

The Major News

Volume V Issue 2

For Operators of The Major BBS

Fall 1994

**New Internet
Connectivity Option**

**The Major BBS for
UNIX in Progress**

Telnet to gcomm.com

Marketing Your BBS



\$4.95

DC NET v2.5

Online Photograph Databases



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DC Term v1.0 for Windows™

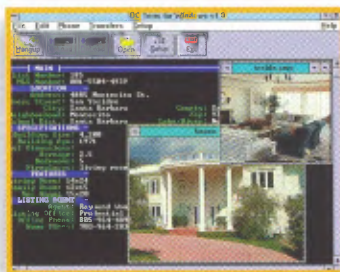
DCN announces its new DC Term v1.0 for Windows with enhanced video card support and built-in image viewing capabilities in one easy-to-use Windows terminal program.

Order Entry v1.1 for DC Net

The DC Order Entry add-on to the DC Net database allows you to create online product catalogs with ordering and PO generation. Order Entry is 100% configurable to meet your specific needs, including payment and shipping methods.



• Order Entry v1.1



• DC Term v1.0 running Residential MLS

TURN-KEY APPLICATIONS

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- Entertainment & Events
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- Classified Ads

Images transfer in 10-15 seconds.

Durand Communications Network is proud to announce DC Genesys, an all new online photograph database utility capable of operating through BBS doorways.

Using the DC Genesys Database tool kit, users can develop fully relational online database applications for entertainment or business. This powerful new addition to the DCN family of database communications products can be accessed through a royalty-free terminal program for Windows™ or DOS with built-in image viewing capabilities and RIPscrip compatibility. An integrated Galaticomm version of DC Genesys for The Major BBS® will be released soon.



• RealVision running under DC Genesys as seen through new DC Term for Windows.

COMPLETE COMPATIBILITY

DC Genesys is 100% dBase III+, dBase IV and FoxPro2 compatible. It is also completely relational with support for seamless relational capabilities between fields in different tables.



DC GENESYS v1.0

A Database for Every BBS

Create your own online information service.

FEATURES

FLEXIBLE USER INTERFACE

- Complete flexibility in design of data-entry, searching, browsing and detailed viewing.
- ANSI and RIPscrip graphics protocol support for all database functions.
- Complete entry screen validation via pick lists.
- Online and Offline database updating.
- Browse to detailed view jumping.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN SECONDS

- Support for the following image formats: JPG, CMP, PCX, BMP, TIF, TGA and GIF.
- Online and Offline image viewing capabilities.

RELIABLE MULTI-USER CAPABILITIES

- Support for multiple users running separate copies of DC Genesys on the same computer (through DesqView) or on separate computers on a LAN network.
- Seamless sharing of files with concurrent dBase/FoxPro applications on the same LAN.

POWERFUL SEARCH ENGINE

- Query-By-Example via custom forms as well as an "expert mode" command line.
- Customized query optimization and fine-tuning.

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President's Corner

by Scott J. Brinker
President/CEO

Imagine a vast sea of corporate cyberspace. On one shore, you have e-mail and workgroup software. It's a multibillion dollar industry, with Lotus and Microsoft in the lead. It's great for communicating between people inside your company, but you can't really extend its features to the outside world. Security would be a big risk, and even if it weren't, you couldn't very well afford to buy Notes' licenses for every customer or prospect who wanted to reach you online.

On the other side, you have the big online services: America Online, Prodigy and CompuServe, the up-and-coming Ziff Interchange and Microsoft Marvel. Yet another multibillion dollar industry. These services are fantastic for wide audiences to meet and exchange messages and files. The downside is that you, personally, don't have much control. Maybe you can rent a forum, but the way the rest of the service looks and feels is beyond your influence.

It's in bridging the gap between these two giants that BBS software delivers its finest performance. You combine the privileges of ownership with the open window to the outside world. Everyone on your LAN can log in to participate in discussions with their workgroups — and you can invite dealers, beta testers, key customers, and stockholders to join in with their modems as well. And you can add databases, online order entry, document management, fax support — whatever it takes to get the job done.

You, as a Sysop, build this critical bridge. Our role here is to provide you with the tools for success. And, as you will read in this issue, cool new tools are headed your way.

