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BBS

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SERVICES
MAGAZINE

March 1996

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the Internet Grab

Making
Friends in
AlphaWorld

bbs.notebook

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Gets
Netted**

**AT&T, MCI
and Sprint
prepare
to do battle
for your
online time**



Worldgroup on a Budget

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this over the Internet?!!

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



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

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

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BORED?

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BOARD!

Choose **Excalibur** BBS, the original bulletin board system for Windows, and you can give up caffeine for good. You'll get all the stimulation you can handle



from the accelerated bi-directional protocol that lets you upload, download, chat, play games, pat

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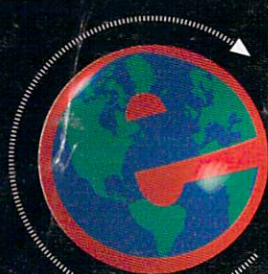
from our Application Programming Interface (API). It lets

you create everything from Internet gateways and

databases to shopping malls, interactive games and more.

You can listen to the experts: *Windows Magazine* named Excalibur BBS to its 1995 Win 100, and *BBS Magazine* said our graphics "make the likes of America Online pale." Or you can listen to other users: more of them operate Excalibur than any other graphical bulletin board system.

All of them will tell you the only way to really stay wired is to modem in to Excalibur at **918.496.8113** or call toll free 800 excal.bbs. Get it today. And get your Z's somewhere else.



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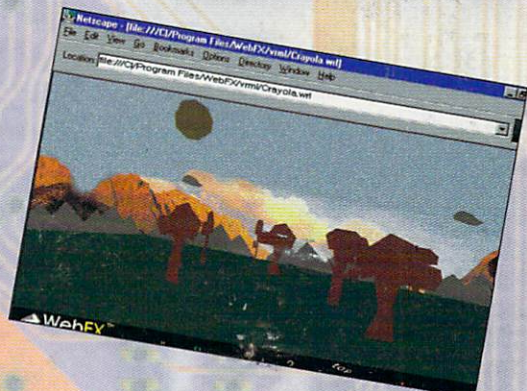
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readme_{got}txt

WHO You GONNA DIAL?

Seems it takes a lot these days to stir sleeping giants.

After the World-Wide Web experienced the most glamorous honeymoon the media has bestowed since the birth of the U.S. space program, the major American long distance telephone companies have decided to dip more than their toes into the sea of Internet providers. Now begins the hum of moneyed marketing machines and the televised promises that network connectivity via the big telcos will make your life, the lives of your kids — even grandpa Joe's existence — a little better.

And maybe it will. But what about all the Internet Providers (ISPs) already out there battling for your bucks? Can they compete?

The short answer is, "Of course they can." That is, as long they as remember that all anybody really wants is service. Good, quick, pleasant service. (It is their middle name, after all.)

Jacqui Kramer, who wrote about Netscape Communications in February, takes a close look at the whole picture and reveals on page 14 what AT&T, MCI, Sprint and others are planning for your Net journey in 1996 and beyond.

Whether it's via AT&T or your local ISP, Web sites and bulletin board services will continue offering more and more multimedia — images, sound and motion pictures. But before that can happen something's got to be done

about the lethargic rate at which this media goes from their servers to your PC. Lots of things are in the works, not the least of which is the advancement in compression technologies. One company has come up with a way to squeeze together images and sound into tiny packages for swift delivery across the networks. And though Johnson-Grace is only one of many working in the field, their ART Press software (page 13) has already grabbed plenty of attention, and it could be a way of further prying open the bottleneck.

Another way to speed things up is with a faster modem, of course. But what if you've already shelled out for the top 28.8 and still are suffering from a chronic case of the Lags? Rich Santalesa (internet://with.ease, page 36) has a few

tips for Mac and Windows users on boosting the baud.

Also in this issue Tess Heder (Ask Tess, page 43) offers an answer to the perennial question: "How do I make my BBS succeed?" And Lazlow Jones (Technoraves, page 22) recounts more tales of woe from computerland.

As always there's plenty more on the pages between, but if you think we erred in overlooking something you're sure ought to be covered, send your beef to the Complaints Department (uh, that would be to my address, right there below).

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COMPUTONE Corporation

The IntelliServer is an expandable asynchronous communications server that combines the functionality of a high-performance terminal server with the extended communications capabilities of an Internet access device. It can be connected directly to a TCP/IP Ethernet LAN, and requires no special operating system device drivers. It is actually a compact, self-contained RISC workstation complete with 20MHz MIPS-R3000 compatible CPU, 2-4 MB of RAM, resident multi-tasking operating system, and menu driven interface. The IntelliServer has an impressive list of security and configuration features. Users can be automatically logged onto a specific host, offered a menu of host connections, or given access to the menu and shell. If desired, passwords can be defined for specific users and for administrators. IntelliServer's standard feature list includes full PPP, SLIP, and CSLIP support permitting IP devices to be connected over RS-232 serial ports at up to 200Kbps. This offers an ideal solution for sites that wish to implement cost-effective remote access, Internet access, and LAN-to-LAN connectivity. Each 16 port IntelliServer can be expanded using low cost 8-port and 16-port expansion modules. A single IntelliServer can support 64 physical ports, and up to 32 PPP/SLIP connections. These are ideal to run in conjunction with MajorBBS and Worldgroup by bringing in all users in via TCP/IP. This does not have the load normally associated with polling modems at high speeds.

Please call for pricing, configurations and availability.

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Worldgroup on a Budget

Yeah, Worldgroup looks cool. But who wants to shell out that much on looks alone before at least kicking the tires?

Perhaps realizing the potential dilemma, Galacticomm, maker of the hugely popular Worldgroup client/server software, introduced Worldgroup Starter, an abridged version of the original.

Galacticomm says the Worldgroup Starter is targeted at those wanting to try out the program's features before upgrading to a full-fledged system. The two-user Worldgroup Starter product includes e-mail, group discussion areas, file libraries, teleconferencing, surveys and more. Worldgroup Starter is offered for \$99 through March 31. (Upgrade within six months of your purchase date and Galacticomm will credit \$99 toward the Worldgroup eight-user baseline or Worldgroup Internet Server.)

Configuration files from the Worldgroup Starter environment will remain intact.

"After having tried the Worldgroup Starter, we expect that many customers will upgrade," says Galacticomm Vice President of Marketing Linda Haury. "Customers can upgrade easily to the Worldgroup eight-user baseline package for more simultaneous users and fuller functionality. For Internet access and services, customers can upgrade to the Worldgroup Internet Server to provide a gateway to and from the Internet, launch a professional-looking Web page

NEWS

and provide an online service or workgroup environment."

Worldgroup Starter supports two doors to other computers and 10 Dynamic Link Libraries for add-on applications. Customers get 30 days of free technical support (from their first phone call).

For more information, call 800.328.1128 or check the Web at www.gcomm.com.

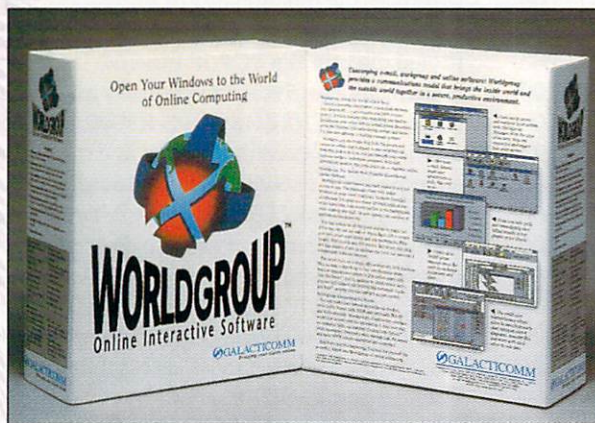
"I want to assure them [sysops] that we will continue our DOS development through the balance of 1996," said Jim Harrer, president and CEO of Mustang. "As long as there is a demand for the DOS versions of Wildcat!, Mustang Software will continue to update and improve them."

A key new feature in version 4.12 is the method of networking multiple Wildcat! DOS systems called wcNET. Now, everything needed to synchronize messages and files between two or more 4.12 BBSs is built into the basic Wildcat! package. Previously, automating the process of sharing messages and files between multiple systems required complex scripting or third-party networking software. With wcNET, no external scripting or terminal software is required to transfer files and messages between two 4.12 systems.

Other new elements include:

- Support for organizing message conferences allowing sysops to group conference presentations on their BBS, thereby offering a more usable interface. Callers can now easily search the list of conferences to find those of interest to them.

- Improved handling of CD-ROM juke boxes. Callers can now lock specific paths on a device for copying files. This



Wildcat! for DOS Continues with 4.12

Mustang Software, Inc. in December shipped an update to the Wildcat! BBS software for DOS, and in so doing likely reassured sysops that the company was not abandoning the standard version for its new client/server 5.0.

WIRF

allows sysops with changers that support accessing multiple disks through one drive letter to still lock access on a disk-by-disk basis.

- Optimization for OS/2 for sysops wanting the improved performance. According to Mustang, "the fine-tuning efforts for top performance with OS/2 Warp 3.0 surpassed all goals, encouraging team leaders to switch the v4.12 demo board to OS/2 on a full-time basis."

Other improvements to the DOS product include support for extended Caller-ID strings and highlighting the search keys when displaying file search results.

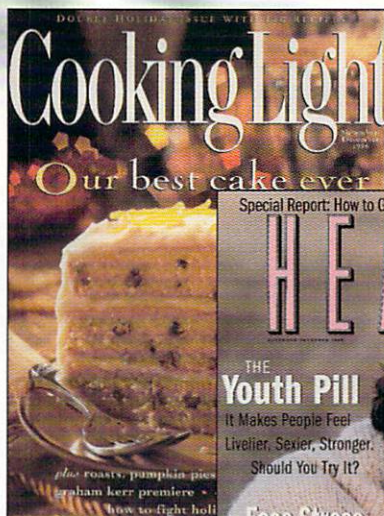
Current Mustang "Auto-Update Plan" subscribers (\$50/yr) will receive the update free. Existing owners of Wildcat! v4.0 or newer may purchase the update direct from Mustang for \$30; earlier Wildcat! version owners can have it for \$50.

For more information contact Mustang at 805.873.2500 or 800.999.9619. The BBS is 805.873.2400. Reach them on the Web at www.mustang.com.

Time for Health

Looks like Time, Inc. and America Online are banding together for your health.

The two are planning a joint,



50-50 venture to develop a new "interactive health and fitness computer online service."

Scheduled to hit early this year, the service is planned for Pathfinder, Time Inc.'s Web site and the America Online service.

According to AOL, the new health and fitness service will be programmed similarly to a demographically-targeted television or cable channel but will also reflect the interactive qualities of an online environment.

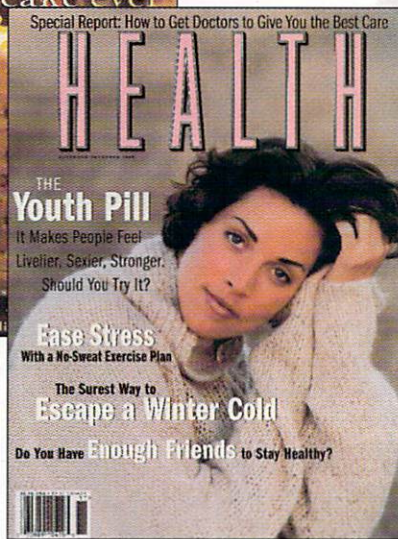
So what's on?

Well, says AOL, look for the most complete information on health, fitness, food and nutrition. The content is scheduled to

be original — online forums and virtual workshops — and will offer access to health care experts and support groups.

"Along with our partners from America Online, we fully expect to develop a compelling consumer experience and become the programming guide of choice for individuals and families as they develop their own healthy lifestyles," said Teymour Boutros-Ghali, an executive with Time Inc., which holds such titles as *Health*, *Cooking Light*, *Southern Living*, *Sunset* and *Martha Stewart Living*.

Look for the service to eventually expand to market segments like health care organizations and their memberships, and other platforms like CD-ROM and via cable-modem.



Microsoft Eyes the Net

Microsoft's Bill Gates in December shed light on his company's specific plans for the future, revealing an expected drive toward PC/Internet integration and major changes for the Microsoft Network.

"The Internet revolution creates enormous opportunities," Gates said. "We see one of our key roles as providing integration and continuity between the PC and the Internet so cus-

CONTINUES...

tomers can leverage their existing investments in PCs and take advantage of new investments in the Internet. Users want the rich experience of the PC combined with the connectivity of the Internet..."

Gates said he also sees "opportunities for making the Internet better and providing rich new content incorporating multimedia, 3-D and intelligent assistance."

The chairman said Microsoft is investing company-wide for the long term: "I think most people are going to be surprised at the depth and breadth of our commitment to integrate the Internet into our products."

Gates also spoke of one of the

latest buzzwords, "Intranet," saying businesses will adopt the Internet for internal business use for communication with employees, suppliers and customers, and that Intranet applications will likely emerge faster than those for the general consumer market.

Microsoft said it's making Intranet business solutions a focus of its products and strategies — Windows 95 and NT, and Microsoft Office.

Demonstrated at a briefing in Seattle were over 20 products and technologies, ranging from an integrated World Wide Web browser for the Windows 95 operating system and Internet-based business applications to

interactive Internet consumer games. Many of the new products and features are expected to be available within the first quarter; the rest are scheduled to be available within the next nine months, said Microsoft.

Some of what Microsoft has been up to lately includes a letter of intent to use the Java programming language and JavaScript as part of its Web browser; the shipping of a beta version of the Internet Explorer browser; the introduction of ActiveVRML (3-D animation); WebView, which will apparently turn your Windows 95 desktop into what looks like a Web page; and, a joint announcement with Spyglass over cross-platform

Internet technologies.

Look for the Microsoft Network to undergo some significant changes as well. Following on the heels of leaders in the BBS field, MSN will be wired for TCP/IP and use HTML, which means Web surfers will be able to access the service with a browser.

Line Interruptions No More

So you're about finished downloading that incredible game you've been hearing about, the one that just cost you an hour's time online, and "click" — someone picks up the extension and starts dialing, effectively blowing the download. Suddenly that extra \$10 for another line doesn't sound so bad, huh? Well, then

Offline

by John Baynham



Sysop-Telco Battle Down Under

Sysops in Australia are waging a battle against Telstra Corporation, Ltd., the principal telephone company in Australia, after receiving notice that their telephone line rental rates would be increased by 96% as of Feb. 1, 1996. Telstra, which recently launched their own Internet Service, "On Australia," changed their Basic Carriage Service Tariff to include all bulletin board systems in the same category as "Information Service Providers." The change in the tariff allowed the company to change the billing status of part-time and hobbyist boards

from residential to business rates. The current "residential rate" sysops pay is \$139.80 a year per phone line, which would be increased to \$274.80 per year under the business rates. BBS callers also pay for their BBSing, as local calls are 25 cents each, billed through Telstra.

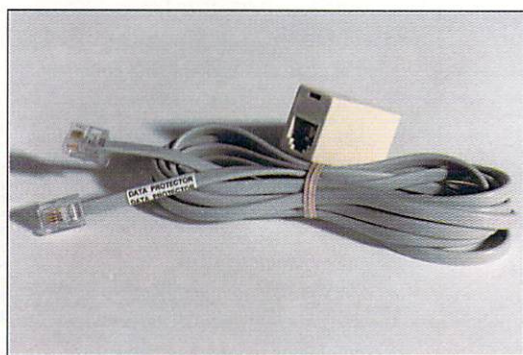
Sysops whose boards were listed in the Australian Bulletin Board Registry received a registered letter from Telstra informing them of the rate change. The "Registry" as it is known, is a voluntary listing created ten

years ago and maintained to resolve the problem of obsolete BBS lists in Australia and currently lists over a thousand active boards. The Registry is published on a monthly basis in Australia's Fidonet's BBS_News conference, and two magazines, *Australian PC* and *Your Computer*, also publish monthly updates of the list.

Frustrated and angry sysops responded both online and off by using Telstra's only competitor, Optus, for local and STD calls, and organizing a petition to protest the

actions taken by Telstra. The major complaint is that the majority of BBSs are hobbyist in nature and shouldn't be considered businesses. Other complaints are over the use of the BBS Registry, and that AUSTEL (the Australian Telecommunications Authority) hadn't been consulted before Telstra initiated its decision. AUSTEL is the government telecommunications watchdog, similar to the FCC in the United States. Currently, Telstra is reviewing their decision and may limit the increase in costs to only multiple-line BBS systems.

— by Gaelyne Moranec



neither should Data Protector from Dalco Products.

Place the Data Protector line cords on the trouble-making extensions and they are simply blocked out of access. This will prevent eavesdropping during voice calls, too.

The Data Protector goes for \$16.95 with discounts on the purchase of more than three.

For more information contact Dalco Products in Roberts, WI at 715.749.0160.

What's POP-ing at ExecNet

Saying it's something "long overdue for ExecNet," ExecNet BBS/ISP President Andy Keeves is establishing

two POPs (Points of Presence) serving five New York City boroughs in an effort to reduce regional customers' telephone bills.

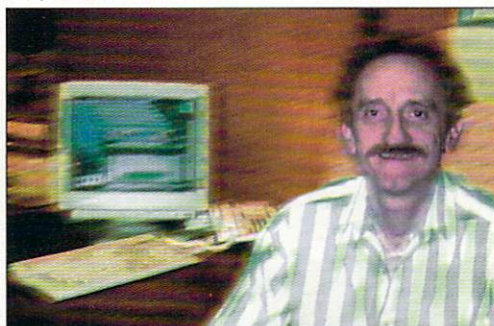
The POPs will allow ExecNet callers to access the global information of the Net and the local content the online service with a local call.

Keeves' move — though not the first by a BBS sysop — indicates the continuing shift by sysops toward expanding "local" callership beyond the standard range of a regular local call.

ExecNet charges a \$14.95 flat monthly rate for access to the BBS and 36 hours of Internet.

For more information, con-

Andy Keeves



tact ExecNet at 914.667.2150 or call the service at 914.667.4567. For details on availability of the POPs, send email to support@execnet.com.

Automating the Office

Small company or large, keeping track of who's where is always a hassle. Unless you know about Who's Where.

That's "Who's Where" from Core Technology Corp., developers of this new office automation software that lets everyone in the office know when Jim's out to lunch, Cindy's on a coffee break and when Bob's meeting with Mr. Topman again about that raise.

Working over DOS, Windows, NT, Workgroups and Windows 95, the system operates through LANs and WANs with NetBIOS or IPX network protocols — the latest version includes integration with standard email packages and TCP/IP protocol support.

A component of Core Tech's Core Suite of soft-

CONTINUES...

Who's Where							
File Edit View Configure Help							
Group: >> ALL << <input type="checkbox"/> Busy							
Actions				Quick Status			
Send		Notes		Info		News	
In		Out		Lunch		Meeting	
Phone							
Core Technology Corporation							
Ext	Name	In	Status	Out	Available	Date	Job Title
17	Amy H	Yes	In - on Phone			08/21/95	Marketing Represent
16	Anand	No	Out	12:13 PM	01:00 PM	08/21/95	Director Prod Develop
38	Ben	No	@ Printer	11:30 AM	02:00 PM	08/21/95	Software Engineer
37	Bill	Yes	Meeting	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	08/21/95	Software Engineer
15	Bob	Yes	Meeting	11:00 AM	02:30 PM	08/21/95	President & CEO
29	Chris	No	Out - Doctor	11:53 AM	02:30 PM	08/21/95	Book Keeper
27	Dave	No	Vacation until 9/8/95	05:10 PM		08/18/95	Senior V.P.
46	Ervan	Yes	In			08/21/95	Account Representati
10	Front Desk	Yes	In			08/21/95	Receptionist
44	Gabriel	Yes	Meeting w/ Customer	12:12 PM	03:45 PM	08/21/95	Account Representati
26	Jane	No	Vacation	12:02 PM		08/18/95	Product Fulfillment
18	Jerry	Yes	In - Leave Voice Mail			08/21/95	Software Engineer

Click on the drop down arrow to make changes. User: Sam 08/21/95 12:14 PM

ware, Who's Where offers a sort of birds-eye view of your organization, staff and resources. Fellow employees can even fire up live chat among themselves so communication can continue during ongoing voice phone calls — no more waiting for your cohorts to get off those unending calls.

The software even works with Microsoft Mail and Microsoft Schedule.

Prices range from \$395 (10-user) to \$20,000 (5,000 users).

For further information, contact the Michigan-based Core Technology at 517.627.1521, browse the Web site at www.ctc-core.com, or email sale@ctc-core.com.

Raise Spinnaker, Sail the Web

The BBS software developer Searchlight Software has brought to beta its new Web software called Spinnaker, which marries the standards in Web site functionality and the versatility of bulletin board services like conferencing and file libraries.

Since the conferencing and library modules use the same file formats as the Searchlight BBS software, the two can share data. That is, messages and files posted from either source are instantly visible to both the BBSers and those on the Web. Any Web

browser can be used.

Searchlight, which actually debuted the product as "Project Odessa" in August of last year, joins a growing collection of entities bringing BBS functionality to the Web: the groundbreaking Web BBS from Software Creations, WebBoard from Duke Engineering/O'Reilly, and Sun Microsystems' Java and its Applets, among other BBS software developers.

"The opening of this site marks a new era for our customers," said Frank LaRosa, Searchlight president, of the home site at www.searchlight.com.

"Resources that were once accessible only on our support BBS are now available through the

Internet via any Web browser..."

LaRosa said that surfers should look for email and a chat facility to be added soon.

Spinnaker is based on the scripting language "Dynamic HTML," allowing designers to use a variety of macros and conditional statements in building documents that change based on browser attributes, user profiles and other characteristics.

"Anyone who's designed Web pages knows that some Web browsers can display tables and some cannot," said Tim Rossiter, Searchlight vice president.

"Usually, designers make two versions of their page and offer the user different links to choose from. That's not only inconvenient, it's also error prone — not everyone knows which link is best for their browser."

On the other hand, with Dynamic HTML, authors can place two or more versions of an HTML statement in a single document — Spinnaker autodetects the browser type. This gives surfers the right code for their browser each time.

Spinnaker can also choose to display certain information to users based on their age, income, and yes, buying habits.

The application programs for Spinnaker are based on an open standard (available to third par-

In what has been called the most extensive popularity poll conducted to date, Web users voting in balloting sponsored by the online NewsLink resource (www.newslink.org) picked two broadcast network sites as their favorite news providers on the World Wide Web in 1995. Nearly a month of straw-poll voting by more than 10,000 Web users resulted in Cable News Network's CNN Interactive and USA Networks' CNet Central being selected as the number one and two news sites on the Internet respectively. Each garnered more than 10 percent of the vote overall, said NewsLink.

On their heels, each garnering between five and a half percent and nine percent of the vote, were three newspaper sites: USA

CNN, CNet Voted Best News Sites on Web

Today, the Boston Globe's Boston.Com and the Raleigh (N.C.) News & Observer's pioneering NandDO Times.

Finishing sixth in the balloting was Wired magazine's HotWired. No other site received more than four percent of the vote.

The complete list of winners and vote totals, with hyperlinks to each of the winning publications, is available online at www.newslink.org/vote.html.

"With broadcasters, newspapers and magazines all represented among the top six sites, the Web clearly has established itself as a unique new communications form," said NewsLink publisher Eric Meyer, author of the online

research report "Tomorrow's News Today." "What we see in each of the winning sites is a strong sense of identity and mission. Readers visiting each of them knows exactly what to expect, and the sites invariably deliver on their promises." Two services with British ties finished next in the balloting. The Electronic Telegraph, the online edition of a London newspaper, and Reuters NewMedia, the online version of the British-headquartered news agency, were seventh and eighth.

The New York Times TimesFax, a downloadable fax paper composed in Adobe Acrobat, came in ninth, and the

groundbreaking Mercury Center Web site of the San Jose Mercury-News finished 10th. The second 10 were, in order: Money and Investing Update from the Wall Street Journal, U.S. News Online, ESPN SportsZone, Philadelphia Online by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Time Daily and Path Finder from Time-Warner, ZDNet from Ziff-Davis Publishing, the Houston Chronicle Interactive, The Gate from the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle, the Globe and Mail from Toronto and the site created by the Detroit News in response to a labor dispute last summer.

Voters were allowed to choose among 25 sites, which had finished highest in previous scientific surveys, or select other favorites by writing them in.

Nearly 100 other sites were nominated by voters. None finished within the top 25, but several were not far behind. Leading this group were sites operated by Real Audio, Suck magazine, CMP Publishing's TechWeb, React and the mainly emailed journal The American Reporter.

NewsLink, which conducted the non-scientific straw poll for entertainment purposes only, contains links to more than 2,300 online newspapers, magazines, broadcast stations/affiliates and news services worldwide. NewsLink also offers scientific research and consulting services to online media. A free preview of its report, "Tomorrow's News Today," is available by sending e-mail to report@newslink.org.



ties), and are built around CGI-DLL — a programming interface that lets developers add, upgrade or modify application programs without replacing the Web server itself.

Spinnaker also supports the Win-CGI standard for compatibility reasons.

