



Incorporating *EuroNet* **DIANE NEWS**

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Information market ---

The Way to the Future

In a few years' time a micro-computer user could find a new type of information system at his disposal. It would be just like asking a computer questions on no-matter-what and getting the right answer.

Turning on his communica-

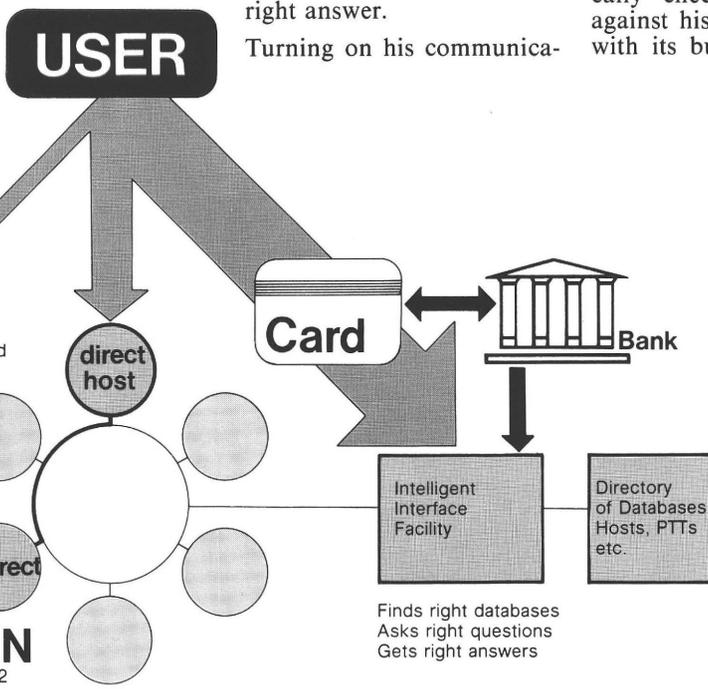
tions software, he presses one of the control keys which immediately connects him via the network to a main frame host computer.

After the host has automatically checked his identity against his smart bank card with its built in microchip,

he is presented with a menu screen with certain questions. These ask him if his problem relates to science, culture, history etc.

After replying to a few more questions, the computer comes up with the answer.

continued on back page



Banking metamorphosis with smart card

Bank machine cards or credit cards with magnetic strips are now familiar throughout Europe. Some now have holograms to improve the security. Such a card is protected by a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which must be typed into the machine before cash withdrawals.

A much higher level of security and more flexibility will soon be possible if a liquid crystal display, a keypad and a microchip are incorporated, similar to the present day ultra thin calculators. Such a card can be a key element in opening up new markets lacking proper payment systems.

The elaboration of this new bank card, which should open up videotex shopping and payment for database searching, is being undertaken by COST, a cooperation of Community and non Community states in a project called Open Shops for Information Systems, OSIS.

Marche de l'Information... la Voie du Futur

Dans quelques années l'utilisateur d'un micro ordinateur trouvera un nouveau système d'information à sa disposition. Ce sera comme s'il posait n'importe quelle question à l'ordinateur et en recevait la réponse correcte.

Connectant le logiciel de communication, il appuiera sur une des touches de contrôle et sera immédiatement connecté via le réseau à l'ordinateur serveur.

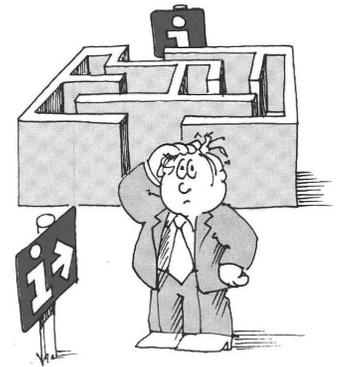
Après que le serveur ait contrôlé automatiquement son identité, par rapport à sa carte de banque sous forme microchip, il se trouvera en présence d'un menu reprenant certaines questions. Il sera demandé à l'utilisateur si la question traite de sciences, de la culture, d'histoire etc...

Après avoir répondu à un certain nombre de questions, l'ordinateur fournira la ré-

ponse. En fait, l'ordinateur pourra lui fournir plusieurs extraits de journaux, de livres ou d'encyclopédies dont l'utilisateur devra indiquer sa préférence.

L'utilisateur sélectionnera alors les extraits et opérera pour l'obtention de documents complets, avec photos et couleurs qui seront directement délivrés.

Après quoi, il recevra un message lui indiquant le



Where to find information p 4
 Où on peut trouver l'information p 4

Host interconnect now in progress

Users of electronic information systems who have not been online for the last few months will notice new innovative features are already up and running.

For example, G-Cam, the French host with its extensive range of French databases, has now a reciprocal marketing agreement with Data-Star and its own range of English language sources.

The number of Continental users of Finsbury's Textline and Newsline files on its London computer has increased faster than the home market through the connexion to the Frascati, Italy, host, ESA/IRS. ESA/IRS, G-Cam, British hosts Blaise

and Pergamon Infoline, an Italian host CNUCE and a Danish host, Datacentralen are actively pursuing the EHOI initiative on interconnexion (DIANE News No 36 p1).

In order to facilitate this new move the Commission is preparing to fund technological development that will open up the increased possibility for any host to make such bilateral or multilateral agreements to combine their user base.

The proposal is to create a protocol according to the Open System Interconnexion (DIANE News 35 p12) and international norms. This will have the advantage

What the host interconnect project will involve

Phase 1 In depth study of type of information needed to be exchanged between the direct host and the remote host for minimum interconnexion. Study will also be made of additional requirements and legal restrictions and impact on business.

Phase 2 Based on the findings of phase 1, the contractor has to develop a Virtual Interchange Protocol (VIP) which is flexible for adaptation and expansion of the host interconnexion.

Phase 3 After a workshop has examined the protocol and the Commission has accepted it, a pilot implementation will be made.

The Community will support 50 per cent of the cost of the project up to a maximum of 200 000 ECU.

