

The Major News

Volume IV Issue 2

For Operators of The Major BBS

Fall 1993

RIPscrip™ Takes BBS Industry by Storm

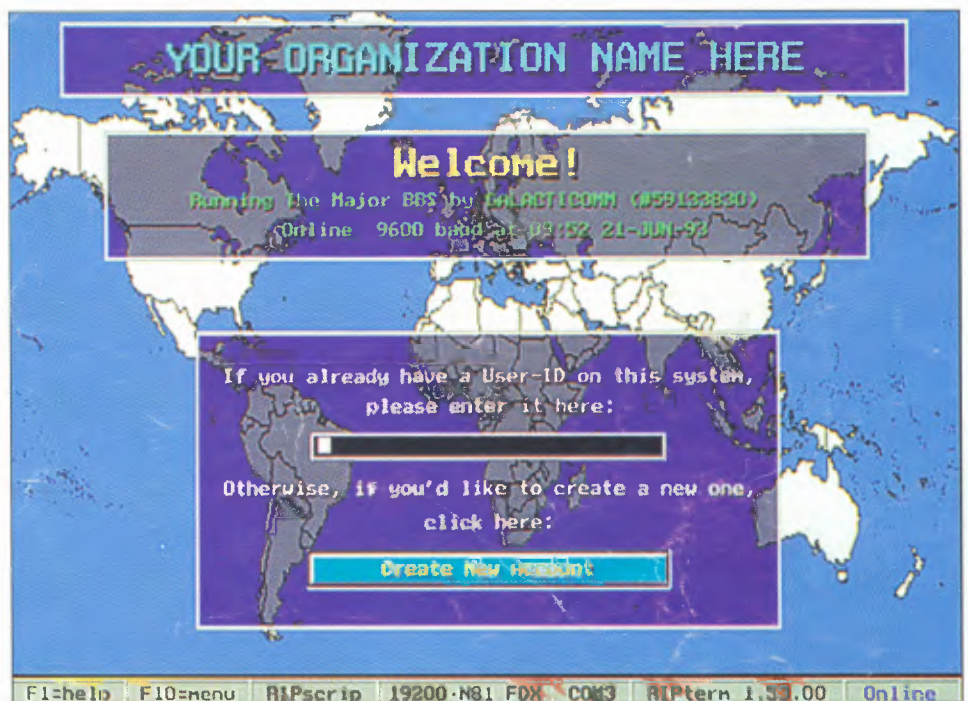
By Dihan Rosenburg
Staff Writer

You love it! That's what we've been hearing from the hundreds of Sysops who are using the new RIPscrip Add-on Option. Although it's only been available for a few months, it's already evident that it has become your favorite add-on.

RIPscrip (Remote Imaging Protocol), is a graphics protocol that lets your BBS present a graphical user interface to your callers. Users can click on buttons, icons, and pop-up windows with a mouse, to access the services on your BBS.

We recently released the first update — Version 1.1 — to the RIPscrip Add-on Option. It incorporates dozens of your suggestions, expands the RIP'ped menus, and makes everything more artistically appealing. The great thing about RIPscrip, just like

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Version 6.12 Released!

A free patch is available for download from the Demo System (305-583-7808) for Version 6.1 customers.

Galacticomm Offers Testing Ground for Third-Party Products

By Laura Kravet
Staff Writer

The GRID is online! You're invited to log on to a new BBS that provides a showcase for third-party developers' (TPD) products and add-on options for The Major BBS.

You can access The GRID (Galacticomm Remote Interactive Development) by calling (305) 321-2410 with your modem. It can also be reached through the Galacticomm Demo System. Connection speeds up to 14.4K bps are supported. You can try out TPD software "hands on," from databases to multi-player games. Online time is free, although you are limited to 90 minutes over two calls per day.

Each TPD also has a Forum on The GRID, where comments and suggestions can be exchanged with the developer. You can find technical support for TPD products here, as well as download demo programs and updates from the File Library.

Says Ken Nash, TPD Liaison and Sysop of The GRID, "What better way to network developers and customers than through a BBS? It's a great way to put up-and-coming software through its paces, and get instant feedback to the respective developers from the folks who are going to use it." Ken also manages the Seal of Approval program, through which Galacticomm endorses quality third-party products.

Continued on page 37

Online Photograph Database

DC Net

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Durand Communications Network proudly announces the DC Net online photograph Database. This powerful multi-line database is 100% configurable to meet your application needs. Now you can create your own business database application or use one of our 'turn-key' applications to provide complete database services. With DC Net, you can have up to 16 databases online at one time. DC Net Lite starts at \$495.00.