The beta test team, limited to

100, was already rolling in December and Jan. 15 was planned as an official release date.

The \$495 base product includes a Web server, a user profile and security database, conference, file and chat applications, a scripting language, and a game.

A complete database package will be released during the first quarter of 1996.

For more information contact Searchlight at 800.988.LITE.

BBSing 'Goes Voice'

So you're chatting with someone online and decide you want to go voice.

- Method 1: Exchange numbers, disconnect from the BBS and make the call — perhaps long distance.
- Method 2: Hit a couple keys, pick up your telephone and continue the chat — this time voice. Afterward, hang up the phone and you're back online.

Which would you choose?

Aside from a few quirks in the trial run, that's exactly how Cheersoft's Autopatch system works.

The hardware's on the sysop's

CONTINUES...

side — a unit that controls up to eight lines. The caller requires nothing but the ability to follow on-screen instructions.

The project is in early stages but should be shipping this spring. Check *BBS Magazine* next month for much more information.

Cheersoft can be reached at 908.591.1234, at the BBS: 908.591.1171, or www.cheersoft.com.

A Net Weekend

Old met new at the St. Louis Union Station in St. Louis, MO, last December as the historic train station/mall became the site of the first ever "Internet Weekend."



Sponsored by the St. Louis-based Internet provider Anet, the two-day event (Dec. 9-10) treated 5,000 from the public (on 11 wired computers) to their first taste of the Internet.

Anet said the event was held to show children and adults what's on the World Wide Web, and how it might be used for fun and profit. (We're pretty sure they signed up a few new users, to boot.)

One rancher traveled over 100 miles to find out how to sell horses over the Net.

Anet employees offered free,

on-the-spot training, and children were given the chance to email their Christmas "wish list" direct to Santa.

"We view this as a great opportunity to for people who have read and heard about the Internet to actually see it and try it," said Myron Lowry, president of Anet.

One of the PCs was hooked to what was dubbed the "world's largest Internet screen," a 12' x 18' structure visible from all over the station.

Lowry said the response exceeded expectations and indicated another Internet weekend might be on the horizon.

Anet can be reached at 314.653.2638 or on the Web at www.anet-stl.com.

RIP Update

TeleGrafix RIPaint-2 publishing software, based on the second generation of TeleGrafix's world-standard RIPscrip (Remote Imaging Protocol script), is being released after two years in development.

The RIP-2 technology brings tremendous speed to online graphics (including Web pages) by encoding them as hyper-compressed ASCII text files as small as one-tenth the size of other graphics formats.

The "WYSIWIG" multimedia

editor integrates JPEG photos, SVGA graphics, text and digital WAV sound into a single screen, supports 16.7 million colors, and can use Adobe and TrueType fonts.

It utilizes the device-independent bitmap (BMP/DIB) icon format to make screen images appear virtually identical when viewed on both PC and Macintosh computers.

Released as a DOS version, Windows and Macintosh versions of RIP-2 products were scheduled for release early this year, along with "plug-ins" for Netscape and other Internet browsers that will permit the viewing of RIP-2 multimedia on Web pages.

TeleGrafix said it will publish the RIP-2 multimedia language specification for use as an international online multimedia standard in the first quarter of 1996.

TeleGrafix also has released its new shareware RIPterm v2.2. multimedia communications software, a general-purpose communications program that also operates as an HTML-3 and Netscape-compliant Web browser when used with TeleGrafix's upcoming RIPweb technology. (RIPweb is designed to automatically translates HTML to RIP-2 "on the fly," and supports HTML-3, including tables, background images, text color and background color. More on this in an upcoming issue.)

A demonstration of RIP-2 multimedia can be viewed on TeleGrafix's Vector Sector BBS at 714.379.2133. RIPterm v2.2 and technical information can be downloaded there and at www.telegrafix.com. For more information call TeleGrafix at 714.379.2131.

RIPaint-2 goes for (US) \$199.95. Owners of RIPaint v1.54 (purchased after March 1, 1994) are eligible for a free upgrade to RIPaint-2 with electronic documentation.

Talking Pictures in a Flash

Johnson-Grace delivers it with ART

Passing images, sound and video over telephone lines, as any onliner knows, is simple. Doing it quickly is another matter entirely.

As for the ever-popular still images, many have long relied on the GIF and JPEG formats, simply tolerating the downside of lag and lack of colors. Short of wiring up a T1 line or at least ISDN (super-fast connections that even then don't necessarily speed decompression), there's been little anyone could do but wait out the download. Hey, art takes time.

Well, not anymore.

Online art might be getting a new name. And appropriately, it's "ART."

If you've been on America Online or eWorld you've seen ART-compressed files in action. Click an icon to retrieve an image and up pops a grainy representation of the picture. Then its details are filled in — and usually within a few seconds.

This proprietary technology is thanks to a company called Johnson-Grace, which now counts among its followers the Teachersoft browser in the InterGo product, GNNworks browser, Frontier Technologies browser and Netscape Navigator 2.0 (available as a plug-in).

The compression algorithms making this possible were created by Johnson-Grace engineers along with Dr. Irving Reed (known for his error-correcting codes in audio CDs), now an advisor at JG.

This technology includes several compression algorithms and a fuzzy logic engine which chooses among them depending on the type of image. This method produces tremendous compression ratios, indeed. JG suggests a 100:1 ratio in order to increase the speed of transmission.

The tool for doing all this is called ART Press, which allows online publishers to fiddle with and manipulate images and their compressions, and then "play back" the virtual download locally to see exactly what end-users

will see in the time they see it.

"ART Press is now widely available, enabling publishers to create more engaging online content," said Chris Grace, co-CEO of Johnson-Grace, who started the company with Harvard classmate Steve Johnson in 1992. "The ART technology dramatically improves image speed, the most common bottleneck for graphically rich content."

The latest release of ART Press (scheduled for March) is a simple program for the Windows and Mac platforms that lets the user compress images into its own ART format. Now they can be downloaded about three times faster than the same image compressed into a GIF or JPEG. Sound nice? It should, because JG has also included sound compression technology right into the software.

What this means is publishers can attach a sound to an image, and when the user goes to download, the compressed sound (music, narration) is decompressed and activated as the image appears.

Say you're putting up an online service for animal lovers. You've got photos of everything you might find in a zoo, including lions and tigers and bears. When a caller goes to look at the image down comes the splash screen and, simultaneously, a gnarling "roar!" as the image comes into focus.

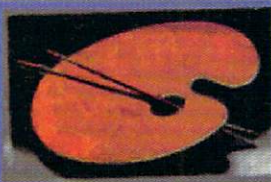
Which brings us to BBSs. All this seems a natural for implementation into bulletin board services, what with callers seeking more and better graphics (multimedia, for that matter) all the time. Neither is the point lost on JG, as they told *BBS Magazine* that the company is currently

looking into selling various BBS software developers on supporting it — Mustang Software, for instance, with its Wildcat BBS software, has licensed the technology.

Deals have been made in the Net world, too. JG is implementing ART images and sound support into Macromedia's Shockwave — the player

Hi-color Graphics (16- and 24-bit)

Graphic artwork requiring more than 256 colors.



GIF	ART	ART Advantage
Size: 15.6 KB	Size: 9.0 KB	1.73 : 1
Time: 10.4 sec	Time: 6.0 sec (Splash: 0.28 sec)	

Macromedia developed to play Director movies online — and early indications were that use of ART cuts the size of the movie by 50 percent.

The new ART Press is scheduled to hit the shelves this month, with a pro-

True-color Photographs (24-bit)

Photographic images that represent each pixel with one of 16 million colors.



JPEG	ART	ART Advantage
Size: 27.6 KB	Size: 3.7 KB	7.46 : 1
Time: 18.4 sec	Time: 2.5 sec (Splash: 0.28 sec)	

jected retail tag of around \$100.

For more information contact Johnson-Grace at 714.759.0700, or check the Web at www.jgc.com.

The Inter

1995 will be remembered by many as the year the sleeping giants woke up and smelled the Internet... and then decided to inhale deeply. The rumblings could be heard from the **Microsoft** temple in Redmond, Washington, to the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., and all points in between. It is hardly surprising, then, that everyone wants to find a way to tame the beast, therefore winning the hearts — and wallets — of **Internet** fans throughout North America and beyond.

There are two schools of thought concerning how to make a profit from the Internet. On one side are the content advocates who believe if you write it, they will come. On the other, perhaps more realistic end of the spectrum, are the Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Today, thousands of mom-and-pop operations compete with the big guns for bandwidth and bucks. Only a handful are likely to survive intact to see the turn of the century, however. In fact, many analysts predict that the big boys will systematically gobble up the weak between now and the year 2000, leaving only a handful of service providers to meet your Internet needs.

So who will win? Early word says the national ISPs are expected to dominate the marketplace by default. The online commercial service industry will most likely produce one, maybe two winners — the rest are expected to fold or follow the Microsoft Network and Apple Computer's eWorld to the World Wide Web. This leaves a handful of spots to be filled by a dark horse contender. And the company that wants it?

AT&T... and Sprint... and MCI Communications.

Yes, the U.S. long distance companies have once again set their collective phasers on kill, but this time the battlefield extends far beyond basic telephone services. All three companies are well-equipped to handle Internet traffic. AT&T, Sprint, and MCI all have offered data transmission services for years, and all three have extensive national (and, to varying extents, international) networks.

1996 is shaping up to be the year the interexchange carriers (IXCs) attempt to become major ISPs. MCI offers basic access through its internetMCI service, AT&T plans to debut full Internet service in the first quarter of this year, and Sprint most likely will announce Internet services by year's end. (Sprint already offers a major Internet backbone for other providers, but more on that later.)

All three companies have, in one form or another, claimed to be the heir apparent to the Internet. Is the Internet big enough for all three? Or will there be only one?

A look back

The current U.S. long distance market model is a mere decade old. From the beginning, AT&T enjoyed a monopoly over the U.S. telephone market. In the 1980s, an unknown U.S. firm

CONTINUES...

net Grab

A hand is shown from the left, firmly grasping a large, tangled mass of network cables. The cables are a mix of colors, including yellow, orange, and red, and some have RJ45 connectors visible. The background is a vibrant, abstract pattern of colors, primarily purple, pink, and blue, with a textured, almost painterly appearance. The overall lighting is warm, highlighting the hand and the cables.

Who
will
be
your
ISP?

By Jacqui Kramer

sued for the right to enter the long distance market in competition with AT&T. In 1986, U.S. Circuit Judge Harold Greene ruled in favor of the plaintiff, thus changing the face of telecommunications forever. In his ruling, dubbed the Modified Final Judgment of 1986, Judge Greene broke up AT&T into eight entities: seven Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) to serve the local telephone market, and AT&T, the long distance carrier. As for the plaintiff, it successfully broke into the interexchange market.

AT&T and MCI remain bitter rivals to this day.

The battle for dominance in the long distance market has led to a certain "tunnel vision" among the long-distance carriers. AT&T, MCI, and Sprint all recognize each other as potential enemies in various fields, including the Internet. When AT&T announced plans to build an Internet backbone last August, Sprint wasted no time in issuing a retort.

"We intend to maintain our number one position in the (Internet bandwidth) marketplace," said Robba Benjamin, president of Sprint's Multimedia and Strategic Services. "SprintLink gives us the clear advantage in developing and offering Internet-based services."

An advantage over the other IXCs, perhaps, but what about the other industries? In addition to the myriad companies that only offer Internet access, there are some darkhorse contenders entering the race. The cable industry's best and brightest are testing Internet delivery services through existing cable lines (see sidebar), while AT&T's own offspring, the Baby Bells, are considering a play for the Internet themselves.

It is too soon to predict which telephone companies, if any, will survive the ISP battles. One thing is certain, however: No one will emerge unbloodied. Herewith, a look at what the big three have planned for 1996.

AT&T

AT&T (<http://www.att.com/>) is the largest and most powerful of the top three service providers — hands down. It is also the best positioned to take on

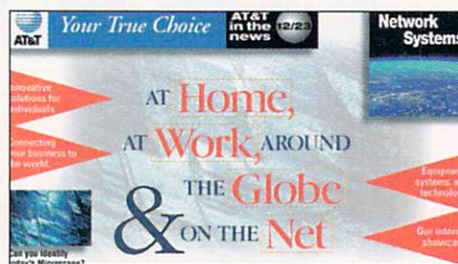
the ISP market. Although rival IXCs have eaten away at its long distance base over the years, AT&T has managed to retain more than 50 percent of the nation's consumer long distance business. AT&T also boasts phenomenal name recognition in the U.S. and throughout the world. AT&T officials are hopeful this global recognition factor will boost the company's various Internet pursuits.

Name recognition was not enough to save its short-lived online service, AT&T PersonalLink, which barely registered a blip on the online screen. AT&T has indicated it is abandoning the service in favor of Internet-based business and consumers services, including AT&T World Net and AT&T Easy World Wide Web Services.

The company introduced its AT&T Easy World Wide Web Services last November during the Comdex trade show, effectively announcing itself to the computer industry as a contender.

"AT&T wants to make the Web as valuable and easy to use for electronic commerce as an 800 number," said John Petrillo, president of AT&T Business Communications Services, during the Comdex announcement. "We're taking the pain out of having a Web site so that businesses can focus on serving their customers."

The new service, which is aimed at AT&T's 800-number customers, offers one-stop shopping for businesses, including Web page design service and access. AT&T also offers basic Webmaster training (e.g., design and



maintenance) for those who prefer to do it themselves. And 24-hour support is available for all AT&T Internet services.

AT&T's consumer-oriented service, AT&T WorldNet, will follow a hybrid model of basic SLIP/PPP service and

extra services à la the online services, like America Online and CompuServe. The extras will include the "McKinley Reader," a directory service; a search engine designed by Verity; and, a monthly Internet guide, "Exploration Station," to be designed and maintained by Harley Hahn, who authored the Internet Yellow Pages. In addition, AT&T will provide users with a special AT&T-licensed edition of the Netscape Web browser. (The service will be compatible with other browsers, as well.) AT&T's WorldNet Managed Internet Service also will be joined with the new service once it is underway.

Outside the U.S., AT&T offers dedicated Internet access in Australia, Hong Kong, and Japan. AT&T also offers Internet consulting services in Asia.



MCI Communications

MCI, (<http://www.internetmci.com/>) the second-largest U.S. long-distance company, was the first IXC to introduce Internet access through its internetMCI program. Like AT&T, MCI offers basic access service plus various extras that are more suited to an online service than the typical ISP. The company's internetMCI services include basic dial-up (all customers receive a dynamically assigned IP address) dedicated access (for linking LANs to WANs to the Internet), and direct connect (direct link to the MCI Internet Network via dedicated lines at speeds of between 9600 and T3 level). HyperStream Frame Relay (between 56K bps and T1 level access) also is available for business customers.

The extra services available via internetMCI include access to marketplaceMCI, an online shopping mall, and infoMCI, a personalized news service that pulls information from the major newswires. A "What's New" unit offers visitors a cross-section of the latest offerings on the World Wide Web.

The basic internetMCI service includes Web access, Usenet access, and an Internet email address. MCI also offers an "internetMCI Power" service that adds Gopher, FTP, and

Query (e.g., Finger) services to the basic package. As with AT&T, 24-hour support services are standard with all internetMCI packages.

Sprint

Sprint, the third-largest U.S. long distance firm, does not currently offer commercial Internet access services. The company is actively involved in the Internet, however.

"What we're providing is a major backbone called SprintLink," said Robin Carlson, a company spokesperson. "We're looking at other Internet services — both consumer and business services. We will be making announcements (this) year." The announcements will most likely be made in late 1996, Carlson said.

For now, Sprint is making do with the aforementioned SprintLink, a router-based network that supports the TCP/IP protocol suite. SprintLink also is used to provide Internet access to more than 1,200 organizations in over 80 nations. SprintLink's main access customers include government, academic, and research organizations, including the National Science Foundation's NSFNet, MORENET (Missouri Academic and Research



Network), OARnet (Ohio Academic Research Network), THENet (Texas Higher Education Network), and CERFNet (California Education and Research Federal Network). Sprint also maintains Global SprintLink, which extends SprintLink to Australia, Japan, and Europe; and SprintNet, the access network of choice for many online services in the U.S., including America Online.

Let the Games Begin

At this point, any — and perhaps all — of the IXC gladiators have a better than average chance of winning Internet customers, especially business users. Although the companies are arriving fairly late in the game, each has phenomenal name recognition and a built-in cus-

tomers base that no doubt will be receiving special offers at some point. Also, AT&T and MCI offer slightly more than the typical ISP, but without the limitations of a proprietary service. Presumably, Sprint will offer a similar model when it announces its own service.

The main pitfall facing the IXCs is price. The business offerings are priced out of the average consumer's range, while internetMCI's consumer offering appears to be based on the proprietary model (e.g., five hours of access for XX dollars, etc.).

The prices hardly compete with the various mom and pop operations offering unlimited access for \$20 to \$30 per month. Which brings us full circle — the very thing that makes these businesses attractive, low price, is also the very reason they are being bought up by the giants. Surviving on \$20 to \$30 per subscriber rate is difficult without volume, and volume means costly upgrades. Fear not, however. There are plenty of capital-rich companies waiting in the wings. In fact, the names AT&T, MCI, and Sprint come immediately to mind. Victory may be theirs after all — if only on a small scale.

Gentlemen (and ladies), start your Internet engines. ■■■■

Internet Via Cable? It's @Home

The IXCs are not the only ones hot on the Internet trail. A handful of cable companies are developing Internet-via-cable services that they hope will one day be as common as, well, cable television itself.

Almost all of the top 10 U.S. cable companies, including Time Warner Cable, Comcast Cable, Continental Cablevision, and Cox Cable have experimented with some type of online service access. Within the past year, these and other companies have demonstrated the power of cable via tests with Prodigy, America Online, CompuServe Information Services, and the plain ole' Internet. To date, no cable company has introduced actual service on a national level in the U.S. Several small-scale projects are underway, however.

The most advanced cable-based project to date is @Home, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) bankrolled by the cable powerhouse Telecom-

munications Inc. (TCI). @Home will offer high-speed Internet access via hybrid fiber coaxial (HFC) technology directly to home PCs. The Internet service will be carried through the same network lines that now deliver CNN, HBO, and dozens of other cable networks.

"Using our high-speed capabilities, @Home will go a long way in alleviating the frustration of using the current dial-up methods to access the Internet and online services," said Will Hearst, @Home's CEO. "New technologies are now being used to provide video, audio, and animation via the Internet. These technologies, coupled with @Home's high-speed backbone and the HFC infrastructure, are ideally suited to deliver multimedia services to our customers."

@Home plans to debut its first commercial service in Sunnyvale, Calif-

ornia, early this year. The service will provide online access at speeds of up to 10 million bits per second, or more than 500 times faster than the average modem. Sunnyvale was selected because of the area's penchant for adopting new technologies early, an @Home spokesperson said.

In addition to providing high-speed access to the existing online services, @Home also will provide a multimedia home page and local content from outside sources. The



planned additional services include local news, information resources, and community networking opportunities. In addition, @Home users will have access to a Netscape World Wide Web browser designed specif-

ically for @Home.

"While the users of @Home will be able to access information worldwide at unprecedented speeds, a major benefit of @Home is the local content," Hearst said. "If you want local school or city information, @Home will be your central resource."

Comcast Cable also is investigating cable-based Internet access, although its project is not as well-developed. In December, Hewlett-Packard (HP) announced it has agreed to provide the equipment necessary for cable-based access to Comcast Cable. HP's equipment solution will include a modem concentrator, a server complex, and the HP QuickBurst cable modem. Comcast Cable plans to link the equipment to tens of thousands of PCs in early 1996. The company has not announced a start date for the actual service as of yet.

— Jacqui Kramer

Java, VRML, Shockwave,

AND THE CHANGING FACE OF THE WEB

The Web has emerged as a very different place than it was a year ago. If you haven't noticed, you're either not plugged in or you're too new to compare.

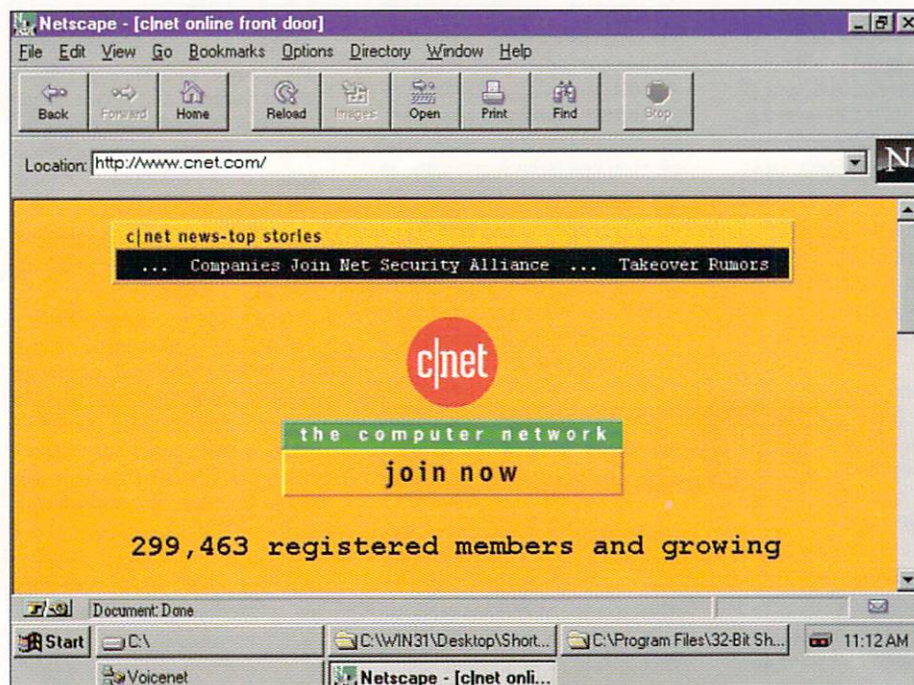
As I described last month, Netscape Navigator 2.0 unleashed a variety of new HTML tags on the Web, providing frames and fancier text. But the browser update didn't end there. Netscape 2.0 also supports Sun Microsystems' Java language, which allows mini-applications called applets to run inside your browser window. Since they're independent little programs, there's virtually no limit to what they can do. You can play a game of real-time tic tac toe, or, perhaps, view the latest weather maps and zoom in on your hometown for temperature and other local conditions.

About the only thing that you can't do with Java is write a virus. The creators of the Java language considered this factor and eliminated or limited access to any system calls that might do nasty things, like erase your hard drive or siphon your private data and send it out over the Internet. Additionally, Netscape's preferences give you added control over what Java can do on your machine.

Brewing Your Own Java

If you're thinking about jazzing up your Web site with some fresh Java, however, it might prove harder than you'd like. You may have to take up some serious programming; Java is based on the C++ development language. But, the good news is that if you're not a programmer at heart, there are plenty of Java applets out there with source code available. You can try downloading and installing some of the freely available chunks of code, and even modify their behavior by adjusting some of the parameters contained in the HTML tags that call the applets. For a very long list of applets that you can sample and, in many cases, snag the source code, visit the Java resource registry at <http://www.gamelan.com/>. You'll also want to take a look at Sun's Java Central, at <http://www.javasoft.com/>.

Another site you definitely should visit once you're set up with a Java-capable browser, is cnet, at <http://www.cnet.com/>. This TV show-cum-Web site has one of the niftiest



examples of a Java applet: a slow crawl of news headlines that ticks from right to left across the top of your browser window. (You may also find the Web site itself interesting, since it deals with the latest technology.)

If you're looking for some Java that's actually kind of useful — (face it, the cnet crawl is a real time waster — but then so are most of the new Java and plug-in toys that are hot on the Web, so get used to it!) — try the weather map at <http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/javaweather>. You can look at a variety of U.S. weather maps showing everything from surface temperatures and heat index to relative humidity and precipitation. And then you can click to zoom in on your choice of major cities for a full reporting.

You can also look forward to Java games, utilities, and tutorials to pop up across the far reaches of the Web as the year progresses. I'll keep you posted on the ones you can't afford to miss.

A Taste of VRML

Another gee-whiz technology taking shape on the Web is Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRML). Essentially, VRML documents are no different than other kinds of binary files that can be viewed with a helper application — except that you can now use a Netscape plug-in to move the action into your browser window. (Microsoft's Internet Explorer is another early adopter of inline VRML, and it also supports display of

AVIs in the browser window. Most — if not all — of your external helpers will be available as plug-ins, probably by the time you read this article.)

Paper Software's Web FX was the first available VRML plug-in, accessible at <http://www.paperinc.com/>. The tool lets you walk or fly around in a new environment, which is loaded when you click on a link to a .WRL file. Fortunately, you don't have to go online to surf your first VRML worlds; Web FX is bundled with a number of impressive samples. There's the navigable Netscape logo, which lets you walk or fly around a 3D representation of the giant "N" on a hill. Or you can wander around the House of URLs, which contains furniture

that, when clicked, sends your browser to a variety of U.S. government Web and Gopher sites.

