



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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July 2003

THE INTERNET

Summarized by Lionel Melançon

The following is information I've gleaned from the Internet about the Internet. Some of you will probably know most of this, but most of us will only know some of it—like me. I hope you find my summarization interesting, and understandable.

In 1973, the U.S. Department of Defense began a research program to develop communication protocols which would allow networked computers to communicate across multiple, linked packet networks. This was called the Internetting project and the system of networks which emerged from the research was known as the "Internet." The system of protocols became known as the TCP/IP Protocol Suite, Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and Internet Protocol (IP).

In 1986, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) initiated the development of the NSFNET which, today, provides a major backbone communication service for the Internet. With its 45 megabit per second facilities, the NSFNET carries on the order of 12 billion packets per month between the networks it links. The U.S. Department of Energy and (NASA) contributed additional backbone facilities in the form of the ESNET and NSINET. In Europe, major international backbones such as NORDUNET and others provide connectivity to over one hundred thousand computers on a large number of networks.

"Regional" support for the Internet is provided by various consortium networks and "local" support is provided through research and educational institutions. Within the United States, much of this support has

come from the federal and state governments, but a considerable contribution has been made by industry. In Europe and elsewhere, support arises from cooperative international efforts and through national research organizations. During the course of its evolution, particularly after 1989, the Internet system began to integrate support for other protocol suites into its basic networking fabric. The present emphasis in the system is on multiprotocol interworking, and in particular, with the integration of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) protocols into the architecture. Both public domain and commercial implementations of the roughly 100 protocols of TCP/IP protocol suite became available in the 1980's. During the early 1990's, OSI protocol implementations also became available and, by the end of 1991, the Internet has grown to include some 5,000 networks in over three dozen countries, serving over 700,000 host computers used by over 4,000,000 people.

A great deal of support for the Internet community has come from the U.S. Federal Government, since the Internet was originally part of a federally-funded research program and, subsequently, has become a major part of the U.S. research infrastructure. During the late 1980's, however, the population of Internet users and network constituents expanded internationally and began to include commercial facilities. Indeed, the bulk of the system today is made up of private networking facilities in educational and research institutions, businesses and in government organizations across the globe.

The Coordinating Committee for Intercontinental Networks (CCIRN),

which was organized by the U.S. Federal Networking Council (FNC) and the European Reseaux Associes pour la Recherche Europeenne (RARE), plays an important role in the coordination of plans for government-sponsored research networking. CCIRN efforts have been a stimulus for the support of international cooperation in the Internet environment.

Internet Technical Evolution.

Over its fifteen year history, the Internet has functioned as collaboration among cooperating parties. Certain key functions have been critical for its operation, not the least of which is the specification of the protocols by which the components of the system operate. These were originally developed in the DARPA research program mentioned above, but in the last five or six years, this work has been undertaken on a wider basis with support from Government agencies in many countries, industry and the academic community. The Internet Activities Board (IAB) was created in 1983 to guide the evolution of the TCP/IP Protocol Suite and to provide research advice to the Internet community.

During the course of its existence, the IAB has reorganized several times. It now has two primary components: the Internet Engineering Task Force and the Internet Research Task Force. The former has primary responsibility for further evolution of the TCP/IP protocol suite, its standardization with the concurrence of the IAB, and the integration of other protocols into Internet operation (e.g. the Open Systems Interconnection protocols). The Internet Research Task Force continues to organize and explore advanced con-

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The Next Meeting

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center
1760 Roanoke Boulevard
Salem, Va. 24153
Date: Sat., July 12, 2003
Time: 9:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Room 105

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Upcoming Presentations:

July 12

Meeting in Large Room

Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern

August 9

**Special Meeting Location
this month -**

Meeting at WDBJ-7
for a tour of their new facility!

From The President's Desk

by Tim Johnson
president@rvpcc.org



The newsletter this month is a bit different. We had more member articles than could fit in the newsletter! I find it much more interesting to read something put together from one of us. I hope you do too. Keep up the good work!

Elections are coming up before you know it... Now is the

time to start thinking about what position you would like to fill. I do not plan on running for president during the next term so we need someone willing to help out and take a leading role in the club. I will gladly fill another officer position (if elected). There are many members capable of taking the president's office. Over the next few months please give some thought to stepping up and helping with the leadership of RVPCC.

The next two meetings will find us moving around a bit. The July meeting is going to be in the larger meeting room. Hayes, Seay, Matter, and Mattern, Inc. will be giving our presentation. The August meeting we will meet at WDBJ for a tour of their new facility. Be sure to make a note and join with us in these special locations.

Computer Elbow Anyone?

Jim Ruble offers a small contribution that may be of interest to some members.

I had a strawberry the size of a half dollar on my left elbow. Painful? Yes. This was caused by leaning on my elbow while using the mouse with the right hand.

Cure? I got a couple of elbow braces at K-Mart, costing less than \$5. Wearing those while using the computer and the problem has vanished.

RVPCC Officers

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Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag
secretary@rvpcc.org



Saturday June 14, 2003

Ernie Arnett, Vice President, called the meeting to order in the absence of Tim Johnson, President.

Opening Remarks: We cannot meet in our regular meeting place in July because the County Schools are cleaning the floors. We will be notified where we are to meet.

Officer Updates:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag - Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Membership Chairman - Del Kirschner - We had 1 guest today - Connie Kirk. Del reported that we have 35 members. Ernie asked everyone to try to help increase our membership to about 100.

