CHAOS CORNER

Volume 2

1992

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Dedication

This volume of Chaos Corner is dedicated to all of you who help keep this newsletter alive. Authors thrive on feedback (especially positive feedback!); and in a situation where there are no monetary rewards, response from readers is especially important (IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?). I particularly want to thank my wife, Rebecca Alexander, for her strong encouragement in the face of the long hours I spent sifting through over 200 newsgroups (a small fraction of the total available). I appreciate those around me putting up with my surliness on the days I was so tired from reading NetNews that I did things like wearing two belts to work without realizing it.

Bob Cowles
28 January 1993

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Index

Chaos Corner V02N01 17 Feb 92

Chaos Corner Volume 1 index available

It's been 2 months since the last issue ... and many bits have gone down the wire. We have been busy here in Chaos Corner and have collected many items of interest for you. One which we know will be most fascinating to you is the announcement of an index to volume 1 of Chaos Corner (how I spent my Christmas Vacation). The index is available in text or PostScript form -- just use anonymous ftp to pelican.cit.cornell.edu and look in the /pub directory for the files ccv01.index.ps for the postscript (two column) or ccv01.index.text for the text version. Dr. Chaos really knows that what you have been waiting for is not just the index; but all of volume 1 plus the index in one nice big file. Just what you want ... look for the files ccv01.ps for the PostScript version and ccv01.text for the text version in the /pub directory on pelican.cit.cornell.edu. Thanks to Mark Bodenstein of CIT's Host Networking group for suggesting the index.

The most frequently requested file for 1991 was by far and away the list of answering machine messages. Now that Dr. Chaos understands the level and interests of his readers, he told me he was very glad he did not mention the Complete List of Blonde Jokes that was in his possession.

Chaos Corner Feedback

In the early December issue we issued an invitation for people to reserve a bound copy of Chaos Corner volume 1 by a date that was several days prior to the date the issue was distributed. We forgot about Gary Buhrmaster. Needless to say, when the mail file arrived that had been clearly been sent before the deadline (and before the issue had gone out). If you have the answer to how Gary accomplished this feat, you too can qualify for a bound copy (printed and finished on a Xerox DocuTech laser printer). Send your answers to Dr_Chaos@pelican.cit.cornell.edu --- hurry, the entry deadline is midnight on 12 Feb. 1992. Hint: Gary's userid is GOD. Many of you are receiving Chaos Corner for the first time (we have had a flood of subscription requests. If you want to ask Dr. Chaos a question, or point out some horrible mistake you THINK he might have made, just send mail to Dr_Chaos@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Info request about Macintosh fonts

Stephen Peterson at Penn State is trying to collect type 3 fonts for his Macintosh. He, of course, has the ones from mac.archive.umich.edu but wonders if anyone knows of other (free?) sources for type 3 fonts. In particular, he is interested in a "stone serif" font. Dr. Chaos wonders just what a "stone serif" font would look like ...

Chaos Corner subscriptions

Gerhard Rentschuler at the University of Stuttgart noted that he had not received an issue of Chaos Corner for this year and wondered if he needed to subscribe again. Dr. Chaos explained the problems of trying to organize Chaos. While it was hard getting started on volume 2, we can expect that Dr. Chaos will generate issues more often than every two months.

Security and virus atttacks

A couple of security issues to get out of the way before you go any farther. If you are running an IBM PC (or compatible), or a Unix machine that has a PC simulator, you need to pay attention to the Michelangelo virus warnings. The virus resides in the boot sector of infected disks and destroys all data on the disk on March 6th (the birthday of the artist, not the turtle). Unix systems with PC simulators may be at risk at any time if they are booted with an infected diskette in the floppy drive (the virus will modify the master boot record of the main disk and require re-install your Unix system and/or restore from your carefully made backup tapes). People at Cornell are strongly encouraged to get a copy of F-PROT to scan for and disinfect disks. (CIT is obtaining a site license for the Cornell community to use it. For more information see the CIT alert dated Feb. 12, 1992.) Of course, the McAffe software is available but can cost $85 for a full set (for individuals); companies (and universities) are required to negotiate a site license. Dr. Chaos urges you to scan your disks before March 6th and make a backup! (He feels very strongly about making backups, since he spent all last week making backups .... yes, he feels very strongly about backups.)

Security, AIX and the 'on' command

The other security issue affects IBM RS/6000 systems running AIX 3.1. It seems that IBM ships the system with the "on" command enabled, and the security for the command is rather poor. Using your favorite editor (or SMIT), disable the "rexd" service for the inet superdaemon (/etc/inetd.conf).

Unix on a PC?

If you would like to roll your own system on a PC, almost everything you would need to get started can be found in unix/bsd-sources on machine src.doc.ic.ac.uk or on machine ftp.uu.net. Some missing utilities can be filled in from GNU or MINIX sources -- the one vital missing piece is 'init' -- and you can have your own public domain Unix running on your 386 PC!

Sounds - Macintosh format conversion utility

Tom Erbe at Mills College has been updating his Macintosh utility that converts between a number of sound file formats. For the latest version check in the ccm directory on

mills.edu. The program is called Sound Hack and as we write, the latest version is in the file SoundHack.54.hqx.

Sounds - Convert Sun format (au) to Soundblaster (voc)

Anyone out there with Soundblaster can convert files in the Sun format (files with a ".au" suffix) by using the program SUN2VOC. Similarly, sound files with an ".iff" suffix can be converted using IFF2VOC. You can find these programs on wuarchive.wustl.edu in the mirrors/msdos/sound.

Sounds - archive site

For lots of sounds in the ".au" format, including many from the movies 2001, 2010, and from the TV series of Startrek (both versions), look on machine procyon.cis.ksu.edu in the pub/Sun/Sparcsounds directory. Please let Dr. Chaos know if you find a sound file of Capt. Picard saying, "Make it so!" (Try not to use this archive during working hours in Kansas).

Sounds and your PC

As a general tool for dealing with sound files on a PC, the recommended utility seems to be PLAYBWC (it has the ability to play and edit the Mac ".snd" sound files, among other things). It can be found on wuarchive.wustl.edu on the /mirrors/msdos/sound directory.

Archive site for Mac and PC sound files

As a good source of Mac (and PLAYBWC) sound files, Dr. Chaos recommends that you try looking over the collection at ccb.ucsf.edu in the Pub/Sound_list directory (note the caps in the directory name since Unix is case sensitive). There is also a Sound Newsletter that you can subscribe to by sending mail to sound@ccb.ucsf.edu with a subject line of: "ADD-ME: <userid>@<site>".

PC compression and Library utilities

As mentioned in past issues, there are a number of programs available on the PC that compress and add to single-file libraries. It can be very confusing, even for experienced PC users, when these file compression extensions are encountered for the first time. Timo Salmi, moderator of the archives at garbo.uwasa.fi (yes, it's in Finland, so don't try FTPing there unless you really can't find what you need at a North American site, or you are already on the eastern side of the Atlantic) has canned answers to a number of frequently asked questions on file compression utilities. He has a list of the current version of the utility that is available for each of the popular types of file compression, and we thought it was worthwhile to reproduce it here:

arc602.exe	.arc	SEA's .arc packing/unpacking system.
arj222.exe	.arj	Robert Jung's .arj archiver

lh113de.com	.lzh	Lharc for .lzh compression
lha213.exe	.lzh	LHa for .lzh compression, English version.
pak251.exe	.pak	NoGate's for pak, arc, sdn, zip, files
pk361.exe	.arc	This packed and unpacked .arc files fast
pkz110eu.exe	.zip	PKZIP "Euroversion" with no encryption
zoo210.exe	.zoo	Zoo packing facility from Rahul Dhesi

A more complete list of file formats and the corresponding utilities available on a variety of platforms, may be anonymous ftp'd from ux1.cso.uiuc.edu (128.174.5.59) in the directory doc/pcnet. The file is maintained by David Lemson (lemson@uiuc.edu) and is the most complete Dr. Chaos has ever seen. Of course, we have a current copy of the list, so you can always get one through electronic mail by sending your request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Libraries

HYTELNET 5.0, the easy-to-use database utility for IBM PC users that describes how to access all Internet-accessible library catalogs, FREE-NETS, CWISs, and Library BBSs is now available. It is a major upgrade from version 4.0, and is available via anonymous FTP from access.usask.ca in the hytelnet/pc subdirectory as the file named HYTELN50.ZIP.

For Unix systems, there is a basic shell script that provides menu based access to over 200 Libraries and databases across the Internet. The script is named libtel.unix and can be obtained from ftp.oit.unc.edu in the pub/docs directory. In the same location, VAX VMS users can obtain a program named libs.com that performs much the same function.

