

The Major News

Volume V Issue 2

• For Operators of The Major BBS

• Fall 1994

**New Internet
Connectivity Option**

**The Major BBS for
UNIX in Progress**

Telnet to gcomm.com

Marketing Your BBS



\$4.95

DC NET v2.5

Online Photograph Databases



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DC Term v1.0 for Windows™

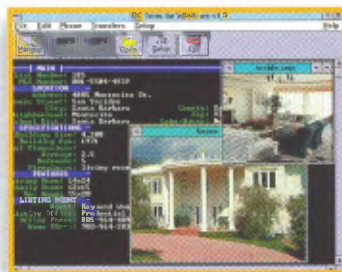
DCN announces its new DC Term v1.0 for Windows with enhanced video card support and built-in image viewing capabilities in one easy-to-use Windows terminal program.

Order Entry v1.1 for DC Net

The DC Order Entry add-on to the DC Net database allows you to create online product catalogs with ordering and PO generation. Order Entry is 100% configurable to meet your specific needs, including payment and shipping methods.



• Order Entry v1.1



• DC Term v1.0 running Residential MLS

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- Entertainment & Events
- Video Product Catalog
- Contact Phonebook
- AutoSeller
- RealVision MLS
- MatchMaker
- Classified Ads

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Durand Communications Network is proud to announce DC Genesys, an all new online photograph database utility capable of operating through BBS doorways.

Using the DC Genesys Database tool kit, users can develop fully relational online database applications for entertainment or business. This powerful new addition to the DCN family of database communications products can be accessed through a royalty-free terminal program for Windows™ or DOS with built-in image viewing capabilities and RIPscrip compatibility. An integrated Galacticom version of DC Genesys for The Major BBS® will be released soon.



• RealVision running under DC Genesys as seen through new DC Term for Windows.

COMPLETE COMPATIBILITY

DC Genesys is 100% dBase III+, dBase IV and FoxPro2 compatible. It is also completely relational with support for seamless relational capabilities between fields in different tables.



DC GENESYS v1.0

A Database for Every BBS

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- ANSI and RIPscrip graphics protocol support for all database functions.
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- Online and Offline database updating.
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PHOTOGRAPHS IN SECONDS

- Support for the following image formats: JPG, CMP, PCX, BMP, TIF, TGA and GIF.
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RELIABLE MULTI-USER CAPABILITIES

- Support for multiple users running separate copies of DC Genesys on the same computer (through DesqView) or on separate computers on a LAN network.
- Seamless sharing of files with concurrent dBase/FoxPro applications on the same LAN.

POWERFUL SEARCH ENGINE

- Query-By-Example via custom forms as well as an "expert mode" command line.
- Customized query optimization and fine-tuning.

DURAND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

147 Castilian Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93117

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President's Corner

by Scott J. Brinker
President/CEO

Imagine a vast sea of corporate cyberspace. On one shore, you have e-mail and workgroup software. It's a multibillion dollar industry, with Lotus and Microsoft in the lead. It's great for communicating between people inside your company, but you can't really extend its features to the outside world. Security would be a big risk, and even if it weren't, you couldn't very well afford to buy Notes' licenses for every customer or prospect who wanted to reach you online.

On the other side, you have the big online services: America Online, Prodigy and CompuServe, the up-and-coming Ziff Interchange and Microsoft Marvel. Yet another multibillion dollar industry. These services are fantastic for wide audiences to meet and exchange messages and files. The downside is that you, personally, don't have much control. Maybe you can rent a forum, but the way the rest of the service looks and feels is beyond your influence.

It's in bridging the gap between these two giants that BBS software delivers its finest performance. You combine the privileges of ownership with the open window to the outside world. Everyone on your LAN can log in to participate in discussions with their workgroups — and you can invite dealers, beta testers, key customers, and stockholders to join in with their modems as well. And you can add databases, online order entry, document management, fax support — whatever it takes to get the job done.

You, as a Sysop, build this critical bridge. Our role here is to provide you with the tools for success. And, as you will read in this issue, cool new tools are headed your way.

First, the Internet Connectivity Option has been announced for release in early October. This integrated solution, in the spirit of our Advanced LAN Option and X.25 Software Option, will add TCP/IP support directly into your BBS. You will be able to provide telnet in, telnet out, ftp client, and ftp server features to your users, either through a SLIP modem connection or direct Ethernet. Details start on page 4, as well as a developer-oriented article starting on page 9.

Hot off the newswire is the announcement of our new UNIX division. In our



journey into the world of Internet this past year, we met up with some wonderfully talented individuals: Ken Maier, our new Director of UNIX Products, and Mahesh Neelakanta, the division's chief engineer. I won't steal the story covered on page 10, but this new arm of Galacticomm's R&D group will open up new opportunities for very high-end online services based on The Major BBS architecture.

I should emphasize that our primary focus will remain on the DOS/Windows market. We don't expect much overlap between DOS and UNIX customers, and we will maintain independent teams working on both projects. However, as the first BBS manufacturer to offer a cross-platform solution, we are committed to providing you with strong growth options in both environments.

We've also invested months in firming up our roots. Version 6.21f of The Major BBS has been rock-solid stable since June (see page 9). Version 1.12 of the Major Gateway/Internet has also been released, with much improved performance and ease-of-use. And an update to the Entertainment Collection released in July has delivered a number of minor enhancements to consumer-oriented systems.

Speaking of which, you'll notice *The World of Cyberspace* insert in this issue of *The Major News*. This new supplement will focus on material relevant to social/chat, for-profit services open to the public. Editorial and advertising in *The Major News'* main section will continue to cover material of interest to all Sysops in corporate, government, media, education, and consumer markets. With so many exciting applications of this technology taking off, we hope this new format will address the needs of all our customers.

Please take some time to browse this latest issue. It's all yours for the building of your bridge.



Make Your BBS a Bridge to the Internet

by Bob Stein
Writer/Developer

Galacticomm is proud to announce the Internet Connectivity Option for The Major BBS. This software add-on will give your BBS the ability to talk TCP/IP, the native protocol of that famous worldwide network of networks called the Internet.

Due to be released October 1, the software will sell for \$995. We're breaking our own rules about announcing what we're not yet shipping mainly so we can demonstrate the product at ONE BBSCON in Atlanta, August 17-21.

The last issue of *The Major News* had an excellent article by Jeff Torello, starting on page 15, describing ways to connect The Major BBS to the Internet. This article is meant to bring you up to date on the latest opportunities for direct BBS connection to the Internet. It's written primarily for Sysops who have some familiarity with the Internet, to give them an idea of what it would be like putting their BBS on the 'Net.

Getting Caught up in the Internet

As a National Information Infrastructure, the Internet has a long way to go. It's still

very hard to find something unless you already know where to look. But the extreme low cost and a few other factors seem to have propelled the thing to some kind of critical mass of users and servers. It's a great medium to explore because there's so much out there. It's a good place to plug in your service because so many people are online.

It's not totally free, but compared to most online services it sure seems like it. For most Internet users, whether you're online a minute, or all night, whether you call next door, or to points opposite the globe, it costs you the same amount of pocket lint.

The real fun of the Internet is not the technology. It's all the people who are using it. The newfound access to them and the things they've contributed make it arguably the most interesting and exciting area of computers and communications.

The best way to get to know the Internet is to dive into it. It only took me a few hours to get a "shell" account (access to a UNIX command prompt) on a computer at a service provider. Start browsing through a few of the free-to-the-public services and ftp file storage sites, and we think you'll soon be hooked. Then you'll be all set to get your BBS users hooked too.

The Facts

With the Internet Connectivity Option (ICO for short) you'll be able to connect TCP/IP *directly* to your BBS computer for telnet and ftp access. The ICO will not require UNIX boxes, PADs or PAD-like things.

The two most common conduits for TCP/IP are SLIP over a serial port and Ethernet over a LAN cable. The ICO supports either one (but not both at the same time). Of course, you'll need to get an Internet hookup from somewhere, usually a local Internet Service Provider, and we'll get to that.

Telnet and FTP — Direct

E-mail and Newsgroups — via UUCP

In the initial release of the ICO, you will still need your UUCP connection for batch transfer of e-mail and newsgroups (forum messages). UUCP is the hardy mailman of the Internet. The Major Gateway/Internet (or MG/I) can, in effect, make your UUCP mailman pick up and deliver mail once a day, or spend all his time going back and forth between your mailbox and the post office.

We plan to release direct e-mail and newsgroup support (via the SMTP and NNTP protocols) by the end of this year. To ease this transition, the Internet Connectivity

Continued on page 29

The goal is simple: To increase the access and profitability of your BBS, and do it in an easy, economical way.

The answer is simple: Work with a network carrier who has the technology and resources already in place to make it happen right now . . . at the lowest price.

Utilizing its X.25 packet-switched network, the ADP/Autonet Division can help a sysop become a nationwide, or even international, business practically overnight. Autonet provides the PDN (or VAN) needed to transmit data for the BBS. It literally puts ADP's network to work for the sysop.

The X.25 protocol, in addition to being economical, also offers superior error-checking capabilities and ensures error-free transmission.

If you want to expand your BBS at the lowest possible cost, call today. We'll rush you a free information packet that will show you how a sysop can grow fast with ADP/Autonet.

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THE BUSINESS BBS

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First Class Mail: Send BULK mail to all of your users, or only to users based on CLASS, KEY, AGE, SEX, or any combination. The mail is not sent until the user actually logs on. Attach files, set expiration dates, and more. **\$99.**

Warn'Em: Let your users KNOW when they are running low on either credits or days left, by either logon notification, E-Mail or both. Also warn them within minutes of being disconnected so they have time to exit games. **\$25.**

FreeLine: Allows you to always keep a line open for paying users. Demos are gracefully logged off with a message, so paying users can gain access. **\$25.**

LockSmith: Expand your system's 'key' capabilities with a greatly expanded set of Pseudo-keys. Combination locks, Time keys, Not keys, and more! Assign 'Key-Ops' to help you with granting/deleting keys with powers you assign. **\$50.**

Let's Get Personal: An Adult registry with an extensive multiple choice questionnaire. There is also an extensive free form essay area. Users can be globally browsed. **\$79.**

Basic Globals: A basic package with over 20 of the most commonly asked for global commands. Chat-Grams, Macros, Global Chat, Who's On-line, Recent Logoffs, and more. Many Sysop commands included. All commands are keyed. **\$25.**

InterActions: This will give your users the ability to use action words globally. Many user configurable options for disabling reception, reprompts, etc. Actions can be keyed such as Adult only, or special Sysop only actions. **\$50.**

The Dungeon: Throw your users into a multi-room dungeon for discipline or just for fun! **\$25.**

StoryLand: Allow your users to write up to 10 continuing stories. Users can add chapters and are notified which stories have had new chapters added to them. **\$50.**

AutoWars: An auto rally card game where your users can race against each other or the computer. Users draw cards to gain mileage, defeat obstacles, and more. **\$59.**

GM-Chess: A premiere chess game featuring a well known rating system. Games can be played live or as 'play-by-mail'. Fully configurable boards and RIP graphics.

GM-Flabbergasted: An action packed game where users try to guess words based on category and the first letter. Judges are assigned to run games and do scoring. **\$75.**

GM-Companies: A simple game where users try to merge companies together and become more powerful. Perfect to keep users on-line while waiting for friends to log on. **\$25.**

Special: Purchase both GM-Chess and GM-Flabbergasted and receive GM-Companies for FREE!

HWS Invisible: Allows you to force a user to become invisible based on class or key. Keep new users from being able to harass your users until verified, keep support callers separate from your entertainment callers. An optional Sysop command to force a user to become visible or invisible. **\$20.**

HWS Fast: Allows you to control how often the mail/forums clean and purge their messages. You can configure for every other day, every third, or X number of days. Can reduce cleanup time by 2/3 on days mail/forum cleanup is skipped. **\$20.**

HWS Variables: Smart Variables allow you to customize your level 6 text blocks like never before. Create your own text variables and display custom messages to different users based on class and/or keys. Includes random and file variables. If you customize the look of your system this add-on is a must to have! **\$40.**

HWS File: An enhancement for file pages of the menu tree. All the normal functionality of the file pages is preserved, but extended to include auto file selection (.RIP, .IBM, .ANS, .TXT, including multiple languages), multiple file output, embedded text variables, optional goto logoff at end of display, and on-line file updating. **\$20.**

HWS Line: Adds additional control over your lines. Create outgoing only channels that will not accept incoming calls, control baud rate on lines, which ring to answer on, and selective line busying when shutting down. **\$20.**

SPECIAL: Order the above 5 HWS products for just \$99.

