

# VISIONS

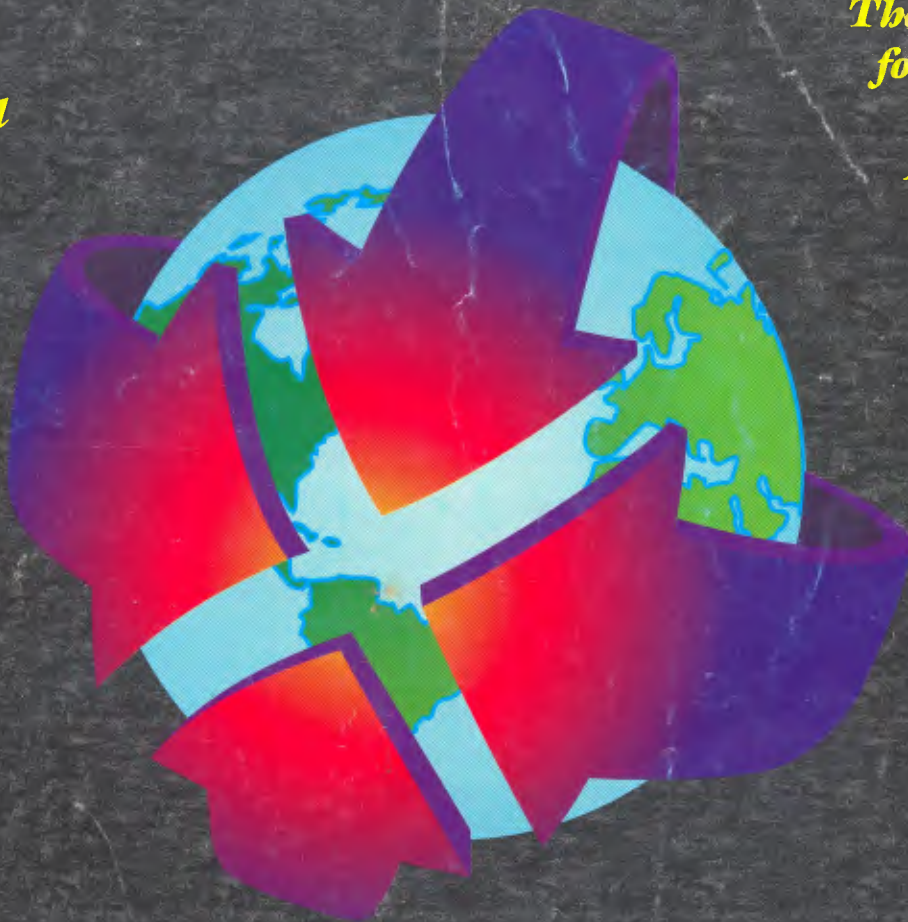
News and information for bringing your vision online  
Summer 1995

## *The Worldgroup Era Begins...*

*Introducing  
the world's  
most powerful  
client/server  
online  
platform*

*Free  
multimedia  
extensions  
included  
with  
Worldgroup*

*ICO supports  
outdialing  
via telnet and  
finger client  
and server*



*The Major BBS  
for UNIX now  
available for  
Linux, SCO,  
Solaris, and  
BSD/OS*

*New Sysop  
program  
created  
with  
Motorola*

*Service-driven  
NIS division  
helps bring your  
vision online*



# Major Agenda

System/Personal Information Manager

**ONLY  
\$149**



- Maintain up to one(1) year's worth of public and private events with Major Agenda's easy to use calendar format.
- Categories and category filters allow for easy topic segregation.
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MAJOR AGENDA  
(c) 1994, ProDesign, Inc. Current Filter: All Categories

March

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

- Extensive system operator control over categories and messages using key restrictions, class and User-ID event notifications.
- Plus auto-purging, auto-approval, and many other features too numerous to list.

or \* represents Today's Date  
! indicates a Scheduled Event

<1,31> - Select a Day      <S> - Set Category Filter      <A> - About Agenda  
<M> - Change Month      <C> - Clear Category Filter      <?> - Help  
<L> - Toggle Logon Notices      <R> - Redraw Screen      <X> - Exit

Please enter your selection and press ENTER:



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## President's Corner

by Scott J. Brinker  
President & CEO



You are about to participate in a wonderful evolution. Like a butterfly lifting into the air from its cocoon, your BBS can now soar into a world of Windows brilliance and appeal.

It's an evolution from ASCII/ANSI into a true client/server environment capable of multimedia-rich online applications. It's an evolution from a small audience to a mass market. It's an evolution from The Major BBS to Worldgroup.

Nearly two years in the making, Worldgroup is the next generation of online service software. It lets you stand out against America Online, offering your users a Windows client program that makes your system friendly, sexy, and productive.

Click on an icon to launch an application. Work offline as easily as when you're connected. Take advantage of multithreading to take a poll, while you're getting new mail, while you're downloading a file from the library. Transparently receive client program updates. This is hot stuff!

And it gets better. We've always believed in the power of an open architecture, making our source code available to you and supporting the efforts of dozens of Independent Software Vendors (ISVs).

The design of Worldgroup takes this extensibility to a new level. Developers can write new applications using Visual Basic on the client-side and Borland C++ on the server — a powerhouse combination.

The fruits from this fertile ground are evident throughout this latest issue of our newsletter (reborn under the new name of *Visions*). Dozens of hot ISV products are now available as client/server add-ons for the Worldgroup platform — you'll find plenty of new product announcements in the pages ahead.

In particular, the dam seems to have broken with a plethora of programmable dBase options now offered from The Business BBS (MultiBase), BSI Technologies (xBasic) and ProDesign, Inc. (Distributed Database Development Platform).

All of this integrates smoothly with our Internet Connectivity Option, which adds TCP/IP support directly into your Worldgroup server. This lets the Worldgroup client software work over the Internet as well as dial-up modems and your LAN.


Our client/server protocol rides on top of a standard telnet connection and lets you run a graphical interactive service on the Internet that goes beyond the Web — a superset of Web and traditional online service capabilities, complete with user tracking, accounting and reporting features.

Collectively, this technology gives you the tools to meet the demands of a converging world. Workgroups, e-mail, BBSes, commercial online services and the Internet are all starting to intersect, and everyone wants to be connected.

Worldgroup was designed to encompass all of these as one whole, managing the electronic crossroads between the people and resources inside your company and the outside world at large. It's a one-of-a-kind solution that will help you stand out in your market.