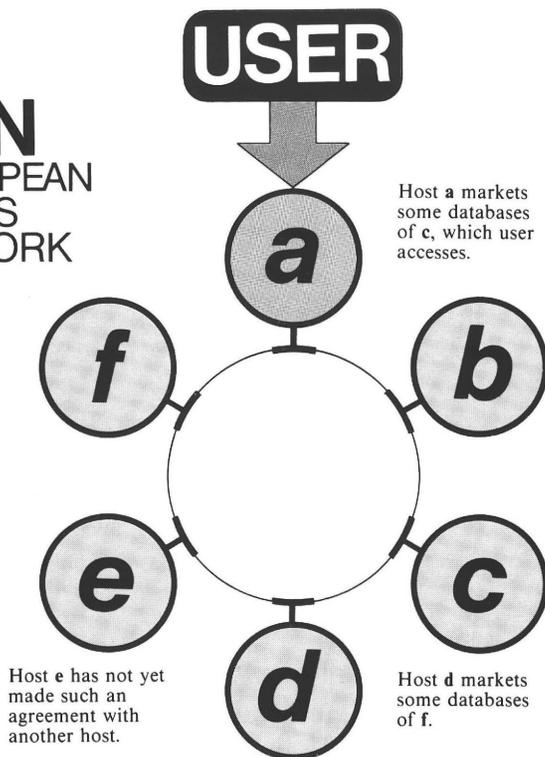
that each host can interface into a common standard on the networks, rather than create specific host to host protocols. In practice, the user will be able to access certain databases without knowing necessarily on which host they are loaded.

The software interface will then translate all the requests of the user, including password security, costs, messaging, error controls and some special facilities.

The immediate gains for the consumer will be a much bigger potential offering of

databases from his "normal" host. He can access them all with the single logon procedure that he is used to. Further he does not have to worry about converting the bill for "foreign" database use into his national currency. That will be automatically done by the software. If his normal host has not made agreements for databases that he wants to access, he will, however, still have to call another host and perhaps juggle with foreign currencies. Smaller hosts however, will be able to interconnect easily.

EHN EUROPEAN HOSTS NETWORK



IPMI

Information Market
Marché de l'Information
Informationsmarkt

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The European approach to Online Information

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ESA-IRS, the European Space Agency's Information Retrieval Service, offers the widest scientific and technological information coverage, with over 70 databases containing 30 million references, worldwide access possibilities through national and international data transmission networks, and many other services...

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ESA-IRS

Name
Company
Address

and send to:



ESA Information Retrieval Service
C.P. 64 - 00044 Frascati, Italy
☎ (39/6) 94011 telex 610637



RACE – Research and development in Advanced Communications in Europe

Telecommunication is already one of Europe's largest and most important economic sectors. The new horizons opened up by satellites, coaxial and optical fibre cable systems are central to increased efficiency and competitiveness of the Community and its Member States.

The Commission, telecommunication operators, industry and political authorities have, therefore, agreed the steps to be undertaken and the objectives for the transition from a narrow band Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) (see DIANE News 37 p10) to more powerful Integrated Broadband Communications (IBC) by 1995.

RACE, Research and Development in Advanced Communications for Europe constitutes one of the most important of the European Commission's telecommunications initiatives. Based on the Commission's proposed action programme for telecommunications (DIANE News 37 p6), RACE will identify an IBC reference model and the R&D work required to attain an IBC network.

The Commission has therefore proposed¹ to the Coun-

cil the following stepped approach.

RACE definition phase (1985). An 18 month effort defining the IBC network reference model requirements, terminal environment and future applications together with selected exploratory long lead time research. The costs of 22.1 million ECU would be shared between industry and the Commission.

RACE main phase I (1986-91) would involve developing the technology base for IBC, including precompetitive research.

RACE phase II (1991-96) would relate to evolutive development of technology for enhanced IBC equipment and services beyond 1995.

The Commission believes that promoting and supporting a modern Europe wide telecommunications infrastructure will make it possible to create a continental market with common standards, capable of supporting the scale of production required to enter world telecom and terminals markets.

Contact: ITTF
CEC
200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
¹Document COM (85) 113

ESA prepares its hardware for APOLLO

The European Space Agency has called an industrial briefing for firms interested in supplying equipment for use in the rapid document procurement project, APOLLO, (Article Procurement with Online Local Ordering). The project itself should commence at the end of 1986 or beginning of 1987.

The APOLLO project will cover the entire area of wes-

tern Europe served by the satellite ECS-2 (DIANE News 36 p. 12). The Luxembourg meeting on 31 May will discuss the prototype equipment for earth stations, achive interfaces, document terminals and their controllers.

Contact: Mr S. Hånell
ESA
8-10, rue Mario Nikis
F-75738 Paris Cédex 15

La recherche multilingue en ligne

La diversité linguistique a représenté un obstacle important pour le marché de l'information en Europe. Une amélioration considérable de la situation se trouve aujourd'hui à la portée des centres serveurs. Il s'agit d'un service SYSTRAN disponible chez ORDA-B en Belgique.

Imaginons un avocat allemand souhaitant interroger de son cabinet à Bonn, une banque de données située à Paris. L'information peut lui parvenir en français ou traduite en allemand par SYSTRAN.

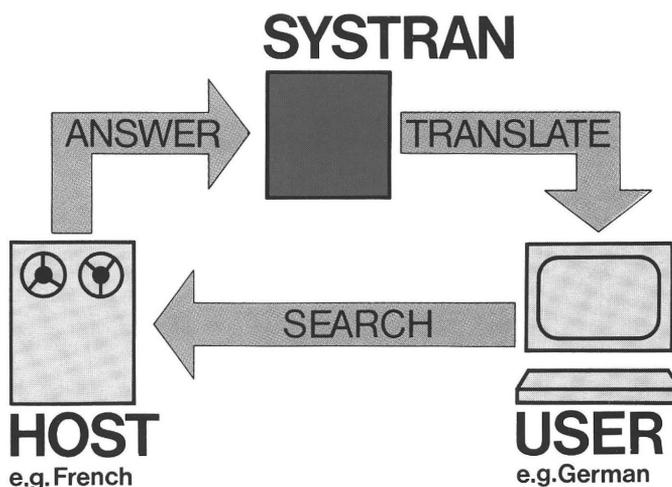
Le flux de l'information sera alors le suivant:

Une légère majoration de prix et une attente supplémentaire d'une demi-heure trouveront amplement leur justification dans un texte directement lisible.