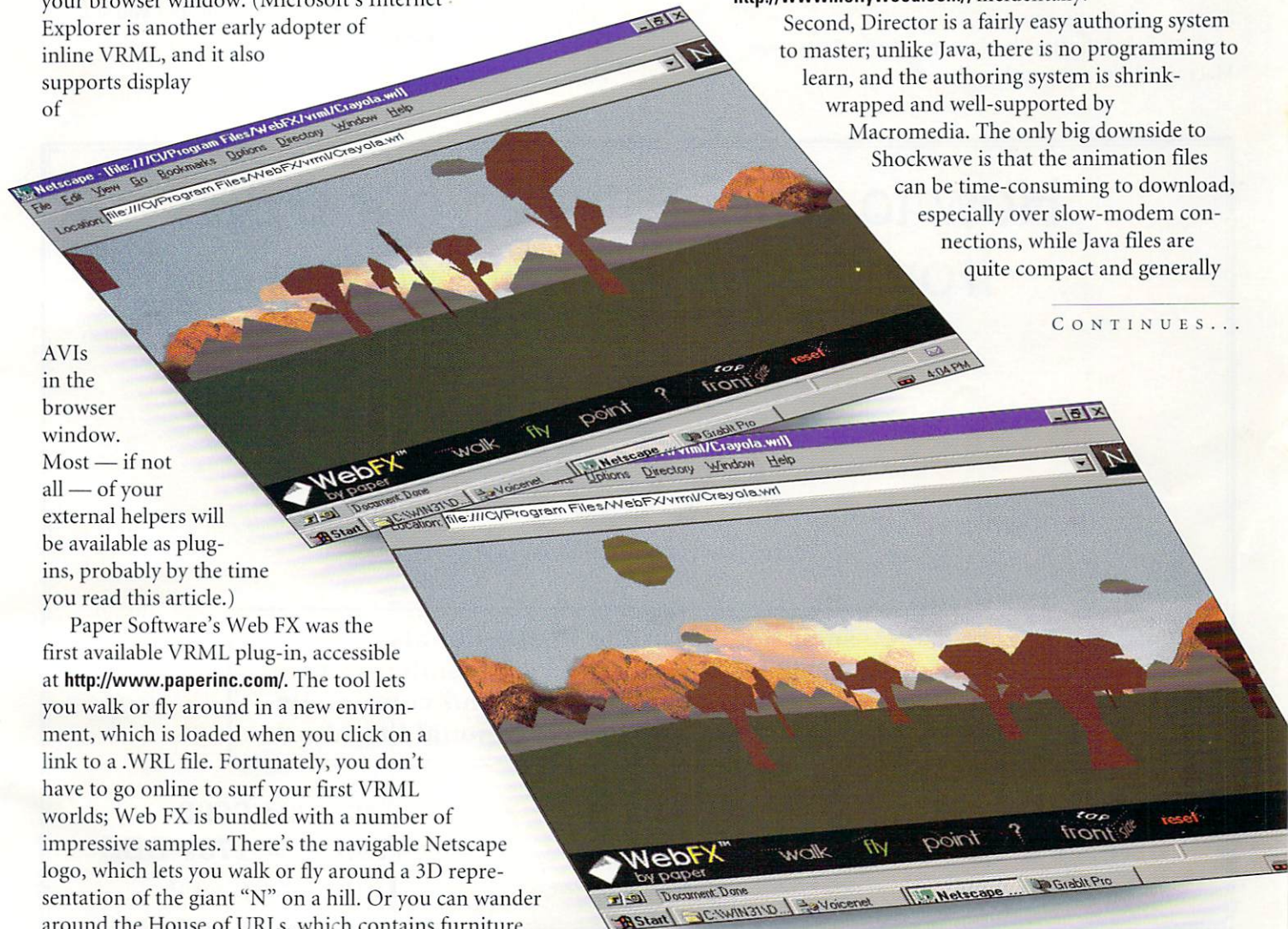
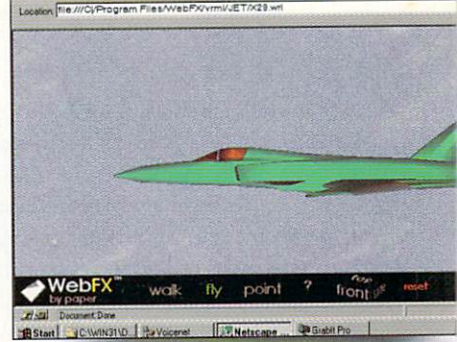
Expect to see some fantastical worlds popping up in the next six months or so. One highly developed site you can visit now is Ziff-Davis' ZD3D at <http://www.zdnet.com/~zdi/vrml/>.

Shockwave Takes the Cake

We've covered a lot of cool new technology, but I've saved the best for last. Shockwave, the name for Macromedia's technology that puts Director animations onto the Internet, is really hot. This one is going to be big for a couple of really good reasons. For one, there's a huge installed base for Macromedia Director, which is used for everything from corporate presentations to games, like MacPlay's "Frankenstein: Through the Eyes of the Monster," and Internet goodies such as Hollywood Online's cool collection of Interactive Press Kits for major motion pictures. You can find Hollywood Online at <http://www.hollywood.com/>, incidentally.

Second, Director is a fairly easy authoring system to master; unlike Java, there is no programming to learn, and the authoring system is shrink-wrapped and well-supported by Macromedia. The only big downside to Shockwave is that the animation files can be time-consuming to download, especially over slow-modem connections, while Java files are quite compact and generally

CONTINUES...



quick to load and run.

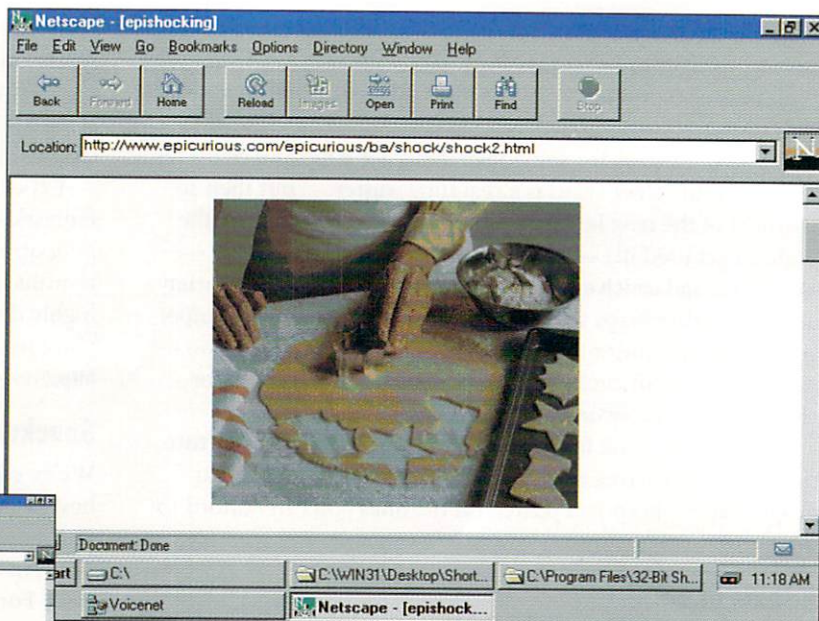
Still, you don't have to be a computer programming wizard (or hire one) to get Shockwave running, and the resulting animations can be quite impressive and even useful. For instance, you can provide an online demonstration of a process that is described in text on the same Web page.

A good example of this is the cooking magazine Epicurious, at <http://www.epicurious.com/epicurious/ba/shock/shock1.html>. Many of the pages describe cooking procedures, which are demonstrated with small Shockwave slide shows. It could just as easily be an auto repair tutorial, or a

page showing you how to safely swap RAM chips. The possibilities are endless, and Shockwave graphics are much cleaner and attractive than the blocky look of VRML.

Mark my words, this one's going to be a hit with the techno-elite.

For a list of the top Shockwave-enhanced sites, visit Macromedia's "vanguard" gallery at



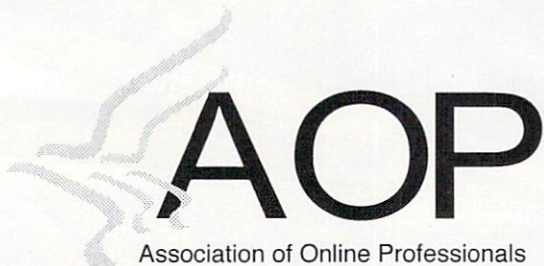
<http://www.macromedia.com/Tools/Shockwave/Vanguard/>.

Overheard on the 'Net

"The grass might be greener on the other side, but you still have to mow it." ■■■■■

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

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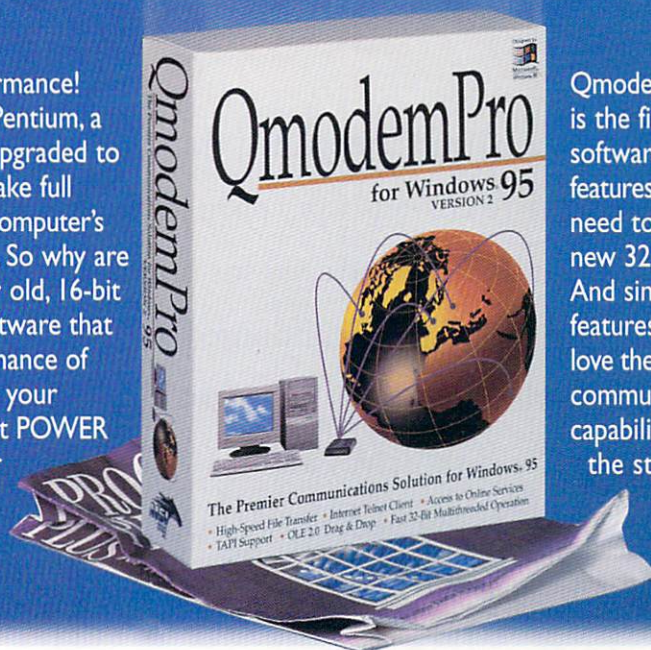
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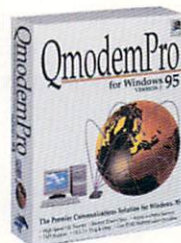
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BY LAZLOW JONES

PICKS OF THE BITTER

WINNING TALES

OF WOE, MELTDOWN AND, WELL, IGNORANCE

The crate arrived as expected and the workers began to anxiously pry open its contents.

With a crack the crate gave way as hundreds of gallons of muddy river water poured out. Inside sit once-pristine file servers. Now water and mud seep from the disk drives and card slots. The flood victim has shipped his life blood, packed in water, to the data recovery specialists.

Mother nature's fickle ways have again driven computer users to the edge of madness, and data recovery specialists to the bank. From laptops sitting at the bottom of Lake Michigan to lightning-fried hard drives, data recovery companies are answering the shrieking call that includes the same four letter word: HELP!

In a recent column I compiled stories of computer woe: explosions, meltdowns, and misuse of all kinds. The misuse faction often originates from computer users on the silicon bandwagon who think the word scuzzy describes a dirty bathroom. The poor souls who hear the cries of these lunatic consumers are the product support teams.

Machine breaking, whether from frustration or ignorance, is no new phenomenon. In 1812, Lord Byron addressed the House of Lords with concern over the recent outbreak of machine breaking, saying "the perseverance of these miserable men in their proceedings tends to prove that nothing but absolute want could have driven a large, and once honest and indus-

trious, body of people into the commission of excesses so hazardous to themselves, their families, and the community."

The relationship of machine and worker has been radically transformed.

Following are stories in the continuing saga of computer meltdown. Entries were solicited via my radio program, Web page, and *BBS Magazine*. The grand prize for the best entry is a year's subscription to this noble publication.

First, the runners-up.

From the "Smell? What smell?" Department.

"A friend of mine had a piece of equipment he salvaged, an industrial-size line

printer. He has a file server and several other PCs in his basement, but the printer was too big, so he ran a serial cable from the file server in the basement to the printer in his garage. He went to his garage, plugged in the printer and turned it on.

When he turned on the printer, he had plugged it into a 240 VAC circuit, and sent twice the juice through the serial line into his file

server.

Needless to say the serial card got mega-fried, along with several other cards, and the motherboards."

— Andrew M. Galbraith Ryer

From the "How to return a computer you've fried" Department

"I'm an electrical engineer (I never claimed to be very good at it, but hey, I've got a job). The story is: I'm at college working on my senior project.

I'm supposed to build a hardware interface for a computer, so I knock this circuit together and jack it in to my home computer to test it out. Of course, it didn't work. Actually, the computer caught fire and proceeded to melt down to the accompaniment of many interesting sound effects. The

story doesn't end there.

I bought the thing a year ago and it was still under warranty. I put the cover back on and trucked it on down to the store where I got it. I tell the man behind the counter that my computer went kaplooie. He asks me if I know what might have caused it and I do my best innocent look. He asks me if I had ever opened the computer case, to which I respond quite innocently, no. He opens up the computer, looks inside and pulls out my screwdriver. Oops.

There is a happy ending. I eventually got him to fix the computer under warranty by laying the dumb and innocent act on real thick. I never did get the interface working, but I got an A on the project (I was as surprised as you) and now I build computer interfaces for a living, so beware."

— name withheld

From the "All Wet" Department

A recent entry from the data recovery company, Ontrack, reads: A white-collar criminal fearing capture with incriminating evidence, tossed his laptop to the bottom of Lake Michigan. Several weeks later, police learned of the disposal of the computer and sent divers to retrieve it. The laptop was taken to the data recovery company, where they recovered 100 percent of the files. (insert "Dooohhhh" sound effect here from Homer Simpson)

And the winner is... Christopher Clements has witnessed and compiled stories of absolute horror, some of which are reprinted below. Please do not read on if you have a weak stomach.

"Hold it closer!" — I'll never forget the person who complained that whenever he called the catalog system he got noise and nothing else; it turned out he didn't have a modem. Apparently he was manually dialing the phone and setting the handset near his computer.

"I am too organized!" — A user's hard disk had crashed, so a replacement was installed — "you've got backups of your data Mrs. X, haven't you?"

"Oh yes, I've kept backups for two years" (nice surprise).

"OK, where are they and I'll restore them for you."

"Here they are."

User hands several ring-binders to

the support person. All backups were on 5.25 floppy disks and each floppy disk had been neatly hole-punched and filed in the binders. Oops...

"Silicon is good food" — The customer said they were having problems with their server and they couldn't seem to figure it out. It sounded electrical from what she was describing. My technician asked if there was anything going on within the building or anything unusual that day... her reply was "No, other than the party that we have going on here, and oh yeah, we have a crock pot plugged into the same power strip, daisy chained. Could that be causing a problem?"

"Are you alone?" — I was on a call with a customer one time and asked her to put in the disk and close the door. Well, I heard the phone clunk as she put down the receiver and I heard clip clop of her heels as she actually went to "close the door!"

"Why the gene pool is in trouble" — I had taken a call from a user who was trying to minimize the Program Manager. I was trying to describe the maximize button as the "up arrow".

She said she was clicking on it but nothing was happening. She was trying to click on the mouse cursor itself...

Believe it or not, she called back later that day to ask how she could get her mouse cursor into the upper right corner of her screen. She kept moving her mouse to the same corner on her mouse pad, and the cursor would only go to the middle of the screen. I had to coach her into actually picking up the mouse.

"On the road again" — One of our sales reps called in from his hotel room furious that he was not able to get his notebook machine to dial in and get his email. We went through every possible configuration and file preference there was.

Finally, I asked, "You do have the phone line connected to the modem, right?" This, of course made him even more angry. "Of course it's plugged in. I'm not an idiot," he said. So I asked what the other end was plugged in to. He said the telephone's data jack. Next I asked him to lift the receiver to see if there was a dial tone. He immediately said that there wouldn't be one, because he had to use the cord that ran from the wall to the phone, to connect

the computer to the phone.

"What's that smell?" — While working in the support center for a moderately sized organization, one of the technicians working with me came in laughing uncontrollably. After a minute, he calmed down enough to tell me the reason. Moments before, he had received a service call from the secretarial pool. Perplexed by the wording of the request, he rushed over to see what was the matter. He arrived to find that the computer the secretary was using was still smoking from an apparent power supply overload. Needless to say, I was not laughing... yet.

"What's so funny about that," I asked. Then he showed me the service request. The request read "My computer smells funny."

"Gullible is as Gullible does" — I had a user that wanted to relocate a monitor from 25 feet from the CPU to 50 feet and, therefore, installed a longer cable. The next day the user called and said the system responded slower since the move. I joked that it was slower because the cable was longer and took more time for the information to move. Unfortunately the user believed me, and called back later to say they moved the monitor back.

These, dear reader, are only a minuscule smattering of the songs of the doomed; that silicon swan song that echoes across data lines in burnt 1's and 0's. All users, from the computer savvy BBS sysops to the novices with shiny new store-bought Pentiums, have or will experience computer chaostrophy. But if the thousands of dollars you've invested in a machine go up in smoke or sit at the bottom of Lake Michigan, rest assured, your good friends at those data recovery companies will gladly return the 1's and 0's, those binary devils, back to their proper place — for some 1's and 0's of another variety. ■■■■■

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

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.

Infinite Space

Synops: Charlie & Herb Scherker

BBS Location: Orlando, FL

Data Access #: 407.856.0021

BBS Software:

Galacticomm's Worldgroup

A business board that grew out of two brothers' hobby, Infinite Space has made the wise choice of keeping its appeal broad while offering Web access to those who choose to venture beyond the confines of a single BBS. The board, which co-sysop Charlie "Buzz" Scherker says boasts 10,000 registered users, offers 40 dial-up channels and 32 inbound Telnet channels to get in. Once there, users get a standard selection of board features, including chats (world-wide and local), games, digizines, MUDs, email and a file library that requires no fewer than six CD-ROMs to contain it. Obviously, since the Scherker brothers are making a go of it as a business, access is not free. Users can dial in for a flat rate of \$15 per month, Telnet in (to genesis.ispace.com) for \$5 per month, or pay an hourly fee of 50 cents.

Internet access, including email, Telnet and FTP capabilities is included in the base price; however, if a user is simply interested in opening a personal SLIP/PPP account, he can get one for the going rate of

\$19.95 per month.

Overall, the look of the board is clean and colorful, with tidy, professional-looking buttons to take you where you want to go. Graphics are generally sparse, which can be a wise choice: unless they are professionally done, graphics — especially from those off-the-shelf paint box programs — sometimes scream "amateur."

The board's look is getting a further boost with the addition of a GUI that Galacticomm has introduced for Windows. According to Charlie, the interface "far surpasses what was ever imagined with the DOS-based RIP protocol." Charlie says the board is run from a P-90 file server over a Novell network. Various components of the system, such as the games and the CD-ROM drives, are housed on separate machines.

.....
"There is always one of us online, and no more than a page away for assistance."

**—Charlie Scherker,
sysop of Infinite Space**

Web access is run from a separate system, which consists of Linux on two Pentium servers, two Livingston Portmasters, and 50 dialup 28.8 lines on a full T-1 Connection. ISDN connectivity will debut sometime this year, Charlie says. The very first incarnation of Infinite Space was

launched in 1987, using Remote Access software and one inbound line, Charlie says. He says he and his brother strive to keep the board as user-friendly as possible, and have hired a staff of about 10 employees. "We decided long ago that a large staff was needed to offer new callers a very personal touch," he says. "There is always one of us online, and no more than a page away for assistance. This has created a very pleasant online atmosphere where harassment and nonsense are minimal to nonexistent." As far as content goes, games are the board's stock-in-trade, Charlie says. There is also a large selection of features of particular interest to central Floridians, as befits the board's geographic location. If you're into rock, the FM station WDIZ has an area all of its own. Users can get playlists, DJ biographies, and lists of upcoming events online, and they can even fax in requests to the station. Nifty as the idea sounds, the area seems a bit neglected. When I checked in, the "music news" selection was devoid of news, and the top 10 playlist had not been updated for about four months.

There is also a section devoted to movie reviews and soap opera news, although these, too, seem to lag behind the times a bit. The reviews are stylishly written, however, with an appealingly caustic bite where necessary. Overall, the board, while not exactly a threat to the major online services, does a good job in catering to its niches. That's an important lesson for others to learn

as well: in the dawning age of online conglomerates, smaller players such as BBSs have to stay true to their core of users.

The Showbiz Info*Net

Sysops: Jim Coston & Tom Lacy
BBS Location: Pembroke Pines, Fla.
BBS Data Access#: 954.438.1504
BBS Software: Searchlight 4.5

As a concept, a board devoted to helping struggling artists break into show business is an intriguing one. God knows it's hard enough to make a living by following one's muse.

As a board, however, Showbiz Info*Net needs a little work. There are a number of message areas promising information of particular interest to actors (writers, filmmakers and others who move through showbiz orbits appear to be ignored).

Unfortunately, closer inspection of the areas reveals a paucity of content. A casting-call area, for example, was only lightly populated with notices, most of which were posted by sysops Jim Coston and Tom Lacy.

Also, the board has a disconcerting habit of freezing up and then shutting users out of the system. This happened to me a good half-dozen times. This phenomenon violates a very basic credo of the online world (or any other world, for that matter): if you're going to make a business out of your system, service has to be reliable.

Jim admits the system still has some bugs, and chalks it up to the fact that the board is relatively new, having been launched in September of 1995. He says that the growth in the number of subscribers willing to pay the \$10 monthly access fee has been slow, but he and Tom are trouble-shooting the system while prospective users drop by to take a look. "We have quite a few casual users from as far away as Canada," he says. "We are starting to advertise in entertainment trade publications and hopefully will begin to see the fruits of our labors shortly." The board is simply and attractively laid out, with

a combination of buttons and keyboard commands rendered in bold, solid colors. It runs from a 486/DX40 machine with eight megabytes of RAM and a 850MB hard drive. Access is through one of three 14.4 BPS modems.

In addition to showbiz news, the board also offers the standard BBS features such as chats and message areas, plus Internet email and a selection of entertainment-related Usenet groups. While there are games and files available for download, Jim says that the board's focus lies elsewhere. "We currently do not have CD-ROMS on line," Jim says. "Our emphasis is not on software (we do have a modest selection of DOS, Windows, and Mac shareware, as well as text files relating to the entertainment industry) — instead the focus is on news and information."

And once the system is functioning properly, it should be a valuable source of information for aspiring professional performers. In addition to the Usenet groups and the casting calls, there are regular columns by, respectively, an entertainment lawyer and an entertainment accountant, both of whom are available to answer individual questions. There is also an online database containing the names and addresses of more than 10,000 agents, nightclubs, theme parks and theaters. Users can also upload their own résumés, plus headshots, into a separate résumédatabase. There are also news areas regarding the various sub-categories of the entertainment industry. One area provides news about job opportunities on cruise ships; another tells of the comings-and-goings in the theme park industry. There is also a listing of movies in production, updated monthly, which looks as if it was taken from the pages of one of the two showbiz bibles, *The Hollywood Reporter* or *Variety*. There is also standard news and weather features, as well as online versions of the trade publications *Casting Call*, *The Dirt Alert* and *Club Modele* magazine. Again, the board shows

promise. It will be a valuable resource once the sysops come to terms with the fact that the devil is in the details.

Inside Information

Sysops: Randy and Lou Snyder
BBS Location: Fremont, Ohio
Data Access #: 419.334.2374
BBS Software: Galaticomm Worldgroup

On the wires since late May of '92, Inside Information is seeking to carve a niche for itself as a general local-interest board and software library for the town of Fremont, Ohio and its environs. The annual cost for subscribing to the board is \$35. Paying the fee places the user in the higher of two access levels, the lower one being the typical look-but-don't-touch category that casual BBS browsers often encounter when they come upon new boards.

For your money, you get a decent collection of shareware files, non-Internet email, bulletins and access to local forums. There appear to be no echoes through Fidonet or other networks.

The board's main menu also promises games, Doors and a general information area; however, these were temporarily (how temporarily is anybody's guess) unavailable when I logged on.

There are some neat touches to the board that set it apart from the general crush of BBSs. One nifty feature is an online pizza parlor — apparently you can use it to order pizza, and through ANSI graphics you can even choose from a selection of nine toppings. I didn't put them to the test, of course, mainly because I didn't care to contemplate what the tip might be for delivering a pizza from Ohio to my home in New Jersey. Another feature is listed on the main menu as MOM — the Mother Ordinance Module. Click on it, and a pre-loaded message appears on the screen to nag you. In addition, there are classified ads, listings of

CONTINUES...

local businesses, and a toll-free BBS list which sysop Randy Snyder maintains. The classifieds apparently haven't caught on much with the local consumers: to test it out, I entered "car" into the category search. The closest the board could manage was an ad for specialty cakes. The business listing is similarly sparse: only two businesses, a coffee house and a local computer store were represented. Generally, as a board, Inside Information appears to offer decent local service and a respectable number of files, although what is here does not seem to me to be a great incentive for people to pay the \$35 subscription fee required for full access, unless the other local boards don't compare.

Chargers Castle

Sysop: Dean Arthur

BBS Location: LaRue, Texas

Data Access #: 903.675.5348

BBS Software: Remote Access 2.02

Another small, general-interest board, this time located in LaRue, Texas. Sysop Dean Arthur has fashioned a board with a rather modest graphic style built on ANSI graphics. There is a decent selection of files to choose from, contained on the system's one gigabyte hard drive, plus an online CD-ROM drive, access to which is what essentially differentiates one access level from another.

