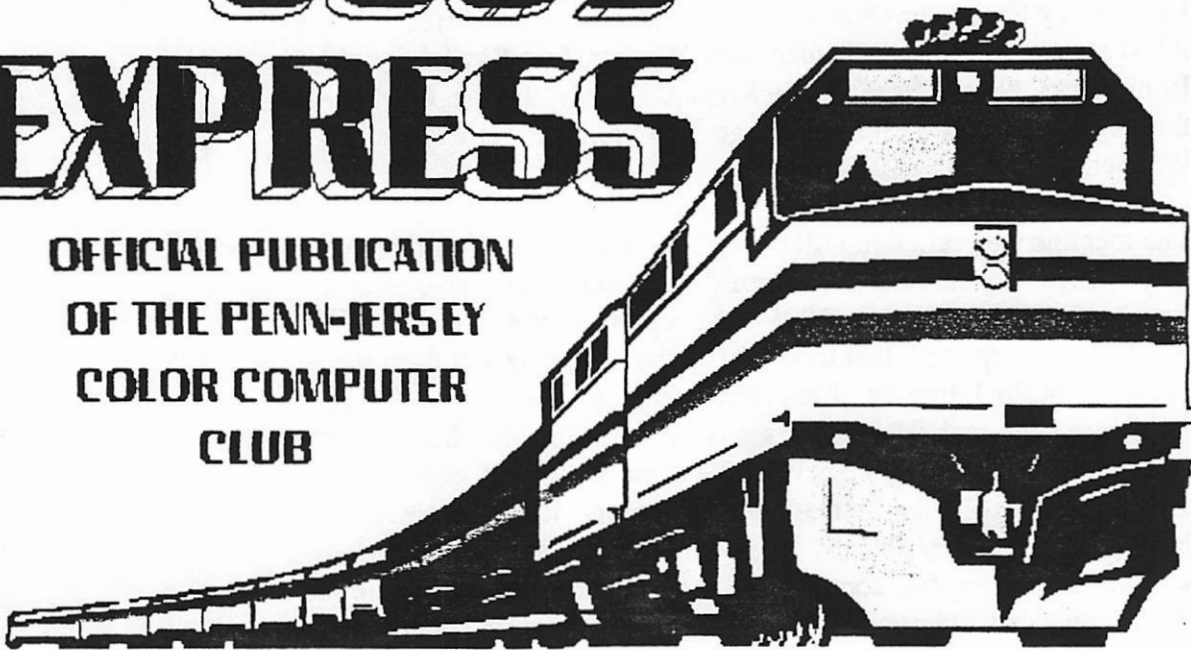# The 6809 EXPRESS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PENN-JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB

MARCH 1996

In This Issue:
~Minutes of Previous
Thrill-Packed Meetings
~More On The Internet

MINUTES! MINUTES! 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.

EVEN MORE MINUTES !

These are the meeting minutes of the February 1996 meeting. [Jack Wagner reporting]
The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by Richard Kravits. Those in attendance were
Eric Rhyder, Pete Unks, Richard Kravits, Nelson Russell and Jack Wagner.
Due to the fact that the official President/Librarian was not in attendence
and Eric was the only official officer present, it was decided to forgo
the normal meeting and a "Random Access" style meeting followed.

The only item of importance that was discussed was from the Treasurer, Eric
Rhyder. He noted that at the present time 50% of the 1995 members had not
paid thier dues. According to the Constitution, members are supposed to have
paid thier dues on or before the February meeting. It was decided to table
the discussion until the March meeting and members would remain in good
standing until then.

That being said, Richard Kravits then gave a discussion of Syquest and Zip Drives.

THE LIBRARY CAR
by Al Wagner

Welcome to the 6809 Express Library Car. In this installment we will
be learning a little about how to find someone's Internet address and some
about real time conferencing over the Internet. As usual, I think you'll
find the information interesting and useful.

