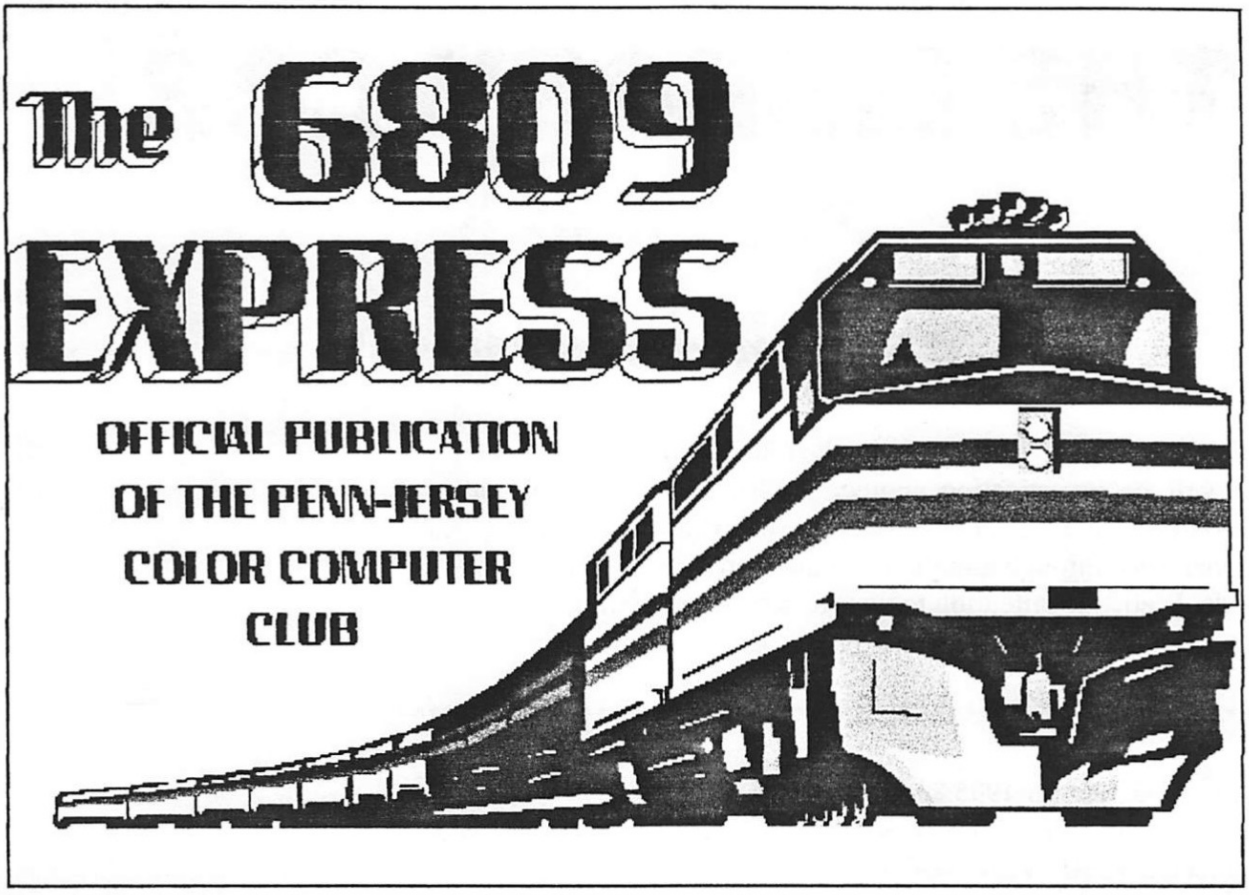

February 1996

The INTERNET TUTORIAL

By Al Wagner

A REVIEW

By Eric Rhyder

Meeting Minutes

Eric Rhyder
PJCCC

THE LIBRARY CAR

By Al Wagner

The Internet Tutorial

Welcome to the Library car on the 6809 Express. In this issue we will be investigating another gopher searching tool called Veronica. In addition the tutorial will show you how to access gopherspace through e-mail. Next there are two lessons on the World Wide Web. Pay attention to your lessons, there will be a quiz in the next installment.

****

Date: Wed, 08 Mar 1995 21:48:41 -0600 (CST)
From: Roadmap Error Processor <CRISPEN@UA1VM.UA.EDU>
Subject: MAP21: VERONICA
Sender: ROADMAP WORKSHOP SUBSCRIPTION LIST <ROADMAP@UA1VM.UA.EDU>
To: Multiple recipients of list ROADMAP <ROADMAP@UA1VM.UA.EDU>
Reply-to: Roadmap Error Processor <CRISPEN@UA1VM.UA.EDU>
Organization: Roadmap For the Information Superhighway

MAP21: VERONICA

> "One must learn by doing the thing; though you think
> you know it, you have no certainty until you try."
> -- Publilius Syrus, Moral Sayings

Bouncing around Gopherspace, finding neat files and leaving bookmarks, is fun for a while. Soon, however, you are going to want to find a way to locate stuff in Gopherspace a little more quickly.