A ce jour, les couples de langues disponibles sont

anglais – français
français – anglais
anglais – allemand
anglais – italien
français – allemand

Contacteur: Michel Lebrun
ORDA-B s. a.
avenue de Cortenberg
79/1
B-1040 Bruxelles
Tél: +32 27 36 00 54



Télé-Link: dialoguer avec la banque



Dans les petites heures du matin, les utilisateurs de la Banque Bruxelles Lambert peuvent obtenir un extrait de compte de la veille ou le solde de la veille, y compris les comptes dans les sièges BBL à l'étranger. Grâce à une signature électronique d'une «BBL Security Key» tous les paiements en francs belges ou les ordres semi-permanents à l'étranger peuvent être exécutés. Le sys-

tème permet aussi d'accéder aux bases de données. L'info-bilan contient les données de dizaines de milliers de comptes annuels, déposés à la Centrale des Bilans de la Banque Nationale de Belgique. Des informations sur les protêts, concordats faillites et les cours du change tout au long de la journée sont également disponibles.

Une cassette vidéo vous explique comment résoudre vos problèmes d'information

N'avez-vous jamais eu à résoudre rapidement un problème sérieux et de ne pouvoir en trouver la solution exacte? Savoir où vous pouvez trouver rapidement et avec précision la réponse à un problème légal, économique ou technique peut vous faire gagner du temps et éviter des ennuis. Vous pouvez également être certain que les décisions prises sont basées sur les plus récentes informations. Cela pourrait vous faire gagner de l'argent!

Des professionnels en matière juridique, scientifique ou technique, agissant dans divers secteurs d'activité, doivent également résoudre les problèmes de leurs clients.

Le Groupe pour le Développement du Marché de l'Information en Europe peut vous fournir une cassette vidéo qui vous aidera à déterminer si vous ou votre société avez acquis le service le plus efficace.

Attention! Cette cassette peut totalement changer votre concept de l'information!

Video cassette explains how to solve your information problems

Have you ever had a tricky problem that you need solve quickly and can't find the exact reference? Knowing where to find answers to legal, economic or technical problems quickly and accurately can not only save you time and bother. It can also ensure that for example business decisions are based on the latest and most up to date information available. That could save you money.

Professionals in law, industries, sciences and other sectors also rely on being able to lay hands on the right technical information to solve client's problems.

Have you got the best information systems at your disposal?

The European Information Market Development Group are making available a video cassette which can help you or your company analyse exactly if you are getting the quickest, cheapest and most efficient service.

Warning! This cassette may change the whole way you think about information!



Euronet DIANE VIDEO CASSETTE

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Organization: _____

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Telephone: _____

Video cassette
 at 3 000 Belgian francs

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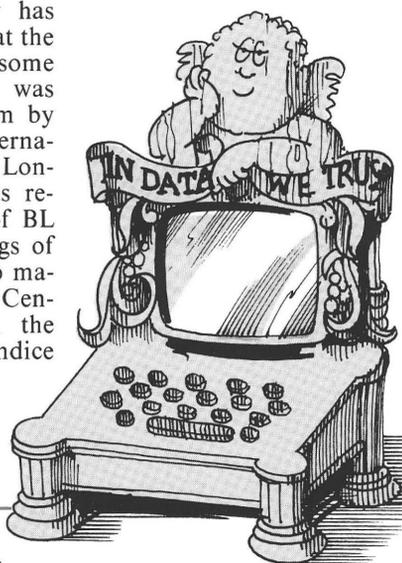
Name _____ Position _____

Address _____

BL database on incunabula

The high technology of the fifteenth century joins that of the twentieth in a new British Library database on pre 1501 printed works. The **Incunable Short Title Catalogue, (ISTC)**, already has 18 000 entries and will at the end of the day have some 30 000. Its launch was greeted with enthusiasm by scholars at a recent international symposium in London. The file draws its resources from records of BL with the largest holdings of incunabula and the two major catalogues, Goff's Census of Incunabula in the USA and the Italian Indice Generale.

Contact: BL Bibliographic Service
2 Sheraton St
London W1V 4BH
Tel: 636 1544 ext 242



Packing words

The thesaurus for **packaging science and technology abstracts (PSTA)** is being published annually by the International Food Information Service (IFIS). Three hard copy versions are available

including a short version for quick reference. The entire thesaurus is also for sale in a magnetic tape version.

Contact: IFIS
Lyoner Str 44-48
D-8000 Frankfurt 71

Finsbury's expansion

In a recent eighteen month period Finsbury more than doubled the number of clients using its Textline and Newline services. UK clients nearly doubled to 410 and the non-UK clients reached nearly the same figure with an increase of 150%.

This spectacular marketing effort was achieved at the same time as the total database grew by a third with the aid of Commission support for the worldwide enhancement of the service.

Contact: Finsbury
68-74 Carter Lane
London EC4V 5EA

Irish and the Law

Irish law reports from 1950 to date are available following an agreement with the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for Ireland and ITELIS Ltd, a company set up by the Irish Times and Eurolex. Itelis users will have access to the European Law and other legal databases of Eurolex.