****

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:16:04 -0600 (CST)
From: Roadmap Error Processor <CRISPEN@UA1VM.UA.EDU>
Subject: MAP25: ADDRESS SEARCHES AND FINGER
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

MAP25: ADDRESS SEARCHES AND FINGER

"A man without an address is a vagabond; a man with two
addresses is a libertine." -- George Bernard Shaw

I have *four* account addresses. What does that make me? (1)

My *main* address is PCRISPE1@UA1VM.UA.EDU (stop laughing ... it's NOT
funny). I also have a UNIX account address (PCRISPE1@UA1IX.UA.EDU), a
P-MAIL address (PCRISPE1@SSS.CBA.UA.EDU), and I even have an address on
America Online (CRISPEN@AOL.COM).

The *only* address that I use regularly is PCRISPE1@UA1VM.UA.EDU

When I was writing the lesson plans for last week's Gopher lessons,
I logged on to my UNIX account (PCRISPE1@UA1IX.UA.EDU) just to brush
up on some commands. I had not used my UNIX account in over two
years (I personally do not like UNIX, and I try to avoid using it
as much as is humanly possible) (2)

Sitting in my UNIX account's mailbox were three letters. Each letter
was written by someone who said they found my address using an e-mail
address search. One of the letters was SIX MONTHS old.

As you can see from the above story, e-mail address searches may not be
100% accurate. You may get a working e-mail address, but there is no
guarantee that the address that you get will be on a system that the
person that you want to talk to still uses.

The moral of my story is this: while it would be great if you could just
type a few commands on your screen and get the e-mail address of
anyone in the world, the *BEST* way to find someone's e-mail address
is to call them on the telephone and ASK them for it.

However, it would be cruel for me to tell you that it is possible
for you to do an e-mail address search (however flawed such a search
might be) and then not show you how to do one of these searches :)

There are several different e-mail address search tools. I am going to
show you one of them -- whois.

The "whois" directory is one of the most popular e-mail search tools.
'The whois directory provides names, e-mail and postal mail addresses

and often phone numbers for people listed in it. To use it, telnet to

> internic.net

No log-on is needed (you can also use whois through Gopher -- check out the University of Minnesota's gopher server in the "phone books" menu).

Once you have accessed the telnet site, the quickest way to conduct a whois address search is to type

> whois <name>

at the prompt, replacing <name> with the last name or organization name that you are looking for.' (3)

Let's check-up on the President of the United States! I type

> whois Clinton

and the following appears on my screen:

```
Whois: whois Clinton
Clinton Cadillac (NET-C106755) C106755          198.249.102.0
Clinton Central School (AGCC-DOM)          AGCC.COM
Clinton Group, Inc. (CLINTON-DOM)          CLINTON.COM
Clinton High School (NET-CLINTONHS-NET) CLINTONHS-NET  192.239.138.0
Clinton, Tom J. (TJC2)    tjclinton@PIPTRONIX.COM   416 289 1895
```

Bummer ... No "Bill."

However, I did get some neat information. Let's take a closer look at two of these entries:

```
Clinton Group, Inc. (CLINTON-DOM)          CLINTON.COM
Clinton, Tom J. (TJC2)    tjclinton@PIPTRONIX.COM   416 289 1895
```

The first entry is an entry for a site. "Clinton Group, Inc." is the real-life name of this particular site. The "CLINTON-DOM" part is just a "handle" that the whois database uses to identify this entry. The last part is the site's Internet address (in other words, the e-mail address for someone who works for the Clinton Group would be USER@CLINTON.COM (where USER is replaced with the person's login id)).

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The second entry is for a person named Tom J. Clinton. Again, the entry has a handle (TJC2). This entry also has two new items: Tom's e-mail address, and his telephone number (btw, this is just an example -- the e-mail address and telephone number listed above will not work).

Let's keep looking for the President. I can use an e-mail address as a search keyword, so I type

    Whois president@whitehouse.gov

and the following appears on my screen:

    Whois president@whitehouse.gov
    No match for mailbox "PRESIDENT@WHITEHOUSE.GOV"

Gee ... that's odd. I *know* that president@whitehouse.gov is the correct e-mail address. What happened?