What you need to know about modems

Dr. Chaos has come across a 3-part posting titled "What You Need To Know About Modems" that is really chapter 1 of a book that will be coming out soon titled "The Joy of Telecomputing" by Patrick Chen. It is more than a little too long to include here but we would be happy to send you the files if you send electronic mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Best 9600 baud modem prices

Another interesting posting is Stuart Balfor's list of the best prices for 9600 baud modems. Last updated (that we saw) in mid-January, it gives sources for the advertised price, phone number to call, etc. Again, just ask for it at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. These are just modem prices, not recommendations (courtesy of our legal staff).

Kermit

One bane of file transfer for users of the Kermit communications package is always that it is a two-step process. In a recent issue of Kermit Digest, techniques were published for initiating the file transfer in one step from either the VM/CMS side of a connection or

from the MS-DOS side. If you can't get a copy of Info-Kermit Digest V15 #1, send a note to Dr. Chaos requesting the Kermit file transfer information (send request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu).

X11 R5

Fix #9 to X11 R5 has now been released, and is available locally to Cornell on pelican.cit.cornell.edu in the pub/X11R5 directory. Someone asked for a precompiled version for an RS/6000 since they didn't have enough disk space ... and the kind people at ux1.cso.uiuc.edu made one available. Sooo, the requester got a precompiled version and later posted a note that he had no idea how much trouble it would cause. Dr. Chaos agrees with Chin Fang of Stanford U. who pointed out that on complex packages like X11, one has to be VERY careful about the paths for all the various pieces, since the paths to various components are compiled into the code.

That's all for now. The next issue will be coming Real Soon Now! Subscribe at: Remember! Dr. Chaos - (dr_chaos@pelican.cit.cornell.edu)

Chaos Corner V02N02 06 March 1992

Bound copies of Chaos Corner Volume 1 available

It's here! At LAST! The first printed, bound copies of volume 1 of Chaos Corner have come off the presses and Gary Buhrmaster has received his autographed copy (thanks, Mike). Many thanks go to the people who made it all possible, but especially deserving mention are Tom Boggess (who designed the covers and finally had to write PostScript to get the images to print properly); Pete Baker who suffered through many attempts to get the document printed properly; and Bill Turner who tirelessly (well, maybe tirelessly) forwarded each of our attempts through the miles of cable and alpha-test software. Thanks to you all!

Now, all the rest of you have the opportunity to obtain your own printed version at a paltry $3 a copy (covers cost of printing, barely). If you are on the Cornell campus, they will be available at the Information Desk in CCC starting next week. Off-campus or on-campus-but-don't-want-to-have-to-walk readers can contact Billie Gabriel (bsg@cornellc.cit.cornell.edu) to arrange for payment (departmental charges are OK, not sure about American Express).

Virus

Happy Birthday to Michelangelo! Dr. Chaos hopes that you are all virus free today.

Chaos Corner Feedback

Dr. Chaos received this note in response to an item in the last issue:

> I don't mean to sound ungrateful...I appreciate your work and generosity, but I have a request. I am very sensitive to references to "Blonde Jokes" and was disturbed by your mention of such a file (whether it exists or not.) To me, the mention is a form of approval. I know people don't intend harm with their humor but I think your reference to the stereotype (blonde with the "e" is only for females and implies dumb blonde) is inappropriate. I ask that you refrain from including such a comment in your electronic publication.
> If you include a readers' comments section, you are welcome to use this.
> Cathie Burke Dager, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

Space - Lost city of Ubar

Using the Shuttle imaging radar and other images from space of the Arabian Desert, the lost city of Ubar has been re-discovered. Analysis of the images (which showed ancient

tracks to the city) led searchers to the site of a remote well where they uncovered towers, rooms and artifacts that appear to date back more than 4000 years.

Catalog of Stars

The full "Catalog of Stars within 25 parsecs of the Sun" is available via anonymous FTP from ames.arc.nasa.gov in the directory pub/SPACE/FAQ. "stars.doc" describes the format of the data and "stars.data" contains the actual coordinate information.

GeoClock

In the "small world" and "view of the world" department, Dr. Chaos got a copy of GeoClock from wuarchive.wustl.edu and as he was installing it, the documentation mentioned the Shareware author of the program (along with the address to send the shareware fees, of course). The name was familiar as someone that Dr. Chaos hadn't seen in 18 years. In less than 12 hours, the electronic mail had a response ... and Yes! it really was THE Joe Ahlgren ... 20 years and many miles from the old CDC computer system that we worked with at Fort Huachuca (it's in southern Arizona, for those of you not familiar with the locations of U. S. Army bases). All that aside, Joe has written a great program (he even got reviewed in the New York Times) that includes a number of world and area maps, and will show local time in various areas along with illustrating the parts of the world in sunlight vs. the parts in darkness. If you are interested in taking a look at this great program on your PC (Herc, CGA, EGA, VGA and SVGA displays are supported), get geoclk44.zip from mirrors/msdos/graphics on wuarchive.wustl.edu -- additional maps are available in geocity1.zip, geocity2.zip, geocitys.zip -- not all the features are available until you register, but Dr. Chaos is a happy registered user (GeoClock runs nicely in a background window under OS/2 2.0).

Space images - Orion nebula and others

Another source for space-related gif files is vab02.larc.nasa.gov -- look down in the directory tree from gifs/space/ for a number of good pictures (please respect this guy's machine and don't do a lot of big transfers during work hours (EST)). Dr. Chaos has a screen background on pelican right now of orion.gif -- a picture of the Orion nebula.

CD-ROM - MSDOS software archive from Simtel

Bob Bruce has produced a CD-ROM containing the Simtel MSDOS archives. If you have a CD-ROM player and don't have convenient access to the incredible amount of software on Simtel, this is an inexpensive alternative. The cost is $25 + $5 shipping and handling, send it to Bob Bruce, 1547 Palos Verdes, Ste. 260, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Cheap for 420 MB of data. X11R5/GNU source is available for $40.

CD-ROM - Street map of USA

If you like maps, check out the CD that contains detailed street maps of the entire USA. The cost is $99 and the contact is DeLorme Mapping, P. O. Box 298, Lower Main Street, Freeport, ME 04032 ... phone: (207)-865-1234 (and Dr. Chaos reminds me that they do take American Express). Requires Windows 3.x and is reported to have a nice user interface.

PC Info

If you use or are thinking about using the excellent COMMAND.COM replacement from J. P. Software called 4DOS, there is now a discussion list for you. Send mail to listserv@indycms.iupui.edu with the line:

sub 4dos <your name>

in the body of the mail file. Of course, CMS users on BITNET can issue the interactive command:

tell listserv at indycms sub 4dos <your name>

If you haven't experienced 4dos, with the ability to easily write macros, edit previous commands, and a whole host of other features ... get it from wuarchive.wustl.edu in the mirrors/msdos/4dos directory. Your will want to version 4.0 and an update file for the latest fixes.

Software archives in Europe (Germany)

On the other side of the Atlantic from New York, it appears that some interesting archive collections are maintained at ftp.uni-koeln.de and, of course, we can't forget our friends at rusmv1.rus.uni-stuttgart.de. These archive collections take a lot of work to maintain ... Dr. Chaos encourages you to send some electronic mail to the people performing this work, thanking them for their efforts.

Fractals

If you like playing with fractals and their generating functions, version 17.1 of the Fractint fractal generating program is available. It exists in both DOS and Windows versions and source code is provided. Look for frain171.zip in the /mirrors/msdos/graphics directory of wuarchive.wustl.edu (or in the pub/msdos/graphics directory of oak.oakland.edu). The Windows3 version of Fractint may be obtained from the archive/mirrors/msdos/windows3 directory.

Kermit

There is a new version of C-Kermit (5A, edit 179) available for beta-testing. New features for C-Kermit include sliding windows for up to 95% file transfer efficiencies, a script programming language, and TCP/IP network support. Systems supported include most Unix variants, VMS, and OS/2. (The Macintosh version has not reached Beta yet.) The source file in compressed tar format can be obtained from kermit/bin on watsun.cc.columbia.edu and the file name is cku179.tar.Z ... while you are there, the MSDOS test version was updated as of March 5 ... it is named mstibm.exe and is located in the same directory.

Phones

Anyone interested in a list (rather long) of the German 0130-prefix numbers (sorta like 800-numbers in North America) should send a mail file to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. We also have a list of the prefixes for toll-free or local-charge services in a number of countries. Again, write if you would like a copy.

Humor

We have a file containing the definitions for a number of units that you may have come across and THOUGHT you understood ... did you know that 10 rations were equal to a decoration? that 1,000,000 phones are equal to 1 megaphone is equal to 1,000,000,000,000 microphones?

