

### **Pot Holes and Detours on the Electronic Highway**

Let's stop kidding! The so-called Electronic Highway is in practical terms just a two mile stretch of interstate leading to nothing better than a cart path. In terms of the diversity of tools, formats, and operating systems, this electronic roadway which is encapsulated by the term Internet, is going to require a mammoth overhaul to have utility for garden variety computer users. Further, to believe that the ordinary user is unimportant until that user takes the time to learn esoteric operating systems, is a worn out and self-serving ethic.

Until very recently, the Department of Defense and NSF have been picking up the Internet tab using public funds. However, the rules and ethos of the Internet have changed and there is a new power structure in charge...with still another waiting anxiously in the wings. The newest computer users are flocking onto the Internet in ever increasing numbers in search of their electronic Nirvana. Too often they find traffic jams slowing down fast 14,000 modems to a crawl or the unexpected *no carrier* message dumping them back into unpleasant reality. As a result, their stay can be frustrating, hence disappointing, and therefore brief. The unfriendly language of *UNIX* is not only cryptic and unintuitive but can effectively keep the new computer user on the outside frantically trying to get in. The response from business identifying a full blown gold mine in this unregulated information bonanza is generating new business ideas and strategies, an instant demand for shells and friendlier front ends, along with the newest status symbol, the Internet address!

The Internet has been characterized in positive terms as a natural anarchy where insiders protect the ethic of freedom of speech to a point where offensive speech, not tolerated in most social groupings, is ignored. When experienced Internetters discuss Federal regulation of the Internet there is rarely a middle position where compromise is possible but rather a vehement chorus to keep the federal rascals out. In fairness, any rational person has to agree that the Fed has done very poorly in these areas. The Internet is a microcosm of the greater society - with all the ills! In the United States, deregulation led to the greatest bank robbery in history while regulation rarely works because the people who are to be regulated too often own those monitoring their activities. In spite of the rhetoric and self interest, the institution we call the Internet is being examined, dissected, and reassembled in ways that were unthinkable a few years ago. **NEXT**

**Editor** Lois B. Laulicht  
**Contributing Editor:** Herb Chong  
**Associate Production Editor**  
Paul Kinnaly

**Contributing Writer s:**  
Derek Buchler, Ambrose Camobell,  
Gregg Hommel , Paul Kinnaly; Jerry  
Laulicht, Angela Lillystone, Jeff  
Marchi, Peter Neuendorffer, Joe  
Rotello, Ben Schoor, Paul  
Williamson.

#### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Herb Chong, Gregg Hommel, Lois  
Laulicht, Paul Williamson.

#### **SUBMISSIONS and REQUESTS**

Email using **Internet**  
[lois.laulicht@channel1.com](mailto:lois.laulicht@channel1.com)  
[windowatch@ins.infonet.net](mailto:windowatch@ins.infonet.net)

Editor WindoWatch  
Valley Head, WV 26294

Submissions remain the intellectual  
property of the author. Manuscripts  
will NOT be returned if not used.

#### **Electronic File Access**

FTP>ftp.channel1.com/public

WindoWatch is found on Channel  
One in several formats by calling  
**617-354-3230** (9600 and 14.400).  
We publish in a Windows  
compatible format and soon in  
HTML. The DOS format uses  
ReadRoom (\*.TOC) One can also  
read online from the Reader Room  
itself - Door 48. Non-members of  
Channel One can download the latest  
WindoWatch issue by typing J Free  
from the main board prompt

Beginning January 1, 1995, annual  
shareware subscriptions at \$10 per  
year for electronic delivery of the  
ASCII edition and sponsorship and  
contributions at various levels.

Comments, letters, and requests can  
be sent to us at various locations.  
Postlink to Lois Laulicht ->15  
tagging the message "receiver only"  
and on the Internet  
[lois.laulicht@channel1.com](mailto:lois.laulicht@channel1.com)

WindoWatch (c) 1995 all rights  
reserved, is the property of  
Lois B. Laulicht and CCC of WV  
Valley Head, WV 26294