In addition to the technology, Galacticomm is also committed to providing you with world-class service and support. In the beginning of 1995, Stephen Paradiso became our Technical Support Manager and his team — Sean, Nathan, Steve, Dan, Frank, Scott, Eddy, Eric, Phil and Anders — are ready to help you at any stage in your Worldgroup experience.

Ken Maier, along with Shane, Craig and Mahesh provide the same role for our UNIX customers. And our new Network and Integration Services division, headed by Ken Royer (of FedWorld fame), offers turnkey solutions, system consulting, and classroom training (in conjunction with BSI Technologies). Please call us if there's anything we can ever do for you.

Thank you for your ongoing support that has given us the opportunity to develop this exciting release. We're proud to share it with you, and I can't wait to see and hear of your successes with this platform. Fly high, fly far, and may the wind be at your back. 



# CONTENTS

**VISIONS**  
Summer 1995

Worldgroup: A new world in online services .....	6
Worldgroup offers exciting multimedia interface .....	7
Tips for designing successful icons .....	10
E-mail and forums deliver robust new features .....	14
ICO adds outdialing via telnet and finger support .....	17
Save up to 40% on Motorola products .....	22
Products unveiled for The Major BBS for UNIX .....	29
Where to find multimedia tools on the Internet .....	33
A look at the client/server menus .....	35
Troubleshooting your modems .....	36
Improving performance with intelligent boards .....	37
Programmer's Interface: The Worldgroup Platform .....	38
Worldgroup offers extensive documentation .....	41
Galacticomm unveils ISV program .....	45
MG/I improves with new messaging engine .....	47
Second annual dinner event planned for BBSCON .....	49
Power-Pak to launch "MedWorld" online service .....	50
Specialized online solutions for business applications .....	51
Generating a modem string .....	52
Using Brequest to gain a performance advantage .....	60
Ambassador Dealers .....	62
Independent Software Vendors .....	76

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# THE BUSINESS BBS

## Custom Online Solutions for Business

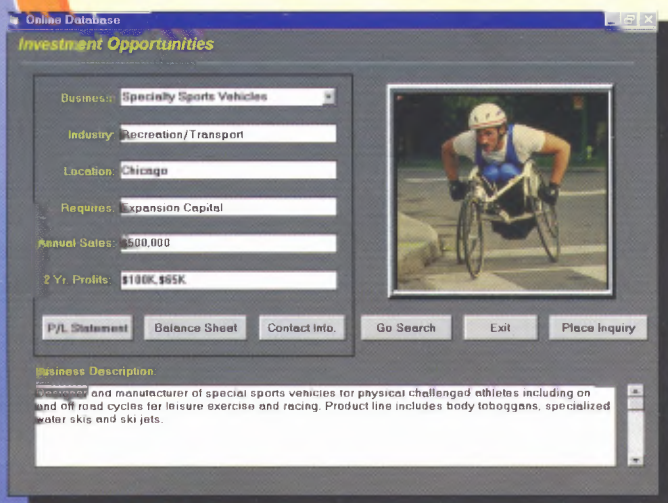
### *Increase Your Competitive Advantage*

Enter the world of online services while decreasing your initial investment and total costs. Take advantage of our economies of scale, design, programming expertise

and professional operations experience.

The Business BBS is a service bureau providing custom online systems for businesses. Our professionals understand the marketing, as well as technical, requirements for making these services successful.

Whether you're building an entrepreneurial venture, providing customer support, or creating a new product offering, The Business BBS will increase your competitive advantage.

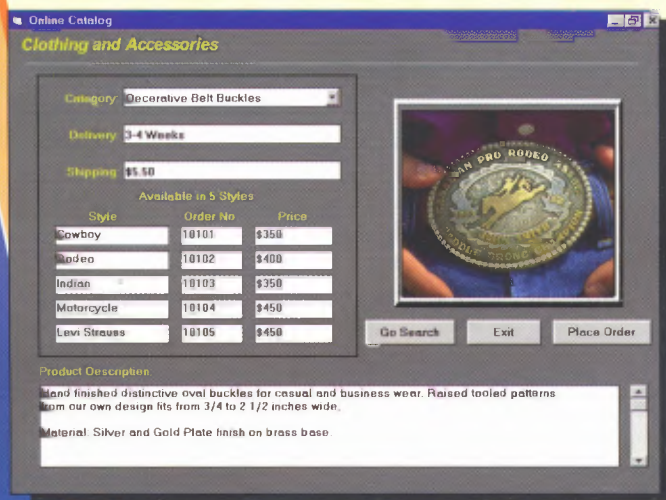


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Indeo	10102	\$400
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Levi Strauss	10105	\$450

Go Search Exit Place Order

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## THE BUSINESS BBS

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# Worldgroup: A new world in online services

by Dihan Rosenburg  
Managing Editor

“Worldgroup knocked my socks off — I’m standing here with bare feet,” says Gene Friedman, systems analyst for Citibank Corporation.

“Galacticomm has taken many of the best features from online services such as Prodigy and America Online and created a package that I can only describe as awesome,” agrees Dennis Fowler, a contributing editor for *Computer Shopper*.

Beta testers, the press, and customers like you all seem to agree: Worldgroup, our follow-up to The Major BBS, is exactly what the online industry has been waiting for. Worldgroup is a fusion of the best of e-mail/workgroup technology and the “Big Three” commercial online services.

Now your online service can match the best of these big online services — and even the World-Wide Web — with colors, graphics, real-time video, and sound. Worldgroup adds a client/server architecture to the traditional BBS paradigm, with the server running under DOS on your host machine.

The intelligent shareware client runs on your user’s PC, providing a Windows interface that is not only attractive, but efficient, intuitive and

exciting. The Windows client/server interface works just as well over the Internet as it does via modems, LAN,

ISDN, and X.25 networks such as CompuServe and SprintNet.

“Our users have been asking us about a GUI interface for a long time,” says Bob

Bunge, the operations manager for the U.S.

Dept. of Commerce’s “FedWorld” system.

“Worldgroup integrates so well

with Windows, I forget I’m logged on!”

“I think Worldgroup is going to be incredible for our customers,” adds Kevin Ehlers, system administrator for the computer manufacturing corporation, Gateway 2000. “The majority of our

market is first-time computer buyers, who also tend to be new to online services. Worldgroup is going to be a nice entry point to cyberspace for them.”

The flexibility of the new client/server architecture makes it possible to bring your users an amazing array of new services.

For instance, with control over both sides of the link, we were able to establish a multithreaded, error-correcting

protocol that lets users enjoy up to 30 activities at once. Like downloading files in the background while reading new mail, or auto updating new versions of applications transparently.