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RIPscript graphics



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Durand Communications Network

President's Corner

By Scott J. Brinker
President/CEO

You've probably heard about the "information superhighway." Everyone from *Time* magazine to *The New York Times* has been talking about this future digital network that will revolutionize our lives.

Well, surprise! It's already on your desk. By operating a BBS, you are making it actually happen — today. People can call your BBS from around the world to exchange information and interact with each other. New friendships and business opportunities are being sparked and realized *electronically*. Barriers of communication are falling before our eyes.

But this is just the beginning. The two pillars of an information highway are: (1) everyone can use it and (2) they can reach almost anyone in the world with it. We've just released two new add-on updates to give you this power.

The RIPscrip Add-on Option Version 1.1 is now shipping. It provides an out-of-the-box, knock-your-socks-off graphical



user interface for your BBS. People who used to just feel comfortable with services such as Prodigy can now navigate your BBS with a click of their mouse.

Major Gateway/Internet Version 1.1 has also hit the streets. This new version makes it much easier to integrate the Internet into your BBS. It includes everything you need to hook up to a provider, and now many more providers are supported.

The Internet reaches more people than any other network on the face of the planet, and it's growing larger every day. For \$249, plus a small monthly service charge to the

provider of your choice, your BBS can harness and wield this awesome resource.

Here at Galaticomm we're right behind you as you pioneer this electronic frontier. We are still the largest BBS company in the world, with 35 employees and more coming on board as I write this. And every single one of us is dedicated to seeing you succeed online.

Our engineering team is working around the clock, forging new and better ways of communicating, many of which I can't talk about yet. But I promise you the BBS you are running today is the foundation for a glorious future that is just starting to realize its potential. We'll be with you every step of the way.

Enjoy this special four-color issue! It's wonderful to see so many great third-party presentations, offering you all sorts of enhancements and add-ons in graphic brilliance. With almost 100 third-party developers, The Major BBS offers you more freedom and flexibility than any other online platform in the world. Go ahead and take advantage of it.

The next time someone brings up "info highways" to you at work or a social mixer, give them the number to your BBS.



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4101 S.W. 47th Avenue, Suite 101
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BBS: (305) 583-7808 Voice: (305) 583-5990
Fax: (305) 583-7846 Sales: (800) 328-1128
Technical Support: (305) 321-2404

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Publisher Scott J. Brinker
Editor-in-Chief Sheri Robert
Managing Editor Cindy R. Korman
Staff Writer Laura Kravet
Staff Writer Dihan Rosenburg

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Spanish and German Language Add-ons Released

by Fabian Cuervo
Translations Coordinator

Do your users "habla Español" or "sprechen sie Deutsch"? If so, The Major BBS will let you speak their language.

Galaticomm is proud to announce its first two language add-ons: the Spanish and German user interfaces. With Version 6.1 of The Major BBS, you can plug in these new languages by simply typing "A:INSTALL". When your users connect to your BBS, they can choose which language they want to use. From that point forward, all the "text blocks" in your BBS will be presented in the language of their choice.

You can edit these text blocks (option #6 from the Introductory Menu), and make your own translations for your menus and other add-on options. If a Spanish or German translation of a message or menu doesn't exist, the user will just see the English text for it.

Both products were produced by Gerald Meier of the Online Store in Europe, who

has provided the German and Spanish versions of The Major BBS for many years. Galaticomm is serving as Gerald's distributor in the U.S. and Canada. The Spanish Language Add-on Option and the German Language Add-on Option are available for \$249 each.

"This is part of our ongoing strategy," says Galaticomm President Scott Brinker, "to provide our customers with the tools for global communication. BBSes already span distances and time zones. Now they are starting to bridge language and cultural barriers too." The Major BBS can support up to 50 different languages, including presentation protocols such as RIPscrip.

Many other languages for The Major BBS are under construction now by third-party developers around the world. The French and Italian translations are already available, and contracts have been signed for Czechoslovakian, Russian, Turkish, Dutch, Greek, Farsi, Japanese, Chinese, and Vietnamese.



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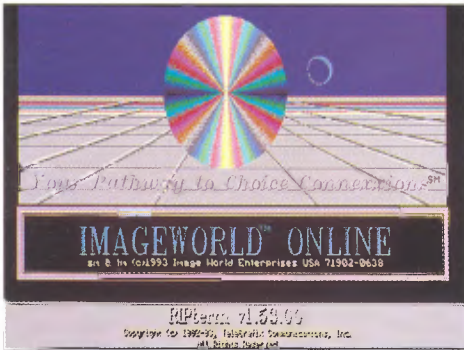
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RIPscrip™ (cont'd. from page 1)

The Major BBS, is that it's completely customizable. The screens we've included are just a starting point.