Macintosh and Humanities software

If you are, know of, or think you know of academics in the Humanities or Social Sciences who use Macintosh computers but who don't have the time or inclination to wade through MacWorld, MacUser, etc. ... let them know about HMS. For $15/year or $35/lifetime membership you can receive a newsletter offering advice and commentary on the place of computers in the historical profession. If you are interested, send dues and a letter outlining your academic interests and Macintosh needs/concerns to: The History and Macintosh Society, 734 Elkus Walk #201, Goletta, CA 93117-4151, USA. No extra charge for overseas airmail.

Fix for MacTCP available from Apple

If you are trying to run MacTCP with System 7.0 on a MacPlus, you have to get a utility called "MacTCP+ Tool" or you will experience a large number of dropped packets. The utility can be obtained from the /ftp/dts/mac/netcom directory on ftp.apple.com. You only need this if you are trying to run System 7.0 with MacTCP 1.1 on a Macintosh Plus.

GCC

The long awaited version 2.0 of the GNU (GNU is Not Unix) C compiler is finally available. It reportedly generates better code for SPARC workstations than Sun's C compiler; it is the fastest known compiler for the Motorola 88000; and with version 2.0, AIX on IBM RS/6000 and RT/PC is supported. Support for both C++ and Objective C are included. Because of the heavy ftp load, the normal place to get GNU software (prep.ai.mit.edu) has been overloaded, so it may be better to get a copy from ftp.uu.net (in packages/gnu) or decwrl.dec.com (in pub/GNU). (In Europe, try ftp.funet.fi or sunic.sunet.se.) We have patches for making GCC 2.0 run under AIX 3.1; let us know if you need them.

Windows archive closed during prime time (and FAQ)

The Windows archive site at cica.cica.indiana.edu was starting to get too much traffic, so they have closed it down for anonymous FTP access during the workday (Eastern Time 8-1700). They still remain the best archive site for Windows-related software on the network. The most recent version of the Frequently-Asked-Questions file for Windows is dated Feb. 26. Send mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you don't have access to a copy.

Disk Copy utility for Windows (no swapping)

A utility called Disk Copy (get dc111.zip from puffin.cit.cornell.edu) allows one to copy and format disks in the background under Windows. It also uses the memory management features of Windows to allow disk copies to be made in a single swap. It is, of course, available from cica.cica.indiana.edu but we can't check on the directory the file is in since the ftp service is unavailable right now. (It's only a microVAX.)

Word for Windows - additional macros

As we write this, we just realized that we have not had a problem with "smart quotes" in Word for Windows. The reason is that we haven't installed them in version 2.0. On disk #3 of W4W, there is a file called newmacro.do$ that needs to be copied to the harddisk along with decomp.exe from disk #1. Run the command "decomp newmacro.do$" -- this creates "newmacro.doc" which you then open to install or demo the macros. I guess Dr. Chaos should have read the README file, eh?

PC able to read Mac disks

Has anyone used the utility (in the Simtel mirror sites under msdos/dskutl/mac-dos.zip that claims to allow one to read/write Macintosh 1.44MB floppy diskettes on a PC? Dr. Chaos wants to know if this REALLY works.

Convert ascii files to PostScript

In the msdos/postscript directory of the Simtel mirror sites look for pps213.zip if you are interested in a menu-driven (or command line driven) program that converts ASCII to PostScript. Options include font, font size, portrait/landscape, margin setting, and more.

Security/AIX

All of you with RS/6000s running AIX 3.1 or 3.2 should take heed of a recent advisory to disable "rexd" .... otherwise the world has write-access to your machine. Dr. Chaos thinks the best way to do this is to use SMIT since it will handle the necessary chores of doing the subsystem refresh. He is aware, however, that some of you don't like SMIT and the ODM, preferring to "roll your own" system (Dr. Chaos could never figure out where the different variants kept their different versions of all those parameter files, so he is happy to left SMIT keep track of things for him). At any rate, George Boyce of CIT Network Resources recommends that if you are the type to edit "inetd.conf" by hand, you also need to run the inetimp command to load the configuration file into the ODM where inetd will read it (you will need to do the "refresh -s inetd" command from root). Dr. chaos has asked me to plead with you ... don't get confused between "rexd" (the one that is causing the problems) and "rexecd" (other potential problems but not addressed by this advisory). If you stop "rexecd", you may find that a lot of stuff that used to work has stopped working.

That's all for now. Remember! Dr. Chaos

For your own copies write to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu

Chaos Corner V02 N03 24 March 1992

This is likely to be a little shorter than the regular Chaos Corner ... we are just preparing to depart today for a speaking engagement and will not return for several weeks. Operating, as we do, under the rule of "if it weren't a crisis, I wouldn't be doing it" (note the use of the subjunctive mood -- German grammar is sooo much fun!) we have spent the last week updating foils (and converting them from Word-for-Windows to Aldus Persuasion), and preparing the 20 page written document for the conference proceedings. Of course, it all could have been done a month ago, but it wasn't a crisis then!

SMTP Mailers

Shelia Patterson in CIT's Systems Programming Services guessed that Gary Buhrmaster requested his copy of Chaos Corner Volume 1 by using a "standard" trick. The SMTP mailers that route these files across the Internet don't just talk to each other; they also will talk to any human using 'telnet' to talk to the TCP/IP port the mailer uses. All this means is that you can 'telnet' to any mailer and give it any old interesting file you want (like sending a friend a personal mail file from our fearless leader). This explanation should not encourage any of you to try this, but it should lead you to suspect "strange" mail files -- if you get a mail file that you question, check with the sender, it may have been forged! Dr. Chaos has heard of a user at one site receiving a mail file from the system operator telling him he was using too much CPU time (not sent by the operator at all).

Mail time and bound copies of Chaos Corner Volume 1

The trick that Gary used to get his request for Chaos Corner volume 1 sent before the deadline was to set the date and time back by several days when he had test time one Sunday morning on the 3090-200J. Remember, bound copies of volume 1 are still available at the CIT Help Desk for cost (3 Dollars), or you can get the document via FTP from pelican.cit.cornell.edu in the /pub directory. Look for files ccv01.ps and ccv01.text for the PostScript and text versions, respectively. (But you won't get it bound with the beautiful covers designed by graphics artist 'Tomass Boggass'.)

Chaos Corner distribution problems

Dr. Chaos apologizes for some confusion in the distribution of the last several issues of Chaos Corner. There have been some problems with delivery to VM/CMS-Bitnet sites and also problems with readers from Bitnet sites sending requests to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. At first, we thought the problem was with the SMTP mailer on the VM/CMS systems ... sorry to say, it (at least partially) was a problem with the sendmail.cf on pelican.cit.cornell.edu. After only a couple of hours of comparing sendmail.cf files from various systems, we were able to deduce the fix and update pelican.

We hope this distribution will go OK ... because if it isn't, we're not going to be around to fix it.

Any files mentioned below can be requested by sending mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. Note that the response is handled in person by Dr. Chaos so it is possible to give a more-than-one-word description of the file you want. (We get some requests that are just a little too terse -- do you think that we REMEMBER what we write?)

Germany and German

A discussion list started recently dedicated to German History from 900 to 1992. Dr. Chaos reports many discussion threads ranging from the current neo-Nazi movement to feelings between Protestants and Catholics. The list is fairly active and the postings are primarily in English. If you are interested, send mail to listserv@uscvm.bitnet with the single line 'subscribe germhist <your-name>'. Dr. Chaos reports that he also has copies of the regular postings for Netiquette, Emily Postnews Antworten, and a Glossary of English acronyms (FTP, etc.) explained in German. It's too bad that the local SCOLA channel on TV carries the German news with a one week delay. Right now we are hearing about the nuclear accident near St. Petersburg from a Japanese news report (with English subtitles).

X11 R5

Fix number 10 for X11 Release 5 is now available. Of course, the complete X11R5 distribution (and fixes) is available on pelican.cit.cornell.edu in the pub/X11R5 directory. Fix-10 cures about 30 problems, including some introduced by fix-09.

Space - ftp site information

The UseNet newsgroups sci.astro and sci.space have a regular (approximately monthly) posting of FTP sites where you can obtain a large amount of space-research related material. Items include images, solar reports, star data bases, and space shuttle updates (another successful launch today). Let Dr. Chaos know if you would like a copy of this list.

Space, and the flat Venus society

From sci.space comes the report of the "Flat-Venus Society" -- anyone with even a low-power telescope can see that Venus is a flat disc, just like Earth, so this society is encouraging everyone to write their government representatives to urge them to uncover the fraud.

Space Calender

Dr. Chaos also has a copy of the 1992 space calendar compiled by Ron Baalke at JPL. There is still time to prepare for the Lyrids Meteor Shower scheduled for April 21st.

