Becoming an e-mail User

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Such formulas have become expected on business cards and are increasingly appearing on journal mastheads, calls for papers, lists of conferences attendees, and elsewhere.

What are they? They are electronic mail ("e-mail") addresses. You can recognize an e-mail address by the @ which appears between the user name and the site name. Those addresses which have a (period) followed by a domain name (such as .gov for government sites, .com for commercial sites, or .edu for educational institutions) are "Internet addresses." (If they do not look like this, follow the instructions in BBS tutorial documentation on e-mail, or the mail addr man page on Pyramid.

When USL joined SURANET (the Southern Universities Research Association Network) last fall it obtained a real-time connection to the Internet and all the many sites thereon. You too can communicate with colleagues halfway around the world in the twinkling of an eye — well, given some of the time differences that exist, you might not receive a response before the next day, but your message is delivered almost as soon as you have finished typing it. Long distance collaboration becomes easy. (And, because costs are covered by membership fees and a grant obtained by CACS, usage is not billed to your department.)

How to participate in the Internet?

First consider which campus system you wish to use for your e-mail activities. While BSS (the Information Networks Basic Services System) is the mail hub and offers some special amenities for e-mailers, if you are regularly using some other system that supports mail you can instruct BSS to forward all your mail there. Central computing accounts which support mail are: TSO, VM, and Pyramid UNIX accounts. (Some departmental systems also support mail; check with your departmental system administrator.) Whichever system you select, you will need to know its editing and mailing conventions. The Computing Center Hot Desk (SMH 146, x5516) can suggest documentation or short courses for e-mail users on VM or UNIX systems.

Next, it's a big help to have an account on the BSS system. Accounts for faculty and staff who were on the payroll at the beginning of the fall semester have been created; userIDs and passwords may be obtained by visiting the Information Networks office, SMH 118. Additional accounts, including accounts for all registered students, are slated to be created at a later date. (If you are eager to use the Internet and are unable to obtain a BSS account at this time, it is possible to communicate, but your e-mail address must specify the full path of the system on which you will read mail. Contact the Hot Desk for a handout on how to do this.)

BSS ID Availability

Faculty/staff on payroll prior to 9/1/90
- available now in SMH 118.

Other faculty/staff
- available 4 weeks after first paycheck.

Students - not yet available.

Once you obtain a BSS account, you must log in at least once to activate your account and set up your mailbox. Use the BSS mailbox command to enable your mailbox and to define an
email ... alias (a name which your correspondents can use to send mail to you) and any forwarding information that you require. The mailbox command is described in the BSS manual (available from Information Networks, SMH 118, for $1.00) and in BSS online documentation. Your address, which you can now put on your business cards, will be like the the fourth example above, except that your personal alias or BSS id should appear in place of alfred.

Note that enabling your BSS mailbox is much like connecting an answering machine to your telephone. Your friends and associates will all assume that you are checking your messages regularly and misunderstandings can easily occur if you fail to do this. If you decide to discontinue e-mail use, the BSS mailbox command will permit you to disable your mailbox.

Departmental Assistance in Getting Started with Micros

The Computing Center can assist departmental support staff who would like some non-technical orientation in starting to use microcomputers. For orientation to PC systems contact Linda Birch or Virginia Sylvester at x6135; for orientation to Macintosh systems, contact Susan Lavergne, x6402.

IMSL Documentation at Student Discounts

IMSL (Fortran problem solving software for the IBM 3090) is offering student discounts on IMSL documentation. The prices offered are approximately 40% off list price. The documentation listed in the offer includes:
- Sfun/Library User's Manual
For more information contact Evelyn Bullard, SMH 138, x6420.

Disk Upgrade for IBM System

The University is in the process of acquiring a 15 gigabyte DASD (Direct Access Storage Device, i.e. disk) upgrade to the IBM 3090 system. This upgrade will also include a disk controller with a memory cache which will speed access to frequently accessed files, as well as provide additional access paths to disk storage.

In addition to providing needed disk space for several applications, this upgrade is expected to considerably improve response time, which in recent months has been limited by severe disk contention. While no installation date has been set, we hope to be able to install during October.

Call for Papers 1990 Supercomputing Competition

IBM is offering substantial cash awards for the best papers chosen for presentation at the IBM Large Scale Computer Analysis and Modeling Conference. A preliminary abstract and registration must be received by October 16, 1990. Final papers must be received by January 15, 1991. Complete specifications for this contest are available at the Computing Center main office, SMH 321, x6402.

Software Catalogues Available

Several software catalogues are available for perusal in the Micro Lab, SMH 201. Most notable among these are WiseWare from the University of Wisconsin and COSMIC, NASA's Computer Software Management and Information Center. If you are interested in more information, please call x5633 or come by SMH 201, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Computing Center Short Courses and Workshops

SHORT COURSES
Introduction to the IBM Documentation Composition Facility
Prerequisites: NONE
- Oct. 4, 1990 3:00-4:30 pm (staff)
- Oct. 10, 1990 5:00-6:30 pm
- Oct. 17, 1990 5:00-6:30 pm
- Oct. 18, 1990 1:30-3:00 pm (staff)
- Oct. 24, 1990 5:00-6:30 pm

WordPerfect 5.1 for Beginners
Prerequisites: NONE
- Oct. 5, 1990 9:00-10:30 am
- Oct. 12, 1990 1:00-2:30 pm
- Oct. 17, 1990 3:00-4:30 pm
- Oct. 19, 1990 1:00-2:30 pm

WordPerfect 5.1 for Experienced Users
Prerequisites: WordPerfect 5.1 for Beginners or equivalent knowledge.
- Oct. 10, 1990 3:00-4:30 pm
- Oct. 11, 1990 9:00-10:30 am
- Oct. 24, 1990 1:00-2:30 pm
- Oct. 25, 1990 9:00-10:30 am

WORKSHOPS
Introduction to IBM/VM CMS
Prerequisites: To participate in the workshops you must have a current IBM/VM account and password
- Oct. 5, 1990 1:30-3:30 pm
- Oct. 12, 1990 2:30-4:00 pm
- Oct. 19, 1990 2:30-4:00 pm
- Oct. 26, 1990 1:30-3:00 pm

To SIGNUP for a course call or come by the Hot Desk x5516, SMH 146.