

Information Market Marché de l'Information Informationsmarkt Mercado de la Información

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The European electronic information market could reach US\$ 3 000 million by 1990, compared with US\$ 9 000 million in the USA, according to Link Resources.

Standards for 1992

1992 is a date which has now established its own resonance in the minds of many European companies, government officials and the general public. Opening up the internal market to make it the world's richest trading area — freed of official and bureaucratic red tape — is the sort of economic boost that Europe and the world market needs.

Companies need it to trade efficiently, the public needs better services and goods. A momentum and expectation has been started that will be difficult smaller considerations to block.

Because a large internal market of 320 million consumers needs first class communications and information services, the Commission launched an Call for Declarations of Interest (CDI) to European information service entrepreneurs to encourage the setting up of large scale demonstration projects. The aim was to spearhead new services to break through existing national barriers.

Other psychological and technical blockages relate to norms and standards. And even where standards exist, onliners are confronted with dialectical variations of pins on a V24 (RS232) serial plug and protocol differences.

Encouraging European users to apply standards is a fundamental part of the the work of DG XIII and public sector agencies. In this issue we highlight electronic document interchange (EDI) where the needs are evident and the standards are there or are developing.

Demonstration projects for signature this year

The Commission (DGXIII) hopes to sign before the end of this year the first contracts for large scale information services which will demonstrate the potential of a Community wide market. This follows the Call for Declarations of Interest (CDI) that was launched by the Commission last year. Some 715 separate proposals from all Community countries have been received.

In an interview, Mr Vicente Parajón Collada said that the Commission was very pleased with the result. Proposals had been received from all sorts of organisations, large and small firms, consultants, as well as public agencies. "This shows how far the need for information (for economic activities) has penetrated into the whole of the economy," he said.

The Commission had been somewhat handicapped by the lack of experts who could analyse the mass of ideas, he said, but the different elements of the proposals had been tabulated and a synthesis could now begin. Bilateral contacts were under way with the organizations concerned. From mid June onwards it was expected that multilateral meetings would take place in order to allow participants to discuss details between themselves.

To encourage the maximum number of firms to participate in such operations, the Commission would consider other mechanisms such as a Call for Proposals or a Call for Co-operation in specific fields.

With the assistance of the Senior Officials Advisory Group (SOAG) meeting on 25 April, major priority fields had been clarified.



Signature de premiers projets pilotes cette année

Interview avec M. V. Parajón Collada

Directeur général adjoint, DG-XIII

Question: La Commission a-t-elle été satisfaite des réponses aux déclarations d'intérêt?

M. Parajón: Certainement. Toutes sortes d'organisations — grandes, petites et moyennes entreprises, organisations publiques et privées, consultants, intermédiaires, organismes régionaux — ont participé à cette déclaration d'intérêt. Cela montre que l'information est entrée dans l'ensemble de l'économie. Maintenant, un nouveau type d'acteur est entré sur le marché, intéressé à utiliser l'information pour les activités économiques.

Est-ce que ce phénomène montre une situation nouvelle?

Oui. Ce n'est pas seulement la France, l'Allemagne, le Royaume-Uni ou les Pays Bas, ce sont tous les pays de la Communauté qui participent, comme la Grèce, l'Italie, l'Espagne, le Portugal, l'Irlande. (Suite p 2)

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Para resolver sus problemas

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Interview avec M. V. Parajón Collada (Suite de 1)

Ceci indique qu'il y a une occasion pour développer une politique communautaire dans le domaine des services de l'information.

La procédure d'un Appel aux Déclarations d'Intérêt est différente de celle d'un Appel aux Propositions, moyen dont s'est servi la Commission pour le programme quinquennal. Pourquoi ce changement?

Normalement la Commission procède par un appel aux propositions quand il s'agit d'un domaine bien précis, d'un budget précis, et d'une échéance temporelle précise. Au moment du lancement de l'appel aux déclarations d'intérêt, il n'y avait ni budget, ni échéance temporelle précise, (nous étions au début de la procédure qui devait durer au moins un an et nous espérons que la décision sur le budget sera prise avant la fin de 1988). Nous avons profité de l'appel aux déclarations d'intérêt pour ouvrir des domaines nouveaux de services de l'information. Lorsque les idées seront étudiées et analysées, nous serons appelés à lancer des appels aux propositions ou des appels à la coopération dans des domaines spécifiques.

Dans quels domaines?

A l'intérieur des 715 domaines reçus, nous sommes arrivés à identifier un certain nombre de sujets qui nous paraissent acceptables pour étudier le lancement de projets pilotes.

Quelle est exactement la procédure que vous allez suivre?

La date de clôture de l'appel était vers la mi-octobre 1987. Immédiatement une analyse a suivi; elle a été faite par un groupe d'experts interne à la Commission, et quelques experts de l'extérieur. L'analyse et la synthèse ont pris peut-être un peu trop de temps en raison du nombre élevé de propositions et aussi par le manque d'un large groupe d'experts au niveau de la Commission. Nous avons réuni un groupe de douze personnes alors qu'il en aurait fallu au moins quarante.

Et où en sommes-nous maintenant?

Les conclusions de cette analyse ont été présentées à la réunion du comité, SOAG, le 25 avril. L'analyse a conduit à l'identification de 15 domaines dans lesquels nous considérons qu'il est possible de développer des projets pilotes ou de démonstration. On peut les diviser en gros en des domaines qui concernent les nouvelles technologies (banques d'images, interfaces intelligentes et CD-ROM à prix réduits pour l'éducation), certains secteurs de l'activité économique (biotechnologie, transport, industrie de construction, télécommunications, textile, tourisme, agriculture, matériaux), et un certain nombre de domaines horizontaux (environnement, brevets, normes et bibliothèques).

Quels sont les critères pour choisir les projets?

