO 14+ 1

203-647-8967 CT Bolton
Construction Fm Craig D. Mayer
Construction resource.
W 29 HO 1 1 \$

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

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

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

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

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

205-751-9890 AL Hartselle
Paragon OnLine Richard Creel
Graphical Windows based.
X 09 V 14+ 1 3

205-871-9678 AL Birmingham
Lions Den BBS M. Sieniewski
Games and files.
W 19 D 50 1

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

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

207-368-5402
Grouchy Marx Crouchy Marx

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

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

208-664-2983
The Third Mill Jim Fromm

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

208-734-3544 ID Twin Falls
Faze V Tech Ken Vaughn
Echomail, prgrming, medcl, writng.
W 29 V 1 1

209-323-6835 CA Clovis
Clovis Connect Rod Jessen
Genealogy, AIDS/HIV, OS/2.
W 29 FD 14+ 3

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

210-233-4877 TX Los Fresnos
Newberry BBS Ken Anderson
Message oriented online srv. c.
B 19 FV 6+ 2 \$

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

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

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

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

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

212-749-3268
Walter's BBS Walter Parrish

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

214-245-9315
USS Inverness Jonathan McGirr

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

214-351-9859
Collector's Ed Len Hult

214-355-1835
Lonesome Dove Matt Peacock

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

214-442-1396 TX Wylie
Bailiwick Dan Cummings
One of Dallas' Free BBS'
W 29 F 18 2

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

215-321-1873 PA Philly
After-Hours Tony Reesby
Games BBS. Fun BBS.
W 09 FD 80+ 1

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

216-324-6410
Comm. Netlink K Stevenson

216-345-5623 OH Wooster
CJB's BBS Chris Butdorf
Doors, files, mail and more.
F 09 FV 14+ 1

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

| 216-639-9508 | | 301-738-0000 | | 310-559-5334 | | 315-458-3482 | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Scientist's BBS | Soo Kurz | NETEAST | MD Rockville Howard Hartman | WLA BBS | CA Los Angeles Gary Inman | Dreamscape | Scott Brennan |
| General access. | | B 09 V 111 20 \$ 3 | | Planet Earth Network. | | 315-475-3250 | |
| 218-326-4205 | | 302-234-6760 | | 310-984-1075 | | 317-756-7956 | |
| Blue Sky BBS | MN Grnd Rapids Jack Blue | DE Hockessin | DE Hockessin | Leo Grafix BBS | CA Long Beach Rudy Hartmann | Bytronix | IN Indianapolis Mike Bettua |
| Family & business oriented. | | Digital World | | Christian, CalvaryNet. | | 316-788-7520 | |
| W 09 FD 96+ 3 \$ 3 | | Brian Funk | | T 29 DF 21+ 4 | | Griswold's Priv | |
| 218-525-7520 | | Legal services, files, gaming. | | M 09 VF 70+ 10 \$ | | Jim Kelland | |
| Wizard's Tower | MN Duluth Sheldon Aubut | 303-244-8420 | | 312-284-7133 | | 317-756-7956 | |
| Messages, intelligent. | | Mirror Image | | 4th Dimension | | The Stargazer | |
| W 09 U 5 1 | | Mark Feil | | Jeff Jones | | Ken Johnson | |
| 218-729-7026 | | 303-456-1642 | | 312-536-0829 | | Programming C/C++, Qbasic. | |
| TBNT | MN Duluth Roger Martell | SportsBoard | CO Westminister Gary Hawley | Black Female | | B 19 F 10+ 1 | |
| Messages, crafts, games. | | Sports forecasts & data. | | Black females. | | 317-889-4274 | |
| X 19 VF 5 2 | | Q 19 VO 2 1 | | W 29 H 1 1 \$ | | Eagle | |
| 218-878-0642 | | 303-964-5372 | | 312-665-7319 | | Files CDs Internet genealogy. | |
| Echelon MLS | MN Cloquet Ed Miller | RU BBS | CO Denver Kate Secrest | Free internet email and usenet. | | B 29 DF 45+ 2 \$ 3 | |
| Entertainment, game revue. | | University board. | | B 09 FV 36+ 2 3 | | 318-222-7064 | |
| M 09 D 10+ 10 \$ 3 | | J 19 V 10 5 1 | | 313-581-0564 | | LA Shreveport | |
| 219-763-0826 | | 303-964-8559 | | Elroy's WrkShp | | Genesis BBS | |
| Stalag 13 BBS | IN Portage Keith Heitmann | Sylvester Moore | CO Denver Nythcar | Jerry Zubrick | | James Pottorff | |
| Flight sims/combat games. | | Pagan oriented messages. | | Software, programming, tips. | | Rime mail network—conf areas. | |
| I 29 V 30 1 | | J 29 V 10 1 3 | | W 99 FD 62+ 3 3 | | B 09 D 14+ 2 | |
| 219-744-4908 | | 304-697-5769 | | 313-665-5927 | | 318-323-7882 | |
| The Play Board | Jay Tipton | TeleTech | WV Huntington Travis King | Snowshoe | | Bayou Internet | |
| 301-498-8729 | | Home of associate networks. | | Tom Winters | | LA Monroe | |
| Razors Edge | MD Laurel Bob Kelly | W 09 VO 14+ 1 3 | | Fidonet, technical, science. | | Jerry Scroggin | |
| Music, comics, games, adult. | | 304-723-2133 | | X 09 V 9+ 1 | | Broadcast radio related. | |
| W 29 D 14+ 1 | | MOB | WV Weirton Mike Perkins | 314-281-8598 | | M 19 FO 14+ 6 \$ F | |
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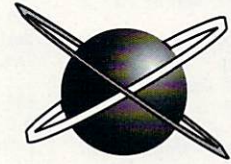
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 B 99 FV 13 1 3

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The Bird Call S. Pidgeon
 Renegade files, games.
 R 19 VF 14+ 2 3

604-624-4534 BC Prince Rupert
Pyramid BBS Mike Ringer
 Emergency services - SAR.
 W 29 V 4+ 1