To add to the problem of "inaccurate" addresses that we discussed a few minutes ago, most e-mail address databases are far from complete. Heck, this whois directory does not even have an entry for *ME*!

Again, if you want to find someone's e-mail address, the best way to get it is to ASK that person for their address!!

FINGER

"Finger is a handy little program which lets you find out more about people on the Net -- and lets you tell others on the Net more about yourself.

Finger uses the same concept as telnet or FTP, but it works with only one file, called .plan (yes, with a period in front). This is a text file an Internet user creates with a text editor in his home directory. (If your local Internet service provider allows it), you can put your phone number in there, tell a little bit about yourself, or write almost anything at all." (3)

If your local Internet service provider allows you to use finger -- and a lot don't, for reasons we will soon see -- all you need to do to read someone else's plan is type

    finger <user@address>

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replacing <user@address> with the e-mail address of the person that you want to finger.

For example, if I type

    finger pcrispe1@ualix.ua.edu

(my UNIX account address), the following appears on my screen:

  ualix.ua.edu
  Login name: pcrispe1@ualix.ua.edu   In real life: Patrick Crispen
  Directory: /u/as/econ/pcrispe1   Shell: /bin/sh
  On since Nov 09 06:27:38 on ttyp0 at ualix from ualvm.ua.edu ...
  No plan.

Boring!

Let's finger someone else. I type

    finger coke@cs.cmu.edu

and the following appears on my screen:

```
L.GP.CMU.EDU
Login: coke                Name: Drink Coke
Directory: /usr/coke             Shell: /usr/local/bin/tcsh
Last login Wed Oct 12 14:27 (EDT) on ttyp1 from PTERO.SOAR.CS.CMU.EDU
Mail came on Tue Nov  8 13:35, last read on Tue Nov  8 13:35
Plan:
Thu Sep 29 17:33:39 1994
M&M validity: 0      Coke validity: 0 (e.g.  data interface is down)
Exact change required for coke machine.
  M & M               Buttons
 /-----\
 |   |       C: CCCCCCCCCCCCC...........
 |** |       C: CCCCCC...... D: CCCCCC......
 |*****|     C: CCCCCC...... D: CCCCCC......
 |*****|     C: CCCCCC...... D: CCCCCC......
 \-----/            C: CCCCCC......
    |               S: CCCCCC......
    |     Key:
    |        0 = warm;  9 = 90% cold;  C = cold;  . = empty
```

```
|        Leftmost soda/pop will be dispensed next
---^---
```

Huh?? The story, as best as I can remember it, is that the people who
worked at the Computer Science department at Carnegie-Mellon University
in Pittsburgh were sick and tired of having to go down several flights
of stairs only to discover that their Coke machine was empty. So, they
hooked the Coke machine up to the Internet.

Using a finger command, they could tell how many Cokes were in the machine,
and they could even tell if the Cokes were cold or not (the M&M machine
came later).

The neat thing about this is that ANYONE with access to finger can finger
the CMU Coke machine and discover how many Cokes there are in this one
vending machine in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania :)

While this is funny -- and there are a lot of other neat things that you
can find using finger -- there is a problem. According to the Chronicle
of Higher Education

   Many college and university computer system administrators are
   responding to rising concerns over misuse of the Finger tool with
   modifications that restrict the information users can glean, and
   some have eliminated it altogether. Critics note the tool violates
   privacy -- it provides information about where people are logging
   on and when they're doing it -- and security -- crackers can use
   it to obtain information that can help them break into computer
   accounts ... (4)

Don't be shocked if you try to finger someone and it does not work.
If your site does not have a finger program, you can still finger someone
by sending an e-mail letter to

      jfesler@netcom.com

with the command

      #finger <user@address>

in the SUBJECT LINE of your letter (NOTE: do *NOT* put the command in
the body of your letter), replacing <user@address> with the e-mail
address of the person that you want to finger.