Les 15 domaines ont été choisis sur la constatation que les proposants disposent d'éléments techniques et financiers suffisants pour pouvoir mettre en oeuvre les projets de démonstration. Ils doivent également avoir un impact majeur sur le marché, avoir une valeur ajoutée communautaire, et être liés à la coopération entre différents acteurs de la Communauté.

Est-ce qu'on envisage de combiner certains projets?

Dans un premier temps il est envisagé d'établir des contacts bilatéraux avec les entreprises qui ont présenté les propositions dans les 15 domaines pour mieux connaître les détails. A partir de juin on prévoit des contacts multilatéraux pour leur donner l'opportunité de discuter entre eux des détails de la mise en oeuvre des ces projets. Les participants seront amenés à définir les différentes activités à mettre en oeuvre, le contenu technique, la participation financière, les règles à appliquer pour l'exploitation des résultats. Nous souhaitons que les projets, à partir d'un certain moment, soient sous la responsabilité d'un contractant principal, et appuyés par un certain nombre de participants. Pour éviter que d'autres entreprises intéressées ne soient pas écartées, soit un appel aux propositions, soit un appel à la co-

opération sera lancé avant le choix final des projets à mettre en oeuvre.

Quel est le délai pour la mise en oeuvre de ce programme?

Nous espérons que d'ici la fin de l'année un certain nombre de contrats puissent être prêts pour signature, afin que la mise en oeuvre des projets puissent commencer au début de l'année prochaine. Nous disposons d'une période de deux ans pour engager tous les projets qui devront être couverts par une enveloppe budgétaire de 45 MECU.

Est-ce que le rôle du SOAG va changer avec l'adoption du nouveau Programme d'Action 1989-90?

Nous avons envisagé dans la proposition qui fait l'objet d'un débat devant le Conseil, un Comité Consultatif pour aider la Commission dans la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'Action. Cela concerne non seulement les projets pilotes ou de démonstration mais aussi les autres actions comme l'harmonisation des législations nationales, les mesures pour éliminer les entraves à la circulation transfrontalières des informations, les actions dans le domaine des bibliothèques etc. Le SOAG a joué jusqu'à présent un rôle moteur dans la préparation du programme et dans l'avenir, il devrait prendre les fonctions du comité consultatif prévu par la décision.



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Informationsmarkt
Mercado de la Información

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cooperating with **DIANE NEWS**

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Mr David Buckley, left, has replaced Mr Erwin Gura, right, as secretary of the advisory Committee on Information and Documentation in Science and Technology (CIDST). They are seen here with Mr Renaud, CIDST chairman. Mr Gura, who has been a European official since the early days of the Coal and Steel Community, has recently retired.

Rapid growth predicted for image banks

Convergence of new technologies is encouraging the rapid growth and application of image banks, says a recent report commissioned by DG XIII/B. Multimedia communication is increasingly important as graphics, image processing, video and microelectronics and large memory systems transmission capacities are integrated.

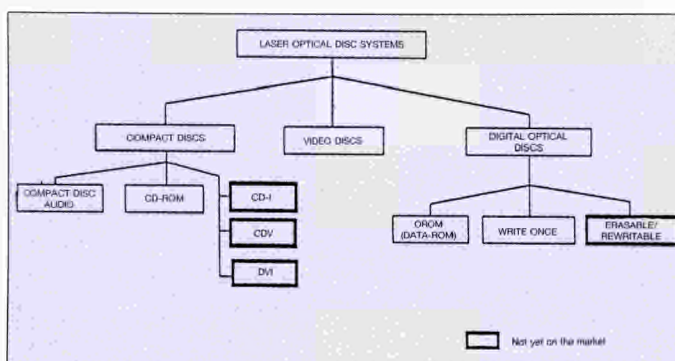
The report, **Docmix** foresees radical changes in the structure of the image bank market. Management of image banks is presently a small part of the market, divided up, as it is, mainly between generation and processing of images. In the next few years all that will change. Management of image banks will take the lion's share of the market.

There is general agreement between the main companies that a gap exists between the capacities of the technologies and the present market development. What is not clear is how to attract an initial high demand by "horizontal promotion" across the market. This would create a positive loop or virtuous circle and give the European information market a strong boost.

The report says that encouragement by the European Commission of image banks would be a logical progression of the previous R&D work done under the **DOCDEL** series of projects on electronic publishing. Integration of images is a natural evolution from bibliographic databases, full text, simple graphics to mixed mode databases with quick userfriendly access.

The report covers the types of images stored: analogue (photographic and TV like) and digital; the kind of data managed and the storage facilities used. The later are critical for image banks because they require great memory capacities, even using compression techniques. Three types are in common use: photographic including microfiches, magnetic, on tape or disk or optical storage using laser readers/writers. The market can be divided among read-only (such as CD-ROM, videodiscs

TYPES OF OPTICAL DISCS	TYPES OF DATA	COM-PATIBILITY	CONNECTED TO
PRE-RECORDED	MUSIC		HIFI
CD-AUDIO (COMPACT DISC AUDIO)			
CD-ROM (CD-READ ONLY MEMORY)			
CD-V (CD-VISION)	DIGITAL DATA		COMPUTER
CD-I (CD-INTERACTIVE)	MUSIC, DIGITAL DATA, IMAGES	CD-AUDIO	TV, HIFI, COMPUTER
VIDEODISC	FILMS, IMAGES, MUSIC		TV, HIFI, COMPUTER
RECORDABLE	DIGITAL DATA		COMPUTER
WORM (WRITE ONCE READ MANY)			
E/R-DOD (ERASABLE/ REWRITABLE-DIGITAL OPTICAL DISC)			



and OROM) and Write Once (WORM) memories.

On the image database management system (IDBMS) side there is a growing interest in "Hypermedia" which will windows on the screen to be associated with objects in the database and links are provided between these objects, both graphically (as labelled tokens) and in the database (as pointers).

