



# INTERFACE

MAY/JUNE 1992

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CANADA / ISTC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

## BAZNET GOES LIVE

JUN 16 1992

ISTC's corporate network **BAZNet** was officially launched on April 1 (April Fool's Day).

But the launch was no prank: the network is the result of three years of planning, design and hard work by **Serge Bazinet** and his team. Now ISTC personnel can process and share information faster and more effectively.



*The official launch of BAZNet.*

*Back: left to right: Fuji Bull, Director General, IMB; Serge Bazinet, Technical Support and Operations  
Front: Harry Rogers, Deputy Minister ISTC*

The network is a high-speed data communications link connecting local area networks (LANs) throughout the department: a backbone of fibre optic cables runs to each floor of headquarters, a network of leased communication lines run to each regional office and intelligent routing devices connect each LAN. These links are supported by communications software.

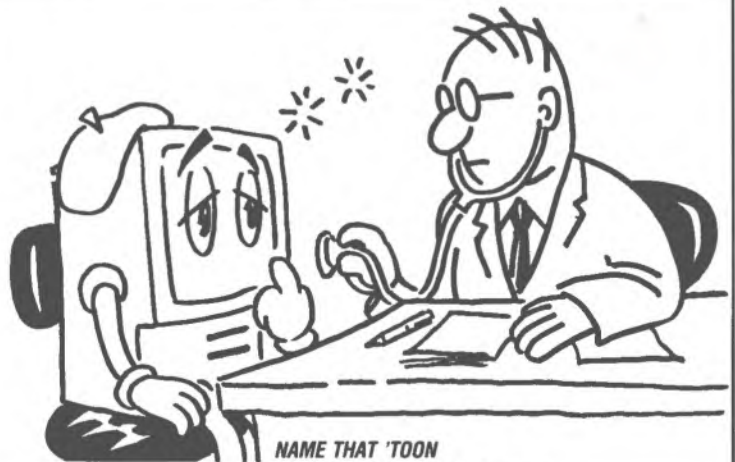
Some of the new services the network offers include:

- direct connection of LANs with the same or compatible network operating systems;



- file transfer between microcomputers;
- direct LAN or microcomputer-to-minicomputer connection for terminal access and file transfer;
- LAN-to-mainframe connection through a service LAN maintained by IMB; and
- support for faster e-mail systems.

Eventually, BAZNet will also provide connectivity and interoperability between all attached equipment. Users will be able to access distributed database applications and external networks such as Internet. ■



**NAME THAT 'TOON**

Send us your ideas for a caption for this cartoon.  
Last issue's winning caption is on page 2.



## WORTH REPEATING

*We strive to provide leadership in the management of information that promotes competitiveness.*

**ISTC information management vision**  
from ISTC corporate information plan  
*Information Leadership for  
Competitiveness*

## POTPOURRI

- Do you know what your responsibilities are for ensuring informatics security? The first of three new ISTC handbooks explaining the department's Informatics Security Policy will soon be distributed.

The more we use computers and telecommunications services, the more careful we must be about safeguarding electronic information. The handbooks address security responsibilities for three ISTC groups:

- staff;
- responsibility centre managers; and
- shared-facility managers and information systems custodians.

You might recognize some of the art used in these handbooks. It's by **John Lambie**, a senior officer with the Service and Construction Industries branch. Some of John's posters are displayed at headquarters on 10th floor east. The security office will soon post more of John's award-winning art illustrating how to handle sensitive information.

- Information circulars will now be distributed electronically through the corporate network. Hard copies will be sent only when a circular has a non-electronic attachment. Procedures for doing this were explained in a March 24 circular. For a copy of the circular or to ask questions, call Administrative Policy, Manuals and Passports division, Administrative Services branch at (613) 954-2827.

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*Send your Interface mail through the VAX (INTERFACE) or by mail, addressed to the Interface Editor, Room 342F, ISTC Headquarters.*

- Check out the new ISTC 1992-93 training and development calendar for details on free courses. Courses will be given in WordPerfect 5.1 (introductory and advanced), Windows 3.0 and Lotus 1-2-3 2.3 (advanced). For more information, call **Monique Chaëné** in the Training and Development division of HRB at (613) 954-3620.
- Peer-to-peer communication is now available with the international trade staff at External Affairs. The next step will be to include the department's international trade officers in the U.S. Addresses for External Affairs are displayed as a separate network list (EAITC TRADE). Employees in the national capital region and U.S. posts are identified under each of the city names. For more details, call your LAN manager.

