

# BBS

THE  
BULLETIN  
BOARD  
SERVICES  
MAGAZINE

August 1995

US \$3.95

Canada \$4.95

70992-35460

# BOARDING the INTERNET

# Do it on a BBS



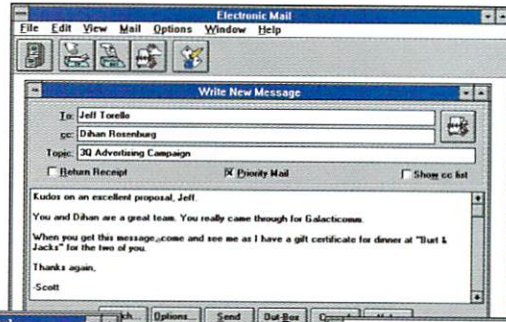
## Cyberbizzing with ABS

Hundreds of BBSs    Web  
Sharewaring    Top Downloads





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



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

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



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



# Open Your Windows to the

Worldgroup™. Bring the World a Click Away.

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

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

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

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

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

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

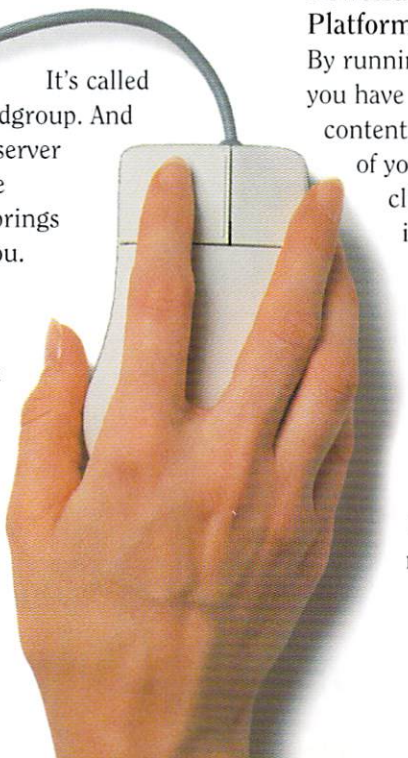
The client runs under Windows on your users' machines. Its multi-threaded architecture lets them do all sorts of cool things simultaneously. Like download files in the background, while reading new mail. Or auto update

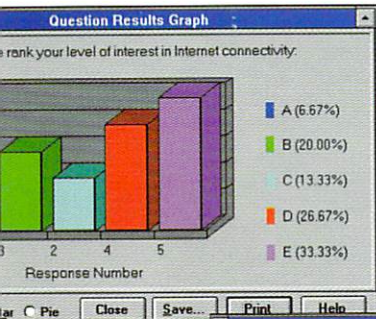
new versions of applications transparently. Local caching, "look ahead" and client-driven intelligence maximizes performance at 2,400 or 28,800 bps.

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

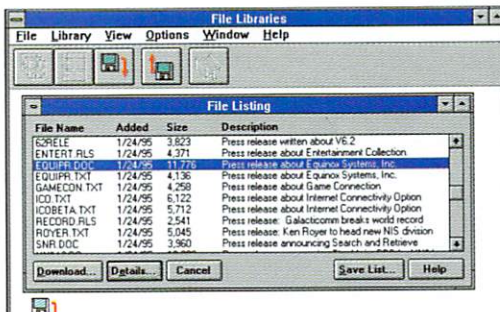
There's even a "launch" client/server utility that downloads and launches files for your users, such as Adobe Acrobat files, Word documents and PowerPoint presentations, in one easy step — while the user is online.

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

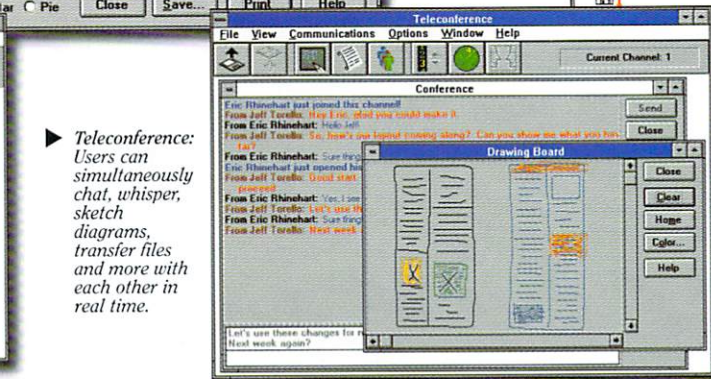




◀ **Polls and Questionnaires:** Offer marketing surveys, suggestion boxes, applications forms and testing, to name a few. Results are immediately tallied and can be viewed as exportable bar graphs or pie charts.

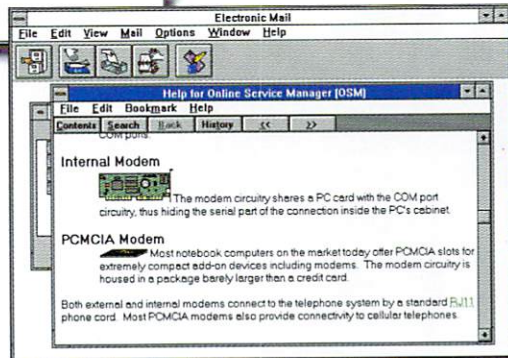


◀ **File Libraries:** Users simply tag the files they're interested in and select the download icon. Files can be downloaded in the background while users enjoy your other services.



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

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



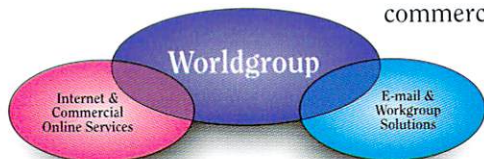
# World of Online Computing

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

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

**Worldgroup. Beyond the World-Wide Web.**

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



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

But it doesn't stop there. You can make your service accessible via modem, serial ports, TCP/IP, Novell LAN, ISDN and X.25 networks such as CompuServe and SprintNet.

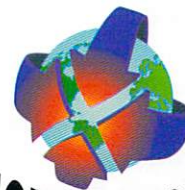
**Worldgroup. The Best of Both Worlds.**

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

**Worldgroup. A World of Resources... A Phone Call Away.** As a Galaticomm customer, you'll also receive excellent documentation

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

So open your Windows to the powerful, smart new Worldgroup of online computing today. Call your Galaticomm dealer or call us at 800-328-1128 (or 305-583-5990 outside the U.S. and Canada). You can also send e-mail on the Internet to sales@gcomm.com and access our home page by pointing your Web browser to <http://www.gcomm.com>.



**WORLDGROUP™**  
Online Interactive Software

**GALACTICOMM**  
Bringing your vision online



WINDOWS 3.1, 3.11, NT & WINDOWS '95

CD-ROM SUPPORT • V.FAST 28.8K MODEM SUPPORT • CALLER-ID CAPABLE • OFF-LINE E-MAIL CREATION • AUTOMATIC FILE RESUME

MULTI-USER CHAT • DRAG & DROP FILE MANAGEMENT • SIMULTANEOUS BI-DIRECTIONAL PROTOCOL • PROPRIETARY ERROR CORRECTION • TRUE PLUG 'N PLAY ABILITIES

**oPEn yOUr eYES**

**TO THE POWER OF EXCALIBUR GRAPHICS!**

**Scalable graphics with embedded TrueType Font technology**

**Instantaneous image previews**

**Simultaneous uploading and downloading**

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

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

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

**FANTASTIC!**

Dear Mr. Weber,  
 Fantastic is the only word I can think of to describe your software with Windows! My friends and I have been running a number of DC incredible! Right now I'm another user all at the same time!

**Message to friend**

Rachel Letcher: Great Cause of Checkers!  
 You: I can't believe I can play games, SAME TIME!  
 Rachel Letcher: Yes, that is REMARKABLE!

**Checkers by Design Engineering**  
 Kwell (Black) vs. Rachel Letcher (Red)

Next Move: Rachel Letcher

File Name: c:\user\l\comsol.exe  
 File Size: 402496  
 Bytes Sent: 28134  
 CPS: 2563

File Name: lshw.gif  
 File Size: 156528  
 Bytes Sent: 40514  
 CPS: 1641

# Excalibur BBS

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

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

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



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609.235.5297 (All V. Everything modems).

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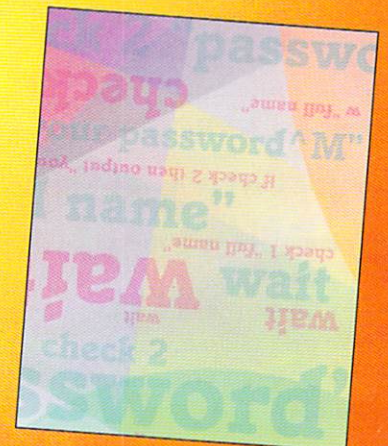
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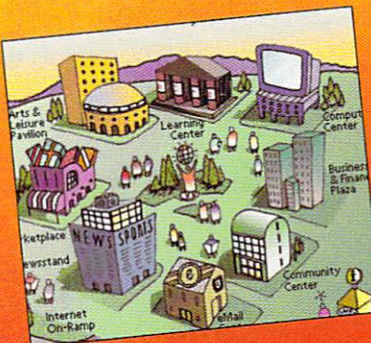
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**Rusty                      Edie**

# readme.txt

## Make sure you're connected...

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

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

You'll find us like no other BBS:

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

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

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

This month we close the first chapter on what will likely become a continuing report from the courtship, honeymoon and marriage of BBSs to the Internet.

Author David Wolf concludes with part two of his series on how to connect a BBS to the Net with a look at that old friend UUCP and a nod to newcomers, like SLIP.

As more of you warm up to the subject, we'll be carrying further reports on the best way for sysops to offer callers access to the Net and the cheapest ways callers can get it. So stay tuned. Page 10.

Darren Humay says he wants to "bring online credit card processing into the 21st century."

He might be doing that and more with his company, American Banking Systems (ABS), and its cool projects about to leap from the hopper. Take a look on page 9 for what might be just the spark for jump-starting your online

venture — in this century.

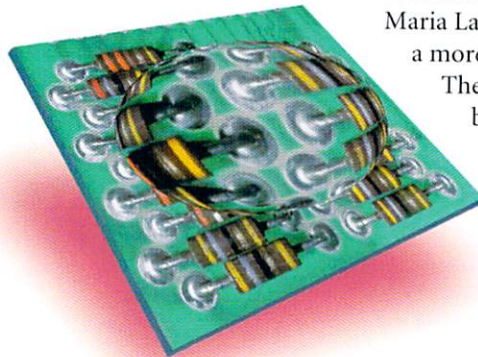
Elsewhere in this issue, Jacqui Kramer (Online Update) takes a look at the possibilities ISDN may have to offer us — if you're in the right place at the right time, that is — and Michael Kuykendall (Macintosh Online) gives us a tour of Apple's eWorld.

This month we welcome Maria Langer to our pages on a more permanent basis.

The author of many books, Langer tackled Mac BBSing in June and will now be reviewing shareware for DOS, Windows and Mac. Hank

Hurteau will begin a new column, too, following the hot downloads from BBSs near and far, commenting on any trends that surface and those that are conspicuously absent.

Our final new entry this month is a list of telnettable BBSs. Say you've got Net access already? Plug in these numbers and land on a distant bulletin board — but don't forget to thumb your nose in the direction of the telcos.



Rick Robinson  
Editor  
editor@bsmagazine.com

## FEATURES

### FLEXIBLE USER INTERFACE

- Complete flexibility in design of data-entry, searching, browsing and detailed viewing
- ANSI, RIPScrip & WIP graphics protocol support for all database functions (DOS & Windows Access)
- Complete entry screen validation via pick lists
- Easily jumps from browse to detail viewing

### PHOTOGRAPHS IN SECONDS

- Support for the following image formats: JPG, CMP, PCX, BMP, TIF, TGA and GIF

### RELIABLE MULTI-USER CAPABILITIES

- Support for multiple users running separate copies of DC GENESYS on the same computer (ie: DESQview) or on separate computers on a LAN network
- Seamless sharing of data with concurrent dBase/ FoxPro applications on the same LAN



# DC GENESYS v1.1

# Online Multimedia Databases

Imagine creating a beautiful 24-bit color multimedia database that will run with any BBS. DC GENESYS™ allows everyone to easily develop robust graphical online informational applications and services. Durand Communications Network (DCN) specializes in providing interactive software for the online industry that is affordable, easy-to-configure and easy-to-use. DC GENESYS comes with CONTACT PHONEBOOK™, a turnkey photographic directory application. Additional turnkey applications include: CATALOGS PLUS™, AUTO SELLER™, RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE™ and MATCH MAKER™. With DCN's all new Windows Interface Protocol™ (WIP), created with the DC INTERFACE BUILDER™, your end-users will be able to access your database with a true all Windows® interface. Your applications can have embedded compressed graphics, text files, sound files and more. DC GENESYS can be accessed through a free terminal program for DOS and Windows.

#### A WIP Main Menu

create beautiful native Windows menus with sound, text, icons and compressed images for users to view

#### B Notepad

after creating menus in ANSI, RIP or WIP, create an application in GENSCRIPT to link menus with the GENESYS Database

#### C DC COMPRESS

DC COMPRESS for Windows can compress TIF, TGA, BMP, PCX and GIF images to CMP or JPG

#### D Detailed Output

users will see online 24-bit color WIP menus

#### E WIP Navigator

displays the status of your current online WIP session



## Worldgroup Client Free; Galacticomm Forming MedWorld

In case you missed the hoopla surrounding the announcement in mid-May, Galacticomm, Inc., in a welcome reversal, has released its Worldgroup Manager client program for free distribution. Previously the client was going to be distributed for \$29.95 as shareware.

The Windows client is the magic in the company's new Worldgroup client/server package ("a cross between online services, Web sites and workgroups") released last spring, but it can also step down and take on the role of an ANSI terminal program or up to telnet client.

Anyone with a Worldgroup server can freely distribute copies of the Worldgroup Manager client to callers or prospective callers of his or her system.

"Worldgroup is one of the first of a new wave of communications products that take advantage of the Internet as a global network over which any client/server application can run," said Galacticomm chief Scott Brinker. "In many ways it is a superset of Web capabilities, and we are delighted to make the client available to anyone who wants to explore these interactive sites."

# NEWS

Copies of the client can be downloaded from Galacticomm's demo system (305.583.7808), over the Net at [gcomm.com](http://gcomm.com), or from the Galacticomm's areas on America

formed an alliance with Power-Pak Communications, Inc., an industry leader in healthcare education and marketing, to develop MedWorld, the "first national online service devoted to healthcare information."

"We anticipate that our system will become the most trusted, visible, actively utilized source for obtaining healthcare information," said Gary M. Cohen, Power-Pak president. "All of the data offered via MedWorld will be of the highest quality and will adhere to the guidelines and ethical bylaws of the healthcare profession."

MedWorld will launch on Galacticomm's Worldgroup platform, overseen by the company's Network and Integration Services division, which is



Online and CompuServe. Web surfers can get it from [www.gcomm.com](http://www.gcomm.com).

For more information call 800.328.1128 (305.583.5990 outside the U.S. and Canada).

MedWorld — Galacticomm has

## Remote Possibilities: Boot Up from Anywhere

The only question is, What took you so long?

The question's for San Diego's Newpoint Corporation, developers of a sweet little box they call Phone Director (use this for a while and you, too, will be wondering why it didn't come along sooner).

While the concept's not unique, Phone Director is the only "power control surge protector" that enables computer users and sysops to remotely power up, reboot or power down their systems on demand

with a phone call — any phone, anywhere.

Once it's plugged and wired to your system (or lamps, alarm system, etc.) you call the line it's connected to and, by pushing predefined buttons on the telephone keypad, turn on or off seven components, peripherals and other devices.

Need to log into your home computer from a distance? Boot your system with voice call then dial in with your remote PC. Call back when you're finished and power down, or let the

device handle the shut-down (it auto turns off connected components after 10 minutes of inactivity).

As part of Newpoint's Power Control line, Phone

Director ships with a \$10,000 Computer Guarantee that covers connected hardware against damage by power disturbances like surges, spikes,

noise and lightning. And if things aren't wired properly behind the plug (as was the case with our first test) an annoying alarm will sound.

One downside is there's little security against other callers booting up your box — granted they know Director's in the house.

Phone Director's suggested price is \$119.95 (street price more like \$79.95) and is available through many resellers, or by calling Newpoint at 800.NEWPOINT.





# W I R E

developing industry-specific databases.

At presstime, MedWorld was set to open its virtual doors to healthcare professionals in late June. The general public can expect to be included sometime later.

## Mustang's Visibility Boost

Next time you're strolling the telecommunication aisle at your favorite computer superstore, chances are Mustang Software's products will be looking back at you.

Mustang (NASDAQ "MSTG") recently signed an agreement with El Segundo (California-based Merisel Americas, Inc.) authorizing Merisel to distribute its entire line of telecommunications products — Wildcat!, QmodemPro for Windows and DOS, and Off-Line Xpress for Windows.

The agreement wraps up a company goal set last year to have "all three of the leading national computer products distributors carry our software," said Jim Harrer, president of Mustang. Mustang has already signed with Ingram Micro and DistribuPro.

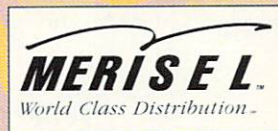
"This is a meaningful agreement for us in many respects, but one of the most important factors is that our products will be easier to obtain than ever for our resellers, Value-Added Resellers (VARs) and Independent Software Vendors (ISVs)," Harrer said.

Merisel sells 25,000 different hard-

ware and software products from more than 850 com-

puter industry manufacturers to 65,000 resellers worldwide.

New face on the board — Mustang has added industry vet Michael Noling to its board of directors. The president of Wavefront Technologies (a global developer of computer graphics imaging and animation software), Noling



had previously worked as executive vice president and chief financial officer for Applied Magnetics Corporation.

In other Mustang news, the company posted a jump in its first quarter revenue over the same period in 1994.

Revenue for the first three months of 1995 was \$1,051,000 compared to \$1,041,000 in 1994.

"The focus of our efforts in this quarter has been to prepare for our Windows '95 versions of the QmodemPro and Wildcat! products, which are due out later this year," said Harrer, who, not surprisingly, noted he was pleased the company posted well in the three months without the release of a major product.

## Are You Being IntelliServed?

The multi-user connectivity meister Computone Corporation has released version 1.3.0 software for its IntelliServer asynchronous communications server for TCP/IP Ethernet LANs. The new version supports rotary dialing, RADIUS authentication, RADIUS accounting, RIP (that's Routing Information Protocol, not Remote Imaging), and proxy ARP.

One by one each does the following:

CONTINUES ...

## PCBoard's OS/2 Beauty

Last month we broke the story about Clark Development's PCBoard software for OS/2 (V.15.22). This month you get the pictures. These screen captures demonstrate three states of the OS/2 version,

which is a 32-bit, multi-threaded, native OS/2 version of the DOS package. And it's fast, in some instances finishing tasks 10 times quicker than its DOS cousin. Call Clark for the details at 801.261.1686.



**RADIUS authentication** — This protocol is supposed to allow centralization of user configuration and authorization. Multiple IntelliServers can access a single RADIUS server to simplify management and administration on the user side.

**RADIUS accounting protocol** — Here sysops can monitor the usage of IntelliServer services by generating accounting records whenever a service is initiated or terminated. The RADIUS server archives the accounting records for load analysis and billing purposes.

**RIP protocol** — This allows for communication of routing information between neighbors on the network. RIP enables the IntelliServer to advertise routing information that may change with dynamic server access. IntelliServer also supports proxy ARPs, which allows simpler configuration of



network topology and routing.

IntelliServer itself is a 16-port expandable device permitting up to 64 serial devices (modems, terminals, PCs, workstations) to gain simultaneous access to a TCP/IP LAN through a single Ethernet connection. Menu driven, it includes a 15 MIPS CPU, two or four megabytes of RAM, and resident oper-

ating system; IntelliServer allows users to toggle between multiple LAN sessions and communicate over PPP/SLIP connections.

There's also remote telnet administration, IP filtering for regulating the flow of selected IP packets, and up to 96 simultaneous login sessions for 32 PPP/SLIP connections. The IntelliServer can boot from or independently of a LAN, allowing it to be used as a network-based or standalone Internet access device for up to 64 users.

For pricing and other information, call 800.241.3946 ext. 230

## New Powerboard Goes Graphical

NuQ Software, Inc.'s new Powerboard BBS v2.0, after two years in the making, is scheduled to finally be ready for prime time August 17.

A complete reworking, PB 2.0 boasts a "powerful core program" and a new interface equipped with RIPscrip 2.0 graphics, sound, stacked key command ability, online help at every prompt, and simplified file and message tagging.

"We're hoping that the new interface will provide our users with more of what they want in a more organized manner," said NuQ VP of software development Douglas Vermes.

As part of a joint venture with the multimedia software development firm Cyber Communications of Plano, TX, NuQ has integrated support for full-color animation and multi-voice sound. Powerboard can now be used for things such as showcasing new products in three-dimensional rotating video (read: virtual reality entertainment online).

It's made possible through Cyber Communications' TIMP (Telecommunications Imaging Multimedia Protocol) — Powerboard 2.0 being the first system to support it. TIMP features 14.4Kbps transmission speeds of 15 pages per second and better, and resolutions from 320x200x256 to 640x480x256.

"The standard DOS text interface will soon be gone," says Cyber Communications President Paul Hanson. "The industry is moving towards multimedia." No kidding.

Offline

by John Baynham



CONTINUED ON PAGE 67

You've got to make it easy. Callers these days don't want the hassle of two-days-on verification or a delayed snail-mail payment method for goods and services. They want access now. Right now.

Doubt it? You could try asking them yourself, but they're probably off dialing another board.

Darren Humay of Tampa Bay's American Banking Systems seems to know well the frustration this delay brings to callers, as well as the headaches it causes sysops.

A BBS's acceptance of their money online is akin to dropping a subtle message in the caller's ear that says, "Welcome." (Hey, nobody likes to part with money, but if there's immediate gratification the caller is more likely to pull out the plastic, so to speak.)

And immediate is what we're talking about.

With ABS's various software/service solutions, payment for products and services has been taken to a new level. Callers might already be familiar with ABS's Online Checks Direct (OCD), where sysops can accept callers' checks online (users enter information into an ABS module that immediately uploads it to ABS, which in turn sends the sysop a check the same day), or ABS Credit Card Pay, with which sysops are approved for merchant processing accounts, thereby allowing them to accept credit cards online (CC processing rate is 2-3 percent with \$155 application fee). But it's the recent developments that has Humay excited.

When pressed to choose a flagship product from among these developments Humay points to two in particular: the ABS POS Engine and the MEGA Market Series software for Galacticcomm's Worldgroup.

According to Humay, the POS Engine (Point Of Sale) has been developed to "bring online credit card processing into the 21st century."

POS is at the heart of the four-year-old ABS these days, incorporating data transfers, validation and verification routines, returned information

## ABS energizes sysop-caller commerce

MEGA Market's prized home is currently on Galacticcomm's Worldgroup platform. A client/server BBS that supplies Windows callers with powerful graphics-driven options and DOSers RIP and ANSI, Worldgroup boards can be accessed via dial-up or through the Internet.

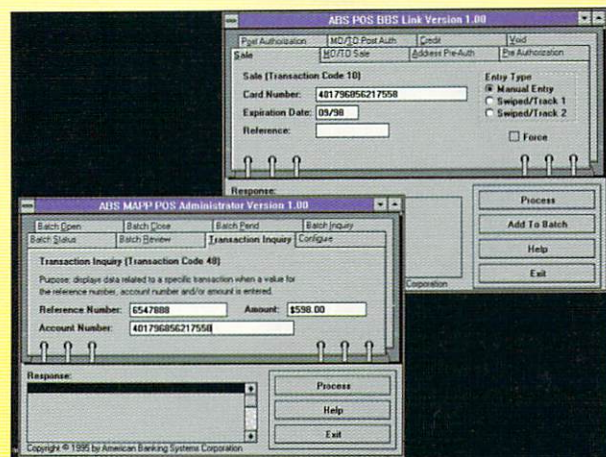
"Worldgroup provides our development team with many advantages," said Humay, "such as taking the workload off of the

server side of the application within the MEGA Market. Additionally, the ability that Worldgroup provides for users to access [Worldgroup] servers via the Internet within a Windows environment is going to revolutionize the BBS community."

In this environment callers can literally go shopping, securely, in stores set up by the sysop (using ABS solutions) or leased out to vendors.

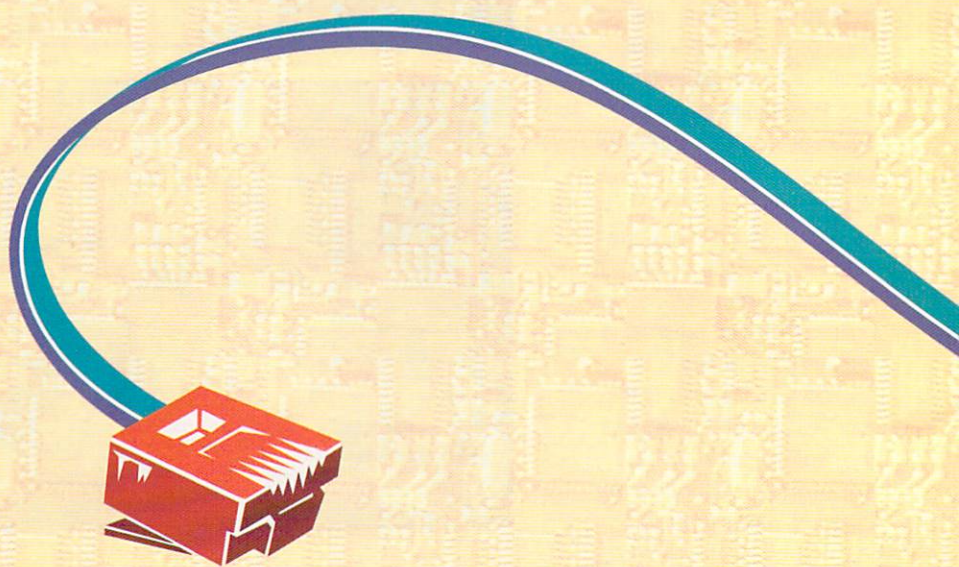
Now Humay and ABS are reaching out a little farther — to the Net proper. According to Humay the company has a signed an agreement with SPRY (Internet In A Box) concerning their SHTTP protocol development. With it, ABS is developing World Wide Web MEGA Markets that allow Net consumers to purchase products online, and do so securely with auto-encryption.