HWS AutoLogon: Creates automatic logon channels, and the user connected is immediately logged on as a 'GUEST' acct. Guest accounts abide by all class/key rules you establish. Great for publishing a 'demo' phone number or for front end systems. Supports true relogging, and relogged users can be prompted for name/password. **\$99.**

Protect Your Investment From Power Problems!

The HumanWare System's Uninterruptable Power Supply module allows you to add the safety of battery backup to The Major BBS. The hardware is compatible with most brands of UPS's that support a computer interface. Fully configurable delays for power failure detection, power failure shutdown, and low battery shutdown. Requires a dedicated serial port (or multiport card channel) and does not count against your license. Packages available including Software, UPS, and Cable.

Software only: \$69.95

Package Prices: APC-BackUps 450: \$319. - APC-BackUps 600: \$439.

Spice Up Your System With Tel-A-Mate and watch it Grow!

Increase your market share with an exciting new VOICE node for your BBS!

Add a level of value to your subscription base by giving your users full voice mail services, which are fully integrated with The Major BBS! Your users will be notified when they log on if they have new voice messages waiting. They are also notified while on-line when new voice messages are left. Tel-A-Mate can also be used as a stand alone Dating Service which is fully compatible with the TABS billing system. Advertise in your local papers and begin collecting hundreds of dollars monthly from the non-computing dating market. Tel-A-Mate operates on its own computer and is integrated with MajorBBS with a special DLL and a serial cable. Integration is complete and fully automatic. Tel-A-Mate can be customized to conform with NON-Dating markets such as business and non-social communications markets, customer support, and more.

Cost of software and voice card: \$595.00

Connect The Major BBS to the Internet with Major TCP/IP!

Major TCP/IP by Vircom, Inc. was the first TCP/IP solution available for use with The Major BBS.

Over 70 sites are now live on the Internet using Major TCP/IP!

- Telnet/RLogin out to any computer on the Internet.
- Access anonymous FTP archives and D/L files from anywhere on the Internet.
- Integrate UNIX applications over an Ethernet connection so they appear to be normal MBBS applications. Can be used to integrate powerful UNIX Databases, or simply let your users communicate and navigate over the Internet using standard tools like Pine, Tin, IRC, Gopher, Lynx (WWW), Archie, and Finger, running on a UNIX based computer.
- Receive incoming Telnet calls from Internet users anywhere in the world.
- Run MUDS (Multi-User Dungeons) either locally or let your users pick the one(s) they like among the hundreds that can be found on the Internet.
- No user count licenses used for outgoing Telnet/RLogin connections.

Chris Kotacka of CRIS said: "Opens doors to more possibilities than ever!"

Available Now:

***Major TCP/IP Base Version - Allows Rlogin/Telnet up to 32 outgoing sessions \$500.00**

***Incoming Telnet Option \$300.00**

*** FTP Option - \$Call**

*** 32 to 255 sessions upgrade \$Call**

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InfiBase

InfiBase's open-ended database structure and on-line form processing provides you the ability to develop a host of applications - *Classifieds, Job search, Customer support problem logs, On-line orders, Claims and Applications, Event registrar* - just about anything that can be "classified" into various topics. Here are just a few...

Power Classified

The problem with most advertising is that readers must check them constantly, or plow through reams of irrelevant material, so as you know, most just don't bother. The solution is the InfiBase Classified, a user-friendly, menu-driven advertising database. Best of all, it's unique *automatic notification* feature combines the power of electronic search and retrieval with direct mail. Now a person looking for a laserjet printer can simply switch on "autonotify" and forget about it. New ads for that topic *automatically* notify that person the next time he logs on! Automatic notification and form processing makes it the ideal electronic newspaper.

Job Search Database

Electronic databases offer employers a cost-effective method for recruiting employees. Top-down menu tree lets users quickly find positions of interest to them. Automatic notification informs users of any new positions open in their area of interest. Form entry can even prompt them each question of an on-line job application!

Customer Support

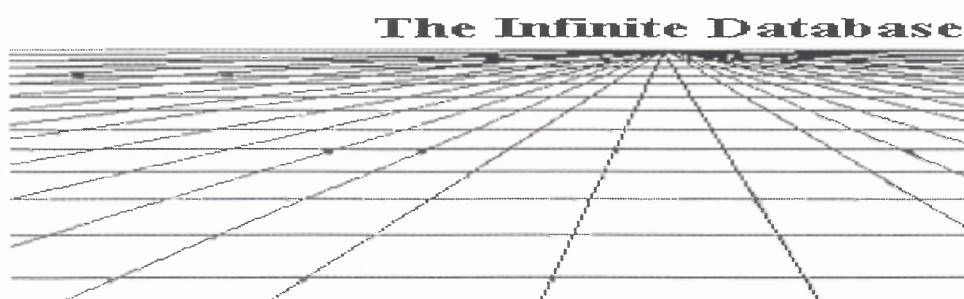
All users fill out the same Product Support question and answer form. Automatic notification lets the support team know of new problems and they can modify the form directly with the correct solution. Because users are provided a form, you can be sure all pertinent questions and answers are provided.

On-line Order Entry

Create forms for on-line product order entry. Ask for name, address, and payment method on-line. Toggle autonotify on at a topic and be automatically notified at logon when there are new sales! Replies to sales will even go to that user's e-mail box. On the other hand, create a form for a business client to use when placing an ad for a product for sale. Responses can be prompted a product-specific order form.

Ad Infinitum...

BBS registrations, BBS listings, Claims and Applications (Insurance, loan, and credit applications), Opinion polls, Events registrar, Dating service, Registration/reservation (Rentals, delivery and shipping, library), User registry... With a little ingenuity, you can create forms for a wide range of application. Anything that can benefit from a structured question and answer form can be created.



Keyword Search!
Import/Export supports
ASCII, FoxPro, Dbase III+
and Dbase IV!

The Major BBS from A to Z

by Bert Love
Vice President/R&D

Let's face it, Version 6.2 of The Major BBS had too many bugs. Also, it took too long to find and fix them. Although Version 6.21f is now stable, the entire process has been unacceptable.

In the mad rush to introduce cool new products, bugs have become the industry norm these days. We intend to buck this trend because we believe you, the customer, deserve better.


While I was planning V6.2, I thought I had the quality issue totally under control. I planned the longest Alpha and Beta tests of any Galaticomm product. We put a lot of effort into finalizing the product requirements (to prevent bug-ridden, last-minute changes), and spot checking the code as it was written.

Nonetheless, we wound up with too many bugs entering Alpha test. Therefore, we had too many bugs entering Beta test. Although V6.2 appeared stable at the end of Beta test, we opted for a Gamma test period (limited shipments to customers requesting the product) just to make sure. The Gamma test looked good, so we released V6.2 for full production.

That's when the bug reports started dribbling in. We wanted to be responsive in resolving the problems, so the V6.20a, b, c, d... progression began. In our eagerness to make fixes available, one of the fixes, V6.21e, created more problems than it solved. That was corrected in V6.21f. The V6.21f patch is available on our Demo System (305/583-7808), and will patch any previous version of 6.2 to 6.21f. You only need to download this patch if technical support recommends that you do so.

So what went wrong? The primary problem was that there were too many bugs in the first place. So we've renewed our policy of "code it right the first time." With new employees we've had to re-emphasize this basic principle that got Galaticomm to where it is today.

We've also implemented a host of other policies to help ensure product excellence. These include: formal software inspections, a standardized new product introduction process, technical support call tracking, bug and feature request tracking, and expanded Alpha testing.

We are committed to bringing you world-class, quality products. We will continue to strive to improve product quality until even the smallest of bugs is a thing of the past. 

Telnet to gcomm.com

by Dihan Rosenburg
Managing Editor

You can telnet into our Demo System from anywhere on the Internet, using the command, "telnet gcomm.com". We've also established an "anonymous" ftp site where you can freely access files without creating a user account. Just type "ftp gcomm.com", login as "anonymous" and use your Internet e-mail address as your password.

You can also telnet and ftp out from the Demo System to any Internet site, using a simple "/telnet <hostname>" or "/ftp <hostname>" global command.

Here are a few Major BBS systems that you can telnet out to:

<i>dconcepts.com</i>	Digital Concepts
<i>198.211.192.146</i>	Ent.&Consumers Network
<i>fedworld.gov</i>	FedWorld
<i>gm.gamemaster.qc.ca</i>	The GameMaster
<i>cq.cqi.com</i>	Crystal Quill
<i>nando.net</i>	News&Observer
<i>federal.bbs.gpo.gov 3001</i>	Government Printing Office

Data Xchange

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The Major BBS UNIX Version in the Works

by Ken Maier
Director of UNIX Products

To move beyond the PC platform, we've recently formed a separate technology division to produce a UNIX version of The Major BBS. This step into the cross-platform world will provide a complement to our DOS product that will include all the features found in our Version 6.2 baseline package and then some.

Code named Euphoria, The Major BBS for UNIX will run on one of the world's most powerful multi-user operating systems. Taking advantage of this platform, Euphoria will run on personal computers like the 80x86, all the way up to supercomputers such as a Cray.

The Major BBS for UNIX will have built-in TCP/IP support; will handle large, fast, hard disks with thousands of files; and will take full advantage of available hardware power. It will also be an ideal development environment because add-ons will be portable, meaning they can be "moved" from one system to the next with little or no code changes.

Euphoria will also integrate the following features:

- **Telnet and ftp**

Similar to the Internet Connectivity Option (see the article starting on page 4), you will be able to access other systems and transfer files over the Internet. You will have full control over this access through the use of Lock and Keys.

- **Internet e-mail**

Euphoria will interact with the UNIX mail delivery agent to provide full Internet mail support. Messages can be sent immediately to the outside world, or queued up for batch delivery at off-peak hours.

- **User-Defined Applications (UDAs)**

This feature will permit you to quickly integrate text-based applications as menu services for your users. By passing system text variables as parameters, you can create applications that are customized for individual users. Services such as IRC, World-Wide Web, and shell accounts can be added. UDAs are not as powerful and customizable as add-on options, but they will permit you to quickly enhance the overall quality of your bulletin board.

- **Connectivity**

Euphoria uses the underlying operating system to its full capacity and permits a wide variety of options. SLIP, UUCP, and dedicated lines (such as 56K or T1) for incoming as well as outgoing connections will be possible. Direct modem connections will also be supported.

- **Portability**

Applications developed for Euphoria will be reusable and will be able to be ported to other UNIX platforms with little or no changes to source code. Third-party developers will only have to recompile their software when using these other platforms.

Euphoria will also include a windowing interface for you to perform maintenance while the system is running — either locally or remotely over a network. For users who want more than a text-based interface, we will also provide built-in *RIPscript* support.

We still have a lot of ideas up our sleeves. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at "Ken Maier" on our Demo System or maier@gcomm.com on the Internet.



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Thanks to Frans for all your ideas and moral support!
Thanks to Ken Sukimoto, Ab van Velden, Costas Zividis for testing!
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How to Get Your BBS in the News

by Dihan Rosenburg
Managing Editor

As any successful business owner can tell you, to build sales you have to get the word out about your product or service. This axiom applies to running a BBS, as well. One of the least expensive and most effective ways to do this is through press coverage from trade publications or your local media.

Getting "ink" is easier than you might think. Visions you may have of persistent reporters ferreting out crime and corruption are only a minuscule part of the newspaper business. Less than five percent of the stories you read in the newspaper result from investigative journalism. Most of the articles and leads come from people just like you. If your release is newsworthy and interesting, you'll have a good chance of getting it printed.

The "grand opening" of your BBS merits a press release, but there are many more opportunities. New features, such as Internet access, are newsworthy. Other possibilities include: conventions or meetings, letters to the editor, or late-breaking news affecting your BBS's theme; for example, "In a survey of callers to Health On-Line, 77% said they favor health-care reforms."

Writing the press release

Here are a few basic rules of journalism to keep in mind when writing your release. Your story must answer the "five W's and the H" — who, what, when, where, why, and how — preferably all in the first paragraph.

Newspaper stories are always written in an "inverted pyramid." You start with the most important information first, and continue with less pertinent details in each successive paragraph. Stories are written this way so that if the editor doesn't have room to print the entire article, he can cut from the bottom and always have the complete story.

A well-written opening paragraph — the lead — is vital. If you don't grab your readers in the first couple of sentences, they're probably not going to read the rest of the story. When you're writing your lead, envision how your news will benefit your readers. As an example, if you've started a technical support BBS, your lead is that now your customers can reach you 24 hours a day to post questions, download your latest releases in minutes, and order online.

In following paragraphs, your release expands upon your lead and provides quotes

from key leaders about how your online service will better serve your customers.

Formatting tips

Here are a few other general rules for writing a press release. It should be printed on 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches letterhead (if possible) with your name and address. At the top you'll tab 4-1/2 inches and provide your name, phone number, and e-mail address.