"Keyboardless" user interfaces using touch-screen, tablet, mouse, and voice-recognizer add to the userfriendliness of modern IDBMS. Distribution options are still limited being confined to poor quality videotex except where

islands of broadband networks exist or ad hoc satellite connections.

Companies are faced with a number of dilemmas in choosing systems. These relate to the wide ranging and rapidly changing products on offer. Many potential customers are uninformed about the applicable potential of products. The wider diffusion of CD-ROM players for personal computer users, has, however, opened a wider market place to image bank systems.

Given the uncertainties of the market, the report recommends that the Commission can play a fundamental role on three levels:

– **information and awareness**

Well targeted information to potential users and companies would be aimed at highlighting useful news among the present mass of technical/advertising information. New opportunities could be created for the public to contact new technologies at exhibitions, fairs etc. and demonstrations of image banks in specialized professional environments could be arranged.

Promotion of systems through organizations having important public impact and other means to encourage hardware/software for image bank use should be considered.

– **technology and standards**

Incentives for creating a limited number of most used standards and insuring compatibility between systems are the most important priorities. The Commission has also a role in controlling some of the more dubious claims for compatibility of products that do not respond to reality. Legal problems, such as copyright, should also be tackled at Community level: some countries do not recognize the existence of documents that are not on paper.

– **research and development**

The Commission could help remove distrust of systems by showing the cost benefit of image banks in specific sectors such as medical studies, broadcasting, tourism, education publishing) by selecting prototype or demonstration projects.

The **DOC MIX** report is available free of charge from the European Commission.

Contact: **Mr. Franco Mastroddi**
CEC, DG XIII/B
L-2920 Luxembourg

Try ECHO with public passwords

Potential users are invited to try out databases on ECHO, the European Commission Host organization. Many contain just the sort of information that the new user needs: directories of databases in Europe, where to go for specialized information, addresses of telecoms administrations and lists of specialized information brokers to suit your needs.

ECHO makes passwords available to the general public. For example, to access the directory of databases, **DIANEGUIDE**, a free password is available for most of the Community languages.

In English, the password is **DIANEE**. The final E stands for English. When you have called up the ECHO computer on your national data network, you will receive the welcome message from ECHO. It will then ask you to sign on by introducing your password.

All you have to do is to type in **DIANEE**.

In French it is **DIANEF**; all the help and information comes in French. Other languages are available:

- DIANENL** Dutch
- DIANED** German
- DIANEI** Italian
- DIANESP** Spanish
- DIANEP** Portuguese

If you use ECHO more than occasionally, it will certainly be worthwhile registering as a full ECHO customer. This will allow you to use the full range of ECHO databases (most of them are FREE) and you will receive a full ECHO manual in either English or French. You will also receive a copy of **ECHO News** to keep you up to date on ECHO services. Registering costs nothing and ECHO staff can give you better support.

In order to encourage potential users to make full use of ECHO services as registered customers, a number of previously available public passwords for other databases will be withdrawn from September onwards. These include **IES** password for the **ESPRIT** information exchange system and **Eureka** projects. Users of these databases should apply to be registered as ECHO customers right away.

Businessmen in industrial and service companies should find ECHO's **TED** (Tenders Electronic Daily) database of great interest. It lists publicly announced tenders around the world and provides excellent business tips about what people want to buy on the market. **TED** is one of the few paying databases on ECHO. A similar database on development projects for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries is called **PABLI**.

If you want to register as an ECHO customer or would just like to know more about online information using ECHO, fill out the following form and we will send you as soon as possible all you require.

✕

To ECHO Customer service,
PO Box 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg

Yes, Please send a registration form to become an ECHO user. Registration will give me access to a wider range of databases than using public passwords.

Name

Company (if applicable)

Address

ECHO training

A number of courses for new or existing customers of ECHO have been scheduled. They deal with the Common Command Language (CCL) and general searching principles. The day long courses start with an introduction to online followed by simple searching with the basic commands of the system and develop during the afternoon to cover more advanced search techniques.

ECHO Information Days: awareness of ECHO databases

Paris	14 June
London	October

ECHO CCL Days: how to retrieve information

Paris	15 June
Amsterdam (translators only)	7 September
Amsterdam	8 September
Luxembourg	22 September
Lisbon	26 September

ECHO Database Days: help with specific databases

Zürich	24 June
St. Gallen	27 June
Amsterdam	9 September
Luxembourg	23 September

ICONE

Please note that in connection with the article on ICONE published in the last issue of IM that access to ICONE is not currently available via ECHO – but through the appropriate national standardization institute in each Community and EFTA country. The database contains the references and titles of some

110 000 pivotal European or international standards as well as the references of those national standards (some 330 000) which have a relationship with the pivotal ones.

Contact your national standards institute.

ICONE

Veillez noter que la base de données ICONE n'est actuellement pas accessible sur le serveur ECHO. Elle peut être accessible par intermé-

diare de l'institut national de normalisation approprié dans chaque pays de la Communauté ou de l'AELE.

Abonnez-vous chez ECHO!

Afin que le potentiel des utilisateurs puisse bénéficier au maximum des services fournis par ECHO, des mots de passe, qui autrefois étaient publics, vont être enlevés à partir de septembre 1988. Il s'agit dans l'immédiat du mot de passe **IES** permettant l'accès à la base de données «Information Exchange System» regroupant entre-autre les projets **Eureka** et **Esprit**.

Les utilisateurs de ces banques de données pourront devenir des clients d'ECHO à part entière. Ceci leur permettra d'une part d'obtenir un mot de passe pour l'accès à ces banques de données et d'autre part de recevoir un meilleur support de l'équipe d'ECHO qui sera capable d'entrer en communication avec eux via leur propre mailbox.

Si vous désirez devenir un client ECHO ou si vous voulez juste en savoir plus sur l'information en ligne, remplissez ce formulaire et nous vous retournerons aussitôt que possible, toutes les informations utiles.