605-232-3170 SD McCook Lake
Sonny's Garage Dan Liston
 65 shareware & adult CDs live.
 W 29 V 446+ 1 \$ 3

606-275-4321 KY Lexington
Psi Phi Pi Ken Newberg
 Utilities.
 X 09 FV 1 1

606-441-2130
The Ghost House Michael Haley

606-497-0192 KY Mt. Sterling
Raceland BBS Gary McClure
 For all people. Everybody.
 B 09 VF 5+ 2 1

608-822-2000 WI Fennimore
Games Plus BBS Orville
 Games and chat.
 B 29 V 11+ 32

608-849-4259 WI Waunakee
The T.R.S. BBS Tim Shriver
 Family fun, files, echos, Usenet.
 X 29 VF 14+ 4 3

608-897-8638 WI Brodhead
CROSSroad BBS Chris Schilling
 Family-Christian, Excalibur.
 X 29 VF 16+ 2 3

609-222-0206 NJ Mt Laurel
TheSpeakEasy Yoshi Melrose
 Japan/entertainment/Star Trek.
 X 19 V 7 1 1

609-235-5297 NJ Mt. Laurel
The Livewire Richard Paquette
 Support board for BBS Magazine.

609-467-5540 NJ Swedesboro
Alexs World Alex Mastrandro
 Messages, on-line games adults.
 G 29 F 10+ 3 F

609-482-1336 NJ Maple Shade
Next Generation John Carcione
 Trek Trivia online; After Dark.

609-484-8874 NJ Pleasantville
R.C. BBS of NJ Kenneth Leary
 Catholic/Christian orientated.
 W 19 V 2 1 3

609-587-2672 NJ Mercerville
The TAO BBS Bob Watson
 Practical computer services.
 B 09 DF 20+ 3 7

609-625-4475 NJ Vineland
Full Motion Bob Korch
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 B 19 D 4 2

609-764-0812
Radio Wave BBS Tyler Myers

609-768-6585
BB's BBS Bob Browne

609-778-4442
Comp Gaming Gregory Moore

609-890-6347 NJ Ham. Square
CyberCity USA Bob Marsley
 Internet email.
 M 09 D 45+ 2 3

609-927-2059 NJ Linwood
Linwood TBBS Richard Soucy
 Free access with on-line games.
 T 19 D 25+ 1

609-935-5572 NJ Salem
Plum Crazy BBS Arthur Plummer
 Doors, files, FidoNet, RIME.
 B 19 F 40 2

610-284-6265 PA Drexel Hill
Front St. Run Art Verno
 Games, doors, amateur radio.
 B 19 D 14 1 1

610-391-1880 PA Allentown
Night Vision Adam Tope
 Many files, messages, doors.
 W 09 FV 40+ 1

610-454-7396 PA Collegeville
Black Bag BBS Edward DelGross
 Worlds largest medical BBS.
 O 09 FO 15+ 4 3

610-497-3912 PA Boothwyn
Night Wind Bob Martin
 Games, 2,000 message areas.
 B 29 D 54+ 5 3

612-488-5112
P.C. MegaMail M Wielenberg

612-633-1366 MN St. Paul
City Lights Gary Elfert
 Internet/genealogy/general.
 W 19 D 71 16 F

613-835-2760 ON Ottawa
Meridian Syst. Bill Jackson
 DOS / Windows applications.
 O 29 V 12+ 4 3

614-387-2762
The Vault BBS Keith Ketcham

614-423-0567 OH Belpre
Mountain Lair Joe Sims
 General files, doors, email, etc.
 B 19 FD 22+ 1 1

614-855-8504 OH Gahanna
Gingers PortLtd Phill Terry
 Telecommunications.
 W 29 D 35+ 2 3

615-399-0707
Lebanon Link B Richardson

615-478-2890
PC Junction BBS Doug Carpenter

615-691-1887 TN Knoxville
The POST BBS Marc Lanni
 Newest files and messaging.
 W 19 FD 120+ 2 3

615-890-8715 TN Murfreesboro
Heart Of Tenn Larry Reeves
 Connectivity around the world.
 B 09 FH 190+ 6 \$ F

615-892-8834 TN Chattanooga
TLR Systems Bill Crawford
 RIPscript Graphics.
 S 29 FD 42+ 1

615-966-3574
Data World BBS Sean Dudley

615-977-9385
WNMFBS BBS Michael Walker

616-445-4342 MI Cassopolis
E.L.F. BBS Tim Toepp
 Entrepreneur & small business.
 M 29 FV 50+ 4 \$ F

616-629-4395 MI Richland
Cafe Olivia BB A. Wolters
 Chat, JetNet, local interest.
 X 29 VO 1 3 \$

617-247-3383 MA Boston
Data Express Will Crawford
 Technical, files, WWIV support.
 V 19 DV 32+ 1

617-354-8873
Channel 1 BBS Brian Miller

617-383-2789 MA Cohasset
SSS P. Crimmins
 Adult only BBS.
 M 99 VB 11 17

617-749-0526 MA Hingham
The Fun-House Bruce Kelly
 Family BBS.
 Q 19 V 12 1 1

617-964-6028 MA Newton
PAL Online PAUL LITVAK
 Programming, messages, games.
 B 19 V 17+ 1

619-430-7734 CA Oceanside
Desert Nights Rodney Dunn
 Programming and genealogy.
 B 19 V 9+ 1

619-582-2402 CA San Diego
The Free Zone Paul Cavnar
 Christian files, CalvaryNet.
 W 19 D 3 1

619-630-7437 CA Oceanside
Shepherd Flock John Scudder
 Christian files, CalvaryNet.
 B 19 D 4 1

701-222-0429 ND Bismarck
GobblerNet Bob Newell
 Classic & text-based games.
 X 09 V 10+ 1

701-224-0403 ND Bismarck
Land of the Dr Andrew Fors
 Anime & general files.
 I 09 V 5 1

