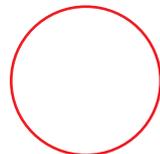


# after hours: *online*



Cybersurfing this month takes Terry Pinnell to one of a zillion 'best' sites, finds him a five-cow download, and doesn't hook him on voyeurism

[www.eclipse.co.uk/cgi-bin/getvid](http://www.eclipse.co.uk/cgi-bin/getvid)  
[www.taponline.com/](http://www.taponline.com/)  
[www.cam-ori.co.uk/cgi-bin/pangen](http://www.cam-ori.co.uk/cgi-bin/pangen)  
[www.antdiv.gov.au/aad/exop/sfo/mawson/video.html](http://www.antdiv.gov.au/aad/exop/sfo/mawson/video.html)



## DIY frog surgery

You never know when you're going to feel like a bit of frog dissection, so slip this URL into your bookmarks or favourites folder. Designed for use by school biology classes, The Interactive Frog Dissection site was voted among the top 500 Web sites by *WAY* magazine and among the top 5% of all Web sites by Point Survey. It uses clickable image maps and appreciates lots of RAM for smooth running, especially if you use a movie player to view the clips provided. To get the most out of it, you really need a few other things at hand before you start, including, of course, a real preserved frog. But if you're caught on the hop, just pretend you're back in 5B Biology. [teach.virginia.edu/go/frog](http://teach.virginia.edu/go/frog)



## Spy cameras

No doubt the proliferation of this type of Web site stems from a 'have technology, what can we do with it?' syndrome, as well as appealing to our natural human curiosity and voyeurism. While many are pretty boring, it's fun looking for those that aren't. And there's no cheaper way to travel, despite being limited on arrival to staring at a few small views from a camcorder.

A good jumping-off point is the Spy Links page; for a flavour, try its link to Downtown Philadelphia.

Every minute it offers updated views, including sun-spangled reflections from Philly's skyscrapers if you're lucky. Closer to home is The Cambridge Panorama, which displays an initial view across the campus, and lets you click anywhere for a close-up or alternative view. Or try the multiple cameras of The Eclipse Networking Office, which offers random panning and zooming on a motley range of targets. For just the cost of a local phone call you can visit Mawson Station, Antarctica. Their picture goes via permanent satellite link to the Australian Antarctic Division's Headquarters located in Tasmania, and is updated each hour. If it's dark (very likely), there are midday photos instead. In 1960, the world's lowest temperature of -88 degrees centigrade was recorded nearby at Vostok.

## GNN Best of the Net

Categorising the 50 million or so pages now estimated to be accessible on the Web is not to be attempted lightly, as they cover such an enormously wide spectrum. Think of a topic, think of one of its possible sub-topics, and there's a good chance you'll eventually find something relevant about it on a Web page. But one category that's easy to identify is the 'Best of' type, the kind that recommends you to sites on some grounds or other – ranging from raw subjectivity to simple estimates of the number of visits. The merits of their respective claims will be a matter of opinion, but at least GNN's Best of the Net offers structure and variety. Its second annual awards were held in San Francisco last November, across ten categories, with each broken into Amateur and Professional. See how ▶

### Steps to getting started

- 1 Install a fast modem on your PC (ideally 28,800bps).
- 2 For full Internet access, open an account with one of the many Internet Service Providers, within local call range.
- 3 If you can afford the extra cost, extend your scope by opening another account with a general on-line service provider, within local call range. You may be able to combine 2 and 3 with a single provider, but separate services generally provide better performance.
- 4 Install software for browsing the Web and using other Net and on-line services, plus off-line utilities.
- 5 Several 'Internet connectivity kits' are available which package the above elements into one bundle.
- 6 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.
- Winsock** Windows Socket; standard interface between applications (like Netscape) and networking protocols (like PPP).

### Contacts

Major on-line services and/or Internet Service Providers:

- Pipex: 01223 250100  
 CompuServe: 0800 289378  
 CIX: 0181 296 9666  
 Microsoft: 0800 750800  
 AOL: 0800 376 5432  
 UK Online: 01749 333300  
 Demon: 0181 371 1234  
 Pinnacle: 01293 613686  
 Direct Connection: 0181 297 2200  
 BT: 0345 776666  
 Cityscape: 01223 566950  
 Global Internet: 0181 957 1003

you rate those twenty choices, and then jump up a level to check out GNN's home page.  
[www-e1c.gnn.com/gnn/wic/botn/awards.1995.html](http://www-e1c.gnn.com/gnn/wic/botn/awards.1995.html)  
[www.gnn.com/gnn/wic](http://www.gnn.com/gnn/wic)  
[www.gnn.com/GNNhome.html](http://www.gnn.com/GNNhome.html)

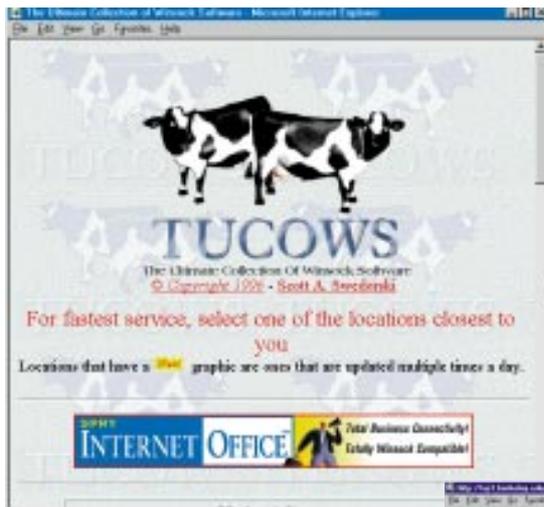
down to 1 ('Needs improvement').  
[www.ukonline.co.uk/tucows/index.html](http://www.ukonline.co.uk/tucows/index.html)

### Tank Girl

If you're male and tired of *The Dandy* and *The Beano*, how about this on-line comic-cum-game? Apparently based on the imminent action movie starring Lori Petty, Malcolm McDowell and Ice-T, you can play the game or learn about the making of the movie, the UK comic, and other related fun stuff. Sorry for the sexist lapse - I'll keep my eyes peeled for Motor Man, Battleship Boy or whatever.  
[www.mgmua.com/tankgirl/](http://www.mgmua.com/tankgirl/)

### Spam

To finish on a more serious note, try your powers of observation here.  
[sp1.berkeley.edu/findthespam.html](http://sp1.berkeley.edu/findthespam.html)



### TUCOWS

This site's full name is The Ultimate Collection Of Winsock Software. 'Winsock' refers to the specialised program that allows on-line communication (a socket to Windows), so all of the programs downloadable from the site are Internet programs of one sort or another, for Windows 3.x and Windows 95 users. The first page lists the official mirror sites, so that you can choose the closest and fastest, then you get a page containing the available sections. Milking the logo for all it's worth, ratings are given for each program, from 5 cows ('Must have')



### Feedback welcomed:

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