Swedish Help Desk



Swedish Telecom has opened a database help service to give potential and actual users advice on online information. The service will help with acquisition and problems of equipment, communications software and modems as well as how to connect to the Datapak network. The centre also

has addresses of hosts worldwide and will help diagnose communication problems. A bulletin will be published shortly and training courses begin in the autumn.

Contact: Televerkets Databastjänst
S-103 79 Stockholm
Tel: +46 8 11 35 35

GEM anstatt GID

Die Gesellschaft für elektronische Medien mbH, GEM, ist die Nachfolgeorganisation der Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation mbH (GID). Sie erbringt Service- und Beratungsleistungen für den gesamten Bereich der Fachinformation. Ihr Bestreben ist es, die zunehmende Notwendigkeit der Nutzung von Datenbanken und anderen modernen Medien

zur Informationsvermittlung deutlich zu machen und den Zugang zu diesen für Interessenten zu erleichtern. Schulungsräume sind in Frankfurt verfügbar.

Kontakt: GEM
Herriotstraße 5
D-6000 Frankfurt
am Main 71
Tel: +49 69 66 87-1
Telex: 414 351 gidfm d
Telefax: +49 69 66 87 336

Finnish DIANE Centre

A help desk for online users has been set up jointly by the Finnish P & T and the Information Service of the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT). The DIANE Centre Finland is run by information specialists of VTT, the biggest user of online systems in Finland. The Centre is coordinated by Mrs. Merja Lehti.

In cooperation with other DIANE centres, the Finnish

service offers general assistance on national and international databases and hosts, network information, equipment and brochures and information sheets.

Contact: DIANE Centre Finland
VTT information service
Vuorimiehentie 5
SF- 02150 Espoo
Tel: +358 0 4561
Telefax: +358 0 4554073
Telex: 125175

Japan info

BTT, Gesellschaft für elektronische Kommunikation, bietet in Kooperation mit japanischen Unternehmen und Organisationen in Btx unter dem Impressum BTT Japan Info alle zehn Tage die neuesten Informationen aus dem Bereich Informationstechnologie an.

Das Programm kann unter der Leitseite *37777# oder dem Suchwort BTT JAPAN INFO kostenlos bundesweit abgerufen werden.

Kontakt: BTT,
Grünstraße 4-6
D-4000 Düsseldorf 1
Tel: +49 211 32 63 62
Btx: *55855#

ECHO Bildschirmtext

ECHO ist nun das Zauberwort für Bildschirmtext-Teilnehmer. Die durch eine neue Software des Bildschirmtext-Systems mögliche alphanumerische Suche nach dem Namen eines Informationsanbieters ermöglicht nun diesen Weg.

Nach dem Testzugriff über die Nummer * 447996 # ist die Information von ECHO nun in das Bildschirmtext-Angebot des Presse- und Informationsbüros der Kommission der Europäischen Gemeinschaften in Bonn integriert. Seit Mitte Oktober 1987 ist die Freigabe unter der Anbieternummer * 32323 # erfolgt. Allein diese Freigabe — ohne weitere Werbung bisher — führt schon zu 5–10 Anfragen nach Informationsmate-

rial pro Tag. Dies wird direkt von Bonn versandt, damit die Bildschirmtext-Nutzer nicht so lange warten müssen.

Mit diesem Zugang über einen Externen Rechner ist ECHO der 1000ste Informationsanbieter mit Externem Rechner.

Das Angebot im ECHO-Rechner ist noch nicht endgültig: Im Laufe des Jahres wird Benutzerführungssoftware einen leichteren Zugang zur Datenbank DIANEGUIDE und und später auch BROKERSGUIDE gewährleisten.

Kontakt: ECHO
Postfach 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 488041
Telefax: +352 488040
Telex: 2181



The European Communities stand at the Infobase exhibition in Frankfurt gained the first prize for the best stand of the show. Online services from the European Commission, including ECHO, and the Office for Official Publications were on demonstration.

Suchstrategien in Datenbanken

In einem neuen Buch aus der Reihe **Fachwissen Datenbanken** des Klaes Verlag, Suchstrategien in Online-Datenbanken, beschreiben erfahrene Informationsvermittler und Host-Mitarbeiter, wie man verschiedene Datenbanken in den Gebieten der Firmeninformation, des Marketings, der Werkstoffe oder auch existenter Ausschrei-

bungen effektiv durchsuchen kann. Das Buch spricht nicht nur den erfahrenen Rechercher, sondern gerade den Einsteiger bzw. Studenten an, der sich mit der Problematik beschäftigen will.

Kontakt: Klaes GmbH
Postfach 10 20 22
D-4300 Essen
Tel: +49 201 25 24 24

Télétel pour l'entreprise

Un **Répertoire des banques de données Télétel pour l'entreprise** vient d'être publié par FLA Consultants. L'ouvrage répertorie plus de 180 banques de données accessibles par Minitel qui sont toutes fa-

ciles d'accès (pas de langage d'interrogation apprendre).