701-224-1431 ND Bismarck
Node Dakota Greg Kautzman
 Being a good BBS.
 B 09 D 3+ 1

701-225-1951 ND Dickinson
The Mirage Loren Steyer
 Games, technology, and news.
 X 19 FV 14+ 2 1

701-258-0872 ND Bismarck
D-Generation Mark Vernon
 Email netwrk. communications.
 W 09 F 5+ 1

701-258-1647 ND Bismarck
ASD Jeremy Schmidt
 FidoNet, CD-Rom.
 W 09 FV 5+ 1

701-280-2343
The Spectrum Dale Hill

701-663-8433 ND Mandan
DigitalUndergr Curt Haider
 WP, Pagemaker, & WildCat files.
 W 09 V 1 1

701-667-2806 ND Mandan
Bit Board Joel Hagen
 Just an ordinary BBS.
 W 09 O 1 1

701-772-5399
City Lites John Lundell

701-843-7635 ND New Salem
Big Cow on Hill Ryan Kramer
 Lots of .MOD music files.
 X 09 V 3 1

703-331-2145 VA Manassas
Cimarron Bay Rich Davies
 Sysop support & files.
 Q 29 VF 8 1

703-427-0226
Mountain Air Edward Wood

703-435-8644
The Last Resort Derek Figg

703-532-7143
Arlington Softwr Jay Falvey

703-560-1168 VA Falls Church
The Cooks Cnr Bob Chrisp
 Cooking & crafts.
 B 29 F 40+ 2 3

703-590-3107 VA Dale City
The Hodgepodge Rick Palmer
 MSG database, games.
 M 09 D 5 2 \$

703-620-8900
World Data Net Tony McClenny

703-638-7580
Xsword's Haven R Hedgecock

703-667-6963 VA Winchester
Yellow Rose Haynes/Whitmer
 Community information system.
 W 29 V 2+ 1

703-729-5728 VA Ashburn
Flightline Robert Orsino
 Flight simulators of all kinds.
 B 19 FV 20+ 1

703-731-0601
Dockside BBS Danny Cook

704-279-6157 NC Salisbury
Star-Edge Rick Foster
 Text files, RPG files & games.
 B 29 F 6+ 1

704-657-4154 NC Cliffside
Cliffside BBS Roger Hamrick
 General.
 B 09 F 14+ 2

704-657-6898 NC Cliffside
Gentle Breeze Larry Beheler
 Games.
 X 19 FV 14+ 2 2

704-757-9949
Enchnt Forest Brian Miller

704-983-2877 NC Albemarle
Small Wonder Mark Brooks
 Internet email.
 X 19 HB 10 1 \$ 1

707-542-3193 CA Santa Rosa
Party Line Jami Chism
 Home brewing beer, Chatlink.
 M 19 V 12 12 3

707-792-2586 CA Petaluma
The Party Line Jami Chism
 Home brewing beer, Chatlink.
 M 19 V 48+ 12 3

708-260-8818
Adline U.S.A.1 Charles Parker

708-367-7851
System Software Wayne Lawton

708-462-2572 IL Wheaton
Info Expresswy Nick Poulos
 General and technical info.
 X 29 V 63+ 6

708-501-4851 IL Northfield
F.A.I.S. Ashley Poole
 Tons of files & message bases.
 M 29 VF 80+ 4 \$

708-546-0301
Castle KingSide Don Martin

708-634-9368
Great Northern Michael Wilson

708-635-7427 IL Des Plaines
The Dungeon John McCurrie
 General information and program.
 W 29 FV 13+ 1

708-636-6694
Suburban Softwr Chuck Valecek

708-776-2395 IL Palatine
Warp Speed BBS Alex Gen
 Games, music, demos, interNet.
 F 29 VF 10 2 7

708-832-7754
Addisn Dos Haus Leroy Hein Jr

708-991-2452
BBS Data Sys Greg Kaiser

713-524-7342 TX Houston
The Flo Igloo Brian Greul
 Internet/games/sales-svc.
 X 09 V 12+ 3 \$ 3

713-873-5702
Bowlers Acr Amer Dennis Asfour

713-888-0496 TX Houston
CD Caddy William Sanders
 Online electronic tax filing.
 X 29 V 99+ 6 F

714-362-9675 CA Laguna Hills
Hillside BBS Robert Savage
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 B 19 D 4 1

714-533-7104 CA Anaheim
Mikey's Mail michael box
 Military info.
 O 19 DF 11+ 1 1

714-548-1900 CA Newport Bch
Eden BBS Dan Vesely
 Adult social club w/ Internet.
 M 09 V 32+ 52 \$ F

714-646-1199 CA Newport Beach
(Noah's Ark) Doug Nicholson
 Endtimes info and CalvaryNet.
 B 19 D 13 1

714-669-8823 CA Tustin
Vivid Image Veno Dossantos
 Adult pictures, general.
 W 99 F 90+ 8 \$ 1

714-675-2175 CA Newport Bch
Christ-U-Serve M Riechmann
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 B 19 D 4+ 1

714-837-9677
Solar System Peter Guethlein

714-850-1539 CA Santa Ana
Salt Shaker Jeffery Haney
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 P 19 D 3 1 3

714-856-2171 CA Irvine
The Way BBS Chris Allen
 Christian files and programs.
 B 19 HD 14 1

714-951-7311 CA Missn Viejo
A Helping Hand Scott Leighton
 Family, community interests.
 W 19 VF 6 1 3

714-957-2881 CA Santa Ana
The Good Sam Mike DeTomaso
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 B 19 D 3 1

714-996-7777
The Liberty BBS Steven Grande

715-398-7141 WI Superior
Info Central Bob Slowinski
 entire Fidonet & Filebone.
 Q 09 VF 12+ 2 \$ 1

715-726-0501 WI Chip. Falls
Storm BBS Clay Busker
 A lot of Mods.
 X 19 V 9+ 1

715-842-2545 WI Wausau
Cellblock BBS Cliff Johnsen
 General.
 W 29 D 12+ 1

716-288-1350 NY Rochester
The Rising Sun Samuel Bianchi
 Music, graphics, games, Star Trek.
 F 29 V 14+ 2