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You should receive a response about a day later.
You can also try to finger someone using telnet (but I have *yet* to get this to work from here). If the person's address is user@site, telnet to

    <site> 79

replacing <site> with the site's address. Once connected, type the username.

HOMEWORK:

   - In a few minutes, I am going to send you a list of neat stuff
    that you should check out. One of the things you should check
    out is the "Special Internet Connections" list written by
    Scott Yanoff. The list contains the addresses of SEVERAL
    neat finger addresses.

****
The above mentioned "list of neat stuf" is the next section below. AJW.
****

COMMENTS

   (1) *BESIDES* a squirrel!!!
   (2) This is a personal problem, and I promise to seek the necessary
      professional counseling that I need (so PLEASE don't write me).
   (3) Adapted from the "EFF's Guide to the Internet" and reprinted
      by permission.
   (4) Chronicle of Higher Education 7/13/94 A15, as reprinted in
      Edupage 07.14.94

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 1995 22:17:20 -0600 (CST)

MAP-EXTRA: NEAT STUFF TO CHECK OUT

   "(E)rror of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left
   free to combat it." -- Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural
   Address (1801)

"Jefferson obviously was never on Usenet." -- Patrick Crispen

The workshop is rapidly drawing to a close. Before I turn you loose on the Net, there are a few neat sites and resources that I want to recommend:

EDUPAGE

EDUPAGE is a "summary of news items on information technology, and is provided three times each week as a service by Educom -- a consortium of leading colleges and universities seeking to transform education through the use of information technology."

EDUPAGE does not talk about education, but it does give one paragraph summaries of technology stories printed in leading newspapers and magazines. (EDUPAGE is a *distribution* list, much like the Roadmap list. You can't *send* letters to the EDUPAGE list, you can only *receive* letters from the EDUPAGE list).

HOW TO GET IT:

Through e-mail: send an e-mail letter to LISTPROC@EDUCOM.EDU which says SUB EDUPAGE <YOUR NAME> in the body of your e-mail letter.

NEW-LIST

This LISTSERV list is the place where new LISTSERV lists are announced. (NEW-LIST is a distribution list, not a discussion list). If you want to keep up to date on new LISTSERV lists, NEW-LIST is for you!

HOW TO GET IT:

Through e-mail: send an e-mail letter to LISTSERV@NDSUVM1.BITNET which says SUBSCRIBE NEW-LIST <YOUR NAME> in the body of your letter.

SPECIAL INTERNET CONNECTIONS

Also known as "Yanoff's List," this is a list of hundreds of Internet resources that are available through e-mail, telnet,

FTP, Gopher, Finger, and the Web. This list is ESSENTIAL for
anyone who wants to be a serious net traveler.

HOW TO GET IT:

Through Usenet: alt.internet.services

Through FTP: address: csd4.csd.uwm.edu
                   path: /pub/inet.services.txt

Through Gopher: address: csd4.csd.uwm.edu
                   to menu: Remote Information Servers
                   to document: Special Internet Connections

Through e-mail: send a blank e-mail letter to
                   inetlist@aug3.augsburg.edu
                   and the address will auto-reply

Through WWW: http://www.uwm.edu/Mirror/inet.services.html
                   (this is a document with links to all of the
                   items on the list!)

Through LISTSERV: Subscribe to INETLIST@CSD.UWM.EDU
                   (remember to send your subscribe command to
                   the LISTSERV address!!)

DR. BOB'S "ACCESSING THE INTERNET BY E-MAIL"

For those of you with Level One access to the Internet, you should
certainly check out this free file. It talks about how to access
FTP, Archie, Gopher, Veronica, and several other Internet tools
using nothing but e-mail (btw, this is from Dr. Bob Rankin and *not*
from my dad -- the Rev. Bob "Bob" Crispen)

HOW TO GET IT:

Through e-mail: Send an e-mail letter to
                   LISTSERV@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU which says
                   GET INTERNET BY-EMAIL NETTRAIN F=MAIL
                   in the body of your letter.