AIX Security advisory

The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) has issued an advisory of a security loophole in the RS/6000 version of AIX at service levels 3.1.6 and before. If you do not use the uucp utilities, then you should (from root) issue the following command: 'chmod 0100 /usr/bin/uucp', and if you do use uucp then call IBM (800-237-5511) for a fix to the problem logged as ix18516.

AIXTIPS posted to comp.unix.aix

Andreas Siegert of the IBM AIX Field Support Center in Munich regularly posts AIXTIPS to the comp.unix.aix newsgroup on UseNet, and aix-l on BITNET. Dr. Chaos finds that these contain useful information and has saved the last 5 issues.

AIX Public Domain software archive

Dr. Chaos hopes you are all familiar with the AIX Public Domain Software Repository at UCLA. The source for many applications in a form already ported to AIX 3.1 is available on the machine AIXPDSLIB.SEAS.UCLA.EDU. Once you have connected via anonymous ftp, 'get' the README file. By retrieving the README file, you agree to abide by instructions contained therein, and in any additional files which the README file references (legal stuff). While the initial focus is the exchange of codes and ports that are running, or are in process, for the RISC System/6000; code that runs on mainframe AIX and AIX PS/2 will also be accepted.

Gopher

Developed at the University of Minnesota, Gopher clients and servers allow a user to perform a keyword search for information on the network and then easily retrieve that information by an appropriate access method. The definitive software and instructions for setting up clients and servers is on the machine boombox.micro.umn.edu in directory pub/gopher. Version 0.8 of the Unix software has just been announced, and clients exist for the Mac, Unix, VMS, NeXT, VM/CMS, PC-DOS, and X-Windows.

WAIS

Gopher is related to the Wide Area Information Service (WAIS) code developed and distributed by Thinking Machines Corporation and is available for anonymous FTP from think.com in the wais directory. The current version can be found in the file named wais-8-b4.tar.Z. WAIS includes indexing software that some people have reportedly used to index their saved mail files -- they can then easily do searches to find that missing but suddenly very relevant mail file. Dr. Chaos thinks that this may well prove to be the "magic bullet" to finally get us organized ... now if we could only get organized enough to get the software running on pelican ...

Time Zone abbrevations

Dr. Chaos reports collecting a file that contains a list of all the abbreviations for the various time zones, their offset from CUT (that's GMT for old fogies), and their English name.

Internet Services List

Of course, the updated Internet Services List gets even longer. Just a couple of items: you can telnet fedix.fie.com or telnet 192.111.228.1 (login fedix) to get information on scholarships, minority assistance, etc.; and if you telnet 130.44.1.100 (Login: e-math Password: e-math), the service is an Am. Math. Society sponsored bulletin board system with software and reviews. For any of you without FTP access, send mail to ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com Subject:(hit return) Body-of-letter: help (return) quit ... for information on how to access FTP sites through electronic mail.

Well, we promised a short issue, so we must stop for now. Remember, for your own subscription or any of the files mentioned above, send you request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Dr. Chaos (I have a master's degree!)

Chaos Corner V02 N04 14Jun92

My apologies for taking so long to get this issue out (last issue was 24 March). Lots of things have gotten accomplished in the meantime ... including, but not limited to completing the second semester of German, a trip to Germany and France (along with two presentations at SHARE Europe); and catching up on my readings of PC Week, Open Systems Today, and other trade periodicals (along with collecting interesting articles from Net News for the last 11 weeks. Let's dive in!

Chaos Corner distribution problems (again)

First of all, there were the "usual" problems with mailers bouncing the last issue .. so I will be using a slightly different distribution path this time (mailing the issue directly from pelican, rather than mailing it from Cornella to an address list on pelican). I hope that will shorten the return address enough that the VM mailers will not have a problem. Will the people at SLAC let Dr. Chaos know if they don't receive this issue? (;-))

WAIS and gopher corrections

Bob Blackmun pointed out that some statements Dr. Chaos made in the last issue about Gopher being related to WAIS (Wide Area Information Service) were not exactly correct. Bob says, "I'm not sure what you mean by 'related to', but it's my understanding as a user and highly involved party that Gopher is *not* related to WAIS -- it doesn't use the Z39.50 protocol that is the heart and soul of WAIS." Dr. Chaos admits that Bob is, of course, correct and points out that the blame lies in my filing system that tossed items about WAIS, Gopher, and Prospero (the information gathering and distribution protocol that *is* related to Gopher) all in the same folder ... and labeled them all WAIS. There is a gateway between the WAIS world and Gopher, but that's as 'related' as they get.

More on time (GMT, CUT, UTC)

Nick Gimbrone points out that the correct "new" name for GMT is not CUT (Coordinated Universal Time), but rather UTC since the French word order seems to be the standard in such things. Dr. Chaos points out that the French word order often works out better; the European Nuclear Research Center became CERN rather than ENRC ... a definite improvement.

Chaos Corner Feedback

T. V. Raman objects to the chatty style used in preparing these items and says it gets in the way of finding the useful information. We pointed out that having an alter ego of Dr. Chaos gave us someone else to blame for the mistakes! Certainly, finding the information

again is a problem and Dr. Chaos has been planning on using something to index the articles for some time ... Real Soon Now!

GeoClock and OS/2; mapping information

Joe Ahlgren of GeoClock fame thanks Dr. Chaos for the mention of GeoCLock in Chaos Corner (although it is unlikely to be as useful to him as the subsequent mention he got in PC Week). Joe was quite interested in the fact that GeoClock runs in a window under OS/2, since it only runs fullscreen under Windows. Dr. Chaos does point out that performance suffers a little, but it may simply be that he hasn't found the right combination under the "DOS Settings" menu. He just read the on-line help last night to discover that the two problems he had been having (and the ways around them) were clearly documented.

> I was very interested to hear that GeoClock runs in a window under OS/2 2.0. It of course will not run in a window under Windows (what a great fraud - Windows can only run text mode DOS programs in a window). Is this a capability that earlier OS/2's had? How does the performance suffer between small window and DOS or full screen mode?

Joe also has the following to say about the DeLorme street atlas. "It is the first (and only) commercial mapping program for the PC that is neither a joke (PC Globe, for example) or impossibly expensive ... It has a few rough edges (I have the very first release, it may have gotten better) and really does not use anything in windows that it couldn't do from plain old DOS. However, it is pretty complete and has less than the expected number of errors. ... It is not clear what you would use it for, but it is great fun."

BITFTP and VAXen

Xiaobo Shao writes that he is having trouble making use of the software discussed in Chaos Corner because it never seems to work when he downloads it to his PC from his VAX. Since he fetched the files to his VAX as files across Bitnet through BITFTP@PUCC, Dr. Chaos suggested he *carefully* read the information on the problems with transferring binary files through a VAX that are documented on the BITFTP server. The first step in getting the info is to send a mail file to BITFTP@PUCC containing the single word - help.

Lunar Eclipse

Of course, those of you monitoring newsgroups like sci.astro already know that tonight (June 14/15) is the night for a partial lunar eclipse. The show starts slightly before midnight (EDT), reaching it's peak at 0057 (that's EDT again). At peak, 68% of the moon will be in shadow.

Images of Gaspra asteroid - several gif files

There were two photographs of the Gaspra asteroid released at a press conference last week, and the GIF files are available for anonymous FTP from ames.arc.nasa.gov (128.102.18.3) in the pub/SPACE/GIF directory. Look for gaspra2.gif and gaspra3.gif (don't forget to use 'binary' transfer) for the pictures and corresponding .txt files that give descriptions. The pictures were taken by the spacecraft Galileo (on its way to Jupiter) from a distance of 3,300 miles (about 5,300 km). While you are ftp-ing files from that site, you may want to check out some GIFs of Mars. Look for file starting with 00*, 05*, 90*, or oly* (and accompanying .txt files in the same directory. The directory does contain an INDEX file, but it hasn't been updated for at least 6 months.

FTP servers with astronomy and space related information

For an up-to-date list of ftp servers with astronomy and space-related information, use anonymous ftp to nic.funet.fi (yes, it's in Finland) and fetch the file "pub/astro/general/astroftp.txt". Of course, Dr. Chaos has a copy he *could* send you but it's much better to be able to get an updated copy on your own.

Perot Information

For those people interested in learning more about the unannounced US Presidential candidate, Ross Perot, there are a number of files stored at ftp.cco.caltech.edu (also cobalt.caltech.edu is valid) in the directory: /pub/bjmccall/Perot ...including debates that have occurred on Usenet, biographies (official and unofficial), transcripts of various interviews, etc. Of course, this does not imply Dr. Chaos supports Mr. Perot, we're just reporting on where information can be found.