Contacteur: FLA Consultants
27 rue de la Vistule
F-75013 Paris
Tl: +33 1 45 82 75 75

Companies cut costs with Electronic

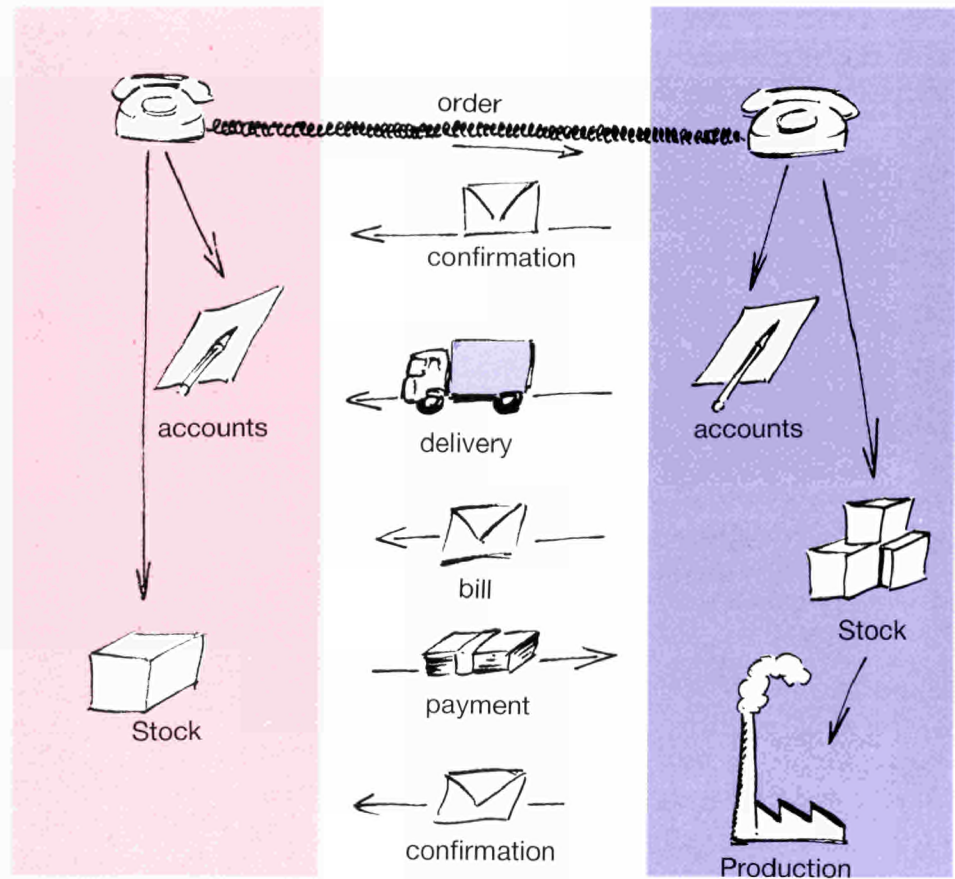
About a tenth of the cost of goods and services traded in the European Community or some 5000 MECU (\$ 6 billion) is wasted every year in useless or unnecessary paperwork. Shuffling even the necessary purchase orders, invoices, confirmations and receipts back and forth between companies costs an enormous amount of money.

It is scarcely surprising therefore that major and minor companies are turning to electronic means to transfer such documents. In 1985 only specialized sectors applied EDI (Electronic Document Interchange). Now more than 900 large companies in Europe participate.

In the United States, where the retail trade applied EDI at an earlier stage, there are now 7000 key companies fully using EDI. The Community is, however, set for startling growth in EDI. By 1995 it is estimated close to 180 000 companies will move to EDI, not far behind the projected 250 000 in the USA.

Europeans will get a boost from the opening up of the internal market, agreement on standardization by customs authorities and new imperatives for economies with just-in-time manufacturing techniques. An additional boost will come from interconnected ISDN networks. In certain national industrial sectors EDI is already doubling every year.

paper documents



Delays in ordering
Reserve stock needed
Duplication of paper

What EDI can do for your company

1. It improves customer service: orders are processed faster, order chasing is better and information for customers is faster and of higher quality.
2. It substantially improves stock management by increasing the accuracy of sales predictions, shortening delivery periods and reducing buffer stocks.
3. It accelerates the sales/invoices/payment cycle, which substantially improves the company's cash flow.
4. EDI is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of time zones. Information is more up to date.
5. These result in a substantial saving to the costs of paperwork put between 3.5 and 15% of the value of the goods.
6. EDI helps rationalize relations between customers and suppliers and helps manage internal resources.

How EDI works

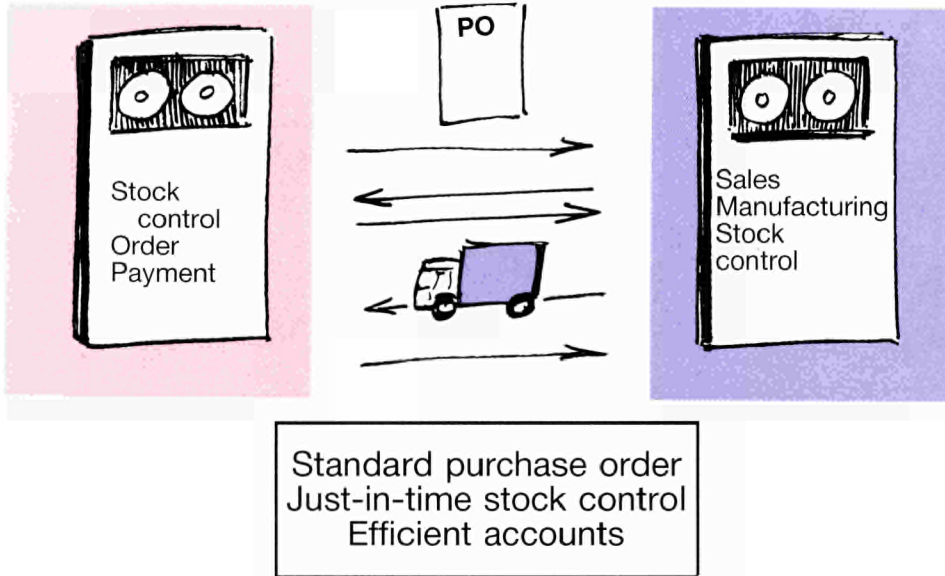
EDI communicates between suppliers and customers. It is necessary therefore to make sure you are speaking the same language. In EDI terms that means the messages have the same vocabulary (of accepted words and business definitions) and syntax (determining the possible message segments and punctuation). Correspondents also need to be sure of a correctly addressed electronic envelope with full details of the sender. In order to complete the transaction, both parties need

to be in agreement on packaging methods, sorting and delivery instructions. The physical delivery of goods or services needs also to be linked with the electronic messaging.