That's where Veronica comes in. Veronica -- Very Easy, Rodent-Oriented, Net-Wide Index to Computerized Archives -- is a search tool that allows you to quickly scan Gopherspace for particular files and directories. ("Rodent-Oriented?" Yep -- a gopher is a rodent (and so is a SQUIRREL!)).

Veronica is a program that you access through Gopher. Veronica asks you to enter a keyword, and it then searches through a database of over 5,500 Gopher servers and over 10 million Gopher "items" for files and directories whose titles contain your keyword.

What makes Veronica REALLY amazing is that it not only finds these files and directories, it also *GETS* all of these files and directories and places them on a temporary Gopher menu that you can browse through! This temporary menu works just like any other Gopher menu!

Let's take a look at a basic Veronica search. I access my site's Gopher client by typing "gopher" on the command line, and the following menu appears on my screen:

```
Rice CMS Gopher 2.4.0                    GOPHER.SQUIRREL.COM
1/8
                    (root menu)
<document> Information about the Squirrel Gopher Server
<document> What's new in the Squirrel Gopher
<menu>     Network Resources, Services and Information
<phonebk>  Squirrel staff directory
<menu>     Squirrel Human Resources Information
<menu>     Potpourri, Miscellaneous Topics
<menu>     Local Squirrel Archives
<menu>     Other Gopher Servers
<menu>_    Search all of Gopherspace using Veronica - 4800+ servers
```

Since I used the UNIX Gopher client the first two days of this week, I figured it was only fair to use the VM Gopher client for two days as well :)

I move the cursor down to the "Search Gopherspace using Veronica" menu line, press enter, and the following menu appears on my screen:

```
Rice CMS Gopher 2.4.0                    gopher.tc.umn.edu
1/10
          Search all of Gopherspace using Veronica - 4800+ servers
<menu>     About Veronica: Documents, Software, Index-Control Protocol
<menu>     Experimental Veronica Query Interface: Chooses Server for You!
<search>   Find ONLY DIRECTORIES by Title word(s) (via SUNET)
<search>   Find ONLY DIRECTORIES by Title word(s) (via U of Manitoba)
<search>_  Find ONLY DIRECTORIES by Title word(s) (via U T Dallas)
<document> Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ) about veronica - July 29,1994
```

<document> How to Compose Veronica Queries - June 23, 1994
<search> Search Gopherspace by Title word(s) (via SUNET)
<search> Search Gopherspace by Title word(s) (via U of Manitoba)
<search> Search Gopherspace by Title word(s) (via U T Dallas)

Notice that not only do I get to choose which Veronica program site I want to conduct my search through, I also get to choose between two types of searches:

1. "Search Gopherspace by Title word(s)" which will show me EVERY FILE AND DIRECTORY in Gopherspace whose title contains my keyword, or

2. "Find ONLY DIRECTORIES by Title word(s)" which will show me ONLY THE DIRECTORIES (a.k.a. menus) in Gopherspace whose titles contain my keyword.

Obviously, the return from an "ONLY DIRECTORIES" search will be much smaller than that from a "Search Gopherspace" search. If you are using a common word as your keyword (such as "Internet", "Gopher", "Economics", etc.), your best bet is to do an "ONLY DIRECTORIES" search to keep from being flooded with returns :)

I want to do a search of every Gopher directory on the planet that has the word "Roadmap" in it.

The choice of which site I conduct my search through is completely up to me. There should not be a difference between the sites and the results that I will get (notice I said *should* not), so I can pick any site that I want. Since my former best friend used to live in Dallas, I move the cursor down to the "Find ONLY DIRECTORIES by Title word(s) (via U T Dallas)" search entry, press enter, and the following appears on my screen:

Enter keyword(s):

The keyword I want Veronica to look for is "Roadmap," so I type

Roadmap

press enter, prop my feet up on the desk, and wait for something to appear on my screen.

Eventually, the following menu appears on my screen:

Rice CMS Gopher 2.4.0 veronica.utdallas.edu
1/8

Find ONLY DIRECTORIES by Title Word(s)

<menu> Roadmap & Guide to Finding Information
<menu> Roadmap to Institutional Data
<menu>_ ROADMAP
<menu> Roadmap to Risk (Graphics Files -- pict format)
<menu> Roadmap to Risk (ASCII)
<menu> Roadmap to Human Resources

COOL! Although each of these menus are located on different servers around the world, I can access them ALL from this menu (although further investigation shows that NONE of these menus have anything to do with this workshop <<pout>>).

Isn't Veronica NEAT?? There are a few more Veronica commands that you can use, but I'll let you discover them in tonight's homework :)

ACCESSING VERONICA

If you wander around Gopherspace enough, you are bound to find a site with a link to Veronica. Chances are, your site even has its own Veronica link!