American Banking Systems can be reached at 904.729.3006. ■■■■■



# The Net Co

Nuts and bolts  
of harnessing  
the Internet  
with your BBS



# Connection

by David Wolfe

*last of two parts*

**C**onnections to the Internet take many forms and come in a wide range of cost levels, as discussed in the first part of this report last month. My conclusion is going to cover the nuts and bolts of actually connecting with an Internet provider to exchange data, and a bit about offering live access. I'm focusing here on something known as UUCP, which offers sysops somewhat limited but cost-effective access to key elements of the Internet, and the general architecture of direct access. As technology develops and takes on a more standard form, I will be back to offer new solutions to actually taking a BBS live on the Net.

CONTINUES...

## Step 1 — Get a UUCP account

You will first need to contact an Internet provider and obtain a UUCP login account. And don't worry, you do not need to have an established domain name for your system to get a UUCP account. If you do not have an Internet domain, you and your BBS users can still send out email and newsgroup messages, but your BBS will not be able to receive email messages. Newsgroup messages, on the other hand, can always be received in to your system since these are not domain directed but rather broadcast over the entire Internet.

If you want a domain for your system, this is easily obtained from your provider. This provider will send you an application form (usually in text format) which you will fill out part of with the other part being handled by the Internet provider. The completed form will then be forwarded to Internic, the Internet controller organization that makes sure no two systems have the same domain address.

Establishing a domain in this manner requires that your system always gather incoming email from the same provider. The domain which will be established for your system will be an alias for your provider which the Internet routers will know. For example, the domain for my BBS, Pandaemonium, is PANDY.COM. This is an alias name for IQUEST.NET, my provider. When email is sent to PANDY.COM it is really going directly to IQuest which in turn parses it up and makes it ready in the data area of my UUCP account.

Getting a domain name established for your BBS can take up to two months. When I applied, I was told it would only take two or three weeks — if you get a similar promise from your provider, don't you believe it.

## Step 2 — Informing your provider

Before you can begin to receive newsgroups, your provider must configure their end to make ready the newsgroups you want in the data files for your UUCP account. Your level of involvement with this process will vary depending on the provider you use.

My provider has given me the information on the format they need the newsgroup list in, and I in turn make ready my list in that format so all they need to do once they receive it in an email message is cut it out from the message and copy

it over my current newsgroup config block in their config files. However, you may not be involved with it at that level. You may just send your provider a simple list of groups and they will do the leg work of getting that list into the right format.

Keep in mind that there are well over 7,000, perhaps over 8,000, major newsgroups now available and your provider may not support all of them. If you are working with a small provider, your newsgroup selection may be limited.

For every newsgroup a provider supports, a great deal of storage space is required on their system. Newsgroup messages are not just "pulled" out of the Internet when they are called. They are broadcast to every Internet site that wants to keep them and therefore must be stored locally within a provider or site. Most providers only retain a five-day backlog of newsgroup files to limit the space they consume.

## Step 3 — Configuring the software

Now we get into a tricky area. Many software packages currently used for UUCP transfers work differently. I won't be able to use any one package as an example so I will refer to the actual Unix procedure utilized when Unix machines transfer Internet information via a UUCP connection. This is the same general procedure that all packages must use if they are to get UUCP data.

Many DOS programs are now available which will interface with a Unix host — these packages use the same procedure, but with DOS executables.

Regardless of what package you use for your UUCP transfers, the following elements must be configured:

1. The domain information of your system. This is required when email is going out of your system so recipients of email from your system will know where it originated.
2. The modem setup of your system.
3. The login procedure which will automatically be used by the transfer program used to exchange UUCP data.

## Inside UUCP

UUCICO.EXE — The traditional application used to perform a UUCP protocol G transfer (the protocol used to transfer email and newsgroup data) is UUCICO.EXE, which stands for Unix to Unix Copy In Copy Out. This is the application which will dial out through your modem(s), per-

form the automatic login procedure needed for your provider, transfer the required data, and then store it in the spool directory for the provider your system has logged into. Keep in mind that you can log into multiple providers to exchange data if one provider cannot give you all the data you would like. The configuration files called on by UUCICO.EXE can contain data on more than one provider such as the times allowed to call these providers, the login procedures used with each, and so on. UUCICO.EXE can always be used to log into just one provider, though.

**COMPRESS.EXE** — This program is used to decompress the data files sent to your system by your provider. Several versions of COMPRESS.EXE exist and it's up to you to find out from your provider what compression depth they use to ready your data.

Both 12-bit and 16-bit compression versions of COMPRESS.EXE are in use by different providers. Some providers can configure their end to compress in either depth for your account, but, obviously, 16-bit compression is more compact and efficient than 12-bit.

Understand that COMPRESS.EXE is used to decompress data received from your provider. When your end sends out information, it is typically not compressed. COMPRESS.EXE is called on automatically by the next program when needed. (Manual decompression of received data is rarely if ever needed.)

**UUXQT.EXE** — This is the work horse of the entire UUCP procedure. UUXQT stands for Unix to Unix Execute. This program calls on COMPRESS.EXE to decompress data packets, determines if they are mail packets or newsgroup packets and then calls on either RMAIL.EXE or RNEWS.EXE to manage the data.

UUXQT.EXE is like UUCICO.EXE in

that it can handle multiple providers. If your system logs into multiple providers, UUXQT.EXE will search each spool directory (or just a single directory if you have only one provider) and handle the data found in each.

UUXQT.EXE can also be used in a slave rather than a master roll. Slave roll is when a site you are feeding data to calls your system to gather queued information your system has readied. Yes, once you have an established UUCP connection, you can sometimes (if your

system software supports it) give another site a UUCP connection. In these cases, a "downstream" system will log into your BBS with a standard procedure and your end will shell out to UUXQT.EXE, which will then feed the downstream site the information your system has ready for it.

**RMAIL.EXE** and **RNEWS.EXE** — These two programs do the actual importing of the data your system receives from a provider. Of all of the programs being discussed, these two will be the most customized for your own BBS software.

These applications will need to import the Internet data directly into your BBS's message base files and therefore must be created specially for use with your BBS software. There may be some intervening software used to convert between traditional Internet mail and newsgroup formats to the formats used by your own BBS message files, or RMAIL.EXE and RNEWS.EXE may be written in such a way as to handle this conversion themselves. You must refer to your own BBS documentation to find this out.

RNEWS.EXE has the added responsibility of policing existing newsgroup messages on your system to make sure they are not too old. When they reach a certain age or if there is a certain number of newsgroup messages already in the newsgroup file, the older messages will be deleted to make room for the new incoming messages. The deletion of existing newsgroup messages is done during the import of new messages. A separate RNEWS.EXE session is not needed to do this.

**BATCH.EXE** — This application is rarely used by average BBSs with traditional UUCP connections. The executable is responsible for making ready data which will be forwarded to a downstream site. When

executed, it will extract new newsgroup messages which have been received for used by your own BBS, and queue them for the downstream site in the directory used to hold data for that site. BATCH.EXE will also look through any outbox type directory your system uses to hold email to be passed along to another site and makes that data ready for download when the downstream site next logs in.

BATCH.EXE is typically executed after all

CONTINUES...

```

WAFFLE UUCP 1.65 - Sun May 28 15:45:26 1995
on pandy (dialing), debug level 3
Calling dorite: device 3, speed 38400
ATHIS95=47
OK
ATDT259-5060
CARRIER 14400

```

```

PROTOCOL: LAP-M

```

```

COMPRESSION: U.42BIS

```

```

CONNECT 14400/ARQ

```

```

IQuest Network Services

```

```

Network Port: IND-09

```

```

Login:pandy
Password:

```

```

Awaiting remote identification
Talking to: dorite, permit "default"
Attempting handshake
Handshake successful, 7 window(s)
sending "dorite/0078.DAT" to "D.pandy0078"
sent 0078.DAT (387 bytes, 387 cps)
sending "dorite/0078.XQT" to "X.pandy0078"
sent 0078.XQT (70 bytes, 70 cps)
sending "dorite/0079.DAT" to "D.pandy0079"
sent 0079.DAT (407 bytes, 407 cps)
sending "dorite/0079.XQT" to "X.pandy0079"
sent 0079.XQT (68 bytes, 68 cps)
sending "dorite/0080.DAT" to "D.pandy0080"
sent 0080.DAT (418 bytes, 418 cps)
sending "dorite/0080.XQT" to "X.pandy0080"
sent 0080.XQT (70 bytes, 70 cps)
receiving "D.dorite5eb8f" as "dorite/Dbe5eb8f.D"
received D.dorite5eb8f (577 bytes, 577 cps)
receiving "X.doriteAbe5e" as "dorite/DAbE5e.X"
received X.doriteAbe5e (207 bytes, 207 cps)
receiving "D.dorite5fd46" as "dorite/Cbe5fd46.D"
received D.dorite5fd46 (584 bytes, 584 cps)
receiving "X.doriteAbe5f" as "dorite/DAbE5f.X"
received X.doriteAbe5f (206 bytes, 206 cps)
receiving "D.dorite60ef0" as "dorite/6be60ef0.D"
received D.dorite60ef0 (601 bytes, 601 cps)
receiving "X.doriteAbe60" as "dorite/CAbE60.X"
received X.doriteAbe60 (209 bytes, 209 cps)
53 packets sent, 74 received, 0 errors, at 449 cps
- 1 connection(s) made -

```

```

Waffle v1.65 uuxqt (C) Copyright 1992 Darkside International

```

```

rmail dwolfe
rmail sysop
rmail gmukhtar

```

```

uuxqt: 3 items processed

```

UUCICO  
Login  
Procedure

Connection  
Established:  
Handshaking with  
Dorite

UUCICO  
Transferring  
Data

UUXQT Calling  
Rmail & Rnews  
to import data

system logs in four times a day to do transfers.

You will note that this batch file uses several commands which can only be used if your command shell is 4DOS.COM. I advise everyone I talk with to scrap COMMAND.COM and use 4Dos if only for its super-charged batch file commands.

POLL.BAT

```

@echo off
setlocal
cdd e:\waffle\bin
set waffle=e:\waffle\system\static.1
set pass=0
:top
UUCICO -s dorite
set pass=%@eval[%pass+1]
if %pass=5 goto end
if %?=1 goto top
:end
UUXQT -s dorite

```

If you have been in the BBS biz for any length of time, you should be familiar with writing batch files to run various aspects of your system. This batch file uses UUCICO to attempt to log into my provider. It will do this up to five times before giving up. Keep in mind that re-attempting a login to your provider after a failed attempt may not be an aspect of the login program you use. It may be up to you to devise a method of retrying an attempt. With this batch file, you can see how to handle re-execution of a section should an attempt not be successful.

The line "if %?=1 goto top" is 4DOS's way of looking at the error level reported by UUCICO after it terminates.

normal transfer and import steps have been taken by your system.

## A working example

In order to give you an idea of how all this fits together, let's take a look at the event batch file my system uses to connect with my provider and transfer Internet data. Since the BBS software I use does not currently have any Internet UUCP connectivity internal to it (it is being worked on as we speak), I use a UUCP door to give my users access to Internet newsgroups and messages. My

If UUCICO failed to connect or did not successfully finish a UUCP transfer, it sets the error level to 1. A successful transfer sets the error level at 0.

The final line runs UUXQT to import any received data from IQuest (which has a host name of Dorite). The name the host reports to your UUCICO program may not be the same as its Internet domain name. You must find out the host name used by your provider to properly configure your end's information.

You will note that this batch file is only logging into the host DORITE. Pandaemonium only uses one provider. The parameter -s tells both UUCICO.EXE and UUXQT.EXE which provider to work with.

What follows is what the actual login proce-



dure and transfer of data looks like:

You can see the areas of the figure marked as to which program is currently in control. The figure only shows email being imported. If IQuest had had newsgroup messages queued up for Pandaemonium, they would have been received along with the email data.

The information is being imported into the message files of the door I use for my Internet access. Most BBS systems have difficulty handling Internet mail and newsgroup messages since they do not adhere to long standing limitations of older BBS message data files. User name for one thing can be a very long length with email messages. Most BBS packages are reformatting their message data structures to accommodate the ability to import Internet mail directly into their message files.

### Full-on access

If you want to go full tilt ahead and place your BBS on the Internet full time, you will need a little more hardware and know-how than you need with a UUCP connection. As with almost anything in the BBS world, there is more than one way to do this. If you run The Major BBS by Galacticomm, you can purchase the Unix version of their software and the setup is much easier than placing most other BBS packages on the Internet (which can still be done; it's becoming more practical by month).

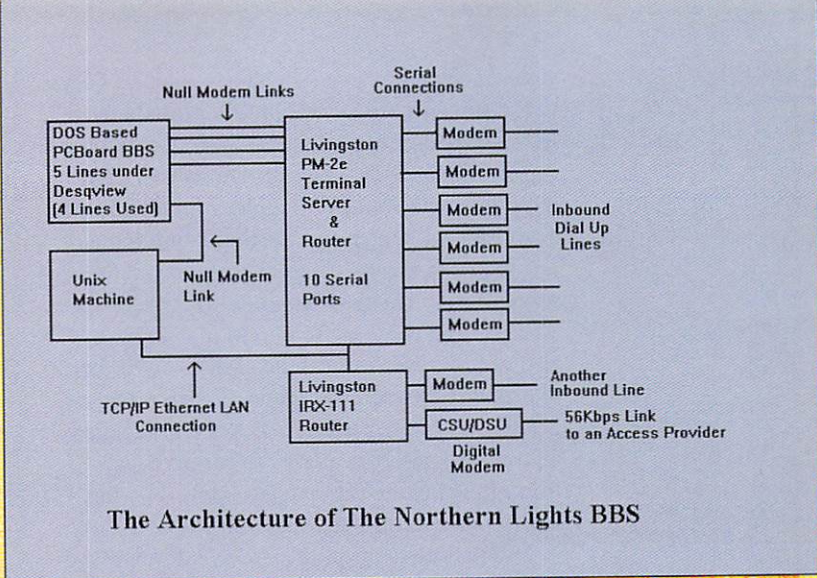
However, if you do want to run the Unix version of Major BBS, this means you must also be running a Unix machine and be familiar with the Unix operating system. A freeware version of Unix is available to the public called Linux which most folks are using rather than full Unix.

The first thing to do, as it is with UUCP connections, is to obtain an account with a provider. The costs and types of connections (modem/digital) were covered in part

one of this article.

You will need to have some form of dedicated line through which to connect to the Internet. Standard phone lines and standard modems can be used but the speed of such connections will not be very good, especially if your system is hosting more than one user who is using the Internet line.

The hardware and software you operate will allow you to support multiple users on a single line, but the cost will be in the form of lost speed. Digital lines can be used but this requires



The Architecture of The Northern Lights BBS

that you pay quite a bit more and use digital modems (which, though coming down, in price are still expensive.)

Once you have a connection method and a place to connect to, you must have the hardware set up correctly. Now, this can be the trickiest part since there is more than one way to do this. I'll show you a diagram of the way Jack Kilday of the Northern Lights BBS (207.761.4782, telnet nlbbs.com — type BBS and the login prompt with a blank return for a password) does it.

Jack is the author of many great programs for Internet access and is an all around swell guy.

Now, Jack's setup is a little more complicated than it has to be. He does a lot of nifty things with all his hardware but you certainly don't have to have all of that. At the very least, you can get on the Internet with a fulltime connection by having a front-end terminal server and a DOS machine on which to run your BBS.

One of the inbound lines shown on the terminal server in the diagram

can actually be an outbound line to an access provider, and the terminal server will provide SLIP/PPP access to callers who need it or route callers through null modem connections to the DOS BBS machine. The terminal server does not just have to manage incoming calls. It can manage outbound Internet access as well.

The IRX-111 router that Jack uses is there to

CONTINUES ...

support the high-speed digital connection he has to the Internet via his 56Kbps dedicated line. The IRX-111 router can also act in a similar fashion to the terminal server, hence its ability to accept incoming calls on its one standard modem line. The IRX-111 router and the digital modem are not required for the Internet connection, but they serve to enhance its speed on Northern Lights.

The Unix machine shown in the diagram is also not required but can be used to do things like go out through the router to pick up newsgroup messages or perform other Unix related chores. Jack also has a satellite connection through which he gathers newsgroups — but again, this is extra hardware that's not required.

We're both great proponents of doing things in non conventional and/or unaccepted ways. You can do anything you want in this new technological frontier — it just takes a little creative thought to bypass all the shinola some people fling around.

Terminal servers can be bought for a little over \$2,000 and dedicated lines run around \$100 a month to support through a provider. It's not cheap but it also isn't prohibitively expensive to do.

## The boards

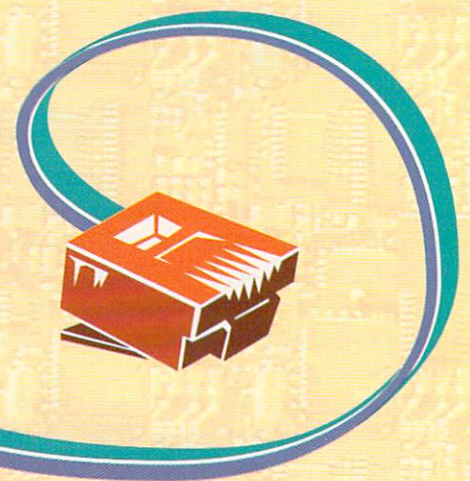
Many BBS systems now have Internet UUCP and SLIP access built into them. Most companies charge extra for Internet connectivity add-ons but some have it built into the base level of their software. Companies like Galaticomm (The Major BBS), Mustang (Wildcat!), and TBBS all charge a bit more for their Internet connectivity software while companies like Clark Dev. (PCBoard), Durand Communications (MindWire) and GAP offer it along with their base-line package.

Galaticomm has put together a Unix version of its BBS package, The Major BBS, which allows BBSs running this version to be a full time site on the Internet, as mentioned. To, date and to the best of my knowledge, The Major BBS is the only DOS-based BBS package that has a Unix version of its software. Galaticomm also offers a Net solution through its ICO (Internet Connectivity Option) and eSoft is supposed to be delivering on its IPAD (Internet Protocol Adapter). Others are busy integrating solutions, too.

PCBoard has a well developed Internet connectivity approach that allows it to import email messages into its message data files and list its conferences in traditional newsgroup format (as in alt.bbs.pcboard). PCBoard's conference names are support up to 60 characters. All BBS packages that support Internet email allow expanded TO: fields to accommodate an Internet address (as in sysop@pandy.com).

Talking about connecting to the Internet is a tough thing because there is no standard way of doing it. As with every new piece of technology, the first stages are always hard because no one has ever done it before. I know the Internet isn't new, but it's relatively new as far as BBSing goes. If you are seriously thinking about an Internet connection of some form, do your homework and find out all the ins and outs that are involved. Hopefully this article has given you some idea of a direction. It's now your job to go out and conquer. ■■■■■

*David Wolfe is a telecommunications developer for Core Technology, freelance writer and author of The BBS Construction Kit and Expanding Your BBS, published by John Wiley & Sons. He can be contacted via email at sysop@pandy.com.*



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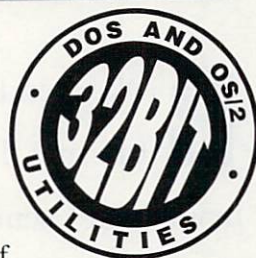
Options and features that you would normally expect to pay extra for, like multinode chat, split-screen private node chat, caller ID security, fax-receive support, RIP menus, module/shell compiler, PostLink, FidoNet, and QWK networking - are all included free with Synchronet. Internet, order processing, fax-on-demand, and match making options are also available.



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# This Just In...

The latest news and e-zines hit the Web

**B**ack when I first signed onto the Internet, I figured I'd get most of my news from Usenet — everyone called 'em newsgroups, so it followed that they'd be packed with the stuff. As it turned out, I rarely stray into Usenet except to follow a few key threads, usually tied to keeping up with my service provider. Instead, I get most valuable news and information from mailing lists (fodder for another column, if not a book on the subject) and the World Wide Web.

The Internet, in its current form, is a library with no equal. Few publications can afford to charge for their services, but they've clued in to the fact that content is the key to attracting loyal readers (which will pull in ads, paying for the whole thing). One of the best places to start is Newslink, at <http://www.newslink.org/newslink/>. This site indexes more than 600 Web publications, from daily and college newspapers to alternative e-zines.

## All the news that fits

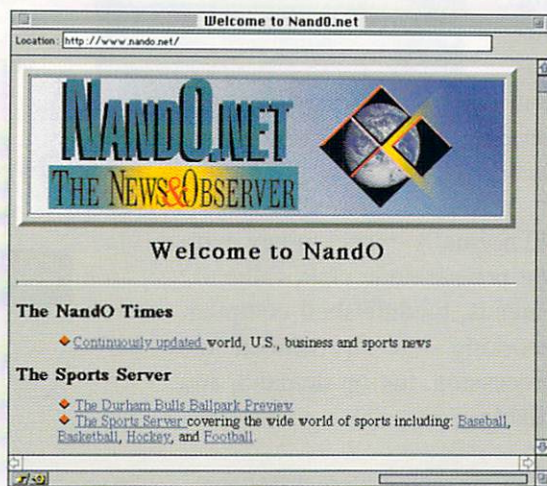
The news of the Oklahoma city bombing back in April pointed a lot of new readers toward a little Web site called Nando Net.

What's a "Nando"? It's actually "N and O" — the News & Observer. This quite-hip daily newspaper out of Raleigh, NC, showed some real spunk in the face of a national disaster. Not content to just report the news as it happened, it created pages of links to specially erected newsgroups, Web sites, IRC chats, and other resources to help members of the Internet community find the latest facts, discover the status of loved ones, and otherwise keep on top of this unbelievable news event.

On a day-to-day basis, Nando is still a crown jewel among news sites on the Web. It offers some

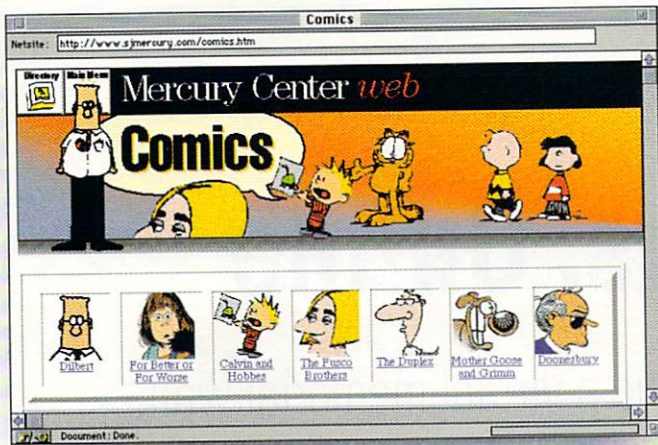
off-beat gems, if you dig beneath the surface (like cartoonist Dwane Powell). Keep it on your hotlist. It's the place to check every day or when something big happens and you just can't get enough info: <http://www.nando.net/>.

On the other coast, the *San Jose Mercury News*' Mercury Center (<http://www.sjmercury.com/>) has gotten a lot of favorable press. Though the site now charges for its better services (such as a full-featured comics page with "Dilbert," "Foxtrot," "Doonesbury" and "Calvin and Hobbes"), it still gives away quite a bit for free.



## KEYWORDS

All the news in bits  
Hitting the best zines  
Web developer site



## Magazine mania

There are plenty of magazines on the Web. They tend to be lumped together into mini-publishing empires. For instance, Ziff-Davis' ZD net features *MacWEEK*, *PCWEEK*, and *Inter@ctive Week* at <http://www.interactive-week.ziff.com/>. CMP's TechWeb (<http://techweb.cmp.com:2090/techweb/default.html>) is the home of the sleepy *NetGuide*, *Interactive Age*, *InformationWeek* and, my favorite, *Computer Reseller News* (and its ShadowRAM computer biz gossip column). The infamous MecklerWeb, at <http://www.mecklerweb.com/>, boasts *Internet World*, *WebWeek*, and *VRWorld*, as well as a burgeoning "shopping mall." Less tech-oriented is Time Warner's Pathfinder, which features home pages for *Time*, *Life*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Money* and *Sports Illustrated*. Check in at <http://www.pathfinder.com/>, but be warned they plan to start charging for access.

## E-zine treats

Of course, a staple of the Net are the weird and always free e-zines. The Netsurfer Digest (<http://www.netsurf.com/nsd/>) is a must-read for any would-be cyberwarrior. And if you want to be really cutting edge, check out the British .net magazine — it's way cooler than *Wired*: <http://www.futurenet.co.uk/netmag/net.html>. Another worthy non-U.S. magazine is Canada's *The Computer Paper*, at <http://www.tcp.ca/>.

I stumbled on another great 'zine, *Urban Desires*, in a very odd way: I clicked onto a link purporting to uncover the "Lesbian



Barbie Scene." This hysterically photographed feature may well have been banished by Mattel's corporate lawyers by the time you read this (it was in issue 1.2), but the publication itself is worth a visit nonetheless. Chock full of provocative commentary and biting and exploratory articles, it's an offbeat melange that's very tasty. Find it at <http://gecko.desires.com/issues.html>. By contrast, *Word Magazine* is an odd publication for me to recommend: I haven't seen anything but the ad. But what an ad! By the time you read this, the site should be up and running at <http://www.word.com/>. Let's hope it lives up to its promise.

For some offbeat ramblings and interesting brain meal, drop by Silly Little Troll publications at <http://pobox.com/slt/>. This young,



upstart company offers off-the-wall commentary and opinion, and it's planning to refurbish old books for new users. A worthy cause, and a browser's paradise. (Click on the troll — I dare you!)

I'll admit right now: I had a hand in the creation of this next site. Faulkner's cc:Browser is a flashy e-zine on the subject of computers and communications. It's unusual in that it doesn't replicate a print magazine or news service; much of the material published is gathered specifically for the Web. I think it's worth a look, but then I'm biased. Decide for yourself, at <http://www.faulkner.com/>.