For some industrial sectors this procedure is already predetermined. For others the ground work has not yet been done. Companies wishing to acquire an EDI system should therefore be sure that they are working in harmony with industry standards where they exist.

Document Interchange

electronic documents



both eastern and western Europe.

Ansi X.12 and TDI differ from one another in vocabulary and syntax. However industries committed to either standard can now migrate to Edifact. Besides having strong support on either side of the Atlantic, Edifact is likely to be supported by a Japanese or Asian committee in the near future.

In Europe, where other EDI standards are less entrenched than the USA, Edifact should advance rapidly, especially in international trade. At the beginning of this year a single administrative document was brought in throughout the Community for use at customs. Parallel to this simplification of border procedures, Edifact, was made the mandatory standard for transmission of this information electronically.

That is one more reason why Edifact could become the de facto standard for European and world trade.

EDIFACT — the standard for customs

Edifact (EDI for administration, commerce and trade) is a recent standard destined to play a major role in EDI. It

combines features of a previous European standard called TDI (Trade Data Interchange) of the United Nations

Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and an American standard called Ansi X.12. TDI is used in

Exchanging ideas with other companies

IDEA, the International Document Exchange Association is a European body which is closely involved in promoting EDI. The secretariat of the association is handled by Alfredo Sarich of Euromatica, which publishes the **Who's who and what's what in EDI**,

A review of EDI developments in Europe, and a number of newsletters.

Contact: IDEA Secretariat
Euromatica
68 Ave d'Auderghem, b 29
B-1040 Brussels
Tel: +322 736 9715

Some EDI organizations

ODETTE (Organization for Data Exchange and Teletransmission in Europe) is an EDI service for car manufacturers and parts suppliers

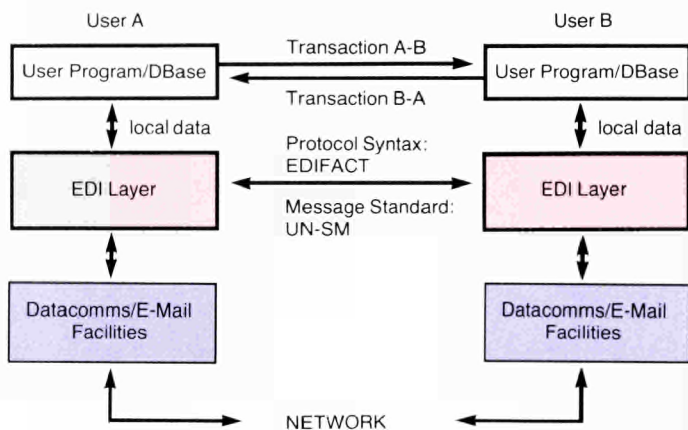
CEFIC was set up in 1987 by the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers with the participation of 12 chemical manufacturers.

EDIFICE is a specialized forum set up by companies in the electronics and computer industries.

Chambernet Europe is sponsored by Chamber of Commerce organizations in six European countries.

Transpotel is an international transport information service covering Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and UK.

COST 306 covers a twelve nation collaboration on information flows in international transport.



Source: Philips

Where to go to learn about EDI

The European Commission has set up a special unit to help companies and industrial sectors coordinate their activities so that all can benefit from trouble free communication. The TEDIS project deals not only with encouraging interworking but also the tackling the technical and le-

gal problems involved with them.

Information and help can be obtained from

Mr. Emile Peeters
CEC, DG XIII
200 rue de la Loi
B-1047 Brussels
Tel: +322 235 8281

CD-ROM guide



In contrast to the traditional publishing trade, CD-ROM products are sometimes marketed by several different

companies at the same time, according to the CD-ROM directory 1988. **ERIC** on education is produced by SilverPlat-

ter, OCLC and Dialog at three different prices and the biomedical database **MEDLINE** is available on seven different discs.

Nearly 200 pages are devoted to CD-ROM products including the text of the Luther Bible, a dictionary of Spanish medical terms, a product called **Fast Past** dealing with cultural, social, artistic political and economic information

from 400 BC to 1945 AD and another product with 4000 digital sound samples.

The directory also contains sections on company information, books and journals on CD-ROM and a list of conferences and expos on products.

Contact: Task Force Pro Libra
76 Park Road
GB-London NW1 4SH
Tel: +44 1 258 3740

Sensibilisation aux banques de données matériaux

Entre octobre et avril 1989, se déroulera un colloque dans chacun des pays de la Communauté qui aura pour but de faire mieux connaître les banques de données factuelles sur les matériaux et d'augmenter sensiblement leur niveau d'utilisation. Cette série d'actions s'inscrit dans le programme de démonstration sur les banques de données relatives aux matériaux lancé par la Commission des C E (DG XIII/B). Réunissant de 50 a

150 personnes dans chaque pays, ces colloques s'adressent aussi bien aux spécialistes de l'information et de sa diffusion.

Une documentation dans les neuf langues de la Communauté sera réalisée concernant le programme lui-même et les 11 banques de données du programme.

Contacteur: FLA Consultants
27 rue de la Vistule
F-75013 Paris
Tél: +33 1 45 82 75 75



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Comment le secteur public peut rendre plus performant le marché de l'information

Le manque d'harmonisation des normes en matière d'information est une entrave au développement du marché communautaire de l'information électronique:

- alors que des progrès sensibles ont été accomplis dans l'harmonisation des normes de télécommunication et des nouvelles technologies de l'information pour permettre la communication entre ordinateurs et terminaux au travers des réseaux de données, peu de progrès ont été réalisés par les fournisseurs d'information dans l'application de procédures d'accès et de formats d'information communs qui permettraient de rendre compatibles les produits de l'édition électronique;
- cette situation entraîne notamment des coûts de conversion élevés pour les centres serveurs qui rassemblent des bases de données d'origine diverse;
- elle freine le développement de nouveaux produits d'édition électronique conçus pour l'accès direct par les utilisateurs sur des micro ordinateurs.