Contact: Itelis Ltd
9 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 717035/717087



the medical Host

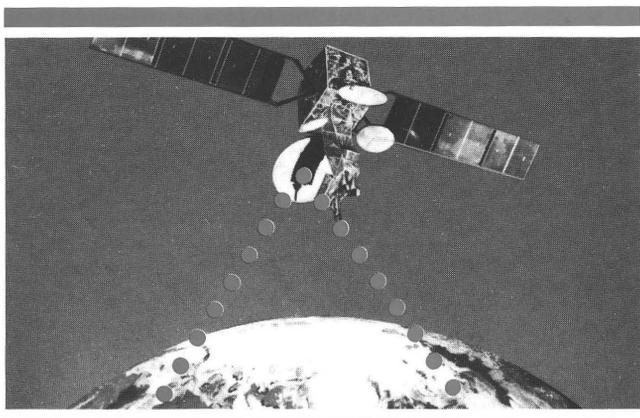
MIC is the Medical Information Center at Karolinska Institutet Library and Information Center in Stockholm.

A number of Medlars databases are loaded including **Medline** with more than 4.5 million articles from 3 000 biomedical journals, **CANCERLIT** containing more than 400,000 citations to articles and books on cancer, **DRUGLINE**, involving 1 500 records of questions and answers on drugs from the Institution of Clinical Pharmacology, **PRIMLINE**, on social medicine, **TOXLINE**, with 1.6 million citations on toxicology.

Other files include **RTECS**, a registry of toxic effects of chemical substances and **SWEDMED**, a bibliographic database produced by MIC containing 3 000 references to Swedish biomedical journals and reports not contained in Medline.

MIC's NUA is 2405015330.

Contact: Mr Anders Nilsson
P O Box 60201
S-10401 Stockholm
Tel: 46 8 232270



Introducing STN International®

The American Chemical Society and the Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH Karlsruhe have linked their online information systems to form

STN International®
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STN® offers direct access to databases in science and technology.

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CAOLD	Chemical Abstracts - Registry Numbers (prior to 1967)
REGISTRY	Chemical Abstracts - Registry File (Structures)
PHYS	Physics Briefs® - Bibliographic File (from 1979 to present)

More databases will be added in the near future!

The STN® features are:

- Three convenient access points in Europe, North America, and Japan.
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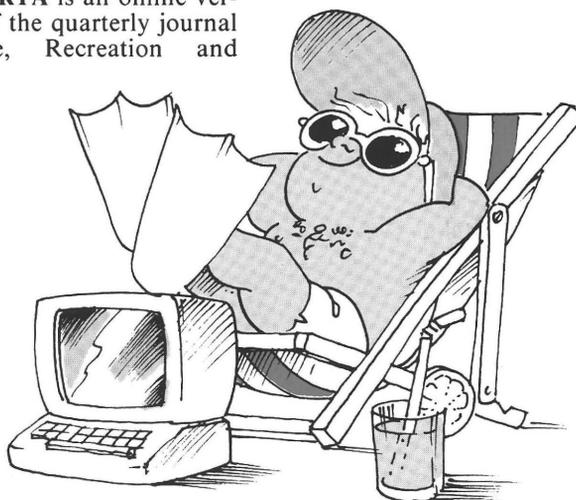


For more information, or to open an account, please contact:
In Europe
STN Karlsruhe, c/o Fachinformationszentrum Energie, Physik, Mathematik GmbH, Postf. 2465, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, Federal Republic of Germany,
Telephone: (+49) 7247/82-45 66

Relax with LRTA

Leisure, tourism and related subjects can now be browsed on subfile 3R of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau's **CAB ABSTRACTS**, file 16 on ESA/IRS. **LRTA** is an online version of the quarterly journal *Leisure, Recreation and*

Tourism Abstracts. Topics range from nature reserves and parks to hobbies, television, consumer behaviour, sociology, psychology, planning and forecasting of leisure. Summaries of books, reports, journals and theses are provided from around the world.



COMMUNICATION SOFTWARE

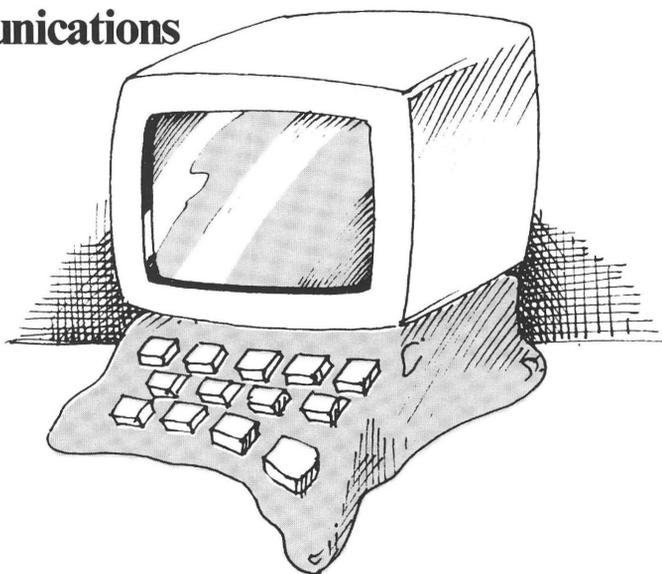
Concurrent communications package

The manufacturers of Liason software, Captec, are marketing a product which they say has cut their own electronic mail costs by 70 per cent. The software package available on diskette should also simplify life for the on-line searcher.

Features and options available are:

- automatic log on and log off, autodial on option
- interactive communications
- transaction recording
- terminal emulation (ADM 5, DEC VT 52, DEC VT 100 and others)
- file transfer/document delivery
- quick screen print
- concurrent file activity status

These features enable a user for example to make one key automatic logon, and have another key loaded with the search strategy. This could, for example, result in a listing of titles of articles. The user could then come out of the fee paying database, select those titles he wants an abstract of and download them. The user can also choose sections that he



wants to print immediately or he can edit interfacing to his wordprocessor and print later.

The edit function can also be used while the micro is running in receiving mode. The baud rate can be selected between 110 and 9 600 thus allowing both local terminal usage and remote from the same package.

The features of the package run concurrently due to the interrupt drive design philosophy adopted. Many are provided through use of single keystrokes. All the components of the terminal can be buffered in the package

thus allowing, for example, keyboard overlays to be inserted.