Users can poke around the board for free, but they are limited to 30 minutes of online time per day, and can only download a maximum of 500K worth of files. That's actually not a bad deal, considering the number of boards out there that don't even offer that much.

If you decide to pay for access to the board, the cost ranges from \$25 to \$65 per year. At the bottom end of the scale, you get 45 minutes of online time, plus a download ratio; for the maximum amount, you get two and a half hours of time, plus clearance to download three megabytes per day. There are 29 file areas on the board to choose from, covering topics that include missing

children, BBS files, genealogy, Ham radio, food and nutrition, and, of course, lists of other BBSs. The files on the CD-ROM are basically adult files.

The message areas are pretty slim: there are only three to choose from. One posts messages back and forth among Chargers Castle users; another shuttles messages to another BBS, called CB Shop, and a third, called "Introductions," which had nothing in it at all. There are also a number of Doors that can be launched from the board's main menu. They cover the usual ground: card games, roll-playing games, trivia. But there are also adult and religious doors as well. Every board has its quirky side, which gives it its personality — Chargers Castle is no exception. One of the choices that greets users from the main menu lists the day's headlines from the grand-daddy of all supermarket tabloids, the *National Enquirer*. The camp appeal of the publication and its brethren apparently knows no boundaries. There are also horoscopes, updated daily, classifieds and a "joke of the day" Door which, unfortunately was out of order when I stopped by. I guess humor took a holiday.

Dragon Haulers

Sysops: Michael & Carol Sennello

BBS Location: Lady Lakes, FL

Data Access #: 904.753.3643

BBS Software: Wildcat! 3.9

A curious name for a board. If it conjures images of tractor-trailers plying the nation's highways like so many fire-breathing lizards, that appears to be the intention.

Sysops Michael and Carol Sennello lead a group of altruistic truckers called Truckers Love Children (or TLC) which they promote at every opportunity from the board. The group, according to the online literature, seeks to help children "who have fallen through the cracks" — my guess is they're talking about runaways, although that's never really made clear. Anyway, one of the opening screens invites users

to read a bulletin about the group, and the couple have dedicated one of the board's 35 conference areas to postings about it. The inclusion of a group like this is interesting for two reasons: one, because someone is trying to use the grassroots power of BBSs to weave a safety net for a social underclass, and two, because the service is apparently set up under the assumption that truckers are warming up to BBS culture in enough numbers to make such an effort worthwhile. Interesting.

Meanwhile, the board offers the standard features of a small, local general-interest board. New users' access is restricted to three file areas, which contain communications shareware and a settings file for the board, until their personal statistics can be checked out. Then, access goes up. In addition to the TLC conference, users can choose from a list that includes private email (no Internet), comments to local businesses, lists of BBSs, and a "Gammers (sic) Galorea," which appears to be a boasting zone for proud gamers.

There are a few games here for users to check out. The Sennellos appear to be trumpeting a D&D-style game called Usurper, and there are other similar themed games available.

Graphically, the Sennellos do as much as they can with the color ANSI that they have to work with. (No offense to them, but ANSI in general is looking more and more backwards in comparison to the stunning effects some sysops are achieving with later software programs and RIP). The menus are mostly bold, solid colors, laid out simply, with the intention of making them easy to use.

Overall, a decent small-scale effort. Now let's see if truckers embrace it. ■■■■

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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GAMES!

ARCADE-STYLE, BOARD GAMES, PUZZLERS, AND ROLE-PLAYING ADVENTURES

By far, the most popular shareware files on BBSs and online services are games. If computer users depend on games for a break from their everyday computer work, then

they also depend on BBSs to provide the latest and greatest games to keep them busy.

That said, I'm devoting this space to games — arcade-style action games, board games and puzzles, and role-playing adventures. Whether your computer runs the DOS, Windows, or Macintosh operating system, you'll find something interesting to keep you occupied — especially when work isn't a priority.

DOS

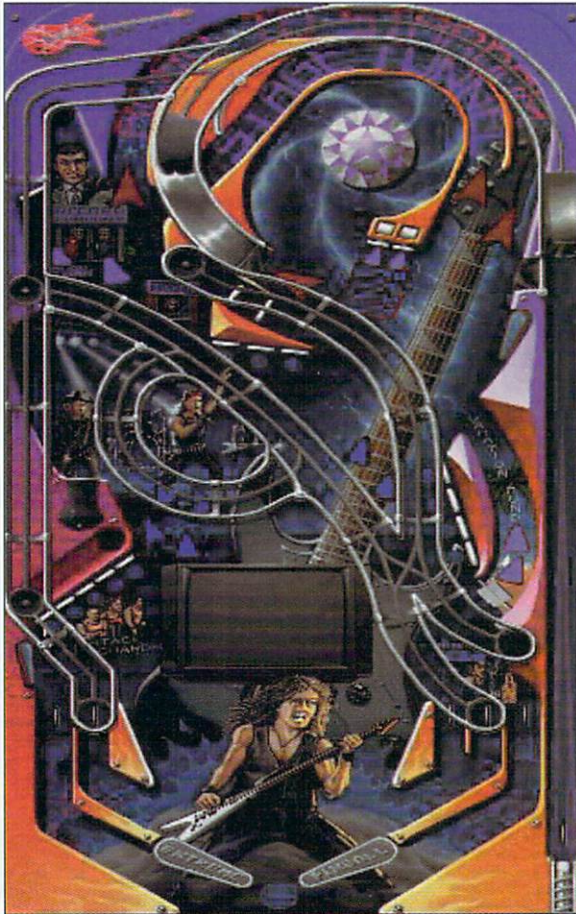
Extreme Pinball 1.0

XPSW1.ZIP
by Digital Extremes, Inc. and Epic MegaGames, Inc.
10406 Holbrook Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
Email: 70007.1631@compuserve.com
WWW: <http://www.epicgames.com/>

Back in my younger days, before video screens were ever seen in arcades, I was considered a pinball wizard. (Please don't try to calculate my age from that information.) There was nothing I liked more than handling the flippers and testing the tilt sensitivity on

pinball tables. Although I haven't played in years, playing Extreme Pinball brought back memories of those simpler days, when arcade games were mechanical rather than digital and shooting or karate-kicking bad guys wasn't the main objective of play.

Extreme Pinball combines excellent VGA graphics, music, and sound to give players a truly realistic pinball-playing experience. Use the Begin command to start play on the Rock Fantasy table. Then hit the down arrow to pull down the plunger. The longer you hold the key, the further the plunger is pulled, giving you control over how fast or far the ball will travel when released. Then use



Extreme Pinball's Rock Fantasy table offers lots of realistic pinball action, complete with sounds.

the right and left arrow keys to control the flippers. They're just as responsive as you'd expect from a computer, but they also have an incredibly realistic feel. As you're playing, strike the spacebar to "nudge" the table with a little body language. Play is fast and furious, and full of sound.

Extreme Pinball requires VGA or better graphics, a 386/33MHz or faster processor, and four megs of RAM. A SoundBlaster or compatible sound card is recommended. If you've got a joystick, you can use that, too. Although Extreme Pinball can run under Windows, it works best when run directly from DOS.

Extreme Pinball is distributed as shareware. Users who pay the \$35 shareware fee get all four Extreme Pinball tables: Rock Fantasy, Medieval Knights, Monkey Mayhem, and Urban Chaos. Other tables and software bundles are also available — consult the documentation that comes with Extreme Pinball for details.

Windows

Finders Keepers 1.01

FK101.ZIP

by Glen DeBiasa
356 Gemini Drive, #4
Somerville, NJ 08876
Email: GlenDB@aol.com

For a while, my sister was addicted to word find (or word search) puzzles. She'd buy books full of them and draw ovals around words for hours at a time. With Finders Keepers (or Word Find, which is discussed below), however, she could have had puzzles without the

puzzle books.

Finders Keepers lets you solve word find puzzles on screen. It comes with a handful of puzzles — choose one or let the program choose one at random for you. Then consult the word list on the right side of the screen for the words you should be looking for. When you find one, drag your mouse over it to select its letters. If you get it right, the letters turn red and the word disappears from the list.

Finders Keepers offers several options for customizing game play. For example, you can play with or without a countdown timer — if you decide to use the timer, specify the amount of time it should count down from. You can also specify whether the words you need to find are displayed in a list or one at a time.

Finders Keepers is straightforward and easy to use, but if you do have problems, you can consult its online help feature for quick answers. It is distributed as shareware. Users who pay



In JT's Word Skramble, form words by choosing letters from a predetermined list.

the \$10 shareware fee register the program and get a disk with 100 additional puzzles on it. That should keep you going for a while!

JT's Word Skramble 1.0

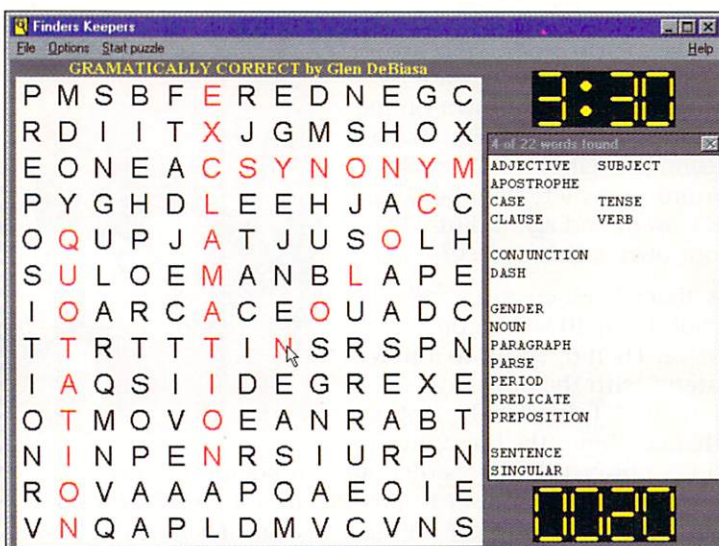
SKSET.EXE
by John Turner
Email: JCT777@aol.com

I'm a word game lover and always have been. Although I like crossword puzzles best (see CrossWord Mania 1.01 in the September 1995 installment of "Sharewaring"), puzzles that require me to form words with a given set of letters are my second favorite. That's exactly the object of JT's Word Skramble.

Run JT's Word Skramble and use options under the Edit command to set a difficulty level and time limit. Skramble displays a box with 16 letters and starts the clock. Then, using only the available letters, create words of three characters or more. As you type them into a text box, the letters you use are highlighted — you can only use each letter once. Press Enter to add the word to the list.

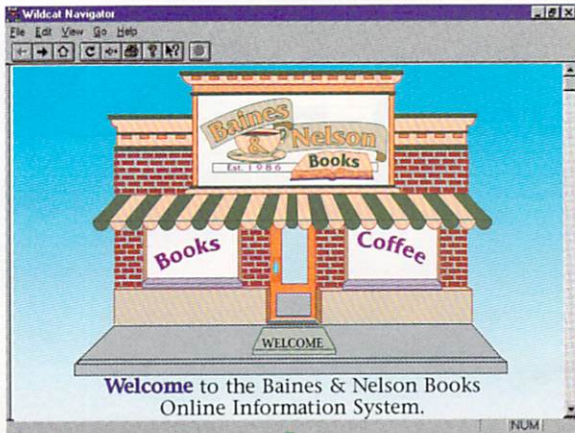
Skramble keeps track of your score as you add words. When your time's up, it tells you and gives you your final score.

JT's Word Skramble comes with a Readme file that explains how to install and use it. Although I did get an error



Finders Keepers is a traditional word find puzzle you play on screen, racing against a clock.

CONTINUES...



Why settle for a you can have the

Open up to a new chapter in online systems: Wildcat! 5 for Windows 95/NT

Customers can check an event schedule for book signings and other happenings using a custom system designed with wcCODE.



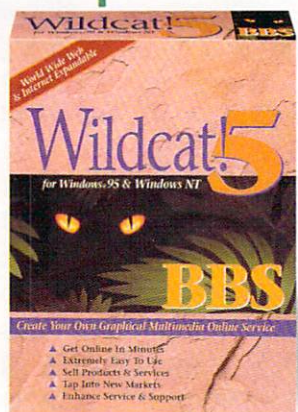
Baines & Nelson created its own book reviews and links to book publisher Web pages right from Wildcat!

A moderated tele-conference system lets Baines and Nelson hold online question and answer sessions with local and celebrity authors.

Customers can check Baines & Nelson's inventory and order products using the Wildcat! ODBC add-on.

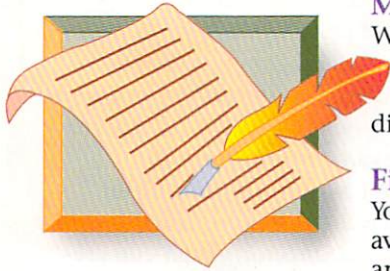
Are you considering the World Wide Web for your online needs? Consider this. A web site is great for viewing documents, but your own online service can give you more. Messaging. File management. Interactive teleconferencing. Data security. Your own online community where members want to visit and come back again and again. But where do you turn to get your own online service?

Turn to the company that's been creating online software not for 10 months or 10 weeks, but 10 years: Mustang Software. Then open up to a new chapter in online systems with the power of Wildcat! 5 for Windows 95/NT. It's a 32-bit online information system that combines the browsing ease of the Web with the powerful features of a bulletin board: the ultimate information server. Wildcat! has the power to provide an online solution for nearly any type of business wanting to get on the information superhighway. See how our fictitious bookstore, Baines & Nelson, uses Wildcat! 5 to create its online presence.



Wildcat! gives your members access to information through modem, LAN, WAN, and the Internet.

few pages when whole book!



With Wildcat! Baines & Nelson's customers can send and receive e-mail quickly and easily.

Message Conferences

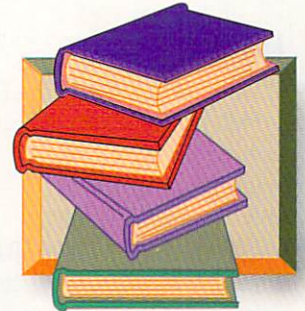
Wildcat!'s message conferences are similar to forums found on the larger online services like CompuServe. Each conference can have its own message base, files, bulletins, questionnaires, display screens and menus.

File Management

You can make documents, spreadsheets, databases and other files available through Wildcat!'s file management system. Searching and retrieving are as easy as pointing and clicking on an icon.

Security

Wildcat! gives you the power to define exactly which files, messages, and menu options your members can access. It's ideal for supporting different departments, offices, and even entire companies.



Search Baines & Nelson's archives with the Wildcat! file management system.

Free Wildcat! Navigator

The free Wildcat! Navigator gives your members access to services through modem, LAN and the Internet. Its point and click operation lets members browse your online service by selecting hypertext regions and icons.

World Wide Web Interface

The key to Wildcat!'s ease of navigation is its use of hypertext markup language (HTML). This is the same language used to create pages on the World Wide Web. Future versions of Wildcat! will include support for full-motion video and Virtual Reality. With the Internet Connectivity Package, members will even be able to navigate the World Wide Web through your Wildcat! system.



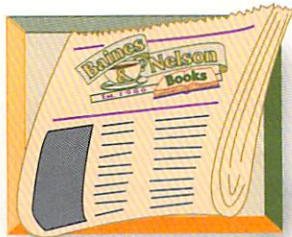
Baines & Nelson expanded its customer service lines to include 24-hour contact via e-mail and real-time access through Wildcat!'s chat system.

Teleconference/Chat

Wildcat!'s real-time teleconferencing provides an exciting way for members to interact one-on-one or in groups. Moderated chats give members an organized forum for group discussions or question and answer sessions.

Polls/Questionnaires

One of the best ways of gathering information is through Wildcat!'s questionnaire interface. It's powerful and flexible enough to quickly gather demographic and marketing information and even process online orders.



Using the included HTML editor, Baines & Nelson easily creates news pages and bulletins to keep their customers up to date on bookstore news.

So why settle for a few pages? With a world of connectivity and powerful options at its disposal, Wildcat! is truly the online solution for your business. To experience the Baines and Nelson Book Store for yourself, download the Wildcat! Navigator from Mustang Online. You can reach us at telnet://bbs.mustang.com, http://bbs.mustang.com, ftp://bbs.mustang.com, or through modem at 805-873-2400. If you'd like to discover how Wildcat! is creating online solutions for companies, call our Solutions Office at 1-800-208-0616 for a free consultation.

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message when I first ran it under Windows 95, it seemed to work fine anyway. It is distributed as freeware — there's no shareware fee. But if you like it, why not send its author a quick email message thanking him for his work?

LottoMan 1.38

LTTMN1.ZIP, LTTMN2.ZIP, LTTMN3.ZIP,
LTTMN4.ZIP, LTTMN5.ZIP

by K. Scott Piel
Lighthouse Engineering
5055 Pleasant Valley Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-6005
Email: 74151.1035@compuserve.com

Lotto fans! Are you interested in keeping track of winning lottery numbers for computerized analysis? Do you want to see how your picks stack up against the ones that won the big cash prizes? Do you fully understand the way number theory works and how it relates to lotteries? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, LottoMan's the program for you!

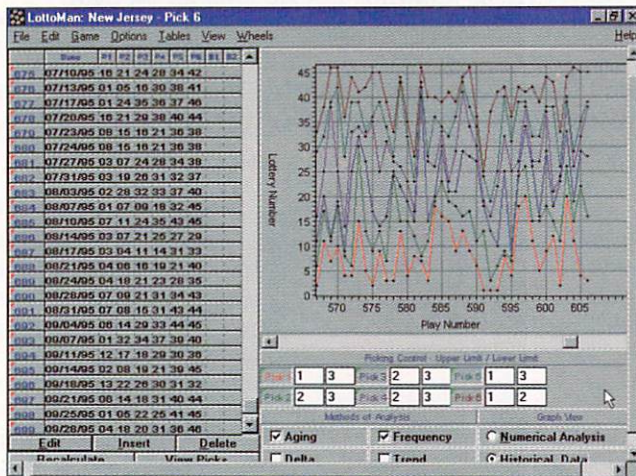
LottoMan uses number theory to analyze and chart winning lottery picks. With it, you can maintain a complete database of winning picks for the various lotteries in your state. (In fact, it comes with an extensive database that shows winning numbers over time.) By using LottoMan's features properly, you may actually improve your odds of picking winning lottery numbers.

LottoMan works by graphing the probabilities for each number pick based on past lottery results. By eliminating the numbers that are picked less frequently and choosing from the numbers that appear more often in winning combinations, you increase your odds of picking the correct numbers.

Is this foolproof? Of course not. LottoMan does not guarantee success (and neither do I!). But LottoMan does provide all the tools necessary for keeping track of your picks and winning

picks for complete, statistical analysis.

LottoMan includes extensive Online help and two tutorials to get you started. It is distributed as shareware — try it for 30 days before either removing it from your computer or paying the \$129.95 shareware fee. Payment of the fee gets you a registered copy of the latest version of LottoMan on disk, unlimited technical support, upgrades within the same major version number (1.xx), discounts on major upgrades, lotto result database updates, and a free 13-issue subscription to *LottoWorld* magazine. While the casual lotto player may not think LottoMan worth the price, once a real lotto fanatic tries it,



LottoMan includes data for past lottery drawing and can chart results a variety of ways to increase your odds of picking winning numbers.

he might wonder how he made his picks without it.

Windows/ Macintosh

Here's a game that's available in two versions: for Windows and for Macintosh.

Rooked 1.1P

by Imagix Productions
5830 Oberlin Drive,
Suite 304
San Diego, CA 92121

For puzzle lovers, Rooked is a game worth looking into. Easy to play, this full-color game

offers a difficult to master puzzle that anyone will find challenging and perhaps a little addictive.

To play, drag colorful puzzle pieces onto the game board with your mouse. The pieces, which are similar to the falling shapes in a Tetris game, will completely cover the game board grid when placed properly. You race against the clock to complete the puzzle as quickly as possible, while wacky music plays in the background. Lose points for moving puzzle pieces you've already placed. When you've done all you can, end the game to get your score.

What I found interesting about Rooked is that it was created with Macromind Director, a high-end presentation software package that can generate stand-alone application files. This proves that creating a game doesn't require the knowledge of complex programming languages like C or Pascal.

Rooked is distributed as demoware — you can play only three times. Users who pay the \$10 shareware fee receive a password they can enter to remove the three-game limit.

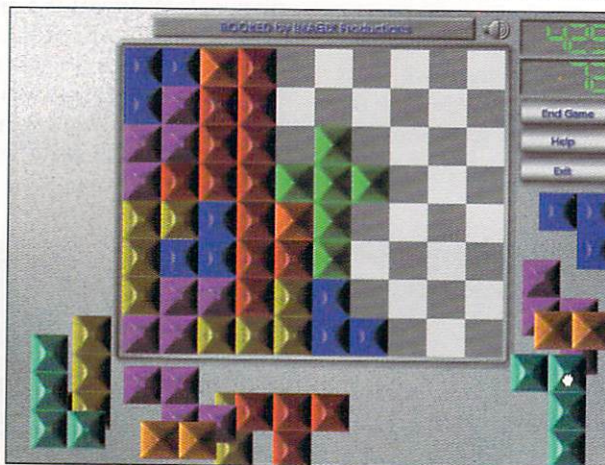
Macintosh

Bolo v0.99.7




by Stuart Cheshire
P.O. Box 8323
Sanford, CA 94309
Email: Cheshire@cs.stanford.edu

Did you ever want to drive a tank through fields, forests, swamps, and

CONTINUES...



Available in both Windows and Macintosh versions, Rooked is a puzzle game for fitting pieces onto a playing board.

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ivers? Did you ever want to shoot your way through walls and destroy minefields, pillboxes, and enemy tanks? If so, Bolo is a game you should track down and try.

Bolo is a full-color, arcade-style tank game, complete with sounds. Using a keyboard or joystick, you pilot your tank through a playing field. Your tank's top speed varies depending on the terrain you cross — roads are fastest while swamps and rivers are slowest. Driving through a river has another drawback: it depletes your weapon supply. Capturing a refueling base replenishes all your systems, getting your tank in battle-ready condition again. You can also farm trees to build bridges and boats that make transportation quicker or easier.

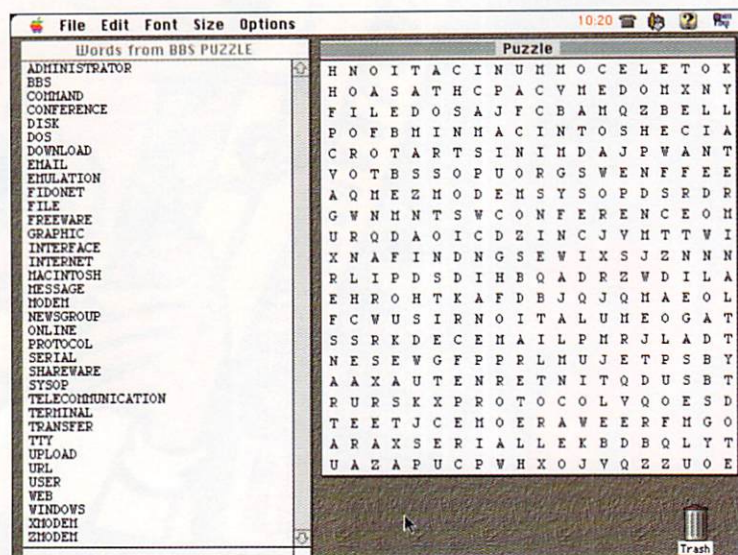
The object of the game is to destroy or capture pillboxes and enemy tanks. While in single-player mode, your only real opponents are the fixed pillboxes which will fire on you whenever you're in range and they "see" you. But Bolo can also be played over an AppleTalk network, the Internet, or a modem — that means you can fight tanks controlled by up to 16 other Macintosh users at once!

Since the game has a kind of cult following, it shouldn't be difficult to find other willing players online. By forming alliances with other players, you can build an indestructible team.

Bolo includes complete instructions, as well as a tutorial mode that provides on-screen instructions as you play. It also includes sample code, alternative



In Bolo, you maneuver your tank through all kinds of terrains, playing against opponents on a network or modem.



With Word Find, you can create your own word find puzzles to print or paste into other documents.



Realmz is a fantasy/role-playing game with multiple characters and excellent graphics and sounds.

maps and map editors, and a variety of other useful files and utilities.

Bolo is distributed as shareware. If you decide to keep it after a reasonable trial period, pay a \$25 shareware fee to help encourage the author to continue improving and updating this excellent game.

Word Find 1.4.1

by Brett C. Helbig

Email:

bhelbig@motown.ge.com

Word Find is a word search puzzle generator for Macintosh users. To use Word Find, simply create or import a list of words and use the Generate Puzzle command to create a puzzle. You can then print the list and puzzle or copy them to another file — like a newsletter or other document you'd like to distribute to others. You can even generate an illustration of the answer.