User-side intelligence allows you to make full use of multimedia presentations, offline operation, and local CPU horsepower. This local cache of programs and data ensures top performance at 2,400 or 28,800 bps.

We’ve packed e-mail and forums with features that rival the best of the LAN-based packages: in box, out box, address book, local file cabinet, forward with comments, and priority tagging, to

name a few.

As many as 10,000 forums can be created for both local and networked messages.

And that’s just the beginning. Users can transfer files in one easy step. New users avoid the learning curve

of how to download files with different protocols. If they can click an icon, they can download a file.

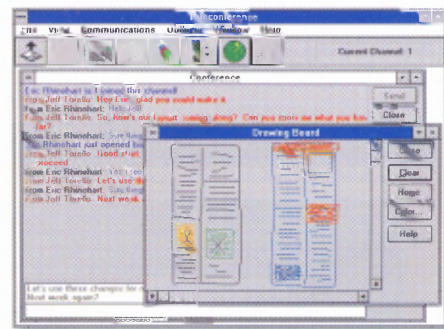
Teleconference offers a drawing board where users can convey ideas visually at the same time they’re chatting. They can customize their words and sketches with a full color palette and their choice of fonts. Users can also exchange files in real time.

In Polls and Questionnaires, users can view exportable bar graphs and pie charts of the results.

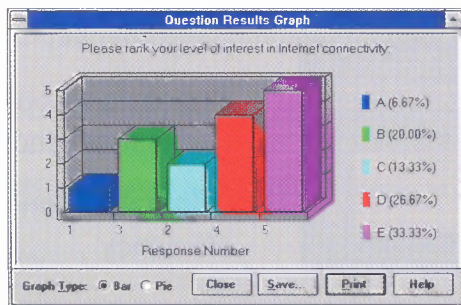
The client/server platform offers yet another exciting advantage: You can write your own client-side applications



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



*In the multi-user teleconference, users can communicate in words and pictures.*



*Present poll results as bar graphs or pie charts that can be printed or exported to other applications.*

(continued on page 7)

# Worldgroup offers exciting new multimedia interface

by Scott Brinker  
President & CEO

With the release of Worldgroup, we've made available a client/server platform that lets you run a graphical system matching the best of the commercial online services.

Worldgroup can be accessed by dial-up modem callers, Internet users, individuals on the LAN, and those with ISDN and X.25 networks.

However, the real power of Worldgroup is its extensibility. The Worldgroup Client/Server Developer's Kit enables system operators and Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) to create plug-and-play client/server add-ons using Visual Basic on the client side and Borland C++ on the server.

Because Visual Basic itself is such an extendible and widely-supported development environment, developers can easily harness an amazing array of Windows technology into their applications... especially multimedia capabilities.

To prove the flexibility of the client/server model — and to demonstrate the ease and power of Visual Basic extensibility — two Galaticomm engineers took a three-day weekend to explore the possibilities of multimedia enhancements to the first release of Worldgroup.

The result of this 72-hour adventure is a new collection of multimedia extensions, including a welcome screen with images and sound, graphical menu backdrops, and a "launch" client/server module that downloads and launches files directly from the menu.

## Welcoming splash screen

Configure your own "splash" screen to appear when users call in with Worldgroup Manager (the client software). You can use any Windows BMP file, Windows Metafile (WMF), or Windows DIB file to create welcome screens with your organization's logo, an image conveying your system's theme, etc. For kaleidoscopic effect, animate these images to change and swirl in real-time.

These files can be designed using off-the-shelf programs, such as Corel Draw, PC Paintbrush, and Adobe Photoshop. You can also convert images from other formats, such as PCX, TIF, and JPEG, using programs such as Paint Shop Pro. The size of the splash screen window will automatically adjust to display the full image of your graphic for maximum effect. A timer and/or user-clickable button can transition from the splash screen to the main menu, so users will have time to enjoy your creation.

Add sound effects to the excitement too! A configurable WAV or MIDI sound file can be played along with your splash screen for a dramatic effect.

A corporation could play their company's jingle, while a university could play the school song on this online welcome mat. The sound file can be either an audiowave file with a .WAV extension or a MIDI sequence file with a .MID extension.

If a user's machine doesn't support sounds, the sound file will still be downloaded in the background, but it will not be played (until such time as the user's machine becomes MPC or MPCII compliant).

When users connect to the Worldgroup Manager for the first time, they don't see or hear the splash screen. Instead, they go immediately to the main menu, after which a background file transfer will be automatically initiated. After the file completes its transfer, the next time the users connect to your system they'll see the splash screen before the main menu.

This background transfer capability has been designed so that the first time

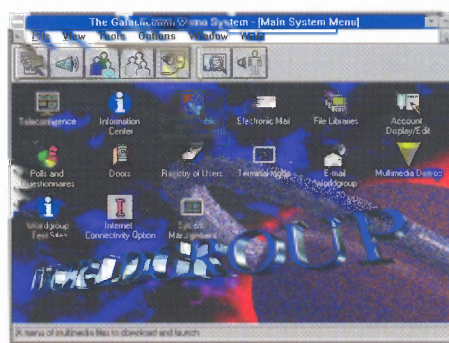
a user tries your system, he won't have to download several minutes of graphics before using your system. If users log off before the transfers are complete, the process will resume the next time they connect. If you change your splash screen later, users will skip over it the first time to download it in the background as well.

## Graphical menu backdrops

BMP, WMF, and DIB files can serve as graphic backdrops for each client/server menu. The main menu can be "pseudo-maximized" to take up the full



Design dazzling "splash" screens — with graphics, sound, and animation — to welcome your users.



With Worldgroup's multimedia features, easily create amazing graphic backdrops for your menus.

(continued on page 67)



# HIGH VELOCITY SOFTWARE

With over five years of experience with The Major BBS, a 30-day money back guarantee, prompt shipment of all orders, free technical support, and well-documented, quality software, High Velocity Software is ready to take care of your every Major BBS need in a professional and reliable manner.

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Possibly the single most popular BBS game of all time, Trade Wars 2002 has warped its way onto The Major BBS! In a uniquely generated universe of up to 5,000 sectors, players build planetary bases and starship fleets to help them seize wealth and power. With 16 classes of starships, 17 types of starship hardware, corporate team play, transport-beaming, alien races, planetary citadels, and federal commissions as just a few of its features, if this game doesn't have it all, it comes close! Free demo available!