Liason is available for IBM PC, Olivetti M 24, and micros based on 8086/88 chips with MS-DOS. With the emulation feature the package enables any 8086/8F based micro to act either as a dumb terminal or as any of the selection of emulated terminals for direct mainframe connexion.

Contact: Captec: Computer Applied Techniques Ltd
3 St James Terrace
Malahide
Co Dublin, Ireland
Tel: 353 1 450921
Telex: 31432 fjk ei
Eurokom Address:
Fred Kennedy

CONNECTing to the main stream

Learned Information's CONNECT is an emulator package that will also help the user from start to finish of his search. Connected to an autodial modem, it will dial and logon automatically from a number of stored host addresses. Compatible with B. Telecom's Multi-stream, it can be instructed to recognise prompts and interact by itself, if required.

Such other frequently used sequences as commands can also be linked to user defined function keys, whether or not the micro its own function keys. Search strategies can be put together off line for later use. There is space for reminders such as search terms peculiar to different hosts.

Data from the host may be selected by keying to be kept on disk or printed or both at once.

The software is designed to be adapted by the user to his own needs. There is a help system written in as an integral part of CONNECT and detailed instructions can be called up at any time. Help messages can also be customised if required.

Other uses of CONNECT include electronic mail, Prestel with IBMs, or transferring files from one micro to another.

Price: £ 195

Contact: Learned Information
Besselsleigh Road
Abingdon
GB-Oxford OX13 6LG
Tel: 865 730275

Photo-compo par micro

Discovery 5c est une interface portable et peut recevoir de n'importe quel ordinateur par câble ou par modem en RS 232 du data ASCII. Il écrit ensuite, tout seul, automatiquement, sur une diskette standard, un dossier data lisible directement dans le lecteur de la photocomposeuse CRTronic de Linotype.

Il simule le mode d'écriture d'une photocomposeuse qui coûte peut-être cinq ou huit fois le prix. Un seul Discovery 5c suffit à superviser la production de tout un pool de dactylos de pré-photocomposition.

Contacteur: M G de Ceulaer
Unidec
Donkesesteeweg 86
B-2130 Brasschat
Tél: +32 36 51 55 69

File transfer system for computers

Up to recently many computer manufacturers have created their own software for file transfer between their computers. This may have worked well between the same makes and models but for other computer models file transfer has been difficult or not possible.

Many industries such as that dealing with stocking car parts across Europe need to constantly transfer files to different computers. To answer this sort of problem, the European Commission has developed a **Multilateral File Transfer System, MFTS**, which is based on the Open System Interconnexion (OSI, see DIANE News 35 p 12). By interfacing each machine to the "system", file

transfer can follow common norms. A dialogue allows the user to submit file transfer requests interactively or in batch mode. Implementation is generally through screen menus. Character sets have been defined according to ISO norms.

Included in the package are such facilities as database networking, remote printing, remote job entry and follow up of jobs from machine to machine. The user may, for example, specify the character set used during transfer, the file format and the record size.

MFTS is currently operational on Siemens under BS 2000, ICL 2900 under VME release 8.11 and Bull Sems Mitra under MMTS

with SCS. It will soon be available on Olivetti M 24, IBM PC and compatible machines, IBM under VM and if needed under MVS and Thomson Micromega 32 under UNIX V 7.

Users who would like to obtain this product or manufacturers who would like to develop it should

Contact: M M Colin
CEC C 2/23
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: + 352 4301 3648

EUSIDIC code calls for industry sensitive telecommunications

The cost and quality of international data networks has a vital direct effect on the economic and social viability of the electronic information industry, says a recent code of practice issued by Eusidic, the European Association of Information Services. **Telecommunications for publicly-available information services** is the third in a series of guidelines.

As to quality of services, Eusidic says that economic or political considerations on the part of PTTs should not be allowed to impact significantly on the viability of the information industry. If political pressures force administrations to affect adversely users of data networks, then the specific responsibility for policies or actions should be identified so that attempts may be made to change that policy at source.

PTT administrations should not seek to discourage, delay, hinder, obstruct or forbid the connexion of normal information equipment via approved interfaces. Beyond their legitimate concern for safety, PTTs should not discriminate for or against equipment on political, geographic or economic grounds, nor should approval, where necessary, be cumbersome, time consuming or unreasonably expensive to obtain.

Eusidic urges that if data network services required cannot for any reason be provided by PTTs, physical or legal obstacles should not be placed in the way of other bodies offering to provide the required service.

On costs, the code says that the calculation of telecommunications charges for a

given service by public administrations should be calculated on the basis of the cost of providing that service plus a reasonable profit margin. Development costs should be amortised over a number of years according to normal accounting practice. "Charges - be they high or low - based on other principles inevitably distort the healthy growth and potential of electronic information services and are therefore a serious obstacle to genuine progress," says Eusidic.

Leased circuits, Eusidic says, often offer the public options such as free/flexible pricing, uncomplicated or friendly access protocols and alternative routes in the event of network failure or congestion. Any action taken by PTT administrations to impede or prevent the leasing of private circuits

and their international connexion to public networks can seriously distort the growth of information services and should be regarded as undesirable interference. There is no logical justification for volume or usage sensitive tariffs on private or voice networks, says the Code.

A reverse charging facility, common for telephone calls, is needed to increase flexibility of charging and access. The reluctance of some administrations to provide the facility internationally is unacceptable, says Eusidic. The lack of such a facility will undoubtedly hamper growth of traffic on international public data networks.

Contact: Eusidic
P O Box 429
London W4 1UJ
Tel: + 44 1 546 7968

The Search is Over

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Company Registration Details
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Market Opportunities
Marketing
Parent Companies
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Pergamon InfoLine offer you a computerised information service accessible worldwide, giving access to the databases you need, precisely when and where you need it.

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UK help desk

Individuals and organisations in any country may now take advantage of the service of the Online Information Centre in the UK. The subscription fee for the newsletter and enquiry service this year is £30 in the UK and £40 overseas airmail with a discount of £5 for Aslib members.