Finally, if you plan to put up your own Web publication (hey, who doesn't), you'd better take a look at the Web Developer's Journal at <http://www.awa.com/nct/software/electlead.html>. In addition to the gee-whiz-bang browser effects you'll witness, you may learn a thing or two about the craft of publishing for this new and exciting medium. I'm sure that some of the sites I didn't mention will wish they had.

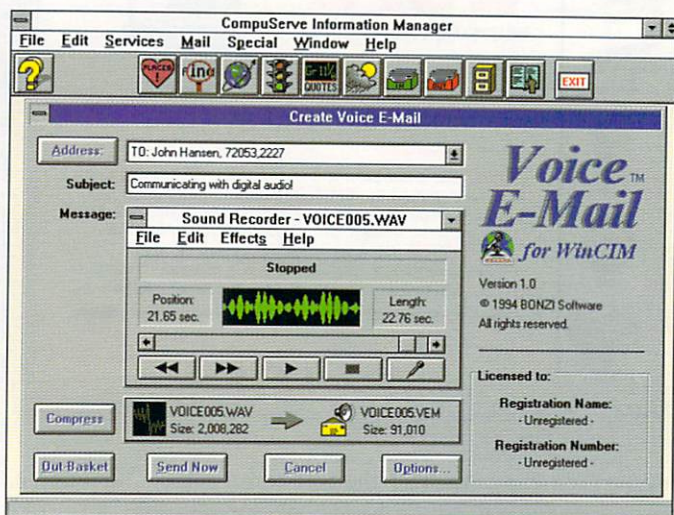
## Overheard on the 'Net

"Caution: Objects in calendar are closer than they appear." .....

If you'd like to suggest an odd or disturbing URL for this column, give feedback, or get wildly philosophical about the future of the World Wide Web, you can write Dave Kramer at [reeltime@omni.voicenet.com](mailto:reeltime@omni.voicenet.com). Include a nifty original quote in your .sig, and you'll be a future "overheard" candidate.

# Offline Lives, Online

Web home pages, voice mail and a virtual memorial wall.



## VoiceMail for WinCim

Bonzi Software has given CompuServe subscribers a voice.

The small California company is marketing Voice E-Mail for CompuServe's WinCIM software. With this voice mail add-on, Windows users with multimedia equipment can send and receive voice mail using standard CIS email functions.

Until recently, sending voice mail was cost prohibitive because of the sheer size of the digitized file. For example, a 15-second recording (44 kHz, 16-bit) "Hi, bill, I'll be flying into Seattle from New York Friday. Can you send someone to pick me up? Flight's in at 11 a.m. and I'll be at the U.S. Air gate" creates a sound file 1,323,766 bytes in size, or 1.3 MB!

At current CompuServe rates, that single file would cost \$3.61 to send through the service — 24 cents per second. A simple one-minute message would devour 5.2 MB of disk space, and set you back \$14.23!

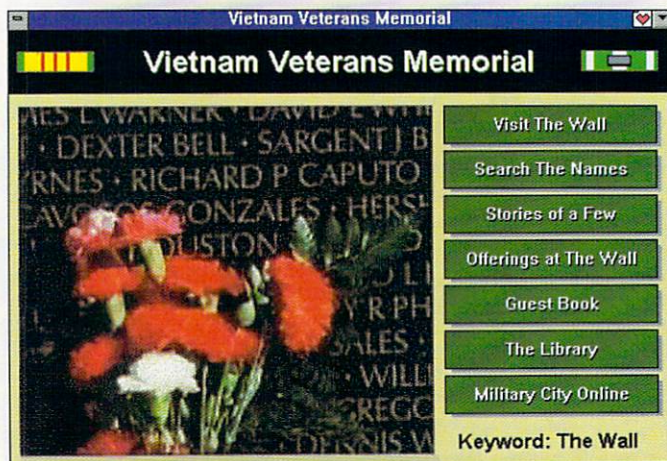
Voice E-Mail changes all that.

The most powerful aspect of Voice E-Mail for WinCIM is its use of the latest MPEG-2 compression technology. With MPEG-2 compression, that 1.3 MB file above can be compressed all the way down to 59K. That's right — a compression ratio of 22:1. This is amazing, especially when you realize that 10:1 compression was previously the best technology could offer.

Users wishing to purchase Voice E-Mail for WinCIM can GO VOICEMAIL and get it online for \$29.95 — download time is free.

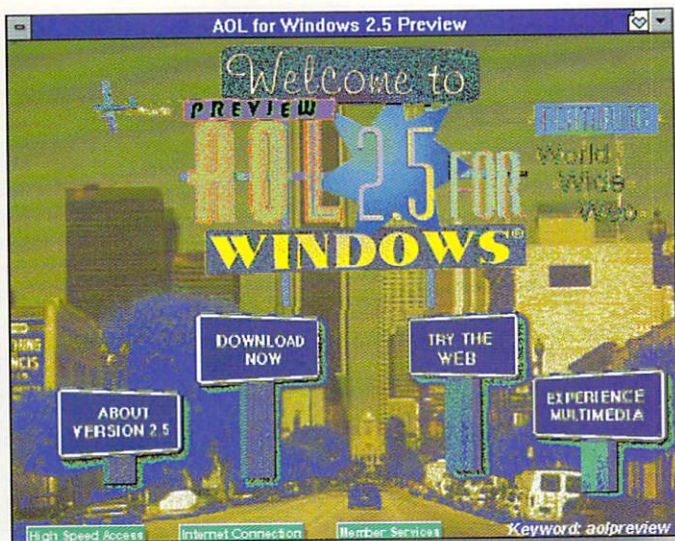
## The Wall

Not Pink Floyd's but America's. The Wall, a new service on America Online, allows users to make a virtual visit to the



### KEYWORDS

Pay tribute to vets  
At home on Prodigy  
Delphi University



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. The memorial wall has become the most visited memorial in Washington — it and its online counterpart are moving and eerie. I must admit that the Vietnam War has not touched me directly — I was only nine years old when the war ended. But my virtual visit to the Vietnam Wall was something I won't forget.

The Wall, as it is known on AOL, is a great collection of vivid pictures, stories and information allowing subscribers to browse a database of the 58,000 names on the wall, read their stories, and view many of the fascinating items which loved-ones have left there.

Browsers will also find information about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and the museum which houses the artifacts left at the wall.

One of the sections, "Stories of the Few," allows you to get to know a soldier who gave his life in the war. And I read touching stories from widowed wives and children who never knew their father.

Users are encouraged to share their own stories or leave messages in the Vietnam Veterans BBS.

Visit The Wall by using the keyword THE WALL.

In other AOL news, the preview of the new Web software carries on (probably in full glory when this reaches you). The Web browser is integrated with AOL so completely that the Web itself feels like a part of AOL, rather than some foreign land. If you haven't already, check keyword "AOLPREVIEW" for the latest.

## Prodigy pages

While we wait for the next generation of Prodigy software to be unveiled, its subscribers are now the first users of the big online services to be able to publish their own Web pages on the Internet.

Prodigy's new Home Page Creator, (developed jointly with IBM) is an MS Windows-based application that allows members to include their own photo, graphics and personal sound clips. Anyone connected to the Internet using a graphical browser can search the home page directory by state, name or letter of the alphabet, and view the members' home pages.

The Home Page Creator comes with four different templates:

**Basic** — which allows users to talk about themselves, including their interests, favorite web links and email address.

**Business Card** — which allows members to list their company, title, address, phone number and URL, if their company has a web presence.

**Out on the Town** — members can give a guided tour of their hometown, with all their favorite places, listing all the best restaurants and other fun things to do or see.

Last, but not least, a **Top 10** template allows members to list their top 10 web links.

Additional templates as well as a Macintosh version is expected in the future.

Other changes to the Prodigy software were announced this week at the Electronic Mail Association trade show in New Orleans. Prodigy planned to give its online email client native MS Windows functionality and an enhanced interface by June.

The new email for Windows interface is driven by icons located at the top of the screen, and includes such standard features as sizable windows, dialog boxes and scroll bars. As part of the new software, users will get the first on-line spell checker provided by a big online service.

CONTINUES ...



Existing Prodigy users will receive the software free of charge as a download and new versions of the Prodigy sign-up kit will include the enhancements.

## Interchange

AT&T's Interchange Computing Network is being prepared for commercial roll-out. The new online service, purchased by AT&T in late 1994, was the creation of the Ziff-Davis family. The service uses a PPP-based technology to allow users to multi-task very efficiently across normal phone lines.

The Interchange software I tested featured a robust GUI which proved very easy to use. The GUI uses familiar mnemonics to allow you to navigate the ser-



**Interchange™**

Please confirm your name and password

Name **TerryRossi**

Password

Last update time not available



## Pics OnLine!

**BBS**

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vice. Electronic Magazine content has a magazine icon, downloadable files have a disk icon and so on. The service is ramping up its content providers with the family of Ziff-Davis magazines, including *PC Magazine*, *PC Week*, and *Computer Shopper*, as well as other favorites. Twenty-something hardware and software vendors have also set up camp on Interchange. Look for more information about Interchange in upcoming columns.

## Delphi U

With many high school seniors recently out of school, Delphi is a great place to get information about colleges and universities.

Delphi College Information Gopher is a wealth of information for students looking for a higher learning institution. Users can search the Internet for Colleges by state or degree programs. Many colleges have a complete set of Internet services to enlighten students and prospective students alike. Go REFERENCE COLLEGE for higher learning.

Educators can realize the benefit of the Internet on Delphi as well, as many gopher and WWW links exist for the promotion of the Internet in the classroom. Complete services exist with curriculum and suggested methods for getting your school online. Go REFERENCE EDUCATION, a SIG designed as a discussion forum for Delphi educators and parents interested in working together to contribute their thoughts on ideas for a Delphi Education service.



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# bbs . notebook

BY STEVE JANAS

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

## Woodnet

**Location:** Des Moines, IA  
**Sysop:** Gordon Gaippe  
**BBS Main Access Number:**  
515.245.9663  
**Voice Support:** 515.282.7000  
**Modems Supported:** 300 – 19,200  
**BBS Software:** The Major BBS 6.25

The thing about hobbies is that one begets another.

Take woodworking. It's a hobby a lot of men and women spend a good deal of their free time pursuing. And when they don't have free time, some small but active part of their consciousness is probably devoted to it.

Sound familiar?

Anyone who has given time and effort to setting up BBSs or seeking them out knows the hold a pastime can have on your consciousness. They're also aware of the sense of community that develops among hobbyists who share an interest. BBS callers and sysops have a ready-made forum in which to compare notes and share techniques (not to mention software), and now, so do woodworkers.

Woodnet, a board maintained by

the publishers of "Woodsmith" and "Shop Notes" magazines, has been online since last fall, according to sysop Gordon Gaippe, and has recorded over 8,000 calls from curious woodworkers.

One hundred ninety-two of them have paid the \$29.95 yearly membership fee to gain full access (with a couple of newcomers each day), a sum which Gordon says is meant more to cover costs than to make money for the magazine.

The board features expert advice, plans for woodworking projects in GIF format and ASCII-text directions for building them.

There are also forums; a glance at the topics shows how serious these guys are about their craft. When I checked, postings in the "Tools" forum covered an ongoing discussion about table saws, with liberal attention being paid to routers and jointers as well. If you hold strong opinions on this stuff, this board is where you belong.

In addition to the advice of other members, subscribers get the benefit of a paid expert to answer their questions. Steve Curtis, shop foreman for the two magazines, has a forum of his own, in which he answers questions about wood working and wood finishing.

There are also tool reviews and

articles on woodworking techniques, which have been culled from the print versions of the magazines and made available as files to be downloaded for off-line reading.

"We are aware that the vast majority of our users are calling long distance — there aren't enough woodworkers in central Iowa to make this thing work — so we make everything available for download," Gordon says. "This way a user doesn't have to run up the phone bill reading stuff online. And we support QWK offline mail readers for the same reason."

Gordon says he adds one or two new sets of plans for wood-working projects every week. At present, he says, there are about 20.

The plans can get pretty detailed. Each project comes with a set of instructions, plus a series of GIF illustrations to help users get the job done, Gordon says. A set of plans for a pair of bunk beds, for example, comes with 49 drawings of the project at different stages of completion. If you need them, GIF viewers are available for downloading.

Gordon says the idea of a woodworkers' BBS flies because, he believes, computer-literacy among those interested in the hobby is high. He admits the subscribers are less fluent in the mores and pathways of

BBS use, but that condition passes with continued exposure to the board.

"Activity in the forums is lighter than I'd like," Gordon says, "but still you can get a real sense of community there, woodworkers sharing their knowledge and experience.

"I'm guessing here, but I'll bet most of Woodnet's callers have never called a BBS before. Mostly they're woodworkers with a computer rather than computer hobbyists who are also woodworkers. So as they become more comfortable with BBSing, they'll be more active in the forums."

## Islenet

**Location:** Middletown, NJ

**BBS Access #:**

Up to 2400: 908.495.6996

2400 - 14,400: 908.495-4487

14,400 - 28,800: 908.495.6283

**BBS Software:** eSoft TBBS

It's not every BBS that can read your fortune with Tarot cards. Islenet can.

And, lest you think it's all a scam, the board tells you how to do it yourself.

From a sub-menu off the "Penny Arcade" section of the main menu, Islenet takes you into an application that simulates two different kinds of Tarot card readings, presented in ANSI graphics. If a reading's not enough and you need to understand the wisdom of the tarot yourself, the program will take you through a deck card by card, with a short text explaining what each card means, so you can divine your own interpretation.

This, according to sysop Dan Lewis, is what Islenet is all about: titillation, albeit with stimulation to the mind and imagination in addition to the, shall we say, lower latitudes.

Technically, Islenet is an adult board, complete with all the staples required of the species: adult graphics, steamy fantasies, racy chats and the like. However, Dan says he's tried to steer clear of the male-dominated, adenoidal posturing that frequently characterizes the form.

"Our users, instead of computer

geeks, are doctors, lawyers, stock brokers, a smattering of housewives, and topless dancers," he says. "When people get together, they have a little foreplay instead of getting right down to explicit chats. People want to get to know each other."

The board has also recruited a number of women as users, another fact Dan says sets Islenet apart from the adult-board crowd.

"Women tend to feel comfortable on the board," he says. "There aren't a million guys at once saying, 'Hey baby, talk dirty to me.'"

Online, Dan calls himself a sexop, and when users log on, they're greeted with a solicitous "Your wish is my command, sexy" just after the prompt.

From that point, users have a choice of Internet options (although Dan says he's had some problems finding a cheap and reliable provider), conferences and downloads.

The tarot program was developed by a user, Tina Shields, and Dan says it's been so popular he's begun marketing it to other boards around the country. So far, he says, it's been picked up by about a half-dozen. Out of necessity, they run from eSoft's TBBS software, the same software Dan uses. A version that's compatible with other common software, such as Wildcat!, is in the works, he says.

Dan says he discovered BBSs early enough that he can reminisce about tinkering with equipment now largely regarded as museum pieces. He says he remembers being blown away by the wide-open promise of the young medium when he called his first board in 1981.

"At the time I had — and I still have it — a TRS 331 model 1, the kind you have to put a phone headset into, a 300 baud modem with an acoustic coupler," he says.

Dan called a board on his native Staten Island: "It was a totally free, totally open so-called adult BBS. The first one of its type, it seemed. In those days it was wide open — just log on. No security, no call-back. I thought it was amazing. I also thought it was a little crass, and

thought I could do better."

The TRS was the host to Dan's first board, which went online in 1984, and stayed on the same machine until 1989, when Dan was brought "kicking and screaming into the IBM era."

The board now resides on a 486 built, Frankenstein-style, from the vital organs of machines donated to him by friends who have upgraded. Software and user information is contained on a one gigabyte hard rive and a CD-ROM drive.

A second machine, a 386, handles a digital voice mail system Dan offers to his subscribers, and he is in the process of building a Unix-based machine which he plans to hook into the system via Ethernet.

"Once I get this machine configured, I intend to use it as an Internet platform, and allow people to Telnet in," he says.

Islenet does offer limited email capabilities at the moment, although Dan says finding a suitable Internet provider has been a trial. In the past two years, he says, he's gone through three of them.

A California provider gave "absolutely top-level service," he says, "but it was absolutely hideously expensive." Further, he said, the company charged data surcharges that penalized higher transfer rates.

A Rhode Island company "couldn't be nicer people," he says, "but they wouldn't pass along sub-domains in the addresses. They talked about it as a restriction of reselling of services. I didn't buy it. I'm not selling services, I'm just passing along services to users. I dropped them like a hot potato."

Ultimately, Dan signed on with the same New Jersey provider that Islenet uses now.

He says the experience taught him a lesson about providers' attitudes toward BBSs, but also gave him insight into the future direction of the field.

"Internet providers don't care about BBSs," he says. "They view

CONTINUES ...

them as competition. They would rather sell SLIP and shell accounts to end-users and have no middle man.

"But I think the real future of the Internet is in local community-based BBSs. The thrill of the Web and graphics will wear off, and you'll want to send mail to your kid in the University of Oshkosh and to your German pen pal."

## BBS: Russian Wives

Sysop: Bart Senior

BBS Location: Antelope, Ca.

BBS Access #: 916.723.6832

Modems Supported: Up to 28,800

BBS Software: Wildcat! 4.1

A bulletin board that matches lonely American men to Russian women eager to leave their homeland can be viewed two ways, I suppose.

On the one hand, the board can be seen as operating under the noblest of intentions, building romance where none existed before. After all, lonely hearts know no boundaries.

A cynic might take a more jaded view, however. He might be a little put-off by the meat market mentality inherent in picking and choosing women from an online catalogue, like so many prize heifers.

He might also question the motives of the women themselves, and wonder how many are really in the market for a U.S. Green Card as a ticket out of a country from which banner headlines daily seem to trumpet disintegration and chaos.

Fortunately, I'm not a cynic.

Extension of the mail-order bride concept to the BBS world was probably inevitable and the idea is not in itself a bad one. Russian Wives sysop Bart Senior claims one happy marriage has resulted from his board, in addition to several enthusiastic, ongoing correspondences.

A visitor to the board can get a taste of what the service offers in the "Sysop's Favorites" section of the file area. Here are roughly 25 GIF and JPEG images of young Russian women, each one accompanied by a short, colorful description.

If you want to see more, it's going

to cost you 20 bucks, 10 if you're calling from outside California. Then, you're presented with a selection of about 500 women. If one catches your fancy, you can send email to Bart, identifying the woman using a numerical code he gives each woman. He will then arrange an exchange of letters.

And that's where the price goes way up. For putting prospective suitors in touch with the women, Bart says he charges between \$150 and \$200. As part of the price, Bart says he offers advice on Russian customs, plus he faxes the letters to the women, thus avoiding the "horrendously slow" Russian mail system.

Bart says he works in conjunction with two Russian match-making companies, which recruit the women and pass along mail to them. About 20 percent of the women are "out-and-out, money-hungry gold diggers" who see a match with an American man as an easy way out of Russia, Bart says.

He says the majority makes up for the opportunistic few, however.

"Most of them are interested not just in a man, but in someone they can love," Bart says.

Bart has a list of attributes that he says makes Russian women especially attractive mates. At the top is their attentiveness, which he says they enjoy lavishing on American men, whom Bart says are generally underappreciated creatures.

"Fifty years of feminism has made the American man the most considerate of men in the world," Bart says. "You can ask any foreign woman what she thinks of American men, and she will smile and be pleased to meet one."

If users want to see first-hand the unique qualities of Russian women, they can use the board to sign up for trips to Russia organized by Euro-Connection, a travel agency based in Atlanta.

It was on his first trip to Russia, in August, 1993, that Bart was first bitten by the Slavic love bug. He says he met a young woman whom he considered bringing back to the states,

but ultimately didn't. That task was accomplished on his second trip, last year, with a different woman: Julia, a "beautiful, supermodel type."

Unfortunately, the relationship soured and Julia got sent home to Mother Russia. However, a part of her remains behind in the Sysop's Favorite section of the board, where Bart has uploaded no less than 20 files devoted to her, zipped into one condensed file.

He says that when women come to the states, both they and their mates often have to suffer through a period of culture shock. As a remedy, Bart says he's working on setting up an online support group, where the couples can trade strategies for getting through the difficult first few months. He says he's already hosted two face-to-face support groups in his hometown of Antelope.

And in the future? Bart says he's thought of branching out to include women from other countries besides Russia on his board. One thing he says he probably won't do is take the Chippendales route and begin uploading pictures of Russian men for American women to choose.

It's not sexism, Bart says. It's just that the market's not there.

"There are very few women on BBSs compared to men," he says. "Maybe three to one, four to one. And the women who are online, they get swamped by men hitting on them."

And who wants that?

## The SANE BBS

Location: Auburn, ME.

Sysop: Jim Hart

BBS Main Access #: 207.777.5085

Modems Supported: Up to 14.4

BBS Software: Waffle 1.65

It wasn't that long ago that the best way to get a blank stare of fundamental incomprehension from someone was to propose to the elected officials of a given city that they launch a BBS.

Well, the technology's not such an exotic chimera anymore, and across

CONTINUES ...

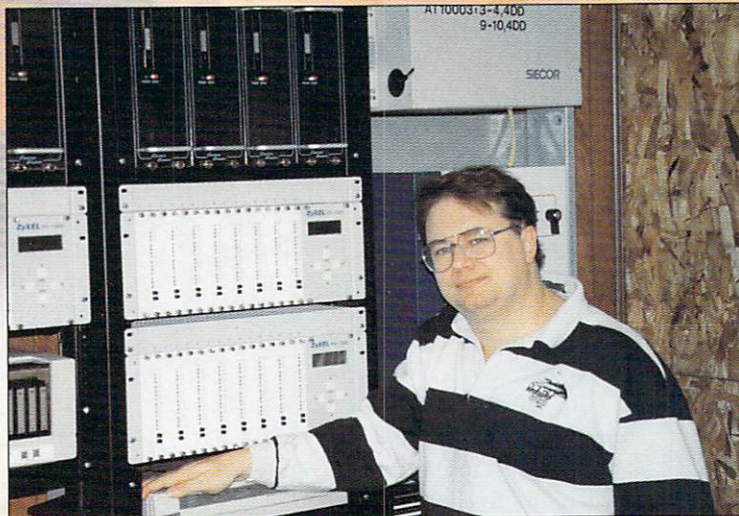
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Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS Service Bureau

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the country, communities are waking up to the information-dissemination possibilities inherent in having a presence online. In fact, many are making the mistake of leap-frogging over BBSs and going straight to setting up Web pages. But that's a different story.

As city boards go, The Sane BBS registers at just about the middle of the scale in terms of ambition. It goes beyond straight text, with a stab at RIP graphics which its sysop, Jim Hart, recognizes is not without its drawbacks.

Jim admits the board is not a GUI barnstormer, and has left an advisory to that effect for users to encounter when they first log on.

"No hype, no noise," the screen modestly informs us. "Just your low-cost (currently free) entrance to cyberspace."

That about sums the board up. Bells and whistles are few here, but Jim's got the basics of municipal life solidly covered. A no-nonsense Main Menu presents a terse listing of options the board offers. File areas are given the heading "stored information," in order, I would guess, for the board to be as self-explanatory as possible to BBS neophytes.

Enter the file area and the vital stats of the city of Auburn, Maine are laid out before you. Info on government, local organizations, and community-based computing groups is provided, as is a file exchange area for members. A space has been left for local school information, but it has yet to be filled in.

Jim also keeps a portion of the file area reserved for the local chapter of the Toastmasters, a public speaking group which I admit I've never heard of, but which, according to a FAQ Jim keeps on file, is a lot more ubiquitous than you might think.

Internet access for users consists essentially of email, but it's free, so you really can't complain about the lack of such Net pluses as FTP and Telnet. There is also a smattering of Usenet Newsgroups Jim feels are apropos for his subscribers.

In addition, the board is plugged

into an entity known as Androscogin Valley Community Network, a local web that links together towns in the Lewiston, Maine region.

Jim says he runs Waffle from a Windows 3.11 operating system which he keeps on a 386. All files and system information is kept on a 250MB hard drive accessible via a single phone line.

He says he uses Waffle because of its price and its ability to support Internet protocols directly.

"If I could find something else that fits the same criteria,

I would use it," Jim says, "because Waffle's interface isn't very good. I have spent some time with RIP, but, since I have no access to Waffle's basic functions, mail, news, and files, I'm limited in what I can do with it."

## Cookie BBS

**Location:** Reading, PA

**Sysop:** Joe Cooke

**BBS Software:** Renegade BBS V.10

**Modems Supported:** Up to 28,800.

**BBS Access #:** 610.582.5519

Fifteen-year-old sysop Joe Cooke's board The Cookie serves, like many home-based BBSs, as a gathering place for an online circle of friends. Beyond that, it's a way for him to cut his teeth on customizing features for his and other people's boards.

He says he got into BBSing the usual way: by calling around and, after seeing what was out there, deciding to create a board of his own. Then, after tinkering with coding and programming processes, he took it all a step further. Now he designs Doors to launch from his board and from boards run by his sysop friends.

He's got five Doors built into the Cookie, including the sign-up Door and one that allows users to read and download files. He's working on more, and says he searches through other boards for inspiration and to match his ideas against what's already been done.

"I think up ideas for a Door, then I call BBSs and see if anybody already has a Door like that," he says. "If they do, I try to beat their Door — the

looks, the features, just all around."

Joe says he was drawn into BBSing after poking around large, commercial services like Prodigy from his family's 386. Eventually, he moved from the large services into the more compartmentalized world of home BBSing, with its myriad boards serving their myriad interests and personalities.

He discovered that, through freeware like the Renegade BBS software, having a board of his own was just a matter of taking the time to design it and set it up. The rest is history.

Joe's checked out other freeware offerings, but he says Renegade is the software worth sticking with.

"It's very easy to use," he says. "For instance, Renegade offers menu commands that most users know, like "F" for File menu. Some BBSs have, like, T for File menu. Its message bases are just as easy as the menus."

Joe was impressed enough with Renegade to sign up as a distribution node for the Renegade network, RGSNet. He's also hooked into ITC-Net.