La Commission (DG XIII/B) a donc chargé l'AFNOR de faire une étude qui avait pour but d'analyser les besoins du marché communautaire de l'information spécialisée en matière de normes pour le format des informations des produits et services d'information électronique, de définir les initiatives possibles pour promouvoir des normes européennes communes dans le domaine, et notamment celles pouvant être mises en œuvre par des actions convergentes du secteur public.

Le champ géographique de l'étude comprenait les Etats membres de la Communauté et les autres pays (par exemple, la Suisse) où se situent les principales institutions internationales présentant un intérêt pour l'étude.



La réalisation de cette étude (ENS-7/85) a connu trois phases.

1. Un recensement des développements internationaux et européens existant en matière de normalisation dans le secteur de l'information électronique a été effectué.
2. Une enquête a été menée sur le terrain, décomposée en entretiens de définition qui ont permis la réalisation de dix questionnaires d'enquête. A partir de ces derniers a été effectué un publipostage portant sur plus de deux cents organismes et les entretiens de collecte. Cette phase a permis de dégager des hypothèses quant aux priorités et aux modalités d'action.
3. Un séminaire d'experts a été organisé ayant pour but à partir des hypothèses définies précédemment d'examiner la validité et les possibilités de réalisation de projets de lignes

d'actions. Les projets de conclusions de cette phase ont été affinés à l'aide d'entretiens de synthèse effectués auprès de divers représentants d'organismes publics.

Action N° 1
Elaboration de tronc communs de critères descriptifs des bases de données pour faciliter le choix de l'utilisateur.

Action N° 2
Harmonisation des procédures de connexion au serveur.

Action N° 3
Harmonisation des procédures de connexion au réseau.

Action N° 4
Prise en compte des paramètres de configuration des équipements terminaux par les réseaux.

Action N° 5
Définition de structures communes minimales de champs par natures et par domaines d'information.

Action N° 6
Définition d'un code d'identification commun permettant l'accès à l'information primaire.

Action N° 7
Harmonisation des commandes de téléchargement.

Action N° 8
Harmonisation du format de transfert des données téléchargées.

Action N° 9
Concertation des producteurs et des serveurs sur les méthodes de traitement de l'information parallèlement à la prise en compte des besoins des utilisateurs, réalisation de travaux sur les sujets mis en évidence par cette concertation, promotion de ces travaux.

Action N° 10
Mise au point des méthodes de conception de pages écrans vidéotex.

Action N° 11
Insertion des résumés, mots-clés et du numéro d'identification dans les documents primaires sous une forme lisible par machine.

Action N° 12
Promotion de l'application aux publications des périodiques; des travaux de normalisation réalisés en matière de structure des documents et de codage des caractères.

Action N° 13
Définition du protocole de transmission de la commande de documents primaires entre les serveurs de bases de données bibliographiques et les serveurs de fourniture électronique de documents primaires.

Action N° 14
Harmonisation du format de transfert des données transmises par disquettes.

Action N° 15
Définition d'une norme d'organisation logique de l'information englobant le son, le texte, l'image indépendante du type de CD.

Action N° 16
Promotion de la recherche et de la réalisation d'applications propres au CD-ROM.

Un juriste svp

«Informatique et télécommunications: Y-a-t-il un juriste dans la salle?» tel était le thème d'une conférence qui a traité divers sujets relatifs au droit fiscal, pénal, social, civil, du commerce international, aux droits d'auteur, aux aspects juridiques des contrats télématiques professionnels, à l'organisation de données échangées par télé-transmission en Europe . . .

M. Yves Poulet, président de l'Association Belge du Droit de l'Informatique, a soulevé le problème du défi que lance l'Informatique, au droit: «Droit et informatique: un mariage difficile». Il a esquissé le besoin de réaffirmer et de définir le rôle du droit face aux notions actuelles de sécurité et de dialogue, de promouvoir une politique de concurrence et de définir des modes de normalisation.

Le rôle de l'Etat ne doit pas être nié mais il lui est au contraire assigné une tâche beaucoup plus limitée, mais essentielle, celle d'exercer un rôle actif dans la définition du choix de société et la possibilité d'établir un dialogue entre tous les acteurs.

Ont également été traités des sujets sur les Communautés Européennes, dont le programme belge en soutien à FAST (Forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology) et le Livre Vert sur les télécommunications présenté par Dr Ungerer de la DG XIII.

Les Actes de la conférence organisée par l'ABDI, les 9-11 décembre 1987 sont disponibles.

Contact: Conference Office
19 rue de l'Orme
B-1040 Bruxelles
Tél: +32 2 736 0335

Vanguard report

A British report examining Value Added Data Services (VADS) offers some hints at key ingredients of successful services and highlights problems and constraints hindering development. Amongst the latter are customer resistance and poor marketing.

Four main applications are covered: electronic document interchange, database access,

electronic mail and viewdata services using adapted television sets.

The report, **The economic effects of VADS** (ISBN 0 11 513995 8) considers the potential exploitation of VADS internationally including the sale of hardware and expertise and improving the mechanics of exporting.

Contact: HMSO
GB-Norwich NR3 1BR

Esprit II adopted

On 11 April the Research Council adopted the second phase of the ESPRIT programme on strategic research in information technology. A Community funding of 1600 MECU will be available over a five year period from 1 December 1987. Some 700 proposals had been received by the Commission by the closing date of 21 April.

The Council arrived at common positions relative to the DELTA (Development of European Learning through

Technological Advance) programme's pilot phase with a budget of 20 MECU over a period of between 18 months and two years. Common positions were also reached on the DRIVE programme on IT in road transport (60 MECU for an initial 36 months from 1 June 1988) and the SCIENCE programme stimulating the international cooperation and interchange by European research scientists (167 MECU for five years from 1 January 1988).

