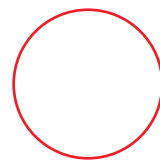


after hours: *on line*



Calling all mad scientists

Here's a typical example of a real enthusiast's home page, in this case Seattle-based amateur scientist Bill Beaty. He offers demonstrations, articles and exhibits, weird inventions, and many links to further sources of popular science topics, some of wide interest and others not, such as his map of Washington traffic. If you too have a curiosity about science, Bill invites you to e-



mail him with your questions to billb@eskimo.com; he's especially interested in questions about the physical sciences. <http://www.eskimo.com/~billb/>

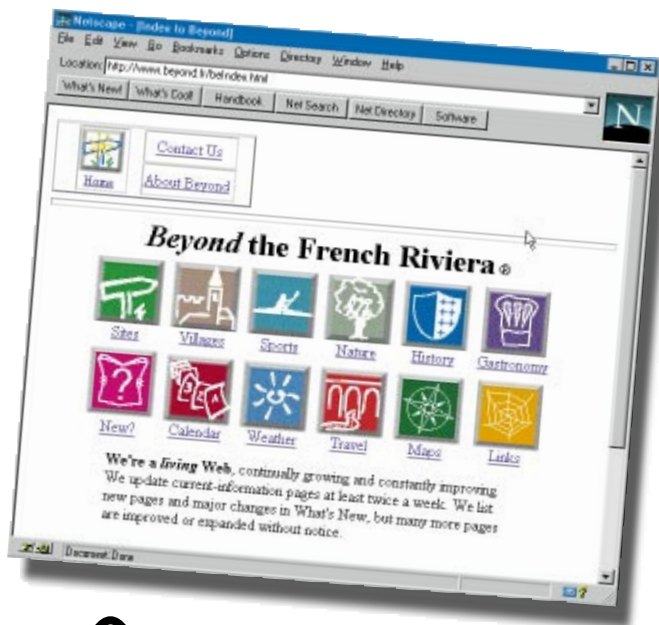
Good source of gore

Apart from e-mail, downloading software is one of the most popular Internet activities. Whatever your personal preference, you'll find it on



the Web or an FTP site. Of course, commercial suppliers are prolific sources, offering pages to whet your appetite and to provide evaluation copies and direct-ordering facilities. For instance, if you like nothing better than some blood and gore after putting the baby to bed, shareware versions of Doom, Ultimate Doom, Heretic, and other shoot-em-ups can be found on idSoftware's Web pages. <http://www.idsoftware.com/>

The French Riviera and Hollywood are among Terry Pinnell's suggested Web destinations this month – or you could simply stay at home and fill your hard disk with downloads



French fancy

Despite the present unfavourable currency rate, if you're still thinking of sunny southern France for a holiday this year, take a look at Beyond the French Riviera. Apart from travel, maps and essential weather and resort data, you'll find information about the region's history, its valleys, villages, rivers and mountains, and also links to material on hiking and many other sports and activities. Key pages are updated at least twice a week, and major changes listed in the What's New section. Beyond The Riviera is best viewed with a browser that supports tables, like Netscape, and it's a good idea to use another window to keep a map displayed while browsing. Although you have a good selection of graphics, there are also text equivalents to make the Web accessible to text-only browsers, and also to the visually impaired using a voice translator such as Outspoken. <http://www.beyond.fr/beIndex.html>

Starry, starry site

Restricted to just one source of on-line movie data, Hollywood Online would be the choice of many surfers. Despite its glitzy facade, there's not





Steps to getting started

- 1 Install a fast modem on your PC (ideally 28,800 Kbs).
- 2 For full Internet access, but not conferencing and other specialised services, open an account with one of the many Internet Service Providers, within local call range.
- 3 Alternatively, or in addition if you can afford it, extend your scope by opening an account with a general on-line service provider, again within local call range.
- 4 Install software for browsing the Web and using other Net and on-line services, plus off-line utilities.
- 5 Revise your phone budget and possibly your sleeping habits.