Double space and type "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE" left justified. Double space again and center your headline. Then, you'll start your release, beginning with the dateline in italics. The dateline includes the city and state with an em dash (—) followed by the date and another em dash.

Your article should be double-spaced, allowing for easy editing by the recipient. At the bottom of each page, center the word "more". On the last page, center "###" under the last line of your story to signal the end.

To enhance your credibility, your story should be carefully proofread.

Who gets your release?

First, you'll want to send your article to your local newspapers. Editors prefer that you only send your press release to one person at the paper, so they don't have 10 reporters working on the same story. Call the paper and find out who will most likely be interested in your release, and direct it to him.

If you have an entertainment-oriented system, the features editor will probably be

the person you'll target. A corporation should send it to the business editor. Depending on the size of the publication, you may even be able to find a reporter specializing in your BBS's theme, such as health or education.

In addition to your local publications, you can also send the article to trade publications. There are also magazines devoted to the online industry. You can get a list of these publications from our Demo System's Fax/Online database.

Follow-up

To make sure your hard work doesn't get stuck in some editor's in-basket, your last step is to follow up and "pitch" your story. Your follow-up call will be better received if you target your presentation to the editor's needs. For example, you can tell a business editor how your Internet link can be used for networking with prospects and associates, research, worldwide e-mail, and more.

Many publications offer editorial calendars of stories they're planning. They're yours for the asking. There are also services, such as Press Access, who sell directories of these calendars. You can then plan your presentation around upcoming stories.

If the reporter does write a story about your service, a thank you card is always a professional touch. Also, don't forget to send us a copy. We enjoy hearing about what you are doing, and the more publicity you can get, the greater the awareness will become of the online industry as a whole.



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HWM CallTime: Keep your lines open for certain classes of users, by date, time, day of the week, or baud rate dialed in at using a database configured online. Supports 'Zero Consumption' to allow users with a certain key to access your system at no charge for connect time, but still charges them for 'extra services'. **\$75.00**

HWM CID-Caller ID: The perfect complement to CallTime. This module works with modems that support Caller ID (such as ZyXEL) and tells you what number people are calling from. Stop people from having multiple accounts for more "demo" time. Requires Caller ID from your local phone company. **\$75.00**

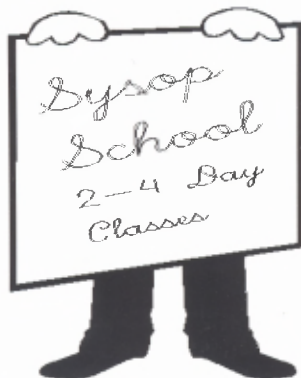
HWM Time Charge: Allows you to fully control credit charges throughout your system by modules used, keys held, and line used. Most modules will not allow you to control credit charges with the same finesse that TC does. TC can be used for "surcharges", or to replace the standard BBS credit charging system. **\$75.00**

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Having difficulty getting the hang of The Major BBS? Maybe you should come back to school.



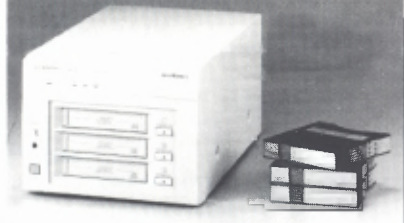
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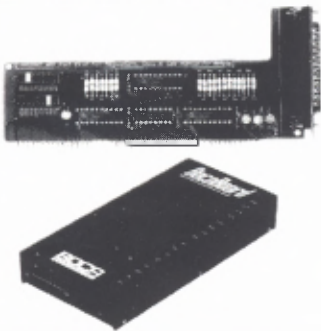
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HEADLINE NEWS

One of the best news modules available for The Major BBS. Headline News allows you to write news bulletins to users based on age ranges and/or keys. Bulletins may also be set to appear at logon. The spectacular feature is the ability for bulletins to renew themselves every so many days or at every logon. Bulletins may be set to delete at a certain date, as well as at a certain time. Through sysop-defined "peer groups" (which can be created online), the sysop has the ability to allow users to post bulletins to select groups of other users. Hundreds of different access types may be defined with these "peer groups". The sysop may also appoint news operators of varying access! This module's a **MUST!**

...\$ 79.00

ChatterBox

A necessity for the socially oriented BBS, this add-on offers your users the ability to simultaneously communicate on up to 10 global chat channels, use action words on the chat channels, and send actions as pages. Written for The Major BBS's new Entertainment Collection API, this module uses teleconference's action lists, and honors user settings for ignore, page on/off/ok, and forget! All user options are configurable with global commands.

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Do you have any wanna-be ANSI artists? Wouldn't they love a place to display their work? Well, HERE IS THE PLACE! Allow your users to create their own ANSI and RIP art gallery. Optionally, have selected key drawings randomly appear at logon/logoff. You can use this feature to let people show off their ads, or have your own **FULL-COLOR ADS** display to potential customers. Unlike other ad modules, these do not pop up at inopportune moments and annoy your users.

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A Brief Tour of the UUCP Utilities

by Chris Ambler
UUPlus Development

I am often asked to describe what UUCP is. In a nutshell, UUCP is a suite of programs designed to move data from one computer to another, and tell the target computer what to do with the data once it gets there. Commonly, those commands are to process the data as either e-mail or Usenet news, and that is exactly what MG/I uses UUCP to do.

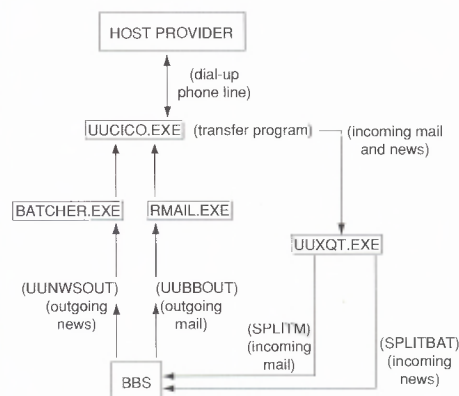
UUCP was invented in the early 1970s, and every UNIX system speaks it. The "G" protocol forms the basis for UUCP communication, and is supported by every UNIX implementation on the planet.

It would be wonderful if everyone could have a direct Internet connection to their BBS, but the reality is that direct Internet can be costly.

UUCP, on the other hand, provides Internet mail and Usenet news to a BBS via a simple dial-up. All service providers running UNIX (and that's just about all of them) support it, and the cost is a mere fraction of a direct connection, when they are available.

The program responsible for moving the data is UUCICO.EXE. UUCICO is an acronym for UNIX-to-UNIX Copy-In Copy-Out, named for its traditional function as a UNIX transfer utility. UUCICO uses the "G" protocol, which is a transfer protocol similar to XMODEM or ZMODEM.

UUCICO is responsible for determining the system to call, calling and logging in, and moving traffic from your site to the remote site, and from the remote site to you. These files are comprised of the data (the mail and/or news) and command files which tell UUCP what to do with the data when it is transferred (i.e., to whom the mail is delivered, or that the data is Usenet news).



UUCP Data Flow

UUCICO then implements the actual transfer in UUCP's "store and forward" scheme. Rather than a direct connection to the Internet, where data is moved immediately, UUCP stores the data and forwards it when UUCICO makes the connection.


Once the data is transferred, another program, UUXQT.EXE, reads the command files and acts upon the data. For e-mail, it

determines to whom the mail is addressed and places it in his mailbox. For Usenet news, it determines the newsgroup(s) and places the news articles into their groups.

At this point, a non-UUCP utility in MG/I translates the e-mail and news from their original format into one that the BBS can understand, and delivers it into the BBS. SPLITM takes the e-mail from the mail directory and places it into the BBS inbound directory, and SPLITBAT processes the incoming Usenet news.

For outgoing traffic, like e-mail and Usenet news that your users generate, MG/I's UUBBOUT and UUNWSOUT call the UUPlus utilities RMAIL and BATCHER, respectively. RMAIL turns e-mail into the data and execute files that the remote computer will need, and BATCHER groups, compresses, and queues the data and command files for Usenet news.

Once this is done, UUCICO is called, and the whole process starts again. Commonly, these events take place many times a day, with each side queuing and receiving data from the other. On the Internet, hundreds of thousands of computers are constantly doing this.

With Major Gateway/Internet and UUCP, you can provide a reliable, inexpensive, and standard way of providing mail and news to your BBS. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Galacticcomm's technical support staff at support@gcomm.com. 

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Connect with The Major BBS across a LAN with any I14 compatible program. By loading the I14toSPX fossil TSR program on your workstation, you can use all the fancy features of int14 compatible terminal emulation software like Procomm Plus for Windows to connect with a BBS server running The Major BBS (requires the Advanced LAN-Option).

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Developing Internet Add-on Products

by Bob Stein
Writer/Developer

For The Major BBS to be the best solution for someone who wants to set up his own popsicle stand on the Internet, Galacticomm will need the enthusiastic participation of many third-party developers. Making BBSes useful and productive on the Internet is a very big job, and we want to make it possible for many to contribute, and many to reap the benefits.

This article is for developers of add-on software for The Major BBS who are somewhat familiar with the Internet and its architecture, and who might be interested in developing add-on products for the Internet Connectivity Option. (See the article on page 4 about connecting a BBS to the Internet.)

It's been clear for a long time that The Major BBS needed to be on the Internet. It was clear to a hardy few a *very* long time ago. A few visionary folks had grown hoarse trying to convince Galacticomm to pick up the Internet ball, and finally took it upon themselves to develop Internet connectivity solutions on their own. We're hoping those folks, and many others, will find a way to join us now in attacking the numerous opportunities the Internet presents.

I've been noticing something lately. On the one hand you have all these things you dream you can do, and on the other you have what you actually accomplish in your lifetime. There's a big ratio between the two. A very big ratio. I think I can speak for all developers at Galacticomm that it's our personal and collective missions to work faster and smarter. Faster, turning out more results per day, that are more useful to more people for longer time frames. And smarter, in that we focus our efforts toward the very best results, leaving truckloads of pretty good ideas never to be realized.

Bill Gates once said something to the effect that there are no tricks you can play to increase software development productivity except one: make it reusable. There's nothing new about this idea, a subroutine is "reusable."

So along with getting a TCP/IP stack to work in the framework of The Major BBS, and developing telnet and ftp capabilities, among other things, the Internet Connectivity Option attempts to provide technology that can be plugged into and expanded upon by many developers. The Internet Connectivity

Development Kit (price and availability to be announced) will include a few general tools you can use to develop add-ons for expanding on the capabilities of the ICO.

For example, the function `regtcpvsvr()` allows you to register a server to listen for connections on a specific TCP port number (telnet listens on TCP port 23, ftp on 21). And there's `tcpdial()` to initiate a new connection, as a client would use to connect to a server. Both have mechanisms or conventions for invoking your application code when the deed is done.

The `dnsn2a()` routine calls upon the Domain Name System resolver built into the ICO to convert an Internet domain name into an IP address, (for example, "support.company.com" into 189.59.17.65) using a Sysop-designated DNS name server. Since this can take anywhere from .03 to 30 seconds, a call-back vector reports on the results (or various failure modes).

The Internet Developer's Kit will include documentation on these and many more sub-routines that are likely to come in handy for expanding the Internet capabilities of The Major BBS. If there's anything about this kit you'd like to see changed or expanded upon,

please feel free to participate in the discussion on the /Develop Forum on our Demo System. For issues pertaining to what Sysops or users see online, there's the /Internet Forum.

The technology and culture of the Internet is thoroughly infused with the technology and culture of UNIX. But UNIX, as a user interface, leaves much to be desired. By comparison, BBSes offer a much prettier face. So a marriage between Internet connectivity and BBS usability has got to be mutually beneficial. It's true, BBSes haven't quite caught up with the quality of graphical user interfaces like Mosaic. But BBSes are also the ideal breeding ground for new computer communications ideas.

For all the people with information or ideas, or just a love of communications, there's a chance for them to give expression to their own visions by running a BBS. And it's quickly becoming apparent that the most interesting thing to plug your BBS into is the Internet. We hope, with your participation, to make all that wildly successful.

The Internet Connectivity Option is only a meager start. Here's a sketch of ways in which you might help take it further.

Continued on page 41

The Genesis Daily News

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AutoPatch

Patent Pending

Modem to Voice System

The AutoPatch hardware and software system allows your users to alternate between talking inside a teleconference channel and talking on a voice conference call. Users simply enter a special private channel, and the owner of the channel enters an initiation command. The software alerts the users to pick up their voice telephones and the hardware controls the switching generating a conference call circuit between the two or more people who were in the private channel. When a user wishes to return to the bbs, he or she simply presses a telephone button and sends the ATD command to his or her modem - the user returns to the bbs where he or she left off. Software keeps track of how much time each user has spent either on the bbs or talking voice. Software can deduct credits at any rate you wish while users are in a voice session. Special main console telephone handset is included allowing the sysop to also use the feature without having to hang up from the bulletin board system.