He says his 340 users mostly like to chat with each other via the message forums; he's not in any hurry to add Internet connectivity. If he can get enough people interested, he says, he'll bring onboard the usual range of email, FTP and Telnet options.

He says he sees a synthesis occurring between BBS and the Internet which he says will edge out the commercial services that introduced him to the medium.

"They are not worth the money," he says. "As for direct Internet providers, they will be here for a while. They might even start integration with BBSs."

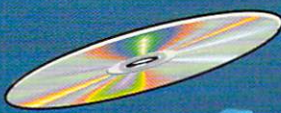
As for BBSs, nobody really knows. In my opinion, they will last for a while, but the Internet will be biggest 'BBS' out there." ■■■■

*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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# Liable for Libel?

Fallout of lawsuit against Prodigy could put BBS sysops under the gun

In a case that could have major ramifications for BBS system operators and Internet newsgroup moderators, a New York state trial court ruled that communications service provider Prodigy Services Company may be liable for potentially libelous statements made by one of its users.

Prodigy was sued by the securities investment banking firm of Stratton Oakmont, Inc., and its president, Daniel Porush, for statements made by an unidentified poster on Prodigy's Money Talk bulletin board. The statements claimed that Stratton Oakmont committed criminal and fraudulent acts in connection with the initial public offering of stock of Solomon-Page, Ltd.

Stratton Oakmont and Porush sued Prodigy, the volunteer moderator of the Money Talk forum, and the anonymous user who made the postings. Prodigy filed a motion for summary judgment, asking to be dismissed from the case on the claim that Prodigy could not be held responsible for the postings of its users.

Prodigy based its claim on a case decided by another New York court in 1991 entitled *Cubby v. CompuServe*. In the Cubby case, the federal district court for the Southern District of New York held that CompuServe could not be held liable for the content of user postings.

In Cubby, the court held that CompuServe, which had contracted out the maintenance of its Journalism Forum to a third party, was more like a bookstore or a library than a publisher

since it did not have editorial control over the content of the messages.

On May 24, 1995, the Prodigy court held that Prodigy did have editorial control over the messages in the Money Talk forum and was therefore liable for the content of those messages. According to the New York Supreme Court (which is a trial level court in New York), Prodigy's policy of systematically monitoring messages made it liable for the content of these messages:

*"In contrast [to CompuServe in the Cubby case], here Prodigy has virtually created an editorial staff of Board Leaders who have the ability to continually monitor incoming transmissions and in fact do spend time censoring notes. Indeed, it could be said that Prodigy's current system of automatic scanning, guidelines, and Board Leaders may have a chilling effect on freedom of communications in Cyberspace, and it appears that this chilling effect is exactly what Prodigy wants, but for the legal liability that attaches to such censorship."*

The court was concerned that its decision would be read as overruling *Cubby v. CompuServe*. That was not the court's intention:



"The key distinction between CompuServe and Prodigy is two fold. First, Prodigy held itself out to the public and its members as controlling the content of its computer bulletin boards. Second, Prodigy implemented this control through its automatic software screening program, and the guidelines which Board Leaders are required to enforce. By actively utilizing technology and manpower to delete notes from its computer bulletin boards on the basis of offensiveness and "bad taste," for example, Prodigy is clearly making decisions as to content, and such decisions constitute editorial control. That such control is not complete and is enforced both as early as the notes arrive and as late as a complaint is made does not minimize or eviscerate the simple fact that Prodigy has uniquely abrogated to itself the role of determining what is proper for its members to post and read on its bulletin boards. Based on the foregoing, the Court is compelled to conclude that for the purposes of Plaintiffs' claims in this action, Prodigy is a publisher rather than a distributor."

In addition, the court held that the volunteer Board Leaders were Prodigy's agents for the purpose of assigning liability. Agency is a legal relationship where one person gives consent for another to act on his or her behalf and subject to his or her control. In this case, since Prodigy directed and controlled the Board Leader's actions, at least for the limited purpose of monitoring and editing the Money Talk bulletin board, Prodigy was responsible for the actions of the Board Leader.

So what does this decision mean for BBS sysops and Internet forum moderators? Well, every set of facts is different, but this case does raise the possibility that system operators who screen messages but permit illegal information to be posted may very well be held liable for those posts. System operators who do not screen messages, on the other hand, may avoid liability if 1) their boards are too large to be regularly monitored and 2) they had no reason to suspect that there was illegal activity taking place.

System operators put on notice of illegal activity could not avoid liability by simply stating that they didn't monitor their boards.

The Prodigy decision was a wake-up call for those of us communicating electronically. System operators or forum moderators who monitor the content of user messages on a regular basis may be taking on the elevated responsibility for monitoring those messages properly.

The final outcome of the Prodigy case has not yet been decided, since this decision was written in response to a pretrial motion by Prodigy to be dismissed from the case.

I'll be sure to report more on the final outcome of the trial as it occurs.

Shari Steele is Director of Legal Services for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing freedom and openness in computer-based communications. Send your legal questions to Shari at [ssteele@eff.org](mailto:ssteele@eff.org) or c/o BBS Magazine.

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## DOS

### The Prostar Address Master 3.0

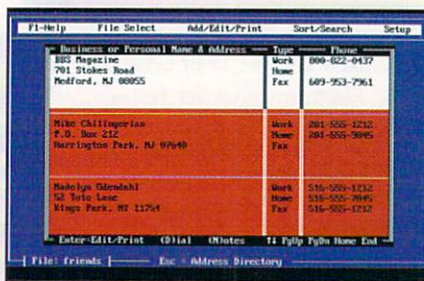
PAM.ZIP

by Prostar Software Co.

P.O. Box 26397

Jennings, MO 63136

Looking for an electronic way to keep track of the people and companies you deal with? The Prostar Address Master



might be just the tool you need. This DOS-based program offers a customizable entry form for entering names, addresses, phone numbers, and notes.

Address Master stores information in address files, each of which can have up to 1,000 entries. It comes with several useful address files, such as airlines, hotels, and computer software companies. You open or create an address file, then use commands under the pull-down Add/Edit/Print menu to work with entries. And you can customize the entry screen so it includes fields for the kinds of information you need to track.

Once your information is entered, use the Directory to browse entries based on the first letter of the entry, or use commands under the Sort/Search pop-up menu to reorganize or locate entries.

**PRINT IT** Address Master can print in several different formats, including address books, envelopes, and mailing labels. Users can even dial phone numbers directly through their modem and set date-based reminders that appear when you open an address file.

Although Address Master has online help, it's pretty straightforward and easy to use. All commands can be accessed either through pull-down menus or keystrokes displayed right on screen. The shareware version is restricted to 10 address files with only 10 entries per file. Users who pay the \$21.95 shareware fee get a registered version without the file size restrictions or the shareware reminder that appears each time you run the program.

## Windows

### Plug-In 2.52

PLUG252.ZIP

by Plannet Crafters, Inc.

P.O. Box 450

Alpharetta, GA 30239-0450

BBS: 404.740.8583

Plug-In is a utility that adds features and cosmetic enhancements to Windows 3.1 or later. Some features are useful, like Program Manager improvements and a QuickRun Menu that provides instant access to programs and tasks. Other features are purely frivolous, like custom cartoon cursors, icons, sounds, and menu bar colors.

Once you install Plug-In, you use the Control Center to configure its options. Set Plug-In's startup Options and Windows screen saver enhancements. Change the way Program Manager works (and looks) when Plug-In is running. Change the default mouse pointer and wait cursor and magnify the I-beam pointer so it's easier to see. Set Plug-In's ability to track system resources and alert you to potential problems. Add options to the QuickRun menu Plug-In places in the Program Manager menu bar. Customize the way the title bar looks to add the date, time, system resources or other information in a color combination you specify. Set reminders that pop-up automatically when it's time to perform a task or have Plug-In auto-

matically run a program at a certain time.

If you have a sound card and sound driver installed, you can have Plug-In play sounds you specify at certain events or read you the time. The Control Center gives you access to all these features and others.

**RIGHT AT HOME** What's great about Plug-In is that it fully integrates itself with Windows. It adds commands to the Program Manager menus and enhances the way things work without any additional effort on your part. It can easily be turned on or off at any time. But once you get used to using Plug-In, I don't think you'll want to go without it.



Plug-In requires Windows 3.1 — it will not work with Windows 95 — and comes with extensive online help. Users paying the \$20 registration fee get a registration number that removes the shareware reminder at startup, as well as a disk of the latest version and additional icons, cursors, and sounds.

### The Right Resume 1.0C

TRR\_1C.ZIP

by James S. Nixon

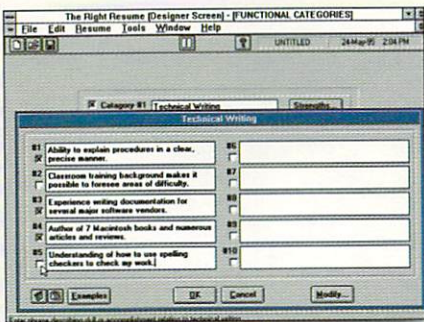
Whirlwind Technologies

P.O. Box 1063

Van, TX 75790

The Right Resume can help any Windows 3.1 user produce clean looking, well-formatted resumes, in a variety of styles, quickly and easily.

In the Designer Screen, use the



Resume menu to choose the style of resume: chronological, functional, or targeted. Entry screens prompt you to enter information about yourself, the kind of job you want and the skills, work experience, and education you have. If you're not sure what kind of entry The Right Resume expects, check the status bar at the bottom of the screen for instructions, or use the Examples button to view examples. Check boxes let you turn entries on or off so you can customize a resume by picking and choosing among entries without having to type the same information over and over.

When you're finished entering information, use the Generate Resume command to display the fruits of your labor in a word processor window.

**ON THE JOB** The Right Resume uses standard resume formats so you don't have to worry about indents, bullet lists, and tabs. You can edit or reformat the resume with The Right Resume's built-in word processor, which includes font, size, alignment, style, spacing, tab, and color control options. Print your finished resume, then use the word processor to write a cover letter to go with it.

The Right Resume requires Windows 3.1 or later. Online help is available in both the Designer Screen and word processor window. Documentation with the shareware version includes a "Readme" file and a manual.

The \$25 shareware fee gets you all kinds of bonuses: mail merge and spelling checker, contact manager and calendar, "power words" list, printed manual, technical support, and the removal of the shareware reminder that appears at startup. A DOS version called Resume Master Deluxe is also available.

## Macintosh

### GraphicConverter 2.1.2US

by Thorsten Lemke  
Lemke Software  
Insterburger Str. 6  
31228 Peine, Germany

GraphicConverter is a feature-packed graphics translation package for Macintosh that's a must-have for anyone who works extensively with graphics.

GraphicConverter can convert most IBM, Atari, Amiga, and Macintosh graphics formats, including BMP, EPSF, GIF, HP-GL/2, IFF/LBM, JPEG/JFIF, MacPaint, MooV, PBM/PGM/PPM, PCX/SCR, PICS, PICT, PICT Resource, ppat, PSD, SGI, Startup Screen, SUN, TGA, TIFF, and TRS-80.

Many of these formats include multiple options; for example, you can choose among two kinds of GIF for-



mats and create the interlaced GIFs so popular on World Wide Web pages.

But GraphicConverter doesn't stop with conversions. It also includes some powerful editing tools. You can crop, scale, invert, rotate, and mirror images, as well as change an image's resolution, brightness, contrast, and colors. Sharpen or unsharpen an image, create a histogram, and even apply gamma correction.

**PICTURE THIS** When working with multiple images, you can create PICT format catalogs, display images in a slide show, and create custom icons. And, in case you were wondering, you can even use basic drawing tools to draw on an image.

GraphicConverter requires a Macintosh with color QuickDraw, QuickTime, and System 7 or later. (QuickTime is not required for versions prior to 2.1.)

A fat binary application, it includes native code for optimal performance on 680X0 and PowerPC-based computers. GraphicConverter comes with an extensive manual that includes a description of all menus and commands. Users who pay the \$35 shareware fee get a registration code to remove the shareware reminder and unlock features like the powerful batch conversion tool. They also get the latest version on disk, straight from Germany.

### Greg's Buttons 3.7.1

Gregory D. Landweber  
10 Wallingford Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Greg's Buttons is a completely frivolous (but very stylish) control panel that customizes the way Macintosh menus, dialog boxes, and windows look. It does this by offering options to change check boxes, radio buttons, push buttons, colors, and fonts. The changes affect the Finder and any other application you run on your Macintosh. But because Greg's Buttons doesn't run perfectly with all applications, its control panel lets you turn it off for applications you specify.

Greg's Buttons requires a Macintosh with color support running System 7 or later. It's a binary application that includes native code for the best performance on both 680X0 and PowerPC-based computers. Although you can disable the annoying shareware message without entering a secret code, the \$15 shareware fee seems a small price to pay for this little gem.

*Maria Langer, a freelance writer running a BBS since 1989, is currently at work on the Excel for Windows 95 Visual QuickStart Guide. She can be reached at gilesrd@intac.com.*



# Hot files

By Uncle Hank Hurteau

Following is a list of some of the most downloaded files as recorded by various BBSs.

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

## The Barber Shop BBS — 413.737.8634

### 1) 1\_VINYL.ZIP 1324492

VINYL GODDESS FROM MARS. The Vinyl Goddess' space ship has crash landed on a forbidden planet. Can you guide her through dangerous and exotic locations in order to free herself from the planet? Get ready for sexy arcade action in this new release from Union Logic that will blow your mind at 70 frames per second. Requires 386+ Supports: SB, ADLIB, JOY



### 2) 1OUTER1.ZIP 969436

OUTER RIDGE. Fully Rendered 3D Action! The newest action-packed 3D game to hit the scene. Fly your spaceship through asteroid belts, destroy anything in your path. Avoid the Enemy Patrols and try to stay alive. Supports Sound Blaster, Gravis Ultrasound and Gravis Gamepad! Mouse or joystick. Requires VGA, 386+, and minimum four MB of RAM.

### 3) CONF727.ZIP 109668

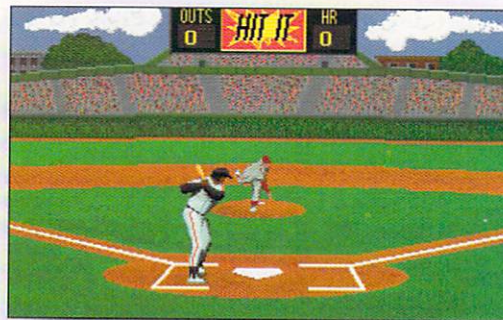
PC-CONFIG V7.27. Detects all the hardware in your PC and displays it on the screen. One of the best sysinfo programs around. With CD-ROM benchmark routine. Finds Local-Bus and PCI boards, Cyrix, TI, UMC and Pentium CPUs, detects lots of VGA chips, APM functions, EPP BIOS, Green boards and all the standard stuff.

### 4) SCN-217E.ZIP 399321

The latest version of Virus Scan for McAfee.

### 5) ASECRETS.ZIP 144274

AMAZING SECRETS. A How-To of amazing stunts & tricks. Includes fire tricks, strength stunts, psychic secrets, weird stuff, show-off tricks, impossible things and bar bets. Great stuff!



### 6) DERBY.ZIP 1251795

Home Run Derby by MVP Software. So, you think you're pretty good on the ball diamond, do you? But do you have what it takes to compete with the likes of Hurt Thomas, Barty Bunds, and Junior Griffin Jr? Can you go deep, take the ball out of the yard? Step up to the plate and take your whacks against the best. "BSPN" personality Bob Yukon calls the action in this hilarious baseball game. Requires VGA. Supports most sound cards.

### 7) 1\_TAGENT 1452508

TEEN AGENT. One day a teenager is captured by two men in dark glasses and long coats. This could be a very interesting day! Get ready for a wonderfully humorous adventure. Teen Agent is a point-and-click animated graphic adventure that features detailed hand-painted backgrounds and 20,000+ individual frames of animation. Requires 286+ Supports SB, ADLIB, GUS, MOUSE.

### 8) 1CF2.ZIP 1342177

Cannon Fodder. Arcade game by Virgin Interactive Entertainment and distributed by MVP Software <ASP>. This hilarious new retail action game that has taken England by storm is now available as shareware. Loads of cool graphics and witty game play. PC Gamer says it is destined to be one of the top games of the year! Don't miss Cannon Fodder. Remember, war has never been so much fun! Requires 386, VGA, mouse.

### 9) IDENEW.ZIP 58142

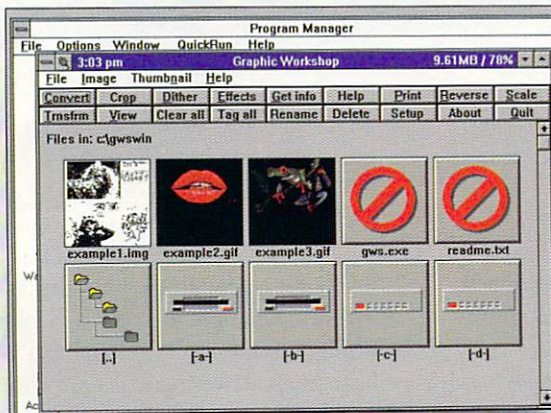
Specs for all Maxtor/Quantum hard drives. These handy files could be a great help, especially if you don't have a manual!

### 10) CHOPPER\_.ZIP 277066

Chopper Commando 1. Run the gauntlet in a heavily armed Apache Helicopter. 3D arcade style graphics. Uses mouse or keyboard. Seek and destroy targets before they get you but watch out for the air to ground missiles, they're deadly. 256-color flight simulator style game featuring bitmapped 3D graphics. Reasonably fast machine with VGA required.

## Hall of Fame BBS — 804.293.4710

- 1) **ENGINE.ZIP** 22736  
Watch a visible engine. Set bore, stroke, valve timing up front, then set ignition and speed while running. Fun.
- 2) **MACWIN1.ZIP** 3990  
HOF MacWin V1.0. Extremely fast screen driver for Windows. Makes screen writes fly. For 386 and below. Accelerates text up to 10 times faster than DOS/Windows. By John McNamara.
- 3) **SCEDIT11.ZIP** 179918  
SCEDIT is a utility for the display and editing of images. Currently it can show images in the GIF (CompuServe), TGA (Targa — TrueVision), BMP (Windows 3), PCX (PC Paintbrush), and FLI (Autodesk Animator) formats. You control where to place the image on the screen and what kind of color conversion to use.
- 4) **PICEM32.ZIP** 101087  
Picem v3.2 graphic file viewer. View .PIC, .PCX, .GIF, or .TGA files. (One of Uncle Hanks favorites.)
- 5) **LATHE15.ZIP** 74281  
Amazing Windows 3D modeling program. Easy to use but produces realistic images. Includes program to play back animated "movies." For Win 3.1 only.
- 6) **ROADMAP1.ZIP** 158762  
The Roadmap Tutorial to the Internet (by Patrick Crispen). An excellent tutorial for those of you (like me) who are novice surfers on the Internet. Mr. Crispen wrote it with knowledge and humor, in an easily-read, non-technical manner. Check for later versions.
- 7) **DLLMAN.ZIP** 71773  
DLLMAN, Windows application to help you discover relationships among executable (EXE) files and Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs). DLLMAN will do two things for you: It will show you the set of DLL's referenced by an EXE or DLL, and show you the set of DLL's and EXE's that reference a DLL.



- 8) **GWSWIN11.ZIP** 954582  
Graphic Workshop for Windows version 1.1P from Alchemy Mindworks Inc's BBS. This shareware program can display and edit many formats and even allows FLI and AVI video to be viewed.
- 9) **MJOG217.ZIP** 26772  
MJOG (mjog = Memory JOGger) is a simple program that can help jog your memory for important dates. You can use MJOG to create a small file containing birthdays, appointments, etc., and it will remind you of them as far in advance as you wish. A nice program to put in your AUTOEXEC.BAT. Lot's of options. Freeware.
- 10) **ALAB11D.ZIP** 186297  
Audio Lab V1.1D Win WAV/VOC/RAW editor. Edit multiple files, echo/reverb, ring mod, etc. Real-time spectrum analyzer and oscilloscope. Noise gate, max volume digital mixing, cut-paste, math engine. Freeware.



## Channel 1 BBS — 617.354.3230

- 1) **DCWIN2.ZIP** 427239  
Draft Choice for Windows v2.00. Called the best shareware CAD package for Windows. Multiple attach points, 128 layers, Bezier/complex and spline curves, warp and tween, multilevel undos, parallel and perpendicular modes, DXF, PCX and WPG file support. PSP and plotter output, external line/line/hatch patterns.
- 2) **QPEG16A.ZIP** 439449  
QPEG 1.6a, and incredibly fast graphics viewer with unique preview feature (nearly realtime), mouse panning etc. It supports VGA and many SVGAs (including VESA), requires 386 or better. Currently supports JPG, TGA, GIF, PCX, BMP files.
- 3) **GLAD3.ZIP** 507082  
Gladiator arcade game v1.00. A real-time, overhead arcade game. Supports 320x200x256 color graphics; Sound Blaster compatible.
- 4) **PRESZ111.ZIP** 63396  
The Partition Resizer V.1.1.1. Full-featured partition handling program. It moves and resizes any DOS partition, without deleting the data. Works with all hard disks, 8086+ (Be careful when using any program of this type. And be sure to back up first.)
- 5) **SAW103.ZIP** 422979  
The System Analyst for Windows (SAW) V. 1.03. SAW is a Windows 3.XX diagnostic utility along the lines of Norton SI, Monitors system resources, events and errors.
- 6) **TWSK20B.ZIP** 179532  
Trumpet WinSockets v 2.0b. Protect mode sockets for Windows to replace MS's real mode sockets. Should improve conventional memory when run with programs like WinQVT for TCP/IP. Very well done shareware winsock for Windows. Check for more recent versions as this is updated on a regular basis.
- 7) **DOOM19S.ZIP** 2451205  
Shareware V.1.9 of the ever popular DOOM.
- 8) **VUEPRI35.ZIP** 218869  
VuePrint JPEG/GIF Viewer for Windows. VuePrint is the most-downloaded Windows program on both CompuServe and America Online. It reads, writes, and prints JPEG, GIF, BMP, TGA, and PCX files. Includes a screen saver and a uudecoder. Requires a 386+ and Windows 3.1.
- 9) **EDITHELP.ZIP** 727165  
EditHelp for Windows creates Windows help system files. It can also create files in HyperText Markup Language (HTML) format. Supports links, popup links, bitmaps, and keywords. Windows help and WWW modes.
- 10) **VESA542X.ZIP** 40487  
UNIVESA — Universal SuperVGA VESA BIOS Extension V1.2, release 3.2. Downloaded from Cirrus Logic's BBS and works with all of their 542x cards.

Hank Hurteau can be reached at 413.527.8977 (BBS), or [unkhank@crocker.com](mailto:unkhank@crocker.com).

# Win 95 Slays the Net!

(Yeah, and video killed the radio star)

**T**he Internet is dead! Everyone else has said it, so I'd better get on the bandwagon and profess it myself. I mean, really, once Windows 95 hits the street and everyone's got the new Microsoft Network, the Net is history. Right? Well, not exactly (so hold your flames for a moment).

I've used the Microsoft Network and I don't think we've got anything to worry about — at least not until it gets a whole lot better. I also don't believe that America Online or CompuServe or any of these consumer online services are really killing or damaging the Internet (usurping, maybe).

But I do think "the Net" as it stands is indeed dying.

Case in point:

Last week I got a new neighbor. Being the nice guy that I am I stopped by to find out if she needed help moving in, directions to nearby places, whatever. We got to talking and when I told her I work on computers, she proudly asked me, "Are you on the Internet?" "Yes," I said, hoping that I'd found someone as interested in it as I was.

But her follow-up question was not exactly what I was hoping for.

"Oh really, which one?"

Deflated, I told her I had an account on America Online, which seemed to satisfy her, and we left it at that.

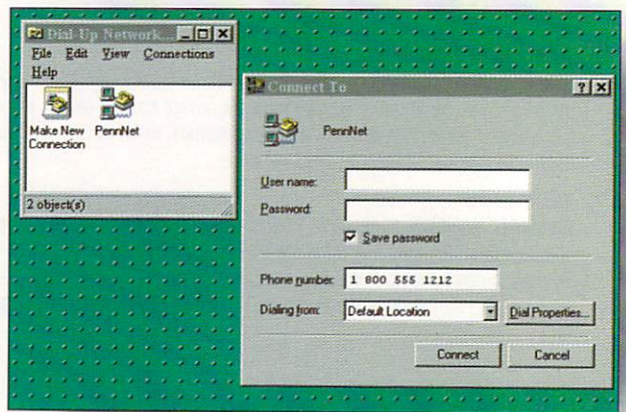
So what's wrong with her question? Well, for Joe User, nothing. But for Internet pure-breds like myself it means the end of an era. The Internet, once an exclusive club of the military,

academia, and the nerd-herd, has become a congested, overstated, capitalistic, opportunistic highway of anybody and everybody who wants access.

Don't get me wrong; a lot of this is invariably a good thing. I like the fact that someone with an America Online or Prodigy account can use a built-in Web browser. It allows many people who otherwise might not connect to do so.

But the notion of what the Internet is has changed significantly in the past two or three years. And there are several reasons for these alterations, including the fact that computers have become easier to use (thanks to software) and more people have them at work and/or home than many thought possible a decade ago.

The demand to "be connected" has created a sort of domino effect, with each round causing more and more people to feel they need to be online (witness AOL's growth: from 800,000 to 2.5 million users in a year).



## KEYWORDS

Can Bill kill?  
The changing Net  
alt.bbs

Even if the Net gasps it's last breath sometime in the near future, it won't be because of the Microsoft Network (or any other network, for that matter). The Net we once knew is simply being transformed, metamorphosed — whether we like it or not — into a new iteration. But sometimes it's more fun to just say the Internet is dead.

## Window peeking

I've had the impressive Windows 95 beta for about a month. While I don't think it's the end-all operating system — if I wanted the best operating system for an Intel platform today, I'd probably go with Windows NT — Windows 95 does offer many improvements over NT in the areas of user interface, ease of installation/configuration, and networking.