Treasurer - Azella Tingler - absent.
 Public Relations - Lionel Melancon - Program for July, Hayes, Seay, Mattern, and Mattern.

Program for August - Tour of the new WDBJ T.V. Station. He also asked for a volunteer to be editor of the newsletter. Del Kirschner volunteered.

Public Relations - Bill Scott - Will be giving a program on getting music from the Internet onto CD's.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff - Absent.

Webmaster - John Yeatts - No report.

Editor - Tim Johnson again did the newsletter this month.

Vice President - Ernie Arnett - He is giving a short program on Warranties and Microsoft Windows Office 2003.

Door Prizes:

1. George Lezan - Floppy Disks
2. Bill Scott - Pen
3. Hugh Martin - Paper
4. Carlton Crowner - CD
5. Margaret Ann Hoag - Fancy Pa-

per

6. Lionel Melancon - Joy Stick
7. Patricia Snowadsky - Portfolio
8. John Starkweather - CD
9. Del Kirschner - Pen
10. Darrell Boles - CD
11. Mike Marsh - CD
12. Ron Zoll - CD
13. Ed Allen - CD
14. Earl Abbott - CD
15. Sandy Johnson - CD

Program: Ernie Arnett gave two short programs. One on Warranties and the other on Microsoft Office 2003. Bill Scott talked about and showed how to get music from the Internet and transfer it to CD's.

A short Question and Answer Period followed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Margaret Ann Hoag
 Secretary

National Do Not Call Registry

Recently established... And anyone can register their phone number online at www.donotcall.gov.

The registration can be entered easily, but it requires a valid e-mail address, and follow-up to a web link. It will be effective for 5 years.

The actual implementation will not start for several months, but we should register now. Later registrations will be effective starting 3 months from the registration date.

Comments

By Edward G. Allen

I have been very impressed by a site called Woody's Watch www.woodyswatch.com they have kept me out of trouble in the past and are critical of many Microsoft updates. If you click on windows and

then on current issue of WWW you will have help loading the new Acrobat reader 6 version. The clue is not to load version 6 without first uninstalling any previous version of Acrobat reader otherwise you won't be able to read pdf files. Details also about upcoming office 2003.
 Edward G Allen

This is my candidate for "My only general Web Site Available". I realize that specific hobbies would warrant special interest sites. Are Sigmund Freud's theories scientifically sound? Was Mozart loutish and socially awkward? The computer keyboard, the football helmet all are designed to make life easier or safer. Do they really? Our upside technologies have their dark side. Arts and Letters Daily will point you to musings on these and other lofty topics.

Edited by Denis Dutton, a philosopher from New Zealand, the site is updated 6 times a week. Articles are linked under three headings. Articles of Note, New Books, and Essays and Opinion.

According to Dutton, searching for information on the Web means "sifting through endless streams of verbose, under-edited, often self-indulgent prose...precious nuggets of real content are there to be found and it is the mission of Arts and Letters Daily to extract them". This web site could be classified as a "blog" short for weblog, as it is a personal journal for general public consumption. There is a brief sentence describing each article and you click on "more" to link to the full article if interested. I barely have time to peruse this treasure trove of articles and rarely utilize the left side bar where there are links to newspapers around the world, columnists, book reviews, Web blogs, Diversions, and Classics.

Most of my other favorite sites are linked on the left side bar as well so this would be my "only general web site". The site is www.aldaily.com.



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To:

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cepts in networking under the guidance of the Internet Activities Board (IAB) and with support from various government agencies.

A secretariat has been created to manage the day-to-day function of the Internet Activities Board and Internet Engineering Task Force.

The IETF meets three times a year in plenary and its approximately 50 working groups convene at intermediate times by electronic mail, teleconferencing and at face-to-face meetings. The IAB meets quarterly, face-to-face, or by videoconference and at intervening times by telephone, electronic mail and computer-mediated conferences. Two other functions are critical to IAB operation: publication of documents describing the Internet and the assignment and recording of various identifiers needed for protocol operation.

Throughout the development of the Internet, its protocols and other aspects of its operation have been documented first in a series of documents called Internet Experiment Notes and, later, in a series of documents called Requests for Comment (RFCs). The latter were used initially to document the protocols of the first packet switching network developed by DARPA, the ARPANET, beginning in 1969, and have become the principal archive of information about the Internet. At present, the publication function is provided by an RFC editor.

The recording of identifiers is provided by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) who has delegated one part of this responsibility to an Internet Registry which acts as a central repository for Internet information and which provides central allocation of network and autonomous system identifiers, in some cases to subsidiary registries located in various countries. The Internet Registry (IR) also provides central maintenance of the Domain Name System (DNS) root database which points to subsidiary distributed DNS servers replicated throughout the Internet. The DNS distributed database is used, among other things, to associate host and network names with their Internet addresses and is critical to the operation of the higher level TCP/IP protocols including electronic mail.

There are a number of Network Information Centers (NICs) located throughout the Internet to serve its users with documentation, guidance, advice and assistance. As the Internet continues to grow internationally, the need for high quality NIC functions increases. Although the initial community of users of the Internet were drawn from the ranks of computer science and engineering, its users now comprise a wide range of disciplines in the sciences, arts, letters, business, military and government administration.

I hope you could follow this, I for one find the excessive use of acronyms

difficult but necessary, in this case. I tried to make it as understandable as I could. If there's something you don't understand, ASK, someone in the club may understand more about this than I do.

Lionel

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