Crossroads is an interactive, text based fantasy game that will give your users hundreds of hours of play! Over 750 rooms and 150 items for players to discover and explore! Over 120 spells, ranging from simple combat to true monster summoning! More than 600 monsters move about the game, buy and sell items, initiate combat with users, and even speak and tell stories! Sysop creatable quest objects! Lightning bolt tossing deities, cursed Kings, rumbling volcanos, player-gulping whales, insidious traps, smoke-filled pubs, acid-spitting slugs, and TONS more! Free demo available!

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Players square off against other users and ruthless computer opponents in a familiar, Teleconference-like environment filled with missiles, anti-missiles, jet fighters, bombers, spies, propaganda, secrets, brainwashing, and more radiation than any other Major BBS game! This game is a real "boom" on any system. Stunning ANSI and RIP screens included! Free demo available!

Users can make up to 20 "choose your own adventure" stories on-line! Each story has its own moderator and access key, and can even allow anonymous posting!

**MAJOR  
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Expect to see High Velocity Software hard at work in the rapidly expanding realm of Worldgroup. Several of our existing programs are undergoing a facelift, and all of our new software will support this exciting new platform! If you are looking for a specific application that you have not seen yet, give us a call.

## BUSINESS & UTILITIES

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The Menu Magician allows you to change existing menu pages or create new ones and link them directly in to your current menus while your system is still online! An invaluable sysop tool, especially if you manage your board remotely. The Menu Magician is also designed to interface directly with the Metakeys. **HOT WORLD GROUP INTERFACE!** Free demo available!

Add even more power to Galacticomm's Locks and Keys! Metakeys allows you to have "negative" keys, and even check for combinations of keys. For example, you might only let a user into a given module if he has the PROSPECT key and the CUSTOMER key but does NOT have the DELINQUENT key. Perfect for business and entertainment systems alike.

**METAKEYS**  
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Write news articles, system announcements, and other messages for your users to receive the next time they log on. Attach each message to a specific key, so the message will only be displayed to users who possess that key. Free demo available!

Verify your users' sign-up information through a completely transparent validation process by phone or mail! Checks for bad numbers and multiple handles per phone number, switches user's class or posts credits, can force validation on every call, and much more. Source code included.

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# Tips for designing successful icons for your system

by Bill Hyatt  
Software Engineer

If you've used Windows or any other graphical environment, you're familiar with how icons represent menu choices. But an icon is more than just a decoration for an application — a well-designed icon contributes to an end-user's productivity, as well as to an application's overall success.

With the release of Worldgroup, the same can be said for your online service! Worldgroup is a true graphical environment for your users, and icons are crucial to its look and feel. As shipped, Worldgroup offers attractive icons to represent the baseline services, but you may want to design your own options for a one-of-a-kind look or to represent new menus you create.

You can also specify an icon to represent your system on Worldgroup Manager, the user's client program.

When users click this icon, the client will automatically call your system and log in the user.

If the creativity you've displayed with ANSI and RIP is any indication, we'll expect to see some really incredible interfaces for your systems — dazzling icons, dramatic graphical menu backdrops and splash screens, sound presentations, and more. Worldgroup gives you this flexibility.

It's easy to assign customized icons to new services you create. When you're adding the service in Menu Tree, Worldgroup asks you to assign it an .ICO-format icon file.

Simply enter the path to the file you've created, and the icon will then appear above the menu description. You can create these .ICO files yourself with packages like Resource Shop by

Borland and PC Paintbrush by Microsoft. In addition, software packages with hundreds of ready-to-go icons are available at your local software store.

With the Client App Developer's Kit, you can use Visual Basic to alter or replace the icons used in the applications that ship with Worldgroup.

## Using icons to enhance your system

To begin with, a simple definition: an icon is any kind of small pictorial symbol on a user's computer screen that represents some capability of the system. An icon is anything that isn't a label, text, or a window border.

Icons can be used just about anywhere you can use a word label. They can activate menus, perform actions, and save or open files. Icons can also be

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used to indicate specific information; for example, Worldgroup Manager uses icons in e-mail to indicate whether the user has read a message. The envelope is intact before the user reads the message. After the user reads the message, the icon turns into a torn envelope. You can also use icons as a graphical element to enhance the visual appeal of an application.

Some common misconceptions about icons can get in the way of designing good ones. Before designing an icon, it's a good idea to understand and eliminate these misconceptions:

*Icons completely replace words. It's a bad idea to mix icons and words in a user interface.*

Actually, icons and words aren't mutually exclusive. At times an icon alone is needed; at other times a text label will be more effective. You may also choose to offer a combination of the two, as Worldgroup Manager's main menu does.

*Icons aren't any better than words. Using icons alone to operate a computer is awkward and inefficient.*

This is most often the opinion of computer users and programmers who learned to use a computer through a command-line interface, which requires knowledge of complex commands and

the time to type them in. It's a natural opinion to have.

Once a person becomes proficient at one method, a different method can seem awkward. But the one big advantage to using icons is that they eliminate the need to learn keystroke sequences or command syntax.

For many people, it takes less time to learn and remember the function of a well-designed icon than to learn a complex command sequence. But it's not an "either-or" choice. With Worldgroup, we use a combination of menus, commands, and icons. With this method, the users can choose the method of interaction they feel most comfortable with.

*Icons make a product easier to use.*

This statement is not always true. An obscure icon may confuse your users. If the design isn't clear or the icon isn't deployed well, the application can look like an obscure control panel.

If the icon is too complex, your users may not recognize the application or the function it represents. As with the other elements of an online application, icons need to be well-designed to do their job properly.

*Icons must be immediately obvious. If an icon isn't obvious to everyone, it shouldn't be used.*

An icon doesn't fail if it needs to be studied the first time it's seen. The process of learning the icon engages users and helps them remember the icon. Then, they'll instantly recognize it the next time they see it. That's more important than the initial delay — especially if users will be seeing the icon dozens or hundreds of times.

*Icons are pictures. The best ones are realistic, small illustrations.*

Icons aren't pictures. Rather, they are meant to be viewed at one glance, and then recognized automatically once they're learned. An icon isn't so much an illustration as it is an abstraction of a particular concept. Overloading an icon with too much "realistic" detail can render it less recognizable. And since icons are small, making them truly realistic is almost impossible.

While designing an attractive icon is definitely an artistic endeavor, some basic ergonomic principles are involved as well. When creating your icons, it helps to know how users will react when coming in contact with each icon. There are four basic steps users will follow:

*Decode them*

Users learn what the icon symbolizes the first time they see it. To make this process simple for your users, it's

*(continued on page 81)*

# Data Xchange

Network Inc.