I would strongly recommend finding a Veronica menu somewhere and planting a bookmark there. You will find that Veronica is an ESSENTIAL Internet tool, and not having Veronica in your booklist is going to be a BIG mistake.

You can find Veronica menus on most of the Gopher sites that you can telnet to (see the list of telnet Gopher sites in MAP19), and you can also access the Veronica menu through the University of Minnesota's Gopher server (gopher.micro.umn.edu 70).

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

I have personally had some problems with Veronica. I'm not sure if I am the only one who has had these problems, or if these problems are universal -- it is quite possible that I am living in a Veronica "black hole" and Veronica works perfectly well everywhere else but Alabama.

It is my personal experience that Veronica is so over-burdened that your chances of getting the Veronica program to accept your keyword on the first (or even the fifth) try are pretty slim. More likely than not, you are going to get a

*** Too many connections - Try again soon. ***

message. This can become very frustrating very quickly.

Other times, you will encounter the now-famous

Empty menu; no items selected or nothing available

error message that we discussed the other day. This is also frustrating, especially when you have to retype your keyword every time this error appears on your screen.

The final error that I seem to encounter a lot in Veronica is the one that tells me that Veronica has found nothing matching my keyword. Unfortunately, experience has shown me that this may or may not be accurate.

There are a couple of things that you have to remember when using Veronica:

- Veronica is *incredibly* overloaded
- If a Veronica keyword search does not work the first time, keep trying
- When Veronica works, it is a thing of beauty
- When Veronica doesn't work, it gives you error messages that may or may not be accurate
- If you get an error message, try your keyword again
- The most important ingredient in any Veronica search is *PATIENCE*

While I was writing this lesson, I was also attempting a Veronica search using the keyword "Crispen". After 32 attempts, I still have not been able to get Veronica to accept this keyword without giving me an error message :(

HOMEWORK:

1. Play around with Veronica :)

2. Find the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Veronica" and the "How to Compose Veronica Queries" documents and read them. These documents can be found in most Veronica menus. You can also find them in the "Search all of Gopherspace Using Veronica" menu on the University of Minnesota's Gopher server.

SOURCES:

HOW TO COMPOSE VERONICA QUERIES - June 23, 1994: Steven Foster

Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ) about Veronica - July 23, 1994: Steven Foster and Fred Barrie .

Date: Thu, 09 Mar 1995 20:59:09 -0600 (CST)

MAP22: GOPHERMAIL

"(T)he International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) designated Oct. 14 as World Standards Day to recognize those volunteers who have worked hard to define international standards .... The United States celebrated World Standards Day on Oct. 11; Finland celebrated on Oct. 13; and Italy celebrated on Oct. 18" – Open Systems Today, 10/31/94

One of the most frustrating experiences in the world is being told that you can't do something. For those of you who only have "Level One" Internet connectivity, this week must have been especially trying.

Fortunately, thanks to a server program called GopherMail, those of you with Level One connectivity can now access all of the neat Gopher sites we talked about this week using nothing but a simple e-mail letter

There are really just four basic steps to using GopherMail:

1. You send an e-mail letter to a GopherMail server. In your letter to the GopherMail server, it really does not matter what you put in the subject line or the body of your letter, so long as you don't use the word "help" ("help" tells the GopherMail

server to send you its help file).

2. GopherMail responds to your letter by sending you its main Gopher menu in the body of an e-mail letter.

3. You respond to this Gopher menu letter by forwarding it back to the GopherMail server after you have cleaned the letter up a little and marked which menu options you want the GopherMail server to send you.

4. GopherMail responds to your response by sending the information that you requested. If what you have requested is another menu, GopherMail sends you the menu in the body of another e-mail letter, and the cycle keeps repeating itself :)

GopherMail sites are incredibly dynamic -- they appear and disappear every second -- so any list of GopherMail sites is immediately outdated. Nonetheless, here are the addresses of a few of the GopherMail servers that were working recently (1):

E-mail Address	Location
gophermail@calvin.edu	Michigan (US)
gopher@ucmp1.berkeley.edu	California (US)
gophermail@mercury.forestry.umn.edu	Minnesota (US)
gopher@pip.shsu.edu	Texas (US)
gophermail@eunet.cz	Czech Republic
gopher@earn.net	France
gopher@ftp.technion.ac.il	Israel
gopher@solaris.ims.ac.jp	Japan
gopher@nig.ac.jp	Japan
gopher@nips.ac.jp	Japan
gopher@join.ad.jp	Japan
gomail@ncc.go.jp	Japan
gopher@dsv.su.se	Sweden

Let's try one of these addresses and see what happens!

To keep Net traffic to a minimum, you should always use the server that is closest to you. Since Texas is closer to Alabama than any of the other locations, I am going to use the gopher@pip.shsu.edu address.

I send an e-mail letter to

gopher@pip.shsu.edu

and leave the subject line and body blank (remember, it does not matter what I put in body or the subject line, so why waste the effort?).