Area Codes, I Love You, Smiley Dictionary, and Dave Barry

Under the random list category, we seem to have a list of the telephone area codes for the USA and Canada, a list of how to say "I love you" in over 100 languages, and another list that claims to be The Unofficial Smiley Dictionary. Also found on a Windows discussion list was a copy of an article by humorist Dave Barry on computing. If you would like a copies of either or both or even all three articles, just send mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. (Please specify a valid return address and let Dr. Chaos know which item you are interested in.)

Book on writing global software

Having seen many complaints on the network about programmers from the USA who write programs without recognizing there is a global market, the description of a new book caught our eye. "Information from planning to programming" (with an extensive collection of actual program examples) as well as on marketing and presentation are given. Design errors and common pitfalls are pointed out to help readers avoid the same mistakes. The author also discusses export restrictions and other aspects of the politics

surrounding international distribution. A clear and understandable explanation of what types of encryption software can and cannot be legally distributed outside of the United States is an added bonus to this work." _Global Software_ is written by Dave Taylor, President, Intuitive Systems, with foreword by John Scully, CEO, Apple Computer, Inc., published by Springer-Verlag, 332 pp, 25 illustrations, ISBN 0-387-97706-6 US$34.00. Dr. Chaos would be most interested in any reviews of the book.

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Known Galaxy

People on the alt.galactic-guide news group have decided to create the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Known Galaxy, filled with contributed articles written in the style of Douglas Adams (author of the Hitchhiker's Guide series) about anyplace. Dr. Chaos has the format for submissions to the guide, and you can get a copy of the PC software to look through the guide from vela.acs.oakland.edu, in the /pub/swbaker directory (look for guide.zip and remember to use binary transfer).

NREN

Anyone interested in the roll-out of the new national network in the US (NREN - National Research and Educational Network ... if we spoke French it would probably be NERN, which is at least pronounceable) can get PostScript or ascii copies of the National Science Foundation's interim Implementation Plan via anonymous ftp from expres.cise.nsf.gov, and look for file impl.ps in the recompete directory.

Jargon

Confused by all the jargon in the computer field. Either get the _New Hacker's Dictionary_ published by MIT Press, or use anonymous ftp to get the same information found in file /mirrors/msdos/info/jargn299.zip from wuarchive.wustl.edu (or any other Simtel20 mirror site).

Mathematics Archive, Earth Sciences, JFK, Internet Access

Interested in the mathematics archive? the location of ftp sites for information relating to Earth Sciences?, State Department documents referenced in the movie JFK? and how anyone with a PC can have personal access to the Internet for $29/month at 9600 baud (less for lower speed access).... just ask Dr. Chaos for the information he has by sending mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

OS/2 General Availability version is here!

It's here! and Dr. Chaos has at long last received his official version of OS/2 2.0. Now if IBM can only find a way to distribute the updates so that it will run Windows 3.1 across the network rather than having to re-ship all those diskettes (and adding to the world-wide high-density floppy disk shortage), it will be really nice.

4os2 - a command processor for OS/2

Of course, what every operating system needs are applications and that infrastructure that makes it possible to use in a friendly fashion. JP Software has announced the release of version 1.0 of 4OS2, its enhanced command processor for OS/2 1.2, 1.3, and 2.0. Like their famed 4DOS program, this program replaces the normal command processor and provides a host of features (not the least of which is command recall and editing -- considering how many mistakes Dr. Chaos makes at typing, those features are vital for him). Get file 4os210.zoo from the /pub/os2/all/shells directory on hobbes.nmsu.edu or check the /pub/os2 directories on funic.funet.fi (Finland) or sun0.urz.uni-heidelberg.de (Germany).

MAC, sounds, and "Make it so"

Success! The sysop of the neighborhood BBS system, Daniel Quaroni, has captured the voice of Captain Picard saying "Make it so!" Daniel's BBS is known as Kender's Pocket and is available at (607)-257-7820. We hope to be able to announce access to the sound file from the Internet soon (but the line is busy right now).

It's rapidly approaching midnight and time to look at the eclipse. Send Dr. Chaos suggestions you might have for the first anniversary issue ... as always to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Dr. Chaos (I have a Masters Degree ...)

Chaos Corner V02 N05 19Jun92

Top files requested from Chaos Corner V02 N04

For those who are interested, the top files requested from the last issue were: the Unofficial Smiley Dictionary, 100 Ways to Say I Love You, Dave Barry on Computing, and the information on getting personal Internet access for $29/month at 9600 baud -- the List of Telephone Area Codes for US and Canada also had some fair amount of interest shown in it. Of course, the people who asked for "all three list" received all four lists (since no one pointed that out, Dr. Chaos wonders if his readers are similar to the small furry creature he just pried out from between the jaws of the household cat.

More on time, UTC, CUT and GMT

In the category of corrections, Norris@athena.mit.edu points out that the choice of "UTC" for the time zone name was because the order of the letters did not correspond to the proper ordering in ANY major language.

Joe Ahlgren (author of GeoClock) has had to do a lot of work with time for a number of years (Joe --- I still tell stories about the program you developed on the Wang calculator back at Ft. Huachuca). In any case, Joe had the following clarification on the difference between UTC and GMT.: "The change from GMT to UTC is very fundamental. GMT as a time standard WAS based on astronomical measurements. It is now quite well established that the motion of the planets is nowhere near as regular as atomic clocks. UTC as a time standard is based on atomic clocks, and the time used by most of the scientific world is sync'ed to this standard. The difference between this standard and the planetary motions is why there are "leap seconds" from time to time. However, GMT as a time zone still exists and is still the basis for most other time zones. GMT is sync'ed to UTC. It is still quite proper to say that Eastern Daylight Time is 4 hours behind GMT. GMT is a derived standard, but still the standard for time zones. Of course, there is no practical difference between UTC and GMT. I think the ultimate authority on these names is Ted Turner, and he still uses GMT. ... Paris is responsible BOTH for keeping the atomic time standard and keeping UTC in sync with the observed day by adding leap seconds. The astronomy for the later is scattered all over the planet, but of course not in Greenwich since it is too close to London."

GeoClock Reviews - a correction

We made the mistake last time of saying that something had appeared in PC Week about GeoClock ... having read all those back issues at one time must have fried Dr. Chaos's brain, because the mention was in CompuServe Magazine rather than PC Week. Sorry for the confusion.

What is this Chaos Corner stuff?

Sean Pogue at Ohio U. may have actually asked what some of the rest of you were thinking when he saw Chaos Corner for the first time -- "So what gives with all this Dr. Chaos stuff?" The response of Dr. Chaos was (for those of you who wondered and didn't ask), "Chaos Corner is a small, randomly published electronic newsletter I write that mentions things I have found in the process of wandering across the network. Back copies are available, and a copy of Volume 1 from last year (with an *index*) is available in PostScript form (via ftp) or bound hardcopy with nice covers. What you have here is a combination of Dr. Science (from National Public Radio), Chaos Manor (from Byte), and Rumor Central (from PC Week)." One writer from Finland (and unfortunately we have lost the name) is connecting to the internet from a Mac and is not familiar with any of those references (but wanted ALL the back issues!).

Personal Internet Access - clairification

There are a couple of clarification/additions relative to the item on personal internet access. The service that we have information on is provided by PSINet, and if you are associated with Cornell (or probably with the New York State University system), an ID on PSI seems to be available for the asking (for more information on those options just "telnet cornellc.cit.cornell.edu 300" and then enter the command "computing access info". Of course, PSINet isn't the only game in town, and Harry Bartholomew has the following report from California -- "I get 9600 baud access to Internet for $17.50 /mo with unlimited time and 5 Mb storage at no extra charge. The vendor Netcom has POP's at local numbers all around the San Francisco bay area and is moving into Southern California as well. Contact Network Operations Mgr. Bob Rieger for further info at bobr@netcom.com or 408 554 UNIX for voice."

4DOS and 4OS2

The 4DOS discussion list has become quite active in the last few days. For those of you who might not have heard, 4DOS is a replacement for the DOS command processor COMMAND.COM. The major thing we like around here is the ability to recall and edit previously entered command lines, but there are also features like the fact that it swaps itself out of memory, it has a reasonable help system, it has some additional useful commands like 'list' and 'move', and it seems well supported shareware. The company (J. P. Software) has recently distributed a similar program for OS/2 (it replaces the OS/2 command processor CMD.EXE). The most recent versions of 4DOS and 4OS2 can be found on wuarchive.wustl.edu in the /mirrors/msdos/4dos directory.(this is for 4DOS ... look for files named 4dos401p.zip (programs) and 4dos401d.zip (documentation)), and in the /mirrors/misc/os2 directory for 4os210.zip. You can get a break on registering both products at the same time, and believe us, once you get used to the capabilities of these programs, you won't want to be without them in either the OS2 or the DOS environment.

