

HEATH GUIDE USING EXCALIBUR COMMUNICATIONS

April 1994 for Version .64beta Terminal Program

**Supplied courtesy of the Heath Biotechnology Online(tm) Excalibur -> 708-729-2902
47,000+ files (6.7 Gig) available! 24 hours 14,400 baud**

Important Note: When you run Excalibur for the first time, fill in your personal information. You only need to do this once. This information will automatically be transferred to the host system when you call one as a new user. (No more lengthy logins...!) Be sure to write down your passwords seperately for each board you call! If you loose these or accidentally delete the data file, you will not be able to log on!

WELCOME TO EXCALIBUR:

EXCALIBUR Terminal communications program Version .62beta is your key to the first full Windows multitasking on-line system. Call an Excalibur BBS and you will simply not believe your eyes. Read messages or add to your download 'que' while already downloading. View GIFs online BEFORE and WHILE downloading! Great ultrafast on-line full-screen graphics faster than ASCII or ANSI or RIP! 2400 baud looks and runs like 9600 baud!

Excalibur is the new remote bulletin board software system which runs entirely under Microsoft Windows 3.1 ,Windows/NT or WFW 3.11. Excalibur BBS software is the first true 100% GUI (graphical user interface) and multitasking BBS system available! Callers of Excalibur will be presented with full color graphical menus and icons which are entirely mouse selectable. Company president, Eric Weber states, "never before has there been a bulletin board system engineered with the features of Excalibur, by utilizing the Windows environment, we have created a BBS system which is 100% GUI and transfers binary color graphics screens and bitmap icons across the modems FASTER than conventional ANSI or ASCII screens. Also, the ability to multitask and do things such as read messages while downloading files is unprecedented".

Excalibur BBS features include full multitasking abilities and graphics capabilities never before available in a BBS software package. Examples of Excalibur's powerful features include: downloading files while still maintaining the ability to continue browsing the file directories and adding more files to the download queue, reading messages or participating in group chat with other users! All while you are downloading files!! Excalibur BBS even allows you a thumbnail or preview of all images BEFORE you actually download a file. What's more, Excalibur BBS allows you to actually view the image while it is being downloaded to you.

MAIN FEATURES OF EXCALIBUR BBS:

- 100% graphical and mouse driven interface!
- View image files (GIF) as they are being downloaded to you!
- Scaleable graphic screens which scale to match the callers screen resolutions!
- Auto New User Registration - Excalibur is smart, it knows whether you are a completely new user or a previously registered user. Excalibur automatically "grabs" the new user information it needs, such as name, handle, password, telephone number and address..all without any user intervention!
- 100% Error Free Modem Transmission - Excalibur contains proprietary software error correction ensuring non-error correcting modems 100% noise free transmissions and error correcting modems are supported as well.
- Visual Graphic Browser (built-in photographic imaging support) Rather than looking at misleading file descriptions, Excalibur allows callers to actually browse "thumbnails" or "stamp views" of all GIF graphic files in the file database.. All while on-line!
- File Database File-Scroll - Not your standard "Dumb" Scrollback Buffer; Excalibur BBS allows you to scroll back directories and actually mark files for downloading or "read" the extended file information just as if it had never passed. Imagine never having to relist a file directory!!
- File attachments in Messages -Attach files for downloading into your private Email messages.
- Group Chat - Chat with other users or friends on other nodes

OTHER USER INSTRUCTIONS:

General:

Excalibur terminal and bbs programs run virtually the same as most Windows applications. If you know Windows you will generally have no problem at all getting to know how to use Excalibur.

Double-clicking on a file-name or its description will show you details about that file. Double-click on a file area to see a list of the files in that area. Double-click on a message title and the message is displayed.

If you have a question about ICON functions simply place the mouse arrow or cursor over the icon and look at the bottom left of your terminal window, and its function will be described for you! The details of your access to a particular system is displayed in the lower right of your terminal display.

Reading Private Messages:

To read private messages, just click the E-Mail icon.. you will then be presented with a list of your messages. If you have any questions, just leave a message for the SYSOP (SYSstem OPERator). Keep in mind, with over a thousand registered users, public questions addressed to 'ALL' could generate the answers you need!