Any subscriber can make enquiries about database

availability, costs, etc at no extra charge. The service is particularly useful for people residing in countries which do not have a national or local help desk.

For a free sample of the Centre's newsletter, **Online Notes** and details of other publications,

Contact: Online Information Centre, Aslib, Information House 26-7 Boswell St London WC1N 3JZ Tel: 430 2502

Eurodocdel doc

An 8-page brochure is now available for anyone who wants to know more about Eurodocdel. This experiment aims to give European users access to most of the main European Community documents in an easy user friendly way and facilitate the movement of electronic dissemination of information. Digitised information stored on disc can be printed on demand at a central location once the exact document has been found using a menu driven search system. The brochure includes an invitation for anyone wishing to participate in the experiment.

Contact: Eurodocdel Bredestraat 24 NL-6211 HC Maastricht

Consumers want a db

BEUC, the European bureau of national consumer associations, has called for a databases of prices in their declaration on world consumer rights day. The database would provide widespread publication of regular surveys showing price differences for cars and other goods and services sold in the EC. It would help consumers know what to buy where, stimulating parallel imports, competition and the harmonisation of tax rates.

Contact: BEUC Rue Royale 29 Bte 3 B-1000 Brussels Tel: +32 2 218 3093

Text transmit with Docolsys

It may take days or weeks for users to receive their documents from the main libraries after identifying them.

A report, No 8 in the Electronic Document Delivery series, on **Document ordering, identification and location systems** carried out on behalf of the Commission, DG XIII with an emphasis on application to electronic ordering and delivery, outlines the present situation in several European countries. It has been published as part of the DOCDEL programme with a view to elicit comments for future development.

Contact: Learned Information Besselsleigh Road Abingdon, Oxford OX13 6LG

IIS secretary

Sarah Carter has been selected Executive Secretary of the Institute of Information Scientists. The new office address is

IIS 44 Museum Street London WC1A 1LY

Data master pour la maîtrise de l'information

Data Master est une société de conseil à Ecully, France, spécialisée dans le domaine des bases et banques de données avec pour vocation d'aider les entreprises à être plus performantes en maîtrisant mieux l'information pertinente.

Dirigée par Michel Berthelier, co-auteur du livre «Les Banques de Données pour la Gestion», la société peut faire un audit des besoins en information externes; test et sélection des banques et bases de données les plus pertinentes, mis au point du système de consultation et la rédaction d'un manuel d'utilisation formalisant tous les résultats des étapes précédentes et rendant opérationnel le système de consultation.

Contacteur: Data Master 17, rue Louis Chirpaz F-69130 Ecully France Tél: (7) 833 2563

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Data-Star grows with biotechnology

The major European information service Data-Star has added fourteen new databases, in the first three months of 1985, to its already large group of business, medical, chemical, engineering and environmental information. Two of these new databases are directly related to biotechnology.

Biotechnology Databases

Abstracts in BioCommerce database - 'CELL' concerns the business of biotechnology, and is of vital interest to anyone trying to keep up to date in a field which has so many facets, and so many organisations trying to ensure that they get the maximum benefit from new technology. Being aware of commercial developments and their implications is key to this. The CELL database is also produced as a journal, Abstracts in BioCommerce, and is created by Celltech, the leading independent British research company in Biotechnology.

Data-Star has also added the 'Current Biotechnology' database from the Royal Society of Chemistry which covers the same fields but

from the aspect of technology rather than business. The two services are complementary, and an average search and listing of results found costs about £6-7 in either database.

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EDN/2/85

OECD Declaration on Transborder Data Flows

At the ministerial meeting of the OECD on 12 April in Paris, agreement was reached on a Declaration on Transborder Data Flows.

Transborder data flows are growing in volume and impact as technology develops and as the economic interdependence of OECD Member countries increases. Services (which are increasingly being traded across borders), intracorporate data flows, information about foreign markets, exchanges of scientific and technical information – all these and more are the basis for the growing flood of data and information across borders.

In the Declaration, Member countries recognise that benefits can be achieved from transborder data flows. They pick out, for example, the economic and social benefits resulting from access to a

variety of sources of information and of effective and efficient information services. At the same time, it is also recognized that each Member country has its own national policies and goals and that these may inevitably affect the flow of data and information across borders. National legislation to protect the privacy of personal data flowing across borders is cited here.

In the midst of this web of concerns, the Declaration is intended to make clear the general spirit in which Member countries will address issues relating to transborder data flows. The Member countries declare their intention to

- promote access to data and information and related services, avoid the creation of unjustified barriers to the interna-

tional exchange of data and information.

- seek transparency in relevant regulations and policies.
- undertake further work on policy issues emerging from transborder data flows.

– cooperate and consult with each other, to further the objectives of the Declaration.

Document: PRESS/A (85) 30
Contact: OECD
2 rue André-Pascal
F-75775 Paris
Tel: +331 524 8200

Soft options

In July 1968 UNESCO/PGI published the first issue of the **Inventory of software packages in the information field**. A new version is being planned. Any comments and suggestions for the new edi-

tion can be sent to the authors.

Contact: Ms Zeeva Levy
National Centre of Scientific and Technological Information
84 Hachashmonaim St
Tel-Aviv 61200
Israel

EC launches certification testing call for proposals

Electronic information equipment will soon be issued with a European certificate of conformance to standards. Test centres around Europe are now being asked to apply for accreditation at a European level through a call for proposals¹ launched by the European Commission.

Such harmonised European standards will allow the easy interconnexion of equipment and error free transmission of messages across the networks.

The European Community is emphasising equipment which relates to the Open System Interconnexion protocol announced last year (DIANE News 35 p12). Initially this will be related to

teletex, videotex, teletype compatibility, file transfer and Local Area Network (LAN) standard protocols.

Interoffice working via teletex (TTX), MHS, LANs document structure and character coding, and data interchange on magnetic tapes or floppy discs will also be treated.

Languages compiler testing will include Pascal, COBOL, Minimal Basic, FORTRAN, Ada. Graphic kernel systems and topics corresponding to CEN/CENELEC work would also be considered.