Cheersoft Anti-Freeze

Software and Hardware combination which reboots your system in the event of a lockup. Hardware plugs into any serial port and still allows serial port to be used normally. If system locks, hardware reboots system in about seven minutes.

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BBS: 908-972-2387

Customize Your File Library Displays

by Don Pitchford
Software Engineer

If you want to change the displays your users will see in your File Library listings, you can change the text variables in various text blocks from Level 6 in CNF.

Your full screen File Library listings display the name and tag letter of each file by using the text variables FLF_NAME and FLF_TAGK in the text blocks listed below. These variables are always used and should not be changed. But you can use other text variables to change the information in your listings. Let's say that instead of providing your users with the file description, you'd rather show who uploaded the file or how long it will take to download. Instead of using FL_MISC, you would use FLF_ULBY or FLF_DMIN.

The actual information your users see in the file listings, such as file names, their descriptions, and their upload dates are displayed in one of the eight LISTLN text blocks, depending on the specific user search method:

LISTLN0: by date or quickscan of the current, non-joined Library.

LISTLN1: by file names, wildcard search of the current, non-joined Library, or from the "download a file" option.

LISTLN2: by keyword search of the current, non-joined Library, using the keyword database exclusively (i.e., single word searches, "AND" boolean searches, no wildcards).

LISTLN3: by date or quickscan of either a joined Library or all Libraries.

LISTLN4: by keyword search of all Libraries or joined Libraries (i.e., all other search types).

LISTLN5: by the number of downloads.

LISTLN6: by the "download a file" option, when the Level 4 Configuration option DEFALLIB is set to YES. This configures your BBS to search all Libraries from the download prompt by default.

LISTLN7: DOS-Only Libraries. This option should not be altered.

On page 267 of the *System Operations Manual*, there is a list of text variables you can use with the LISTLN_x message blocks.

For each file listing display, there are corresponding text blocks for the caption at

the top of the display (FILEST_x), the header and footer lines (FILEHFL_x), and the header for the ASCII file listings (FILESX_x).

Now, let's run through an example of how all this can work. Let's say you wanted to display the uploader's name, instead of the first line in the description in the "number of downloads" listing (LISTLN5). Here are the steps you would take:

Select the Level 6 "Edit Text Blocks" option from the Introductory Menu. Use the <F8> key to quickly search for the text block LISTLN5. When you get there, hit <F2> or <Enter> to edit this option.

At the top of the new screen, you'll see something like this all on one line at the top of the message block:

```
F FLF_NAME**** FLF_S FLF_F
FL_MISC*** ...
```

Position the cursor at the "F" in FL_MISC and hit <Alt-V>. This will bring up the "Text Variable Box." Change FL_MISC (text variable for file description) to FLF_ULBY (text variable for providing the uploader's name). You'll also need to modify the length to 29, which is the maximum number of characters in a User-ID. Hit <Enter> twice, and you're back to the LISTLN5 screen.

Continued on page 43

The Major BBS® Italian Edition

Sysop and User Translations Available

Add-on options also available in Italian



Galacticomm Ambassador Dealer

STUDIO 5 LIGURIA SRL

Via Papa Giovanni XXIII, 162/1 • 17031 ALBENGA (SV) ITALY

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fax: +39/182-543977

tel: +39/182-540200

E-mail: sales@studio5.it

Parallax Takes BBS

Alex Document Retrieval

Alex is a multimedia document search and retrieval system for The Major BBS. Using Alex, you can store gigabytes of text information online, and your users can search it and retrieve specific documents almost instantly. Alex supports all the latest technology in document retrieval - Boolean searches, phrase searches, dictionaries and glossaries, and much, much more.

Alex also supports multimedia! You can easily store photos, spreadsheets, sound files, and many other types of files along with your documents. Alex supports every major format for displaying graphics online - FracTerm, Ripterm, Procomm and Smartcomm file viewers.

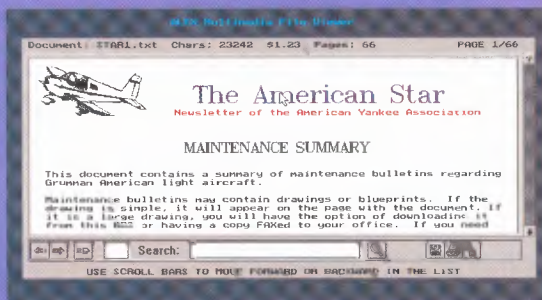
ALEX is also expandable. Our modular construction lets you 'plug in' accessory modules to customize ALEX for your specific application.

Who uses ALEX? Our customers include governments in five countries, law firms, regulatory agencies, real-estate boards, the military, and many other companies who need to make large quantities of information available online. Many Sysops of public BBS's have discovered that ALEX is the ideal way to display digital magazines and collections of photos. A whole new class of entrepreneurs has found lucrative markets for online information services using ALEX. Some are earning over \$80/hr!

ALEX has a flexible charging and accounting structure that lets you optimize your profits or collect statistics on document usage.

Alex has a complete set of FAX services that allow you to broadcast documents like press releases, or fax automated queries to document owners. Users can also have copies of found documents faxed directly to them on demand.

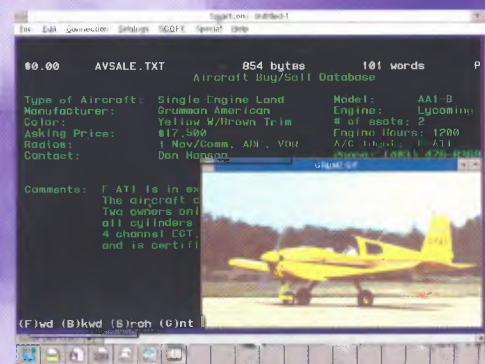
Multimedia Documents



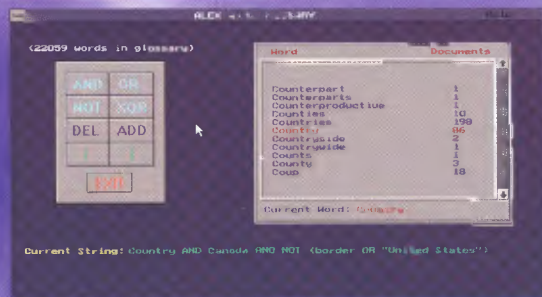
- Embedded graphics
- Pull-down menus
- Custom Icons
- Full mouse control with advanced features like scroll bars, button bars, and roll-ups!

Online Photographs

- Unlimited number of photos can be stored.
- Support for all major formats and online viewers including FracTerm, RIPTerm, Procomm and Smartcomm III (shown)
- Supports GIF, JPEG, and fractals for online viewing.
- Other formats supported for offline viewing including MPEG and FLI movies.



Powerful Text Searches



- Boolean Searches (AND, OR, NOT, XOR)
- Phrase Searching
- Word Glossary (shown)
- Date Searches
- Nested Searches
- Wildcards
- Root searches
- Command line or menu



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Alex/WP \$199.00

WordPerfect filters for Alex. Alex/WP allows you to store documents in native Wordperfect format, with all text formatting in place. Tabs and screen positioning will show in Alex's online document viewer. If you have large collections of WordPerfect files, you need Alex/WP!

Alex/LAN \$299.00

For those who need instant, automated document updating, Alex/LAN is what you need. Alex/LAN is an enhanced text indexer/updater that can run on a separate machine from your BBS, scanning directories on any machine on your LAN and updating your documents in real time. Alex/LAN can also be configured to modify or delete files at certain hours or days of the month, automating your archiving process.

Document Services

Parallax has complete facilities for processing documents and creating databases. We can offer 24-bit color scanning, OCR work, graphics development, image editing, screen designs, and custom programming to support your document needs. Please feel free to call or write for quotes.

BBS Consulting Services

We've been running BBS systems since 1979, and have been writing software for The Major BBS since 1987. If you need help with your BBS needs, please give us a call. Our services include screen design, software setup, evaluation, and custom development, market consulting, performance analysis, and just about anything else having to do with a BBS.

Custom software development is available on an hourly basis or a straight fee per project. Firm written estimates are available for all projects.

Other Major BBS Add-ons

QuickSelect

The Major BBS's SIGS are very powerful, but they can be very hard to use and manage, especially for new users. That's why we made QuickSelect. QuickSelect gives you full-screen ANSI quickscan configuration, and each user can save and load three different quickscan profiles. A MUST HAVE for systems with mail networks! You won't believe the difference it makes. If your SIGS don't get enough usage, you need QuickSelect!



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The Keyrack

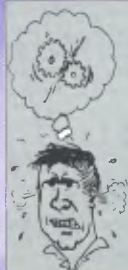
The Keyrack uses The Major BBS's lock and key system to implement a complete multi-structured pay system for your BBS. The Keyrack lets you build keys that expire after a fixed period of time. This allows you to have 'premium' services on your BBS and automate payment for them.

can be selected from menus or automatically assigned based on the user's age, automating 'adult' BBS access.

The Keyrack will do a complete monthly reporting of key usage.

Keys that are defined through the Keyrack can be attached to menu choices for auto-payment, or they

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STAN

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Buy him coffee, and Stan will:
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- Allow you to control access by time of day, Set up member-only times, Adult-only times, etc. Add flexibility to your system!

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- Allow paying users to hold votes to kill guests who are being the most annoying. (Stan's a democratic kinda guy).

- Allow you to change hundreds of his comments to personalize him for your system.

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**Parallax
Development
Corporation**

List of Third-Party Developers

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Louisville, KY 402011742
Phone: 502/367-7888
Fax: 502/368-5720
BBS: 502/366-6313
E-mail: jshannon@adeptcom.com

Alarm-Soft
2415 Lafayette Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23509
Phone: 804/855-4686
Fax: 804/855-7314
BBS: 804/853-0636
E-mail: blake@cupid.com

APDI
6805 Coolridge Drive, Second Floor
Camp Springs, MD 20748
Phone: 301/449-1400
Fax: 301/449-1224
BBS: 301/449-1835

Astrocom Multimedia
Torokvesz 96/A
Budapest, Hungary H-1025
Fax: +36/1 1339183
BBS: +36/1 1139813

AudioText Services, Inc.
PO Box 2449
Orlando, FL 32802
Phone: 407/426-8355
Fax: 407/295-1408
BBS: 407/426-8451
E-mail: BBS900@orlando.com

BBS Solutions
PO Box 30153
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206/517-2770
BBS: 206/670-8681

BSI Technologies
10030 Griffin Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328
Phone: 305/434-0189
Fax: 305/434-7116
BBS: 305/434-5619
E-mail: mjulson@bsitech.com

Cheersoft
457 Highway 79
Morganville, NJ 07751
Phone: 800/254-3525
Fax: 908/591-8652
BBS: 908/972-2387
E-mail: ilr6864@hertz.njit.edu

Community News Service
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Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Voice: (719) 592-1240
Fax: (719) 592-1201
BBS: (719) 520-5000

The Compass Rose
917 3rd Street
Davis, CA 95616
Voice: (916) 759-0369
Fax: (916) 758-8778
BBS: (916) 758-0987

Computel
610-1701 Kilborn Avenue
Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1H 6M8
Voice: (613) 731-0919

Crystal Vision, Inc.
15260 Mimosa Trail
Dumfries, VA 22026
Voice: (703) 680-4733
Fax: (703) 730-1420
BBS: (703) 680-4623

DataSafe Publications, Inc.
3301 Juan Tabo NE, #113
Albuquerque, NM 87111
Phone: 505/294-4980
Fax: 505/294-8225
BBS: 505/294-1575
E-mail: sysop@dump.com

Digital Consulting Services, Inc.
PO Box 2142
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Phone: 212/697-7340
Fax: 201/865-4820
BBS: 201/865-1783
E-mail: sysop@dcs

DigiTel, Inc.
213 Mayfair Drive North
Brooklyn, NY 11234
Voice: (718) 763-4279

Durand Communications
147 Castilian Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
Voice: (805) 961-8700
Fax: (805) 961-8701
BBS: (805) 961-8710

East Side Computing
15 Central Way, #384
Kirkland, WA 98033
Voice: (206) 828-0522
BBS: (206) 889-2428

EDI Computer Services
2124 East Lincoln Road
Spokane, WA 99207
Phone: 509/467-2077
BBS: 509/468-0664
E-mail: wl-sysop-plx@society.com

Entertainment Technologies
PO Box 39187
Philadelphia, PA 19136
Phone: 215/636-1020
BBS: 215/335-9850
E-mail: support@eti