Puzzle preference options let you set the size of the puzzle (number of columns and rows) and valid word directions. You can set whether the puzzle should contain both uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and punctuation. You can also set printing-related options like the font, header, and border.

Word Find includes complete documentation in a Readme file. It is distributed as freeware, making it quite a bargain. But if you do try it and like it, remember to take a moment to send its author a brief thank-you note. It's the least you can do.

For answers to the Word Find screen here, check page 57.

Realmz 2.3.3

by Tim Phillips
Fantasoft, LLC
P.O. Box 14261
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Email: Fantasoft1@aol.com

Perhaps you prefer fantasy/role-playing/adventure games. If so, you'll definitely want to check out Realmz, a Macintosh game that features full-color graphics, extensive music and sound effects, not to mention customizable play features.

Start the game by choosing members for a party of adventurers. Although the character skills and traits are preset, you can customize them, if desired, or create new characters from scratch. Then begin your adventures in "The City of Bywater," the scenario that comes with the game.

Your party has some money (but not much), a desire for adventure, and the ability to explore freely throughout the city, moving along a map to enter buildings, pick up items, barter, do battle, cast spells, and collect treasure.

Bywater is just one of the many scenarios available from Fantasoft. It's an honest city with a kind king. A cult of spider worshippers has built a tower east of the city where it practices evil ceremonies and plots the overthrow of the king. There are goblins to the south, orcs to the east, and giants to the southwest. This is just some of the information provided about Bywater in Realmz's extensive DOCMaker-based manual.

Realmz includes many features and commands that help you on your adventure. You can write and leave notes, keep journal entries, view maps, and change a wide range of preferences. These features are all documented in the Realmz manual, but the average beginner can learn quite a bit about the program just by exploring Bywater. When you're ready for a new challenge, there are always additional scenarios with lands to explore.

Realmz is distributed as shareware. Paying the \$25 shareware fee gets you a registration code that unlocks all of the Bywater scenario for exploration, gives you demos of other scenarios, removes the shareware reminders, and adds additional features. Additional scenar-

ios are \$15 or less each. Fantasoft distributes other role-playing adventure games as shareware. If you like Realmz, be sure to look for them, too.

Finding these Files

If you can't find these files on your favorite BBS, try mine. The Electronic Pen BBS (201.767.6337) is a two-line FirstClass-based system in Harrington Park, NJ. Connect with the freely distributable FirstClass Client software for a great graphic user interface. Once online, look in the Sharewaring conference folder 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. User 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 nine computer books, including Excel for Windows 95: Visual QuickStart Guide for Peachpit Press. Contact her at gilesrd@intac.com.

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SPEED UP YOUR MODEM IN WINDOWS, WIN95 AND MAC

Submitted for your approval, one Tom D. Online, a practitioner of all things digital. Mr. Online has just purchased a new V.34 28.8 modem and is looking forward to faster transmission speeds. Unfortunately, he'll be taking a side voyage into the CommLight Zone.

Far-fetched? If Rod Serling peddled his craft today there'd undoubtedly be an episode centered on modems. Why? Because other than figuring out how that Gremlin actually managed to stay on the wing despite the plane traveling a few hundred miles an hour (remember the movie?), there's nothing about computers that's so widely misunderstood than the black art of tuning modems for maximum speed.

Over ten years ago when the first 300 baud modems became widely available, modems suffered from massive differences in command strings and setups, but tuning for speed was basically a non-issue. If you connected you got 300 baud — no compression, no error correction.

Today, with 28.8Kbps modems practically the norm, connecting successfully at the highest possible speeds calls for a three-pronged attack centered on the right system hardware

followed by a bit of tuning and winding up with the Comm Fates smiling down on your efforts. If any part of the troika is sub-par, it'll drag you down. While it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that a dirty phone line translates into dropped connections and aggravation, there are many pieces to the comm puzzle that are often overlooked.

The Win 3.11 connection

If you're still running Windows 3.1x there's little chance of reliably breaking the 14.4Kbps mark. Yeah, I know you have a 28.8Kbps modem and "think" you're communicating at 28.8Kbps. You may be "connected" at 28.8, but maintaining a 28.8Kbps data stream is a different story. Sorry to have to be the one to pop your balloon, but a stock Win 3.1x system is simply not suited for serial communication past 14.4Kbps, especially if your system is a few years old.

Virtually all older PCs are saddled with what's known as a 16450 serial chip, which contains a tiny one-character buffer. Even older is the 8250 serial chip, but for performance purposes the two chips are basically the same. Team either one of these slowpokes with Win 3.x's anemic comm driver, and even a fast system puffs mighty hard to avoid dropping characters. Luckily, a few relatively simple fixes can bring Win 3.1x into the communications 21st century.

First, you need to check what serial chip your system actually has buried inside. If you already have the case open, the easiest method is to simply eyeball your serial card, or motherboard, and look for a chip with a National Semiconductor label and the numbers 16450 or 16550. (PCMCIA modem users have no need to worry. The PCMCIA bus can handle 28.8 and faster speeds.)

An easier way is to fire up a utility that sniffs under the hood, such as Norton's System Info or Microsoft's MSD.EXE (found in your Windows directory). After running MSD, select the COM Ports category. At the bottom of the screen MSD lists the type of "UART" found in your system. If the line reads 8250 or 16450, plan on setting aside a few bucks for a serial accelerator card, such as Hayes' ESP board, or a new serial card sporting 16550 serial chips. If you're the hands-on type, have some free time and your 16450 is socketed, you can save money by buying a stand-alone 16550 chip and replacing the older model. The 16550 is vastly superior since it contains a 16-

character buffer that eases the strain on your system.

Once your hardware is up to speed, you need to ditch the Windows communications driver. The actual file is comm.driv. In my experience, the best way to do this is to pick up a copy of Pacific CommWare's TurboCommander Pro (503.482.2744; fax: 503.482.2627; BBS: 503.482.2633). TurboCommander replaces Windows' own comm driver with an optimized and tunable driver that works wonders to boost your data flow. Several comm programs — such as Delrina's WinComm and Traveling Software's Laplink — include their own replacements for the comm.driv that likewise speed throughput.

With your hardware tuned and your drivers turbocharged, the next step is Windows itself. I can't tell you how many systems I've seen packed with a brand new, cutting-edge 28.8 modem, only to find that the comm port is set for 9600. Every byte of data that flies down your modem line actually travels at several comm speeds within your system — the flow between your com-

puter and the serial port, the flow from the serial port to the modem, and the final leg from the modem to the outside world. Your port speed should be set at 57K or higher. From here on, it should be smooth comm sailing.

Getting 99% out of Win95

Windows 95 users, assuming you successfully install what has been tongue-in-cheek dubbed "the world's largest virus," are in a much better position than Win 3.1x users. Not only does Win95 include TCP/IP drivers that make connecting to the Internet much easier compared to Win 3.11, but Win95 also includes support for the 16550, and its comm.driv was finally overhauled to better support high comm speeds.

Basically, if you have Windows 95, and a 16550-equipped motherboard or serial card, all you need to do is to select the modem applet in the Control Panel and check the Properties settings. You'll want your modem speed set to at least 57,600. If things work you can

CONTINUES...

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Anonymous Teleconference - Nobody knows who said what in this teleconference.	\$49
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raise the speed to 115,200. This setting is the maximum speed the computer will talk to your serial chip.

Another item to check is the Port Settings within the Connections area in the modem applet. Make sure the "Use FIFO buffers" checkbox is selected and that the Receive Buffer slider switch is set to high. Lastly, within the Advanced area, select the Hardware flow checkbox and the Compress data checkbox. Depending on the service you use for Net/BBS access, these settings should ensure that you're squeezing info down your phone line at top speed.

Maximizing your Mac

For Mac users, setting up for the online world is paradoxically easier and trickier than in the WinTel world. On the one hand the Mac's easier because you shouldn't have to worry about stupid things like serial chips and such. Every Mac can handle comm speeds up to 57K, though only the newer speedy Macs made within the last two years can successfully handle 64K or higher speeds through the serial ports. Any Mac can handle ISDN or faster comm

connections via a NuBus or PCI card.

A major item for Mac users in search of maximum modem speed is to check whether your modem cable supports hardware handshaking. If it doesn't, your info won't move at high speed no matter how much you play with your modem and software settings.

Many older, and some new, Mac modem cables aren't wired to properly support hardware handshaking. An easy way to check if you're wired for speed is to review the serial port modem configuration settings. If you've been connecting successfully and the hardware handshaking checkbox is selected, it's a safe bet that your cable is fine.

Next, assuming MacTCP and your PPP dial-in are each properly configured, the situation can get a bit muddled if you're also connecting to AOL or eWorld via a PPP account.

Both AOL and eWorld install their own modem configuration dialogs, which added to Apple's own Modem Toolbox returns a strong prescription for user confusion. Take it slow, read the docs and you'll be fine.

The key for Internet access, however, is to set up ConfigPPP — or whatever dial-in script you use — to utilize your modem's highest speed. If you don't have a modem setup script, contact your ISP or modem manufacturer for info on how to download or configure one.

All in all, tapping the online world at maximum speeds needn't be a trip into madness, frustration or strange events. Rod Serling eat your heart out.

For further info, check out:

- Connecting your Portable Computer's Modem to Digital Phone Systems at <http://warrior.com/cpp001.html>.
- Curt's High Speed Modems FAQ at <http://www.teleport.com/~curt/modems.html>.
- Modem Media — <http://www.modem-media.com/>.
- Modem Tutorial — <http://www.racal.com/dcom/modem.tutorial.html>. Old, but good. ■■■■■

Rich Santalesa is the Executive Editor of NetGuide Magazine and a former founding editor of Windows User. He's burned through more modems than he can remember at this point.

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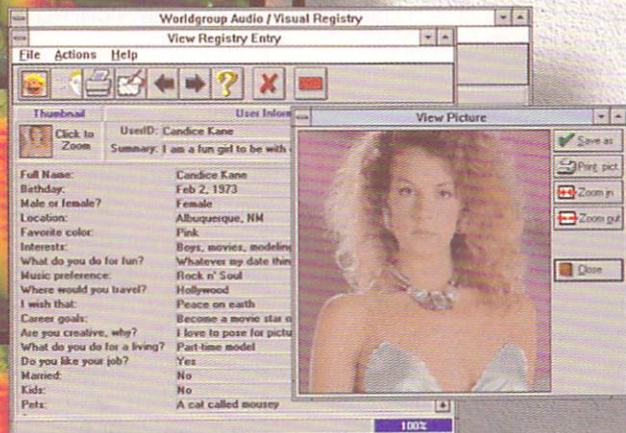
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Let There Be BOARDS

SOME INS AND OUTS OF BUILDING A BBS

As I sit down to write it seems I've lost my voice (to a cold or some such thing), but I still have a voice in what goes on with my BBS — a helpful bit of symbolism that gets us going on this month's topic: creating your own BBS.

Having a voice in how your board is run, and control in its design and creation, is central to being a sysop. We sysops often insert our own flair and creativity into our online services — one of the reasons many of us got into this craziness in the first place.

Which brings me to the key questions: How do we go about creating our boards, adding special features, and then marketing the whole deal to the rest of the world? Over the next few months I'll be covering these very topics, talking with sysops about their BBSs and the origins of their species.

Who am I?

The first thing we need to decide is what type of board we're going to run. I'm not talking about the kind of host software here, but the main theme for our board — this will help later with the eventual design of the BBS.

Many sysop wannabes mistakenly think the type of host software they use is the first item of importance. But you really need to plan the focus and direction of your board long before you start looking at software, because whether you go with a command line or graphical interface, if you don't have a fixed plan in mind, you're really not going anywhere.

First off, when planning a BBS

you've got to ask yourself, "What am I looking for in a bulletin board?" This might seem elementary, but it's a necessary step.

Some BBSs offer lots of message areas, some are big on files for downloading, some have games you can play online and others aim to act as a gateway to the Internet. But each board has its own style, its own emphasis.

Basically you've got four types of BBSs: (OK there are more, but for the sake of brevity...)

Hobbyist BBS — usually run by one sysop (and perhaps some volunteers) as an extension of a sysop's hobby, or supporting a local group or organization (church, Rotary Club, Macintosh User's Group) out of the home of the sysop. The emphasis here is not on making money, but more on "scratching an itch" — the love for a certain subject, or just a penchant for computing and telecommunications in general.

This is probably the most common strain of BBS you'll find, most as one- or two-line systems. These are also the most volatile type of BBSs, with systems often going up then down in only a few months time. Tip: Realize in advance that being a sysop means a lot of devotion and a lot of time, uploading files, maintaining accounts and other thankless tasks. When you're not

being paid (unless you're successfully charging for accounts), many sysops simply lose interest.

Commercial BBS — Run by individuals/companies as a money-making venture, these services usually have lots of phone lines, with the sysop(s) sometimes marketing products or offering multi-line live discussions and all kinds of interactivity.

Company-Sponsored BBS — These boards are usually for promoting a service or product. Many companies also run support bulletin boards where users can download upgrades, patches, or upload corrupt files. Some not only run support boards but maintain World Wide Web sites as well. These boards help a business service their users better, and get some promotional info out there as well.

Government BBS — There are far too many of these to mention here, but suffice it to say most federal (and many state and local) governmental agencies operate BBSs internally for employees or externally for the general public. Get information here on everything from fishing licenses to a transcript of the U.S. Federal Budget.

Narrowing your focus

The biggest problem new sysops have is coming up with a focus for their board. The first thing one should do is get on the modem horn and call around. See what other sysops are doing, what boards seem to be the most popular, and what seems to be working for others. Basically, check out your potential competition and allies.

"Many sysop wannabes mistakenly think the type of host software they use is the first item of importance. But you really need to plan the focus and direction of your board long before you start looking at the software..."

Most importantly, if you have a special interest — something you really enjoy — try working it into your board. Operating a service on something you enjoy (book collecting) is a thousand times more fun than doing it on a subject of little interest to you (lawnmower repair tips). Pretty logical stuff, but something to consciously consider nevertheless.

One good way to gather ideas is to get together with other sysops. There are numerous user-groups for sysops out there. For instance, here in Atlanta we have the OAS — Online Atlanta Society — and MOSA — the Macintosh Online Society of Atlanta. While the OAS tends to lean more toward the "PC heads" — those running DOS or Windows boards — you can still learn a lot from these sysops. Each of us has to deal with problem callers, promoting our boards, and working on interconnectivity issues.

By the same token, you've got to be a little careful who you exchange ideas with, for as with any business there will be people just out to make a quick buck (or so they think), who really want only to promote their boards (giving no concern to other sysops).

Try to find sysops who have been running a service for at least a few years. Find out what they do to promote their boards, how they deal with the stress, problem users, etc. They can also help in giving you ideas about features for your board, where to get supplies, Internet providers, and more.

Again, a great way to mine for ideas is to visit your local user group. I know I push the user groups a lot, but these are a great source of info. The user group meetings give you a chance to promote your board, maybe meet some

of the callers of your BBS in person, and perhaps even show off your expertise with modems and telecommunications.

Playing guru makes you feel good, and helps remind us all why we got into BBSing in the first place. It also gives you a chance to get some honest feedback and solicit ideas for your board.

Additionally, you can also try the trade shows or computer swap meets. First make up some business cards, then as you attend the shows pass them out to potential callers, dealers, etc. — it's all in the name of good promotion.

You can talk to the dealers about selling equipment through your board, getting discounts on hardware or software, or just make them aware of your system's existence so they can recommend you to some of their customers. The passing out of business cards and talking to dealers will remind you that even a single line BBS should be treated

like a business.

Even if you just run your board as a hobby or community service, it never hurts to promote the board.

I also enjoy going to the bigger shows, like Comdex. I find out about some of the newer advances in Mac technology there, as well as get ideas for ways to improve my board.

Fast forward

Now that I've offered a few ideas, you're ready to strike out headlong and work on your board, right? OK, but remember my ideas are certainly not the only ones, and I'd love to hear about other approaches to this still-emerging business.

Next month I'll be examining the origins of two different type of BBSs. I'll also be looking at different ways to promote your board over the next few months, and maybe bring in a little extra money to boot.

As always, if you have any topics you'd like to see discussed in this column, or questions you might like answered, please send them along. ■■■■■

Michael A. Kuykendall is a veteran Mac user and crony from the days of 64K ROMs and 400K floppies. Comments and suggestions may be sent to him in care of this publication, through Macintosh Online, at 770.822.5929, or at andykirk@aol.com.

Cool New Files...

Check for these newcomers on America Online (and your favorite BBS):

- **Disinfectant 3.6** is a new release of the free anti-viral utility for the Macintosh. Version 3.6 recognizes a new clone of the nVIR B virus which appears to have been created explicitly to bypass the checks in both the Disinfectant 3.5 application and in the Disinfectant 3.5 protection INIT. The clone is functionally identical to the original nVIR B virus and the other nVIR B clones. Disinfectant reports it as simply the "nVIR B" virus. Disinfectant appears to be the only anti-viral software affected by the new clone. The current versions of Virex, SAM, Rival, and Virus Detective reportedly already detect the clone.

- If you've ever created documents for the World Wide Web, you know what a drag it can be sometimes. Writing complex HTML is a time consuming, error prone process. But now, creating Web pages is as easy as drag and drop with new **Adobe PageMill** software. Look for this Acrobat file, offering a special deal on Adobe's PageMill product.

Also, check this out on the Net: Zap! is a new 'zine that covers many different topics from Mac "how-to" articles to games, recipes, contests, stories, art, and a lot of feedback from users and readers. Head to <http://users.aol.com/zapmag/zapmag.html>.

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GROUND ZERO

Q: "I'm planning to launch a BBS from my home, as a second business. It will be a general interest family/community bulletin board. What suggestions do you have for me to make this fly and how can I go about getting callers interested?"

John in Texas

A: Not knowing details about your community or your own background and interests, we'll try tackling your questions from a generic perspective. Here are some suggestions.

Make a checklist of tasks for you to plot and develop (on a calendar). Perhaps group these under several broad categories, each of which being somewhat interdependent not only on each other but on you and your interests and relationship to the community you want to serve.

"Budget," "Strategic Alliances," "Installation and Setup," are examples of broad categories. Let's talk a bit about these.

Budget — This covers your hardware and BBS software expenses, your promotional expenses, and yes, your time (unless the old "time is money" cliché misses the mark with you.)

Though most BBS software is designed so one person can install and run all the tasks (this is one of BBSing's clear advantages as a home hobby or even second business) you may want to investigate, right from the beginning, setting up your BBS under the sponsorship of an existing organization in the community rather than having to purchase all the component parts yourself. Try the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, your local school system, YMCA, a shopping mall, newspaper or even your church.

Or, if your reason for going online is specialized, seek out alliances or sponsorship from professional or trade associations related to your specialty.

If you still decide go into this venture independently, make sure you've got sufficient financial resources.

You can set up a two-line (minimum) BBS with the software of your choice and hardware for about \$3,000, perhaps less if you already own some of the components — hard drive, modems, etc. — and can divert them to your BBS.

Strategic alliances — We've considered whether or not to finance your BBS with strategic alliances; still it's not much of a stretch to map out some other areas where strategic alliances could be instrumental in making your BBS fly. So chart out, prioritize, and check your potential allies.

These could be your friends who might want to be involved

in setting up or maintaining some aspects of the project; your friend who designs great flyers (read: cool ads for the BBS) and might want to try his/her hand at making BBS screens; a friend who's willing to distribute the flyers from their place of work or place of play; your connections as a member of your local computer user group; your online junkie friends who complain bitterly that they can't afford the "big" services; and, so on.

Be bold here. At the very least, creating and acting on your strategic alliances list will initiate you to an interactive process that's very much like running a BBS. And you will have gotten the word out that you are starting a BBS. If you enjoy this stage of making inquiries and getting feedback from members of your potential online community, you'll have learned that you will probably enjoy running your BBS.

Installation and setup — Know from past experience that you're the kind of person who likes to tinker with hardware and software (and who is pretty good at it) before you commit yourself to this part of the project. Either you're good at this or you've got a partner who is, as there simply is no "BBS-in-a-Box" package as yet. Some come very close, but they all require at least some know-how on your part.

Now do yourself another favor and spend time looking at what's current in the way of BBS software packages.

Look for BBS software developers who have a track record, who are developing (or have developed) client-server software — or at least graphical interface (point-and-click) software.

Log into and explore as many BBSs as you can to help determine the BBS software whose interface and front-end best suits the needs you envision for your system.

Talk to sysops and to BBS users each step of the way. Then check your heart and your head, and if you get this far along and are still eager to get started, go for it! ■■■■

Tess Heder, co-founder Channel 1®

Send questions and comments to me at one of the following places and I'll try to address them in a future column.

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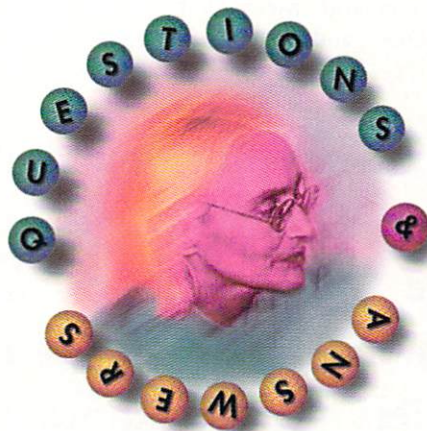
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GAINING SPEED on 'THE WAVE'

NEW TERM
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We'll first take a look at a new term program for the Commodore 128, then check in with Creative Micro Designs, Inc. to learn about their new Super64 CPUs and find out how they'll benefit sysops and BBS users. Then we'll wrap up with a peek at recent announcements concerning QWKie, the offline mail reader for the Commodore 64.

Surfing 'The Wave'

GEOS128 users may soon be riding the new term program called The Wave. Written by Maurice Randall, it's taken the GEOS environment beyond its previous 1200-baud limit. Faster than any term program ever written for the graphical environment, it offers some exciting possibilities for GEOS users. How fast you ask?

Would you believe 38.4Kbps?

One of the most interesting things about the GEOS environment is the ability for a program to swap out while another swaps in. Randall has used this to allow the buffering of text to be fed directly into geoWrite pages, giving the term program a "virtual," or limitless, buffer. The user can move from the term program to geoWrite and back while online. It

can also use Text Scraps and Text Albums to send data to the modem, which will give users the advantage of a very large "macro" library if they choose, and of course, it should make

Just when you think you've seen it all, along comes even more new software and hardware to smash the old barriers — you know, the barriers that were new just last month...

replying to mail on online services much easier. Another feature that should have GEOS users chatting is a scrollable 254-character text buffer for its chat mode.

It also supports an 8K scrollbar buffer so if you miss text that's whizzed past your screen, you can go back and view it.

The Wave will support all popular file transfer protocols including

Zmodem; however the publicly available demo program (yet to be released) will not allow file transfers. The commercial version will have the ability to view graphical images such as GIFs.

The program requires GEOS128 v2 and a UART cartridge such as SwiftLink or CommPort. It will not support the User Port RS-232 interfaces, though.

The Wave will be available from Click Here! Software as well as other Commodore suppliers such as CMD (cmd.sales@the-spa.com) and Performance Peripherals, Inc. (800.EASY-WEB).

Maurice Randall can be reached at arca93@delphi.com

Accelerating Commodore Telecomms? Maybe...

With the announcement of Creative Micro Designs' new Super64/10 and Super64/20 accelerators for the Commodore 64, those of us who spend the majority of our computing time online are curious to know whether the 10 and 20 MHz Super64 CPUs will be of use to us.

CMD's Doug Cotton offered some

insight to what the accelerators can be expected to work with.

"It should be fully compatible with programs that use SwiftLink or use the stock RS-232 routines," Cotton told me, "unless something else in the code creates a compatibility problem, illegal opcodes, for example." The phrase 'illegal opcodes' refers to valid CPU commands (opcodes) that are not a part of CBM's documented instruction set.

Such commands may not be available in the new CPU.

BBS or terminal software that uses custom User Port RS-232 routines, such as the very popular routines written by George Hug, won't work with the accelerators, according to Cotton.

"This latter category covers the majority of good non-SwiftLink terminal/BBS programs, so most of the good stuff that will work will likely require SwiftLink or modification by the author," he said.

On the good side, most current modem software has Swiftlink support, but it's too early to tell if the accelerators will be compatible with the software in current use, as these may have other incompatibility problems not related to the SwiftLink or RS-232 routines used.

The fact the Commodore 64 can be accelerated to 10 or 20 MHz is an amazing achievement that brings about an irony for telecomm users. According to Cotton, "The odd thing is that programs using stock RS-232 will probably be able to do 9600 bps without SwiftLink when a Super64 is used. [The] Flip side of that is that any such program in current existence won't give you the option to go that high since it would never have worked prior to this at speeds over 1200."

While it's still too early to tell if the accelerator will make a splash with the telecommunications crowd immediately — since the advent of new hardware always seems cause new supporting software to appear in the market — it should be interesting to see what new BBS and terminal software we may be seeing in the future because of the accelerators.

The Super64/10 (10 MHz) will sell

How fast is The Wave you ask? Would you believe 38.4Kbps?

for \$149 and the Super64/20 (20 MHz) will go for \$199. Each was scheduled to be available February.