Many enterprising Sysops have taken an extra step, and used RIPaint (the design tool for RIP screens) in combination with other programs, such as PicLab and Neopaint, for extraordinary visual effects. Other Sysops have created their own icons and made them available for download, or even customized the opening screen of RIPTerm (a graphical terminal program used with RIPscrip).



You can create your own exciting RIPTerm opening screen.

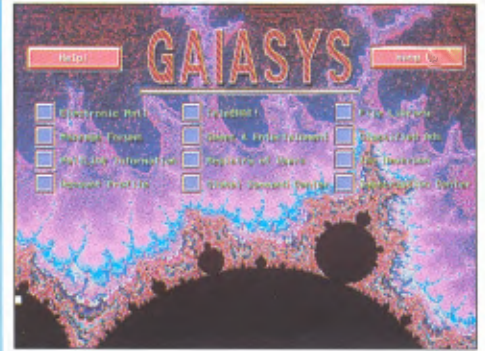
We checked out a few of your RIPscrip BBSes and discovered fantastic graphic screens and menus. One of the most impressive RIP displays belongs to ImageWorld Online, an "infotainment" BBS, with games, legislative updates, health and fitness information, and more.

Most of its menus and screens have a theatrical theme; for example, the TOP menu looks like an old-time theater facade. They chose this idea because RIPscrip is like a show, with graphical images and animation, according to Lee Terbot, the Sysop for ImageWorld.

"We've really pushed RIP to the outer edge," says Lee. "When we originally bought RIPscrip, we were planning to implement a look like Prodigy or America Online."

"But once we started working on it, we decided to pattern our BBS after a magazine," said Sam McMillan, ImageWorld's graphic artist. "Every menu page enters you into a different section, just like magazines."

Other things you'll see on ImageWorld include customized fonts and a lithograph-like photo of a woman that's quickly drawn on-screen. First she's outlined in black and



You can design hi-res online graphics to dazzle your users.

white. Next, her lipstick is colored in and finally, her face is given flesh tones. It's really neat!

Although there's no way to convert a graphic file directly into RIPscrip text, Sam used a neat trick to achieve the same end result. He converted a TIFF file to a RIPscrip icon with the TIFF -> Icon utility. Then, he loaded his icon into RIPaint and traced it filling areas in with realistic colors. This same technique can be used to reproduce just about any graphic image with RIPaint.

Continued on page 7

Casino Poker!

First introduced in 1988, Casino Poker was the first card game available for The Major BBS. Our attention to detail and playability makes it the game users will spend all night playing. And now, our newest version of Casino Poker supports RIPscrip graphics, including a beautiful set of bitmapped playing cards. Order yours today!

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QuickSelect

The Major BBS's SIGS are very powerful, but they can be very hard to use and manage, especially for new users. That's why we made QuickSelect. QuickSelect gives you full-screen ANSI quickscan configuration, and each user can save and load three different quickscan profiles. A MUST HAVE for systems with mail networks! You won't believe the difference it makes. If your SIGS don't get enough usage, you need QuickSelect!

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STAN

Who's STAN? What's he doing in the teleconference? Why do BBS members love him so much (and freeloaders HATE him so much?). Simple. Stan's a hard-working guy who lives in the teleconference, and keeps things in order. If he needs be, he knocks a few heads. But always, always, he keeps your users laughing and PAYING.

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- Allow you to control access by time of day. Set up member-only times, Adult-only times, etc. Add flexibility to your system!

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Infinity Complex...One of the most popular "adventure-style" games for The Major BBS, Infinity Complex (IC) offers users the chance to interact in a weird, futuristic "Complex" controlled by a slightly-crazed computer named MASTER CONTROL. Within the game, players can talk with each other, shoot one other, join forces against the enemy, develop special strategies to increase their powers, and add their own personal touches to the game. The setting the players do all this in is "Infinity Complex", which is composed of hundreds of rooms linked to one another. Corridors and shafts offer easy and quick travel, but increased exposure and the possibility of ambush. Of course, they have to be careful not to step too lively, because some of the holes are rather deep...As usual in adventure games, there are a variety of items to be found and used...lasers, explosives, jetpacks, and other gadgets that can be used for good or ill.

Parallax DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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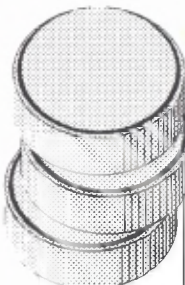
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The computer market is becoming more and more memory-intensive, with new applications forcing users to increase the memory capacity of their machines. For example, running an application like Windows requires at least 1MB of memory. Other memory-intensive programs include graphics, CAD, and networking. *Crystal Vision* provides over 2,000 memory products which include DRAM, SRAM, SIPP and SIMM. We also provide proprietary memory for the PS/2, HP LaserJets, Apple LaserWriter II NTX and many others.

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