CompuServe

The CompuServe Information Service(tm) is a popular information service which provides a wide array of services, one of which is electronic mail. If you are not currently a subscriber, you can contact CompuServe directly at 1-800-848-8199 to activate an account. Alternatively, many software retailers carry CompuServe Membership Kits, which includes a $25 usage credit towards your new account.

The Script File which *RFD Mail* uses to interact with CompuServe is the file cserve.scr. This script downloads and uploads mail using the XMODEM file transfer protocol, which is not a particularly efficient error-correcting protocol. If you are using an error-correcting modem (MNP, v.42, etc.), then there is an alternate script file called cserve_a.scr which will improve the performance of mail transfers. This script uses a simple ASCII file transfer protocol, which is very efficient but is not error-checked. Therefore, it is recommended only if your modem provides an error-free connection.

WARNING: users of high-speed modems (9600 and above) should consider either using the normal script, or dialing CompuServe at 2400 baud. This is due to the fact that at 9600 baud, CompuServe may have trouble downloading the letter at full speed, especially if there is a heavy load on the system. This can cause pauses in the transfer which will cause *RFD Mail* to incorrectly assume that CompuServe has finished downloading the letter, thereby truncating it. This has not been a problem at 2400 baud, and is only a problem at 9600 baud when CompuServe is heavily loaded.

To use the cserve_a.scr script, edit the Post Office entry for CompuServe, and set the Script File field to be cserve_a.scr. In addition, set the Flow field to be **Xon/Xoff**.

Alternate Access:
The scripts are initially set up to dial directly to CompuServe Packet Network, which is essentially a direct connection to CompuServe. If you access CompuServe through either TymNet or SprintNet, the script can be easily modified to log in through those networks. See the cserve.scr and cserve_a.scr files for details on how to do this.