For further information, contact Creative Micro Designs Inc., at 413.525.0023, or send email to cmd.sales@the-spa.com.

QWKie goes freeware

After allowing registered users more than a full year of exclusive use, Arthur Moore has given all Commodore users the ability to use his offline mail reader, QWKie, in its registered form. Look for QWKIEFRE.SFX on BBSs, Internet sites and online services.

In a recent announcement Moore said, "Since QWKie is in its last version, and I have not honored rego's in a long time, and I will no longer support it, I feel it is necessary to release it for all to use and enjoy. Someone, I hope, will take the time to follow the instructions, create an .SDA file and post it."

Indeed within 48 hours, the file QWKIEFRE.SFX was available on BBSs and one of Commodore's most popular FTP sites, ccnga.uwaterloo.ca.

Just over a week later, another user made available additional modifications that could be made to the registered version of QWKie to correct a minor problem with its translation tables. With these changes, QWKie will display left single quotes in both 40 and 80 columns. For those who receive uuencoded files, this is an essential change, as it means they will now decode correctly.

The changes are as follows:

Load, but don't run the file named "QWKIE 3.1". Then, ensure that you are changing the correct location by typing "PRINT PEEK (24973)" and

"PRINT PEEK (24974)". This should return a 0 and 65, respectively. To make the change, you will need to type the following:

```
POKE 24973,192
POKE 14848,96
POKE 14849,48
POKE 14850,24
POKE 14851,0
POKE 14852,0
```

To make the changes permanent, scratch the original file and save the new one. As always, never make modifications to your original files. Always use a backup. ■■■■

Gaelyne Moranec is a freelance writer residing in Australia. You can find her surfing the nets in search of C= info, usually in the Fidonet CBM or PCWRITE (Multi-Platform Computing) echoes. Comments or suggestions can be sent to 1:366/221.128, 3:800/809.128, or moranec@hal9000.apana.org.au. Her home page is http://www.msen.com/~brain/guest/Gaelyne_Moranec

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

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

BOBsBBS — 916.929.7511

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

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

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

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
S = Searchlight	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F	
T = TBBS or TCOMM	Mail X X X X X X X X	
U = UltraBBS	Usenet XX XX XX XX	
V = WWW	FTP XXXX XXXX	
W = Wildcat	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

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

201-440-1238 NJ Ridgefield P
RP-BBS Eugene Lubben
 Science fiction.
 X 19 V 600+ 1

201-729-2602
Chuck's Attempt Chuck Ammann

201-831-8152 NJ Ringwood
SailBoard BBS Jeff Sumberg
 General interest IBM.
 B 09 D 7+ 1 7

201-997-9215 NJ Kearny
CYBEX Magazine Dante Iraola
 Advertising, classified sales.
 X 29 V 2 1

202-635-1755 DC Washington
The Big Dogs Rod Pinnick
 Internet, chat, files, games.
 M 09 FV 18 20 \$ F

203-626-8617 CT Torrington
Queen's Lair Dan Schibi
 Gay adult BBS.
 Q 09 FF 10+ 2 1

203-759-5853 CT Waterbury
Continuum Scott Roncanti
 Games, education, and utilities.
 F 29 VV 35+ 2

203-852-1986 CT Norwalk
12th Step Steve Ungvary
 Recovery/self help (12 Steps).
 O 09 FV 22 4 1

205-553-7666 AL Cottondale
OptiNet—>BBS David Brasfield
 Echomail with filebone access.
 B 19 V 15+ 17 9

206-361-2235 WA Seattle
FFA-BBS Jim New
 10th Amendment vs NWO.
 W 29 VO 14+ 1

206-361-9794 WA Seattle
Einstein's H. Hoggatt
 Science subjects, biology etc.
 W 29 VO 3 1

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

207-368-5402
Grouchy Marx Crouchy Marx

208-664-2983
The Third Mill Jim Fromm

208-666-4010 ID Coeur d'Alen
Anita's Place Anita Nikiforuk
 Community; women; business.
 W 19 V 16+ 1

210-233-4877/3312
Newberry BBS Ken Anderson,
 Message-oriented/emergency serv.
 B 19 F 6+ 2 \$

212-741-2955 NY New York
NYC SCOUTING Robert Petrillo
 Scouting, council sponsored.
 B 19 BV 14+ 5

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.

213-654-7337 CA Los Angeles
CharlatanCabin Michael Conley
 Echomail, files, Wildcat Support.
 W 09 FD 35 5 1

214-245-9315
USS Inverness Jonathan McGirr

214-351-9859
Collector's Ed Len Hult

214-355-1835
Lonesome Dove M. Peacock

214-495-4806 TX Sachse
Carrier Pigeon James Marple
 KB5ZDG's BBSs for GARland ARC.
 Q 29 FD 5 1

214-644-7965 TX Dallas
Micro Center Glenn McAtee
 Drivers, shareware.
 B 29 V 20 2

215-295-6193 PA Morrisville
CentralLink Rich Sims
 A friendly place to meet!
 B 29 FV 24+ 3 3

215-624-8960 PA Philadelphia
RPS.BBS Murray Weismer
 Bible/religion, netmail, files.
 W 29 FV 22 1

216-246-0669 OH Lorain
Foundation Rich Kohnle
 UFOs.
 W 19 VO 10+ 1

216-272-5196 OH Windsor
After-Hours Tony Reesby
 Latest & best shareware.
 W 19 UF 80+ 3

216-324-6410
Comm. Netlink K Stevenson

216-562-4006 OH Cleveland
Homes OnLine Paul Moon
 Real estate database w/photos.
 M 09 V 5 4

216-639-9508
Scientist's BBS Soo Kurz

216-837-9845 OH Massillon
Twilight Keep Jeff Seifert
 Games.
 X 29 VF 11+ 2 1

217-337-0816 IL Urbana
Cloak & Dagger Steve Johnson
 Adult files, adult games.
 W 99 F 10+ 1

217-423-7430 IL Decatur
STARFLEET HQ's Terry Ortman
 OnLine shopping, door games.
 I 09 FV 14+ 1

218-326-4205 MN Gr Rapids
Blue Sky BBS Jack Blue
 Business & family oriented.
 W 09 FD 96+ 3 \$ 3

219-356-6297 IN Huntington
Timbers Mark Timbers
 Downloads, games.
 B 09 D 10+ 1

219-665-8777 IN Angola
Files Factory Chad Evans
 Files, home of EXCELnet!!
 O 29 FV 14+ 1

219-744-0558 IN Fort Wayne
The Pool Room Gary Hall
 Files, fun, friends, fantasy.
 X 29 FO 45 2 B

219-744-4908
The Play Board Jay Tipton

219-923-2377 IN Highland
Datacom Darryl Kwasny
 Files, games, net mail.
 B 19 FD 5+ 1 \$ 3

301-609-9721 MD LaPlata
Back Room Paul M Duley
 OS/2, Linux.
 B 09 F 55+ 1

301-620-0006 Md Frederick
OS/2 Mistress Wm Mousiaux
 OS/2 messages & files only.
 B 19 FV 40+ 4 B

301-776-8259 MD Laurel
Brazen's HELL! Jim Mullen
 Games, DOOM, 0-day shareware!
 I 29 FV 90+ 3 3

301-994-9460 MD Great Mills
Hafa Adai Todd Cochrane
 Software support, special int.
 W 29 F 250+ 3 \$ F

302-655-4988 DE New Castle
SWISS WildCat! Steve Sims
 Adult/games/DOS/Windows.
 W 29 VO 78+ 2 1

302-762-2873 DE Wilmington
The Vetrians Arthur L Davis2
 Veteran, education, recovery.
 W 29 F 3 1

302-836-7076 DE Newark
DSOLBBS Jim McElhinney
 Windows shareware, graphics.
 X 29 V 12+ 2 3

303-244-8420
Mirror Image Mark Feil

303-457-1111 CO Denver
GarBaGe DuMP Dean Kerl
 Chat, games, files, internet.
 M 09 VF 120+ 99 F

303-657-1467 CO Denver
SUPPORT Barry Young
 Computer support and files.
 B 29 VF 40+ 3 3

303-678-8439 CO Longmont
Knowledge Resce Larry Gibes
 Files, PCUsergrp, liberty polit.
 B 19 V 50+ 1 3

303-680-4563 CO Denver
Global-Link Louis Moritzky
 International email network.
 B 29 F 200 25 \$ F

303-841-5515 CO Parker
Hole In Wall Mike Fergione
 Games, messages, VGA planets.
 X 99 D 27+ 1 3

304-727-6733 WV St. Albans
Blue Powder Greg Hively
 Software support.
 B 29 F 21 1 1

305-383-2341 FL Miami
BPC Power BBS Harvey Peters
 Latest games, multi-line chat.
 B 19 FV 10+ 4

305-432-2223 FL Pmbrke Pines
SunShine PCB Michele Stewart
 Cooking, ANSI, games, fidonet.
 B 19 DF 24+ 2 3

305-472-7715 FL Plantation
Brass Pounder Bob Patten
 Ham radio.
 W 29 F 20+ 1

305-473-8759 FL Davie
3rd Dimension Glen Hughes
 Internet, files, chat, usenet.
 M 19 V 40+ 8 \$ F

305-563-1115 FL Ft. Laud.
Auto-Net Int. E. Fernandez
 Automobile classifieds.
 X 99 V 10 5

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

305-792-3887 FL Ft Laud
Photo Image BB M R Dolliver
 Photography related, am/pro
 S 19 VF 10+ 3

305-822-2737 FL Miami
Playing Fields Paul Bettner
 Games, files, internet, chat, fun!
 M 29 VF 50+ 42 S F

310-212-7605 CA Torrance
Beginners Club Vince Sheu
 3 email networks, WME TeenNet.
 I 09 V 50+ 1

310-390-6395 CA Los Angeles
ChistNET Larry Pearson
 FREE internet email & news.
 W 09 O 10+ 4 3

310-493-3535 CA Seal Beach
Playbord Jim Jensen
 Great game board.
 R 29 FD 52+ 1

310-858-1558 CA Bev. Hills
CyBERCHAT BBS Allen Williams
 Fun, chatting, dating.
 X 09 V 5 8 3

312-263-0924 IL Chicago
AssemNotNeeded Rick Kelps
 General utils-beginner to pro.
 R 09 D 12 4

312-284-7133
4th Dimension Jeff Jones

312-665-7319 IL Chicago
HOME AGAIN! William Johnson
 Internet email newbies.
 B 09 FV 36+ 2 3

312-693-1223 IL Chicago
Local 1220 BBS Bob Kastigar
 Work, labor, social, law.
 W 09 V 120 1

312-777-8817 IL Chicago
RoundTable Kevin Keyser
 Home of The Poets Corner.
 S 09 D 10+ 2 3

312-803-3590 IL Chicago
Chi. Comp. Soc Irwine Romanek
 Membership support.
 W 09 FV 600 6 S B

312-847-2115 IL Chicago
Cove BBS W Townsend
 Obscure files/pagan/occult.
 W 09 FD 3 1

313-663-4173 MI Ann Arbor
Hal 9000 Victor Volkman
 Sci-fi, space, internet.
 B 29 FV 50+ 10 F

313-885-0979 MI Detroit
Mich Outdoors Jim Wallace
 All outdoors activities.
 X 19 V 12 2

314-281-8598
Megabiter II George Belcher

314-351-7150
The STL CATII David Russo

314-367-1903 MO St. Louis
SLACC Stack BBS Noel Moss
 General interest
 M 09 V 19 0 F

314-442-6023 MO Columbia
Charlie's BBS Charlie Turner
 General DOS and OS/2 interests.
 B 19 FV 54+ 1

314-894-9473 MO St. Louis
TCC Scott Millikan
 Communications, games.
 A 09 FD 16+ 1 3

315-458-3482
Dreamscape Scott Brennan

315-475-3250
Bytronix Mike Bettua

316-788-7520
Griswold's Priv Jim Kelland

316-792-6613 KS Great Bend
Graffiti BBS Kevin Fredde
 Genealogy.
 X 09 V 7+ 1 2

316-796-1947 KS Hutchinson
Light House Elton Koehn
 DOS discussion/utlis.
 X 19 V 9+ 1

317-838-0445 IN Indianapolis
Shuttle BBS Guy Damlovac
 Always the latest files online.
 B 99 FD 250+ 1

317-839-9745 IN Plainfield
Lost Entitty Doug Meyer
 Games, BBS files.
 B 99 FV 950+ 1

317-887-9568 IN Indianapolis
CVRC BBS Allen Taylor
 AntiVirus, encryption security.
 B 29 F 32 1

319-236-6677 IA Waterloo
Graphic Illus Jeff Meier
 General interest.
 X 19 V 88+ 1

322-646-0088 BE Brussels
Netropolis Colin O'Brien
 Games, chat, music.
 M 09 FV 80 20 S F

334-277-3889 AL Montgomery
MTG PCUG Jerald Conway
 FidoNet 1:375/7.
 Q 09 V 5 1

334-598-9509 AL Daleville
Galaxy BBS Mike Howe
 On-line games & files.
 B 19 F 150+ 3

The A-List

334-745-4515 AL Opelika
Lightning Brd Tony Ledbetter
 Lots of files.
 B 19 FD 140+ 3 S

334-774-9946 AL Ozark
FastBytes Mark Feller
 RaceNet, ILink Echo-mail.
 W 29 F 14 1

352-854-0262 FL Ocala
Megachips Ken Gee
 Diverse.
 W 29 FF 200+ 4 F

360-826-5413 WA Concrete
JABBS Luke Deryckx
 Games / programing.
 R 29 DV 5+ 1

401-724-1864 RI Pawtucket
Playtime BBS Alan Ouellette
 X-rated, adult, games, files.
 W 19 FV 999+ 9 S 3

402-474-3747
Da Place BBS Mark Fruehling

404-336-9701 GA Kingston
Warrior Base Johnny Bunch
 Military, survival, camping.
 X 29 F 13+ 1

404-476-7880
Late Nite BBS Bobby Nowell

404-478-9700
The Night Shift Bill Hardy

404-773-7966
Warp Factor Mark Stewart

404-936-0550
Music Conn David Coleman

405-234-6822 OK Enid
No-Name David Gibson
 7 CD-ROM's on-line.
 R 29 D 14+ 1 S

405-670-1367 OK OklahomaCity
Shadow Magic Duane Robertson
 Free speech, free access.
 X 29 FV 50+ 2 3

405-728-7124
Hotel California Lloyd Lawson

406-259-6771 MT Billings
Night Lights John Hank
 Net-mail, games, CD-ROMS.
 I 29 FV 14+ 1

406-543-8234 MT Missoula
Montana Banana Paul Wheaton
 BananaCom support.
 T 09 DF 2 2 4

406-782-7941 MT Butte
CulturiWasteId Todd Smyth
 Star Trek, midi, general int.
 B 19 V 6+ 1

407-466-1661 FL Ft. Pierce
Higher Power Ralph Allen
 Business related.
 W 09 B 10+ 1

407-477-5756 FL Boca Raton
Substation Paul Cangialosi
 Multimedia, images, shareware.
 B 19 V 100+ 4 S

407-747-5679 FL Jupiter
Bloomunit BBS Linda Bloom
 Homeschool education.
 X 09 V 18+ 1

407-852-7916 FL Boca Raton
Micro_Chap_BBS Gary Chapman
 Law enforcement news & jobs.
 M 29 VF 14+ 3 S

407-859-7428
The Death Star N Seabury

407-932-0584 FL kissimmee
NIVETS BBS steven webb
 28,000 Files, totally FREE.
 W 19 FO 14+ 1

408-364-2789
PereLine BBS Tom Serface

408-384-3141 CA Marina
The Open Road Royce Fernandez
 Motorcycle news runs & events.
 X 29 D 7 1

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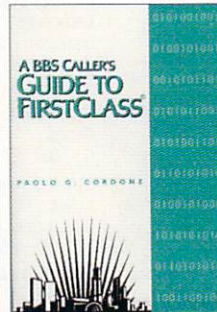


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The A-List

408-526-9815 CA San Jose
The "X" Files David Morales
 Arsenal/NightOwl shareware.
 W 09 D 5+ 2 \$

409-755-3715 TX Lumberton
Grumpy D's Doyle Welborn
 Sound wave files.
 O 09 D 14+ 1

409-769-4249
Wayne's World Wayne Belvin
 409-842-3251 TX Beaumont
BROAD REACH Tim Beard
 Marine and aviation.
 W 09 D 11+ 2 1

410-256-2290 MD Baltimore
Baltimore Conn Phillip Allred
 Games and general interest.
 X 29 VF 170+ 8 3

410-483-2180 MD Rosedale
KroziersCastle Faith Kidwell
 60 games, 85, 000+ files, fidonet.
 W 29 F 14+ 1

410-519-1465 MD Severn
G&P BBS Gil Blankenship
 Shareware & graphics.
 W 09 V 65+ 1

410-544-3439 MD Arnold
Situation Room Richard Fisher
 Messages & netted games.
 X 19 FV 20+ 2 1

410-730-5624 MD Columbia
MD Gateway Paul Bitterli
 General.
 B 19 V 12 1

410-893-6905 MD Forest Hill
TimeDistortion Scott Waters
 Chat & internet.
 W 29 VF 124+ 8 3

412-375-4919 PA Aliquippa
The Dairy BBS Brian Geisel
 1-gig of games, prog., 7nets.
 V 09 VF 50+ 1 1

412-523-0610 PA Jeannette
REIDS BBS Tim Reidmiller
 Fido/usenet/i-mail/satellite.
 T 09 F 20+ 4 \$ 3

412-527-3749 PA Jeannette
KastlerocK Jamie Kowinsky
 Medieval/programming/art/game.
 X 09 V 170+ 3 1

412-567-6782
entertain me bbs Shawn Cupec

412-746-0107 PA Canonsburg
Washington PCBd Mike Keelon
 Rime hub/node.
 B 09 F 50+ 2 \$

412-962-3212 PA Sharpville
New Dawn Alan & Kathy
 Games, files.
 I 29 V 14+ 1

413-527-8977
Uncle Hank's Hank Hurteau
 414-375-1877 WI Cedarburg
Binary Bicycle Scott Daniels
 Bicycling enthusiasts.
 W 29 F 8+ 1

414-543-4472 WI Milwaukee
Home of ZIGGY D DeLonay
 Files, doors, message bases.
 I 29 O 2 1

414-546-3813 WI Milwaukee
Digital Dreams Keith Herms
 Shareware, games, multimedia.
 T 29 FV 3+ 2

414-774-3435 WI Milwaukee
DownLoad City Dan Palmisano
 EmeraldNET, VirtualNET, games.
 X 29 FV 9+ 2 3

415-386-2185 CA San Francisco
Club 21 BBS D. Johnson
 Adult oriented.
 B 09 F 14+ 3 \$

415-856-2820 CA Palo Alto
Legal Recourse Dave Alden
 Law school, books, entertain.
 M 09 VO 9+ 3 3

415-952-3231 CA San Bruno
The Floor Show Donna Hall
 Sci fi, fantasy, RPGs.
 X 09 V 14+ 1

415-961-6911 CA Palo Alto
INTERACT Eric Knight
 Chat, games, Internet svcs.
 X 29 V 10 32 \$ 9

416-770-6917
Platinum Exprs Glenn Jarvis

417-683-4953 MO Ava
Round Table Mukunda Modell
 Support, games.
 B 29 VF 9+ 2 \$ 2

419-999-6456 OH Lima
GameRoom BBS Mike Sarnovsky
 Doom HQ BBS, tons of shareware.
 W 29 DB 14+ 2 \$

423-283-4336 TN Johnson City
GWN Chris Bergeron
 Graphics, family oriented.
 X 29 FV 7+ 2 3

423-870-0794 TN Chattanooga
The Registry Bill Kern
 Nuclear/computer professionals.
 W 29 FV 42+ 2 \$

423-892-8834 TN Chattanooga
TLR Systems Bill Crawford
 RIPscript graphics.
 S 29 FD 42+ 1

501-698-1798 AR Batesville
S.G.A. BBS Wayne Ray
 Message echos.
 S 29 F 12+ 3 1

501-753-8575 AR Little Rock
The Rock BBS Tony Winfrey
 Family oriented bbs, chat.
 T 29 V 20+ 11 \$ 3

502-443-6014
The Data Center Jeff Burton

503-221-1777 OR Portland
Combat Arms Richard Bash
 Firearms, Second Amendment.
 W 29 V 5 1 3

503-355-8738 OR Rockaway
Tillamook AT Mike Healy
 Detailed USGS Oregon maps.
 W 09 VO 1 1 \$

503-393-5580
Chemeketa Bob Hunter

503-636-4947 OR Portland
DJO Mike Gottlieb
 Chat & entertainment.
 M 09 FV 140+ 26 F

503-646-4514 OR Portland
Adirondack David Katz
 Technical support.
 W 29 FD 3+ 1

503-772-7299 OR Medford
Toon Town Jonathan Works
 Files.
 V 09 VV 16+ 1 3

504-356-0790
Southern Online Russell Jackson

504-542-9600
Computer Solu Sidney Egnew

505-294-5675 NM Albuquerque
GarBaGe DuMP Dean Kerl
 Chat, games, files, internet.
 M 09 VF 120+ 99 F

505-672-1665 NM White Rock
Political BBS B. Tafaya
 Politics, files, general.
 X 29 VV 100+ 2 3

505-985-2643 NM Clovis
Genius' Anon. Paul Nelson
 General — computer.
 X 29 FV 8+ 1

508-481-5478 MA Marlborough
Writer's BBS Brian Rickman
 literature, poetry, authors.
 X 19 V 1 1 3

508-528-2295
Computer Conf. Edward Zdrok

508-688-1816 MA Methuen
Tazman's BBS Kirk Scanlon
 Educational, online entert.
 W 29 D 200+ 1 1

508-746-6010 MA Plymouth
ADULT HANGOUT Jay Winger
 Local access numbers worldwide.
 M 09 DF 200+ 44

508-759-1888 MA Buzzards Bay
Max. Bandwidth Brian Beaulieu
 Games, support, messages.
 X 29 F 100+ 1

508-853-0340
Schunix-Pub Robert Schultz

509-891-6148
The Moonflower Peter Link

510-252-9131 CA Fremont
Jetstream Bill Garrison
 300, 000 files online, doors.
 W 19 DF 22+ 2 \$

510-443-6146 CA Livermore
EYE IN SKY BBS Mike Rushford
 Look at the sky.
 B 09 VF 30 1 3

510-568-7807 CA Oakland
Gold Diggers Harry Goldberg
 Latest files online games.
 S 29 V 12+ 1 \$

510-724-9296 CA Pinole
Greater Light Michael Bryant
 Christian.
 X 29 VF 28+ 2

510-785-1123 CA Hayward
Clubhouse Tim Wilcox
 Genealogy, naturist areas.
 Q 19 V 12 1

510-785-4263 CA Hayward
GAME ZONE Mr. Game
 Games.
 Q 09 F 4 1

510-939-1691 CA Walnut Creek
Io Net Steve Cooper
 Chat, games, entertainment.
 T 09 VD 3 8 \$ 3

510-939-8344 CA Walnut Creek
Warped Max Baker
 Friends, messages, files.
 V 09 FV 30+ 2

512-328-2885 TX Austin
Shareware Conct Carlos Lopes
 Off. dist site for 9 companies.
 Q 09 VF 11 0 3

512-392-0988 TX San Marcos
Nudie Bar 2 Ron M. Kulik
 Adult oriented files.
 X 29 VH 4+ 1

512-444-7854 TX Austin
Straylight BBS Mitch Burton
 Art, music, descense, onliners.
 X 19 V 2 1

512-664-7570 TX Alice
Jacob's House Tom Oaks
 Online fun.
 I 09 FV 50+ 2

512-836-4262
The Night Owl II Danny Dyess

512-945-9304
Ranch House Larry Easley

513-335-8304 OH Troy
OuterNet WHQ Jeff Clemmons
 EchoMail, file echos, gaming.
 X 29 V 9+ 1 1

513-473-0399 OH Covington
Virtual Eye Jeff Phalin
 Games, files, messages.
 W 29 FV 11+ 1

513-573-9201 OH Mason
CyberSpaceExch Mike Rickman
 Files/Games/Ordered.
 W 29 V 11+ 5 7

513-753-3614 OH Cincinnati
Frank's Place Steve Raketel
 Games, cheats, walkthroughs.
 F 99 VF 20+ 2

513-753-9353 OH Cincinnati
Scottish Moor Terry Chisholm
 Dos(all) & Win(3-95) programs.
 R 29 U 8 1

513-961-7214 OH Cincinnati
Cyberspc Realm Ariel Benzakein
 Internet, online magazines.
 X 99 FV 14+ 2 7

514-694-0703 QC Pte-Claire
AGENDA WORLD Gilles Beaugrea
 General information on West-Is.
 O 09 V 2 1 \$ 1

515-628-3101
The Main Street Steve Jansen

515-752-8014 IA Marshalltown
Blue Sky Randy Meyer
 Games, programming.
 F 19 V 1 1 1