ARLENE RINALDI's "THE NET: USER GUIDELINES AND NETIQUETTE"

This is the ULTIMATE Internet netiquette guide, and is required
reading for any user who wants to keep from making stupid mistakes.

HOW TO GET IT:

Through FTP: address: ftp.lib.berkeley.edu
                  path: /pub/net.training/FAU/Netiquette.txt

Through Gopher: address: TRAINMAT.NCL.AC.UK
                  to menu: Networking Guides
                  to menu: Other networking guides ...
                  to document: Rinaldi ...

                  address: GOPHER.IC.MANKATO.MN.US
                  to menu: Information Booth ...
                  to document: Netiquette Explained ...

                  address: ESUSDA.GOV
                  to menu: Internet Services and Information
                  to menu: Using the Internet
                  to document: Netiquette ...

Through WWW: http://rs6000.adm.fau.edu/faahr/arlene.html

COMPUTER MEDIATED COMMUNICATION (CMC) SOURCES ON THE INTERNET

Also known as December's List, this list is FOUR TIMES as long
as Yanoff's list, and lists pointers to information describing
the Internet, computer networks, and issues related to computer-
mediated communication.

HOW TO GET IT:

Through Usenet: alt.internet.services
                  alt.answers
                  news.answers

Through FTP: address: ftp.rpi.edu
                  path: /pub/communications/internet-cmc.txt

NETTRAIN REVIEWS

James Milles, the author of the "Discussion Lists: Mail Server Commands"

file that I used in MAP06, is also the listowner of the NETTRAIN
LISTSERV list. NETTRAIN is a discussion list for Internet trainers,
and these trainers are often asked by James to review some of the
Internet training books that are available at your local bookstore.

Before you head off to the bookstore and pay upwards of $25.00 for
an Internet book, you might want check the NETTRAIN reviews to see
if the book is REALLY worth the money!

HOW TO GET IT:

Through e-mail: send an e-mail letter to LISTSERV@UBVM.BITNET
                   which says GET NETTRAIN REVIEWS F=MAIL in the
                   body of your letter. This will send you an
                   index of the reviews, and you can then use
                   the GET command to get the review that you
                   want (reviews are stored in 4 different files,
                   so you will need the index to figure out which
                   file you should get).

RICHARD SMITH'S "NAVIGATING THE INTERNET" AND "LET'S GO GOPHERN"
WORKSHOPS

These are the workshops that started it all! Smith's lessons have
taught thousands, and he was the inspiration for the Roadmap workshop.

HOW TO GET IT:

Through FTP: address: ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu
                 path: /navigate/*
                 or /gophern/*

Through e-mail: send an e-mail letter to LISTSERV@UBVM.BITNET
                  which says INDEX NAVIGATE F=MAIL or
                  INDEX GOPHERN F=MAIL and then use the GET
                  command to get the files that you want.

Through Gopher: address: wings.buffalo.edu
                  to menu: Access the Internet ...
                  to menu: About the Internet, Gopher, etc.
                  to menu: Navigate the Internet ...
                  or to menu: Let's Go Gopherin' ...

Date: Wed, 15 Mar 1995 23:34:52 -0600 (CST)

MAP26: IRC/MUDs/MOOs AND OTHER "TALKERS"

"The future ain't what it used to be." -- Lawrence Peter "Yogi"
Berra, attributed

I was trying to decide what I should write about IRC when I realized
that "the EFF's Guide to the Internet" probably had the most complete
discussion on IRC I have ever seen.

From the EFF's Guide to the Internet:

Many Net systems provide access to a series of interactive
services that let you hold live "chats" or play online games with
people around the world. To find out if your host system offers
these, you can ask your system administrator or just try them -- if
nothing happens, then your system does not provide them. In general,
if you can use telnet and ftp, chances are good you can use these
services as well.

One of the most popular "chat" programs is Internet Relay Chat (IRC).