- During the past year, LAN managers and other people in the department have been experimenting with Microsoft Windows on their computers. They found out that, to implement the package for general use, the department would need considerable support and advanced hardware that is not yet generally available in ISTC.

At the January 29 meeting of the Informatics Managers Technical Coordinating Group, LAN managers suggested that Windows should not be implemented until the department makes a corporate decision to purchase the package or similar software and develop an implementation program. The Information Management Advisory Committee agreed with the group at its February 27 meeting.

- Using WordPerfect and laser printers, you can produce documents with style. But almost anything can happen to your masterpiece when you send it by e-mail. What the recipient sees depends on their printer and its fonts.

If you want your work to keep its 'look', find out what fonts are available on the recipient's printer and use those instead. Or, when preparing a document for an unknown printer or a large electronic distribution list, keep it simple! ■

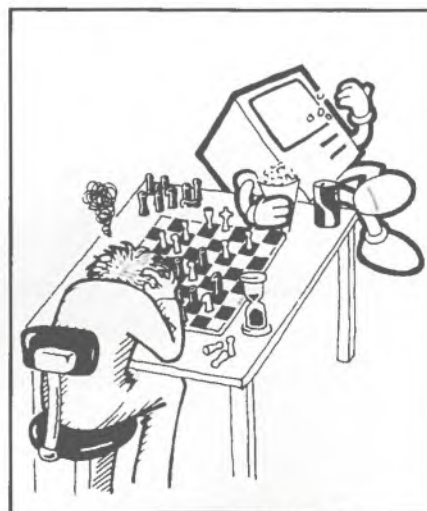
## NAME THAT 'TOON

Congratulations to **Larry Bagnell**, from ISTC's Yukon Office:

"George, although I'm barely scratching the surface of my memory, beating you is good to the last byte...ha! ha! Get it, George?"

Honourable mention:  
"Beating Ned Parker at chess was satisfying, but to LX2000 it was only the icing on the cake after wooing Ned's girlfriend away from him."

(**Jill Bhar**, Food Products Branch) ■



## FROM THE WALK-IN CENTRE – VIRUS DETECTION SOFTWARE UPDATE

Norton Anti-Virus (NAV) software is being installed on all ISTC LANs and stand-alone computers to stop viruses from infecting and damaging our computers.

Most viruses come from diskettes used outside ISTC, such as diskettes used at evening classes or at home.

NAV will detect infected disks and prevent them from spreading viruses to other ISTC computers. On most networks, it will check your diskettes as you use them and automatically alert you when it finds a virus. ■

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## MORATORIUM ON COMPUTER PURCHASES

ISTC and SSC have developed a policy to ensure that preference is given to 'MERIT partners' – microcomputer manufacturers who make substantial economic contributions to the Canadian economy – in federal government acquisitions.

A moratorium has been imposed on all micro-computer acquisitions while Group 1 and MERIT vendors' machines are being evaluated by IMB technical staff. Since the corporate network requires ISTC's microcomputers to meet high technical operational standards, IMB must conduct an extensive evaluation program before any make and model of microcomputer can be recommended for departmental use. IMB conducts this evaluation program with SSC every two years. Suppliers are also evaluated to make sure support is readily available to each regional office.

As soon as the evaluation is completed, the moratorium will be lifted. Meanwhile, sectors and regions are asked to reassess their needs and use any computers that are not being used or that are being underused. Remember that this is being done to support Canada's economy. ■

## DEAR LANlord

by Jim Meek (Edmonton office)

**Q:** How do I get a bullet in WordPerfect?

**A:** For a regular-sized bullet,

**Press** Ctrl-v

**Type** 4,0

**Press** Enter

For a small bullet, type 4,3 instead.

Different fonts and different printers may yield different results. An HP Laserjet Series II printer produces both bullets at about the same size. But the HP Laserjet III produces bullets of noticeably different sizes. Print a test sheet on your printer to verify the exact size of bullets.

There are more than 1500 special characters available in WordPerfect. Here are other handy symbols:

degree	°	Ctrl-v 6,36
trademark	®	Ctrl-F8,1,1 Ctrl-v 4,22
half	½	Ctrl-v 4,17
quarter	¼	Ctrl-v 4,18
care of	C/o	Ctrl-v 4,73
turn page	⤴	Ctrl-v 5,21

For more information on WordPerfect characters, refer to Appendix P of the WordPerfect 5.1 reference manual. ■

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## TECHIE TALK

In the last decade, alternate input devices seem to have multiplied as quickly as mice.