THE INTERNET NETWORK FOR THE BBS COMMUNITY



voice: 800-863-1550  
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# GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS WITH MOUNTAIN MAIL!

## Fax Mail

Integrates FAX Into E-Mail\*

Send FAX-Messages By Sending E-Mail to:  
"FAX: Name@Faxnumber"

Works both Online and Offline (QWK).

Customized Coverpages, Configurable Locks, Keys and Credits.

\*Requires Fax/Online By Galacticom

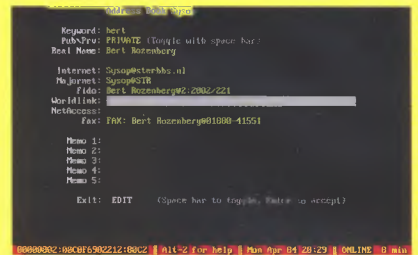
## Global Address Book

Give Every User His Own Address Book.

Works Global From Every Prompt.  
Build a system wide Public Address Book.

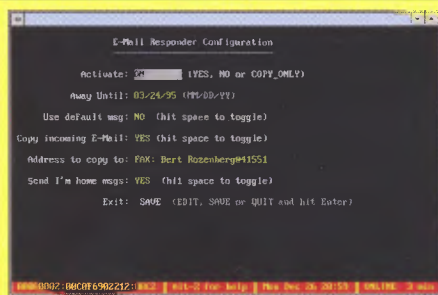
Address Book Contains: Keyword, Real Name, five memo fields and Six Sysop Definable Network Fields.

Each Field has its own Global Command!



## The Messenger

Automatically Replies to Incoming E-Mail.



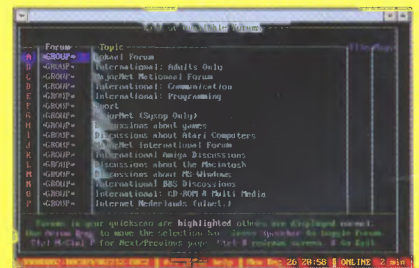
Copies Messages To Another Address (Works Great With The E-Mail FAX Too)

Sends "I'm Back" Messages (configurable)

Full 'Activity Report' When User Returns.

## Forum Organizer

Organize Your Forums The Way It Should!



Turn Your System Into A Remote Information Server!  
Let The World Request Information About Your Products or Services.  
Works with Most Common Networks.

(Try it? Send a Message to Info@STR (Maillink) or info@sterbbs.nl (Internet) With "Index" in the Subject Line.)

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- \*\* Full Screen Forum Selection \*\*
- \*\* Full Screen Quickscan Configuration \*\*
- \*\* Color Coding For Different Forums \*\*
- \*\* Forum Groups \*\*
- \*\* Pre-Defined Quickscan Configuration \*\*

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- No messy cabling

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Uses conventional memory - call for specifications

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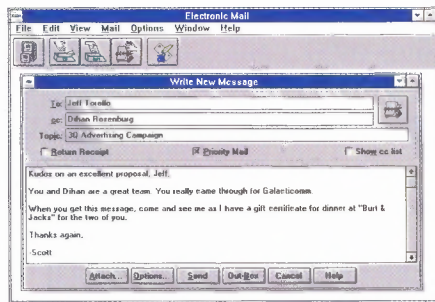
# New e-mail and forums deliver a world of new features

by Jack Alvrus  
Software Engineer

With Worldgroup, we've completely rewritten the user interface and the underlying architecture for e-mail and forums. The result is a bevy of clever new features matching the best of the LAN-based packages.

An in box lets users download their mail and view a list of messages they've received. They can view the in box while online or offline. Icons flag priority messages, those with attachments, and ones that require return receipts. An icon with an unopened envelope flags new messages for your users. After they've read the message, the icon turns into a torn envelope.

From their in box, users can: read and reply to messages; file them in a local file cabinet; delete them; and select attachments to download. After reading a message, users can copy or forward it



Users can easily manage their mail with their own in box, out box, filing cabinet, address book, and more.

to another user or forum, along with their comments.

If users want hard copies of their messages, they simply pull down the "Print" option from the "File" menu. When writing or replying to messages,

users can send carbon copies to other users with the "cc:" list in the text; attach a file to the message; and request a return receipt.

Users can now send the message marked as priority when time is of the essence. Messages users write can be sent right away or filed in the out box to send or edit later.

The address book lets users save and retrieve those hard-to-remember e-mail addresses. Listings are filed under the users' real names, and there's room for detailed comments about the addressee, such as an Internet or "snail mail" address, etc.

Users can easily clip addresses from e-mail or forum messages to add them to the address book without retyping,

(continued on page 56)

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Come June, the BBS and online industry will never be the same as online professionals converge on Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the premiere industry trade show—**Cyber.Xpo.95**—and you're invited! Make plans now to attend the world centre for BBS & online technology, **Cyber.Xpo.95**. You'll meet the top suppliers in the industry...attend hot seminar programs...see the newest products...take advantage of show specials...enjoy industry awards and receptions, hospitality suites, plus incredible networking opportunities. The BBS and online industry is growing...are you? Plan to attend **Cyber.Xpo.95**.

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# InfiBase

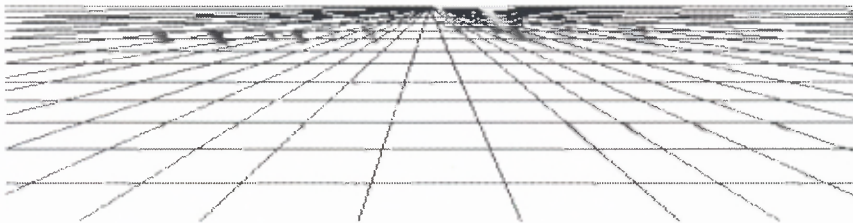
Database management system for the MajorBBS

*Classifieds!  
Job Search!  
Product support!  
Ad Inifinitum...*

Based on the hierarchical database model, InfiBase offers you powerful data collection and classification features, on-line *form processing*, and an open-ended flexible database structure that 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...* you may never need another BBS module again.

- ✓ Your users will love the easy-to-use *menu interface*. The top-down menu tree guides your users conveniently to topics of interest to them.
- ✓ Your users will appreciate not having to check the database constantly. *Auto-notification* feature informs them when new items have been placed under selected topics.
- ✓ Your users will Benefit from InfiBase's ability to process *on-line forms*. Using custom form layouts, you can be sure that all pertinent questions are asked, answered, and where you want them.