Excalibur! Software
PO Box 7570
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Phone: 707/588-9602
E-mail: jami@partyline.com

Farwest BBS
PO Box 8389
Victoria, BC, V8W 3R9, Canada
Phone: 604/381-6462
Fax: 604/381-6462
BBS: 604/381-3934
E-mail: sysop@farwest.victoria.bc.ca

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PO Box 3671
Mansfield, OH 44907
Phone: 419/756-9119
Fax: 419/774-9143
BBS: 419/774-0969
E-mail: draxx@gcomm.com

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Augusta, GA 30909
Phone: 800/688-7049
BBS: 706/737-2190

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Bellevue, WA 98009
Phone: 206/889-3562
Fax: 206/889-4103
BBS: 206/641-7218
E-mail: wl-salamandr-h-c@society.com

HighWaterMark BBS
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Highland Park, NJ 08904
Fax: (908) 828-0949
BBS: (908) 249-2263

High Velocity Software
PO Box 33455
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Phone: 800/572-5582
Fax: 602/234-0730
E-mail: support@garden.com

Imagen, Inc.
1168 Hamilton Street, Suite 504
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 2S2
Voice: (604) 266-2240

Infima
Velflikova 8
Praha 6, Czechoslovakia CS-16000
Phone: +42/2 3115858
Fax: +42/2 3115820
BBS: +42/2 3122741
E-mail: sysop@infima.cz

List of Third-Party Developers (cont'd. from page 24)

Infinetwork

PO Box 1241
Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301/498-6352
BBS: 301/498-6183

Infinity Software

PO Box 2744-1313
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Phone: 714/895-3238
Fax: 714/895-3238
BBS: 714/898-3236
E-mail: isw@ibbs.com

Integrated Solutions

2995 Van Buren Boulevard
M/S A13189
Riverside, CA 92503
Voice: (909) 780-8860

Jabberwocky

5119 Edmondson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229
Phone: 410/945-4845
BBS: 301/498-6183

Logicom, Inc.

5701 Pine Island Road, #350
Tamarac, FL 33321
Phone: 800/764-4266
Fax: 305/726-3748
BBS: 305/726-3849
E-mail: sysop@log

M.B. Murdock & Associates

P.O. Box 2194
Pinellas Park, FL 34665
Voice: (813) 545-8050
Fax: (813) 541-5876
BBS: (813) 544-3372

Majorware, Inc.

22 College Street, #102E
Toronto, ON M5G 1Y6 Canada
Phone: 800/321-3774
BBS: 416/944-9510
E-mail: sysop@mjw

Master Designs, Inc.

1722 South Glenstone, #JJ
Springfield, MO 65804
Phone: 417/886-9795
Fax: 417/886-3207
BBS: 417/886-6639
E-mail: sysop@cm

Mountain Rose Multi Media

Kikkerveen 331, 3205 XC Spijkenisse
The Netherlands
Voice: +31/1880-33083
Fax: +31/1880-41551
BBS: +31/1880-40035
E-mail: sysop@sterbbs.nl

Online Store

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Schaanwald, Liechtenstein FL-9486
Voice: +41/75-3736677
Fax: +41/75-3736660
BBS: +41/75-3736680

Parallax Development Corp.

17531 91st Street
Edmonton, AB T5Z 2M1 Canada
Phone: 403/476-8369
Fax: 403/476-8107
BBS: 403/49-9197

Phoenix Resource Technologies, Inc.

2122 Funston Street
Hollywood, FL 33020
Voice: (305) 925-1373
Fax: (305) 925-6585
BBS: (305) 925-1377

ProDesign

PO Box 14314
Albuquerque, NM 87191-4314
Voice: 505/293-9045
Fax: 505/294-8185
BBS: 505/294-8177
E-mail: sclement@abq-ros.com

Public Data Network

P.O. Box 15
Grants Pass, OR 97526
Voice: (800) 788-4565
BBS: (503) 476-6578

SilverWare

22365 El Toro Road, #171
Lake Forest, CA 92630
Phone: 714/583-9461
BBS: 714/454-9242

Sirius Software, Inc.

1049 Cardiff
Casper, WY 82609
Phone: 307/237-0065
Fax: 307/265-4452
BBS: 307/237-2112

Stealth

PO Box 1274
Beloit, WI 53511
Phone: 608/365-9121
BBS: 608/365-1522

Studio 5 Liguria SRL

Via Papa Giovanni XXIII, 162/1
Albenga (SV), Italy I-17031
Phone: +39/182 540200
Fax: +39/182 543977
BBS: +39/182 554965
E-mail: sales@studio5.it

Tessier Technologies Inc.

1876 N. University Drive, Suite 200
Plantation, FL 33322
Voice: (305) 473-5525
Fax: (305) 473-2122
BBS: (305) 473-2000

The Business BBS

2531 Sawtelle Boulevard, #109
Los Angeles, CA 900643163
Phone: 310/477/0593
Fax: 310/477-9475

TiTanic

Via Buozzi 5
Pavia, Italy I-27100
Phone: +39/382 527893
Fax: +39/382 528074
BBS: +39/382 529121
E-mail: gsalerno@titanic.it

Vircom, Inc.

c/o Digital Consulting Services
P.O. Box 2142
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Voice: (800) 899-2002
Fax: (201) 865-4820
BBS: (201) 865-1783
E-mail: sysop@des

W&W Communications

1072 Saratoga Sunnyvale Road
#A107-369
San Jose, CA 95129
BBS: 408/366-1804

Wilderland Software

PO Box 37325
Milwaukee, WI 532370325
Phone: 414/486-2417
Fax: 414/486-2416
BBS: 414/486-2400

Wizard Software

20 Gray Street
Westbrooke, ME 04092
Phone: 800/688-7049
Fax: 207/856-1602
BBS: 207/856-7186

Note: Third-party developers listed here are currently shipping products for Major BBS Sysops. Listings that appear in color have advertisements in this issue.



DATASAFE PU

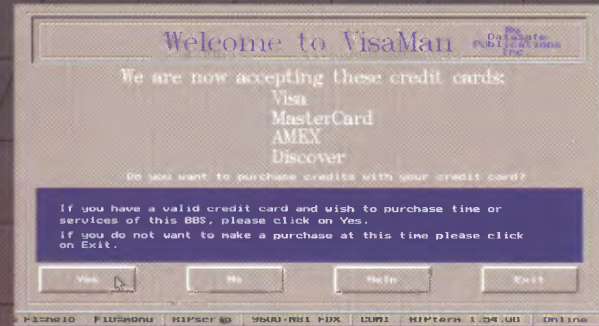
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- Each purchase option is keyed for access
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- POS Dial Compatible for instant online credit card approval
- Credit Card numbers mathematically verified
- Optional online validation form
- Optional sales tax
- Purchase activity reports by user-id, date, and credit card number
- Lockout credit card numbers you never want to accept
- RIPscrip support



Omni-Mall™ - \$249

Omni-Mall is a complete online shopping system allowing you to sell your products online as well as rent space to other merchants. Omni-Mall supports sales of products, services, and software such as programs, database information and valuable text files. E-Mail receipts and orders faxed to store managers.

FEATURES

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- Unlimited number of departments & products
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- Credit Card numbers mathematically verified
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The Point Of Sale (POS) Dial module interfaces with VisaMan and Omni-Mall to perform automatic instant online credit card approval or declination. Never worry about manual processing of your credit card sales again! POS Dial does require a compatible credit card processor so give us a call for more information. We also can refer you to BBS "friendly" credit card processing companies.

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AutoRate gives you incredible user surcharging and class switching capabilities. AutoRate allows you to surcharge based upon time of day, day of week, and channel group. AutoRate can also restrict access to channel groups based on a user's class. A must have module for systems connected to X.25 networks.

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HelpMan scans your BBS subdirectory for the help files provided with The Major BBS (and third party modules) and lets your users display them online. HelpMan also allows you to add your own custom help files.

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Along with standard hangman rules, users can request both antonyms and synonyms for the mystery word.

Global Power™ \$49

Global Power sets the NEW standard by giving you the most extensive set of global commands available for The Major BBS. Includes all the standard global commands along with features we can't live without on our own 100+ line BBS! Sysop commands include class switching, key assignments, credit posting, user suspension/deletion, and more all on one line.

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- User list includes the caller's city/state
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Bridge to the Internet (cont'd. from page 4)

Option will include MG/I at no extra charge (normally a \$249 add-on option). Existing owners of MG/I will get \$150 off the purchase price of an ICO if they buy direct from Galacticomm. We'll keep these offers open until we upgrade the ICO to support mail and newsgroups directly. (That upgrade will be offered at a nominal charge to ICO owners.)

Inbound: Making your BBS Services Available on the Internet

Having the Internet Connectivity Option puts a two-way bridge between your BBS and the Internet. On the inbound lanes of this bridge, your BBS will open its gates to the millions of Internet users around the world. Internauts, as they're called, will be able to connect to your BBS by typing "telnet <yourcompany>.com".

Internet users will also be able to retrieve files from your File Libraries by typing "ftp <yourcompany>.com". Then they log onto your BBS with the same User-ID and password they use when contacting your BBS via modem or telnet. The "pseudo-directories" they'll see are the same as the names of your File Libraries. They'll have pretty much the same access to those directories as they do to the corresponding File Libraries.

A common practice on the Internet is to set up what's called an anonymous ftp site. This is a computer where anyone on the Internet can "ftp in" and retrieve certain files without prior authorization. Users log on by typing "anonymous" in place of their User-ID, then their Internet e-mail address in place of a password. This is just an informal honor-system approach for tracking who's calling into your system "anonymously," but it's extremely popular on the Internet. Anonymous ftp is quickly becoming the best way on the planet to give a particular set of computer files the widest possible dissemination.

If you want to provide anonymous ftp access on your BBS, just change the visibility and download locks to "DEMO" or blank for some of your File Libraries. Then anonymous ftp users can get the files in those Libraries. The Major BBS accumulates anonymous login information in a text file, GALFANON.LOG.

Outbound: Opening up the Internet to Your Existing User Base

On the outbound lanes of your Internet bridge, all of your existing BBS users will have access to the wonderful world of the Internet. They'll be able to "telnet books.com"

to order books, or "/ftp images.jsc.nasa.gov" to retrieve NASA satellite images.

A shorthand for logging into an anonymous ftp site is "/ftpa <hostname>". This will automatically log you in, entering "anonymous" for your a User-ID, and your Internet e-mail address for your password.

See the article on page 50 for a few of the telnet and ftp sites that we've heard about on the Internet. You and your users will have no trouble discovering lots more. If you like, you can make your favorite sites available in a menu to encourage other users to try them.

Here's a summary of commands available to users:

```
/telnet <host>
/telnet <host> <port number>
/ftp <host>
/ftpa <host>
```

The <host> parameter can be either a domain name, such as "ds.internic.net", or an IP address like "199.35.15.2".

Service Providers and Connection Equipment

The books on page 43 all have a list of service providers in an appendix. Or, you can

call the Internet Network Information Center at (800) 444-4345.

The short story on equipment is that a SLIP connection is cheap, often used on regular phone lines with standard asynchronous modems, and relatively slow. Ethernet can be much faster. It's almost always extra fun to set up, and probably requires special wires from the local phone company and some expensive specialized equipment: typically two CSU/DSU's and possibly two network routers. The CSU/DSU's are like modems, giving you the distance, and the routers help the bitstreams commingle gracefully.

A good service provider will have a competent and dependable hand to lend you through all of this. Many have the equipment already picked out, all they need from you is a check. The Internet Connectivity Option comes with a questionnaire for you to fill out with your service provider to help make configuring the BBS software a bit easier.

See You Online

Please feel free to leave messages regarding features, problems, or ideas in the /Internet Forum on our Demo System. Good luck, and we'll see you on the Internet!