It may take the GopherMail server several hours to respond to my letter -- just like every other Internet server, GopherMail is almost always incredibly overburdened -- but eventually I will receive the following e-mail letter from the GopherMail server:

Date: Fri, 7 Oct 1994 02:59:04 -0600
From: gopher@pip.shsu.edu
To: PCRISPE1@UA1VM.UA.EDU
Subject: Sam Houston State University Gopher Server
X-Menu: Max. 100 items/message

Mail this file back to gopher with an X before the menu items that you want. If you don't mark any items, gopher will send all of them.
For best results, remove this message and all e-mail headers above it prior to returning it to the GopherMail server.

1. Sam Houston State University Information/
2. Current Time and Weather in Huntsville, Texas, USA.
3. Daily Almanac (from UChicago).
4. Economics (SHSU Network Access Initiative Project)/
5. Information by Subject Area/
6. DEU Library Prototype Demonstration Area/
7. Network-based Information and References/
8. Other Gopher and Information Servers in the World/
9. TeX-related Materials/
10. Literate Programming Library/
11. VMS Gopher-related file library/
12. Veronica (search menu items in most of GopherSpace)/
13. Professional Sports Schedules from culine.Colorado.edu/
14. anonymous ftp archives on Niord.SHSU.edu/
15. anonymous ftp archives on ftp.shsu.edu/
16.
17. GopherMail -- Gopher via Electronic Mail!!.

COOLNESS!!

This is a *real* Gopher menu. Just like the UNIX Gopher server examples we looked at earlier this week, entries that have "/" at the end of them are menus, and entries that have a "." at the end of them are documents.

The only difference between this Gopher menu and one that I access through a Gopher client or through Telnet is that I have to send my responses back to the GopherMail server before my responses can be processed.

Notice that the letter tells me to "remove this message and all e-mail headers above it prior to returning it to the GopherMail server." If I don't do this, I run the chance of getting an error message from the GopherMail server when I forward the letter back to the server.

(In MAP04: E-MAIL, I asked you to contact your local Internet service provider to learn how to "include text in a reply (and how to edit this text)." You *NEED* to know how to do this if you want to use GopherMail).

Before I send the letter back to the GopherMail server, I need to mark which menu item(s) I want to select. To do this, I put an "X" next to the menu item(s) that I want the GopherMail server to send back to me:

1. Sam Houston State University Information/
2. Current Time and Weather in Huntsville, Texas, USA.
3. Daily Almanac (from UChicago).
4. Economics (SHSU Network Access Initiative Project)/
5. Information by Subject Area/
6. DEU Library Prototype Demonstration Area/
7. Network-based Information and References/

X 8. Other Gopher and Information Servers in the World/

9. TeX-related Materials/
10. Literate Programming Library/
11. VMS Gopher-related file library/
12. Veronica (search menu items in most of GopherSpace)/
13. Professional Sports Schedules from culine.Colorado.edu/
14. anonymous ftp archives on Niord.SHSU.edu/
15. anonymous ftp archives on ftp.shsu.edu/
16.
17. GopherMail -- Gopher via Electronic Mail!!.

Hopefully, this will send me a menu that looks like the "Other Gopher Servers" menu that we used earlier this week.

I mail the menu back to the GopherMail server. Eventually, I get the following reply:

> Date: Fri, 7 Oct 1994 03:18:03 -0600
> From: gopher@pip.shsu.edu
> To: PCRISPE1@UA1VM.UA.EDU
> Subject: Other Gopher and Information Servers in the World
> X-Menu: Max. 100 items/message
>
> Mail this file back to gopher with an X before the menu items that you want. If you don't mark any items, gopher will send all of them. For best results, remove this message and all e-mail headers above it to returning it to the GopherMail server.
>
> 1. All the Gopher Servers in the World/
> 2. Search All the Gopher Servers in the World <?> (Send keywords in Subject:)
> 3. Search titles in Gopherspace using veronica/
> 4. Africa/
> 5. Asia/
> 6. Europe/
> 7. International Organizations/
> 8. Middle East/
> 9. North America/
> 10. Pacific/
> 11. Russia/
> 12. South America/
> 13. Terminal Based Information/
> 14. Texas-based Gopher Servers/
> 15. VMS-based Gopher Servers/
> 16. WAIS Based Information/
> 17. Gopher Server Registration.

YIPPEE!! This menu *IS* like the menu that we used earlier this week!! SURAnet, here I come ...

Nah ... I wouldn't do that to you again :)

One last thing, and I will send you home for the weekend: to do a Veronica or a Phonebook search using GopherMail, put the keyword

in the subject line of the letter that you send back to the GopherMail server.

HOMEWORK:

- Have a great weekend!

- I've decided to be kind and move the pop quiz to next week. You may want to review FTP and Gopher just to be on the safe side, though.

- If you do NOT have regular Gopher access through a client or through Telnet, play around with GopherMail. You may want to get the help document too by putting the word "help" in the body of your initial letter to the GopherMail server.