716-475-0658 NY Rochester
DigitalHorizon Ron Bangel
 Best games and latest files.
 B 29 F 11+ 3 1

717-246-9666 PA Red Lion
Lion's Den Brent Sowers
 No charge, online ordering.
 X 19 V 8+ 1

717-323-0033 PA Williamsport
Mr. Machinist Allan Bremer
 Engineering/machining/math.
 W 29 V 7 1

717-367-4973 PA Elizabethtwn
Turbo Systems Rick Kaylor Jr.
 Computer tech support.
 X 99 FV 24 1

717-383-9661 PA Peckville
Data Connection John Mulderig
 Multi-media, games, ham radio.
 X 29 FO 6+ 1

717-427-3338 PA Weatherly
In Feet of Night Jim Gillespie
 For foot lovers. Excalibur, Internet.
 X 09 VF 20+ 10 \$ 9

717-729-8102 PA Beach Lake
Landscape Conx Jeffrey Chorb
 Landscape design / horticulture.
 R 09 D 13 1

717-730-8504 PA Lemoyne
Stimpy's Sandb Mark Friend
 Free, ASP member.
 I 19 F 10+ 3 1

717-840-1444
Cyberia Sara/Adam Viener

718-992-1071 PA Saylorburg
Fathers Rights Bob Hassler
 Civil and fathers rights.
 B 19 D 14+ 2 7

718-234-6905 NY Brooklyn
Maddog BBS Ilya Kushnirsky
 Shareware, games.
 R 09 VO 2+ 1

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

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

continues...

The A-List

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718-281-0645 NY Bayside
Software Kitcher Fernando Ortiz
 Business, programming, Fido, 1.
 B 29 D 01 1

718-366-6165
Rama One BBS Tommy Brunning

718-375-5561 NY Brooklyn
System X Arthur Gorecki
 Games, messages, files.
 B 29 DF 74+ 1 3

718-648-5199 NY Brooklyn
Zen Monastery P. Starzynski
 Zen Buddhism, Taoism, The Way.
 B 29 DF 5 1

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

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

719-540-9728 CO Colo Springs
Co. Connection Scott Carter
 Pictures, games, business.
 W 09 FV 39+ 2 7

770-967-6888 GA Flowery Br.
S/Ware Monster R.P. Meggs
 Latest around the world files.
 X 29 F 220+ 4 7

800-735-5282 DC Washington
Vendor's BBS Jeremy B. Cohen
 Business opportunities.
 T 19 D 14 7

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

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

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

803-745-0073 SC Charleston
Dragon's Lair Hugh Pearson
 Role playing talk and games.
 R 29 V 10+ 1 1

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

803-766-0176 SC Charleston
THE INN Steve Lanning
 Home of S&G Software.
 Q 29 F 11+ 1

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

803-873-5797 SC Ladson
Dazed&Confused Bunny McElwee
 General interest, genealogy.
 B 19 FV 170+ 8 \$ 7

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

803-963-3773 SC Simpsonville
Kitty's Cafe! Diane Hayes
 A little bit for everyone.
 W 09 BF 10 10 \$

804-222-2242 VA Richmond
ChatCity BBS Brian Mueller
 Entertainment: chat, games.
 M 09 DF 13 20

804-237-3823 VA Lynchburg
Brownings World Ralph Browning
 Doom files, NY Times online.
 W 19 VO 5 3

The A-List

804-253-2307 VA Williamsburg
LightOTheBurg Nelson Scott
 Christian/family oriented.
 W 29 V 10+ 1

804-468-6454 VA Virginia Bch
Straight Board Ray Sulich
 Echos, files, doors.
 B 19 FD 200+ 2 3

804-590-2161 VA Matoaca
Servant of Lord Dr C.A. Wootten
 Christian.
 W 19 BV 10 2 3

804-596-2131
Time Out! BBS Mark Solomon

805-374-9997 CA Thousand Oaks
The Matrix Denny Cherry
 Games, general files.
 W 09 B 4 1

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

805-499-5717
Formula 350 Eric Lundberg

805-734-3878 CA Vandenberg
The Launch Pad Rick Olsen
 Files, games.
 B 29 D 30+ 3 \$ 1

805-945-0349 CA Lancaster
Metropolis Mike Johns
 Fidonet hub, Internet, games.
 T 19 FV 24+ 2 3

805-964-4766
The Seaside Les Jones

809-283-6942 PR San Juan
Centus Edfel J. Rivera
 Business related.
 W 29 V 7 1 2

809-781-4207 PR Guaynabo
Hurricane BBS Luis Benitez
 There is something for all.
 W 19 D 10+ 2 F

810-239-2919 MI Flint
Terminal Point Ron Lauzon
 Programming, cyberspace.
 X 19 F 2 1

810-412-8177 MI Clinton Twp.
ShareWarehouse Rick Wadowski
 MS-DOS related shareware.
 B 19 DF 210+ 4 \$ 3

810-476-5713 MI Farmington Hills
ENCO Systems Gene Novacek
 ENCO software products.
 O 09 VO 40 2

810-477-6695
The Soul Conn Mike Demski

810-546-4467 MI Ferndale
Comm Connect Jeff Squires
 IGA-NET.
 Y 09 DF 10+ 1

810-631-6885
The Casual BBS Pat Cargill

812-254-9601 IN Washington
Junk Yard BBS Barry Hauser
 New releases, bus., games.
 F 19 V 10+ 1

812-299-9306 IN Terre Haute
Ivy Tech's BBS Phillip Brown
 Educational, files, free, fun.
 F 29 FV 11+ 1 2

812-428-3870 IN Evansville
"YA! Webecad." Don Habegger
 41Gig, 210000+files, BW TOP.
 W 19 F 410+ 5 \$ 3