IRC is a program that lets you hold live keyboard conversations
with people around the world. It's a lot like an international CB
radio - it even uses 'channels.' Type something on your computer and
it's instantly echoed around the world to whoever happens to be on the
same channel with you. You can join in existing public group chats or
set up your own. You can even create a private channel for yourself
and as few as one or two other people. And just like on a CB radio,
you can give yourself a unique "handle" or nickname.

IRC currently links host systems in 20 different countries, from
Australia to Hong Kong to Israel. Unfortunately, it's like telnet --
either your site has it or it doesn't. If your host system does have it,
Just type

          irc

and hit enter. You'll get something like this:

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```
*** Connecting to port 6667 of server world.std.com
*** Welcome to the Internet Relay Network, adamg
*** Your host is world.std.com, running version 2.7.1e+4
*** You have new mail.
*** If you have not already done so, please read the new user information
*** with +/HELP NEWUSER
*** This server was created Sat Apr 18 1992 at 16:27:02 EDT
*** There are 364 users on 140 servers
*** 45 users have connection to the twilight zone
*** There are 124 channels.
*** I have 1 clients and 3 servers
MOTD - world.std.com Message of the Day -
MOTD - Be careful out there...
MOTD -
MOTD - ->Spike
* End of /MOTD command.
... snip snip snip ...
```

You are now in channel 0, the "null" channel, in which you can look up various help files, but not much else. As you can see, IRC takes over your entire screen. The top of the screen is where messages will appear. The last line is where you type IRC commands and messages. All IRC commands begin with a /. The slash tells the computer you are about to enter a command, rather than a message. To see what channels are available, type

        /list

and hit enter. You'll get something like this:

```
*** Channel    Users  Topic
*** #Money     1      School CA$H (/msg SOS_AID help)
*** #Gone      1      ----->> Gone with the wind!!! ------>>>>>
*** #mee       1
*** #eclipse   1
*** #hiya      2
*** #saigon    4
*** #screwed   3
*** #z         2
*** #comix     1      LET'S TALK 'BOUT COMIX!!!!!
*** #Drama     1
*** #RayTrace  1      Rendering to Reality and Back
```

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```
*** #NeXT     1
*** #wicca    4     Mr. Potato Head, R. I. P.
*** #dde^mhe` 1     no'ng chay? mo*? ...ba` con o*jiii
*** #jgm      1
*** #ucd      1
*** #Maine    2
*** #Snuffland 1
*** #p/g!     4
*** #DragonSrv 1
```

Because IRC allows for a large number of channels, the list might
scroll off your screen, so you might want to turn on your computer's
screen capture to capture the entire list. Note that the channels
always have names, instead of numbers. Each line in the listing tells
you the channel name, the number of people currently in it, and whether
there's a specific topic for it. To switch to a particular channel,
type

        /join #channel

where "#channel" is the channel name and hit enter. Some "public"
channels actually require an invitation from somebody already on it. To
request an invitation, type

        /who #channel-name

where channel-name is the name of the channel, and hit enter. Then ask
someone with an @ next to their name if you can join in. Note that
whenever you enter a channel, you have to include the #. Choose one
with a number of users, so you can see IRC in action.

If it's a busy channel, as soon as you join it, the top of your
screen will quickly be filled with messages. Each will start with a
person's IRC nickname, followed by his message.

It may seem awfully confusing at first. There could be two or
three conversations going on at the same time and sometimes the
messages will come in so fast you'll wonder how you can read them all.

Eventually, though, you'll get into the rhythm of the channel and
things will begin to make more sense. You might even want to add your
two cents (in fact, don't be surprised if a message to you shows up on
your screen right away; on some channels, newcomers are welcomed

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immediately). To enter a public message, simply type it on that bottom line (the computer knows it's a message because you haven't started the line with a slash) and hit enter.

Public messages have a user's nickname in brackets, like this:

<tomg>

If you receive a private message from somebody, his name will be between asterisks, like this:

tomg

Here are a few IRC commands that will probably come in handy:

/away   When you're called away to put out a grease fire
           in the kitchen, issue this command to let others know
           you're still connected but just away from your terminal
           or computer for awhile.