516-437-1659
DEFCON BBS M Christiansen

516-736-6662
Your Software J Woodstock

516-797-5376 NY Massapequa
Nuthin Fancy Robert Kern
 Shareware, sysoping.
 X 29 FV 70+ 2 7

516-822-8909 NY Plainview
Artif. Intell. Paul Sheiman
 Games.
 X 19 FV 12 1

517-546-9929 MI Howell
Alalpha BBS Rick Schryvers
 Internet email, games, technical.
 W 19 vf 14+ 1 7

517-695-9952
Wolverine BBS Rick Rosinski

517-781-7653 MI Saginaw
DSM BBS Tim Fries
 Recreation and games.
 L 29 F 9+ 1

518-483-6004 NY Malone
TNCBBS! Wiley Kulia
 Business, games, internet support.
 W 29 V 10+ 1

520-290-2807 AZ Tucson
Demodulator Jim Bennett
 Echo mail & files.
 X 29 DF 12 1

520-459-6514 AZ Sierra Vista
Danish Tower Bill Morris
 Online games UL/DL info.
 W 29 F 900+ 1 3

520-669-9225 AZ Parker
RACEBBS Derik Wooddell
 Auto, Racing, Inet access.
 W 19 F 14 1 3

520-768-7515 AZ Mohave Vally
Rippers BBS Larry Drum
 Local info & entertainment isp.
 M 09 FV 999+ 46 \$ F

540-635-3307 VA Front Royal
The Wolf's Den David Morris
 Multi-player gaming, internet.
 M 29 VF 14+ 4 \$ 3

540-667-3530 VA Winchester
Another Dimen Gary Foreman
 Files, Intelc mail.
 B 29 FF 36+ 2

540-898-9114 VA F'Burg
Diamond Mine Dave Ferrussel
 Message forums & conferences.
 O 29 F 2+ 1 3

541-883-1574 OR Klamath Fall
Stormy Night Patti McMann
 Games, files, messages, more.
 W 19 VB 12+ 1

601-356-9032 MS Columbus
MS Online Ken Foster
 Shareware, Fido HUB.
 Q 29 FF 800 2 \$

601-371-0423
After Hours BBS Randy Riley

602-258-7113
The Wish Book Lorne Shantz

603-788-2213 NH Lancaster
modem gamelink Chuck Russell
 4 player doom on-line.
 M 29 FV 12+ 8 3

606-275-4321 KY Lexington
BEYOND I Big B Ken Newberg
 Utilities & messages.
 X 19 FV 1 1

606-371-6337 KY Florence
MagicSoft BBS! Tem House
 Files related.
 W 29 FV 14+ 2

606-441-2130
Ghost House Michael Haley

606-987-8230 KY Paris
Bourbon Bytes Peter Clough
 Newbies, local flavored info.
 X 29 V 400 4

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

609-296-4370 NJ Tuckerton
Mystical Illus Michelle Havens
 Family oriented; all welcome.
 X 19 FV 12+ 2 \$ 1

609-467-5540 NJ Swedesboro
Alex's World Alex Mastrando
 Online games, adult forums/files.
 G 19 F 90+ 3 7

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

609-484-8874 NJ Pleasantvill
R.C. BBS of NJ Kenneth Leary
 Catholic/christian/religious.
 W 19 V 2 1

609-485-2380 NJ Atlantic City
Casino Dave Schubert
 For entire family.
 B 19 FO 14+ 5 F

609-582-9546 NJ Pitman
C&J "Online" Chuck Walker
 Shareware.
 G 19 F 50+ 2 F

609-587-2672 NJ Mercerville
The TAO BBS Bob Watson
 Software support, online games.
 B 09 DF 20+ 3 7

609-587-4651 NJ Mercerville
the Dealmakers Ted Kraus
 Commercial real estate, nation.
 B 19 D 10 3 7

609-714-9700 NJ Medford
InTheFeetOfNight Terry W
 For foot lovers; scans, videos.

609-764-0812 NJ Delran
Radio Wave Tyler Myers
 Messages, Internet, files.
 B 19 V 100 4 F

609-764-8942 NJ Riverside
BBS Express K. Steinwender
 Internet access, games, chat.
 B 09 D 11 6 F

609-768-6585
BB's 6BS Bob Browne

609-778-4442
Computer Gam Gregory Moore

609-783-5864 NJ Lindenwold
Class Bulletin Albert Rania

LORD, Luntatix.
X 19 B 2 1

609-890-6347 NJ Ham. Square
CyberCity USA Bob Marsley
Chat/social/entertainment.
M 19 DF 45+ 6 F

609-931-2190 NJ Bellmawr
CyberGte Alpha Thomas Moore
Entertainment.
M 09 V 4 1 3

610-259-2034 PA Philadelphia
DVOL Steve Weisz
Regional information, internet.
M 09 F 12+ 32 S F

610-454-9862 PA Collegeville
G'wy EndOfTime Timothy Radde
Shareware, games, internet.
B 09 F 16+ 1 F

610-566-9435 PA Media
CraTech BBS Antonio Rocha
Business, prog., chat, games.
X 19 VF 14 12 S 3

610-954-7653 PA Bethlehem
TownSquareBBS Dave Ross
Multiplayer games/Internet.
M 09 VF 30 14 S 3

612-431-6009 MN Lakeville
The Gateway C. Fankhauser
7 CD's, 2500+ wads, files, games.
X 99 FV 60+ 2

612-437-7330 MN Hastings
Business Guild Dan Myers
Group.
W 29 F 14+ 2 S D

612-454-0332 MN St. Paul
Invisix Matt Jurcich
Interlink teleconference/CDROM.
M 09 FV 18+ 3 3

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

612-559-6197 MN Minneapolis
WizardWorks Jeff Haux
Technical support & information.
W 09 V 4 3

614-387-2762
The Vault BBS Keith Ketcham
614-522-5573 OH Newark
Central City Steve Forgey
Family oriented, user defined.
R 09 FV 6 2 1

614-759-7018 OH Columbus
Doug's Place Douglas Reese
Adult-oriented, 12 CDROM.
B 19 F 80+ 3 3

614-766-7931 OH Columbus
Power Station Tom Power
Ufos, BBS, general.
X 29 V 100+ 8 7

614-781-1760 OH Columbus
The Mindway Aaron Grooms
Music, occult, goth culture.
V 09 V 2 1

614-864-6671 OH Columbus
PC One Paul Lapczynski
Games, files, messages.
W 09 D 14+ 1

615-358-9839 TN Clarksville
INFOSHOP Frenchy LeFavor
File/information transfer.
W 19 F 20 1

615-367-6946 TN Nashville
Picture Perfect Yogi Christian
Sight & sound files.
W 09 D 4 1

615-399-0707
Lebanon Link B Richardson

The A-List

615-478-2890
PC Junction BBS Doug Carpenter
615-503-9903 TN Clarksville
Pixelation BBS Josh Zerlan
100s chat users/tons of files.
M 09 FD 100+ 10 3

615-966-3574
Data World BBS Sean Dudley
615-977-9385
WNMFS BBS Michael Walker

616-392-8175 MI Holland
Phoenix Online Randy Kuite
Chat, files, games, all ages.
M 09 FV 14+ 25 S F

617-247-1626 MA Boston
Proxima BBS Jorge Rodriguez
Medical technology educational.
B 19 V 14+ 1 1

617-354-8873
Channel 1 BBS Brian Miller

617-397-8888 MA Malden
Boston Rocks Ron Doty
Music based; home of RockLink.
W 29 FV 240+ 6 3

617-581-9980 MA Lexington
VIDEODROME M Lammons
Total movie information.
T 09 D 9 2

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

continues...



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 Q 19 DF 72+ 3

619-423-4970 CA Imperial Bch
The Music Shop Judy Letostak
 Music related.
 X 09 V 14+ 1

619-435-0036 CA Coronado
Daily Calendar E. Copper
 Home office, files, Internet.
 B 29 FV 6 1 7

619-463-9378 CA San Diego
ZenWest Chris Sickels
 C/S, MajorNet, chat, games.
 X 09 VF 10 8

619-523-9025 CA San Diego
Techno-Mages Holly Sullivan
 DLG BB/OS home support site.
 X 29 FV 4 1

619-779-9402 CA Palm Desert
Desert Oracle Jim John
 Adult gay & lesbian.
 M 29 VF 14+ 10 \$ 3

701-280-2343 ND Fargo
Spectrum BBS Dale Hill
 General interest.
 A 29 VF 10+ 1

701-772-5399
City Lites John Lundell

701-839-2664 ND Minot
CyberStar BBS Glenn French
 Files, Apogee Dist site.
 W 29 FV 5 1

701-852-8072 ND Minot
Infinity Ronnie R. Herr
 Online games, email, files, etc.
 X 29 V 4 1 \$ 1

702-254-8601 NV Las Vegas
ABSOLUTE TEMP Charles Shapiro
 U'NI-net Netmail, OS/2.
 B 19 VF 40+ 2 3

702-324-0301 NV Reno
CENPAC WEST Rob Pittser
 Files, multi-player games.
 M 29 V 12 8

702-588-0315 NV Staterline
Lightning Syst Bill Martin
 Fast, friendly, family system.
 O 09 DF 999+ 2

702-747-5432 NV Reno
Ultimate BBS Michael Fox
 General interest.
 S 19 V 16+ 1

702-796-7771 NV Las Vegas
Above & Beyond Robert Henson
 Files, door games, messages.
 W 19 FV 88+ 3

703-237-8725 VA Arlington
Home Repair Bobby Clarke
 Home related, do-it-yourself.
 R 29 V 5 1

703-243-9755 VA Arlington
Freepnt Matrix J. Ivey
 Conversation, games, files.
 V 09 VB 4 1

703-427-0226
Mountain Air Edward Wood

703-435-8644
The Last Resort Derek Figg

703-478-5502 DC Washington
APD Mark Maxey
 Appraisal data.
 M 19 FV 100+ 86 F

703-532-7143
Arlington Softwr Jay Falvey

703-620-8900
World Data Net Tony McClenny

703-638-7580
Xsword's Haven R Hedgecock

703-731-0601
Dockside BBS Danny Cook

704-757-9949
Enchnt Forest Brian Miller

The A-List

704-983-2877 NC Albemarle
Small Wonder Mark Brooks
 Network, games, CD-ROM, I-net.
 X 19 HB 10 1 \$ 1

705-727-0824 ON Barrie
Ignition Factor Ben Vinegar
 Music, games.
 R 09 V 1 1

707-792-9920 CA Cotati
STONEHEDGE John Chippis
 Variety of files. Free board.
 Y 99 U 2 1

708-247-9068 IL Vernon Hills
Power Palace S. Hauswirth
 Games, email & newsgroups, OS2.
 B 09 F 28+ 2 3

708-260-8818
Adline U.S.A.! Charles Parker

708-367-7851
System Software Wayne Lawton

708-462-1508 IL Wheaton
Whin File Exch Jim Amidei
 Best of shareware & usenet.
 W 29 VD 50+ 5 \$ 3

708-489-0031 IL Midlothian
B&R Enterprise Ronnie King
 General, games, nets.
 B 09 FV 80+ 3 1

708-516-8679 IL Cary
The HOT MIX Curt Zimmerman
 Shareware, games, music, DJs.
 W 19 F 165+ 5 3

708-546-0301
Castle KingSide Don Martin

708-634-9368
Great Northern Michael Wilson

708-635-8050 IL Des Plaines
The Daze Inn John Mc Climent
 Multi interest general/adult.
 Q 09 D 5 3 3

708-636-6694
Suburban Softwr Chuck Valecek

708-832-7754
Addisn Dos Haus Leroy Hein Jr

708-835-3205 IL Glencoe
Grey Matter James Karaganis
 Virtual reality, science fiction.
 W 99 FV 50+ 6 \$

708-872-4096 IL Zion
Sojourner BBS Rick Flint
 Files, games, mags, job lists.
 S 19 F 30+ 1

708-894-9312 IL Medinah
The Borg Bill Valiunas
 Computer support / networking.
 W 99 F 35+ 1

708-991-2452
BBS Data Sys Greg Kaiser

708-993-0461 IL Elmhurst
The Wild Onion A. Tantillo
 Social, chat, interactive games.
 M 99 FV 225+ 117 \$ F

713-873-5702
Bowls Acr Amer Dennis Asfour

714-525-0738 CA Fullerton
Comp. Republic Brian Williams
 A fresh alternative to AOL.
 X 99 FV 70+ 2

714-720-3801 CA Newport Beach
DB BBS Grant
 GUI interface, sounds, rad.
 X 29 F 14+ 2 \$ A

714-837-9677
Solar System Peter Guethlein

714-839-0553 CA Garden Grove
His Place Glenn Frank
 Christian church, Mac, IBM.
 X 19 V 1 1

714-951-7311 CA Mission Viejo
A Helping Hand Scott Leighton
 Internet email, new user help.
 W 19 VF 12+ 1 3

714-996-7777
The Liberty BBS Steven Grande

715-652-2758 WI Auburndale
TwilightZone J. Hrusovszky
 Conspiracy/Patriot.
 T 19 DF 36+ 7 F

715-726-0501 WI Chip. Falls
Storm BBS Clay Busker
 Music mods, demos.
 X 19 V 10+ 1

716-624-8106 NY Rochester
NeoNexus Sys. David Muench
 Chat, internet, files, msggs.
 M 19 DF 999+ 20 \$ F

716-681-9358 NY Buffalo
The Dark Side Mike Cherven
 Games, files, and much more!
 F 19 D 16+ 2 \$ C

717-420-8937 PA Analomink
magic dominion lance merlen
 all general files all ages.
 W 19 D 14+ 2

717-561-8145 PA Harrisburg
TEC-BOARD Bob Lester
 Ham radio.
 X 09 F 6+ 1

717-691-1041 PA Mchanicsbur
Sunburst Mike Smeal
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 X 19 F 5+ 1

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NE File Bank Stuart Wilson
 Files, Fidonet, email, newsgrp.
 Q 09 D 20+ 2 3

717-876-2007 PA Archbald
Generation X Walter Petrosky
 Online games, music & demos.
 X 99 FD 10+ 1 1

718-234-6905 NY Brooklyn
Maddog BBS Ilya Kushnirsky
 General and games.
 R 09 VF 5+ 1

718-366-6165
Rama One BBS Tommy Brunning
 718-547-4210 NY Bronx
After Hours Ed Calvin
 Computer related forums/files.
 M 09 V 10 4

718-779-5801 NY woodside
Blarney BBS Maureen C.
 Doors.
 B 29 VF 2+ 1

718-786-5557 NY LIC
The Interzone Jim Garvin
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 B 29 DF 14+ 4 3

718-837-3236 NY Brooklyn
Consultant BBS Jay Caplan
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 B 09 D 999+ 8 \$ 1

718-882-5683 NY Bronx
BBSLineTraveler Ray Checko
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 I 29 V 5 1

718-892-0187 NY Bronx
Devastate BBS Luis Casas
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 O 29 VB 4 1

719-540-9728 CO Colo Springs
Co. Connection Scott Carter
 Online games and adult areas.
 W 09 FV 39+ 3 7

770-232-9827 GA Atlanta
All Business J. Domaleski
 Business-related, files, mail.
 O 19 F 14 1 3

770-336-9701 GA Kingston
Warrior Base Johnny Bunch
 Military, survival, camping.
 X 29 F 13+ 1

770-736-0841 GA Loganville
Blondie's Den Janice Gilmore
 Crafts, family, cooking.
 T 09 B 14+ 2

770-760-8494 GA Conyers
ACS OnLine Wolfgang Platt
 Real estate & PC support.
 W 99 V 8+ 1

770-825-0841 GA Norcross
BrightStar Bob Naumann
 Business-related.
 B 19 B 3 1

770-943-0173 GA Pwder Sprgs
Computer Connx F. Osborne
 General, outdoors, healthcare.
 P 09 V 4 1

770-972-4999 GA Atlanta
GraffitiOnline Jim Maddox
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 M 29 V 40 45 \$

770-994-0612 GA Atlanta
ABBS Ron Miller
 Many SIGs including law enforc.
 T1 09 VO 10+ 6 3

800-646-2368 NJ Carlsatdt
NAEMT BBS Kevin Agard
 Emergency medical services.
 W 29 FF 11 2 3

803-233-0824 SC Greenville
Optical Delusi Bruce Murphree
 Files, doors, messages.
 W 09 F 14+ 1

The A-List

803-552-4389 SC N.Charleston
Earth Art Bob Chapman
 Environment/art/Green BBS list.
 B 09 DF 128+ 4 3

803-796-7235 SC W.Columbia
Ent BBS Chip Meyers
 Support, Fidonet Filebone, echos.
 Q 29 FB 8 1 1

803-871-3076 SC Summerville
Byte Bucket Paul Dardis
 Ham radio.
 B 19 V 10+ 1

803-871-8761 SC Ladson
Carolina Chat Robert McElwee
 Full internet, chat, DOOM.
 M 19 VO 14+ 20 \$ F

803-873-5797 SC Ladson
Dazed&Confused Bunny McElwee
 Games.
 B 19 FV 14+ 8

804-293-4710 VA Charlottesville
Freeware Hall Rey Barry
 Supplies sysops with freeware.
 B 29 F 11 1

804-491-0026 VA Chesapeake
Thin Blue Line Scott White
 Law enforcement.
 Q 29 F 8 2

804-520-0536 VA Chesterfield
Joe's Place BB Joe Landers
 Ham radio, games and adult fun.
 W 09 FV 14+ 2

804-541-0517 VA Hopewell
Cracked Windows Daniel Slagle
 Game crack, cheat, hint files.
 S 99 F 14+ 1

804-590-2161 VA Matoaca
Servant of Lord Dr C.A. Wootten
 Christian education/research.
 W 19 FV 102 0 3

804-596-2131
Time Out! BBS Mark Solomon
 804-967-0943 VA Richmond
Little Bytes Augie Kunnecke
 Sound, graphics, education.
 W 09 V 5+ 1

804-979-1036 VA Charlottesville
Fiat Line Paul Suggs
 General use.
 W 99 F 16+ 1

805-374-9997 CA Thous Oak
The Matrix Denny Cherry
 Adult access, online games.
 W 09 B 11+ 1

805-376-9191 CA Newbry Park
Data Field BBS David Levin
 OS/2, DOS, programming, games.
 X 29 FV 5 1 3

805-499-5717
Formula 350 Eric Lundberg
 805-526-0609 CA Simi Valley
The Data Shop Alan McDonald
 Information & entertainment.
 M 09 DF 50+ 6 3

805-579-3877 CA Thous Oak
Joe's Garage Marc Neveux
 Online games.
 X 29 V 8 1

805-964-4766
The Seaside Les Jones
 806-355-8564 Tx Amarillo
The Minuteman Larry Wyble
 Second amendment issues.
 X 29 V 12+ 1

809-274-1872 PR Hato Rey
CyberNet Onlin Jaime Barcelo
 Business, Internet, Windows 95.
 X 29 VU 17+ 3 \$ F

809-283-6942 PR San Juan
Centus Edfel J. Rivera
 Business, productivity.
 W 29 V 20+ 2 2

809-832-4984 PR Mayaguez
The Glass BBS Heber Soto
 Dedicated to Windows shareware.
 I 19 F 80+ 1 3

810-227-3875 MI Brighton
The Newtonian Mark Newton
 Internet, Windows, PowerBBS.
 X 29 F 16+ 2 F

810-477-6695
The Soul Conn Mike Demski
 810-546-4467 MI Ferndale
Comm Connect Jeff Squires
 Information-genealogy-games.
 Y 09 DF 16+ 1 1

810-631-6885
The Casual BBS Pat Cargill
 810-751-6704 MI Warren
Short Circuit Eric Dobis
 Family based. No adult materl.
 W 29 DF 20+ 2

812-475-0434 IN Evansville
Rustic Inn BBS Ronald Benjamin
 Msgs, hobbies, games, contests.
 W 09 VO 20+ 2

813-841-7231 FL Port Richey
TOOM James Sumner
 How-to, adult avail.
 X 29 F 5 1 3

813-856-0577 FL Hudson
Traveling Man david zimmer
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 I 29 V 5+ 1

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Rusty n Edie's BBS
7393 California Ave.
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813-934-7881 FL Holiday
Planet Alderdan Dale Hutchinson
Star Wars Universe.
B 19 D 20+ 2

813-942-0323
Genesis Network D Thompson

813-961-0788 FL Tampa
Nordevald SW Marianne Cowley
DCI BBS software headquarters.
X 19 FD 14 2 3

814-237-3825 PA StateCollege
MagneticBottle Bill Mertens
Computer clubs BBS / ILink.
B 19 FF 20 2

814-336-3294 PA Meadville
The Mach 5 Joe Formanek
Files, games, messages, etc.
X 19 V 55+ 1

814-827-0123 PA Titusville
Data SuperHigh Mark Harcourt
Northwest PA, internet ISP.
S 09 D 14+ 8 F

814-886-2563 PA Cresson
The Summit SL Richard Lis
Sysop support, file selections.
S 19 DF 6+ 2 1

815-458-0138 IL Braidwood
Time Machine Jim Stearns
Files, messages, no adult files.
B 29 V 60+ 2 3

815-458-3910 IL Braidwood
Monkeys Corner George Rozak
General interest, lots of files.
S 09 V 10+ 1

815-795-6371
Squirrel's Nest Neal Roberts
815-886-0494 IL Romeoville
ElectricEstates John Damore
Files and messages.
B 09 FV 180 0 3

816-241-8442 MO Kansas City
Connections Sam Monteleone
Chat, Games, Sales, Adult ect.
X 29 FO 14+ 9 \$ 3

816-331-3782 MO Belton
Howard's Ntb. Jim Howard
Nudist, Green Support, ham.
W 19 F 14+ 2 F

817-355-9252
Contrails BBS Joe Richter

817-690-6249 TX Killeen
Sphinxes Domain Michael Cannon
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X 19 FV 999+ 1 3

818-360-9611 CA Northridge
Biz Link BBS Todd Taylor
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T 29 F 12+ 8 \$

818-366-1238 CA Granada Hill
MOG-UR'S EMS Tom Tcimpidis
Diverse social & technical BBS.
W 29 FD 910+ 5 3

818-727-7639
Steuth Mark Valentine

818-763-0678 CA N. Hollywood
Computer One Ed Baker
General interest open to all.
W 29 FV 14+ 4 \$ 3

818-792-4752 CA Pasadena
SportsClub BBS Tom Fota
Sports messaging.
W 29 FV 10+ 2 \$ 3

818-896-2007 CA Lk View Terr
The Ledge Joseph Sheppard
Home of U'NI-net Echomail Net.
B 19 FV 30+ 3 \$ 3

818-919-6285 CA Diamond Bar
NightPlayer Leon Lien
Movies for Win.
B 99 F 14 2 \$

901-327-1895
Metroplex BBS Rick vanHooser
901-452-4779 TN Memphis
Memphis Online Jane Hayden
Conferences & chat, job center.
S 09 V 10 12 3

901-837-7345 TN Atoka
doc's box William Webb
Vetlink net and vafnet link.
L 19 VB 5 1

903-892-6784 TX Sherman
CC64C Joe Marr
Messages, files, games.
X 19 V 3 1

904-220-9404 FL Jacksonville
Online Games Joshua Isaacson
Games, Doom][, Doom, Heretic.
M 09 V 4 2

904-323-8684
Up All Night BBS Rob Warren
904-383-9866 FL Mount Dora
HIRS BBS Byron Felts
Online information exchange.
X 19 V 5 1

904-589-2532 FL Grand Island
Trust No One Brian Cash
Political.
X 19 FV 12+ 2



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A D U L T P L A Y G R O U N D

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<http://www.candyland.com/bbs>

904-673-1983 FL Ormond Bch
Aeronet Online Jean Jenner
 Aviation, space, weather, etc.
 M 09 BV 40+ 5 3

904-757-0281 FL Jacksonville
Jim's Place Jim Loos
 General.
 R 19 VF 6+ 2 1

905-567-5768 On Mississauga
TheRipinTime Ernest Loiselle
 Scouting.
 S 99 V 8+ 2 1

906-485-4246 MI Marquette
Sanctuary BBS Shadowspawn
 Bringing users the best.
 X 09 FU 78+ 2

907-562-7348 AK Anchorage
Back Woods Pat Barnes
 Files.
 W 29 FF 20+ 1 7

908-247-2273 NJ NewBrnswck
ACGNJ Main BBS Bob Berto
 Shareware & I-net mail & news.
 B 19 DF 13+ 2 3

908-276-4405
The Vector J Delvecchio

908-335-1135 NJ Holmdel
KDF David Kaiserman
 Many active message & file bases.
 W 19 V 11+ 1

908-438-0749 NJ Glen Gardner
PC Connection George Williams
 Files, GIFs, shareware, adult.
 X 29 V 16+ 1 F

908-558-7356 NJ Hillside
Train Station B. Adankewicz
 Ham radio.
 W 29 F 14+ 1

908-572-5762
Dataland! BBS Rick Young

908-634-2868 NJ Woodbridge
PowerPlay BBS Chris Kleban
 Rock'n'hockey.
 X 29 F 20+ 1