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SKY-Poker	\$99	\$64	\$39
Space Empire	\$389	\$252	\$155
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Time Bank	\$99	\$64	\$39
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WhatTime	\$79	\$51	\$31
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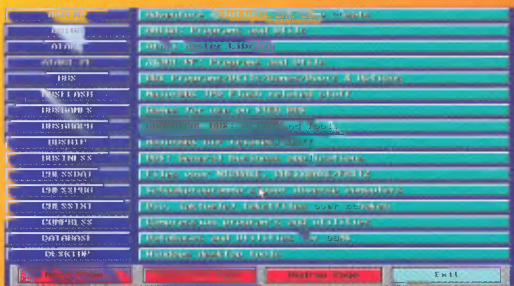
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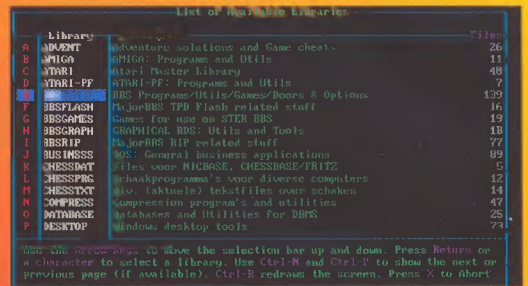
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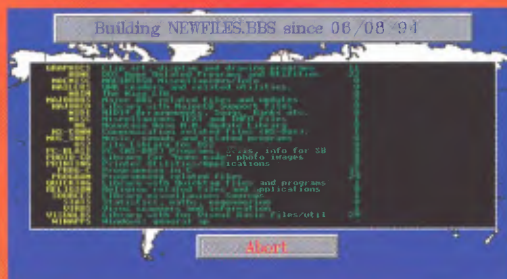
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Add-ons Helping Add-ons

by Chris Robert
Director of Technology

An important part of our business is providing developers with API services. Doing so doesn't only keep other developers from having to duplicate our effort — it also contributes greatly to our success as a company. As an add-on developer, providing API services may be something for you to consider.

When we developed Fax/Online, we tried something new: providing API services from an add-on. The result was a real success. The following example helps to illustrate why.

Let's say that Joe wanted to add fax support to his document retrieval add-on. Using Fax/Online's API services, he could do so without getting into any of the hairy complexities of fax technology. Then, any of his customers could enable the fax features by simply purchasing Fax/Online.

Joe's happy because advertising fax support sells more of his add-ons. Joe's customers are happy because they can enable fax support if they need it. We're happy because Joe's generating more Fax/Online sales.

As you can see, add-ons that provide API services to other add-ons can create a real

win-win-win situation in the marketplace. As more add-on API services become available, it will become easier and easier to develop add-ons for The Major BBS. That's something that could truly benefit us all!

The procedure required to make an add-on API available to others is very simple. Once you have a list of functions and variables you'd like to export from your DLL, just create a .DEF file (look at our GALMSG.DEF for an example).

From this .DEF file, you can build an import library with the Borland IMPLIB utility. Given your DLL, import library, and some documentation, other add-on developers can instantly make use of your API.

Unless all developers using your add-on are required to ship copies of your add-on with theirs, you'll need a method to allow their add-ons to work on systems that don't have your add-on installed. To do this, your API will need to include a query function that returns whether or not your API services are available. In your standard DLL, this function will always return "yes."

You'll then need to construct a "stub" DLL. This DLL's purpose in life will be to have a query function that always returns "no," and provide stubs for all other export-

ed functions and variables. Stub functions (besides the query function) can have undefined return values. Stub variables can have undefined contents. The idea is to provide other add-ons with a simple method to determine whether or not API services are available, and keep them from exploding due to references to exported symbols.

In a separate .C file, assemble your query function, stub functions, and stub variables. Link this .C file and your standard .DEF file together to build your stub DLL. You'll then need to instruct everyone using your API to include your stub DLL with their packages, and add the following DOS statement to their install procedures:

```
RENAM <STUB>.DLL <REAL>.DLL
```

If the developer's add-on is installed on a system that has your add-on installed (or already has the stub), the rename will fail. Otherwise, it'll make the stub look like the real thing. When the add-on references your API, the stub will be loaded (still looking like the real thing), and your query function will return "no." Your real add-on, when installed, will happily overwrite any existing DLLs, real or stub. So, a customer only needs to install your add-on to enable the API!



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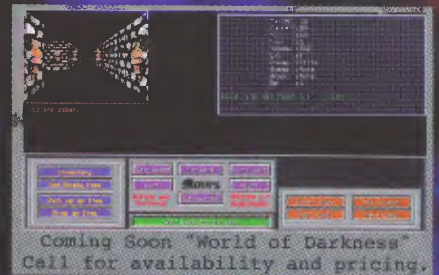
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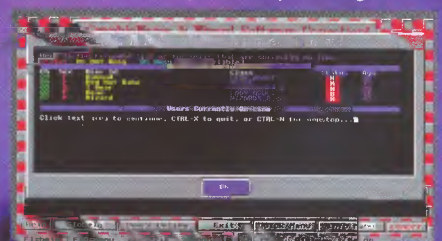
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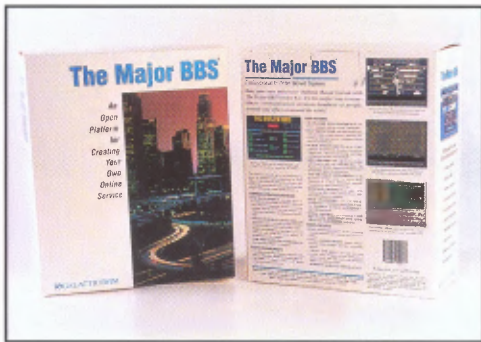
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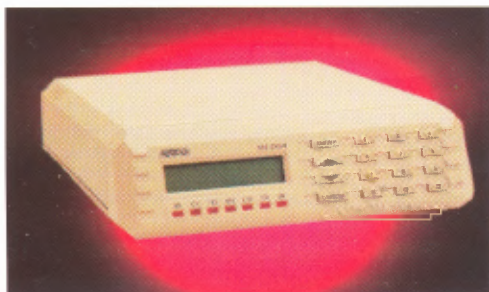
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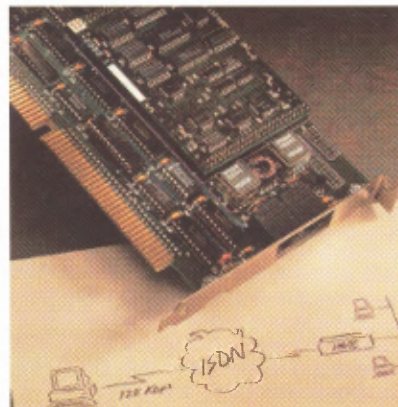
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Look Where Online Business Applications Are Now

by Susan Bloom
The Business BBS

We've come a long way in the last eight years! Initially, online business applications were confined to legal case law and periodical searches on services such as Lexis and Dialog. Users were specially trained librarians, paralegals, and other researchers who worked with difficult, and often awkward, user interfaces. Then firms in the computer industry began to use online services for software patch downloads.

Today, online services represent a channel for communications, information and product distribution, and dedicated business applications — in a flexible and cost-efficient manner. However, the business potential of this channel remains relatively untapped.

Online services are most often considered a communications tool for private and public exchange. Companies can easily gather and respond to customer questions and feedback, just like Galacticomm does on its Demo System.

The "open" nature of The Major BBS and the ingenuity of third-party developers have provided businesses with a wide range of online application software. These prod-

ucts have extended the definition of "information distribution" by increasing the types of data available to online users.

Text and multimedia document management applications allow virtually any type of file to be archived for searching. This has fostered electronic publishing of federal and local regulations, technical documents, article archives, and more. Even online periodical clipping services are beginning to appear.

Configurable databases allow organizations to offer features ranging from customer and membership databases to meeting lists and pricing information. Real estate, employment, and product-catalog markets are ideal for online database applications.

Manufacturers can offer dealers a database of factory and distributor inventory levels to avoid back orders. Employment agencies can offer both a recruiter's database and an applicant's database to match job openings.

Programmable relational databases allow development of complex business applications like sophisticated online order entry and inventory systems. One government system allows users to search existing contracts for specific items, build a requisition, place an order and track the order status.

The dynamic nature of online technology has made it an important business tool.

Advancements to connectivity are continuing to widen the vista of business applications. One network server can access data on other servers within the network or to remote servers located hundreds of miles away.

Online business solutions can actually be easier to use than traditional distribution methods with graphical interfaces and multimedia capabilities. Your online image can project the same quality and consistency you enjoy in the traditional marketplace.


These business applications are not without their cost, whether you count costs in terms of cash outlays, investments in hardware, software or human resources. Still, when properly designed and operated, this channel can represent a significant positive bottom line impact.

Combine all this with the fact that online services make your information available to your customers and prospects on demand.

The business environment is changing to include flex-hours, telecommuting and "special project" employees. International markets and geographically diverse work forces are now the norm, not the exception. The around-the-clock access to information, communications and dedicated applications offered by online services provide a competitive business advantage none can ignore.



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A useful addition! - Major Log

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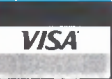
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Find FTP Files Fast with a Little Help from Archie

by Ken Maier
Director of UNIX Products

The Internet has huge archives of data available for searching, browsing and retrieving. This information is spread across thousands of computers, but you don't have to spend years hunting through files one system at a time. To easily locate files on the Internet, a group at McGill University in Montreal, Canada designed an electronic directory service that indexes the contents of anonymous ftp sites. This service is known as archie.

Anonymous ftp sites allow you to download or upload files without having an account on the remote system. You simply ftp to a site, log in as "anonymous" and use your Internet e-mail address as the password. These ftp sites are just like File Libraries — they're organized into directories to help you find what you're looking for.

Each archie server maintains a list of over 900 Internet anonymous ftp archives with over 2.1 million files. These archie servers visit each site about once a month to update their listing of available files.

To use archie, telnet to one of the following sites:

archie.au 139.130.4.6	Australia
archie.edvz.uni-linz.ac.at 140.78.3.8	Austria
archie.uqam.ca 132.208.250.10	Canada
archie.funet.fi 128.214.6.100	Finland
archie.th-darmstadt.de 130.83.22.60	Germany
archie.ac.il 132.65.6.15	Israel
archie.unipl.it 131.114.21.10	Italy
archie.wide.ad.jp 133.4.3.6	Japan
archie.kr 128.134.1.11	Korea
archie.rediris.es 130.206.1.2	Spain
archie.doc.ic.ac.uk 146.169.11.3	United Kingdom
archie.unl.edu 129.93.1.14	USA (NE)
archie.rutgers.edu 128.6.18.15	USA (NJ)

archie.sura.net
128.167.254.179

USA (MD)

At the login prompt, type "archie". To begin your search, type "prog <keyword>". The archie server will notify you how long the search will take, and then display the results. You will be given a list of matching files by site name — right down to the exact directory. For example, if you want to find all files with the keyword "major" you would type "prog major". You will then be given the sites and directories where the matching files are located.

You can also search for files by sending mail to one of the archie sites. Write your message to *archie@<site name>*, and in the body of your message include the search command. If you want to search the archie server in New Jersey, send a message to *archie@archie.rutgers.edu* with the "prog <keyword>" search command in the body.

You can also use the "whatis" command to retrieve short descriptions of software packages, documents and data files available on the Internet. Typing "help" at the archie prompt will give you more information on other commands as well as parameters you can use to narrow your search.

Happy hunting!



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*Desktop or LAN databases might require some re-programming for efficient online operation. MultiBase and MultiBase Online are trademarks of Cykic Software, Inc. RIPscrip is a trademark of TelGrafix Communications, Inc.

Something fun for Everyone!

Lost Caverns of Miczyk

The story unfolds with your mentor being horribly killed. You are beaten and thrown into a seemingly endless maze of rooms. This is the first game for The Major BBS that allows your users the freedom to build the game itself. Users are able to create rooms, monsters, spells, items and shops! This ensures that the game is totally original to your system. The game can be restarted and recreated entirely different. We will also be releasing a starter set of data files which will contain hundreds of rooms, spells and monsters.

\$399.00

Football Fanatic

Ever dreamed of owning your own football team? This is a simulation football league for your bulletin board system. Users own teams and control who they draft, who they play and how they play. Games are simulated and the best teams then face each other in the playoffs. The last two teams play each other in the Super Bowl of The Major BBS!

\$149

Mega Slots

The best slot machine ever written for The Major BBS. Mega Slots lets your users choose between one of three full ANSI graphic slot machines. Players are awarded credits each time the slot hits. The jackpot for each machine grows until someone hits the jackpot. Configurable odds, number of pulls and starting jackpot make this game a winner for any system.

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Mortal Sport

Far in the future, gladiators are trained from birth to fight to death for their owners. Your users are in the business of making money off these gladiators. Users buy, sell and train gladiators as well as control the combat of their own gladiators in one-on-one fights to the death with other users. Users may also earn money betting on fights. Odds are calculated the same way they are at a race-track and payoffs reflect those odds. Users may spend their money on new gladiators, to train or heal current gladiators or to buy weapons for gladiators. Optional feature allows users to swap money they earn in Mortal Sport for online credits.

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World Conquest

Strategic military game where two to six players start with an equal number of armies and approximately equal number of countries. Players must try and conquer countries by attacking from bordering countries. Players receive reinforcement troops based on countries held and entire continents held. High score list keeps track of the best players.

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Developing Internet Add-ons (cont'd. from page 19)

Almost all services on the Internet have two parts: the client and the server. In most cases, both have a place on a BBS — the client helps modem callers use a remote server somewhere on the Internet, and the server is for the benefit of remote clients calling into your BBS from across the Internet.

