

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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Create powerful online business or entertainment databases accessible through DOS or Windows™ with DC Net v2.5 for The Major BBS®.

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DC Term v1.0 for Windows™

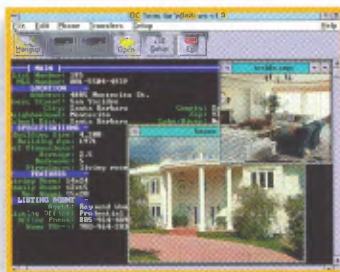
DCN announces its new DC Term v1.0 for Windows with enhanced video card support and built-in image viewing capabilities in one easy-to-use Windows terminal program.

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

TURN-KEY APPLICATIONS

DCN provides a full suite of turn-key database applications:

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

Images transfer in 10-15 seconds.

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 Galaticomm 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

Create your own online information service.

FEATURES

FLEXIBLE USER INTERFACE

- Complete flexibility in design of data-entry, searching, browsing and detailed viewing.
- ANSI and RIPscrip graphics protocol support for all database functions.
- Complete entry screen validation via pick lists.
- Online and Offline database updating.
- Browse to detailed view jumping.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN SECONDS

- Support for the following image formats: JPG, CMP, PCX, BMP, TIF, TGA and GIF.
- Online and Offline image viewing capabilities.

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.



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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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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.

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**

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

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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

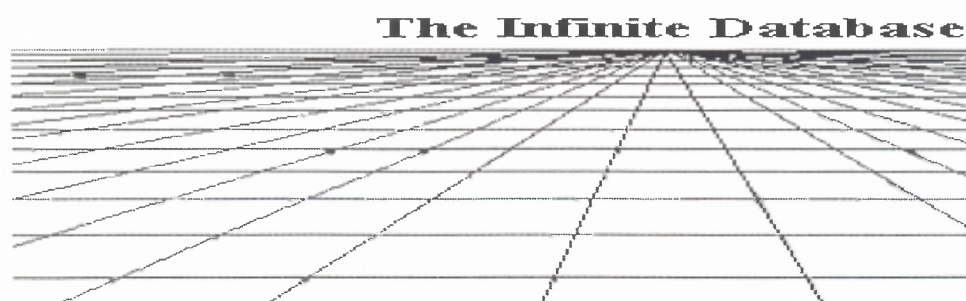
All users fill out the same Product Support question and answer form. Automatic notification lets the support team know of new problems and they can modify the form directly with the correct solution. Because users are provided a form, you can be sure all pertinent questions and answers are provided.

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

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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!
Thanks to Pioneer for their CD-ROM jukeboxes!

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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 Key Registries: Have multiple registries with an unlimited number of fields, configurable online, based on what key a particular user holds. Upon approval or deletion of a particular registry you can assign or remove a key or credits. Also supports forcing a user to complete a particular registry. **\$75.00**

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**

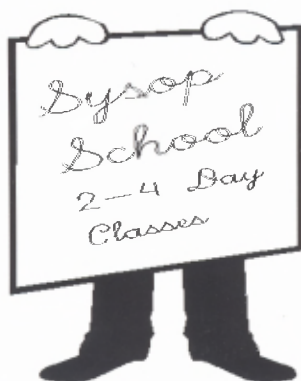
HWM Time Charge: Allows you to fully control credit charges throughout your system by modules used, keys held, and line used. Most modules will not allow you to control credit charges with the same finesse that TC does. TC can be used for "surcharges", or to replace the standard BBS credit charging system.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

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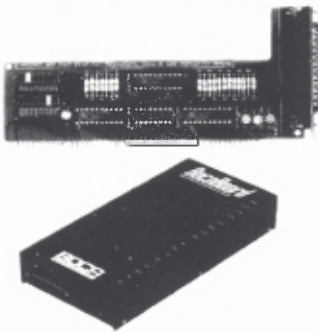
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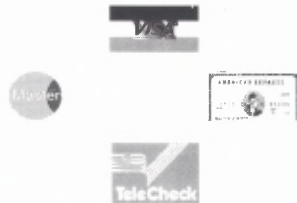
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One of the best news modules available for The Major BBS. Headline News allows you to write news bulletins to users based on age ranges and/or keys. Bulletins may also be set to appear at logon. The spectacular feature is the ability for bulletins 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!**

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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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Ad Gallery

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.

