

The top site this month presents an intriguing picture of the FBI. Other sites worth a visit include the Dilbert Zone and one detailing amorous escapades aboard the Pacific Princess

Online

Site of the month

Official government Web sites are hardly likely to be the most interesting things on the Internet but the Federal Bureau of Investigation site makes fascinating reading. First off, it looks just like you would imagine the FBI Web site would look if Sandra Bullock were trying to hack into it – ie, surprisingly stylish. It also contains a remarkable amount of information – something no doubt due to the USA's more open attitude to information that could be deemed sensitive.

There's certainly plenty to see. Highlights include FBI'S Most Wanted (complete with mugshots and 'captured' stamps), current investigations and past cases. The general feeling is one of friendly security and at no point do you feel your browser activity is being monitored.

● www.fbi.gov



The Love Boat Unofficial Homepage

If it has ever existed, the chances are there's a Web site about it – a fact illustrated by the Unofficial Love Boat Homepage. Bursting with facts about the amorous escapades of the Pacific Princess, the site has literally everything you would ever want to know about the popular ABC series.

Did you know the 20,000 ton Pacific Princess is small by today's cruise liner standards; Gavin MacLeod (Captain Stubing) broke his ankle in one episode and was filmed from the waist up; and the Harlem Globetrotters once appeared in an episode? Fascinating.

● www.asb.com/usr/indtvprd/loveboat/lbp1.htm

Teletext on the Web

Teletext on TV may be cursed with awkward controls and lousy graphics but the Web-based equivalent has no such restrictions. The site is reminiscent of the many weekly TV magazines that are available, and has content that ranges from up-to-the-minute news and sport stories, entertainment reviews, celebrity interviews and last-minute travel information.

Teletext on the Web is a good site to mark as your browser's start page and it provides links to a plethora of useful sites in virtually all areas.

● www.teletext.co.uk



The Dilbert Zone

In the beginning there was Peanuts. Then came Garfield, who was to be ousted by Calvin & Hobbes. The ruler of syndicated newspaper cartoons now is Dilbert and the Dilbert Zone pays homage to him and his 2D compatriots.

Actually, if you find Dilbert funny (and anyone who's worked in an office envi-

ronment has to), you'll like the Dilbert Zone. As well as a newspaper strip archive, there's an on-line store where you can buy Dilbert-related paraphernalia and a page where you can vote on a wide range of important business issues...

● www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert/

THE DILBERT ZONE
it's BETTER than WORKING

DOGBERT: CORPORATE EMPEROR
I DON'T LIKE TO CALL WHAT I'M DOING "DOWNSIZING." IT SOUNDS TOO NEGATIVE.

I LIKE TO CALL IT "WEDGIESIZING." NOW CLEAN OUT YOUR DESK AND SHOO!

HE DIDN'T TAKE THAT VERY WELL. YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE, BOB.

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THE DILBERT FUTURE
NY TIMES BESTSELLER BUY IT HERE!

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Burlingame Museum of Pez Memorabilia

If you'd forgotten all about (or even never heard of) Pez, you'd do well to check out the Burlingame Pez Museum. For those who don't know, Pez is a small minty sweet, invented in 1927. The Pez business really took off 20-odd years later though, when the sweet dispensers were topped with character heads.

Pez dispensers have appeared in several major movies and notable Pez-heads include Charlie Brown, Miss Piggy, Batman and curiously, the Creature from the Black Lagoon. Pez collecting is also a big business and some models change hands for hundreds of dollars. Fortunately, the on-line Pez shop sells cheaper ones.

● www.best.com/~spectrum/pez/index.html



Talking Heads

On-line chat may be great fun but it is very dull to look at. Talking Heads is therefore a welcome addition to the world of virtual 'communities', because it allows you to see just who you're talking to.

Unlike some of the other avatar-based systems around (where animated people represent the real thing), Talking Heads is limited just to rooms and avoids the performance pitfalls of horrendously slow three-dimensional virtual worlds. There's a wide selection of characters and your chats can take place in a variety of places including pubs, clubs and the beach.

● www.on-line.co.uk/talk

Omni

A year or so ago, American science/science fiction magazine *Omni* ceased to exist on paper and transferred wholly to the Web. The Omni Web site contains pretty much everything the magazine did, with a few notable exceptions. *Omni* is now free, has no advertisements and unless you have a notebook PC, can't be read on the toilet.

Content is as broad as ever, covering hard science, fantasy and science fiction, and media reviews. *Omni* also plays host to on-line chat sessions with noteworthy people and, as well as giving you the chance to ask the likes of astronaut Tom Jones if he ever gets asked to sing 'Delilah', transcripts of the previous sessions are also available for perusal.

● www.omnimag.com



Planet Zoom

Although much of the Internet is not suitable for children, there are still sites aimed specifically at them. Planet Zoom is just such a place, and while it may not be the slickest, it is one of the most varied.

Planet Zoom is a good example of how to make a Web site interesting – namely, get the target audience to contribute to it. The site caters for text, graphic, Java and VRML enabled browsers, and makes widespread use of sound as well as pictures.

Games feature heavily, as do stories, and there's a section where you can e-mail a new chapter to an ongoing tale. There is also plenty of factual information and although there's a US bias, Planet Zoom still has much to appeal to younger children in other countries.

● www.planetzoom.com