Thesaurus supplement

A supplement to the **Thesaurus Guide** (ISBN 92 825 4897 X) has been completed and is available free of charge to those who purchased the 1986 version.

Contact: Office for Official Publications of the EC
rue Mercier
L-2985 Luxembourg

Correction

The Swedish Telecom Administration wish to point out that the set up charge on national or international calls is 0.0275 ECU not 0.275 ECU as mentioned in the report **Tariffs and availability of PPSDNs in Europe**. There is no set up charge for an unsuccessful call.

High technology financing

Funding worth more than 6000 million ECU is available for firms wishing to participate in such Community programmes as ESPRIT, RACE, COMETT, FAST and INSIS in the next few years. A report **The 1988 EEC high technology guide**, by the publishers of **Eurotech Forum** outlines not only where and when this funding is available but princi-

ples governing cost sharing contracts, how research proposals are selected and the utilization of knowledge gained from the work. Details on other sources of finance such as loans is also given.

Contact: Eurotech Forum
68 Ave d'Auderghem bte 29
B-1040 Brussels
Tel: +322 736 9715



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Offers easy access for factual data on chemicals and their impact on man and on the environment.

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Info-Itapac

La SIP ha reso disponibile, in forma gratuita, a tutti gli utenti della rete ITAPAC, un nuovo servizio, denominato INFO-ITAPAC, che fornisce on-line informazioni sulla rete.

La ricerca delle informazioni (servizi e prestazioni, tariffe, reti estere interconnesse, introduzione di nuove prestazioni, ecc.) è facilitata dalla modalità di interrogazione a menu.

Il numero da chiamare per collegarsi ad INFO-ITAPAC è: 2 25 01 64. Dopo la conferma di connessione:

ACP: COM
Digitare l'identificativo (Please sign on)
digitare: id itapac
e alle richieste: Password:
digitare: itapac

A questo punto si ha l'accesso al menu principale di INFO-ITAPAC, dal quale si può avanzare nella ricerca delle informazioni desiderate.

Material help for onliners

An **Engineered materials abstracts user manual** has been published for users of the EMA database on ESA/IRS and Orbit. The manual explains how to search specific index fields contains separate

sections for each of the host systems used.

Contact: **Materials Information Institute of Metals**
1 Carlton House Terrace
GB-London SW1Y 5DB
Tel: +44 1 839 4071

FID 44th conference

The International Federation for Information and Documentation, FID, will hold their 44th conference in Helsinki from 28 August — 1 September. The programme with the theme "information, knowledge, evolution" includes topics such as man-machine symbiosis, elec-

tronic information, CD-ROM, information in industries.

Contact: **Finnish Society for Information Services**
44th FID conference
P O Box 1025
SF-00101 Helsinki
Tel: +358 0 1333316
Fax: +358 0 1333314

Info management degree

The International Management Centre from Buckingham and Aslib are launching an 18 month MBA in Information Management in October. All the study takes place at home except an initial two

week residential session, and six 4-day workshops.

Contact: **Dr Ash Kabi IMCB**
Castle Street
GB-Buckingham MK18 1BS
Tel: +44 280 817 222

Online advice

Following its successful series of seminars showing how such groups as charity fund organizers, business lecturers, voluntary organizations and trade union librarians can benefit from online information, Ealing College of Higher Education's CDAC (compu-

ter database advice centre) plans to extend to other target fields such as aid, education and training.

Contact: **CDAC**
Ealing College of Higher Education
St Mary's Road
GB-London W5 5RF
Tel: +44 1 579 4111 ext 332

Microlib 88

An international conference and exhibition on **Trends in the use of micros in libraries** will be held at the Lisboa Penta Hotel, Portugal on 28—30 September 1988.

Contact: **Cosinform**
Rua Prof Reinaldo dos Santos 18-4D
P-1500 Lisbon
Tel: +351 1 78 55 08

Electronic publishing

The **Electronic publishing and print show** will be held at Wembley conference centre, 14—16 June. Modules include demand publishing, DTP, CD-ROM and image processing.

Contact: **Blenheim Online Ltd**
Pinner Green House
Ash Hill Drive
Pinner, Middx HA5 2AE
Tel: +44 1 868 4466
Fax: +44 1 868 9933
Telex 923498

European telecoms

A conference on **Telecommunications and new economic opportunities for Europe** will be held in the Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 13—15 September 1988.

Contact: **Ms Lil Bianchi MARI**
Old Town Hall
Gateshead
GB — Tyne and Wear NE8 1HE
Tel: +44 91 490 1515
Fax: +44 91 490 0013
Telex: 537038

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ENERGYNET. ENVIROLINE. EUDISED. FOOD SCIENCE. FLUIDEX. HSELINE. INIS

The European approach to Online Information

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La base de datos IRSOFT puede ayudarlo. La publicación se llama **Directory of Library and Information retrieval software for micro-computers** — por la Sra. Hilary Dyer, publicado por Gower Press.

Entonces



Utilice nuestro password público gratuitamente DIANES y busque las bases de datos accesibles en Europa

o

TRAINS para aprender usted mismo el CCL (Common Command Language)



Pero

Las redes internacionales de transmisión de datos son poco onerosas. Para conocer la dirección escriba, INFO PTT



Ayuda!

Si usted tiene necesidad de la ayuda de profesionales, escriba BASE BROKERSGUIDE para encontrar la lista especial que podrá ayudarlo.

Informaciones de orden General

Para obtener las informaciones de orden general lista de centros distribuidores, los intermediarios, los grupos de usuarios, informaciones sobre las administraciones de los PTT, etc. escriba

ECHO
BP 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg

Si tiene problemas particulares

Teléfono +352 488041
Télex 2181

El equipo ECHO lo llamará para limitar los gastos de comu