## The Infinite Database



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(301) 498-6352 Voice  
(301) 498-6183 Data

Pay attention Major BBS Sysops. If you're tired of spending hundreds of dollars for Galacticomm add-on software, take a close look at INFIBASE, a slick, easy-to-use application development program from Infinetwork of Laurel, MD.

What is it? InfiBase is a hierarchical database that can meet multiple needs for Major BBS Sysops. The program can be configured as an online shopping mall, a classified advertisement section, an online order entry system, a dating service, a credit card processor - or all of the above. In fact, with a little imagination, Sysops can design any application requiring collection and dissemination of information that can be classified in a hierarchy or that can be collected by a form. Best of all (thank God), the Sysop doesn't have to be a programmer to develop custom applications.

InfiBase is powerful, flexible, and yet simple in concept and execution. It's Btrieve menu tree meshes quite nicely with Major's basic look and feel. Users familiar with the basic Major BBS command structure will quickly feel at home with InfiBase applications. Besides saving sysops lots of money, InfiBase offers your callers an intuitive front end shared by all your custom InfiBase applications. The familiarity of the command structure will enable your caller to easily navigate any new InfiBase application that you develop for your board.

...

Summary . . . InfiBase can be viewed as a single solution for multiple problems. Surprisingly, InfiBase solutions in many cases are as elegant and effective as some of the single purpose third party add-ons. The trade-off for the dollars you save is the time you expend in developing your custom applications. With a little sweat and ingenuity, this program can enhance the functionality of your BBS, improve caller satisfaction, and collect your money for you. You can give your online programs a unified look, feel, and command structure. It can save you hundreds if not thousands of dollars in third party software. The InfiBase retail price of \$495.00 appears a bit steep at first glance but note that you are in essence purchasing an unlimited number of applications. InfiBase not only will solve many of your immediate needs but, as your system grows, it will help you meet many of your future needs with minimal expense.

*SySop News and Cyberworld Report, Dec 1994*  
*Steve Graves*



# Two new features added to ICO: Outdialing via telnet and finger client and server

by Bob Stein  
Writer/Developer

**A**nnouncing two new features, free for Internet Connectivity Option (ICO) customers: outdialing over telnet connections and a finger client and server. These features will be included in all current editions of ICO. If you would like to add them to a copy of ICO you have already purchased, an update file is available over the Internet. Here's the URL:

<ftp://gcomm.com/library/internet/icoupd3.zip>

In other words, download the ICOPD3.ZIP file from the INTERNET Library on the Galacticomm Demo System (via modem 305-583-7808). After installing the file, you'll probably want to create a FINGER module page for the finger client module with a blank command string. See your ICO manual index under Menu Tree installation steps for how to do this sort of thing. (You probably already completed this process for TELNET, FTP, and HOST module pages.)

## Outdialing via telnet

With the outdialing feature, you'll be able to use many outdialing applications over telnet connections on the Internet. This has been tested with the current versions of Dial-Out, Action Teleconference, Link-Up, ChatLink and WorldLink. Logicom needed to make a minor change to InterLink; the new version for that is available in Logicom's system by ftp to *logicom.com*. You'll find it in the UPDATE Library. Sirius is currently testing this feature with its MailLink product.

If you've developed an outdialing application, information you might be able to use is available at:

<ftp://gcomm.com/library/develop/galtcpat.zip>  
(aka GALTCPAT.ZIP in the DEVELOP Library).

Documentation is also there that may be of interest to Sysops. The GALTCPAT module makes TCP/IP channels act somewhat like AT-command modems, establishing telnet connections when some application sends them a command of the form:

```
ATDT <host> [-a] [-b] [-bs] [-nb] [-rk] [-rs] <CR>
```

This syntax is identical to that of the telnet client. See GALTINT.DOC for details. The "-a" option is a little different though: it does not assemble a line at a time, and it does not echo.

## Fingering

Finger provides an Internet-wide Registry of Users, allowing users to look up information about other Internet users. Finger client lets users find information from remote hosts on the Internet. Finger server lets remote users find out who else is online on your system and get details about spe-

cific users. Both client and server features are now supported with ICO.

## Finger client

The finger client can be used to get information on users by their Internet e-mail addresses. Some servers also make other information available to finger requests. Here are some examples of finger client commands:

```
/finger jsmith@xyzcorp.com  
/finger sam.robbs@genutex.com.au  
/finger lsanchez@gamma.uvt.cl
```

Case is usually not important in finger requests. This command is similar to the "/r" global command, except it works across the whole Internet — not just your system.

By convention, leaving off the user name asks what users are currently logged onto the remote host:

```
/finger @gcomm.com
```

(continued on page 67)



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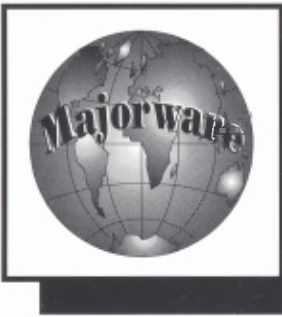
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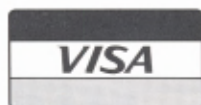
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News for and about The Major BBS and Worldgroup

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- discussion of the Internet by Galacticomm's Jeff Torello
- miscellaneous hardware/software reviews
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- music quiz (Galacticomm favorites)
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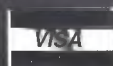
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# New Sysop program created with Motorola

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Eligible members of the online community include: Sysops of online systems, Internet access providers, and World-Wide Web service providers. These systems must be in continuous operation for at least six months from the time of purchasing the Motorola hardware and be running software from an approved vendor, such as Galacticomm and comparable companies.

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DM 8 Model 1 (1/2 Rack)	\$ 367	\$ 525
326XFAST V.34		
Dual Modem Card	\$ 837	\$1,395
Modulus (holds 16 modems)	\$ 871	\$1,025
9/21 (holds 32 modems)	\$2,019	\$2,375
TA 210 Stand Alone	\$ 297	\$ 495
UTA 220		
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Rack Mount 16 Model 3	\$ 437	\$ 625
DM 8 Model 2	\$ 297	\$ 425

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### Motorola Power Series 28.8 Modem

The Motorola Power Series 28.8 data/fax modem sports advanced features for business, professional, and computer-savvy users. The modem is an external unit that measures 5.5 x 4.9 x 1.5 inches, with eight LEDs.

The modem offers a five-year warranty and incorporates fully compliant V.34 technology for asynchronous transmission speeds up to 115.2 Kbps.

