

after hours: *on line*

Love at first site?

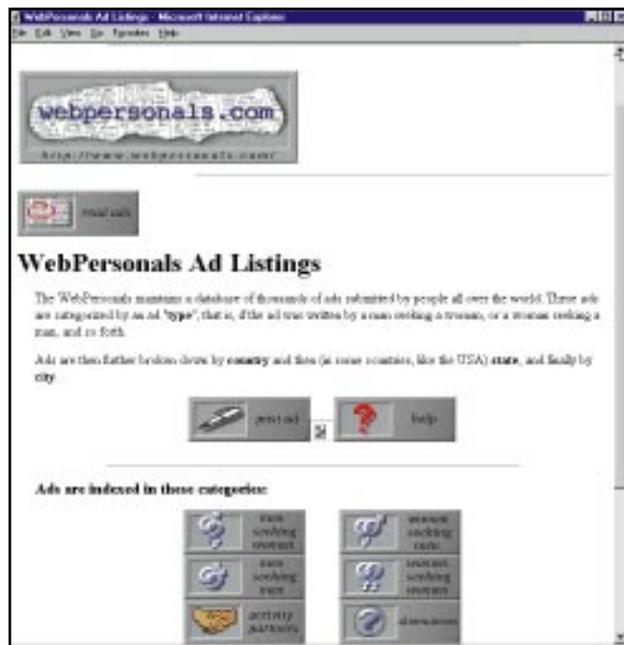
There are some rather obvious shortcomings of the Net as a dating medium, but it does have advantages too – not least scale, speed and anonymity. Web Personals from Nexor offers a free service for people who want to meet others for a relationship of one sort or another, from pen pals and sports and leisure activity partners to classic romance. www.webpersonals.com/date/

0 to 600 in 16 seconds

So how do you feel about driving a car at over 10 times the UK motorway speed limit? More to the point, I wonder how RAF Tornado pilot, Squadron Leader Andy Green feels, because he's down as the driver for the UK's attempt to take the World Land Speed Record above the sound barrier, Mach 1, 750mph.

This brilliant site is dedicated to the Thrust Super Sonic Car (SSC) project, led by 50-year-old Richard Noble OBE, who secured the World Land Speed Record in October 1983 at 633mph, still the record today – but check the News Flash page! The Thrust SSC (Super Sonic Car) project was conceived to retain the record for the UK against strong opposition from overseas and hopefully push it to a point where it will be secure for some time. There's a real drama brewing here, because the USA's Craig Breedlove, a previous record holder, is mounting a determined rival bid.

ThrustSSC is a car, but unlike any



other you've ever seen. It has two jet engines from the Phantom fighter, giving it the power of a thousand family cars. This site of several hundred regularly updated pages provides an opportunity to share the good and bad news and capture the excitement. There are galleries of pictures,



This month's cyberspace surfing sees Terry Pinnell getting animated about a greeting message and caught up in the drama of breaking the sound barrier in a car

sound clips, an on-line shop, stacks of external links, a competition to win a 25in TV, and lots more. At the time of writing, the team had just been visited by King Hussein of Jordan, where the initial high-speed trials will take place shortly. We've come some way since that first record of 39mph in 1898! www.thrustssc.digital.co.uk



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



Getting animated

Using this clever site you can send an animation over either e-mail or the Web to add a little extra something to your greeting.

You visit the Web site, select a choice and enter your few short lines of text. An e-mail is then sent automatically to the addressee, advising that an AniMail awaits and giving the URL address. The recipient goes to that page and the animated message appears, together with an appropriate snatch of music. Before the end of 1996, providing you use Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0, you can send a free greeting.

Using an alternative approach that doesn't involve the Web, the animation is coded and sent as e-mail – but a snag is that recipients might need to decode it before it will work, depending on which e-mail service they're using.

Check out InterGreetings' other Web services too: Computer Games for mail order and electronic downloads, plus Horoscopes and Fortunes which offers personalised star charts, including business astrology and world trends.

www.Intergreetings.com/
www.interfortune.com/
www.Inter-games.com/

ALIWEB

This stands for 'Archie-like Indexing for the Web' and is a bit friendlier than the long-established Archie tool for Net searching and file downloading. The way ALIWEB works is that Web page authors write descriptions of their pages, place them into a file on the Web, and tell ALIWEB. ALIWEB regularly retrieves all such files, and combines them into a searchable database, which any other user can subsequently search. Because the database can be updated regularly (currently once a day) the data is healthily up to date. www.nexor.co.uk:80/public/aliweb/doc/introduction.html

Feedback welcomed:

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