812-475-0434 IN Evansville
Rustic Inn BBS Ronald Benjamin
 Friends. Messages. Free.
 W 09 V 20+ 1

812-898-2561 IN Terre Haute
Flaming Star April Brown
 CD Sales, programming support.
 F 29 V 40+ 1 2

812-949-4904 IN New Albany
DataCom USA Frank Fendley
 News, files, Internet.
 X 29 F 21+ 2 \$ 3

813-621-7547 FL Tampa
OneWay BBS Dave Kenyon
 Free Christian family BBS.
 W 29 FD 47+ 2

813-639-7170 FL Punta Gorda
Joos Bar & Grill Joe Jepsen
 Mystic Net, wcCode, PGP.
 W 19 V 6+ 1

813-934-7881 FL Holiday
Planet Alderan Dale Hutchinson
 Star Wars support BBS.
 B 19 D 20+ 1

813-942-0323
Genesis Network D Thompson

813-949-4993 FL Lutz
PC-Help! Walter Zipper
 Extensive new user support.
 B 29 DF 45+ 6 1

815-727-1195 IL Joliet
Hookline Mike McCormick
 Hobby, fishing, fun.
 Q 09 F 5+ 2 3

815-795-6371
Squirrel's Nest Neal Roberts

816-747-8018 MO Warrensburg
Modemia Rob Shaw
 General files, swimwear Gifs.
 W 29 V 13+ 1

817-280-9943 TX Hurst
Ocean Breeze Ted J. Mieske
 Lots of electronic items.
 A 19 V 10+ 1

817-355-9252
Contrails BBS Joe Richter

817-468-8677 TX Arlington
PrimeTime Spor Doug Ditto
 Sports, games, and LORD.
 W 29 VO 5+ 1 \$ 2

817-565-9165 TX Denton
Mezzanine Walter Bowen
 Macintosh user support.
 X 09 DF 23+ 1

818-353-8891 CA Tujunga
Mysteria Phil Hansford
 Metaphysics/occult.
 O 09 DV 39+ 2 3

818-448-0672 CA Arcadia
IntelNET(tm) Fred Coles
 Business networking.
 X 29 F 3+ 2 \$ 3

818-584-1952 CA Pasadena
Hilsbbs-KB6AXK Joe Cira
 Amateur radio HAMS.
 W 09 O 21+ 1

818-609-9276 CA Reseda
Solaris Jim Burrows
 Online gaming access.
 F 29 V 21+ 2 3

818-727-7639 CA Chatsworth
Steuth Mark Valentine
 Over 4,000 conferences.
 S 19 V 30+ 3 \$ 2

901-278-6518 TN Memphis
Closed Doors Peter Reilly
 All adult — all the time.
 F 09 VO 9+ 2 \$

901-327-1895
Metroplex BBS Rick vanHooser

902-679-2258 NS Coldbrook
Ted's BBS Ted Gervais
 Games and message centers.
 B 99 FV 10+ 3

903-566-1927 TX Tyler
Data Center Bruce Bates
 Business related.
 X 29 VB 10+ 1

903-813-0287 Tx Sherman
Fly-N-High Brandon Morris
 General family oriented BBS.
 Q 09 V 5+ 1 1

904-262-7329 FL Jacksonville
M. Dilussions Mastermind
 General support & enjoyment.
 L 09 V 1 1

904-323-8684
Up All Night BBS Rob Warren

904-328-2925 FL E. Palatka
HauntedMansion Jim Bailey
 Christian.
 X 29 BH 900+ 1

904-375-3500 FL Gainesville
Dragon Keep Richard S. Mark
 General.
 M 09 D 100+ 40 \$ F

906-523-6215 MI Chassell
Chas. File Exc Mike Croze
 games, files and fun.
 W 29 F 18+ 2 3

907-333-0565 AK Anchorage
POW BBS Wade Hamel
 Files, games, chat, free speech.
 M 19 V 14+ 4 \$ 3

907-488-3751 AK North Pole
TC's BBS Tom Creek
 Alaska information.
 Q 09 FV 25+ 2 1

908-276-4405
The Vector J Delvecchio

908-335-1135 NJ Holmdel
KDF BBS Ken Morgan
 This is an all audience BBS.
 W 19 VO 11+ 1

908-521-1357 NJ Monroe Twp
Eagle's Nest Neal Newnan
 Wildlife conservation general.
 B 19 D 270+ 5 3

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 W 19 FV 5 1

908-572-5762
DataLand! BBS Rick Young

908-572-7490 NJ Edison
ADAMSCOM Mark Adams
 Computer professionals online.
 W 99 V 10 5 7

908-632-9703 NJ Edison
USBBS -TBBS Peter Eskow
 FamilyBBS/files/messages/games.
 T 09 FV 14+ 5 1

908-753-6784 NJ N.Plainfield
The Other Side Jeff Groth
 Something for everyone.
 B 99 F 10+ 1

908-888-2158 NJ Holmdel
KDF Ken Morgan
 WIDE variety for every need.
 W 19 VO 11+ 1

909-626-1054 CA Claremont
Zone Twixt Bars S. Campden-Main
 Technical issues. OS/2, DOS.
 R 09 VF 5 1

909-785-4586 CA Norco
In His Service Lucky Hughes
 Christian files, CalvaryNet.
 F 19 D 4 2

909-797-3135
CyberCulture Todd Novak

909-924-9693 CA Moreno Valley
Armour o Light D. Klingelberg
 Christian files, CalvaryNet.
 F 19 D 3 1

909-925-9564
The Ouija! Board Keith Burgner

909-947-2278 CA Ontario
The Berean Univ John Carter
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 V 19 D 3 1

909-948-9967 CA Alta Loma
Christian Conn Brent Griffith
 Christian, CalvaryNet.
 W 09 VB 5 1

910-292-1979 NC Greensboro
The Billboard Bill Bailey
 Computer professional/hobbyist.
 W 19 V 10+ 2 3

910-579-1672 NC Calabash
LoOnEy BiN! Pat Finnerty
 General System.
 Q 19 FD 7+ 1 1