Xerox was the first to create a digital mouse in the early '70s. But it wasn't until 1982 that the first mouse for the PC was developed by Mouse Systems. Today, most new software packages are designed to be used with a mouse or keyboard, and many graphics programs are difficult to run without one.

Typically, a mouse has two or three command buttons. But some are more like a calculator pad, with about 40 buttons. Some have tails and some do not. The cordless mouse uses batteries, and operates with a detector plugged into a serial or mouse port so you can 'mouse' around without tangling the cord.

More recently, new creatures like touch screens, track balls and light pens have taken the place of the more traditional mouse.

With touch screens, you don't need a mouse – just touch the part of the screen you want to use.

A track ball is a rubber ball that you hold in your hand, using your fingertips for precise movements. (Turn your mouse over to get an idea of what it looks like.) These balls save desk space and don't have to be cleaned as often as a mouse.

The light pen has a light sensor at its tip. An electronic beam in the monitor scans the display 60 times per second and the pen determines its position by measuring the time between these pulses. The light pen is good for menu-driven applications like those used for hospital records, point-of-sale transactions and automotive maintenance.

Other input devices include the IsoPoint, a rolling cylinder located below the keyboard spacebar, electronic pens that transcribe handwriting and footpedals. There's even a 'mouse-on-a-stick' that's shaped like a pen with a rollerball on the end.

The mouse and track balls still lead the pack, but shop around. You may find some products more comfortable than others, since each works different muscles. But remember, not all of them include technical support. ■

## NATIONAL BUSINESS INFORMATION NETWORK

Although there are many sources of business information for small and medium-sized enterprises, many don't know how to access the information they need.

So at a small business forum in Quebec City a few years ago, participants suggested a 'one-stop' information source. Since then, the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Office (ESBO) of ISTC's policy sector has been developing and promoting the concept of a National Business Information Network (NBIN) with private sector and federal and provincial government partners.

One of the keys to business success is the strategic use of the latest information. In today's global market, a computer network like NBIN can give small businesses the edge they need to succeed.

NBIN will link existing business networks and databanks through an easy-to-use interface. For small businesses that do not have the computer

hardware required to access the network, other information products, including printed materials, could be developed.

ESBO director **John Lorenz** and policy analyst **John Desborough** have been working on this project since February 1991. During the last year, Desborough has spoken about NBIN and the need for a one-stop information source at several conferences. Throughout this year, he will work with Supply and Services Canada (SSC) to lay the groundwork for the expansion of the SSC procurement network to incorporate the initial non-procurement databanks. The first phase of NBIN should be in place by September.

For more information, contact John Desborough at (613) 952-2578. ■

## CLIENT LIAISON OFFICERS

IMB's Client Liaison Officers (CLOs) will make sure that information management services to clients run smoothly and effectively. To do this, they will:

- maintain a personal, ongoing relationship with specific client areas;
- keep client areas up-to-date on branch services;
- liaise between clients and their normal IMB contacts; and
- keep on top of the client areas' needs and concerns relating to information management.

The CLO will not be the only IMB person who deals with clients, and will not replace the daily, project-by-project contacts that clients have with branch personnel. For more information, call your Client Liaison Officer.

CLIENT LIAISON OFFICER	RESPONSIBILITY	
	Regional office	Headquarters area
Paul Beaulieu 954-1656	Ontario	Regional Development – Ontario Finance, Personnel and Administration
Jim Commins 954-3572	Alberta–Northwest Territories British Columbia–Yukon Manitoba Saskatchewan	Communications Policy Prosperity Secretariat Science
Pierre Poirier 954-2910	Quebec	Federal Office for Economic Development – Quebec Industry, Technology and Regional Operations/Consumer Goods and Service Industries Operations Audit Branch
Brenda Shesnicky 954-3570	New Brunswick–Prince Edward Island Newfoundland Nova Scotia	Aboriginal Economic Programs Office of the Corporate Secretary Legal Services Tourism
Dale Smith 954-5336		Back-up liaison officer for all client areas

*Some of the opinions expressed in this publication do not represent the official views of IMB. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue.*