In several columns over the past year I've talked about the growing popularity of PPP and SLIP, and Windows 95 comes through with flying colors in this area. I was able to connect at speeds of 9600-28,800 to my PPP server without difficulty.

The PPP interface supports every major standard, such as the LCP layer, PAP, CHAP, etc.

But it wasn't without problems here. I couldn't connect to my PPP server using PAP, the password authentication protocol that makes login scripts unnecessary (but I've had problems with this in the past and it's likely on my end).

A nice integrated feature of the dial-up networking tools is the option to record a log of your connections. The logs are very detailed, so you can pinpoint exactly where you're having a problem connecting.

Once connected, you've got full Winsock 1.1 compliance. I use Microsoft's standard telnet program to connect, even though it has few features. I was also able to run Mosaic, Netscape, WS\_FTP, and several other popular Winsock applications. The only program I had difficulty with was eXceed 4.1 from Hummingbird Communications — it would run fine until I minimized, at which point it would immediately crash. Overall, I'd give Win 95 an 8.5 out of 10 for its built-in networking features.

**Sound bite:** Easy to use, but lacking in

some areas that would be simple to fix.

Speaking of easy fixes, one utility I highly recommend for the new Windows is an automated dial-up scripting program, called RoboDun. I'm using version 6.1 of the program and it's fantastic. As far as I can tell, it's a freeware program, and one I suggest you take advantage of.

RoboDun installs as a system add-on, which reminds me of a system extension or "init" on the Macintosh. At first I wasn't sure what to do, as the documentation and online manual aren't exactly loaded with information. But with a little tinkering I was able to have my login session completely scripted in about 10 minutes.

RoboDun sits in the background and any time I start my PPP connection, it recognizes the connection name and launches, completing my login.

If you call multiple sites, you can have RoboDun script each of them, and you can enable/disable any of the logins at will. I particularly like the feature that lets you hide the login window, so the whole logon process seems automatic.

The final touch on this gem is a little modem in the right-hand corner of the status bar, next to the clock. It turns different colors, letting you know at a glance what is happening. RoboDun is a must for anyone who needs scripting for PPP/SLIP with Windows 95. Get it at <ftp://ftp.mcs.com/mcsnet.users/barry/winsock.programs/rdun61.zip>.

## alt.bbs.\*

If you haven't seen the list lately, following are the current newsgroups in the alt.bbs.\* hierarchy:

alt.bbs  
alt.bbs.ads  
alt.bbs.allsysops  
alt.bbs.doors  
alt.bbs.dreambbs  
alt.bbs.first-class  
alt.bbs.gigo-gateway



**When I told her I work on computers, she proudly asked me, "Are you on the Internet?" "Yes," I said, hoping that I'd found someone as interested in it as I was.**

**"Oh really, which one?"**

alt.bbs.internet  
alt.bbs.lists  
alt.bbs.lists.d  
alt.bbs.majorbbs  
alt.bbs.metal  
alt.bbs.pboard  
alt.bbs.pcbuucp  
alt.bbs.powerboard  
alt.bbs.renegade  
alt.bbs.searchlight  
alt.bbs.unixbbs  
alt.bbs.unixbbs.uniboard  
alt.bbs.uupcb  
alt.bbs.watgate  
alt.bbs.wildcat  
alt.bbs.wme

Under "comp," look for the following:

comp.bbs.majorbbs  
comp.bbs.misc  
comp.bbs.tbbs  
comp.bbs.waffle

## Telnet tip

Do yourself a favor (if you haven't already) and get a network-capable communications program, such as Procomm Plus 2.1. Using such a program will let you take full advantage of the color graphics popular on dial-in bulletin boards. For example, telnet to 204.29.202.4 (bbs.execpc.com), and you'll connect to Exec-PC in Wisconsin. Realize, though, at times of high congestion connecting over the Internet will be slower than a direct 14.4K connection, although it may also be cheaper than using the phone lines.

*Mike Robinson can be reached at [mrobin@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:mrobin@wharton.upenn.edu)*

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- wcPROMPT prompt editor
- wcPACK message packer
- wcMODEM modem setup utility
- wcNODE activity viewer

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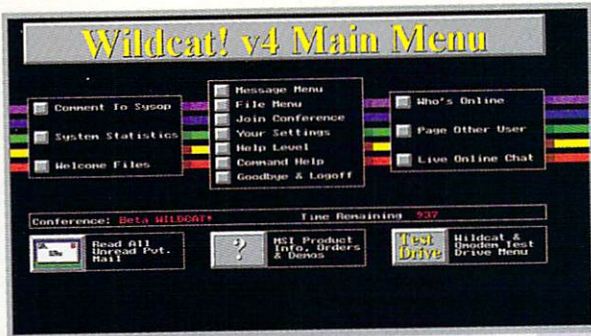
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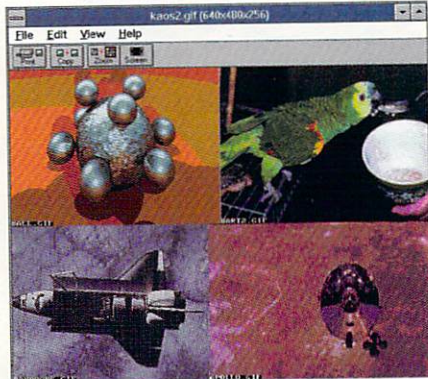


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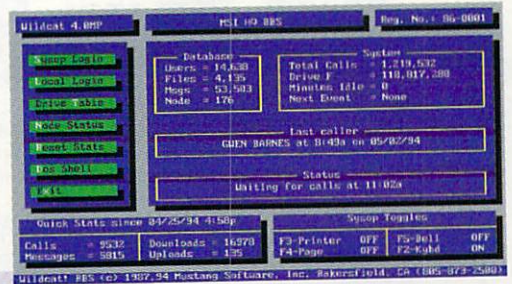
- Sherrie Van Tyle, ElectronicDesign

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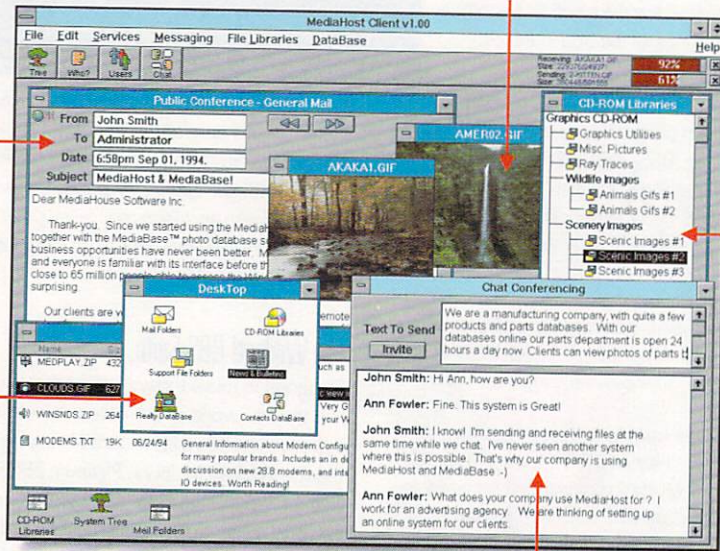
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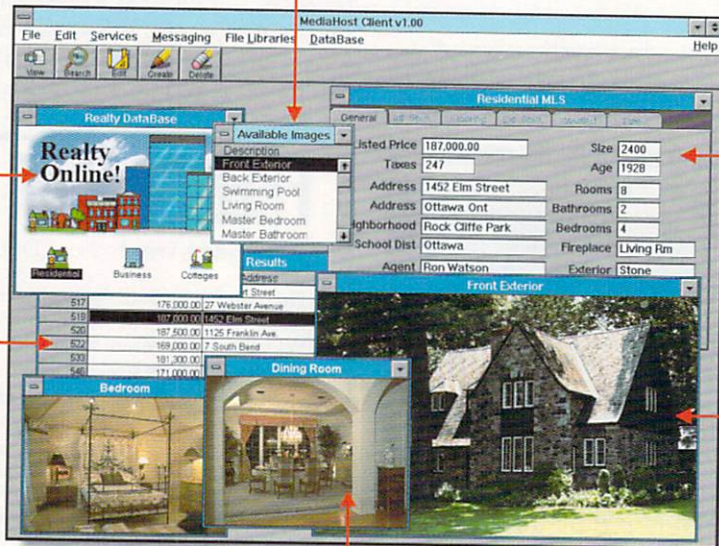
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# Write Your Own Script

If time and money are not yours to waste, put your box to work with script files.

**T**rying a BBS the first time is usually free. But log on again and again as a subscriber to check this or read that (especially as a toll caller) and hold on to your wallet.

CONTINUES ...

A good thing to know about — once you're hooked on BBSing — are script files. These little jewels can save you money and cut down on the mundane, time-consuming tasks while letting you enjoy the things you like best.

You see computers are supposed to exist to serve us, so why not let a script program phone your favorite BBS and collect the mail for you while you sleep? Or let it save you money when dialing out-of-state BBSs to pick up the latest and greatest file while you sit back and watch the computer do the "work" for you.

## What are they?

Think of script files in terms of movie and television scripts. Actors are given scripts telling them what to say, when to say it, and other details, such as where to stand and how much emotion to put into it the lines. "Cues" are given so the actor knows just when to say their next line.

Script files for term programs are very similar. They, too, wait for cues to be given before sending text or other commands, but you the user have to give it these cues, as well as the text to be sent or command to be performed.

Script files can be set to run automatically — before the bulletin board is even dialed. Some programs such as Dialogue128 or Novaterm (C=64) can start running a specific script as soon as the program itself is loaded.

And scripts are particularly handy if you must call long distance to download files or pick up QWK packets, especially if you dial the same BBS often. They save time and lots of effort on the caller's part — I use them to decrease the amount of daily typing.

Others use them because they enjoy the automation it allows. When I call online services, I have a script which moves me through the log-on process, captures my email, and then captures the messages in areas I find of interest. I can even use these scripts for downloading specific files from my favorite bulletin boards, as well as FTP sites I visit regularly.

## Creating the path

Writing scripts can require some planning, work, testing, and debugging. First you write it, then you test, edit and change it until it's working correctly. Or cheat and ask another Commodore user to share his, and then modify it to suit your needs. But since the latter's not always possible, you'll need to start from scratch.

- Begin by deciding what you want you to automate, such as a quick a log-on, or something more complicated like QWK mail packet transfers. It's a good idea to keep it simple to start with as you can always add to it later.

- Call the system your script will be written for and capture your session while actually online, doing exactly what you want the script to do for you. Print this capture, or at the very least save it to disk so you can refer to it while writing your script.

- Once you have this you will probably (OK, almost certainly) need the term program's documentation on creating script files. Each terminal program deals with scripts differently and uses different keywords to produce the same effect. Dialogue128, for instance, requires you to use its buffer program, as it uses special characters only it recognizes. Novaterm requires the file be

written in its text editor and then, before exiting the program, you'll need to select the option to compile the script. This will change the text file into a USR file that Novaterm uses.

- You will need to add the "cues" or prompts which

your BBS system normally sends out, such as the "Please enter your full name" you see when you first logon. You wouldn't need to have the full prompt, but enough to make it different from other commands the BBS may send such as "full name," and you'll also need to be very specific. If the BBS sends the string "Full NAME" and your script is waiting for the cue of "full name" (all lower case), the script won't work. Also, watch for periods and colons in commands, as some scripts can be extremely literal in what they are waiting to receive.

In Dialogue128, this command would look like:

```
w "full name"
```

For Novaterm, the same command is:

```
check 1 "full name"  
wait
```

- Once you've added the cue, you'll have to add the info you want sent back to the BBS. In this case, it's expecting your name. Find the command which sends text to the BBS through the script and add your name in the same format the board is expecting. If you would normally type "John Smith" and a carriage return at this prompt while online, this is what you add to the script file.

In Dialogue128, this command would look like:

```
t "John Smith"
```

For Novaterm, the same command is:

```
if check 1 then output "John Smith^M"
```

Now you can add the cue and command to send your password. Novaterm allows you to have more than one "check", so if the BBS allows it, you could have:

```
check 1 "name"  
check 2 "password"  
wait  
if check 1 then output "John Smith^M"  
if check 2 then output "your password^M"
```

This very elementary script can be extended for your specific BBSing



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needs, using the commands each term program provides for doing specific "jobs" like downloading QWK mail or buffering text.

### Alternate tasks

Script files can do many things even before you begin dialing out. For instance, you can have a script file which will change disk drives and/or directories so your downloaded files go to a specific place. Or, you can set your baud rate, terminal emulation, or character sets (fonts in Novaterm) to suit your needs for specific BBSs you call.

As mentioned, Dialogue128 requires you use its buffer program because some of its commands, notably the C= key and ALT keys, are shown as one key in the buffer. You can run the script file from the buffer, but it's highly advisable to save it to disk first, as otherwise it could be erased from the buffer during execution. For Novaterm users, it's a good idea to save the text file version before compiling the actual script file so you can have it to use later to add to it, improve on it and, of

course, debug it as needed.

If you're new to writing script files, you can make it a bit easier on yourself by working on small bits at a time, then adding it to another script. Both Dialogue128 and Novaterm allow you to start a script at any time, either while online or off. You can start with a script to simply log you onto the BBS with your name and password, then run or execute smaller scripts which perform specific functions such as downloading QWK mail. This lets you test a script that performs just one specific task. When all tests well, you can add it to your log-on script.

Of course, you can also have scripts run when you call specific BBSs, straight from the phone books of the term program. In Dialogue128, this occurs when you dial specific phone numbers (script files are saved by using the specific number, and you are allowed extra characters so you can have more than one script for any given BBS phone number as the filename of the actual script), or you can execute one at any time while online or off.

Novaterm asks for the name of the script to run when you enter or edit the entries in the phone book.

Give scripts a try and you'll find you can save time, keystrokes, effort, and sometimes, even a few cents when calling long distance. Let your Commodore do the "work" for you so you can do other things while online. ■■■■■

*Gaelyne Moranec is a freelance writer usually found in the Fidonet CBM echo. Comments or suggestions can be sent to 1:239/200.999, 3:800/809.128, or gaelyne.moranec@aftrs.edu.au.*

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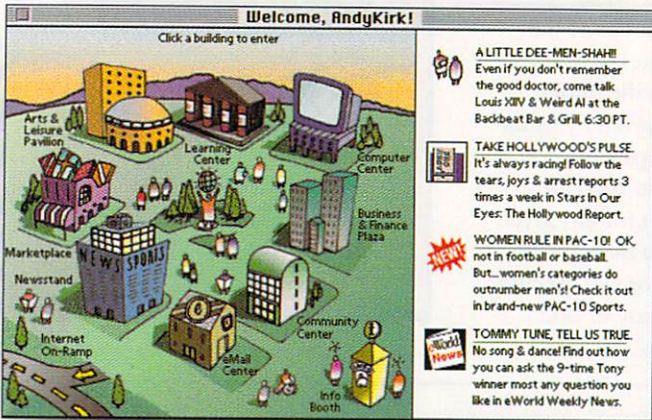
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# eMazing

Hits and misses in the eWorld order



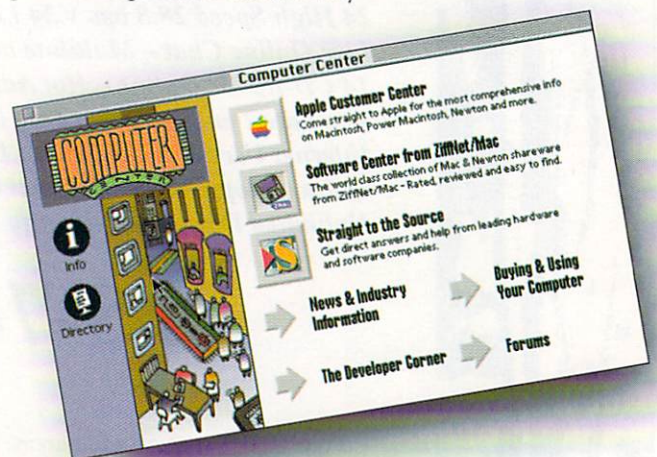
Every sysop should look around online for ideas to beg, borrow and steal for their boards. One of my favorite places to look for ideas (and grab a few files while I'm at it) are the major online services a la America Online, CompuServe, etc.

Not long ago I decided to give eWorld a whirl, again out of a selfish desire to see what it could offer me these days. I had tried the service back in its infancy and found the premises cute, but nothing substantial enough to warrant an account (it's not difficult to limit online choices with a spouse eyeing monthly bills). But eWorld has definitely changed, and mostly for the better.

At the risk of sounding like one of those "It's de-wonderful, it's de-lightful," kind of reviews plaguing periodicals late to the online revolution, let me say I think all the major consumer online services have their merits and their problems, but eWorld has some features that appeal to we Mac fanatics more so than any other service.

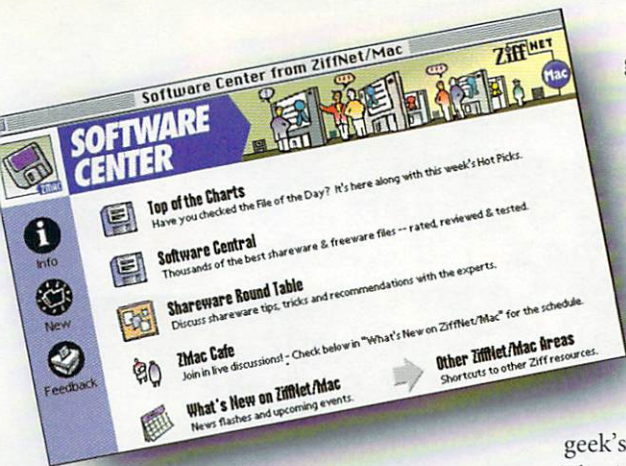
When you first log on to eWorld, you'll see something similar to the screen shot at the left. Each of the major topics/items available on the service is represented by a building. You've got the Computer Center for computer items, the Learning Center for educational resources, Marketplace for business info and commerce, and so on.

I checked out some of the other areas first before I hit the Computer Center (a first for me). I found some information on scholarships for my wife in the Learning Center, and looked up the Etowah Indian Mounds in the Online Grolier Encyclopedia. I also noticed a vast array of business papers and reports, as well as many



KEYWORDS

Graphics galore  
Apple tech support  
Where are the files?



newspapers online ... good stuff for families, kids' research papers, keeping up with your stocks, etc.

But how can this help you as a Mac sysop? Glad you asked.

If you look in the Computer Center, you'll be presented with another colorful screen. The Computer Center allows you to go to the Apple Support area, find PD/shareware that's been rated and reviewed, get support from many Mac companies, receive help on buying a Mac or learning more about the Macintosh itself and keep up on what's happening in the computer industry, among many other things. A pretty nice layout, indeed.

Check out the software section. Ziffnet, for those who don't know, is supported by the people behind *MacWeek*, the Ziff-Davis Publishing folks. There are plenty of files available, each one rated and reviewed (I don't know of any other service that rates the software for callers). Also, you can talk with others using the software (or the developers themselves) online, picking up tips or solving problems you may be having. This is also a terrifically convenient way to find out about newer versions of shareware you may be using or making available to users on your BBS.

If you're an info freak, you might have first clicked on the Apple Support area from the Computer Center. This is where I think eWorld shines over other online services.

Since eWorld is run by Apple, you

get access to more Mac info than anywhere else. There are many times that I need help with a certain Mac problem, such as trying to find an FPU for a Quadra 610, or finding the System 7.5.1 Update. Here's a place to get your questions answered. You can also check into getting a job with Apple — a Mac

geek's dream come true!

The Apple Technical Support area is an excellent way to find answers to all those questions that no one can seem to answer. At last you, too, can have access to the same database the Apple techs use. And not only



can you find your answers quickly, but you get a reliable answer with great detail. For example, I found out that I had the Quadra 610 without the FPU, and was definitely out of luck on adding one easily.

This is also the area for all of your Apple software upgrades like the System 7.5.1 Update, Laserwriter updates, etc.

If you're involved in user groups, the User Group Connection maintains an area on eWorld where you can find the group nearest home, discover what's going on with the bigger groups like BMUG and Arizona Mac Users' Group, and check out the latest user-group discounts. And don't miss the live chats here — there's nothing like real-time responses.

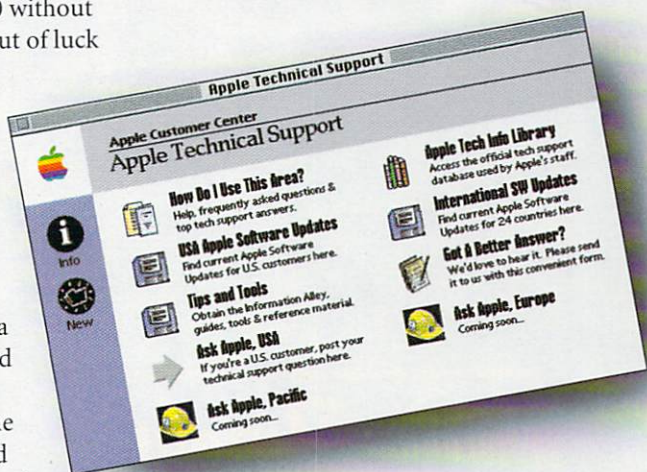
In summary, I found eWorld to be

an excellent source of tech support, software, and information on what's going on in the computer world — eWorld offers the text of *MacWeek*, *Macworld* and *PC Week* online. I also found an area in the ZiffNet section that helps teach users about the likes of RAM, SCSI hard drives, big video monitors, as well as offering various useful software tips with great info for helping Mac newbies learn more about their systems.

But...

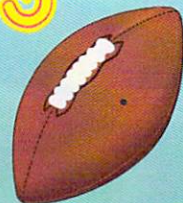
The chief disadvantage I found with eWorld is that it does not have the volume of software like that of CompuServe or America Online. Some areas may only have uploads about once or twice a week, compared to AOL that might have anywhere from 10 to a 100 uploads in a comparable area in a week's time. This will likely change, however, when more people catch on to eWorld and the subscriber base builds.

Is eWorld worth subscribing to? (\$8.85 per month and \$2.95 per hour after the first free 5 hours.) In my opinion, it is. If you're in need of good tech support, files to help educate callers to your BBS, contacts to commercial and shareware companies and developers, or some really good utilities to help make running your BBS a little easier, eWorld is for you. If you're not, I hear Prodigy's looking for subscribers (g). ■■■■■



Michael A. Kuykendall can be reached through Macintosh Online (404-988-9904) via the sysop, or at [andykirk@aol.com](mailto:andykirk@aol.com).

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Fax: 615-623-8751  
Info@NS1.Planetc.Com  
BBS: 615-623-8111  
FIDO: 1:3615/50





# Q&A Q&A Q&A Q&A Q&A Q&A Q

**Q:** A longtime recreational BBS enthusiast, I've got my employer interested in letting me set up and run a support BBS for our company's software products. He wants to know in advance how much it will cost? Can you help me?

*Robert, from Rhode Island.*

**A:** This question covers a lot of ground! One business asset of a support BBS for software products is that your customers can access it 24 hours a day to ask their tech support questions and also to download your latest software updates and patches. Don't forget to publish your company's BBS number on the product manuals. The base-line hardware investment you will have to make is one PC and one phone line and one modem. The base-line software investment will be your BBS software package. And don't forget to estimate the ongoing expense and time involved in running and maintaining the BBS.

If you don't already have a PC on hand, get as powerful a PC with as much memory and as much storage as you can afford. This will guarantee you high performance and flexibility, and will allow you to expand. Lastly, plan to buy a quality external modem — V.32bis or V.34 if your budget allows.

All of this is pretty standard equipment that you should be able to price and purchase at your local computer superstore or reputable mail-order house.

Pick a well-established and well-supported BBS package. To narrow your field, ask sysops of your favorite BBSs what kind of software they use and ask your employer to allow time for you to ask lots of questions before you purchase. Run a couple of "demos" for comparison. Then try to match your skills with the requirements of the package (for instance, if you don't want to get involved designing menu screens, does this BBS package supply them?)

Remind yourself and your employer that there aren't yet any BBSs that run reliably for long stretches and answer email all by themselves. Once you commit to setting up a support BBS and want it to function as an asset to your business, plan on tending to it daily! Keep it simple to start. Then once it's

up and running, you will undoubtedly watch it develop in ways that you couldn't have foreseen.

**Q:** How will running a BBS affect my social life?

*Penny, from California.*

**A:** Once you open a BBS to the public at large, there's plenty of opportunity for it to demolish your social life. Your friends may have to bring their own sandwiches and sit on the floor next to you and your PC when they want to visit. On the other hand, you'll get lots of chances to hobnob with virtual folks from all over the planet.