4DOS alias to delete a subtree of files

One recent question on the 4DOS list was how to set up an ALIAS that allows the removal of a whole subtree of files. It turns out that the 4DOS 'delete' command has some extra capabilities and so the answer was just to enter the command "ALIAS ZAP=DEL /SXYZ *.*" after which the ZAP command will wipe out the directory subtree that you are in.

OS/2 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The OS/2 archives are starting to build. If you are on BITNET and don't have ftp access, a good source is in Belgium, you can get a complete list of the files available by issuing the command (from CMS)

TELL LISTSERV AT BLEUKL11 SEND OS2INDEX PACKAGE

or put the 'send os2index package' command in a mail file and send it to listserv@BLEKUL11. (We put the node name in upper case so that the 'L's could be distinguished from the '1's.) Note that you will not get a response back immediately, since requests are queued for overnight delivery. One recent addition that Dr. Chaos wants to try is a 3-D Maze game.

In addition to the current OS/2 Frequently Asked Questions list, Dr. Chaos tells me that we have the current OS/2 Tips and Techniques file as well as the Frequently Asked Questions for Programmers. Let Dr. Chaos know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you would like copies of these lists.

OS/2 and IBM Marketing

The excitement in the OS/2 world started on May 1 when a blast that an IBMer made at the rest of the organization (on an internal IBM forum) about the poor job that had been done of marketing OS/2 was "leaked" and posted on NetNews. Needless to say, the person who leaked the article no longer works for IBM .... but has gotten some round-about internet access to enable him to post an apology on the net. This isn't a soap opera folks, it's real life! (it just seems a little distant sometimes with the slowness of keyboard interactions)

OS/2 archive name change

Last time we mentioned the archive site at hobbes.nmsu.edu, and now we get to announce that they are changing their name. It the future use ftp-os2.nmsu.edu so if they decide to move the archive you won't be lost.

OS/2 fixes available on the Internet

IBM is making a number of fixes available for OS/2 across the network. Check your favorite archive site for the fixes to the problems you most want to get rid of. (ftp-os2.nmsu.edu in the pub/os2/2.0/patches directory is a good choice because of the descriptive list that you get in response to a 'dir' command.

Windows archive name change

Speaking of archives changing names, the large archive for MS Windows software has changed from cica.cica.indiana.edu to ftp.cica.indiana.edu. Dr. Chaos just reported to me that he has checked out one site that advertised itself as a new ftp site for Windows software, but the largest part of the archive seemed to be devoted to X/R-rated images, so there is not much of interest there.

Windows version of dogcow

Just to let you Mac users that Windows is finally catching up, in the pub/pc/win3/games directory of ftp.cica.indiana.edu look for dogcow.zip -- a version of the (in)famous Dogcow animated icon. (Thanks to Tom Young for taking the time one day to explain the dogcow icon.)

Best Windows Shareware list

Diego A. Aranda maintains a list of the best Windows Shareware and Freeware. His list is available via anonymous ftp from ftp.cica.indiana.edu in the /pub/pc/win3/misc and the current version is named bw2-31-2.zip.

Windows 3.1 authors

If you would like to see the author list of Windows 3.1 then do the following. In Program Manager. (1). Click Help/About. Hold down Shift/Ctrl and double-click the Windows logo in the upper-left of the About-box. Click OK. (Nothing will happen - keep going) (2).Repeat step (1). (A waving flag and a "Dedicated to..." message appears) Click OK. (3). Repeat step (1). (The Windows authors appear in the About box)

Hospitality Exchange Database

Thanks to Sheila Patterson for pointing out the existence of the Hospitality Exchange Database, HOSPEX@PLEARN. The purpose of the list is both to provide those interested in being a host a way to satisfy their interests and to aid those interested in finding hosts when traveling. They currently have hosts in over 25 countries, and on six continents. To start the subscription process, issue the command

TELL LISTSERV AT PLEARN SUBSCRIBE HOSPEX <your full name>

from CMS or send a mail file that contains only the "subscribe..." command. You will be sent a host's form to be filled out and returned to HOSPEX@PLEARN; only then will you be considered a member of HOSPEX and get added to the HOSPEX and HOSPEX-L lists, and will have the right to search through the HOSPEX database for possible hosts.

Unix/X/Motif

The production version of the Scientist's Workbench (an X and Motif-based software package developed at the Cornell Theory Center) has now been released. "The main functions of the Scientist's Workbench are to bring together the tools and software required by scientific researchers in a distributed computing environment, to provide a graphical interface to access those tools, and to provide the software necessary to allow researchers to easily build their own graphical interfaces." The interesting thing about this software is the ability to use the provided widgets to implement a graphical interface on top of ordinary text programs. The new software is available via anonymous ftp from info.tc.cornell.edu, in the directory pub/swb. The file README.TOP describes the rest of the files in the anonymous ftp, and the file README.CHANGES lists the changes that were made since the beta version. As before, we have provided binary versions of the Workbench for Sun SPARC and RS/6000 (AIX 3.1), as well as the source code. The new tar files are a complete replacement of the old software. If you have comments or suggestions, or would like to be added to the Scientist's Workbench mailing list, send a note to sciwb@tc.cornell.edu."

To get put on the Chaos Corner mailing list, just send your request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Dr. Chaos (I have a Masters Degree ....) 8-)

Chaos Corner V02 N06 22Jul92

Summary for Chaos Corner V02 N06

Thanks to a recently received birthday present, the lead topic for this issue is Ham radio; in particular Short Wave Listening (SWL). Other topics will include OS/2 (since I'm entering this on a system running OS/2), fax software, KEDIT, Kermit, weather, and, if there is time, WAIS. First let's rummage around in the mailbag...

Anonymous FTP from puffin improved (working?)

Lee Butler at csn.org reported several times to Dr. Chaos that he has been unable to get and of the individual back issues from puffin (that's puffin.cit.cornell.edu). At first, Dr. Chaos figured that puffin had gotten hung up and just needed re-booting (Windows 3.1 never puts out UAE messages anymore ... you either get GPF messages or no response at all ... from ANYTHING). Things were fine between pelican and puffin so Dr. Chaos advised Lee to try it again. In the next batch of messages was one saying it still didn't work. After much experimentation (and so that an already long story doesn't get more out of hand), Dr. Chaos discovered that the failure occurred when using ftp from a Sun machine but not from a machine running AIX (either AIX/370 or AIX 3.1)! Even stranger was the fix ... Dr. Chaos got the latest version of the WNQVTNET package (2.6 is current and he was running 2.3), and the problem seemed to go away. We hope to hear good news from Lee at anytime, that he can now get at the files.

Motifgif movies and watching the weather

Brian Carcich at cuspif.tn.cornell.edu writes Dr. Chaos to tell him that he has modified the motifgif program to play several images as a movie. He reports that it's great for playing the satellite images to watch the cloud motion (your own private Weather Channel, eh?). The diff's are in the file motifgif.movie.dif in the /pub directory on moe.tn.cornell.edu. The RS/6000 executable is also hiding there ... look in the same directory for 'pict' since that is what motifgif forks to for the real work. Brian claims that the BEST image viewer is 'getx11' from the Utah Raster Toolkit (URT). For right now, Dr. Chaos is sticking with xv and xloadimage (all these viewers are available from the /contrib directory on export.lcs.mit.edu).

A version of nn for AIX on the RS/6000

Gerhard Rentschler at Uni Stuttgart asked where Dr. Chaos got the version of 'nn' (NetNews reader) that he is running pelican. It only took Dr. Chaos only a few hours to finally locate nn.tar.Z in the /pub directory on acsc.acsc.com (that machine isn't searched by archie, so locating it was a real piece of detective work). The convenient thing about that version is that it already contains the s-aix3.1* and m-rs6000* files needed to build nn and run it on an RS/6000.

Product Warning Labels (copyrighted article, see Journal in next issue)

As a contribution, and in exchange from being put on the subscription list, Terri Tracey at HP sent the following for your amusement:

> **Scientific Truth in Product Warning Labels** by Susan Hewitt and Edward Subitzky
>
> (Stolen Without Permission from *Journal of [an illegibly copied title]*)
>
> [... text of copyrighted article deleted ...]

Now, what have YOU contributed to Chaos Corner recently?

Chaos Corner Feedback

Rhomulos - Head Jester, (where? In Australia, of course) thanks Dr. Chaos for adding to the subscription list, and said, "I was reading your old articles and if I had had them 6 months ago would have saved me lots of trouble."

