



INTERFACE

JULY 1991

ISTC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING INTERFACE

Welcome to the first edition of *Interface*, a newsletter designed to help all department employees use and share information resources. Although produced by **Information Management Branch (IMB)**, this is *your* newsletter. Below we've listed some ideas for future features and articles. We welcome any suggestions, comments or interesting facts that we can include in upcoming issues. Just send them through e-mail to Interface:VAX or contact the **Interface Editor** by fax ((613) 954-1894), mail (Room 360F, IMB, Headquarters) or phone ((613) 954-3570).

Features

Bickering with your monitor? Embroiled in data skirmishes with your hard drive? You're not alone! **Dr. LANtern**, our syndicated seer of all things technical, is willing to answer your information questions.

Have you read or heard something that's **Worth Repeating?** This column will feature quotable quotes – from the famous to the infamous – on information and technology topics.

Byte off more than you can chew? Profit from the successes and failures of others. In our **Tips & Traps** column, employees can share tips for lightening workloads and tell about traps to avoid. Or you can share information on innovative equipment, software or systems that can help others save time and money.

Tired of doublespeak and jargon when you just want to know where Drive A is? For a regular debriefing on techie terms, tune into **Techie Talk**.

Our **main article** will feature topics of interest to ISTC staff or profile departmental employees. ■

J.P. WINS AWARD

To kick off this first edition of *Interface*, we'd like to salute a special employee – **J.P. Bertrand** of IMB. Because of his exceptional service and dedication, which have come to be expected by both clients and colleagues, J.P. recently won an Exemplary Contribution Award.



J.P. with Monique, his wife of 28 years.

His secret? He's never too busy to give help or advice. Whether a client wants to develop or change a system, J.P.'s response is always "a piece of cake." Problems? J.P.'s always ready to try different options until he finds the right fit – in his words, "there's more than one way to skin a cat!" His only obstacle: sometimes he must wait for the technology to catch up to his solution!

J.P.'s public service career began at age 17 in 1960. He held a variety of administrative jobs for DSS and DRIE, but when he started working

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WORTH REPEATING

*When will people learn
that it is the spirit we are of,
not the machinery we employ,
that binds us to others?*

Thomas Macauley
19th century British historian

with computers, he was bitten by the bug that still drives his career.

Today, armed with invaluable experience, a Pepsi and an irrepressible good nature, J.P. is the godfather of the department's mandatory, yet often overlooked, Hewlett-Packard (HP) systems. Although his name has become synonymous with the HP, J.P.'s affections have lately been diverted by the siren song of a micro with graphics capabilities. And speaking of songs, J.P. has been known to make even a Commodore 64 sing his praises (he hooked it up to a voice synthesizer!).

J.P.'s dedication to service is best described by his own words: "When thinking about . . . [the] systems that I created . . . I realized that they weren't mine, they were the users'. If they weren't . . . they wouldn't still be being used." ■

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The following IMB newsletters are also available:

WordPerfect Newsletter – a quarterly source of 'hands-on' information for WordPerfect users (Paula Foeller, (613) 954-2814).

Jargon – coming soon . . . a brand new newsletter that will provide a forum for the department's technical community to share informatics-related articles. Brought to you by the Information Centre ((613) 954-2634). ■

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TECHIE TALK

Ever been asked to *interface* with someone? How about "let's *interface* on that" or "don't bother me, I'm *interfacing*"? The bad news is that *interface* is **not** a verb! So all that time you were interfacing, you were actually up to something else.

Strictly defined, **interface** means "a surface forming the common boundary between adjacent solids, spaces, etc." – like your office divider. These days, *interface* often connotes the means through which you and your computer communicate. But it is also defined as "a place at which independent systems meet and communicate with each other." And that's the intention of this newsletter – to provide a place where department employees can exchange information and ideas. ■

TIPS & TRAPS

Bill Jones, Informatics Security Coordinator, (613) 954-2608

Computer viruses. Are you properly protected? Even if you scan diskettes before you use them, chances are that someone else using the LAN may forget. To keep your data safe, make sure important files are backed up by you or the LAN administrator. ■

NAME THAT 'TOONI!

Readers are invited to make up an appropriate caption for this cartoon. (Only light-hearted responses will be taken seriously.)

The best caption and the author's name will be published in the next issue of *Interface*.

Send your entries today to the **Interface**

Editor, Room 360F,
IMB, or by e-mail to
Interface:VAX. ■