SOURCES:

(1) from Yanoff's List (10/15/94), Veronica searches with the keyword "GopherMail", and letters posted to NETTRAIN by Glee Willis and Thomas Copley

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Date: Sun, 12 Mar 1995 17:59:42 -0600 (CST)

MAP23: WWW

> "Ah! the clock is always slow;
> It is later than you think."
> -- Robert W. Service, It is Later Than You Think

I wish I had six weeks just to talk about the World Wide Web (a.k.a. WWW or "the Web."). If you think Gopher is neat, wait until you start playing around on the Web :)

Unfortunately, I *don't* have six weeks to talk about the Web -- I only have two days. Because of this, we are going to go through the Web like Sherman went through Georgia (1).

That's the bad news. The good news is that there are a lot of REALLY good

Web guides available, and I am even seriously considering developing my own Web workshop that I will offer *late* this year (2).

Until that time comes, however, let's talk about the BASICS of the Web.

Last week I showed you how most Gopher menus are linked together. We started out in the gopher.squirrel.com root menu, and eventually ended up at the SURAnet gopher menu. We were able to do this because the menus that we travelled through had links to menus and files that were located at other Gopher sites.

Because Gopher menus are linked together, a whole world of information is available to us with just a few keystrokes!

Imagine if we were able to take these links one step further. Instead of linking menus, we could link *DOCUMENTS* together. You could read one document, find a keyword in that document that really interests you, touch that keyword, and automatically be taken to a NEW document somewhere else in the world -- and this new document could even have links to OTHER documents around the world, and so on.

Sound too good to be true? It isn't, thanks to something called "hypertext." If you have ever played with Apple's Hypercard program or the "help" menus in the latest Microsoft packages, you have already experienced hypertext. You "select" a highlighted word -- usually by clicking on it with a mouse -- and you are taken into an entirely new document or help screen.

The World Wide Web is based on hypertext. It is possible for you to go roaming around the Web, bouncing from document to document, using nothing but the links in those documents!

Just as you can access Gopherspace through a Gopher server or client, you can access the Web through something called a "browser." A browser can read documents, fetch documents, access files by FTP, read Usenet newsgroups, telnet into remote sites, and even travel around Gopherspace. In short, everything that we have talked about over the past three weeks can be done using nothing but a Web browser!

The Web is able to accomplish all of this thanks to something called URLs ("earls") -- Universal Resource Locators. URLs list the exact location of *ANY* Internet resource.

If you think about it, giving every Internet resource a unique address is the hard part. Once you have given something an address, linking to it is pretty easy :)

What is really special about the Web is that the Web does all of this "behind the scenes." It is possible for you to bounce from one link to another without ever knowing the exact address of where you are, or even how you got there.

If you ever want to jump *directly* to a particular Internet resource, however, you are going to need to know a little bit more about URLs. Here are a few basic URLs:

file://wuarchive.wustl.edu/mirrors/msdos/graphics/gifkit.zip
ftp://wuarchive.wustl.edu/mirrors
http://info.cern.ch:80/default.html
news:alt.hypertext
telnet://dra.com

Gee ... those look a little like FTP addresses, don't they?

The first part of an URL -- the stuff before the colon -- tells the browser how to access that particular file. For example, to access

ftp://wuarchive.wustl.edu/mirrors

your browser would use FTP.

Most of the access methods are pretty straight-forward. Here is a list of some of the more common access methods that you are going to see listed in the first part of URLs:

method	what it stands for
ftp	File Transfer Protocol
file	File Transfer Protocol (same as ftp)
news	Internet News Protocol (Usenet)
gopher	Gopher
telnet	Telnet
http	Hypertext Transport Protocol

We've used all of these before, except for http. If you ever see a

URL with http at the beginning of it, that means that the file is a hypertext document (with hypertext links to other documents).

The rest of a URL -- the stuff after the colon -- is the address of that particular file. In general, two slashes (//) after the colon indicates a machine name or address.

For example,

file://wuarchive.wustl.edu/mirrors/msdos/graphics/gifkit.zip

is the URL for an FTP file at wuarchive.wustl.edu, and

http://info.cern.ch:80/default.html

is the URL for a hypertext document at info.cern.ch, port 80.

TOMORROW: - How to access the Web by telnet
- Where you can obtain a Web browser (for those of you with Level 3 connectivity and a SLIP or PPP connection)
- Doing some simple searches using the Web
- The difference between the Web and Mosaic (Mosaic is just a browser that lets you access the Web).

HOMEWORK:

If you are planning on becoming a SERIOUS Web guru, I have placed the WWW FAQ on the file server at the University of Alabama. It is broken into two parts:

filename	filetype
WWW	FAQ1
WWW	FAQ2

You can use the GET command to get it (remember, do not reply to this letter -- you MUST write a new letter to the LISTSERV with your GET commands).

SOURCES:

WWW FAQ, 8 August 1994.

NOTES:

(1) General William Tecumseh Sherman was the Union Army General who burned a path 100 miles wide from Atlanta to the sea during the U.S. Civil War.