/help   Brings up a list of commands for which there is a help
           file. You will get a "topic:" prompt. Type in the
           subject for which you want information and hit enter.
           Hit enter by itself to exit help.

/invite   Asks another IRC to join you in a conversation.

               /invite fleepo #hottub

           would send a message to fleepo asking him to join you on
           the #hottub channel. The channel name is optional.

/join   Use this to switch to or create a particular channel,
           like this:

               /join #hottub

           If one of these channels exists and is not a private
           one, you will enter it. Otherwise, you have just
           created it. Note you have to use a # as the first
           character.

/list   This will give you a list of all available public

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channels, their topics (if any) and the number of users currently on them. Hidden and private channels are not shown.

/m name   Send a private message to that user.

/mode   This lets you determine who can join a channel you've created.

        /mode #channel +s

creates a secret channel.

        /mode #channel +p

makes the channel private

/nick   This lets you change the name by which others see you.

        /nick fleepo

would change your name for the present session to fleepo. People can still use /whois to find your e-mail address. If you try to enter a channel where somebody else is already using that nickname, IRC will ask you to select another name.

/query   This sets up a private conversation between you and another IRC user. To do this, type

        /query nickname

Every message you type after that will go only to that person. If she then types

        /query nickname

where nickname is yours, then you have established a private conversation. To exit this mode, type

        /query

by itself. While in query mode, you and the other

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person can continue to "listen" to the discussion on whatever public channels you were on, although neither of you will be able to respond to any of the messages there.

/quit   Exit IRC.

/signoff   Exit IRC.

/summon   Asks somebody connected to a host system with IRC to join you on IRC. You must use the person's entire e-mail address.

        /summon fleepo@foo.bar.com

would send a message to fleepo asking him to start IRC. Usually not a good idea to just summon people unless you know they're already amenable to the idea; otherwise you may wind up annoying them no end. This command does not work on all sites.

/topic   When you've started a new channel, use this command to let others know what it's about.

        /topic #Amiga

would tell people who use /list that your channel is meant for discussing Amiga computers.

/who <chan>   Shows you the e-mail address of people on a particular channel.

        /who #foo

would show you the addresses of everybody on channel foo.

        /who

by itself shows you every e-mail address for every person on IRC at the time, although be careful: on a busy night you might get a list of 500 names!

/whois   Use this to get some information about a specific IRC

user or to see who is online.

> /whois nickname

will give you the e-mail address for the person using
that nickname.

> /whois *

will list everybody on every channel.

/whowas   Similar to /whois; gives information for people who
recently signed off IRC.

IRC has become a new medium for staying on top of really big
breaking news. In 1993, when Russian lawmakers barricaded themselves
inside the parliament building, some enterprising Muscovites and a couple
of Americans set up a "news channel" on IRC to relay first-person
accounts direct from Moscow. The channel was set up to provide a
continuous loop of information, much like all-news radio stations that
cycle through the day's news every 20 minutes. In 1994, Los Angeles
residents set up a similar channel to relay information related to the
Northridge earthquake. In both cases, logs of the channels were archived
somewhere on the Net, for those unable to "tune in" live.

How would you find such channels in the future? Use the /list
command to scroll through the available channels. If one has been set up
to discuss a particular breaking event, chances are you'll see a brief
description next to the channel name that will tell you that's the place
to tune. (1)

Now some words from me:

If your site does not allow you to access IRC, there is still a way that
you can access other types of "talkers." All you have to do is telnet
into a MUD or a MOO.

"MUDs" are Multi-user Dungeons (or Multiple User Devices), and they were
originally created so that Dungeons and Dragons player could role play
in real-time with other players around the world.

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MUDs are no longer limited to dragon-slaying, though. A large number of MUDs have been set up for teaching purposes -- imagine my teaching Roadmap *real time*, where you would see what I type as I type it -- and there are even social MUDS where you can just sit and talk with people around the world.