Contact: ITTF
CEC
200 rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

¹ OJ no C 90 of 12 April, 1985

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the way to the future

ments are needed according to a report compiled for the Commission – the Intelligent Interface Facility – which examines all aspects, technical, policy and administrative of the subject.

One of the conclusions of the study was that there is a broad range of customers to be considered from the casual to the regular to the specialist. However, most Europeans have not yet used electronic information systems because they do not know what equipment is needed or how to connect their terminal, or what is available once it has been set up. Difficulties with networks also raise another order of problems. A major effort is necessary to overcome this marketing and information about information problem. Innovation is needed on the following:

Administrative and network harmonisation. For the potential customer a provision of information on information is a first necessity. A computer based knowledge system equivalent to distilling the experience and even judgment of the best information scientists should be available on tap. The problems of updating and cross referencing information systems in an explosively growing market are considerable. This European knowledge base would involve a European help desk and multilingual consultancy service.

A service could also give advice on network problems, general and specific marketing, expert consultancy for hosts and PTTs, standardisation of billing and contracts, equipment standards.

As the market develops, such a centre or centres could act as a nucleus for advice on innovative techniques and the implementation of standard procedures and formats for interchange of data, mostly between systems.

Total Host Access The Commission is presently supporting the European Host Organisation Group (EHOG) initiative on an interconnected network. The creation of a software protocol which will create the possibility for all European hosts to be interconnected (see article on page 2).

Under this initiative, hosts will make bilateral agree-

from p. 12.

ments so that a certain number of their databases can be searched by a user of the other host organisation. While that may enable certain hosts to round off their product offer e.g. business information or engineering, this interconnexion is not likely, in the first instance, to produce a comprehensive solution for the non specialist user.

What is necessary to fill this gap is a user friendly facility, easy to access and with assistance for the definition of the information search. Such a "host" might not have any of its own databases but would have contracts with the main database hosts. It would have software that could translate the requirements into search strategies using the interrogation languages of the selected databases. Natural languages present another problem to be solved, but, on the other hand, the full scale of the European market needs to be exploited.

This "ghost host" – a host with contracts to access databases loaded on other computers – would also include access to the comprehensive "knowledge store" of databases. Other aspects such as transfer of bank funds by "smart card" are being developed through a Community COST project called OSIS. Some of these innovations will depend on the "Europeanisation" of telecommunications policies.

User software There is already a lot of micro software on the market that will help with automatic logon and search strategy. Further innovative features are needed to make data communications open to a wider public. Automatic capability to update one's own directory of databases and host profiles and to keep track of budgetary information could be some features which would help non technical users. At best, a solution based on micros can resolve only some of our problems.

Europe's brand of utopia, it seems, will be a spectrum of options in which the user can choose the pathway most fitted to his equipment, skills and information problem. But these possibilities are only likely to become viable if they fully exploit the European dimension.

¹ OJ no C 102/23 of 24 April, 1985

DG XIII info market priorities

Following the Council decision on a 5 year Community programme for the development of the specialised information market, (IM no 38, p 1), the advisory body on the programme management, CIDST, the Committee on Information and Documentation in Science and Technology, has reorganised its activities to concentrate on the new priority areas. Provisional Task Forces, consisting of experts from Member States, have been established for the following priority areas: **patent related information, materials databanks, biotechnology information network, electronic publishing and image databanks, information for industry.**

Task Force meetings have already taken place and recommendations were given on particular projects such as the application of digital storage media (e.g. compact disc ROM) for information services for trade and industry. The Commission (DG XIII) is considering launching a call for proposals for information services during the course of 1985.

In addition the CIDST has formed a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) whose aim is to make recommendations on projects or packages of projects.

Contact: Mr Carlo Vernimb
CEC, DG XIII
L-2920 Luxembourg

la voie du futur

initiative d'un réseau interconnecté proposée par l'«European Host Organisation Group» (EHOG).

La création d'un logiciel de protocoles donnera la possibilité à tout serveur européen d'être interconnecté (voir article p.2).

Sur base de cette initiative, les serveurs établiront des accords bilatéraux permettant à un utilisateur d'avoir accès aux bases de données d'un autre centre serveur, bien qu'il ne soit pas client de ce centre. Tandis que cela permettra à certains serveurs de compléter la gamme de produits offerts, par exemple affaires, information ou ingénierie, cette interconnexion n'apportera pas, dès le début, une réelle solution à l'utilisateur occasionnel.

Afin de combler ce fossé, une assistance plus souple à l'utilisateur est nécessaire, facile d'accès et aidant à définir la recherche d'information. Un tel «Serveur» n'aurait pas ses propres bases de données mais des contrats avec les principaux serveurs. Il devrait avoir un logiciel permettant de traduire les desiderata des utilisateurs en une stratégie de recherche utilisant le langage d'interrogation de la base de données. Le langage naturel représente un autre problème qui devrait être résolu, mais d'autre part, tous les besoins du marché européen devraient être exploités.

Le "Maître-Serveur" – un serveur ayant accès aux bases chargées sur d'autres centres serveurs – permettrait également l'accès à un

suite de p 12

guide très évolué des bases de données.

D'autres aspects, tels que le transfert de fonds bancaires par «une carte bancaire à puce» sont en cours de développement par le projet COST de la Commission, appelé OSIS. Certaines de ces innovations vont dépendre de «l'Europeanisation» de la politique des télécommunications.

Logiciel d'utilisation Il y a déjà un grand nombre de logiciels pour micro sur le marché permettant le logon automatique et l'introduction de stratégies de recherche. D'autres innovations sont nécessaires pour que la transmission de données s'ouvre à un public plus large.

La possibilité de mettre à jour son propre guide des bases de données, d'identifier des serveurs et de garder trace des coûts de recherche, seraient des facilités qui pourraient aider les utilisateurs non spécialisés. Au mieux, une solution axée sur les micros pourrait résoudre seulement certains problèmes.