910-591-8512 NC Germantown
N State Online Gary Dudley
 The information scenic route.
 W 29 D 2+ 1 3

910-595-8073 NC Walkertown
PC-Motorsports Ronald Conrad
 Motorsports, NASCAR, Race.gif.
 W 29 DF 14+ 1 1

910-659-0576 NC WinstnSalem
PC Addict Jim Ribet
 OS/2, Linux, messages.
 O 19 FV 600 1 1

910-659-9121 NC WinstnSalem
PC Solution Jeff Moen
 OS/2, PC service & support.
 B 29 FV 54+ 2 3

The A-List

912-236-0083 GA Savannah
Wildd Cardd Orvel Schrum
 General family & community.
 M 29 FV 12+ 6 F

912-328-9935 GA Warner Robn
Kitty's Cafe! M. Mendez
 Online advertising/business.
 W 29 F 14+ 150 \$ B

912-474-8010 GA Macon
Online Macon Chris Coggins
 True Windows, games, chat, I-net.
 M 29 FV 7 12 \$ 3

912-538-7950 GA Vidalia
Cornerstone Michael Brazell
 General purpose small town.
 W 29 F 11+ 1 \$

913-784-7171
The Publishing Mike Robinson

914-426-0729
Mirage Network Brian Buffell

914-472-0779 NY Eastchester
EastNet Mark McCarthy
 Internet access, politics.
 I 29 V 10+ 1 1

914-477-0264 NY Greenwood
The Lake BBS Greg Wright
 Adult files, doors, and more.
 W 29 BV 13+ 2

914-528-4194 NY Mahopac
Computec BBS Rik Line
 Computer tech support, business.
 I 19 D 10 1

914-621-2865
Dark Side of Moon Peter Cacchioli

914-683-3788 NY Valhalla
Skywave One Larry Spinner
 Message oriented, ham radio.
 X 09 V 1 1

914-744-5085 NY Pine Bush
Farbys Funhouse Gary Farbman
 Education; based in a school.
 B 19 D 12+ 1 1

914-833-1479 NY Larchmont
Powerboard HQ Scott Brown
 Powerboard BBS software.
 X 09 D 3 2 1

914-835-2373 NY Harrison
Brentwood Guy Cappello
 75 online doors.
 B 19 FD 14+ 12 \$ 3

916-247-1232 CA Redding
EBS MSystems Bruce Knapton
 File distribution system.
 B 09 VF 253 10 \$

916-332-4217 CA Sacramento
Sleepy Hollow Chuck Sinclair
 Visual programming.
 X 29 V 5+ 1

916-534-5329 CA Oroville
TDEC West BBS John Young
 Email, games, technical.
 I 29 D 16+ 2

916-585-2281
Golden State Gregory Smith

916-635-4157 CA Sacramento
VacationTravel Ron Ablang
 Adult files.
 Q 09 FO 5 1 \$

916-739-8044 CA Sacramento
Mr. Boogey's Richard Epling
 Games, files, messages.
 F 09 V 2 1

916-889-8410 CA Auburn
T.S.BBS.Around Jon Anderson
 General.
 I 19 V 1 1

916-929-7511 CA Sacramento
BOBSBBS Bob Breedlove
 Home of USBBS List.
 X 09 F 2 1

916-966-3115 CA Fair Oaks
Boater's Mktpl Dale Gilbert
 Boating & watersports.
 M 09 B 3 2

918-272-7779
Black Gold BBS Michael Cline

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* = New since last revision

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| Access Nevada spillway.accessnv.com | 199.2.253.3 |
| ACE InfoSystems aceinfo.com | 199.190.76.2 |
| AdeptXBBS adeptsoft.gate.net | 199.227.57.1 |
| Advanced Data Services BBS bbs.adsinc.com | 199.190.70.3 |
| AECNET™ aecnet.com | 204.89.131.100 |
| After Hourz BBS ahbqs.com | 204.134.204.10 |
| Afterimage Information Matrix aim.novasys.com | 204.178.181.2 |
| Aladdins Palace aladdin.bc.ca | 204.174.112.253 |
| Albuquerque ROS abq-ros.com | 204.68.29.244 |
| Alien's SpaceShip BBS Aliens.com | 199.190.82.2 |
| Almac BBS almac.co.uk | 193.114.248.81 |
| Amateur Radio INTERNET BBS wb3ffv1.sed.csc.com | 206.42.80.130 |
| America's Suggestion Box asb.com | 165.254.128.1 |
| Anarchy Online anarchy-online.com | 199.1.91.250 |

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http://dkeep.com/sbi.htm
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login: anonymous
gcomm.com (in /internet)
login: anonymous
ftp.rahul.net (in pub/wco)
login: ftp

Finger:
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(Information about the SBI List)
sbiq@dkeep.com
("Quick" Guide to Select BBS's on Internet)
sbi-info@dkeep.com
(Revision Information for current list)
sbi-sysop@dkeep.com
(How to Become a Part of the SBI list)

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| The Annex! annex.com | 204.74.67.1 |
| Another World™ awol.com | 204.160.88.13 |
| AOP BBS | 198.232.144.101 |
| Appraisal Professional Online apo.com | 199.172.5.2 |
| Aquila BBS aquila.com | 204.95.88.5 |
| Arizona InterActive Systems azi.com | 199.190.114.2 |
| AstroBBS astrobbs.com | 204.215.32.26 |
| The Atlanta Windows BBS bbs.atlwin.com | 155.229.44.2 |
| Atlantis BBS atlantis-bbs.com | 199.4.124.69 |

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| Brainstorm BBS bstorm.bgs.com | 198.84.216.1 |
| Bryant Software bryant.com | 199.45.158.193 |
| Canned Ham Bulletin Board anarky.tch.org | 199.173.177.250 |
| Caribbean Online Network for Info | 204.183.157.10 |
| CCS World ccsnet.com | 199.172.47.2 |
| *Cedarnet Online Free access to all long distance Telnet callers. bbs.cedarnet.com | 205.148.200.3 |
| Cetys BBS cetysbbs.mxl.cetys.mx | 158.122.1.9 |
| CHANNEL 1® bbs.channel1.com | 204.96.33.5 |