A list of the telnet addresses for several MUDs can be found in Yanoff's List (which I told you about the other day). Most MUDs commands are different from IRC commands -- the *commands* are different, but the basic functions are identical -- but you will soon find that most MUDs have an EXTENSIVE help menu system.

MOOs are "MUDs: Object-Oriented," and they are "text-based virtual reality adventures." (2) It's hard to explain ... you'll just have to check it out.

There are four warnings that I want to give you about *all* of the "talkers":

1. IRC, MUDs and MOOs are time *SPONGES*! They will suck up all of your time if you are not careful (I speak from experience --
   I have over 2 *DAYS* (that's 48 hours plus) login time on one
   of the social MUDs ... and that's only since June of this year!!)

2. Most Internet service providers frown on your using their system
   to access a "chat" service during business hours (for obvious
   reasons). Please check to see what your provider's policies are
   BEFORE you join a talker.

3. Chat services seem to be a magnet for liars. People pretend to be
   more than they are, and they will say whatever is necessary to boost
   their own "image." Please be careful, and consider EVERYTHING that
   you hear over a talker to be, at best, an exaggeration or, at worst,
   a bald-faced lie.

4. If you see someone on one of the social MUDs named SimGod
   who says "ROLL TIDE" a lot, watch out ... he's a squirrel :)

SOURCES:

   (1) The EFF's Guide to the Internet, reprinted by permission
   (2) Internet User's Glossary at Gopher dewey.lib.ncsu.edu using
       the keyword: MUD

Date: Mon, 13 Mar 1995 18:01:25 -0600 (CST)

MAP-EXTRA: POP QUIZ #2

"The Golden Age of the Net was last year. The Golden Age
of the Net was *ALWAYS* last year!!" -- Rev. Bob "Bob" Crispen

This is going to be fun! This quiz only has four questions, but the
questions require you to use the Internet to find the answers >:)

Again, do not send your answers to me. This exam is self-graded, and
the answers will be posted on FRIDAY (I want to give you plenty of
time to complete this exam).

1. There are literally THOUSANDS of files available through FTP
   that have the .TXT file extension. Tell me the exact location
   of just one of these files (hint: see MAP17).

2. Rick Gates has a monthly competition called "The Internet Hunt."
   The Hunt asks ten of the most contrived questions you have ever
   seen, and the Hunt's participants have to find the answers using
   nothing but the Internet (and they also have to show where they
   found the answers).

   Come to think of it, the Internet Hunt is a lot like this pop
   quiz ... hmmmm ....

   I have heard that Rick places the Hunt results on the CICNET Gopher
   server (gopher.cic.net) in Michigan (U.S.)

   I am interested in the Hunt results. In particular, I am interested
   in May, 1994 results.

   Who won the May 1994 Internet Hunt in the individual category? :)
   (Note: you may want to bookmark the main Internet Hunt menu --
   it is a WONDERFUL Internet training resource).

3. I just tried a Veronica search and I got an "Empty Menu" error
   for a file that I *KNOW* exists. I should call my local Internet
   service provider and complain, right? Explain your answer :)

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4. I want to subscribe to a LISTSERV list. The list's address is
   NAVIGATE@UBVM

   Tell me what I need to do.

   BONUS: What *IS* Clifford Stoll's next book going to be about?
   (One of the questions above gives you enough information to find
   the answer).

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 (\_/) .~  ~. ))
 /O O ./   .'           PATRICK DOUGLAS CRISPEN
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  /..)  \               THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
 |-|'-'\  } ))
 .( _( )_.'
 '--.~___&              Warning: squirrels.
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    This concludes this installment. The answers to the pop quiz will be
in the next installment. As was pointed out in one of the above lessons,
we are rapidly coming to the end of this tutorial. In the next
installment Mr. Crispen will discuss a bit about what he sees as the
future of the Internet. I will also be including a few extra lessons that
Mr. Crispen had sent in the middle of the lessons that I saved until now.
We will probably wrap this tutorial up in the next two installments. I
hope it has been as interesting and informative for you as it has for me.

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