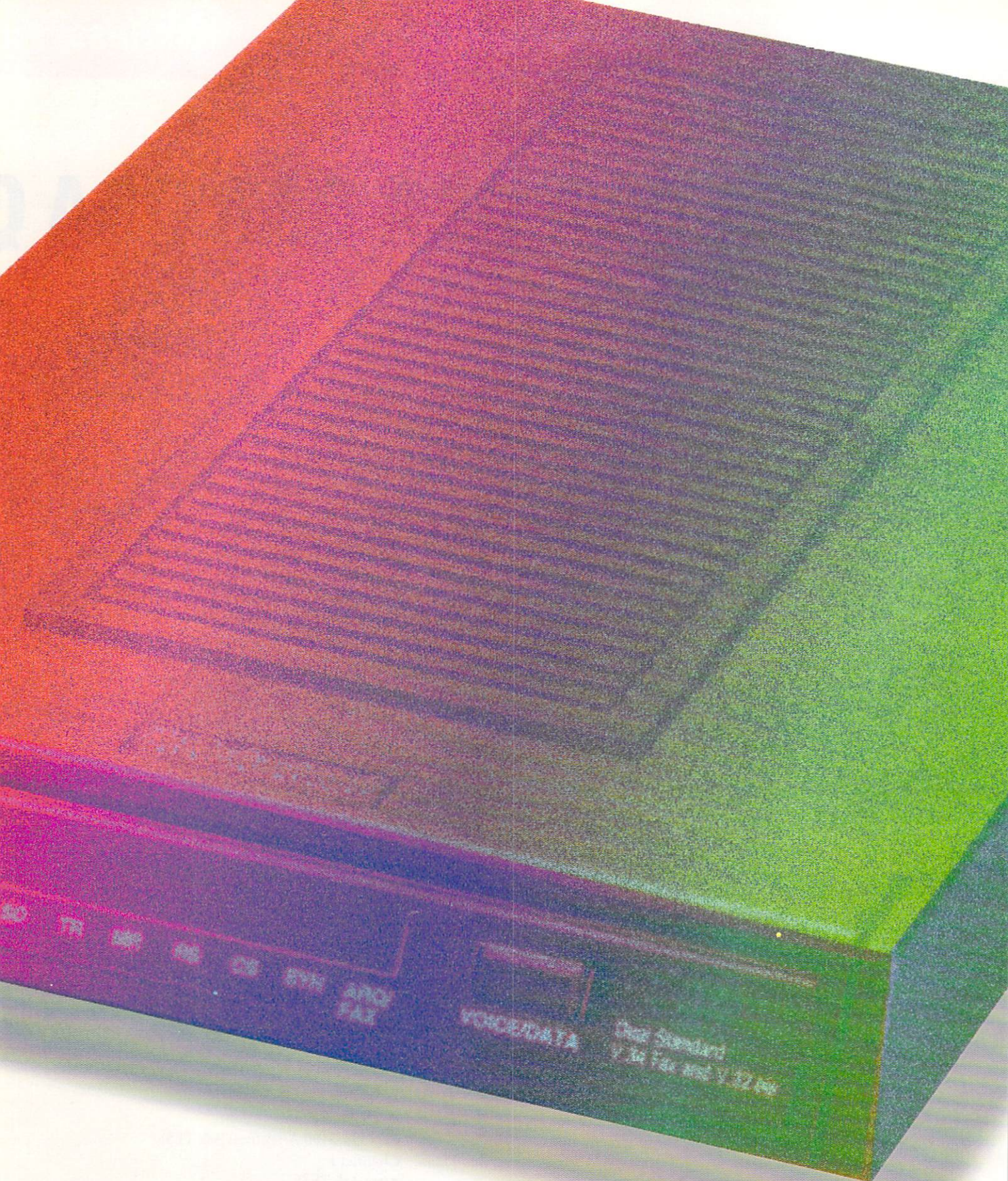
**Q:** I'm a high school student in a large city. My parents were enthusiastic that I was starting a public-access BBS until they realized that I was going to publish my real name as sysop both on my BBS screens and on BBS lists. They don't want any "crazies" tracking down our home address and phone number. Are they crazy?

*Sam, from NY.*

**A:** Your parents are right! One of my high school-age sysop friends solved this very same problem by taking out a P.O. Box for his address and BBS correspondence, and by using a USER ID for himself online. (This is a strange twist to the more common issue — how much do I as sysop need to know about who my callers are? We'll be discussing this more in future columns.) ■■■■■

*Tess Heder is co-founder of Channel 1 (R). Please address your questions, comments, problems, or concerns to:*

**Email:** tess.heder@channel1.com  
**Fax:** 617-354-3100 Attention: Ask TESS  
**Snail mail:** Channel 1  
 Attn: Ask TESS  
 1030 Massachusetts Avenue  
 Cambridge, MA 02138  
**BBS:** Comment to Sysop  
 617-349-1300 v.34



# Speed Breeders

AT&T, USR Push Past 28.8

**M**any thought 28,800 was the speed limit for modems over standard voice grade telephone lines. But just when we've settled in to debate which implementation is best (VFC, V.34, Rockwell, USRobotics, AT&T), along comes a rip in the fabric.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Modem Mage. And yes, there is a modem capable of hitting 33,600.

AT&T has been talking for a couple of months now about their 33,600 modems, but they've been all but impossible to find, even for this determined old Mage. However, logic dictated that if AT&T was conjuring up extensions to V.34, others couldn't be far behind. And behold, we now have two solid entries into the market — US Robotics has joined the fray.

For now this 33,600 extension to V.34 will probably be called V.34 Plus, but insider buzz has it standing a good chance of becoming ITU-TS V.34bis.

There is an element of good news/bad news to this need for speed, though. I had problems achieving 33,600 bps on a line simulator and have rarely seen it happen on a standard telco line. The good news is typical V.34 connects seem to have gained an extra boost by this new twist. Where I saw 24,000 connects on standard V.34, I saw 26,400 to 28,800 under the new code.

The ability to attain a higher connect with a lower symbol rate seems to be the key, especially in gray-line conditions.

That said, take a look at the results of my tests as they appear in the two charts. USR's HST mode is included,

CONTINUES ...

## The Throughput Tests

### HALF DUPLEX, YMODEM-G, ALL FIGURES ARE CPS:

SPEED	33600	33600	33600	28800	28800	28800	16800	16800	14400	14400	14400
EC	LAPM	LAPM	MNP	LAPM	LAPM	MNP	HST	HST	LAPM	LAPM	MNP
DC	42BIS	NONE	NONE	42BIS	NONE	NONE	42BIS	NONE	42BIS	NONE	NONE
1X30.TST	10803			10987			10906		10055		
2X10.TST	9102			7759			4738		3974		
3X06.TST	5314			4547			2773		2338		
4X04.TST	3972	3977	3976	3418	3418	3413	2003	2006	1710	1710	1706
5X16.TST	10486			10398			7231		6114		
TEST.ZIP	3979	3992	3990	3411	3424	3419	2002	2008	1706	1711	1706

### FULL DUPLEX, HS-LINK BIDIRECTIONAL:

(NOTE: THROUGHPUT FIGURES AS REPORTED BY HS-LINK) (NOTE: MAX THROUGHPUT LIMITED BY TEST EQUIPMENT)

	33600 LAPM V42BIS			33600 LAPM NONE		
	UP	DOWN	COMB	UP	DOWN	COMB
1X30.TST	8544	7860	15728			
2X10.TST	7228	7246	14563			
3X06.TST	5254	5141	10347			
4X04.TST	3956	3860	7943	3949	3872	7943
5X16.TST	7964	7978	16131			
TEST.ZIP	3927	3902	7832	3931	3909	7832

as one of the modems tested was the V. Everything. While this is not included in the AT&T model it does provide some perspective. I didn't test V32 terbo, also included in both modems, due to its somewhat unreliable performance.



Over the next few weeks I will be thoroughly testing AT&T, US Robotics, and any other entrants into the arena.

The new offering does open up some interesting questions. For instance, will Rockwell be far behind with an implementation? Will other manufacturers just now stabilizing V.34 be willing to re-enter beta testing a new product. What about the modems that will require new chips — again — if indeed Rockwell enters the speed race? And what about marginal modem designs; could a lack of horsepower keep some players out of the market entirely? If you're like me you're strapping on your Karma helmet and getting ready for a tumultuous online summer.

## Sysop/Provider programs

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

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

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

## More than a modem

Some vendors offer more than just modems to the sysops joining their

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

## Buyers' restrictions

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

Once you receive your modem, you're expected to keep the BBS up and running between six and 12 months (requirements vary). Generally, the modem is yours to do whatever you want with after this period expires.

CONTINUES ...

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

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

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

**Notes on Table I:**

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

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**TABLE II — VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

Some manufacturers may ask you to never sell modems purchased on a discount plan. Modem resellers, such as computer stores, are generally excluded from participation in discount plans.

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

phase-out by several of the larger players over the next few months.

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

### Order processing and availability

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

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

For Canadian, European and other sysops outside the U.S., you may or may not be eligible for discount offers. Please check carefully ahead of time to avoid disappointment. You may want to check with their European subsidiaries before contacting the U.S. office. [ModemMag@ais.net](mailto:ModemMag@ais.net)

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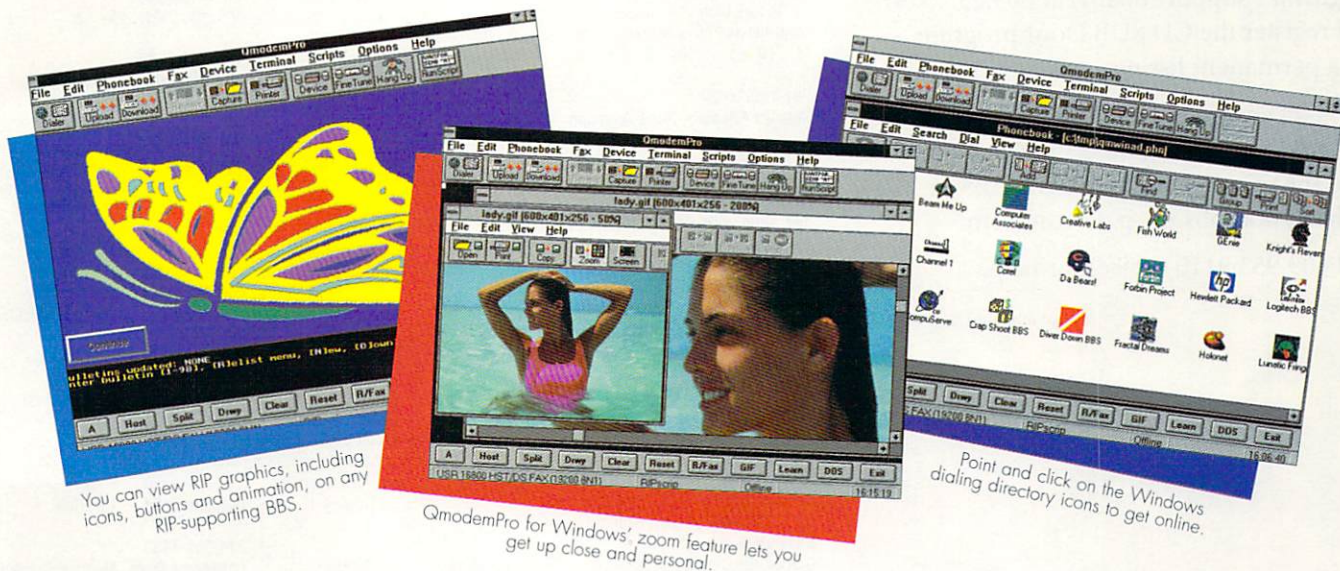
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If you're a sysop and would like to be considered for the list, contact one of the following sites:

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

<b>BBS TYPE</b>	<b>BAUD</b>
A = Auntie	0 = 300
B = PCBoard	1 = 1200
C = Phoenix/Collier/Collosus	2 = 2400
D = dBBS	9 = 9600 or faster
F = Spitfire	<b>MODULATION TYPE</b>
G = GAP	V = V.32 or V.32bis
H = PC-Host	U = USRobotics HST
I = TriBBS	H = Hayes VSM
J = SuperBBS	F = V. Fast, V.34 (1/25/95)
L = Telegard	O = Other proprietary method
M = OraComm/Major/Galacticomm	D = USRobotics Dual Standard
N = Genesis Deluxe	(V32 and HST)
O = Opus/Maximus	B = Hayes Ultra (V32 and VSM)
P = GT PowerComm	<b>SIZE</b>
Q = QuickBBS/RemoteAccess	Indicated in 100s of megs.
R = RBBS	+ = CD-ROM.
S = Searchlight	<b>NODES</b>
T = TBBS or TCOMM	Number of lines
U = UltraBBS	<b>SUBSCRIPTION</b>
V = WWIV	\$ = subscription; blank = FREE
W = Wildcat	<b>INTERNET FEATURES</b>
X = BBS-PC, RyBBS, ROS, Fido, Citadel, Osiris, etc. or custom, unverified or unknown type	<b>SERVICES</b>
Y = T.A.G.	CODE
Z = TPBoard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
	Mail X X X X X X X X
	Usenet XX XX XX XX
	FTP X XXX X XXX
	Telnet XXXX XXXX
	<b>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS</b>
	Must support 2400 bps or greater
	100 MB of disk capacity
	24hr/7 day service
	Sysop must give REAL NAME

201-585-0957 NJ Fort Lee  
**Phantom** Mark Bellew  
FidoNet 1:2604/411, Freedom Net, uncensored, open discussion, good files (H/P/A/V) and TradeWars. Intelligence a MUST.  
B 29 FV 2 1

201-635-5726 NJ Chatham  
**The Machine** Rob Knierim  
Games and chat; ChatLink  
Nationwide chat, multiplayer games (ie:Doom), technical support info, MajorNet and other echoes.  
M 19 V 50+ 8 \$ 2

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

201-904-9781 NJ Prospect Pk  
**Deredain's Realm** Ron Lotterman  
EMS related, games, Wildcat utilities. Support BBS for NJ Assoc. of Paramedics & EMTs, games, Wildcat 4.x utilities, Fidonet conf.  
W 09 D 10 2

201-941-7778 NJ Ridgfield  
**rockpile.com** Tom Heffernan  
Multi user chat and games, Gopher, Archie, IRC, FTP, Telnet, Rlogin, Finger, SLIP, Fidonet, MajorNet, Internet, NetAccess forums and chat.  
M 19 DF 5+ 12 \$ F

202-234-0750 WashingtonDC  
**Absolute Bliss** P. Willow  
Games, files, adult discussions, cyber politics.  
M 29 V 15+ 20 \$ 8

203-397-5225 CT Hamden  
**CONNECT BBS** Rico Gattilia  
Utilities (Win/DOS), games, graphics, over 12 CD ROMs of shareware, registered online door games.  
W 09 D 47+ 1

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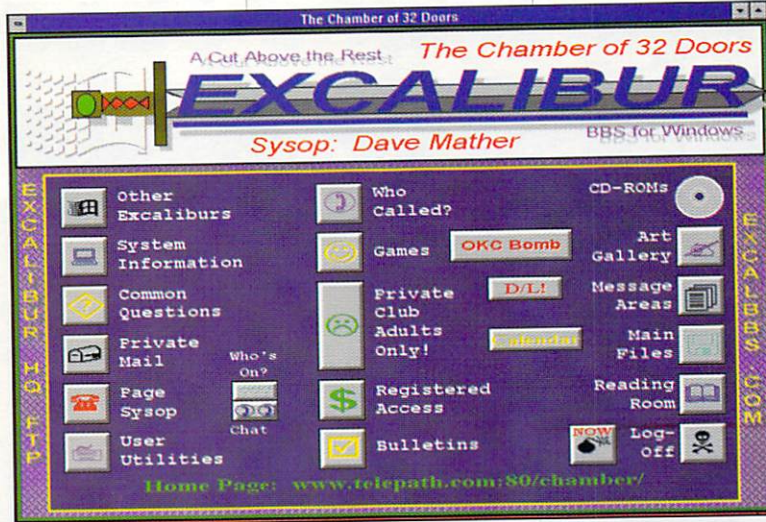
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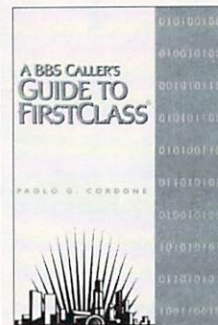
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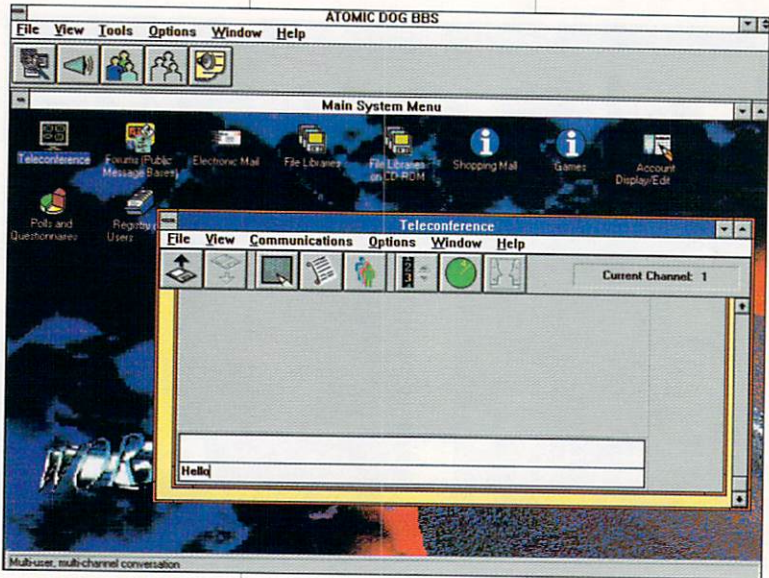
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 scanned by F-prot, TBAV, and  
 McAfee virus scanners.  
 W 19 D 14+ 1

502-443-6014  
**The Data Center** Jeff Burton

502-499-7893 KY Louisville  
**Cyber Street** Brad Newton  
 Games, active chat, forums, files.  
 M 29 D 10+ 8 \$

502-732-9209 KY Carrollton  
**Slow-Easy** Marty Souder  
 Wildnet, MSInet, RIPnet & NLEMS.  
 W 29 F 45+ 2

503-393-5580  
**Chemeketa** Bob Hunter

503-636-4947 OR Portland  
**Disk Jockey** Mike Gottlieb  
 Live chat, multiplayer games (4  
 player DOOM), Mac/DOS Files,  
 ABtech's Virtual Mall, online faxing,  
 Internet mail & news.  
 M 09 FV 20+ 16 3

503-697-4099 OR Portland  
**69-Online** Mike Gottlieb  
 Portland's Premier Adult Online  
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 stories & texts, live chat, alt.sex  
 internet newsgroups with binary  
 d/l.  
 M 09 FV 20+ 3 \$ 3

503-699-7915 OR West Linn  
**The Windows BB** Adam Stites  
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 .BMP's, screen savers, games other  
 shareware to make Microsoft  
 Windows cool.  
 W 09 VO 11+ 2 1

503-883-1574 OR Klamath Fall  
**Stormy Night** Patti McMann  
 Family oriented, games, messages,  
 files.  
 W 19 VF 5+ 1

504-356-0790  
**Southern Online** Russell Jackson

504-542-9600  
**Computer Solu** Sidney Egnew

505-672-1665 NM White Rock  
**Political BBS** Brian Tafoya  
 Games, files, political debate, adult

## The A-List

section. Support for Wolfs Den  
 Software, and LORD add on mod-  
 ules. Politically in-correct sub adult  
 BBS.  
 F 29 V 12+ 2 3

506-459-0973 NB Fredericton  
**Omni Net** Sean Ryan  
 Virus utilities, tech support, user  
 support.  
 W 09 V 2 2

508-287-0311 MA Concord  
**VIDEODROME** M. Lammons  
 Total movie and entertainment  
 information.  
 T 09 D 9 2

508-347-5516 MA Sturbridge  
**Pirates Cove** Brian Tremblay  
 Large files area, 5 Netmail networks  
 Inter BBS games. Over 400 Netmail  
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 with many offline; CD requests  
 available. Inter BBS gaming. Many  
 online games.  
 F 29 V 14+ 1

508-462-8387 MA Salisbury  
**U.S.S Titanic** Chris pelletier  
 Talking.  
 X 99 O 14+ 1

508-528-2295  
**Computer Conf.** Edward Zdrok

508-663-7761 MA Billerica  
**Blue.Steel.BBS** J.Walsh  
 PCBoard PPE's, doors, PCB sup-  
 port, game tips/hints/dox, 100+  
 Megs of PCBoard PPE's & Utilities.  
 100's of cracks tips hints dox for  
 old and latest DOS games.  
 B 29 FV 20+ 2

508-668-4441 MA Walpole  
**Emerald City** Tim Lyons  
 Community concept, wide range of  
 interest areas. FIDO and other nets,  
 distro. site for various shareware.  
 W 19 V 500 1

508-775-8216 MA Hyannis  
**Oedipus Rex** J. SanGiancomo  
 Files, games, internet access, mes-  
 sages.  
 O 29 VO 3 1 1

508-793-1535 MA Worcester  
**Adult Ranger** Doug J.  
 Adult entertainment, live chat, adult  
 games, matchmaker, Internet  
 access, conferences, shareware.  
 W 29 B 5+ 8 1

508-853-0340  
**Schunix-Pub Unix** Robert Schultz

509-244-3666 WA FAFB  
**NWOnline** Aran Spence  
 APCi MultiPlayer Game Server.  
 DOOM & Heretic, full FidoNet back-  
 bone & filebone, satellite downlink.  
 Q 19 FV 20 5 3

509-482-2016 WA Spokane  
**MicroData** Larry Taylor  
 Shareware.  
 B 19 VF 100+ 4 \$ 3

509-891-6148  
**The Moonflower** Peter Link

510-235-3273 CA El Cerrito  
**ECPD PubSafety** Bill Guggemos  
 Law enforcement, crime preven-  
 tion.  
 W 29 V 2 1

510-521-0281 CA Alameda  
**Aaron Const.** Aaron Moarefi  
 Construction & PC Oriented. Q&A  
 regarding construction issues. Paul  
 Revere Network echo conferences.  
 W 29 FV 10+ 2

510-777-1314 CA Antioch  
**CABbs.com** Mark Liddington  
 Public info for the city of Antioch,  
 CA. Fidonet 1:161/216, games,  
 chat, WIN GUI, ACSII, ANSI, RIP,  
 PowerBBS.  
 X 19 FV 20+ 3 7

512-392-9489 TX San Marcos  
**Home Business** Steve Strahl  
 Home-based business, books,  
 opportunities, classified ads, infor-  
 mation.  
 W 19 B 3 1

512-836-4262  
**The Night Owl II** Danny Dyess

512-945-9304  
**Ranch House BBS** Larry  
 Easley

515-246-1745 IA Des Moines  
**Ordinary World** Jeff Schoen  
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 areas to chat in.  
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515-628-3101  
**The Main Street** Steve Jansen

515-842-6482 IA Knoxville  
**CyberStation 7** J. Provenzano  
 General and privacy software. PGP  
 Shareware. Newest BBS in its area  
 free to the public.  
 X 99 FD 14+ 1

516-437-1659  
**Defron BBS** M. Christiansen

516-594-0054 NY RVC  
**Paradigm Legal** Enzo Alduino  
 Legal shareware free Internet.  
 B 29 D 40 2 7

516-736-6662  
**Your Software** John Woodstock

516-822-8909 NY Plainview  
**Artif. Intell.** Paul Sheiman  
 Fun, 40+ online games, PSiLink  
 World HQ, PSI-Factor Unlimited  
 WHQ, 400+ users, active message  
 bases.  
 X 19 FV 5 1

516-878-4906 NY Moriches  
**HAM-IT-UP BBS** Joseph Isbell  
 Amateur radio.  
 W 19 V 13+ 2 3

517-288-5099 MI Durand  
**Cluster One** Brad Bennett  
 Files/online doors. Total dedication  
 to the cult music group "Pink  
 Floyd", new users have access to  
 most everything, with limited time.  
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520-321-9762 AZ Tucson  
**UFO Infonet** Bruce Anderson  
 UFO sightings, cattle mutilations,  
 crop circles.  
 W 29 V 2 1

520-722-4870 AZ Tucson  
**Graveyard Shif** A & C Peters  
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 ia, members of UniverseNet, JOB-  
 NET, and MUFON.  
 W 19 V 10+ 1

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602-258-7113  
**The Wish Book** Lorne Shantz

605-331-5831 SD Sioux Falls  
**YEBB** Ray Christensen  
 Education.  
 X 99 D 31 8 \$ F

606-344-0284 KY Ft. Mitchell  
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 fee. 6+ GB online. Adult conference  
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 Hobbes, Night Owl 16, plus many  
 others.  
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606-432-0879 KY Pikeville  
**StrawberyPatch** Phillip Moore  
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 games (60) 100+ conferences, pro-  
 gramming by sysop, appeared in  
 BoardWatch top 100 BBS listing.  
 B 29 F 50 3 3

606-441-2130  
**The Ghost House** Michael Haley

606-441-5517 KY Cold Spring  
**Intermax** Dan Spoonamore  
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 Cincinnati area (513 local). Custom  
 services for your organization.  
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608-274-5720 WI Madison  
**Sterling** Tom Williams  
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 tion, etc. cd-rom, 1.2 GB HD, 2  
 lines, 3 networks, 4 doors.  
 X 09 FV 13+ 2 3

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

## The A-List

609-482-7345 NJ Maple Shade  
**Next Generation** John Carcione  
 Trek Trivia Online; After Dark.