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| Austin Clubhouse BBS club.fc.net | 198.6.198.98 |
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| Cinci-Net cinci.net | 199.6.38.4 |
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| Cleveland's Worldnet worldnetoh.com | 204.248.180.53 |
| Close Encounters Adult Close.packet.net | 199.1.77.17 |
| Closer to Home BBS closer.brisnet.org.au | 203.4.149.97 |
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| Club BBS club.gdl.iteso.mx | 148.201.1.18 |
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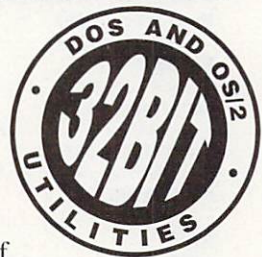
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BOOK SHELF

Networking Personal Computers with TCP/IP

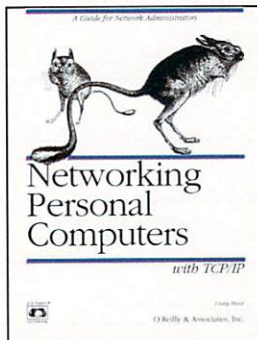
by Craig Hunt
\$29.95, 408 pages

The challenges of TCP/IP networking are formidable indeed. Perhaps few know that better than Craig Hunt, a 20-year computer veteran now with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. His book *Networking Personal Computers with TCP/IP*

(O'Reilly & Associates) advises on how to deal with the challenges of TCP/IP networking and so-called networking islands.

The book offers basic TCP/IP configuration information for the more popular operating systems and addresses advanced configuration topics and configuration of specific applications such as email, remote printing, and file sharing.

Specifically, *Networking Personal Computers* looks at how to reduce problems PCs can cause for network administration; tools to help a network administrator support PCs; detailed examples of TCP/IP configuration under DOS, Windows, Windows NT, Windows 95 and Novell Netware; alternatives to custom, system-by-system configuration, including techniques for using tools such as RARP, BOOTP and



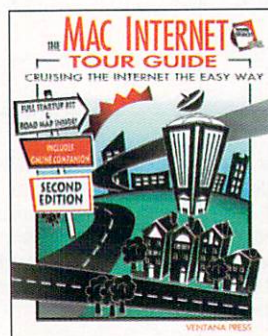
DHCP; configuration of the Post Office Protocol (POP) servers and clients that allow PC users to receive email directly at their desktops; and, configuration of file sharing and printer sharing.

The Mac Internet Tour Guide

Cruising the Internet the Easy Way
by Michael Fraase
\$29.99, 391 pages

When I signed up for an Internet account through my local provider, I assumed I would be mailed a start up kit with all the software I needed to lose myself for hours on the net. Instead, I got a fax of a tenth-generation xerox of a logon script to type, and smudgy instructions on how to configure InterSLIP, MacPPP and MacTCP (had to find them on my own) to make my connection. Eventually the sign-on procedure worked, and I sat there facing a window that simply said "Connected." Okay, now what?

Michael Fraase's *Mac Internet Tour Guide* (Ventana Press) points Mac users in the right direction and provides the software in which to drive away. Bundled shareware like Eudora, Mosaic, Fetch and InterSLIP, and Apple's essential control panel, MacTCP, will take care of all your mail, browsing, file



transfer and connectivity needs. It's probably worth the price of admission just to avoid the hassle of collecting all the bits and pieces necessary to use the Internet. But don't stop at the software; the text has much to offer. Fraase explains the Internet using colorful metaphors — enjoyable reading of a pretty technical subject. (For some reason, Ventana neglected to give this worthy writer a byline on the cover.)

The *Tour Guide* covers a full range of subjects, including the various transfer protocols, newsgroups, email and the WWW. A good chunk of the book lists hot spots on the Internet, and although this type of information can quickly go out of date, it nevertheless makes a good point of departure. ■■■■

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Cheesy commercial allusions aside, the opportunity to come face to face (or face to back) with any of the above representations — plus a few more — is at the heart of Worlds Chat, which Worlds Inc. bills as the first ever 3-D chat program.

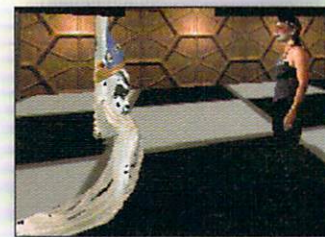
The program is intended to revolutionize the way you spend your precious time online. Now, instead of just typing to strangers, you can type to strangers while looking at how they see themselves via Digital Actors, or “avatars.” (More on the avatars later.)

The main selling point of Worlds Chat (at least at the moment) is the environment. Instead of staring at a plain text screen, you are surrounded by a sci-fi extravaganza (Could the preponderance of Trekkers online have anything to do with this?) When you first arrive, you are unceremoniously plopped into a portrait gallery that bears an almost litigious resemblance to Disneyland’s Haunted House ride... except this place has lights.

Each portrait is a straight-on view of the various avatars from which participants can choose. In addition to the mentioned avatars, participants may appear as a poorly-drawn (IMHO) Teddy bear, a punk rock goddess that resembles one of the chicks in the old Flock of Seagulls videos, a giant floating head (female), or a variety of pretty tame “business people.”

During my repeated visits, the penguin, chess pieces, and Flock of Seagulls chicks seemed to be the most prominent. I’ve yet to encounter anyone that has chosen the “just-left-my-accounting-job” look.

I chose the penguin, just to see how long it would take for someone to begin a conversation with “Hey! You look just like me!” — the one phrase guaranteed to trigger the ultimate Worlds Chat slam (zzzzzz).



I was pleasantly surprised to discover that not only did the other penguins avoid this particular line, but there were quite a few BBSers to be found. Within a few minutes of my BBS inquiries, I was bombarded with five BBS numbers and several messages from folks who said they ran (or used to run) a BBS service. Not only could they talk the talk, they walked the walk — these people knew what they were doing.