(2) Kristen Burke, a friend of mine at the University, recently heard me promise that after this workshop I would *NEVER* do anything like this again. She bet me that I would change my mind. She won :)

Date: Mon, 13 Mar 1995 18:00:33 -0600 (CST)

MAP24: WWW (PART TWO)

"I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coasts."
-- Herman Melville, Moby-Dick

Back to work.

Yesterday I told you that "URLs" is pronounced "earls." In fact, a lot of people still use the initials and call them "U-R-Ls." I personally prefer calling them "earls" because "earls" rhymes with "squirrels," but the choice of what you call them is completely up to you :)

Let's take a look at how a sample WWW browser works. There are three basic types of WWW browsers available: line-mode browsers, full screen browsers (like Lynx), and graphical browsers (like Mosaic).

Line-mode browsers are about as user un-friendly as you can get. This is hard to describe, but line-mode browsers work a little like FTP inasmuch as you type a command, get some information on your screen, type a new command, get some more information, and so on ...

A full screen browser puts a menu on your screen that looks a little like the Gopher menus that we saw last week. You move the cursor up and down the screen, select a highlighted link, press enter or return, and you are automatically taken to a new document or file (your fill screen browser may work differently than this, though).

Graphical browsers allow you to access not only text, but also pictures and sound (a.k.a. "hypermedia"). In fact, these pictures can be put in Web documents (a.k.a. Web pages), making that Web page look less like a Gopher menu and more like a page from a color magazine! Most graphical browsers use a mouse, and you point-and-click on a highlighted link to access it.

The URL for the sample Web page that we are going to use today is

http://ua1vm.ua.edu/~vmhttpd/index.html

and I am going to be using the UF WWW Browser for CMS to access this page. I'll talk a little more about how you can access a WWW browser in a few minutes, but I first want to show you what a basic Web page looks like.

The UF WWW Browser for CMS is the browser that my service provider uses, and it is a full screen browser. The browser that you use -- if you can even access a WWW browser -- will probably look and work a little differently than what you will see in this example.

Finally, in real life my browser highlights the links by making them a different color than the rest of the text. There is no way for me to use different colors in this letter, so I have highlighted the links in this example by surrounding them with a (* *).

Just like I can access an item in a Gopher menu by pointing at it and selecting it, I can access a WWW link by pointing at it and selecting it.

Enough talk. Time for the example.

I access my provider's WWW browser, and the following appears on my screen:

Albert 1.2.0 (UF WWW Browser for CMS) Screen 1 of 2 (more screens)
Viewing=http://ua1vm.ua.edu/~vmhttpd/index.html
Title=UA1VM WWW Home Page

Welcome to The University of Alabama's CMS WWW Server

This CMS server is still under development. Any (*comments*) or (*suggestions*) will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Gopher Sites:
- (*UA1VM CMS Gopher Server*)
- (*UA1IX AIX/370 Gopher Server*)
- (*RISC/6000 Gopher Server*)
- (*RICEVM1 CMS Gopher Server*)

Telnet Sessions:
- (*UA1VM.UA.EDU*)
- (*UA1IX.UA.EDU - Line Mode*)
- (*RISC.UA.EDU - Line Mode*)

WWW Sites:
- The University of Alabama Libraries (*WWW*)
- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (*WWW*)
- The Alabama Supercomputer Network (*WWW*)
- NASA Information Services via (*WWW*)

Leisure:
- (*Intertext Magazine*) - Electronic Fictional Magazine at The University of Michigan
- (*Wiretap*) - a gopher to Cupertino, California
- (*NNR*) - UA1VM's Network News Reader

Other Neat Stuff:
- The University of Alabama Library's On-Line (*Card Catalog*)
- a (*map*) of The University of Alabama campus

... snip snip snip ...

COOL!

I can select any of these links -- the words set apart from the rest of the text with a (* *) -- and be transported to that particular link. From this one Web page, I can access Gopher, telnet, and even other Web pages! (I can also access FTP, although this page does not show it).

We've seen a lot of Gopher and telnet recently. Let's take a look at another Web page. Since I used to be a Simulations Director at the United States Space Camp (did I forget to tell you that?), I'm going to move my cursor down to the (*WWW*) link next to "NASA Information Services", press enter, and see what happens:

Albert 1.2.0 (UF WWW Browser for CMS) Screen 1 of 2 (more screens)
Viewing=http://hypatia.gsfc.nasa.gov/NASA_homepage.html
Title=NASA Information Services via World Wide Web
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA Logo

(*World Wide Web (WWW) information services*)

(*Hot Topics*) NASA news and subjects of public interest
(*NASA Strategic Plan*)
(*NASA Strategies, Policies, and Public Affairs*)
(*NASA Online Educational Resources*)
(*NASA Information Sources by Subject*)
... snip snip snip ...

This is certainly more interesting than SURAnet! ;)

From this Web page I can access OTHER Web pages, and from those Web pages I can access even MORE Web pages, and so on ...