First, the Internet Connectivity Option has been announced for release in early October. This integrated solution, in the spirit of our Advanced LAN Option and X.25 Software Option, will add TCP/IP support directly into your BBS. You will be able to provide telnet in, telnet out, ftp client, and ftp server features to your users, either through a SLIP modem connection or direct Ethernet. Details start on page 4, as well as a developer-oriented article starting on page 9.

Hot off the newswire is the announcement of our new UNIX division. In our



journey into the world of Internet this past year, we met up with some wonderfully talented individuals: Ken Maier, our new Director of UNIX Products, and Mahesh Neelakanta, the division's chief engineer. I won't steal the story covered on page 10, but this new arm of Galacticomm's R&D group will open up new opportunities for very high-end online services based on The Major BBS architecture.

I should emphasize that our primary focus will remain on the DOS/Windows market. We don't expect much overlap between DOS and UNIX customers, and we will maintain independent teams working on both projects. However, as the first BBS manufacturer to offer a cross-platform solution, we are committed to providing you with strong growth options in both environments.

We've also invested months in firming up our roots. Version 6.21f of The Major BBS has been rock-solid stable since June (see page 9). Version 1.12 of the Major Gateway/Internet has also been released, with much improved performance and ease-of-use. And an update to the Entertainment Collection released in July has delivered a number of minor enhancements to consumer-oriented systems.

Speaking of which, you'll notice *The World of Cyberspace* insert in this issue of *The Major News*. This new supplement will focus on material relevant to social/chat, for-profit services open to the public. Editorial and advertising in *The Major News'* main section will continue to cover material of interest to all Sysops in corporate, government, media, education, and consumer markets. With so many exciting applications of this technology taking off, we hope this new format will address the needs of all our customers.

Please take some time to browse this latest issue. It's all yours for the building of your bridge.



Make Your BBS a Bridge to the Internet

by Bob Stein
Writer/Developer

Galacticomm is proud to announce the Internet Connectivity Option for The Major BBS. This software add-on will give your BBS the ability to talk TCP/IP, the native protocol of that famous worldwide network of networks called the Internet.

Due to be released October 1, the software will sell for \$995. We're breaking our own rules about announcing what we're not yet shipping mainly so we can demonstrate the product at ONE BBSCON in Atlanta, August 17-21.

The last issue of *The Major News* had an excellent article by Jeff Torello, starting on page 15, describing ways to connect The Major BBS to the Internet. This article is meant to bring you up to date on the latest opportunities for direct BBS connection to the Internet. It's written primarily for Sysops who have some familiarity with the Internet, to give them an idea of what it would be like putting their BBS on the 'Net.

Getting Caught up in the Internet

As a National Information Infrastructure, the Internet has a long way to go. It's still

very hard to find something unless you already know where to look. But the extreme low cost and a few other factors seem to have propelled the thing to some kind of critical mass of users and servers. It's a great medium to explore because there's so much out there. It's a good place to plug in your service because so many people are online.

It's not totally free, but compared to most online services it sure seems like it. For most Internet users, whether you're online a minute, or all night, whether you call next door, or to points opposite the globe, it costs you the same amount of pocket lint.

The real fun of the Internet is not the technology. It's all the people who are using it. The newfound access to them and the things they've contributed make it arguably the most interesting and exciting area of computers and communications.

The best way to get to know the Internet is to dive into it. It only took me a few hours to get a "shell" account (access to a UNIX command prompt) on a computer at a service provider. Start browsing through a few of the free-to-the-public services and ftp file storage sites, and we think you'll soon be hooked. Then you'll be all set to get your BBS users hooked too.

The Facts

With the Internet Connectivity Option (ICO for short) you'll be able to connect TCP/IP *directly* to your BBS computer for telnet and ftp access. The ICO will not require UNIX boxes, PADs or PAD-like things.

The two most common conduits for TCP/IP are SLIP over a serial port and Ethernet over a LAN cable. The ICO supports either one (but not both at the same time). Of course, you'll need to get an Internet hookup from somewhere, usually a local Internet Service Provider, and we'll get to that.

Telnet and FTP — Direct

E-mail and Newsgroups — via UUCP

In the initial release of the ICO, you will still need your UUCP connection for batch transfer of e-mail and newsgroups (forum messages). UUCP is the hardy mailman of the Internet. The Major Gateway/Internet (or MG/I) can, in effect, make your UUCP mailman pick up and deliver mail once a day, or spend all his time going back and forth between your mailbox and the post office.