Here are a few development possibilities:

Archie client	Request a search for files at anonymous ftp sites
Archie server	Maintain a database of files at anonymous ftp sites
Gopher client	Display text menus of services available across the Internet
Gopher server	Maintain the supporting info for those menus, plus references to other menus on other gopher servers
HYTELNET client	Provide hypertext technology to BBS users
WWW server	A hypertext database, plus links to other databases
Lynx client	A text-based World-Wide Web user interface

Mosaic is the famous graphics client for WWW (World-Wide Web) that's making the Internet creak and groan under the weight of megabytes of graphics. Note that this is one type of Internet technology that BBSes can't support, yet.

Sources for TCP/IP Development Information

TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume 1, 1994, by W. Richard Stevens. This is the very best place to start understanding the nuts and bolts of the Internet protocols. It's absolutely required reading for anyone who wants to peek under the hood of the Internet and tinker. The figures are excellent, and the text is very readable. Published earlier this year, it leaves the reader in high anticipation of subsequent volumes. (I've asked, and the publisher won't say what Volume 2 is about, or when it will hit the bookstores.)

Unix Network Programming, 1990, by W. Richard Stevens. (Am I being too obvious that I'm a big fan of Stevens?) This is the best reference I've found on the Berkeley Sockets API, the leading de facto

standard for TCP/IP programming. This API was how TCP/IP was built into the UNIX kernel, a move which proved synergistic on a grand scale. Many (though by no means all) of the functions and features in the Berkeley Sockets API are available in the ICO to add-on developers.

How to get RFC's

All Internet standards are enshrined in public domain documents called Requests For Comments, or RFC's. If you get serious about Internet development you'll want a good source for RFC's. Here are a few ways to get them:

- CD Publishing Corporation's Packet Driver CD. Look for these files:

```

\INTERNET\RFC\RFC*.TXT
  (up to RFC1553.TXT on my copy)
\INTERNET\RFC\INDEX.TXT
  (index of all RFC's)

```
- The InterNIC — Internet Network Information Center. This is the most up-to-date source (including up to RFC1665.TXT the last time I looked)

```

ftp into ds.internic.net
Login: anonymous
Password: <your e-mail address>
cd /rfc
get rfc<number>.txt
get rfc-index.txt (index of RFC's)

```

There are many other anonymous ftp sites with up-to-date RFC's too.

Here are some of the more popular sites you may want to try:

```

ftp.concert.net
ftp.sesqui.net
nis.nsf.net
nisc.jvnc.net
src.doc.ic.ac.uk
venera.isi.edu
wuarchive.wustl.edu

```

- RFC's can also be obtained by Internet e-mail from an automated mail server:

Send a message to
mailserv@ds.internic.net


Include in the body of the message one or more lines of the form:

```

"document-by-name rfc<number>"
  for a specific RFC
"document-by-name rfc-index"
  for an index

```

The Future

Two things are certain about the future of the Internet. It will continue to change in numerous and significant ways; and whatever happens, there will be many people who claim they predicted it all along. Now you can be one of the select few who can claim to have made a contribution. With the Internet Connectivity Development Kit, you could be the first one on your block to put an Internet product ad in the *The Major News!* 

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Trivia (25,000 + ?) RIP	\$129.95
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Recommended Books on Using the Internet

by Bob Stein
Writer/Developer

Many bookstores now have an Internet subsection, within their computer books section, trying to introduce you to the Internet. Here are some of my recommendations:

The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog, Second Edition, April 1994, by Ed Krol. This is the best introduction to the Internet that I've seen by far. The author of the famous *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Internet*, Krol has outdone himself yet again with this broad-reaching and insightful book.


Connecting to the Internet, October 1993, by Susan Estrada. An uncommonly and refreshingly thin book on the Internet, this is an excellent reference for anyone trying to plug into the Internet. Great index, glossary, and list of service providers around the U.S., and — something that's de rigueur in Internet books — a list of favorite sites.

TCP/IP Network Administration, September 1993, by Craig Hunt. If you're interested in becoming, or in hiring, a TCP/IP network gnome you'll want this book in your library. As many of you can no doubt attest, network gnomes are critical to the health and success of a computer network of any size or complexity.

(You'll notice these first three are all published by O'Reilly, those books with the funny black & white woodcuts on the front and the purple or blue spines.)

The Internet Navigator, 1993, by Paul Gilster. Lots of practical street knowledge on the Internet, excellent index, great site list.

Internet Complete Reference, 1994, by Harkey Hahn and Rick Stout. Very approachable, with good hand-holding. Quite good as a reference too.

By the time this ink dries there could be many more outstanding books on the shelves. Visit your local bookstore, snoop around, and decide for yourself. And have a wonderful time discovering the Internet! 


File Library Displays

(cont'd. from page 21)

Next, since you've taken 12 characters off the length, you'll need to subtract 12 characters from the header and footer. Hit `<PgUp>` and you'll see a screen with a row of equal signs (= = =). This is your non-ANSI header line. Hit `<PgUp>` again and you'll see a thick green line representing the ANSI header and footer lines.

Move the cursor to the end of the line and delete the last 12 characters. Then, do the same thing for the bottom half of the line. Hit `<PgUp>` once more to change the caption text "Description" to something like "Contributed By." Once you have made these changes, hit `<Alt-S>` to return to CNF.

You can also modify the information in the file lists that users download by changing text variables in the text blocks LSTHDRA, LSTHDRB LSTLIN, LSTLINA, LSTLINB, and LSTLINC.

If you have any questions, leave e-mail to "Don Pitchford" on the Demo System, or pitch@gcomm.com via the Internet. Good luck, and be sure to back up your GAL-FIL.MSG file before experimenting! 

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GTEK Blackboard 4 4 port Multi-I/O with 16550 UARTS and 4 cables
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Addressing Non-Intelligent Hardware

by Jeff Torello
Technical Support Engineer

The Major BBS has the ability to support most non-intelligent multiport serial cards. Some cards are used as serial port replacement cards and require no special addressing — they use the standard COM1-4 addresses of 3F8, 2F8, 3E8, 2E8, respectively.

There are other cards, however, that have their own unique addressing scheme. The BocaBoard and DigiBoard products use different addresses than the standard COM1-4. You will need to configure these cards properly in order for them to work with The Major BBS.

For the correct addresses we use the default starting address of 100 hex, with an offset between channels of 8 hex. If your dip switches are not set to 100 hex, please check your *User's Manual* and set the starting address correctly.

For BocaBoard 8 and 16 port boards:

Port 1 = 100	Port 9 = 140
Port 2 = 108	Port 10 = 148
Port 3 = 110	Port 11 = 150
Port 4 = 118	Port 12 = 158
Port 5 = 120	Port 13 = 160
Port 6 = 128	Port 14 = 168
Port 7 = 130	Port 15 = 170
Port 8 = 138	Port 16 = 178

For DigiBoard 8 and 16 port boards:

Port 1 = 100	Port 9 = 148 *
Port 2 = 108	Port 10 = 150
Port 3 = 110	Port 11 = 158
Port 4 = 118	Port 12 = 160
Port 5 = 120	Port 13 = 168
Port 6 = 128	Port 14 = 170
Port 7 = 130	Port 15 = 178
Port 8 = 138	Port 16 = 180

*Note: The 16-port DigiBoard does not follow the 8 hex offset from channel eight to channel nine. Therefore, you must configure at least two channel groups — one will contain ports 1 through 8, and the other will contain ports 9 through 16. You may need more channel groups defined if you have different speed modems or you need different init strings. Always remember to configure modems with the same baud rate and modems with the same init strings in the same channel group.

Increase Performance of Search and Retrieve

by Tim Stark
Software Engineer

Our new version of Search and Retrieve offers a host of new refinements, including boolean search operators, support for graphics and fax files, and a better full screen interface. We've also added a powerful offline indexing engine that creates a word index of your files, so your users can easily search through megabytes of files online in about a second.

To increase performance of this indexing engine, you can optimize your data files in a number of ways. Be sure to back up your system *before* trying any of these suggested procedures. (See "GTEC9302.TXT" in the TECHNOLIBRARY for more information on ways to back up your system.) We also recommend that you use an Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) to avoid data loss should a power failure occur.

One simple step you can take is to run BBSRIDX on each of your area index files. This clears unused space from the data file and compresses the internal Btrieve data index, which increases performance. These index files, named GALSR nnn .DAT, must be present in the BBSV6 directory. (If the files are not in the BBSV6 directory, you will need to copy them there before running BBSRIDX and copy them back to their respective directories afterwards.)

To optimize your data files, you must first load Btrieve by typing "BBSBTR". Next, type "BBSRIDX GALSNR*" to re-

index the support data files. When that is complete, type "BBSRIDX GALSR*" to re-index your area index files. Then, unload Btrieve by typing "BBSRMB".

Using a large (4MB-16MB) write enabled disk cache via a program such as SMRTDRV or PC-Cache will significantly improve indexing performance. Moving your data files to a RAM disk will help as well.

You can also index your files using accelerated mode by setting the accelerated mode option under Create/Modify Area to "ON" for each area. Type "BBSBTR" to load Btrieve, and then type "GALSNRIE -ACCEL". To unload Btrieve type "BBSRMB".

If you are going to automatically update your files each day, you can add the command "GALSNRIE -AUTO" (for normal mode) or "GALSRNIE -ACCEL -AUTO" (for accelerated mode) to your BBSCLEAN.BAT file. This will search all of your areas and categories for new or updated text files and index them.

When working with very large amounts of data, you may wish to run the offline indexing engine on a development machine, allowing your BBS to remain online until you are ready to transfer your data files to the BBS machine. You will want the development machine to mirror your BBS machine's path and file set-up. Be sure to take the BBS down before attempting to copy any *.DAT files from the development machine to the BBS machine. You will need to copy the files GALSNR*.DAT and GALSR*.DAT.



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Programmers' Interface Development Standards

by Chris Robert
Director of Technology

Generally, users like a consistent user interface when dealing with a software product. The same applies to an online service. Although developers usually view a given BBS as a collection of wholly different modules, the average user views it more as a single online service. In order to maintain a common look and feel across modules, it's desirable to have user interface standards.

For many years, our user interface standards largely took the form of unwritten laws, passed down from developer to developer. As we continued to grow, and brought more programming staff on board, it became clear that written standards were in order. So, we began a process of documenting our user interface standards. Our current standards are far from complete, but are continually being expanded.

They aren't law, with the penalty of death to those that deviate. They are meant more as a set of default decisions. If there's

no real reason to do otherwise, user interface decisions should be dictated by the current standard.

Our goal is for The Major BBS and our add-ons to represent a clean, professional set of software products that integrate well with one another. We'd like to make our user interface standards available to you, so that your add-ons can maintain the same level of integration.

We've made our user interface standards available in the DEVELOP Library on our Demo System as USERINTR.STD. Right now, these standards include color standards, menu and prompt standards, online help standards, and full screen interface standards. We also have a "terms and phrases list" for the proper spelling and capitalization of hundreds of industry terms and phrases.

We'll update the online version of USERINTR.STD as it changes in-house. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to leave us mail!

Coding Standards and Principles

You'll notice that our source code has a

common look and feel to it. That's because we've had a very well-maintained set of in-house Galacticom coding standards. These standards cover things such as tab settings, variable naming conventions, function declaration styles, etc. This document covers all of the syntax-based standards we have followed over the years.

There's a lot to writing quality, bug-free code that has nothing to do with syntax. So, we've recently created the Galacticom Coding Principles document to cover the aspects of writing solid code that are outside of simple syntax.

If you write code for The Major BBS, the Galacticom Coding Standards and Coding Principles documents are certainly suggested reading. Even if you don't follow the standards yourself, reading them will at least give you a better understanding of our coding practices, so you can better understand our code. These two documents are available in the DEVELOP Library on our Demo System as CODING.STD and CODEPRIN.STD. As with the user interface standards, we'll update them online as we do in-house.



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Not Keys

The Major BBS system of keys is very powerful. One of the most useful features of this keying system is the ability to create keyrings for classes, allowing users to be given complete sets of keys simply by putting them into a particular class. A problem arises whenever you wish to remove a key from a user who holds it in his or her class keyring. Not-Keys make your life easier because they automatically negate keys in either class or personal keyrings. Not-Keys can be set to expire after a number of days or set without an expiration date.

\$49

Executive Informer

Executive Informer is a wonderful way to keep your users up to date on current bulletin board system events. Executive Informer allows you to send System News, Bulk E-mail and Logoff Messages to users based on Class, Keys Held, Keys Not Held, Sex, Minimum Age and Maximum Age. You may set an expiration date for each message and either have each user receive the message once or each call until it expires. System News supports grouping, allowing you to have multiple news areas with different topics.