908-873-0001 NJ Somerset
dr Ones Oproom Bob Berto
 Support for DOS and OS/2 sw.
 X 19 D 3 1

909-697-0031 CA Moreno Valle
The Library! Kim Martin
 <ASP> software, small business.
 W 99 VF 14+ 3

909-797-3135
CyberCulture Todd Novak

909-860-9668 CA Diamond Bar
NightPlayer Leon Lien
 Movies.
 B 99 F 15 2 \$

909-882-7887 CA S Bernardino
VirtualVillage Ed Sponsler
 Online games / latest sharware.
 W 09 V 14+ 3 3

909-925-9564
The Ouija! Board Keith Burgner

910-292-1979 NC Greensboro
The Billboard Bill Bailey
 Computer hobbyist/professional.
 W 19 V 10+ 2 3

910-768-7570 NC WinstonSal
Anachro Corner Derek Godfrey
 Sci-Fi, SCA, Trek, PC utilities.
 X 19 V 5 1 \$

912-538-7950 GA Vidalia
Cornerstone Michael Brazell
 All-around general BBS.
 W 29 F 15+ 1 \$

913-483-4554 KS Russell
black door Monty Black
 DOS, Windows, discussion.
 X 19 V 4 1 1

The A-List

913-784-7171
The Publishing Mike Robinson

913-842-2885 KS Lawrence
Home's Hut H. Parker
 Hardware, software support.
 X 09 FF 14+ 2 1

914-426-0729
Mirage Network Brian Buffell

914-524-0388 NY N. Tarrytown
CyberSpace HWY Douglas Zolkind
 Games, reference, etc.
 I 09 FV 5+ 2 F

914-621-2865
Drk Side of Moon Peter Cacchioli

914-793-5060 NY Bronxville
Applezize Mike Baumann
 Entertainment.
 M 99 F 35+ 8 \$ F

914-896-0049 NY Fishkill
The Game Frame B. Burton
 Multiplayer game server.
 M 99 VF 1 6

915-520-0114 TX Midland
Baron's Castle J.Hautzenroeder
 Games & graphics.
 X 09 F 45+ 3

915-590-4284 TX El Paso
Vulcan BBS Joe Jaquez, MS
 Adult files & forums.
 X 29 V 100+ 256 \$ 3

915-598-9751 TX El Paso
Fantasy BBS Joe Jaquez, MS
 Adult oriented system.
 X 09 00 100+ 256 \$ 3

916-247-1232 CA Redding
EBSMicro Bruce Nkpton
 File distribution system.
 B 19 F 999 15 \$

916-339-9950 CA N. Highlands
Leather World Ralph Chandler
 Leather.
 X 09 V 10+ 4

916-366-3216 CA Sacramento
Coconut Tele Mike Sommer
 Internet, Intelc Hub, FidoNet.
 I 29 F 19+ 2 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
V&T BBS Ron Ablang
 Adult access.
 Q 09 FV 9 1 \$

916-688-8996 CA Sacramento
Falcon & Eagle Chris Darrow
 Mid evil.
 I 09 VF 5 1

916-721-7021 CA Antelope
Cyber Bytes John Johnson
 Files and games.
 I 19 VF 5 1

916-889-8410 CA Auburn
T.S. BBS. Around Jon Anderson
 Dail 889-8410, . . . 252525.
 I 19 V 1 1 1

916-929-7511 CA Sacramento
BOBsBBS Bob Breedlove
 Home of the USBBS List.
 X 09 F 2 1

918-272-7779
Black Gold BBS Michael Cline

918-627-0923
The Hub! BBS W Farrimond

919-735-6889 NC Goldsboro
PowerHouse James Bleacher
 Chat.
 T 09 V 14+ 5

941-424-3286 FL Davenport
BugLips BBS! Daniel Huff
 24bit color & 16bit sound supp.
 X 99 VF 14+ 1

954-452-5226 FL Davie
Looking Glass Ken Wiren
 Files.
 W 29 F 45+ 1

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The following collection of Telnet-accessible BBSs is a unique version of the SBI List maintained by Richard Mark, sysop of Dragon Keep BBS (904.375.3500/Telnet: dkeep.com, or 198.79.54.10). Versions of the list can be found at the sites noted in the box below. Bulletin boards new since the last revision are given full descriptions.

Color = New since last revision

1990 MULTILINE BBS

118 gigs, multiline games, lively chat.
multiline.com.au 203.5.127.230

1990 MULTILINE GAMES MACHINE

Games; interactive, modem-to-modem.
multiline.com.au 203.5.127.250

USA.COM

Chat, files, games.
bbs.1usa.com 205.148.243.4

A Clockwork Online

clockwork.com 199.234.182.56

A World Locally

bbs.locally.com 205.147.78.131

Absolute Connection

a-c.in.net 199.0.62.164

Access Nevada

spillway.accessnv.com 199.2.253.3

Access One Online Services

access-one.com 204.95.83.100

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

Aladdin's Palace BBS

aladdin.bc.ca 204.174.112.253



WWW:

http://dkeep.com/sbi.htm
Includes a "Guided Tour of Internet," BBSs from around the world.

FTP:

dkunix.dkeep.com (in /pub/sbi)
login: anonymous

gcomm.com (in /internet)
login: anonymous

ftp.rahul.net (in pub/wco)
login: ftp

Finger:

sbi@dkeep.com
(Information about the SBI List)
sbiq@dkeep.com
("Quick" Guide to Select BBS's on Internet)
sbi-info@dkeep.com
(Revision Information for current list)
sbi-sysop@dkeep.com
(How to Become a Part of the SBI list)

BBS:

Dragon Keep — dkeep.com / 904.375.3500
(signup, then type /GO SBI)
Liberty Network HUB — libhub.liberty.com
(/ 800) 474-1818 (signup, /GO SBI)

Albuquerque ROS

albq-ros.com 204.68.29.244

Alien's SpaceShip BBS

aliens.com 199.190.82.2

Alien's World Wide Chat

chat.aliens.com 199.190.82.10

Almac BBS

almac.co.uk 193.114.248.81

AMATEUR EROTICA BBS OF CHICAGO

Adult erotic amateur images/audio files.
..... 205.164.6.169

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

Anarchy-X BBS

bbs.ax.com 199.184.188.10

ANDREW'S BBS

BBS for prog, Baltija, Riga, Latvian Rep.
bbs.dcbalt.vernet.lv 159.148.150.124

The Annex!

annex.com 204.74.67.1

Another World™

awol.com 204.160.88.13

AOP BBS

..... 198.232.144.101

AppleWize Online

applewize.com 206.181.98.2

Appraisal Profession Online

apo.com 199.172.5.2

Aquila BBS

aquila.com 204.95.88.5

Argus Online

argusbbs.com 204.255.103.222

Arizona InterActive Systems

azi.com 199.190.114.2

ASERTEL Servicios On-line

hermes.asertel.es 194.140.141.5

AstroBBS

astrobbs.com 204.215.32.26

The Atlanta Windows BBS

bbs.atwin.com 155.229.44.2

Atlantis BBS

atlantis-bbs.com 199.4.124.69

Atlas BBS

gilroy.com 204.189.37.1

AUGGIE BBS

Recreational BBS
bbs.augsburg.edu 141.224.128.4

Austin Clubhouse BBS

club.fc.net 198.6.198.98

Barney's Rubble

rubble.fidouk.org 194.70.36.10

Barter America BBS

barter-usa.com 192.207.47.72

BBS One Online Service

bbs.prgone.com 199.18.119.129

The Behavioral Health Network

behavnet.com 199.190.85.2

BELIEVERS BBS

Christian, spiritual discovery and growth.
believers.org 205.186.137.49

The Big Easy

bigeasy.com 204.251.2.10

The Black Dragon BBS

Black-Dragon.com 166.82.197.95

Black Gold BBS

bgbbs.com 198.65.131.18

Blastertronics BBS

blast.neta.com 204.177.236.30

Blitzkrieg Information BBS

blitzinfo.com 199.190.90.2

Boardwatch Magazine BBS

boardwatch.com 204.144.169.1

Boston Dungeon Society

bdsbbs.com 199.242.194.90

Bound for Pleasure BBS

bfp.com 205.247.33.3

Brainstorm BBS

bstorm.bgs.com 198.84.216.1

Bryant Software

bryant.com 199.45.158.193

CALIFORNIA BBS

MOO (MUD, Object-Oriented).
calbbs.com 198.68.158.3

Canned Ham Bulletin Board

anarky.tch.org 199.173.177.250

The Canton Connection BBS

tccbbs.com 199.18.245.39

CAPITAL CITY CYBERLINK

Chatlink, games, DOOM, Descent.
DLink.com 206.136.82.2

Caribbean Online Network for Info

..... 204.183.157.10

Carolina Chat

carolina-chat.com 205.148.236.2

Carolina Online

nconline.com 204.215.211.211

Castle Holt BBS

castleholt.com 199.0.62.176

Catania On Line

ctonline.it 151.99.143.3

CCS World

ccsnet.com 199.172.47.2

CedarNet Online

bbs.cedarnet.com 205.148.200.3

Cetys BBS

cetysbbs.mx.cetys.mx 158.122.1.9

CHANNEL 1®

bbs.channel1.com 204.96.33.5

ChatMaster BBS

cmaster.com 199.190.80.2

CHEERSOFT

MBBS third-party developer.
..... 206.20.13.100

Christie's Internet Matchmaker

bounced.email.net 199.33.241.97

Chrysalis Online Services

chrysalis.org 204.96.6.98

Cinci-Net

cinci.net 199.6.38.4

Cincinnati Multi-Player Connection

cimpc.com 205.133.194.10

The City Lights

tblbbs.com 199.199.122.4

Cleveland's Worldnet

worldnetoh.com 204.248.180.53

Close Encounters Adult

Close.packet.net 199.1.77.17

Closer To Home BBS Systems

closer2.brisnet.org.au 203.4.149.98

Cloud City

cloud.com 199.190.94.2

Club BBS

club.gdl.iteso.mx 148.201.1.18

Club Met

clubmet.com 198.69.223.103

Colossus Box

colossus.com 198.3.118.19

Columbus Online

cols.com 205.133.92.2

Comm 2

..... 199.92.200.58

COMM Port OS/2

juce.com 199.100.191.2

Comp-U-Find Online

..... 199.79.146.33

ComPart BBS

compart.fi 193.64.198.201

Compu-Plane

..... 198.68.17.57

The Computer Factory

tcf.com 204.212.163.100

The Computerized AIDS Ministries

hwbs.bbgm-umc.org 198.139.157.121

ComputerLink Online, Inc.

mbs.compulink.com 199.166.254.2

CONNECT 2000 BBS

connect2000.com 204.177.193.251

The Connection BBS

connection.com 204.138.111.2

Connections

connections.ultranet.com 199.232.102.151

Connections! BBS of Southern Hospital

mismatch.com 205.218.114.10

ConXtion

ConXtion.Com 199.190.84.2

Country Online

online.music-city.com 199.190.71.2

Courier Online

col.evansville.net 204.120.30.100

COWZ — The Cattle Crossing on the Net

cow.net 204.96.52.4

CRIS (Concentric Research Corp)

cris.com 199.3.12.13

The Crystal Ball BBS

theball.com 199.79.146.34

The Crystal Barrier

bbs.tcbi.com 156.46.162.20

Crystal Quill

cq.cqi.com 199.125.162.3

CSI Online

csionline.com 205.148.205.2

Cutting Edge Technologies BBS

cebbs.cet.com 198.17.249.250

The Cutting Edge!

tce.net 204.193.159.10

Cyber Warrior Network

outland.cyberwar.com 204.97.1.4

Cyber/Chat!

cybercom.com 199.171.196.2

The CyberDen

cyberden.com 204.182.11.180

Cyberia

cyberia.com 205.160.224.1

CyberKorea

..... 165.113.175.2

Cyberlink

lin.cbl.com.au 203.7.198.205

Cyberspace BBS

cyberspace.grnet.com 204.96.30.25

Netted Boards

Doctor's Office BBS / Falken Support
docs.dgsys.com 204.97.64.6

The Doll House BBS
bbs.dhsys.net 206.66.104.2

The Downtown BBS
downtwn.com 205.148.204.2

Dragon Keep International
dkeep.com 198.79.54.10

Dream Link Online Information Service
auburn.maine.com 204.176.0.14

Dreamscape BBS
future.dreamscape.com 199.64.128.3

Dreamscape Entertainment Service
dscapc.cyberstore.com 204.244.18.12

DSC BBS / Voicenet
dsc.voicenet.com 192.204.28.9

DSP Information & Entertainment
dsp.com 199.4.121.1

Eager Beaver Computers MBBS
beaver.com 204.188.52.20

Eden BBS
edenbbs.com 199.190.73.2

Edex
rainbow.galviz.co.uk 193.117.217.1

Edward Lowe Foundation BBS
bbs.lowe.org 192.195.202.2

Electronic Lucidity
elbbs.id.net 152.160.9.50

The Electronic Universe BBS
e-universe.com 199.67.39.129

Elysian Fields
castle.elysian.net 204.181.47.5

Emergency BBS On-Line Services
emergency.com 205.243.133.2

Empire BBS
empire.bbs.net.au 203.20.80.1

Empty Spaces BBS
bbs.empty.com 198.30.235.51

The Endless Forest
forest.novia.net 204.248.24.1

Endless Mountain CyberSPACE
emcyber.com 198.70.189.74

The English Palace BBS
palace.com 199.171.54.2

Entertainment and Consumers Network
ecn.ecn.com 198.211.192.146

Escape
Escape.com 198.6.71.10

eSoft Support and Demo BBS
esoft.com 199.45.143.2

ESSLink BBS
bbs.esslink.com 204.252.96.101

EuroGate
..... 193.67.253.33

Europe / EuroLink!
..... 193.92.253.70

EveryBaudy's BBS
busstop.com 192.80.84.229

Exchange BBS
exchange.org 204.89.181.2

Exec Talk BBS
bbs.mpcs.com 198.69.107.208

ExecPC
bbs.execpc.com 204.29.202.4

Executive Network Information Sys
gateway.execnet.com 198.232.143.136

EXIT 13
vegas.roc.servtech.com 204.181.3.147

Exoticcomm BBS
bbs.exoticcomm.com 204.181.179.2

Eye Contact BBS
bbs.eyecon.com 204.94.37.2

The Eyes of Time BBS
eyesoftime.com 198.6.201.206

EZLink Internet Access
ezlink.com 199.45.150.1

EZNet
eznetny.com 198.4.60.100

Fairfield Community Connection
fcc.com 199.190.101.2

Familytown Online
familytown.com 157.151.201.3

Farm Information Services
fis.awp.com 163.123.3.82

Fast! BBS
bbs.fast.co.za 196.23.34.2

THE FASTLANE BBS
Family-oriented BBS, forums, games.
f1bbs.com 198.60.81.193

The Fetish Network BBS
fetish.wisenet.com 198.69.101.20

The File Bank BBS
bbs.tfb.com 204.212.132.12

File Gallery Online Service
fgallery.com 204.183.116.2

Final Frontier BBS
ffbbs.seanet.com 199.181.166.212

The Fire House Inn
fhouse.org 198.102.68.59

The FIX BBS
the-fix.sos.on.ca 199.212.143.2

Flag Net Amiga BBS
garlic.esc.k12.in.us 165.138.151.8

Flint Hills Internet BBS
bbs.flinthills.com 199.240.127.10

FIOaTing PAnCReAs
sfpg.gcomm.com 199.227.15.30

The Flower Link BBS
flowerlink.com 199.234.116.2

FOUR.net
FOUR.net 198.70.45.3

France Online
france.com 199.4.122.2

Full Access BBS
fab.bossnt.com 198.150.37.210

Future Frontier
fft.com 165.247.241.2

G.L.O.B.I.E.
net1.intserv.com 199.67.39.34

G.O.D.
acadh2.isisnet.com 199.45.83.11

GAIANET BBS
Free sys, teleconf, multiplayer games.
bbs.gaiant.net 199.3.117.69

Galacticomm DEMO System
gcomm.com 206.30.202.14

Galacticomm UNIX Demo System
unix.gcomm.com 206.30.202.26

The Game Master
gm.gamemaster.qc.ca 199.84.216.2

Game Power Headquarters Online Net
gamepower.com 204.183.165.2

GarBaGe DuMP BBS
dump.com 199.190.74.2

Gateway Online
bbs.gatecom.com 198.87.17.102

GENESYS BBS
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genesys-bbs.com 205.252.72.249

GenStar On-Line
..... 206.26.67.1

The Global Blind Exchange (GBX)
gbx.org 165.90.138.192

Global InfoNet
california.com 140.174.210.4

GRAFIX
grafix.com 166.82.150.31

Grand Rapids Online
gronline.alliance.net 198.110.232.3

The Granola Board BBS
..... 204.188.1.17

The Graphics Alternative
tgax.com 192.215.97.35

Great Gig in the Sky
greatgig.com 199.201.191.102

Green and Yellow
greenandyellow.btm.com 199.199.195.1

GREX (tn)
cyberspace.org 152.160.30.1

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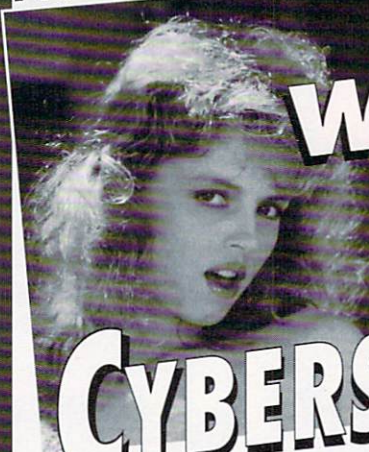
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AlphaWorld IMMIGRATING TO THE VIRTUAL DOMAIN

We humans are a strange lot, aren't we? No matter where we are, we seem to have this dire urge to build, build, build — be it on a landslide-prone hill near Malibu or in the dustbelt where tornadoes are a way of life (not to mention death).

We've pretty much covered the Earth with buildings, so I guess it only seemed natural that we should begin construction at the next available frontier: Cyberspace. And the contractor doing the building? Worlds Inc.

Worlds seems hell-bent on forcing relatively non-social people such as myself to develop a life, albeit online. Worlds' first attempt at revolutionizing online society was "Worlds Chat," discussed in this space last year. To refresh your memory, "Chat" is essentially an Internet IRC chat line with funky avatars ranging from Alice in Wonderland to a guy who looks suspiciously like King William du Gates.

Worlds Chat is still alive and kicking, and has even spawned imitators: CompuServe and the Microsoft Network both offer social chat interfaces for those who don't remember what true F2F discussions are like.

Worlds, naturally, already has moved on to its next pursuit: building a whole new world in cyberspace. Literally. (Perhaps this is what they mean when they say, "The geek shall inherit the Earth.")

Worlds' new planet is the aptly-titled "AlphaWorld," (<http://www.worlds.net/>) and it is, perhaps, one of the niftiest new things on the Internet since... well, Worlds Chat.

The basic premise behind AlphaWorld is not that much different from Worlds Chat. Both are essentially off-kilter provinces where you (represented by an avatar) can bounce around and try to convince people you really do have Einstein's brain and Cindy Crawford/Tom Cruise's good looks.

But to say AlphaWorld is just another fancy chat room would be to do it a great injustice. This world is built with VRML, the fancy new 3D rendering protocol that you will be seeing more and more of this year. This also may be the cheapest way to get your hands into a hot new technology — Worlds not only encourages you to build your own little homestead in AlphaWorld, it's offering the land and tools for free.

I'm getting ahead of myself, however.

Before you get out your virtual toolbox, you must first "immigrate" to AlphaWorld. Those of you who take lousy passport pictures, take heart: The "immigration" process is little more than selecting a user name and password — no pic-

ture necessary. Speaking of pictures, this is probably a good time to mention that your 3D avatar is pre-selected for you, at least as of my last visit. No Alices or punk goddesses in AlphaWorld — just plain Joes and Janes who all have a rather non-descript look.

Fancy avatars are far from the point of this particular venture, however. AlphaWorld is all about atmosphere and animation, and there is plenty of both to be found.

To arrive in AlphaWorld, you must "parachute" into the main courtyard via the Internet. It takes a few minutes for the buildings and avatars to show up, so take a moment to check out the mountains. There is no gravity in AlphaWorld, so beware of large steps — you can hit the end of the world as you know it pretty quickly.

Trust me on this.

I felt the need for speed, and had to re-parachute back in to return from the edge. My second faux pas was to continue bouncing around in the air, which has little to offer except a spectacular view of the mountains. If I had looked down, I would have noticed a series of buildings just waiting to be explored. (Okay, who am I fooling — if I had read the DIRECTIONS first, I would have done much better on my initial trips in.)

Anyway, once I finally figured out what to do (RTFM... RTFM...), I had a much better time. The early renderings are spectacular, even though the animation reminded me of that "Money for Nothing (I Want My MTV)" video so popular in the '80s. My main complaint was a lack of companionship. I ran into, and through, a few other travelers, but they were either ignoring me or didn't hear my attempts at conversation. Once again, conversations are conducted by typing at whomever happens to be near. In AlphaWorld, you have to be facing the person with whom you are trying to communicate. This poses a problem, as everyone is constantly bobbing around; it seems rather difficult to get someone's attention.

Of course, standing around chatting is not the primary purpose of AlphaWorld. Put bluntly, AlphaWorld is about one thing: VRML. Gawking in awe at it, and later using it to build a brand new home. A handful of AlphaWorld pioneers already have completed their homesteads and opened them up to the virtual world. There was a pet store and even a local newspaper up and running when I dropped in. (The headlines included a notice that "Sleepy Hollow" had closed, and a plea to stop littering in AlphaWorld.)

I decided against building my own little corner of the world, primarily because of time constraints. And frankly, Bob Villa I ain't.

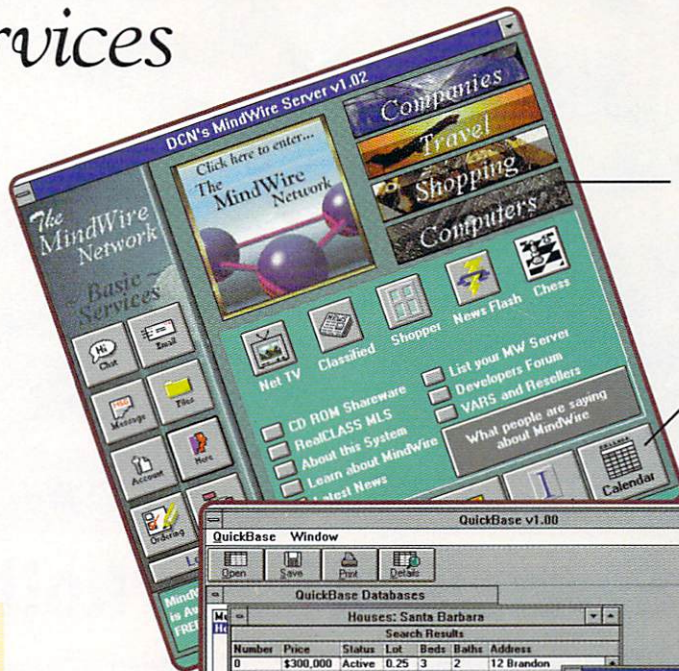
Maybe AlphaWorld just isn't the right place for me... I guess I'll just have to start looking for a new cyberhome. Perhaps CyberTown (<http://www.cybertown.com/>) still has some VRML apartments for rent. ■■■■■

Jacqui Kramer currently maintains a residence at reeltime@voicenet.com

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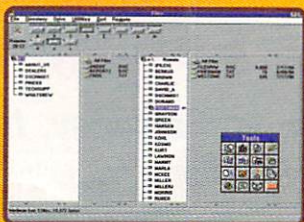
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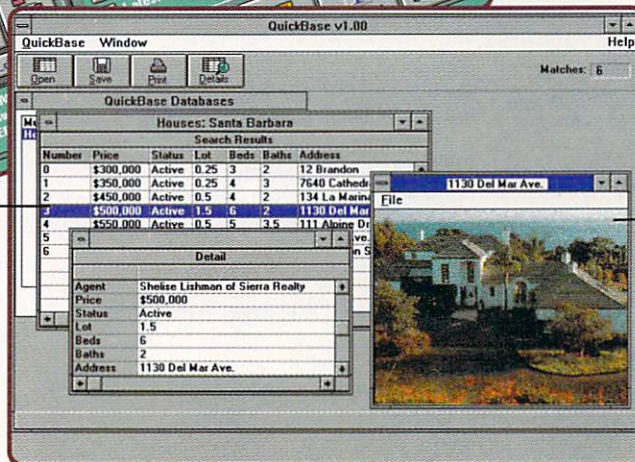


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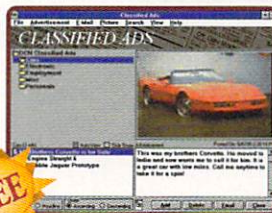


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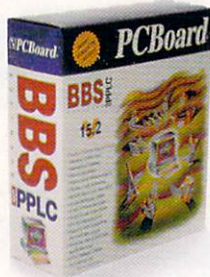
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