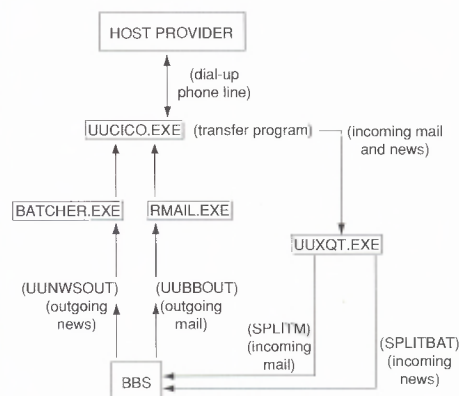
UUCP was invented in the early 1970s, and every UNIX system speaks it. The "G" protocol forms the basis for UUCP communication, and is supported by every UNIX implementation on the planet.

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. 

I14toSPX

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).

I14toSPX is a trademark of Online Store AG. Procomm Plus is a trademark of Datastorm Technologies, Inc. The Major BBS is a trademark of Galacticcomm, Inc.

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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 `regtcpsvr()` 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.

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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

mdm: +39/182-556262

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.

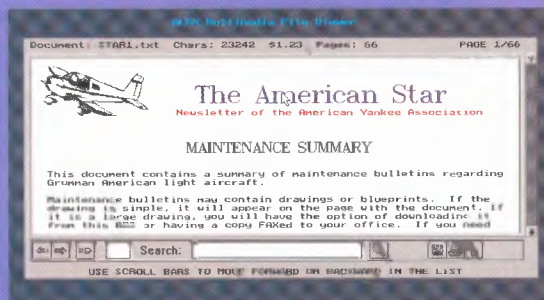
ALEX is also expandable. Our modular construction lets you 'plug in' accessory modules to customize ALEX for your specific application.

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.

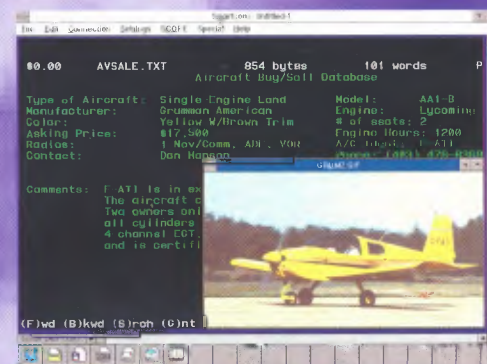
Multimedia Documents



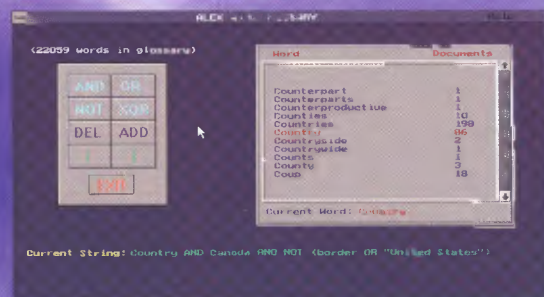
- Embedded graphics
- Pull-down menus
- Custom Icons
- Full mouse control with advanced features like scroll bars, button bars, and roll-ups!

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
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- Nested Searches
- Wildcards
- Root searches
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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!

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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.

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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

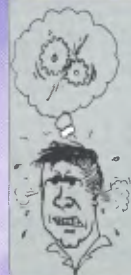
The Keyrack uses The Major BBS's lock and key system to implement a complete multi-structured pay system for your BBS. The Keyrack lets you build keys that expire after a fixed period of time. This allows you to have 'premium' services on your BBS and automate payment for them.