Chaos - lyapunov style - articles and GIF images

Bill McQueen from Toronto, also getting into the spirit, sent along a couple of items. The first, in the spirit of chaos, is an archive site for preprints and programs concerning nonlinear dynamics and signal processing (is there anything else?). The node name is (of course) lyapunov.ucsd.edu. (If you would like to see some of the striking figures generated by lyapunov figures, check out the ly*.gif files in the /pub/gif directory on pelican.cit.cornell.edu.)

Find people on the net with netfind

The second item from Bill McQueen concerns the netfind tool that is available from ftp.cs.colorado.edu in the pub/cs/distribs/netfind directory. The program runs under

SunOS 4.0 or higher it searches a number of Internet sources given a rough description of a person's name and where they work (company and/or location). People without a Sun on which to run Netfind on can telnet to bruno.cs.colorado.edu and log in as "netfind" (with no password). If nothing else, just take a look at it, Dr. Chaos used it just this afternoon; he also suggests you ask him (chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu) for the FAQ file from news.answers on "How to find people's E-mail addresses".

More Chaos Corner Feedback

Last and certainly not least, in the "Made My Day" category from Charles Lindsay at Simon Fraser University, "I've been following your postings, as they have been available, and I've concluded your postings actually Add information to my day, rather than simply consuming time, as elsewhere" Thanks Charles!

In the next issue we will cover how to catch elephants thanks to an item sent in by another reader.

Radio -Shortwave Broadcast schedules

The key resource for Shortwave Listening (SWL) and also for people who love to try and pick up distant stations (DXing) is the set of broadcast schedules maintained on nic.funet.fi in the /pub/dx/text/schedules directory. Not all the schedules are very current but they do give you a good idea of the times and frequencies to look for a particular station. (Dr. Chaos spends hours watching me write and listening to Deutsche Welle -- a station that broadcasts in German and English from Koeln (Cologne for the French speakers) each evening. Once DW is no longer broadcasting to North America (at about 0200), He switches over the Radio Austria being broadcast from Wien (Vienna). Another handy resource is a one page sheet listing the general use of frequency ranges, time frequencies, and a chart to translate GMT (or UTC or CUT) to USA time zones. If you would like the guide, let Dr. Chaos know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. If you enjoy scanning rather than listening to the SW bands, check out the frequency lists for different parts of the country that are available on ftp.cs.buffalo.edu in the pub/ham-radio directory. There is also software available for a couple of the more expensive scanners that allow control through an RS-232 port. Of course, the way to get started is by reading the Frequently Asked Questions lists, available on the NetNews group rec.radio.shortwave, at the FTP site mentioned above, or at the repository of all FAQ files, pit-manager.mit.edu, in the directory/pub/usenet/rec.radio.shortwave.

Is your scanner legal?

One of the big controversies in the scanning world has been over the laws passed to prevent people from using information they got by scanning the cellular telephone bands.

Some scanners are being sold that do not scan those bands, but only require a pair of wire cutters and about 10 minutes to restore that capability. Interestingly enough, there does not seem to be any law covering what information is picked up by listening in on portable telephone conversations. Dr. Chaos believes that the best rule to follow is that if you are broadcasting on the airways, then assume that you have traded privacy for convenience and shouldn't be surprised at who might be listening.

Archive of ShortWave Listening (SWL) articles

An archive of articles on ShortWave Listening is available from the mailserver at vmsserv@arecibo.aero.edu. [The correct address is vmsserv@arecibo.aero.org] Just put in the BODY of your mail file one or more of the following commands: DIR, GET, HELP, INDEX, or ?.

OS/2 & this version of Chaos Corner

For the first time, this issue is being written under OS/2 2.0, running C-Kermit for OS/2 in one window, and running KEDIT for OS/2 in another window (I find it crucial to be able to use copy-and-paste to transfer names of machines and directory paths). The version of Kermit allows two extra editing options ... one is copy-and-paste -- one operation that copies the highlighted text to the location of the cursor; and the other operation is 'append' that adds the highlighted text to whatever is already in the copy buffer. KEDIT, the Xedit-like editor (with REXX macro interface) for DOS and OS/2 has some nice new features in Version 5.0 ... of course, I've always thought that KEDIT was the REAL product and that CMS Xedit was just what you had to live with because of the 3270 interface.

OS/2 C++ computer (GNU) and OS/2 archive sites

OS/2 is getting to have a significant amount of software available for it via FTP. One significant addition was the availability of the latest version of the GNU C++ compiler. By the time Microsoft and Borland get around to producing C++ compilers for OS/2, they will have to produce a reasonably good product to be able to compete against what people can get from GCC for free. For OS/2 software via FTP, look on machines cc1.kuleuven.ac.be (the list of files is named O2.FILELIST, but 'cd' to ANONYMOU.201 to locate the files) and ftp-os2.nmsu.edu.

Weather information available on the Internet

For those of you following the weather, there is a wealth of information over the Internet. Not all of it is well organized or put in standard formats, but with some work (and maybe

with some pressure in the right places) things can happen. Right here at Cornell is a large collection of climate data for the Northeastern USA. Only a limited amount of current/forecast data is available ... the researchers are more concerned with long-term climate changes than with short-term forecasts. If you are interested in getting access, contact Keith Eggleston at keith@metvax.cit.cornell.edu or (607)-255-1749 (or 3034) to signup for a userid. There are no charges, but they don't think that weather information is of very wide interest on campus (except for some isolated "crazies" who have the current weather map updated hourly as the background for their workstation display). As usual, the other place to start looking for information, is the FAQ list for the NetNews group sci.geo.meteorology. Send electronic mail to Dr. Chaos at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you would like a copy of the information on weather data sources available across the Internet (and other places).

Subscription?

Out of time and space for now; the fax and WAIS topics will just have to wait until next time (maybe by that time Dr. Chaos will have them working).

For your own subscription to Chaos Corner, just request it from chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Dr. Chaos (I have a Master's Degree)

Chaos Corner V02 N07 02Aug92

New Format for Chaos Corner

At long last, with nearly 300 published items, it has become necessary for Dr. Chaos to get all of this organized. Even though yesterday was a beautiful, cool, sunny day, Dr. Chaos spent his time going through all the back issues putting in separator lines and item headers. Using the WAIS software, he only has to enter a few keywords and up pops the specific item he wants to see. Of course, this work will benefit more than just Dr. Chaos. Look for announcements soon on how you can use WAIS software on your PC, Macintosh, or Unix system to remotely search the Chaos Corner archives.

WAIS on RS/6000 AIX 3.1 information needed

Of course, one reason that the conversion of Chaos Corner to a set of WAIS-index items took all day was that Dr. Chaos decided that he should be running the latest version of the WAIS code (wais-8-b5). After much futile effort, he was unsuccessful at getting it to compile on an RS/6000 under AIX 3.1 (whereas the compiler does not complain about apparently identical code in the previous version of wais). If anyone has been successful at getting that version to compile, Dr. Chaos could use some help.

Gopher (Rice version) on CMS information needed

Yesterday was really one of frustration ... while Dr. Chaos was battling with WAIS, I was trying to get the latest version of Rice Gopher working in CMS. The latest version uses an operand LINEND (or something like that) on the DEBLOCK command that our version of CMS Pipes doesn't seem to like. Is it just that we are running an old version of PIPES or is there something else I am missing? (The new version of Gopher is necessary to use the Gopher-WAIS gateways that are available.)

Major copyright faux pas -- Many apologies extended

Mark Dionne at Interleaf (a company known for its publishing software) sent a red-faced Dr. Chaos the following note:

> The article "Scientific Truth in Product Warning Labels" by Susan Hewitt and Edward Subitzky, which appeared in Chaos Corner recently, is copyrighted material from the Journal of Irreproducible Results, of which I am Associate

Editor. Please notify your readers, and anyone else who may copy this article, that it is copyrighted. It would also be helpful if you would tell your readers that subscriptions to the Journal can be obtained by contacting:

Blackwell Scientific Publishing, Inc.
Three Cambridge Center
Cambridge, MA 02142 (617) 225-0401

Mark was also nice enough to subscribe to Chaos Corner (welcome); I hope for more reasons than to watch out for copyright violations.

Catching Alligators

Here's one more try at humor -- this from Bob Blackmun, and I certainly would think that anyone would be embarrassed to have the copyright on this one:

> To catch an alligator, you take a telescope, a box of matches, a pair of tweezers and dull book to a house in the Everglades. You go inside the house and make sure that all the windows and doors are locked securely, except one small window that you open. Then you go outside and walk around until an alligator spots you. When he does, you let him chase you back to the house, and you go inside and lock the door. Then, sit down in the most comfortable chair in the house and begin to read the book. Since it is a dull book, you will fall asleep very quickly. Meanwhile, the alligator runs around and around the house, looking for a way to get inside. Finally, he sees the small window and climbs in. Imagine his surprise to find you asleep! Wondering why, he picks up your book and begins to read. Since it is a *dull* book, the alligator also falls asleep very quickly. Since you fell asleep first, you wake up first, pick up the telescope and look at the alligator through the wrong end, pick him up with the tweezers and put him in the match box!
>
> And that's how you catch an alligator!