Yesterday I told you that it is possible for you to connect directly to a specific Internet resource so long as you know the resource's URL. *HOW* you do that depends on the browser that you use.

For the line-mode browser at CERN, for example, the command to connect to a particular URL *is*

GO <URL>

replacing <URL> with the URL of the Internet resource that you want to access. In Lynx, you just select the "GO" link on the browser's start-up page; in most graphical browsers (like Mosaic), there is usually an "Open URL" option in one of the menus. (1)

Before you can do this, however, you have to first access the Web. There are three ways that you can do this:

1. Through a browser stored on your local Internet service provider's machine. Ask your provider if your site has a Web browser, and how you can access it.

2. Through a browser stored on your own machine. Until recently, you had to have a SLIP or PPP connection to do this. Some providers -- providers who FLOODED my mailbox when I did not talk about the special Level 2.0002746278546723 access that they offer -- now allow you to store a Web browser on your own machine even though you only have Level 2 access.

If you do not have a SLIP or PPP connection, contact your provider BEFORE you store a Web reader on your own computer and double-check that your provider will support the browser. *MOST* service providers can NOT support a Web browser unless you have a SLIP or PPP connection.

3. Through a telnet connection to a publicly-accessible Web browser.

If you have a SLIP or a PPP connection, the WWW FAQ that I have stored on the University of Alabama's LISTSERV file server (WWW FAQ1) has a list of FTP sites where you can get specific Web browsers.

(Do me a favor ... re-read that last sentence. Did you EVER think you would understand a sentence like that? Isn't this workshop COOL?!!)

If you do not have access to a Web browser through your site, you may still be able to access a Web browser through telnet. The following are a couple of the public Web sites: (1)

telnet address	*comments*
info.cern.ch	No password is required. This is in Switzerland, so U.S. users might be better off using a closer browser.
www.cc.ukans.edu	The "Lynx" full screen browser, which requires a vt100 terminal. Login as www. Does not allow users to "go" to arbitrary URLs.
www.njit.edu	Login as www. A full-screen browser at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.
sun.uakom.cs	Slovakia. Has a slow link, so only use from nearby.
info.funet.fi	Login as www. Offers several browsers, including Lynx (goto option disabled there too).
fserv.kfki.hu	Hungary. Has a slow link, so use from

nearby. Login as www.

Once you are on the Web, it is possible for you to do keyword searches (much like the Veronica searches we did last week) using one of the Web's many search engines. One of the best Web search engines is the WebCrawler. The WebCrawler's URL is

http://www.biotech.washington.edu/WebQuery.html

and the WebCrawler searches for documents whose title *AND CONTENT* match your keyword.

Another Web search engine you probably will want to check out is the World Wide Web Worm. The Worm's URL is

http://www.cs.colorado.edu/home/mcbryan/WWWW.html

The Worm is not at thorough as the WebCrawler, but it is still a pretty competent search engine.

Both of these search engines provide really good on-line help and instructions.

One last thing, and I am though for today. Please remember:

- The "Web" is the collection of all of the files and information that can be accessed by a Web browser.

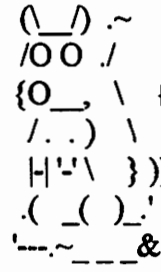
- Mosaic and Lynx and just BROWSERS that allow you to access the Web.

SOURCES

(1) WWW FAQ Part 1 - August 94, available from the University of Alabama's LISTSERV file server (GET WWW FAQ1 F=MAIL).

To unsubscribe from any Roadmap workshop, please send an e-mail letter to LISTSERV@UA1VM.UA.EDU which says UNSUB * in the body of your letter.

The address that sent this e-mail letter (CRISPEN@UA1VM.UA.EDU) is actually the address of an automated error processor. Please DO NOT reply to this e-mail letter as the error processor will consider your reply to be an error message and will delete your letter unread. To contact Patrick Crispen, please use my PCRISPE1@UA1VM.UA.EDU address.



PATRICK DOUGLAS CRISPEN
PCRISPE1@UA1VM.UA.EDU
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Warning: squirrels.

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Well, that's it for this session. I sincerely hope some of you have actually been trying the homework assignments. The Inernet is a fascinating place to explore. More and more organizations are opening Web pages and making other kinds of Internet connections. Model Railroader magazine is in the process of setting up a Web page. (It should be up and on-line by the time you read this.) Movie studios now seem to routinely release teasers for a movie on a Web page before the movie even hits the theaters. The Fox network has a sports page that it advertises during football games on Sunday afternoons. Some automobile ads flash URL addresses as part of the ad. Even game shows such as Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune flash a URL for their fans to access. The Internet is reaching into every conceivable area of life. Be there!

MINUTES

These are the mintues of the November 24, 1995 meeting of the Penn-Jersey Computer Club. Those in attendance were Rick Hengeveld, Al Wagner, Eric Rhyder, Peter Unks, Nelson Russell, and a guest of Al Wagner, Paul VanOsten. In the absence of the regular secretary, Ray Tobaygo, these minutes were taken by Al Wagner.

