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MaxWorld  
The Maximus & SquishMail Newsletter

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## NEWS

### Service Charge for 911 (Canada)

The CRTC has approved a service charge for 911 service. Bell Canada is now authorized to charge \$0.32 plus tax per residential phone line for 911 service. Data and fax lines are exempt.

When we talked to someone at the info line for Bell regarding this service, we were told that the charge was placed on each and every residential phone line, regardless of how many lines were in the house and regardless of what was using the lines (human or computer).

When asked about having the charge removed for all but one line in a house-hold, we were told that it could not be done.

Call your local Bell Canada business office for more details and/or the 1-800 for free info.

## OPINIONS

### Editor's Notes

This is the Bell Canada issue. It seems like they have picked on me in particular in the past month. Of course this is not exactly the case, but it sure does feel like it.

First I get what has to be a small book in my phone bill envelope. This turns out to be a rather large list of long distance calls made by my computers without my explicit written permission [grin] and a small booklet announcing the new \$0.32 charge for 911.

When 911 was first announced a few years ago, it seemed like a very good if not necessary idea. Everyone basically said "We need this service". Where there is a need, someone can be exploited. As usual, we the general public have been exploited. The cost of running 911 has now begun to be transferred to the public. Don't get me wrong. I am not against having to pay my share for 911. However, I believe that the method approved by the CRTC is wrong and not in touch with reality (go figure).

Let's take a house with 2.4 kids. Mommy has decided that the kids need their own phone. Great. Bell Canada will even include the "Kid's phone" listing in the phone book, free of charge. Now our family is being charged \$0.64 plus taxes for 911 service. What is Daddy doesn't want his kids to have access to 911 on the kids phone because 1.4 of the kids are real trouble makers. Are we then to assume that we have no choice in the matter -- must we have 911 or die.

I think that one 911 service in each house is quite sufficient. Sure, some people hate to be more than 2 feet from a phone, but really!

Anyway, this was not what I wanted to say, I just got side-tracked. I am currently without phone service for my BBS. Despite having called 2 months in advance to ensure that I have a Bell Canada installer come and install my new phone lines (when I moved) so that I would not have to be down for the entire Easter weekend, I have no BBS phone service.

Oh sure, the installer came, installed the phone lines, and they worked when he left. But not for long. Sometime during the evening, they died, or as so described by the repair technician who came by first thing Good Friday morning. "The wires are bad.", he said, before leaving having spent a total of perhaps one minute in my apartment without lifting a finger.

A call to the duty manager at the Bell repair office resulted in an appointment first thing Easter monday morning from the original installer, and the field manager for my area. Worst possible case -- contractors will have to come and drop new wires in my building. This seems to indicate that I could be without BBS phone service for up to a week. Not bad for calling two months in advance eh?

What's my point here? I feel that somewhere along the way, service to the public has been sacrificed for something else, and I want it back.

## REVIEWS

Nothing came over the SDSMAX wire, so there was nothing to review.

## NEW RELEASES

IPost, Version 1.20

Makes writing messages to the internet as easy as making blueberry muffins.

File request IPOST (104K) from 1:3613/12.

TimeEdTag, Version 1.05

TimeEd add-on utility adds random taglines to timEd.msg for echomail.

File request TETAG105.ZIP (13910b) from 1:138/211.

timEd Colour Config Program (Mike Wayne)

File request TIMCOLOR.ZIP (48779b) from 1:138/211.

timEd Colour Config Program (Dick Pluim), Version 1.03

File request TIMC\_103.ZIP (30001b) from 1:138/211.



BFE, Version 3.10.0p  
Flexible BBS front end system from Southeastern DataLINK

File request BRE (325K) from 1:3613/12.

## HINTS & TRICKS

### On-line Message

Many BBSs have a method of sending an on-line message to a user on another line. Unfortunately, the limit to Max's capability in this area is the ability to page a user. However this doesn't allow for a specific message to be sent.

Some code provided by Scott in MUFFIN, and a little working on our part came up with this little MEC file.

```
[gray]See who is on-line [[Y,n] ? [ansreq yellow menu]YN|
[choice]Y [who_is_on]
[choice]| [who_is_on]
[cyan] +-----+
Msg:[yellow readln]
[delete]p:\max\olm%k.bbs
[open]p:\max\olm%k.bbs
[write] []
[write][cyan]Online message:[gray]%J
[write] []
[open]nul

[gray]Send message to which node? [yellow readln]
[node_avail]%J [goto send]

[cyan]Node is not available!

[white enter]
[goto end]
[/send]
[node_display]%J p:\max\olm%k.bbs
[gray]Message sent.
[goto end]

[/end quit]
```

You can install this MEC file as follows in you MENUS.CTL file.

```
Display_File P:\Max\Misc\OLM Normal "On-line message"
```

The way this Mecca file works is as follows. The caller is first asked if they want to see who is on-line. Then the caller is asked what message they want to send. That message is written to a temporary node



dependant compiled Mecca file. The caller is then asked to which node the message should be displayed. If the node is available (not transferring a file or running an external application or door) the message is sent, otherwise the caller is told that the message could not be sent.

This is the best we could come up with at first glance. We could not see a way to ask the caller to whom to send the message before asking for the message since that would require the use of more than one stored variable, and we have but one (via the %J).

Furthermore, There is no way to abort this message unless you attempt to send the message to a node that doesn't exist. I'm sure that an [ifentered] could be used to detect a blank message.

The other downfall of this method is that the name of the sender of the message couldn't be captured in the temporary compiled Mecca file. We couldn't find a way to do this either.

If you have any suggestions of improvements on this method, forward them to the editor.

BYEBYE.MEC

Best Tag Line

... Wndows is fne for High sped Comunicatns.

Best Quote

RP> Please turn this into a witch hunt.