The modem offers compatibility with all lower speed modems; on-screen help; caller ID; distinctive ring support; password and callback security for up to nine users; support for popular communications software; Smith Micro data/fax software; and Internet software coupons.

The modem also offers remote configuration and diagnostics capabilities, and FLASH memory for software downloadable upgrades.

### Motorola V.3400 Modem

The Motorola V.3400 is a data/fax modem intended for demanding corporate and commercial operations. It supports both leased-line and dial-up operation. In data mode, it supports a top transmission speed of 115.2 Kbps.

In fax mode, it is CCITT Group III compatible when used with Class 1 fax software. It also offers a programmable LCD front panel display. Available in 2-wire full duplex dial-up or leased line, or 4-wire full-duplex, leased-line configurations, the V.3400 comes in desktop or RM16M rack-mount format.

### Motorola TA210 ISDN Terminal Adapter

The TA210 ISDN terminal adapter is a voice and high-speed data communications solution for remote LAN access,

telecommuting, videoconferencing, and Internet connections. The TA210 includes a built-in NT1. With the TA210 and ISDN service, users get reliable and nearly instantaneous connections at 64 or 115.2 Kbps — at least four times faster than 14.4 Kbps.

The TA210 provides two 64 Kbps ISDN "B" channels for simultaneous voice and data calls. Because the TA210 also includes a voice port, users no longer need an extra line for office telephones, fax machines, or modems.

### Motorola UTA220 ISDN Terminal Adapter

The UTA220 ISDN terminal adapter provides corporate video conferencing and LAN-to-LAN communications with reliable high-speed ISDN transmission. The UTA220 can deliver digital transmission speeds up to 128 Kbps by combining the 64 Kbps B channels.

It also provides four times the performance of V.32bis 14.4 Kbps analog modems with better reliability. The UTA220 comes in external and rack-mounted configurations.

The 2-port version allows two pieces of terminal equipment, such as a PC and a telephone, to be connected to the ISDN service. The 4-port version can connect four devices to ISDN. Both versions include a built-in NT1 or "U" interface required to connect to ISDN service at no extra cost.

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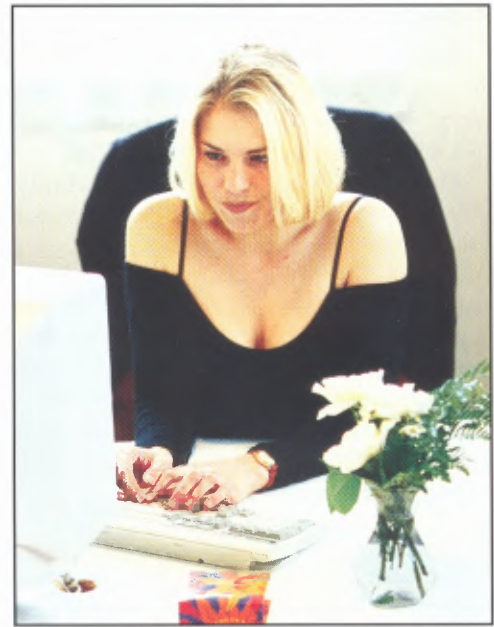
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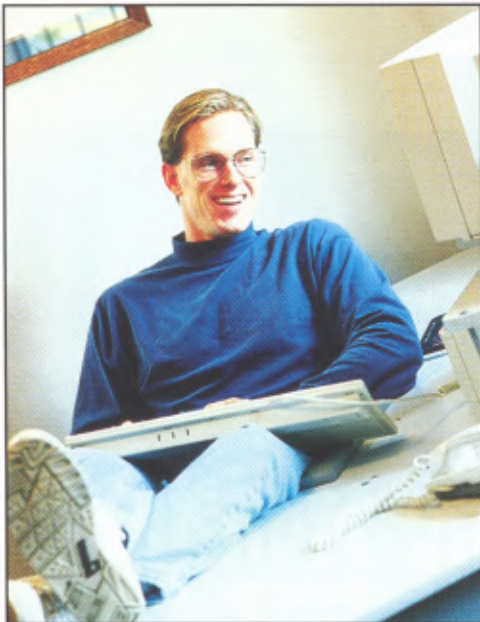


Long ago before *ChatLink*, Ken could never have met Jill because Jill lives in Montreal. The software to bring them together did not yet exist.



```
Ken@41: (Whispered) Haven't we met
before... Was it Rome? Maybe Paris...
>Whisper to Ken@41: I think it was
Paris...
>Invite Ken@41
```