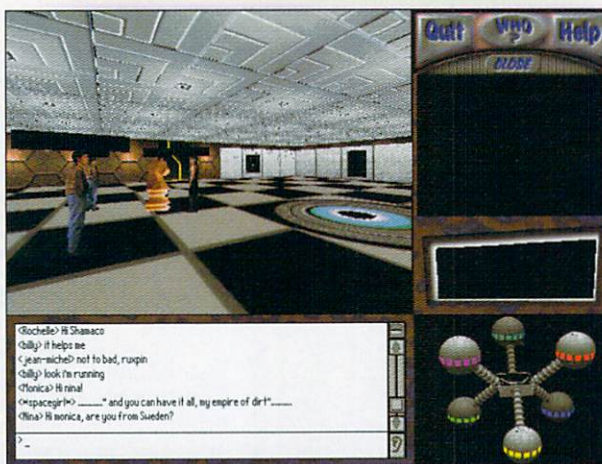
We chatted for several minutes about the logistics of BBSing — a far cry from my previous experiences of chatting in cyberspace, which usually consisted of “Hey, is anyone here from Dubuque?” and yes, the occasional, “Are you a girl?” (I dunno, let me check... uh, yep.) For this alone, I would highly recommend Worlds Chat to anyone interested in BBSs. I have had no problem finding others who share the faith (or the interest).

Here is what you need to become your own penguin :

- A 486/50 or higher (recommended) IBM-compatible equipped with Windows, at least 8 megs of RAM, and 256 colors (a Macintosh version should be available by the time you read this);
- A TCP/IP connection (SLIP or PPP; some commercial online services do not offer this yet); and

- A 16-bit sound card is recommended, but not necessary. The program will play without sound.

The version of Worlds Chat I used was purely text-based, which took away from the overall effect. I spent so much time trying to keep up with the various (written) conversations that I never moved around. At one point, a fellow chatter sent me a private message reminding me that it was rather pointless to stand still when this was all about 3-D chats. The idea is to face someone as you speak (you cannot see yourself). However, I found it difficult to move around



and keep up the conversations.

Half the time, I wasn’t even sure who I was talking to, much less what (if anyone knows the significance of the floating oriental head, please let me know). After a certain point, I found the avatars more distracting than anything else.

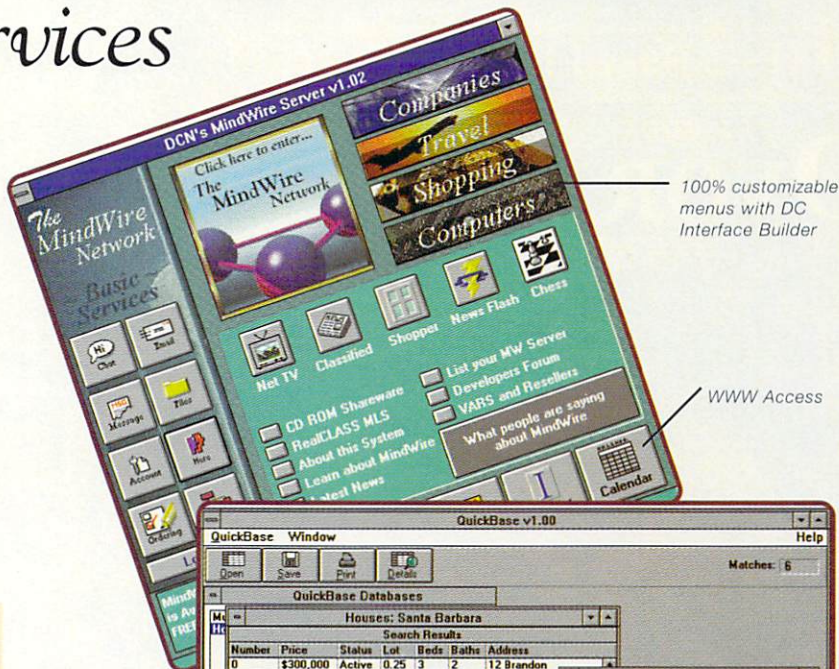
Worlds Inc. plans to add spoken text capabilities to the later versions of Worlds Chat. To check the company’s progress, or to download the latest version, visit the company’s World Wide Web site at: <http://www.worlds.net/>. The program is freeware, for now.

And while you’re there, be sure to sign up to get a copy of the Worlds Fair software, which will have so much real estate it’s shipping on CD-ROM. The fair, which will be conducted entirely on the Internet using a Worlds Chat environment, is set to begin at the end of the year. ■■■■■

You can reach Jacqui Kramer at reeltime@omni.voicenet.com.

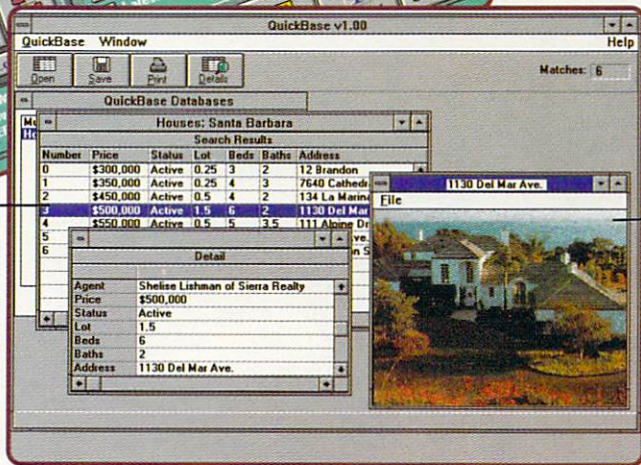
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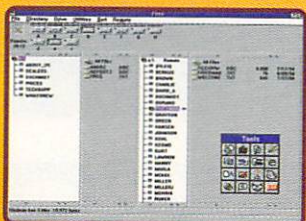
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