609-484-8874 NJ Pleasantvill  
**R.C. BBS of NJ** Kenneth Leary  
 Catholicism/Christianity. Catholic  
 tracts, church documents, papal  
 encyclicals. Catholic Info Network.  
 W 19 V 2 1

609-541-2417 NJ Camden  
**TOP SECRET BBS** G. Stafford  
 PC/Windows HW/SW support,  
 Novell, full Internet, secret info,  
 online news, World Wide Chat,  
 PC/WIN Tips.  
 M 09 BV 14+ 4 F

609-587-2672  
**Tao BBS** Bob Watson

609-587-4651 NJ Mercerville  
**the DEALMAKERS** Ted Kraus  
 Nationwide commercial real estate  
 board & Hub for RealtyNet, a  
 national network of real estate  
 boards.  
 B 29 V 10 3 7

609-589-3374 NJ Pitman  
**Serendipity** Brian Farr  
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 exploration of the mind.  
 G 19 V 10 2 F

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609-764-0812  
**Radio Wave BBS** Tyler Myers

609-768-6585  
**BB's BBS** Bob Browne

609-778-4442  
**Comp Gaming** Gregory Moore

609-845-9171 NJ Deptford  
**Bill's** Bill Williams  
 Relay-net, sports-net, throb-net,  
 SNJ-net.  
 G 99 D 60+ 3

609-890-6347 NJ Ham. Square,  
**CyberCity USA** Bob Marsley  
 Games, sports, music.  
 M 19 D 45+ 2 3

610-534-1377 PA Collingdale  
**Hurricane BBS** Jason Kramer  
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 W 09 U 10+ 1

610-838-2908 PA Hellertown  
**Hard-DriveCafe** Vince Amato  
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612-923-5020 MN Goodhue  
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 I 99 O 1+ 1

614-387-2762  
**The Vault BBS** Keith Ketcham

614-759-7018 OH Columbus  
**Doug's Place** Douglas Reese  
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 B 19 F 80+ 3

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614-855-8504 OH Columbus  
**GingersPortLtd** Phill Terry  
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 tion. Home of (COMMO), telecom-  
 munications/WildCat. SysOp sup-  
 port. Custom programming,  
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 design.  
 W 29 D 14+ 2 3

615-320-1820 TN Nashville  
**S&H TSX-BBS** Steve Gregson  
 Sample of the TSX-BBS software,  
 from S&H Computer Systems.  
 X 09 F 1 1 F

615-399-0707  
**Lebanon Link** B. Richardson

615-478-2890  
**PC Junction BBS** Doug Carpenter

615-572-9164 TN Clarksville  
**The Snake Pit** Keith Jacobs  
 Message, on-line games. Home of  
 Dominion Tech, makers of the best  
 scripts available to VBBS sysops.  
 X 09 V 5+ 1

615-637-3641 TN Knoxville  
**The 2nd Mile** Rusty Titsworth  
 Family oriented fun, free, G-Rated  
 BBS for all age groups.  
 Q 09 VO 10+ 1 1

615-870-0794 TN Chattanooga  
**The Registry** Bill Kern  
 Home of the National Registry of  
 Computer Professionals, 60,000  
 files, 7 CD-ROMs, 130 registered  
 doors, echomail, ABBSANet,  
 FidoNet, Intelec.  
 W 29 FV 35+ 3

615-966-3574  
**Data World BBS** Sean Dudley

615-977-9385  
**WNMFS BBS** Michael Walker

617-279-3561 MA Stoneham  
**Atomic Dog BBS** Patrick Breen  
 Games, shareware, support for  
 Atomic Dog Software. Windows  
 client SW available (WorldGroup). 7  
 CD-ROMs on line. Devoted to tak-  
 ing on line games to the next level.  
 M 29 FV 52+ 4 3

617-354-8873  
**Channel 1 BBS** Brian Miller

617-361-1242 MA Boston  
**Skyline BBS** Fred Bowes  
 Adultliks, Fidonet, National  
 Matchmaker, over 44,000 files.  
 Great place to meet new friend. 40  
 doors and multi chat.  
 W 09 D 13+ 8

617-442-6071 MA Boston  
**Nautica BBS** Maria Forshaw  
 Ansi, adult, music, anime, regis-  
 tered door games, active message  
 bases: regular and adult. 40+ file  
 bases, 10+ registered door games.  
 L 19 V 14 1

618-529-7272 IL Makanda  
**The real Conne** Frank Peng  
 Info, files, games, news.  
 M 09 V 14+ 2

619-256-7012 CA Barstow  
**Devil Triangle** Jim Lankford  
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 W 29 FV 14+ 1

619-449-4911 CA Santee  
**#1 BBS Grabbag** Bill George  
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 X 19 V 5+ 1 7

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 W 29 V 2 1

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701-772-5399  
**City Lites** John Lundell

703-331-1710 VA Dumfries  
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**Arlington Softwr** Jay Falvey

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**Xsword's Haven** Randy Hedgecock

703-620-8900  
**World Data Net** Tony McClenny

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**Dockside BBS** Danny Cook

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 W 09 D 14 2

704-657-6898 NC Cliffside  
**Gentle Breeze** Larry Beheler  
 Door games.  
 X 19 FV 14+ 2 2

704-757-9949  
**Enchnt Forest** Brian Miller



704-983-2877 NC Albemarle  
**Small Wonder** Mark Brooks  
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 X 19 HB 10 1

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**System Software** Wayne Lawton

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**Suburban Softwr** Chuck Valecek

708-634-9368  
**Great Northern** Michael Wilson

708-832-7754  
**Addison Dos Haus** Leroy Hein Jr

708-991-2452  
**BBS Data Sys** Greg Kaiser

713-873-5702  
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 face using Media Host v1.00b.  
 Buy/sell at fleet prices, digital pho-  
 tos, more.  
 X 29 V 4 2

714-990-4802 CA Brea  
**Homeseller BBS** Jim Brubaker  
 Homes for sale in Southern  
 California. Discount Residential  
 Real Estate for both buyers and  
 sellers.  
 W 29 V 2 1

714-996-7777  
**The Liberty BBS** Steven Grande

715-363-3895 WI Rhinelander  
**Old Frog's BBS** Ryugen Fisher  
 NASC site, on-line tech support  
 from Live Computer Tech's, Novell,  
 utils, real-time on-line games.  
 B 29 D 14+ 5

715-726-0501 WI ChippewaFall  
**Storm BBS** Clay Busker  
 Various, lots of sound modules.  
 Running KBBS, opened 5-5-95.  
 X 19 V 3 1

716-633-3973 NY Clarence  
**Spectrum Netwk** L.Kanaby  
 Gem & lapidary. Online searchable  
 databases for colored gemstones,  
 diamonds, trade shows and classi-  
 fied want ads, message areas and  
 email.  
 T 29 VF 4 6 \$

717-246-9666 PA Red Lion  
**Lion's Den** Brent Sowers  
 Games, astronomy. RIP and  
 PowerAccess graphics, well round-

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ed file base, 22 online games,  
 PowerBBS 4.0.  
 X 19 V 7+ 1

717-290-8139 PA Lancaster  
**Soft connection** Travis Siegel  
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 gamers. Targeted mainly for the  
 disabled user, 2+ mail networks.  
 W 09 V 22+ 1

717-367-4973 PA Elizabethwn  
**Turbo Systems** Rick Kaylor Jr.  
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 technology, tech support, 17+ CD-  
 ROMs, Fido, SpeakEasy, & FREQ  
 Nets, Doors, and FUN.  
 X 99 FV 16+ 1

717-729-8102 PA Beach Lake  
**Landscape Conx** Jeffrey Chorba  
 Landscape design, horticulture,  
 RBBS, Lantastic.  
 R 09 D 13 1

717-840-1444  
**Cyberia** Sara/Adam Viener

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

718-628-6661 NY Ridgewood  
**Q.S.E. BBS** Emil Strunk  
 File exchange, games. Rotate CD  
 ROMs daily. Offline CD's can be

viewed and file requests made.  
 Online games.  
 S 19 D 10+ 1

718-648-5199 NY Brooklyn  
**TEA ROOM** P. Starzynski  
 Taoism, Ch'an, Zen in the spirit of  
 Chanoyu. U'NI-net, FringeNet, LNet,  
 nets added by caller's request.  
 B 29 DF 5 2

718-743-2430 NY Brooklyn  
**Bklyn BBS** David Kaufman  
 Home of CatNET(sm) echo mail.  
 Files, doors, and messaging.  
 Support BBS for Cats Paw  
 Software. 1.5 GB files, over 30 reg-  
 istered doors.  
 W 29 V 11+ 1

718-816-1808 NY StatenIsl  
**Computer Connx** Steve Laino  
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 Link chat, Trade Wars 2002, shop-  
 ping, UFO information.  
 X 29 FV 14+ 8 3

718-837-0220 NY Brooklyn  
**P, P, & T** Lori Weinstein  
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 files. People, Places, and Things is  
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 people.  
 X 09 O 2 1 2

718-897-6902 NY Forest Hills  
**Webster's BBS** Greg Martin  
 Free downloads of Webster's MS  
 Windows Software. Webster's  
 Lexicon Publishing Corp.'s auto-  
 mated download BBS. Open to the  
 public.  
 W 99 FD 14 68

802-878-1983 VT Colchester  
**We The People** Kevin Plant  
 Reports on the dark side of govt.  
 1.325/145.  
 W 09 VO 5+ 1

803-552-4389 SC N.Charleston  
**Earth Art** Bob Chapman  
 Environmental. 1st BBS relayed via  
 satellite. Home of: International  
 GREEN BBS List, GreenNet, Fidonet  
 SIERRAN Echo, Stunning Graphics.  
 B 09 DF 128+ 4 3

803-767-8212 SC N.Charleston  
**Night Wing BBS** James Salter  
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 I 09 F 14+ 1 7

804-253-2307 VA Williamsburg  
**LightOTheBurg** Nelson Scott  
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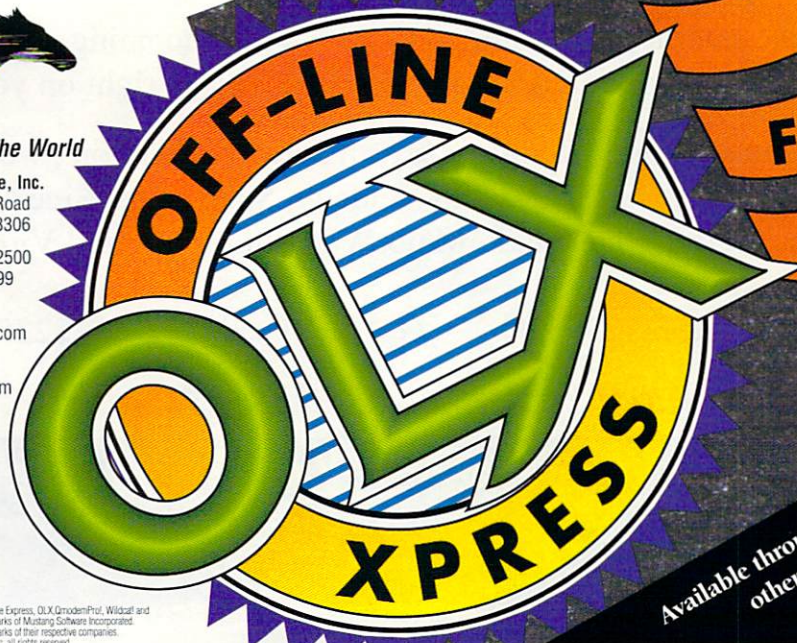
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 sage areas. OS/2 and programming  
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 X 29 FV 5 1

805-498-5505 CA Newbury Pk  
**TOPEC BBS** Shawn Schneider  
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 messages, no ratios. RENEGADE  
 software and 14400 highest baud  
 rate.  
 X 29 O 10+ 1

805-499-5717  
**Formula 350** Eric Lundberg

805-964-4766  
**The Seaside** Les Jones

809-283-6942 PR San Juan  
**Centus(TM) BBS** Edfel J. Rivera  
 Centus (TM) Demographic  
 Shareware. Featured by Computer  
 Resources (Sept 94), & Marketing  
 Tools (Jan 95).  
 W 29 V 4 1

809-781-4207 PR Guaynabo  
**Hurricane BBS** Luis Benitez  
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 chat, teleconference, two nodes;  
 second node is (809) 781-4571.  
 W 19 D 10+ 2 \$

810-346-2236 MI Brown City  
**Tri-County BBS** Dan Butterfield  
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 online games, information.  
 X 29 VO 6+ 1 1

810-363-0554 MI Walled Lake  
**Nth Dimension** Jim Eller  
 General, online games, files, gui-  
 tarist forum, genealogy. Full access  
 1st call, no ratios, no uploads  
 required. Over 19,000 files, CD.  
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810-477-6695  
**The Soul Conn** Mike Demski

810-631-6885  
**The Casual BBS** Pat Cargill

810-794-9477 MI Algonac  
**Terra Forma** matt blanc  
 All types, lots of message and file  
 bases.  
 X 09 H 12 1

812-477-8813 IN Evansville  
**Highlander's** Will Duncan  
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 games, DOOM & Heretic, BBS files,  
 shareware files, CFA Charter  
 Member, great DOORS, TriBBS  
 support board, WME Network  
 Online.  
 I 19 VF 9+ 1

813-934-7881 FL Holiday  
**Planet Alderan** Dale Hutchinson

813-942-0323  
**Genesis Network** Dan Thompson

814-726-5787 PA Warren  
**terminal jrhi** Oran Stewart  
 Teens and their parents.  
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815-458-3910 IL Braidwood  
**Monkey Rob Cnr** George Rozak  
 General purpose board focusing on  
 new users & shareware.  
 S 09 V 10+ 1

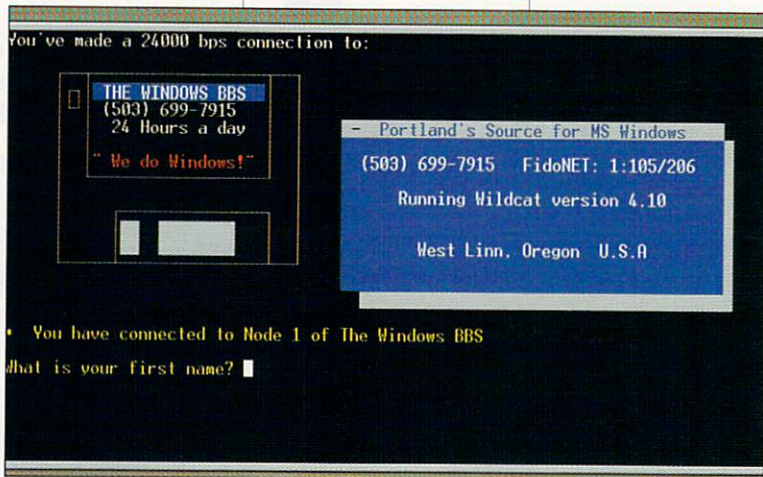
815-795-6371  
**Squirrel's Nest** Neal Roberts

816-632-3297 MO Cameron  
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 LynxNet, Internet, over 120 confs.  
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816-646-3822 MO Chillicothe  
**Chilli Info Ex** D Richardson  
 Information/education.  
 O 09 V 2 1 1

816-746-6911 MO Parkville  
**Nikonos V** Dennis Smith  
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 ROMs, Netmail, RGSNet.  
 L 99 DF 10+ 1

816-796-7078 MO Independence  
**PDO OnLine** James Whorton  
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 adult scans, large libraries.  
 B 29 V 61+ 1



810-751-6704 MI Warren  
**Short Circuit** Eric Dobis  
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 W 29 DF 20+ 2

812-234-0091 IN Terre Haute  
**Psychedelicate** Kevin Lange  
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 beta site for Excalibur BBS soft-  
 ware.  
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 X 29 VF 26+ 3 \$ F

908-253-0897 NJ Manville  
**Linken Review** Ken Smith  
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 Discussion Net, chat on 3 nodes.  
 W 29 V 4+ 3

908-298-0764 NJ Roselle Park  
**The Juice Bar** Dan Kachooagian  
 Messaging. Fidonet 1:107/953.  
 L 09 V 1 1 3

908-572-5762  
**Dataland! BBS** Rick Young

908-572-7490 NJ Edison  
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909-925-9564  
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909-987-8483 CA Cucamonga  
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 ware setup & use.  
 R 19 D 6 2

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Make checks payable to Hank Hurteau

Along those graphical lines, Powerboard will also support a Windows-based terminal program, thanks to Durand Communications. Powerboard has also become one of the first BBS software packages to support Durand Communications Network's new WIP interface. The WIP (Windows Interface Protocol) allows Windows users to call the BBS in a windows environment, complete with icons and full-color pictures.

Powerboard sysops will be able to freely distribute a special OEM Powerboard version of DCN's DC-TERM (which DCN created specifically for NuIQ) to their users for accessing the BBS in WIP mode.

On the operator's side, according to NuIQ, utilities have been carefully organized so they are easy to find and run. PB 2.0 comes with a newsletter editor, message base manager, file area manager, ANSI screen drawing software, menu developer, and other goodies. Missing items can be added with Powerboard's plug-and-play add-on system (installed with a keypress). And Doors can be installed automatically with DoorConfig, Powerboard's automated Door adding utility.

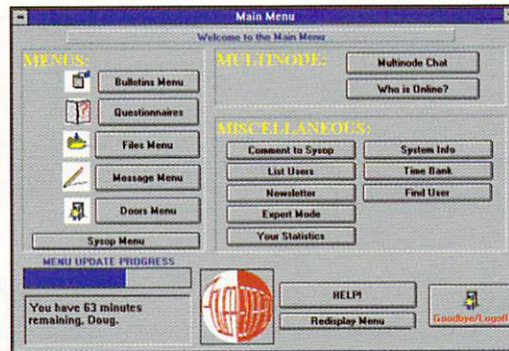
PB 2.0 ships with UUCP (for Internet e-mail and Usenet newsgroups), intelligent multiport card support, built in QWK mail handling (so users can read and reply to mail offline), upload virus scanner and online archive viewer. Powerboard is also compatible with third-party software to support Telnet, FTP, Archie, Gopher, as well as SMTP email and NNTP netnews.

A new menu-developer utility allows the operator to dynamically create menus — menu options can be put on any menu in ANSI, ASCII, RIP and WIP display screens automatically.

PB 2.0 remembers the novice sysop, too, giving them the means to configure their systems with a mouse-driven setup utility, while offering features for more advanced sysops such as the built-in programming language.

"The release of Powerboard 2.0 is

part of NuIQ's commitment to expanding the use of BBSs to include people who otherwise might not have the ability, financial means, or desire to run a BBS," said NuIQ CEO Scott Brown. With Powerboard's starting price remaining at \$99 for a four-node



package, who can argue?

PB 2.0 will remain in beta until its mid-August release. Once the new software hits the streets, current Powerboard sysops who are up-to-date with support fees (\$50/year, first year free) may download the new software free of charge from NuIQ's BBS.

A demonstration version of the software will be available for download from NuIQ's BBS (914.833.1479) beginning August 17. For more information contact NuIQ at 914.833.3479.

## BBS INCOME

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

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

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

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



Rusty Edie

### Dual Eliminator

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



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

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

# Netted Boards

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.

\* = New since last revision

<b>A World Locally</b>	204.119.47.5
<b>Absolute Connection</b>	199.0.62.164
<b>Access Nevada</b>	199.2.253.3
<b>ACE InfoSystems</b>	199.190.76.2
<b>AdeptXBBS</b>	199.227.57.1
<b>Advanced Data Services BBS</b>	199.190.73.3
<b>After Hours BBS</b>	198.68.45.159
<b>Afterimage Information Matrix</b>	204.178.181.2
<b>*Aladdins Palace</b>	204.174.112.252
<b>Alien's SpaceShip BBS</b>	199.190.82.2
<b>*Almac BBS</b>	193.114.248.3
<b>Amateur Radio INTERNET BBS</b>	202.1.80
<b>America's Suggestion Box</b>	165.254.128.1
<b>AOP BBS</b>	198.232.144.101
<b>Appraisal Professional Online</b>	199.172.5.2

**WWW:**  
<http://dkeep.com/sbi.htm>  
 Includes a "Guided Tour of Internet," BBSs from around the world.

**FTP:**  
<ftp://dkunix.dkeep.com> (in /pub/sbi)  
 login: anonymous  
[gcomm.com](ftp://gcomm.com) (in /internet)  
 login: anonymous  
[ftp.rahul.net](ftp://rahul.net) (in pub/wco)  
 login: ftp

**Finger:**  
[sbi@dkeep.com](mailto:sbi@dkeep.com)  
 (Information about the SBI List)  
[sbiq@dkeep.com](mailto:sbiq@dkeep.com)  
 ("Quick" Guide to Select BBS's on Internet)  
[sbi-info@dkeep.com](mailto:sbi-info@dkeep.com)  
 (Revision Information for current list)  
[sbi-sysop@dkeep.com](mailto:sbi-sysop@dkeep.com)  
 (How to Become a Part of the SBI list)

**BBS:**  
 Dragon Keep — [dkeep.com](http://dkeep.com) / 904.375.3500  
 (signup, then type /GO SBI)

<b>Aquila BBS</b>	204.95.88.5
<b>Atlantis BBS</b>	199.4.124.69
<b>Atlas BBS</b>	204.189.37.1
<b>Austin Clubhouse BBS</b>	198.6.198.98
<b>Barney's Rubble</b>	194.70.36.10
<b>Barter America BBS</b>	192.207.47.72
<b>BBS One Online Service</b>	199.18.119.129
<b>Black Gold BBS</b>	198.65.131.18
<b>Blitzkrieg Information BBS</b>	199.190.90.2
<b>*Boston Dungeon Society</b>	199.242.194.90
<b>Brainstorm BBS</b>	198.84.216.1
<b>Bryant Software</b>	199.45.158.193
<b>Canned Ham Bulletin Board</b>	199.173.244.1
<b>Caribbean Online Network for Info</b>	204.183.157.10
<b>CCS World</b>	199.172.47.2
<b>Cetys BBS</b>	158.122.1.9
<b>CHANNEL 1 (R)</b>	199.1.13.5
<b>Christie's Internet Matchmaker</b>	199.33.241.97
<b>Close Encounters Adult</b>	199.1.77.17
<b>Closer to Home BBS</b>	203.4.149.98
<b>Cloud City</b>	199.190.94.2
<b>Colossus Box</b>	198.3.118.19
<b>*Comm 2</b>	199.92.200.58
<b>COMM Port OS/2</b>	199.100.191.2
<b>Comp-U-Find Online</b>	199.79.146.33
<b>ComPart BBS</b>	193.64.198.200
<b>Compu-Plane</b>	198.68.17.57
<b>ComputerLink Online, Inc.</b>	199.166.254.2
<b>Con-X-Tion</b>	199.190.84.2
<b>CONNECT 2000 BBS</b>	204.177.193.251
<b>Cougar's Lair BBS</b>	199.171.164.13
<b>Country Online</b>	199.190.71.2
<b>*Courier Online</b>	204.120.30.100

<b>*COWZ - The Cattle Crossing on the</b>	204.96.52.4
<b>CRIS (Concentric Research Corp)</b>	199.3.12.13
<b>Crystal Quill</b>	199.125.162.3
<b>*Cutting Edge Technologies BBS</b>	198.17.249.250
<b>Cyber Warrior Network</b>	204.97.1.4
<b>Cyber/Chat!</b>	199.171.196.2
<b>Cyberspace BBS</b>	204.96.30.25
<b>Cyberspace7 BBS</b>	204.186.240.1
<b>*CyberStation</b>	204.176.215.10
<b>Cyberverse</b>	134.24.3.50
<b>Datacom</b>	204.120.33.199
<b>deltaComm Online</b>	204.32.41.2
<b>Digital Concepts BBS</b>	165.247.101.21
<b>Digitec Online</b>	196.11.62.106
<b>Doctor's Office BBS / Falken Supp</b>	204.97.64.6
<b>Dragon Keep International</b>	198.79.54.10
<b>*Dream Link Online Information Ser</b>	204.176.0.14
<b>Dreamscape BBS</b>	199.67.38.67
<b>DSC BBS / Voicenet Datamax/Satal</b>	192.204.28.9
<b>DSP Information &amp; Entertainment</b>	199.4.121.1
<b>Eager Beaver Computers MBBS</b>	199.79.239.43
<b>Eden BBS</b>	199.190.73.2
<b>Edex</b>	193.117.217.1
<b>Electronic Lucidity</b>	152.160.9.50
<b>Elysian Fields</b>	204.181.47.5
<b>Empty Spaces BBS</b>	198.30.235.51
<b>Endless Mountain CyberSPACE</b>	198.70.189.74
<b>Entertainment and Consumers Netwo</b>	198.211.192.146
<b>Escape</b>	198.6.71.10
<b>eSoft Support and Demo BBS</b>	199.45.143.2
<b>*EuroGate</b>	193.78.242.145
<b>Europe / EuroLink!</b>	193.92.253.70
<b>EveryBuddy's BBS</b>	192.80.84.229

<b>Exchange BBS</b>	204.89.181.2
<b>Exec Talk BBS</b>	198.69.107.208
<b>ExecPC</b>	204.29.202.4
<b>*Executive Network Information Sys</b>	198.232.143.136
<b>EXIT 13</b>	204.181.3.147
<b>Eye Contact BBS</b>	204.94.37.2
<b>EZLink Internet Access</b>	199.45.150.1
<b>EZNet</b>	198.4.60.100
<b>Fairfield Community Connection</b>	199.190.101.2
<b>Final Frontier BBS</b>	199.181.166.212
<b>FIOTing PAnCReAs</b>	199.227.15.30
<b>FOUR.net</b>	198.70.45.3
<b>G.L.O.B.I.E.</b>	199.67.39.34
<b>G.O.D.</b>	199.45.83.11
<b>Galacticom DEMO System</b>	199.227.15.16
<b>Game Power Headquarters BBS</b>	199.0.57.7
<b>GarBaGe DuMP BBS</b>	199.190.74.2
<b>Gateway Online</b>	198.87.17.102
<b>Global InfoNet</b>	140.174.210.4
<b>GRAFIX</b>	166.82.150.31
<b>Green and Yellow</b>	199.199.195.1
<b>*Ground Zero BBS</b>	199.231.128.222
<b>*HACOM BBS</b>	193.67.233.1
<b>Hal 9000</b>	152.160.13.1
<b>Hellas On-Line</b>	193.92.136.35
<b>Hi-Teck's Place</b>	199.171.4.3
<b>High Society</b>	198.69.101.2
<b>Hotel California</b>	165.90.141.2
<b>IACC ONLINE BBS</b>	141.211.151.30
<b>Idaho Interactive BBS</b>	199.190.75.2
<b>InfiNet-81</b>	204.96.111.157
<b>Infinite Data Source On-Line Serv bbs.</b>	204.157.204.157
<b>Infinite Loop BBS</b>	155.64.60.31
<b>Infinite Space Online</b>	204.227.13.1
<b>InfoNet Information Superhighway</b>	199.3.25.4
<b>InfoNet Bulletin Board System</b>	199.1.77.11
<b>InfoPort</b>	204.131.1.21
<b>Instant Access</b>	199.125.139.1
<b>Instant Global Access</b>	155.212.31.34