Rick called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. The reading of the treasurer's report was called for by Rick and read by Eric. The report was approved as read. With no other reports being offered, Rick called for old business. Al Wagner brought up that nominations for officers had been done the previous month and according to the club constitution, it was now time to formally elect the nominees. Those elected were Al Wagner for President and Librarian, Rick Hengeveld for Vice-President, Eric Rhyder for Treasurer, Peter Unks for Newsletter Editor, and Steve Slagle for Publicity Officer. All officers were elected unanimously. Al mentioned to Eric that he should check witht he bank that holds the club's account to see if we need to change any of the paperwork now that some of the offices have changed hands. He indicated that he would check into it and that he was interested in moving the account from the Quakertown branch to one that was closer to his hometown. No one voiced any objection to this.

Rick now called for new business.

Al Wagner brought up the perennial question of what would be the topic for next month's demonstration. Rick said that he would cover that with a discussion on modems and related material. It was also discussed that the long awaited packet radio to the Internet demonstration would be held at the March meeting. The reason March was selected was that it would ensure the likelyhood of good weather on meeting night and thus provide a greater oppertunity for a meeting to be held with good attendance.

The subject of dues was brought up by Eric. It was pointed out that the dues can be paid anytime from now until the February meeting and the member would remain in continous good standing. It was suggested that Al put a note about the dues now being payable on the activity notices he sends out before each meeting to remind the members.

Rick asked if there was any more new business. With none forthcoming, he called for a motion to close the meeting. Pete made

such a motion and Al seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 7:51pm.

During the radom access portion of the meeting, it was mentioned by Rick that there was to be a computer show at the Stabler Arena on Sunday December 3, 1995.

MORE MINUTES

These are the mintues of the January 26, 1996 meeting of the Penn-Jersey Computer Club. Those in attendance were Rick Hengeveld, Al Wagner and Al's wife Eunice, Jack Wagner, Eric Rhyder, Peter Unks, Robin Unks, Nelson Russell, and Richard Kravits. In the absence of the regular secretary, Ray Tobaygo, these minutes were taken by Al Wagner.

The meeting was called to order by Al Wagner at approximately 7:30. Eric Rhyder read the monthly Treasurer's report as well as a report summing up the year 1995. The reports were approved as read. Al, himself, reported that there wasn't anything to report from the President or the Librarian. Rick Hengeveld was then asked for the Vice-president and BBS reports. As the BBS operator, Rick reported that the BBS had now gone beyond 3000 calls. Some questions were asked about difficulty in making connections. Rick explained that because the BBS is physically located in his basement, the dampness sometimes causes the contacts on the phone connections to corode. This may need attention again. Peter Unks reported that the newsletter was delayed another month due to flooding in the offices of the publisher. Due to the recent weather and that this excuse had never been used before by Pete, to anyone's recollection, this was accepted by all with our sympathies to the publisher on his difficulties.

Al called for any old business. Due to the lack of the newsletter and no reading of the minutes, no one could remember if there was any.

With no old business, Al now called for new business.

Rick mentioned that Trenton is coming up in April and it comes upon us quickly. It ws discussed that Trenton usually occurs around the 15 of the month, so make your plans accordingly. Rick confirmed that the packet network demonstration was to be for the March meeting. Rick brought up the perennial question of what would be the topic for next month's demonstration. Richard Kravits and Peter Unks consented to do a demo on some different hard drives they had.

Al asked if there was any more new business. With none forthcoming, he called for a motion to close the meeting. Pete made such a motion and Rick seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at approximately 7:50pm.

Prodigy - Is It Worth It?
A Review By Eric Rhyder

Well, I finally took the plunge. You know how AOL is always sending free trial diskettes? Well, I finally recieved one from Prodigy except this one came on CD. I've had friends that have Prodigy accounts, and from seeing them use it, I was under the impression that Prodigy stank. Well, when I got this CD, I figured, well I'll try it and see how it is. I put the CD in my computer and ran the install program. Once everything was installed, I went through all the set-up jazz and was suprised to find that they actually had a local 14.4 dial-up for State College. WOW! One plus for them. I signed on and immediately my hopes went down hill. It appears that they have changed thier look to appear more like AOL. All point and click, no commands to remember. However, every time I clicked on an icon, I had to sit and wait for thier system to send the updates to mine. At 14.4 these updates should have taken a matter of minutes at the most. But these updates took more like 30-45 minutes. WOW! Now I can see why they give you ten free hours. You'll need those ten free hours just to get all of their

updated software. But anyway, after waiting for a couple updates, I was suprised to find out that the icon that I had clicked on was costing me money! You know how it is, You get a basic account for free. But if you want to do any exploring, its going to cost you money. After I found out that I was going to be charged, I immediately unsubscribed and cancelled my account. To answer my question, Prodigy isn't worth it.