**ChatLink**  
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```
>Whisper to Jill@552 Haven't we met
before... Was it Rome? Maybe Paris...
Jill@552: (Whispered) I think it was
Paris...
Jill@552 has just invited you to her
private channel. Type join Jill@552
to go there.
```

Then *ChatLink* arrived to supercharge your BBS's teleconference with hundreds of users from around the world every night. And now that every copy of Galacticomm's *Entertainment Collection* comes with *ChatLink*, global connectivity for your BBS is a reality today. Ken & Jill are just a phone call away.



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- ChatLink is supported by two national X.25 networks (SprintNet & ADP Autonet) as well as the *Internet* for local access everywhere!
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<p><b>BBS to Pager Interface!</b></p> <p>Bulletin Board Systems and Digital Paging have <u>boomed</u> in the past year and now you can use your Major BBS to get the best features of both tools. <b>Major Pager</b> allows your users to page one another using your bbs. Major Pager even allows users to be paged when they receive an <i>email message</i> allowing them to respond quickly to those important messages. Charge your users whatever you want to use these features! <b>\$79</b></p>	<p><b>Improved Textfile Viewing</b></p> <p><b>File Viewer</b> permits your users to look through any length textfile by scrolling up or down a line at a time, a screen at a time or any number of lines at a time. File Viewer also permits keyword searches and can optionally allow users to download the file they are viewing. File Viewer even supports command concatenation allowing you to make menu options that immediately pull up textfiles. <b>\$79</b></p>	<p><b>Audit Trail Searching</b></p> <p><b>Query</b> is a small but powerful program that allows you to find important information. Search for text within the audit trail, show a list of users that hold a certain key and more online. Each feature is individually keyed. Results may be outputted to the screen or a textfile. <b>\$49</b></p>
<p><b>Monitor Certain Users Globally</b></p> <p><b>Global Monitor</b> allows you to monitor users in a split screen mode. Easily use the bbs while monitoring. Monitor users by userid, key and class. Global Monitor uses global commands, all functions may be accessed globally! <b>\$79</b></p>	<p><b>Let Users Colorize Your BBS</b></p> <p>Using <b>Colorific</b> your users can colorize your entire system. Color may be put in <i>teleconference messages, whispers, pages, registries, email and forum messages</i> (using line editor). Colorific also supports <u>extended ASCII</u> and blinking text. Each feature is individually keyed allowing you to choose what users may do. <b>\$25</b></p>	<p><b>Display Ticker Tapes</b></p> <p><b>Ticker Tapes</b> are those eye catching messages you see on television that give stock information, sports scores and weather information. This module allows you to display these scrolling messages to your users. <b>Ticker Tape</b> can display up to 440 characters per message. Several different messages may be shown to users by key. <b>\$79</b></p>
<p><b>Chat Anonymously!</b></p> <p>Nobody will know who said what in <b>Anonymous Teleconference</b>. Each user may pick his or her own Alias upon entering Anonymous Teleconference. <i>Whispers and actions</i> are supported. Special <u>sysop mode</u> allows staff members to see real userids. <b>\$49</b></p>	<p><b>Edit Menu-Tree Online!</b></p> <p>Completely edit your menu-tree while online your bbs. Changes take effect immediately without the need to take the bbs offline. Add module pages, menu pages and file pages with your system online. You may even look at a <u>graphical representation</u> of your menu tree! <i>Pruning and Grafting</i> also supported allowing you to easily move entire submenus. You may also change command letters, keys required, page names and everything else you may configure offline. <b>Online Menu Tree Editor</b> is a must have! <b>\$89</b></p>	<p><b>More Exciting Products</b></p> <p><b>User Information Editor</b> - Replacement for Account/Display Edit allows you to remotely edit account information &amp; control what information users may edit on their own accounts. <b>\$64</b></p> <p><b>Accounting Automation</b> - Accept Credit Cards, 900# and make your own Subscription ID's with our accounting package <b>\$39</b></p> <p><b>Credit Exchange</b> - Allow users to exchange hours for days or vice versa. Let them play games of chance requiring credits &amp; more! <b>\$39</b></p> <p><b>Dual Password Security</b> - Let each user pick a second password which activates certain keys when they enter it. <b>\$39</b></p> <p><b>Who Cares?</b> - Keep unwanted entries from being made in your audit trail <b>\$29</b></p> <p><b>Autopost</b> - Let your users leave messages for the next few callers. <b>\$15</b></p> <p><b>Graffiti Wall</b> - Allow global posting &amp; viewing of anonymous 'graffiti' messages. <b>\$15</b></p> <p><b>Boca 16 Port Serial Board</b> - We make custom length (null or normal) cables for this fully compatible, high speed serial board. <b>\$219</b></p>
<p><b>Global Teleconferencing</b></p> <p><b>Global Teleconference</b> allows your users to participate in up to <u>thirty-six</u> channels <u>simultaneously</u> out of a possible two billion. <i>Action words</i> and a special <i>inchat mode</i> are included. <b>\$49</b></p>		

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# New products and price promotion unveiled for The Major BBS for UNIX

by Ken Maier  
Director of UNIX Division

January saw the release of The Major BBS for UNIX for two initial operating systems. Since then, we've strengthened our commitment to the UNIX environment with the introduction of four new operating systems and two add-ons.

In addition to the original Solaris 2.3 and BSD/OS 1.1 platforms, we've added Solaris 2.4 x86, BSD/OS 2.0, SCO ODT 3.0, and Linux 1.1.

SCO has a large share of the UNIX market and is the leading choice for government agencies, while Linux is top-quality freeware with a tremendous following among Internet users.

The Major BBS for UNIX's multilingual/multiprotocol architecture can support up to 50 simultaneous lan-


guages or graphical protocols. The Spanish Language add-on option takes advantage of this capability, and allows users to choose Spanish as the language for messages and prompts they see on your system.

The Entertainment Collection is another hot add-on that transforms The Major BBS for UNIX into a complete entertainment system. The package includes a suite of text adventure, ANSI-graphic, and teleconference games. The Action Teleconference enhances the teleconference with action verbs for users.

As a limited-time promotion, we're offering special get-acquainted prices on all the editions of The Major BBS for UNIX. For example, you can purchase a

special four-line Linux version of The Major BBS for UNIX for less than \$1,000. Or, you can buy a 32-line system for under \$6,000. It's an ideal opportunity to launch an online system on the UNIX platform.

For those of you who are already running the DOS version of The Major BBS, be sure to check with us on our special conversion program that offers additional discounts.

Development for the UNIX version shows no signs of stopping. We are working on additional features and, most notably, support for Worldgroup. If you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to give me a call or send e-mail (Ken Maier on the Demo System or [maier@gcomm.com](mailto:maier@gcomm.com)). 

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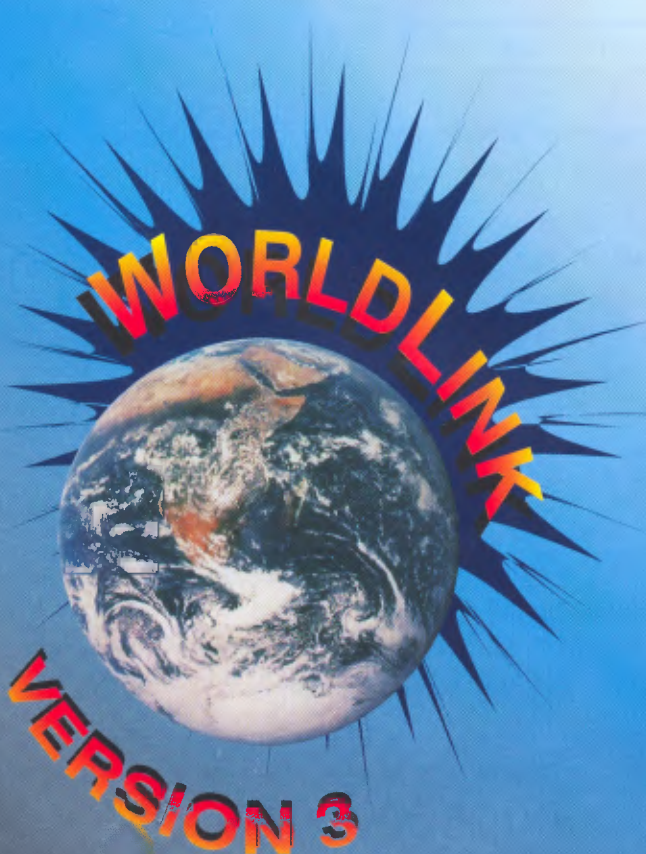
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