# Netted Boards

**Intercom Online**  
InterCom.com ..... 165.254.1.205

**Interludes BBS**  
..... 204.91.106.4

**InTheNet BBS**  
inthenet.com ..... 199.1.222.195

**IONX**  
ionx.com ..... 166.93.12.44

**IPlay On-Line**  
iplay.interplay.com ..... 199.182.210.2

**Iris BBS**  
iris.mother.com ..... 198.93.80.138

**Jaguar BBS**  
jaguar.pue.udlap.mx ..... 140.148.4.100

**Janis II - Tokyo**  
asianet.net ..... 202.32.39.111

**KBBS Los Angeles**  
..... 204.96.25.7

**Kingston Online Services**  
..... 199.246.2.200

**LaserBase Communications**  
laserbase.com ..... 198.3.118.114

**LeClub BBS**  
lia.infolink.co.za ..... 196.14.80.33

**\*LegacyNet**  
lgn.com ..... 199.190.102.2

**Liberty BBS**  
liberty.com ..... 199.89.140.106

**LIFESTYLE ONLINE**  
lifestyle.com ..... 166.82.150.22

**Liquid Sky BBS**  
liquidsky.com ..... 199.45.245.131

**Livewire**  
..... 198.53.239.3

**Logic Circuit**  
Logicom.com ..... 199.190.88.2

**LOIS: the Link Online in Santa Ma**  
lois.org ..... 199.74.141.38

**Love Bytes**  
..... 204.96.26.2

**Magnus Online**  
online.magnus1.com ..... 204.97.15.6

**Maloca BBS Toronto**  
bbs.maloca.com ..... 198.53.160.20

**Maloka BBS Warsaw**  
bbs.maloka.waw.pl ..... 198.59.67.10

**Meeting House BBS**  
tmh.bbsnet.com ..... 199.1.41.21

**Metro Online BBS**  
nycmetro.com ..... 204.96.9.2

**Metropoli / StarPort BBS**  
unix.mpoli.fi ..... 193.210.15.65

**Metropolis**  
methub.metrobbs.com ..... 198.69.223.40

**MHVnet**  
mhv.net ..... 199.0.0.3

**Mike's BBS**  
bbs.gar.no ..... 192.150.211.10

**Miller's Party Board**  
mpb.com ..... 199.190.89.2

**MindVox**  
phantom.com ..... 38.145.218.228

**Mnematics Videotex**  
vtx.mne.com ..... 204.71.44.3

**MPI Online Services**  
..... 204.71.44.3

**Mr. Natural's BBS**  
bbs.mrnatural.com ..... 165.227.31.248

**Multi-Comm Las Vegas**  
mcomm.mclv.net ..... 204.95.95.253

**Multiverse**  
telnet.multiverse.com ..... 199.218.112.4

**NandoNet**  
camelot.nando.net ..... 152.52.2.13

**Nasty Playmates**  
np1.com ..... 204.139.8.2

**Needful Things BBS**  
..... 199.221.95.12

**NET-LINK ONLINE**  
net-link.com ..... 165.113.201.2

**NETIS**  
bbs.netis.com ..... 198.186.186.7

**New Jersey Computer Connection**  
pluto.njcc.com ..... 165.254.117.51

**\*NFE BBS Naperville File Exchange**  
nfebbs.nfe.com ..... 199.89.235.68

**\*Nitelog BBS**  
..... 165.227.94.25

**Nucleus Information Service**  
nis.nucleus.com ..... 199.45.65.130

**Nurse Net Nederland**  
bbs.nursing.nl ..... 193.78.222.138

**Odyssey Online**  
odyssey.ody.com ..... 199.170.18.2

**On-Line Entertainment**  
connect.on-line.co.uk ..... 193.114.232.1

**Online Computer Distribution**  
main.oncomdis.on.ca ..... 204.101.15.3

**Online Data Systems**  
ods.net ..... 204.95.172.4

**Online Montgomery**  
..... 204.96.29.2

**Online Orlando**  
oo.com ..... 198.206.133.4

**Online Welcome**  
bbs.onwe.co.za ..... 196.7.192.2

**\*OS/2 Shareware BBS**  
bbs.os2bbs.com ..... 204.194.180.10

**Pacific Horizons**  
pacific.seanet.com ..... 199.181.167.246

**Pacifier Online Data Service**  
P.O pods.pacifier.com ..... 199.2.117.106

**Paradigm Online**  
..... 202.33.54.66

**Paradise Play Line BBS**  
pplnet.com ..... 198.64.53.173

**\*Party Line Entertainment**  
bbs.party.com ..... 166.82.196.2

**PC Genius**  
..... 158.182.6.137

**PENN-COMM BBS**  
mailer.pennet.com ..... 199.234.141.3

**Pennsylvania Online!**  
paonline.com ..... 198.69.90.250

**Pics On-Line BBS**  
bbs.pics.com ..... 192.135.189.200

**Pink's Place BBS**  
pnx.com ..... 199.190.97.2

**Point Blank**  
pointblank.com ..... 204.117.211.3

**\*Powersystems BBS**  
pwsbbs.com ..... 204.119.130.15

**Prolink**  
..... 204.95.170.95

**Promised Land**  
tpl.wis.com ..... 199.3.240.65

**Prostar Plus Information Network**  
prostar.com ..... 204.57.131.1

**Proton Palace**  
proton.com ..... 198.53.206.68

**Public Data Network**  
bbs.chatlink.com ..... 198.68.7.2

**Rain Forest Systems, Inc (RFSI)**  
..... 204.96.24.10

**RCI (Ripco Communications Inc)**  
foley.ripco.com ..... 198.4.164.3

**Revolution! Online Services**  
revolution.com ..... 199.3.179.1

**Rock Garden**  
garden.hvs.com ..... 165.247.49.130

**Rock Pile BBS**  
rockpile.com ..... 198.6.114.251

**RockonLine**  
magic.webb.com ..... 204.97.88.4

**S & H Computer Systems BBS**  
sandh.com ..... 199.1.88.68

**Sacramento Exchange BBS**  
icccs.com ..... 204.87.174.10

**Salt Air BBS**  
..... 199.67.41.252

**Silicon Matchmaker BBS**  
silicon.email.net ..... 204.152.80.17

**SIO Support BBS**  
..... 199.248.240.2

**Smurph Land BBS**  
smurph.com ..... 199.250.197.34

**\*Software Connection Online**  
sco.softconn.co.za ..... 196.7.110.4

**Software Creations**  
swcbbs.com ..... 204.68.200.2

**Spider Island BBS**  
spiderisland.com ..... 199.35.3.99

**\*SPIN**  
spin.com.mx ..... 200.12.165.19

**Starship II BBS**  
starship.com ..... 192.204.28.48

**Starship Sirius**  
sirius.america.com ..... 199.170.102.6

**Strategic Online**  
..... 156.46.30.2

**\*Studio PC Information Services**  
studio.com ..... 199.231.128.235

**Sun.One**  
news.jou.ufl.edu ..... 128.227.230.225

**Superlink**  
bbs.superlink.net ..... 204.97.320.5

**SVIS**  
svis.org ..... 198.77.8.11

**Synergy Entertainment Network**  
SE sen.com ..... 199.190.79.2

**Synergy Online Communications**  
SO bbs.soc.com ..... 204.117.97.2

**Techlands BBS**  
..... 199.67.37.132

**The Annex!**  
annex.com ..... 204.74.67.1

**The Big Easy**  
bigeasy.com ..... 204.27.71.10

**The Castle BBS**  
castlebbs.com ..... 199.190.83.2

**The Connection BBS**  
connection.com ..... 204.138.111.2

**The Crystal Ball BBS**  
theball.fileshop.com ..... 199.79.146.181

**The Cutting Edge!**  
tce.net ..... 204.193.159.10

**The CyberDen**  
cyberden.com ..... 199.4.64.18

**The Davasoft BBS**  
dava.com ..... 204.176.6.5

**The English Palace**  
palace.com ..... 199.171.54.2

**\*The Eyes of Time BBS**  
eyesoftime.com ..... 198.6.201.206

**\*The Fetish Network BBS**  
fetish.wisenet.com ..... 198.69.101.20

**The File Bank BBS**  
bbs.tfb.com ..... 198.68.171.210

**The Flower Link BBS**  
flowerlink.com ..... 199.234.116.2

**The Game Master**  
gm.gamemaster.qc.ca ..... 199.84.216.2

**The Granola Board BBS**  
..... 204.188.1.17

**The Graphics Alternative**  
tgax.com ..... 192.215.97.35

**The Hole in the Wall**  
holnwall.sos.net ..... 199.165.149.4

**The INDEX System (tm)**  
index.com ..... 204.117.209.1

**The Jungle BBS**  
jungle.net ..... 199.171.27.184

**The Kobayashi Alternative BBS**  
tka.com ..... 204.117.63.1

**The Male Forum**  
mforum.com ..... 166.82.150.41

**The Modem Nation**  
bbs.modemnation.com ..... 199.67.37.66

**The Newtonian BBS**  
newton.com ..... 152.160.5.37

**The Power Exchange**  
tpe.com ..... 199.190.65.10

**The PressRoom**  
pressroom.com ..... 198.69.131.1

**The Spring Guide**  
spring.com ..... 198.3.118.21

**The UPS Depot**  
depot.netnet.net ..... 198.70.69.9

**The Virtual Gateway**  
vgateway.com ..... 199.227.67.2

**The WELL**  
well.sf.ca.us ..... 192.132.30.2

**Theporch BBS**  
bbs.theporch.com ..... 199.1.88.66

**TnT Online**  
TnTonline.com ..... 204.145.237.2

**Toledo's TBBS**  
tolttbbs.com ..... 204.120.66.2

**\*Top Secret BBS**  
..... 204.180.236.101

**Tranquility Base**  
..... 199.3.234.248

**Tribnet**  
..... 199.2.128.3

**Trilogy On-Line Service (tm)**  
trilogy.net ..... 199.67.35.40

**Twinturbo Demo System**  
twinturbo.ais.net ..... 199.0.154.200

**VIA\*Net**  
..... 165.247.47.7

**Villa BBS**  
rvik.is ..... 193.4.107.1

**West Coast Online BBS**  
bbs.calon.com ..... 199.4.94.8

**Wingham Online**  
ingham.com ..... 165.154.42.73

**Wireworks Christian & Community N**  
wireworks.com ..... 199.1.85.65

**Women's Wire**  
wwire.net ..... 204.160.94.132

**World Data Network BBS**  
wdn.com ..... 198.232.144.1

**WorldCHAT BBS**  
bbs.wchat.on.ca ..... 204.138.239.20

**WorldWorks Symposium**  
worldworks.com ..... 204.119.163.23

**Zagreb**  
zagreb.gcomm.com ..... 199.227.15.33

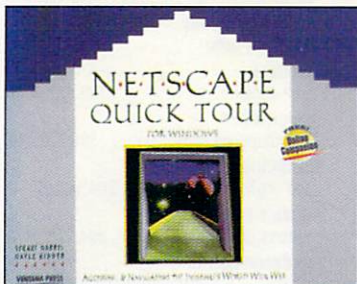
## Netscape Quick Tour

\$14; 152 pages  
by Gayle Kidder  
and Stuart Harris

Ask anyone scouting the Web these days and the hands-on leader in the ongoing browser battle is Netscape Navigator from Netscape Communications Corp.

It's versatile, ever-improving, simple to use, and downright handsome. So why would anyone need a companion book to help light the way? Well, I forgot to mention Netscape is also bulging with features — perhaps too much to absorb in a couple of sittings. And that's where Ventana comes in.

The latest in the publishing company's "Quick Tour" books is *Netscape Quick Tour* (for Mac and Windows) by Stuart Harris and Gayle Kidder, and it's a must for newcomers to the World Wide Web.



Here you'll discover how simple it is to download, configure and install Netscape (a later version of the book includes a copy of the software) on your own system.

Harris and Kidder explain in detail what all those menu and button bars do, how to FTP, use Gopher, send email, and check in on Usenet.

Screen captures throughout the small volume illustrate what the authors explain, and give readers a visual step-by-step to mastering the program.

And since Web browsers (you and me, that is) often graduate from "How do log on?" to "I want my own Web page," the Quick Tour also includes a chapter about making your own Web documents, with diagrams and simple-to-follow instructions.

"Go to a Web page — any old page



will do — and pick the menu choice View/Source," write the authors. "What you see is HTML. Look scary? Awww, c'mon — it's not like a real computer language. At least you can see some ordinary English text there (okay, if you picked a Spanish site you can see Spanish)." And so it goes with pointers on adding pictures to a page and links and other fancy extras. There's even an appendix loaded with common Netscape error messages and their reasons for being.

Readers will also be able to follow the hyperlinked version of the book on Ventana's own server, located at <http://www.vmedia.com/nqt.html>.

The *Quick Tour* can be found in bookstores or by contacting Ventana directly at 800.743.5369.

## A BBS Caller's Guide to FirstClass

\$14.95 (\$12 through Giles Road Press)  
208 pages  
by Paolo G. Cordone

When this magazine proclaimed on its cover a couple of months back "BBSing the Macintosh Way: It's not just a DOS world anymore," I could almost hear the collective sigh of Mac users everywhere — "Ha, no kidding."

Actually many Mac telecommunicators are more prone to designate these virtual neighborhoods "online services" than BBSs. Mac users are confident of their choice of hardware, and are generally independent. They never met a stigma they liked, and, until recently, many would argue the acronym "BBS" carried one of those stigmas in full.

But an interesting thing transpired when SoftArc Inc., developer of FirstClass BBS and client software, released a version of its client to the MS Windows market — both sides of the

aisle were given entrée into the world of one of the cleanest online environments around.

Now author Paolo G. Cordone has written a guide for all those looking to experience the sometimes luminous GUI inherent in FirstClass, aptly titled *A BBS Caller's Guide to FirstClass* (Giles Road Press).

All the basics are covered, including how to:

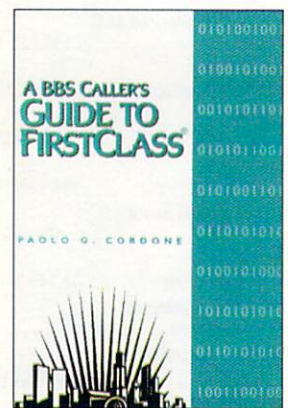
- obtain, install and configure the FirstClass client for Mac and Windows;
- connect to a FirstClass system;
- use email, conduct file transfers and engage in a conference;
- launch into advanced features like chat, history, get into, and resume;
- customize the client; and,
- utilize gateways like Fido and Internet.

Indeed, through his use of graphical tips, notes and warnings, Cordone's handbook leads the reader through possible land mines (Warning: "If you are using Symantec's AutoDoubler for background compression, make sure that you exclude the FirstClass folder for automatic compression. FirstClass cannot recognize compressed settings files and will refuse to open them!") to what they should first see when connected.

The book's size belies the generous helping of simply stated, but serious advice and instruction. Each page carries illustrations ranging from full screen captures to necessary icons and dialog boxes.

Stigmas aside, anyone seeking the shortest distance between ignorance and mastery of FirstClass ought to have Cordone's book on the desk next to their PC, er, Mac.

For more information contact Giles Road Press at 201.767.7001 or <http://intac.com/~gilesrd/>





# **Want to Start a BBS?**

**Read How Next Month  
in BBS Magazine**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

The classified ads are for **Pre-Owned items & Software**, and for **BBS ads** only. Ads for new equipment must be inserted in the regular display advertising sections. No logos, or photos, or any other illustrations can be used in the classified ad section.

**INSTRUCTIONS** are provided to keep the ad rate low and to ensure accuracy. Use the form on the next page to type or print your ad. Ads received that are difficult to read will be returned. **Write the desired category at the top of each ad.** If a category is not specified, the ad will be placed in the Misc. section. **If more than one ad is submitted, use a separate piece of paper for each ad. Ensure that your complete name and address is at the**

**bottom of each ad sheet.**

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Fill out the form on the next page and **FAX** your ad to 609-953-7961 or **MAIL** it to BBS AD, Callers Digest, Inc., 701 Stokes Rd., Medford, NJ 08055 with check, money order, or credit card information.

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**AMERICAN ATHEISTS ONLINE** 512.302.0223, Resources and information for Atheists. Files on Atheist thought and history, religion, state/church separation, the religious right. Home of the echo Theist\_Watch. Sponsored by American Atheists, PO Box 2117, Austin TX 78768.

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**INSTABIZ**, 510.862.0851, Free 30 minutes each day, traveling through this bbs will put you in touch with the latest in mail order business opportunities and classifieds, we offer insta/chex and in house online bank draft service, membership at \$15.00 every 3 months gets you 60 minutes a day.

**JOBBS**, 703.503.8440, Job Opportunity Bulletin Board System, computer and construction industry professionals. Display your resume electronically for access by organizations searching for employees and consultants in your specialty. 24 categories. Take the free tour and find out more.

**KBBS LOS ANGELES** 818.886.0872 Telnet 204.96.25.7, 1000's single adults, weekly parties, shareware, GIFs, Games, and DOOM wads, 24/hr

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**MODEM KOMBAT BBS**, 512.328.6328, Austin, TX since 1/95. Sysop: Philip Cole. Using Major BBS (Game Connection) with 12 lines and 1 Gig online. Over 400 megs of DOOM files! Practical Peripherals at 14400 bps. 4 Player Doom online. 1 hour free. Online Doom league. Supported: Doom, Doom II, Heretic, Descent.

**THE MODEM NATION**, 216.498.4200, Full internet access, telnet to 149.67.37.66. \$20 month unlimited time. 100,000 files, hundreds of forums, 20+ games. Exciting 24 hour national chat lounge with 38 lines and all high speed. "We're all part of the modem nation"

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**WORLD DATA NETWORK** 703.620.8900 / 301.654.2554, Online since 1984, Internet: telnet wdn.com (email, ftp, gopher, newsgroups and telnet), 35 lines, 28.8k modems, 100 doors, PC World Online news, <ASP> and AOP members, 3000 mail network forums, over 80,000 files. Authorized PCBoard BBS reseller with installs.

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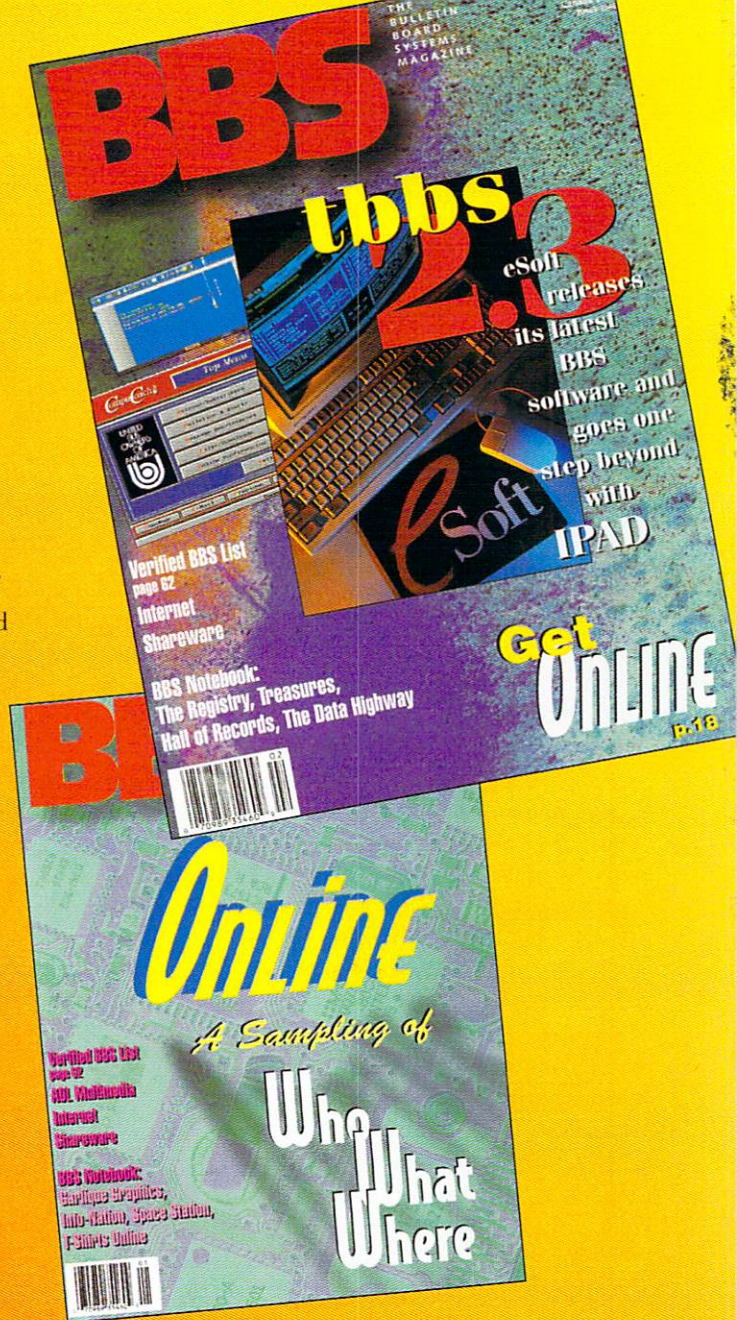
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# BBS Magazine

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



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# ISDN, Can You?

It might depend on where you are, not who.

Question: ISDN stands for...

- (1) It Still Does Nothing.
- (2) Integrated Services Digital Network
- (3) Huh?

If you live in the U.S., your answer says a lot about the way your Baby Bell treats ISDN. If you chose 1 (It Still Does Nothing), odds are you live somewhere along the eastern seaboard. If you chose 2 (the proper term), you probably reside somewhere on the West coast. If you said "Huh?", you might just be somewhere in between.

I'm not being regionalistic (if that's a word), just honest. Depending on where you live, ISDN is either the greatest thing since the 28.8Kbps modem or yet another complete waste of time. In either case, your opinion is probably based on information provided by your Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC), better known as your local Baby Bell.

Before I delve too deeply into the audience perception of the service, however, here is the official explanation of ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network is a collection of digital transmission protocols that have gained global acceptance as a communications standard. More importantly, ISDN service is a great way to get more out of your telephone service. ISDN can accommodate digital, voice, data, high-quality sound, and still and moving images — transmission that your Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) cannot.

Think of it this way: With your POTS service, you can download a compressed movie clip from the Hollywood Online World Wide Web site or a BBS. With ISDN, Hollywood Online or the board could play that video clip for you via the telephone line without a skip. Even if you are not interested in video or sound quality, the potential speeds — up to 56Kbps — should catch your attention.

There's no telling how many marriages could be saved if one spouse was able to use the telephone while the other was on the Internet. (Everyone out there in BBS land who has to fight for time online, raise your hands... I thought so.)

ISDN is a good thing. Trust me on this.

But back to the RBOCs. In simplest terms, if your service provider is Pacific Telesis (Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell), US West (the Pacific Northwest and the better half of the Midwest), or SBC (Southwestern Bell), you probably are at least familiar with ISDN, perhaps even on friendly terms with it. If you live in BellSouth country (deep South), ISDN is probably no great shakes. Those who live under Bell Atlantic's rule (mid-Atlantic states) tend to be openly hostile (hang in there — new rates are coming!), and if you live in NYNEX country (New York and New England)... well, you have my sympathies.

You may be asking why ISDN matters to the average online service user or Internaut, given that so few areas have reasonable prices (defined by me as under \$25 to \$50 per month — the low-end of the scale). The answer is simple: The times are a-changing, fast. The second half of this year is likely to be filled with FCC battles and in-state fights between the RBOCs and their worst enemies, the cable industry and competitive access providers.

The battles are simple. Everyone wants your business, be it POTS and call waiting or ISDN and Internet access. As such, ISDN prices are falling faster than OS/2 sales.

So, ready to take the plunge? Great. Here are some things to do with that shiny new ISDN connection... (By the way, expect up front costs to be high, no matter where you live. Your local telephone company can give you more information.)

**MICROSOFT NETWORK** Pacific Bell and Microsoft are marketing a special ISDN bundle that includes Windows '95 (initially the only way to get MSN), ISDN hardware and ISDN service (courtesy of PacBell) through CompUSA stores throughout California. The decision to offer ISDN access was an easy one for Microsoft.

"A lot of people are showing interest in ISDN," said Naveen Jain, senior technical marketing manager for the Microsoft Network. "People who use online services often get a second line (for the service), and they pay \$30 to \$40 for that line. From what the telephone companies are saying, for about \$30 to \$40 per month, you can get an ISDN line."

PacBell's primary role in the agreement is supportive, said Tom Bayless, director of ISDN marketing for Pacific Bell.

"We are going to do some joint campaigns with Microsoft, (but) we are really just supporting Microsoft and what they are doing," Bayless said. "We think they are the most aggressive in the industry, and that's why we are so excited about what they're doing."

**PRODIGY** Prodigy has agreements to offer ISDN to subscribers who use BellSouth, NYNEX, or Pacific Bell as their POTS service provider. The companies have agreed to provide the necessary hardware to Prodigy subscribers, presumably for a special price. The ISDN service is expected to become available late this year. Prodigy officials are trying to establish similar deals with carriers in the rest of the U.S., while already offering ISDN access to a small group of customers in San Jose and Woodland Hills, CA, who use IBM's Wave Runner ISDN modem. (IBM co-owns Prodigy with Sears, Roebuck and Co.)

**INTERNET** Anyone with an ISDN line and ISP that supports ISDN (and many do) can surf the Net at warp speed. The difference can be seen primarily in download speeds for both World Wide Web pages (especially those loaded down with graphics) and FTP files. To date, very few sites have taken the next step (e.g., real-time video) due to a general lack of interest. However, like everything else on the Internet, this is subject to change — possibly before this month's missive reaches you.

So, to review: ISDN stands for...

- (1) It Still Does Nothing.
- (2) Integrated Services Digital Network
- (3) The future of online access

In this case, three just might be the answer. ■■■■

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\* Requires DC Interface Builder (WIP)



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# PCBoard® BBS Software Puts You in the Pilot's Seat

## The World is Ready to Connect with You!

**T**here's no secret why PCBoard is the most widely used Bulletin Board Software in the market today... unmatched flexibility, adaptability and value! At Clark Development we originally designed PCBoard with an open architecture so your needs will never outgrow your system's capabilities. For the past decade we've been fine tuning and adding features to PCBoard thus making it the world's most widely used and highly acclaimed bulletin board software on the market today. Whether you are a hobbyist or a Fortune 500 company, PCBoard is the most comprehensive, flexible, powerful, affordable solution for your BBS needs!

*PCBoard® for DOS*

*PCBoard® for OS/2*

**CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE DEMO**

**1.800.356.1686**

## PCBoard w/ PPLC ... everything you need right out of the box! standard features include:

- Internet/UUCP Gateway
- Fido Mailer & Tosser
- Internal QWK Mail
- Credit Accounting
- Programming Language
- dBASE III File Access
- Automated File Maintenance
- Multiple Language Support
- Optimized for DOS, WIN, OS/2
- Intelligent Multiport Support
- OS/2 Comm Driver Support
- PAD (X.25) Support
- Local & LAN Logins
- PCBMail for Windows
- FREE D/L Upgrades for a Year
- FREE Voice Technical Support for a Full Year and BBS Technical Support for life!



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