Paging the SYSstem OPERator:

To page the SYSOP just click the button 'Page Sysop'. If the SYSOP is in you will be presented with a split screen and can type conversations back and forth online... If the SYSOP does not respond just post a message in the 'Sysop Talk' conference.

Chatting with other Nodes (lines):

When other callers are connected to Win-dy City on other telephone lines you can page them for chatting as well! Just click the button, 'Who's Online' and you will be presented with a list of callers. Then highlight the one you want to talk to and click 'Hotline' to page that caller!

Preparing Messages for Upload and Download:

Before calling write your message with a text editor (like NotePad) highlight the text and use 'Edit' + 'Copy' (or Control-Insert) to place selected text into your ClipBoard. Then call the Excalibur BBS. Open a new message and select the person or 'All' to whom you want to send the message to. Place your cursor at the beginning of the main message area and press SHIFT-INSERT keys at the same time. This will instantly transfer your prepared message from your clipboard into the message area of the BBS. Then save your message. While on-line you can transfer selected text from the BBS to your Clipboard using the Control-Insert keys and then paste it into your editor after you logoff.

If you wish to manage more messages with these methods, we recommend a shareware program called FileClip. Windows Clipboard will only handle one message at a time, but with FileClip you may handle multiple messages. FileClip is a free download from our Excalibur Support file area.

Logging Off - Disconnecting:

When disconnecting just click the Log-off button in the Main Menu of the BBS you have connected to. If you cannot disconnect for some reason, just use the System pull-down menu at the top of your screen and click 'Hang-up'.

Notes about Versions (free upgrades):

Excalibur is undergoing considerable development. If a new version of the terminal program becomes available you will be prompted to download it when you connect to an Excalibur BBS. If

for any reason you have a problem with your original Excalibur program becoming corrupted or erased, you can call an Excalibur BBS using your regular modem program (like Windows Terminal) and most Excalibur BBSs will permit you to download a new copy when they detect a non-Excalibur program calling. Latest version as of June 1994 is Beta Version .64. You may also call the Antelope Freeway BBS in Chicago to download the self installing terminal utility. Antelope's number is 708-595-0929. Download the file EXCALTRM.EXE and run this program in Windows using File Manager or Program Manager's File, Run command sequence.

Your patience during upgrading is very much appreciated. This is a popular system and we are in the beta testing stage. Also BBSs will usually add nodes or lines as needed, so if lines are busy, please keep trying, often this will clear up in a few days or weeks...

General Tips on Accessing an Excalibur:

- Keep in mind you can truly multitask in Excalibur! If you are already downloading, you can go read messages, or page the Sysop, or chat with other nodes, all AT THE SAME TIME! To autosize your tasks you may always use the drop down menu commands 'Window' + 'Tile' so you can see all your open tasks!
- When setting up your Excalibur Terminal use the Modem select buttons! Select a modem that is yours or very similar to yours. If you're still experiencing slow transfer rates or problems leave a message for the Sysop and he'll help you. Keep in mind that noisy phone lines may exist and unlike conventional modem programs you cannot see noise on the line with Excalibur. You may need to call again if you are suddenly disconnected under such circumstances...
- You can speed up your online sessions by minimizing slow procedures, e.g. previewing GIF files is a somewhat slow process, running many tasks online at once can also slow the BBS functions. Also, other callers can often slow down a system, and each BBS is different in this respect. Systems may also be down from time to time for maintenance or beta software testing problems...

Note: Excalibur Terminal does not install an EXCALIBR.HLP file, but one is available for download from Heath Biotechnology (tm). Just go to the Excalibur Support file area and and download it free! Then copy it to your Excalibur Terminal directory and from then on it will be available through the Terminal Help drop down menu! This is updated exclusively by Heath Biotechnology(tm) for new versions.

Special Word to Subscribers:

We very much appreciate subscriptions to Heath Biotechnology(tm). These funds are crucial to our abilities to expand our services to our callers. Virtually all funds are redirected back into our online system. Running such a system can be a costly investment in both money and time, and subscriber support is very helpful. We are excited about the prospects of expanding what is already one of Metro Chicagoland's and the Nation's best online services!

Roger Heath - SYStem OPerator

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