Une des utopies caractéristiques de l'Europe semblerait être l'éventail des options mises à la disposition de l'utilisateur lui permettant de choisir le chemin qui sied le mieux à son équipement, son expérience et ses problèmes d'information. Mais ceci ne deviendra réalité que si l'utilisateur exploite le potentiel que l'Europe met à sa disposition.

¹ JO No C 102/23 du 24 avril 1985.

Université libre de Bruxelles, Institut d'Études européennes, Attn Mme Hélène Bauer-Bernet, 50 ave Franklin Roosevelt, B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgique. Tél: 235 7618

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Association nationale de la recherche technique (ANRT), 101 ave Raymond-Poincaré, 75116 Paris, tél: 501 7227

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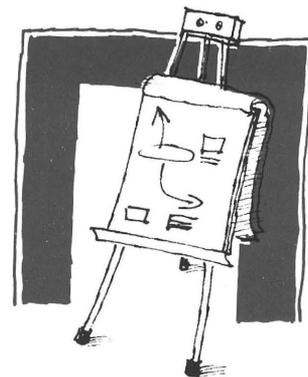
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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Dokumentation e. V. (DGD), Westendstraße 19, D-6000 Frankfurt am Main 1; Tel.: 69 74 77 61

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European Commission DG XIII, Correspondence to Mr D Seabrook, Butler Cox & Partners, 12 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LL, telephone +44 1 831 0101

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The Way to the Future

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The process is far removed from the tedious routine of entering strings of numbers to logon and a battle of wits with a computer's retrieval system that is not unknown today.

Commission's three pronged attack

Small steps to simplifying search operations can be performed with software on the micro or the main frame.

Some features could also be available as a value added network service. Many operations, however, for reasons of national regulations, banking practice, host interconnecting policies and other red tape are not provided today.

It is clear that easy-to-use features could greatly expand the European information market, but how could we get to this "utopia"? In North America such facilities as EasyNet and iNet already exploit this market need. But, at a recent Commission sponsored seminar in London, the inventor of EasyNet confessed that Europe presents a far more complex market problem.

Parallel to the call of the Brussels European Council meeting on 30 March for the realisation of the European information market, the Commission has launched its own call to those interested in contributing to the broadening of the market to suggest means to reduce the problems¹. There are three broad areas where improve-

Continued on p 10

la Voie du Futur

coût de l'opération et que le montant aura été débité de son compte bancaire et crédit à celui du centre serveur. L'ordinateur lui souhaitera alors une bonne journée et espérera qu'il le recontactera au cas où d'autres problèmes devraient être résolus.

On est loin de la routine traditionnelle nécessitant l'entrée des procédures de logon et l'utilisation fastidieuse des logiciels de recherche que nous connaissons aujourd'hui.

Les Trois Approches de la Commission

Les opérations de recherche peuvent être simplifiées si on améliore petit à petit les logiciels des micros ou des ordinateurs. Certaines facilités pourraient être également disponibles et considérées comme valeur ajoutée au service offert par le réseau. Bien des opérations ne peuvent être effectuées aujourd'hui en raison de réglementations nationales, pratiques bancaires, politiques d'interconnexion des centres serveurs et autres formalités administratives.

Il est bien entendu que ces facilités permettraient un plus grand développement du marché de l'information mais comment pourrions-nous arriver à cette «utopie»?

Aux Etats-Unis, de telles facilités, comme EasyNet et iNet exploitent déjà ce marché. Mais, lors d'un séminaire organisé par la Commission à Londres, le concepteur d'EasyNet a soulevé la complexité du marché européen.

En parallèle à l'appel lancé par la réunion du Conseil européen le 30 mars en vue de la réalisation du marché européen de l'information, la Commission a lancé son propre appel à ceux qui seraient intéressés à contribuer à l'expansion de ce marché, de suggérer tout moyen permettant l'atténuation de ces problèmes.

Suivant un rapport¹ établi pour la Commission - la Facilité d'un Interface Intelligent - il y a trois secteurs où des efforts devraient être effectués et ce rapport examine tous les aspects techniques, politiques et administratifs du sujet.

Une des conclusions de ce rapport est qu'il y a un grand nombre de clients qui doivent être considérés: depuis l'occasionnel, le régulier jusqu'au spécialiste.

Bien sûr, la plupart des européens n'ont pas encore utilisé des systèmes d'information électroniques parce qu'ils ne savent pas quel équipement est nécessaire ou comment connecter leur terminal ou ce qui est disponible lorsque cela a été effectué. Les difficultés avec les réseaux soulèvent d'autres problèmes. Un effort doit être fait pour vaincre ce marketing et cette information concernant le problème d'information. L'innovation doit être réalisée comme suit:

Harmonisation administrative et du réseau.

Il est nécessaire pour un utilisateur potentiel d'obtenir les informations de première nécessité.

Un système intelligent informatisé permettant la démythification de l'expérience et même le raisonnement des meilleurs spécialistes en information, devrait également, être à leur disposition.

Les problèmes de mise à jour, et de recoupement d'information dans un marché en pleine expansion sont considérables.

Cette source de connaissance européenne nécessiterait un bureau d'assistance européen et un service de renseignement multilingue.

Un service devrait également donner des renseignements sur le problème des réseaux, de marketing en général ou spécifique, de consultation d'experts pour les serveurs et les PTT, de standardisation de la facturation et des contrats de l'équipement.

Comme le marché se développe, un tel ou de tels centres devraient agir comme centre(s) de convergence recueillant les avis et innovations techniques, l'implémentation de procédures standards et de formats d'échange de données, principalement entre les systèmes.

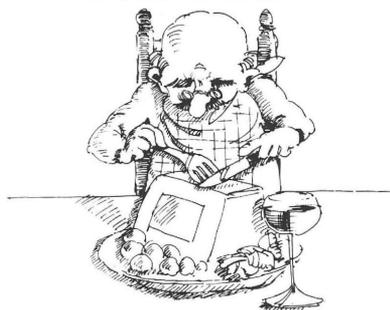
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Suite p 10

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