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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**Parallax
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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
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 Voice: (805) 961-8700
 Fax: (805) 961-8701
 BBS: (805) 961-8710

East Side Computing
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 Kirkland, WA 98033
 Voice: (206) 828-0522
 BBS: (206) 889-2428

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 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

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

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

Hello Central/CPC Software
 PO Box 2011
 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
 P.O. Box 1386
 Highland Park, NJ 08904
 Fax: (908) 828-0949
 BBS: (908) 249-2263

High Velocity Software
 PO Box 33455
 Phoenix, AZ 850673455
 Phone: 800/572-5582
 Fax: 602/234-0730
 E-mail: support@garden.com

Imagen, Inc.
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 Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 2S2
 Voice: (604) 266-2240

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 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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17531 91st Street
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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
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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.



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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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Happy Birthday	\$79	\$51	\$31
HyperTyper	\$129	\$83	\$51
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The Inquirer	\$220	\$143	\$88
Never Ending Story	\$79	\$51	\$31
Fortune	\$79	\$51	\$31
HangMan Pro!	\$99	\$64	\$39
HighLow	\$79	\$51	\$31
HorseRace	\$129	\$83	\$51
Mine Field	\$149	\$96	\$59
SkyBattle	\$129	\$83	\$51
SKY-BJ	\$99	\$64	\$39
SKY-Poker	\$99	\$64	\$39
Space Empire	\$389	\$252	\$155
TimeBall	\$129	\$83	\$51
Time Bank	\$99	\$64	\$39
Today in History	\$79	\$51	\$31
UserMessage	\$79	\$51	\$31
WhatTime	\$79	\$51	\$31
X-Moria	\$500	\$325	\$200
Yahtzee	\$99	\$64	\$39

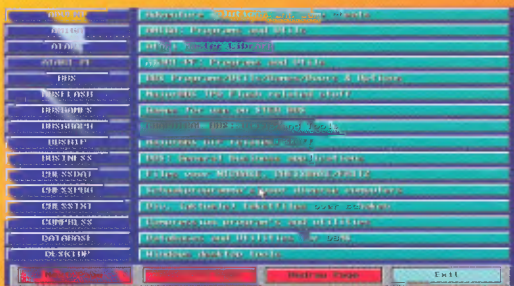
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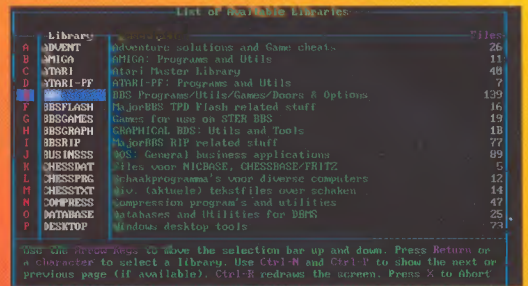
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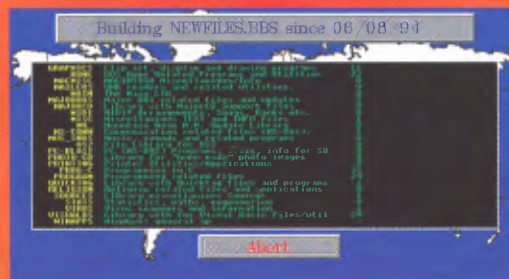
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Add-ons Helping Add-ons

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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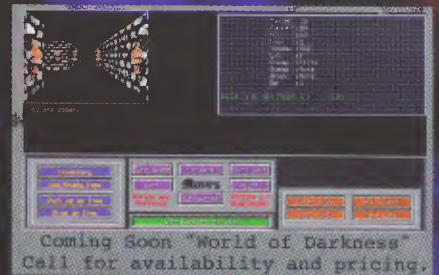
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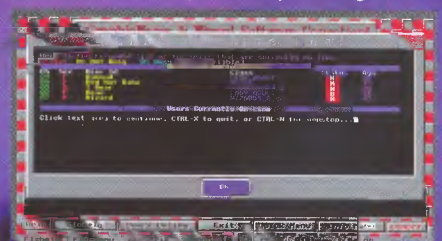
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