\$49

Dual Password Security

Dual Password Key Security allows you to give your users a set of keys only after they enter a second password. If your user happens to leave him or herself logged in and someone else tries to access your bulletin board through his account, you won't have to worry about that person seeing very sensitive information.

\$39

Modem to Modem

Modem to Modem is a very basic module which allows two users on your bulletin board system to go into a mode which emulates a terminal to terminal connection. Once the users are in this mode they can start playing nearly any modem to modem game or even transfer files directly to one another.

\$29

Ultra Globals

Ultra-Globals is a unique package of global commands. Ultra-Globals is completely configurable and allows your users to perform all the basic global commands as well as setting their own messages which are shown to everyone else when they logon and logoff. Ultra-Globals will keep a record of what day and time a person last called as well as keep track of the number of times a user has been kicked off your system.

\$39

Colorific

Colorific will allow your users to insert color and extended ASCII characters into most of their messages. Colorific uses keys so that you can restrict people from coloring text, making text blink and using extended ASCII characters individually. Colorific works anywhere there is line by line input such as pages, whispers, registry data and the line editor. Colorific will also strip out any redundant ANSI codes for maximum efficiency.

\$25

Chat-Now

One-on-one chat is a very popular feature of most systems. Chat-Now allows your users to enter one-on-one chat from anywhere on your system. Chat-Now allows users to execute global commands from within a chat session without the other user's knowledge. Chat-Now supports a special split screened mode for ANSI users which splits the screen in half and lets each person type in a window.

\$49

Granola Pager

The more you are available to assist your users the more successful your bulletin board system will be. Granola Pager allows you to increase your availability by having your digital pager signal you when certain users page sysop and nobody is available on your system to help them. Supports scheduling system allowing you to have different people paged at different times or have hours during which nobody is paged. Also allows you to restrict how often you are paged.

\$49

Anonymous Teleconference

The teleconference is usually the most popular area of any bulletin board system. Anonymous Teleconference allows your users to enter a teleconference where nobody really knows who is who. Users are assigned a random number each time they enter Anonymous Teleconference which can be used for whispering. Optional mode allows sysops to see who sent messages.

\$49

Credit Exchange

Most Major BBS systems have both hourly and flat rate access users. Flat rate users often wish to play games of chance which require credits to play but the games are not as much fun unless you are risking your time playing them. Credit Exchange allows you to set a rate at which users may exchange days from each class into credits. Credit Exchange also allows you to set an amount of credits required for a user in a particular class to purchase an additional day.

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Connect Your LAN Workstation Directly to Your BBS

by Jeff Torello

Technical Support Engineer

The Major BBS baseline package allows users on your LAN to connect to your BBS through IPX Direct LAN connections. To create an IPX/D connection, follow these steps:

1. Make sure the BBS is logged into the LAN. You can use default access rights or privileges.
2. In the BBS directory you will find a program called SPXTALK.EXE. This is a freely distributable terminal program provided with The Major BBS that allows users to access the BBS from your LAN. Run SPXTALK.EXE on the BBS computer and write down the information displayed on the bottom left corner. This is the local network address of the BBS. A network address consists of 24 digits — the network ID (8 digits), the node ID (12 digits), and the socket (4 digits).
3. Now run SPXTALK.EXE on the workstation computer (the one you want to log in with) and write down


the information on the bottom left corner. This is the local address of the remote workstation. Make sure to write down the socket address as well. (Normally, this number is 4008.)

4. From the Introductory Menu, select Level 1, Hardware Setup. Configure a channel group as IPX/D, and then specify the network address of the workstation that will access the BBS through the LAN. Be sure to include the socket number as part of the address (it's almost always 4008). Do *not* use the socket numbers listed in the next column, as they are BBS channel group sockets, not workstation sockets.
5. Bring the BBS online (option 5, "GO!"). Run SPXTALK from the workstation. Press "I" and type in the BBS network address with the correct socket number. The BBS socket number is the last four digits in the address. This number is pre-assigned by Novell on a per-channel-group basis. You must enter the correct socket number from the following list, or you will not be able to log in from the LAN.

Here are the sockets:

Channel Group 1	Socket 80BB
Channel Group 2	Socket 80BC
Channel Group 3	Socket 80BD
Channel Group 4	Socket 80BE
Channel Group 5	Socket 80BF
Channel Group 6	Socket 80C0
Channel Group 7	Socket 80C1
Channel Group 8	Socket 80C2
Channel Group 9	Socket 86D0
Channel Group 10	Socket 86D1
Channel Group 11	Socket 86D2
Channel Group 12	Socket 86D3
Channel Group 13	Socket 86D4
Channel Group 14	Socket 86D5
Channel Group 15	Socket 86D6
Channel Group 16	Socket 86D7

6. Select "A" from SPXTALK and you should be connected to the BBS through the LAN.

The Advanced LAN Option makes your LAN connections even easier. Instead of dedicating a channel to each individual workstation, you can configure the number of workstations you want to be able to log into your BBS, up to your user-count license. 



Star Market is a game of intergalactic trading. Players attempt to build trading companies in space and then purchase stock in the most profitable ones. Players must use logic and planning to make the most out of companies by causing them to grow and merge with each other. *Unlimited users \$129, 8 users \$99, 2 users \$49.*

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Autoterm

Autoterm is a full featured terminal program for the main console of The Major BBS. Autoterm supports most of the popular transfer protocols including Zmodem. Powerful but simple dialing directory can hold up to 255 entries. Features automatic dialing and phone number tagging. Powerful script language allows Autoterm to call out unattended and transfer files. Special commands to allow calling on multiple lines at once. Full ANSI terminal emulation with capture and full ANSI color scrollback. Also supports automatic start of Zmodem downloads. Ten keyboard macros are supplied and configuration can be done without the need to shutdown the bbs.

\$145

Online Expert System

OES allows special questionnaires to be created which perform mathematical calculations as they are answered. This can be used to do everything from automating financial paperwork to providing customers with estimates. OES permits an unlimited amount of questionnaires and allows you to give access to each questionnaire individually based on key. Results of questionnaires can be made available by online viewing or download. Supports tables for converting answers to figures. OES supports the following calculations: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Parenthesis and Conditional Branching. Also allows user to go back and change his or her answers.

\$149

Accounting Automation

Full featured accounting system for your bulletin board system. Accounting automation allows you to make Subscription IDs which you can sell to your users. Subscription IDs are redeemed for money on your bbs which can be used to purchase any type of access you make available. Also supports 900# billing, Visa, Mastercard and American Express validation. Module is free without credit card validation and only \$39 with the credit card validation.

File Viewer

File Viewer is a very simple to use file viewer for you and your users. File Viewer allows you to make text files of any length available for viewing and downloading. Users may scroll up and down a line at a time, a page at a time or any amount of lines at a time they wish. Users may also search for keywords within the file. Command included to download file user is currently viewing. Supports command concatenation so you can make menu options that immediately bring up files you wish users to view.

\$79

We at Cheersoft are dedicated to serving The Major BBS community. We provide technical support on all software and hardware whether or not it is our own. We feel that we do outstanding custom development and we put together reliable, affordable turnkey systems. On all custom jobs we ask you to fax us a detailed description of what you'd like us to create for you and we'll always give you an estimate before starting. We always charge within ten percent of what our estimate is, and our estimates are usually lower than any of our competition. We've recently moved into an office and obtained a 1-800 number for orders. We can now serve you better than we've ever been able to before. Additionally we put together turnkey systems and run our own large bulletin board system. As a Cheersoft customer or prospect you are entitled to a free support account on Cheers Online! Once you are logged on to Cheers you can reach someone for support nearly twenty-four hours a day by paging sysop. On our system when you page sysop and there is no sysop online it will alert the Cheersoft employee currently on call by making his or her digital pager sound off with your phone number.

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Employee Profile

As Senior Sales Representative, Michele Rodier is on our "front line," answering questions from customers and prospects and explaining how The Major BBS can benefit their organizations. She is proactively developing business in the publishing industry, where we've experienced a dramatic increase in periodicals launching their own electronic publications.

Michele's newspaper experience extends beyond her years with Galacticom. She worked for the Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel* in classified sales and customer service. "These positions gave me strong insight into the inner workings of a daily newspaper," Michele says. "This experience has served me well when I'm talking with publishers about all of the ways an online service can work for them; for example, they may not have considered using The Major BBS for their internal e-mail, for reporters to upload stories, or for advertisers to upload their ads — to name just a few."

Michele joined Galacticom in 1992 as a receptionist. A year later, she was promoted to sales. "My favorite aspect of this position is being able to provide my customers with software that will help them achieve their needs and goals," she says.



An avid online enthusiast, Michele credits much of her life's direction to The Major BBS. She was recruited online for the receptionist position by a Galacticom employee. She also met her husband, Peter, online. The two are expecting their first child in January.

While on maternity leave, Michele plans to keep in touch with what's going on at work by logging into the Demo System on a regular basis. We wouldn't be surprised if Michele captures a whole new market for Galacticom upon her return — telecommuting mothers!

Galacticom Habla Español

En un esfuerzo para mejorar el servicio a nuestros clientes y futuros clientes, hemos creado una dirección de e-mail a la cual pueden escribir en Español. Para recibir servicio de asistencia pos-venta o para recibir servicio técnico, solamente dirijan un mensaje a "Soporte Técnico" en nuestro Sistema de Demostración o a soporte@gcomm.com en el Internet y te responderemos en 24 horas. También nos pueden enviar los mensajes a través de CompuServe escribiendo a *INTERNET: support@gcomm.com*, o por fax al número 305/583-7846.

In an effort to better serve our customers and prospects, we've created a special e-mail address for those of you who would prefer to receive customer service or technical support in Spanish. Just address your messages to "Soporte Técnico" on our Demo System or soporte@gcomm.com on the Internet, and we'll respond in Spanish within 24 hours. You can also reach our technical support staff through CompuServe by sending a message to *INTERNET: support@gcomm.com*, or via fax at 305/583-7846.

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Cool Places to Go: FTP and Telnet Sites on the Internet

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of sites to explore on the Internet. Finding a new source of information is half the fun, but here are a few tips to make your trip a productive one.

When connecting to an anonymous ftp site, use the word "anonymous" (in lowercase) as your login name and your Internet

e-mail address as the password. You should see an "FTP>" prompt, and will be able to look around for files to download.

To transfer a file, you'll need to specify the mode by typing the word "ascii" or "binary" while connected to the remote site. When in doubt, use binary mode. And don't forget to use the "bye" command to disconnect.

When using telnet, type all commands in lowercase unless otherwise specified. Some systems are case-sensitive (such as the Vienna Stock Exchange), so be sure to type the login name exactly as shown. Port numbers that follow some of the telnet sites are required for the connection to work.

With all this in mind, happy exploring!

FTP Services

	Topic	Site
Agriculture Resource List	Agriculture	ftp ftp.sura.net (See the file /pub/net/agricultural.list)
Washington University at St. Louis	Archive (MS-DOS)	ftp wuarchive.wustl.edu
NASA Space Image Archive	Astronomy	ftp images.jsc.nasa.gov
Microsoft, Inc.	Computing	ftp microsoft.com
Lyric/Music Server	Database	ftp ftp.uwp.edu (Look in the directory /pub/music)
Recipe Archives	Database	ftp gatekeeper.dec.com (Look in the directory /pub/recipes)
Supreme Court Rulings	Legal	ftp ftp.cwru.edu (Look in the directory /hermes)

Telnet Services

	Topic	Site
National Archeological Database	Archeology	telnet cast.uark.edu (Type "nadb" at the login: prompt)
Book Stacks Unlimited	Book store	telnet books.com
Stock Market Reports	Business	telnet a2i.rahul.net (Type "guest" at the login: prompt)
Vienna Stock Exchange	Business	telnet fiivs01.tu-graz.ac.at (Type "BOERSE" at the login: prompt)
CNN Headline News	Business	telnet info.umd.edu
KidLink Gopher	Children	telnet kids.ccit.duq.edu (Type "gopher" at the login: prompt)
HPCWire (Supercomputing)	Computing	telnet supernet.ans.net
CARL	Database	telnet pac.carl.org
Geographic Server	Database	telnet martini.eecs.umich.edu 3000
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WorldWindow	InfoServer	telnet library.wustl.edu
Law Library	Legal	telnet liberty.uc.wlu.edu
West's Legal Dictionary	Legal	telnet 163.231.231.3
Compact Disk Collection	Music store	telnet cdconnection.com
Federal Information Exchange	Scholarship Info	telnet fedix.fie.com
Periodic Table of the Elements	Science	telnet camms2.caos.kun.nl 2034
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