Glossary popular gobbledegook

- FTP** File Transfer Protocol; an 'FTP site' is a source for downloading files.
- HTML** Hypertext Mark-up Language; for making Web pages.
- IRC** Inter Relay Chat; using the Net like a CB radio.
- IP** Internet Protocol; an addressing system.
- ISP** Internet Service Provider; sometimes confusingly abbreviated to IP.
- JPEG** Joint Photographic Experts Group, popular graphics file format (JPG).
- PPP** Point-to-Point Protocol; communications program.
- SLIP** Serial Line Internet Protocol; another program for communications.
- UUE** UUEncoded files used with Internet News Groups.
- URL** Uniform Resource Locator; Web addressing system.

Contacts

Major on-line services:

Compuserve: 0800 289378
CIX: 0181 296 9666
AOL: 0800 376 5432
UK Online: 01749 333300

Internet service providers

Pipex: 01223 250100
Demon: 0181 371 1234
Pinnacle: 01293 613686
Direct Connection: 0181 297 2200
Cityscape: 01223 566950
Cygnat Internet Services:
 0181 880 4650

much about the silver screen you won't find here. It's crammed with previews and multimedia (still images, animation, soundtracks) so don't expect speed, but it will keep you engrossed for as long as you can afford to stay. Apart from the World Wide Web, you'll also find Hollywood Online on other services, albeit in less spectacular formats, including Compuserve, America Online, Delphi, and the Microsoft Network. Visitors can even nominate and vote for the Oscars, so start thinking about next year's likely luvvies.
<http://hollywood.com/>
<http://hollywood.com/movies/shorty/photo/danny1.html>

Home page pitfalls

With an estimated 30 million pages on the World Wide Web, it's hardly surprising that there's a lot of mediocrity. If you're setting up your own page, then one Jeffrey M



Glover's selection of the top ten mistakes to avoid are humorously offered at this unusual and rather awkwardly-named site. Apart from those shown in the screenshot, other pitfalls to avoid in your home pages are thinly-veiled pleas for a job, and using pathetic, low-quality graphics. Maybe you can guess number one?
<http://www.winternet.com/~jmg/TopTenF.html>

Musing on creation

Although they don't resolve the ultimate mystery of what ignites your creative spark, the Creativity pages contain resources to help you do it. They also put you in touch with other people interested in many diverse aspects of creativity and thinking. The site was placed in the 'Top Five Percent of Web Sites' by Pointcom in 1995, and has an evolving content, so it's sensible to click 'What's new' when you visit.
<http://www.unidata.com/~ucc01/crbigpic.htm>

Virtual World

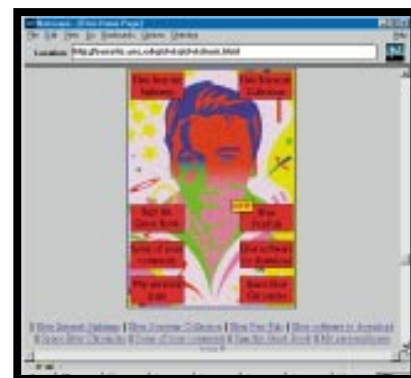
Check this one out if you get up to London's West End now and again, and are interested in VR (virtual reality) games. An American company called Virtual World Entertainment has set up two games, Red Planet and Battletech, at new premises in the Trocadero Centre. Battletech can be played by up to eight people, and all get their own 3D environment,



varied weather, lots of controls, and are fully interactive with each other. These Web pages principally contain photographs illustrating what the place and the games are like.
<http://www.london.co.uk>

The worst of the Web

If your Web page doesn't turn out as well as you'd hoped there's always the possible accolade of inclusion in Useless WWW Pages. Alternatively, look out for other candidates. If your overriding reaction to a page is 'Who cares?', then you've found a likely submission. Some intentionally poke fun at their own subject matter. Some don't. It can be fun trying to spot which is which. How about the Elvis home page, for instance?
<http://www.primus.com/staff/paulp/useless.html>
<http://sunsite.unc.edu/elvis/elvishom.html>



Feedback welcomed

Send us your comments, suggestions and interesting places to visit to: Terry Pinnell: 102404.2400@compuserve.com or What PC?: 70007.5417@compuserve.com Or andon@dial.pipex.com