We plan to release direct e-mail and newsgroup support (via the SMTP and NNTP protocols) by the end of this year. To ease this transition, the Internet Connectivity

Continued on page 29

The goal is simple: To increase the access and profitability of your BBS, and do it in an easy, economical way.

The answer is simple: Work with a network carrier who has the technology and resources already in place to make it happen right now . . . at the lowest price.

Utilizing its X.25 packet-switched network, the ADP/Autonet Division can help a sysop become a nationwide, or even international, business practically overnight. Autonet provides the PDN (or VAN) needed to transmit data for the BBS. It literally puts ADP's network to work for the sysop.

The X.25 protocol, in addition to being economical, also offers superior error-checking capabilities and ensures error-free transmission.

If you want to expand your BBS at the lowest possible cost, call today. We'll rush you a free information packet that will show you how a sysop can grow fast with ADP/Autonet.

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First Class Mail: Send BULK mail to all of your users, or only to users based on CLASS, KEY, AGE, SEX, or any combination. The mail is not sent until the user actually logs on. Attach files, set expiration dates, and more. **\$99.**

Warn'Em: Let your users KNOW when they are running low on either credits or days left, by either logon notification, E-Mail or both. Also warn them within minutes of being disconnected so they have time to exit games. **\$25.**

FreeLine: Allows you to always keep a line open for paying users. Demos are gracefully logged off with a message, so paying users can gain access. **\$25.**

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Let's Get Personal: An Adult registry with an extensive multiple choice questionnaire. There is also an extensive free form essay area. Users can be globally browsed. **\$79.**

Basic Globals: A basic package with over 20 of the most commonly asked for global commands. Chat-Grams, Macros, Global Chat, Who's On-line, Recent Logoffs, and more. Many Sysop commands included. All commands are keyed. **\$25.**

InterActions: This will give your users the ability to use action words globally. Many user configurable options for disabling reception, reprompts, etc. Actions can be keyed such as Adult only, or special Sysop only actions. **\$50.**

The Dungeon: Throw your users into a multi-room dungeon for discipline or just for fun! **\$25.**

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AutoWars: An auto rally card game where your users can race against each other or the computer. Users draw cards to gain mileage, defeat obstacles, and more. **\$59.**

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GM-Flabbergasted: An action packed game where users try to guess words based on category and the first letter. Judges are assigned to run games and do scoring. **\$75.**

GM-Companies: A simple game where users try to merge companies together and become more powerful. Perfect to keep users on-line while waiting for friends to log on. **\$25.**

Special: Purchase both GM-Chess and GM-Flabbergasted and receive GM-Companies for FREE!

HWS Invisible: Allows you to force a user to become invisible based on class or key. Keep new users from being able to harass your users until verified, keep support callers separate from your entertainment callers. An optional Sysop command to force a user to become visible or invisible. **\$20.**

HWS Fast: Allows you to control how often the mail/forums clean and purge their messages. You can configure for every other day, every third, or X number of days. Can reduce cleanup time by 2/3 on days mail/forum cleanup is skipped. **\$20.**

HWS Variables: Smart Variables allow you to customize your level 6 text blocks like never before. Create your own text variables and display custom messages to different users based on class and/or keys. Includes random and file variables. If you customize the look of your system this add-on is a must to have! **\$40.**

HWS File: An enhancement for file pages of the menu tree. All the normal functionality of the file pages is preserved, but extended to include auto file selection (.RIP, .IBM, .ANS, .TXT, including multiple languages), multiple file output, embedded text variables, optional goto logoff at end of display, and on-line file updating. **\$20.**

HWS Line: Adds additional control over your lines. Create outgoing only channels that will not accept incoming calls, control baud rate on lines, which ring to answer on, and selective line busy when shutting down. **\$20.**

SPECIAL: Order the above 5 HWS products for just \$99.

HWS AutoLogon: Creates automatic logon channels, and the user connected is immediately logged on as a 'GUEST' acct. Guest accounts abide by all class/key rules you establish. Great for publishing a 'demo' phone number or for front end systems. Supports true relogging, and relogged users can be prompted for name/password. **\$99.**