A Unix clone for the 386 - Linux

Nicolai Langfeldt (janl@ifi.uio.no) from Norway points out the great amount of activity around a rapidly developing Unix clone for the Intel 386 architecture. He writes:

> Heard about linux? A very nice unix clone for i386 machines, and if you've got a video card MIT's stock X11R5 server for 386 supports, you get X11 as well! A must for all computer nuts! In principle you can run it on two diskettes, but it's better to run it on a HD (let's say minimum 10Mb

partition). 4Mb mem should be enough to do some things, if you add 4Mb of swap (or real RAM) you can do much more, and so on.

Linux enthusiasts meet in the newsgroup comp.os.linux, and on the irc channel named #linux. For the even more enthusiastic there is a mailing list (linux-activists).

Linux is evolving rapidly, Linus (the author..., A 3'rd yr CS student at Univ. in Helsinki, Finland) releases weekly patches, and a lot of people are contributing to it, with kernel fixes, X11 was ported by 3rd party, scsi disk drivers, and _lots_ more! It's POSIX compliant and pretty stable. Most of the programs are ports of GNU software of-course...

OS/2 and FAX software

As Dr. Chaos will loudly agree, DOS or Windows software for using fax boards or modems do not seem to get along with OS/2. The discussions on the net seem to be in favor of two products that work well with OS/2: BitFax and PMFax. The two programs are reported to be similar except that PMFax supports the Intel SatisFAXtation (and some other proprietary boards). Perhaps by the next issue, Dave Gomberg at UC San Francisco will be able to report on his experiences?

New versions of Frequently Asked Questions

It's the start of a new month, so the new FAQ postings are starting to roll out. Recent arrivals include new postings for the nn newsreader and the mh mail system (both in Unix) and a new version of the FAQ for OS/2. Let Dr. Chaos know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you need copies of any of these.

Having trouble with Windows 3.1? You need WDL!

Microsoft issues updates to drivers associated with Windows 3.1 by making them available on their BBS and on CompuServe. (It is known as the Windows Drivers Library.) Many of these updates also make their way to the Internet Windows archive, ftp.cica.indiana.edu. The drivers for a very LARGE number of printers have been updated, along with video drivers, the CD-ROM driver, the Solitaire game, the MSDOS executive, and many more. Let Dr. Chaos know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you would like a copy of the list of updated software (the file is over 300 lines long).

Windows version of LOGO

The wonderfully popular Apple][software called Logo is now available for Windows -- and it is free! Version 1.1 of the software has just been released to UseNet so expect it soon on a Windows archive near you. If you just can't wait, I did put a copy under the name mswlogo1.zip on puffin.cit.cornell.edu. (Don't forget to use 'binary' before you transfer it to your machine.)

Fixes available to X11R5 (would you believe #16 is the latest?)

A large number of fixes have been made available to the MIT X Window System Version 11 Release 5 software. As usual, all fixes are available at export.lcs.mit.edu, or you can get them locally (to Cornell) on pelican.cit.cornell.edu in the /pub/X11R5 directory.

What does Dr. Chaos know about WAIS?

I know, ever since you started this issue, you have been wondering what I was talking about with searching, indexing, and that stuff. Dr. Chaos has mentioned (and been corrected) about WAIS before, but he is willing to try again. Actually, the real motivation is that last October, Rick Cochran sent Dr. Chaos a mail file asking the question above, and Dr. Chaos COULDN'T STAND to admit that he didn't know much at all about one of the exciting new developments in accessing information across the Internet. Having had much more exposure in the past several weeks, he is willing to try again (and he is confident that the gentle readers will correct him if he goes astray).

Wide Area Information Service (WAIS) servers are now available across the Internet on a broad range of topics (currently over 250 servers freely advertise their archives). Keywords for the information topics available at each server is maintained on a Connection Machine at The Thinking Machines Corporation (think.com). This directory-of-servers is the "root level" of a query which can then allow you to search all the servers at one time that appear to have information you need. Queries with a large number of keywords may return a correspondingly large number of items, but the items are scored by "relevance" and those with high scores are presented first. The amazing capability of WAIS is the ability to refine a search by selecting articles YOU find to be relevant, and telling the search engine to "go find me more articles like these". That very powerful capability along with being able to store queries and re-execute them later goes a long way in turning the veritable flood of network data into a manageable stream of network information.

How can I get more information about WAIS?

The fastest way to get more information is to use telnet to access quake.think.com and login as user 'wais'. That will allow you to use WAIS to search for information about WAIS. (It does help to be at some terminal that can emulate a vt100, in fact, Dr. Chaos can guarantee that it doesn't work usefully to attempt telnet from a 3270 session.)

Software to access WAIS servers currently exists for the Macintosh, for the PC using the Clarkson Packet Drivers, for the PC using Windows and FTP Software's TCP/IP protocol stack, for Unix (there is a 'diff' file to get it working on an RS/6000 and AIX), and there is a very nice X Windows implementation. If you have the latest version of Gopher available to you, there are a number of Gopher/WAIS gateways that allow searches (but not necessarily all the features are available).

Are there useful things for WAIS besides searches?

Dr. Chaos normally stores items of interest using RiceMail ... which puts the items in files called "notebooks" with each items separated by a row of = signs. It took Dr. Chaos (and he doesn't know very much about C at all) about 15 minutes to define a new file structure type for RiceMail that gave Dr. Chaos the ability to index all his mail files for almost instant retrieval! No more need to keep multiple copies of files (should the item about fax software under OS/2 be fined under OS/2 or should it be under FAX?) In fact, it's not necessary to file it ANYWHERE! ... just drop it into any old notebook and WAIS will allow you to pull it out again.

Of course. many file formats are already handled, for instance the format of this Chaos Corner required no changes. All in all, it's very easy to either fit the data to the software or fit the software to the data ... as you choose.

Subscription Information

That's all for now ... I'm back to using Word for Windows and I'm over 10,000 characters again (but this time I will use a spell checker). Act now and don't delay, it's easy to subscribe -- simply just send your request off to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Dr. Chaos (I have a Master's Degree)

Chaos Corner V02 N08 17Aug92

A Bold New Proposal for Matching High-Technology People & Professions

Over the years, the problem of finding the right person for the right job has consumed thousands of worker-years of research and millions of dollars of funding. This is particularly true for high-technology organizations where talent is scarce and expensive. Recently, however, years of detailed study of the finest minds in the field of psychoindustrial interpersonal optimization have resulted in the development of a simple foolproof test to determine the best match between personality and profession. Now, at last, people can be infallibly assigned to the jobs for which they are truly best suited.

CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

Mathematicians hunt elephants by going to Africa, throwing out everything that is not an elephant, and catching one of whatever is left.

Experienced mathematicians will attempt to prove the existence of at least one unique elephant before proceeding to step 1 as a subordinate exercise. Professors of mathematics will prove the existence of at least one unique elephant and then leave the detection and capture of an actual elephant as an exercise for their graduate students.

Computer scientists hunt elephants by exercising Algorithm A:

1. Go to Africa.
2. Start at the Cape of Good Hope.
3. Work northward in an orderly manner, traversing the continent east and west.
4. During each traverse pass,
   (a) Catch each animal seen,
   (b) Compare each animal caught to a known elephant,
   (c) Stop when a match is detected.

Experienced computer programmers modify Algorithm A by placing a known elephant in Cairo to ensure that the algorithm will terminate.

Assembly language programmers prefer to execute Algorithm A on their hands and knees.

Engineers hunt elephants by going to Africa, catching gray animals at random, and stopping when any one of them weighs within + or - 15% of any previously observed elephant.

Economists don't hunt elephants, but they believe that if elephants are paid enough, they will hunt themselves.

Statisticians hunt the first animal they see N times and call it an elephant.

Consultants don't hunt elephants, and many have never hunted anything at all, but they can be hired by the hour to advise those people who do.

Operations research consultants can also measure the correlation of hat size and bullet color to the efficiency of elephant-hunting strategies, if someone else will only identify the elephants.

Politicians don't hunt elephants but they will share the elephants you catch with the people who voted for them.

Lawyers don't hunt elephants, but they do follow the herds around arguing about who owns the droppings.

Software lawyers will claim that they own an entire herd based on the look and feel of one dropping.

Vice presidents of engineering, research and development try hard to hunt elephants, but their staffs are designed to prevent it. When the VP does get to hunt elephants, the staff will try to ensure that all possible elephants are completely prehunted before the VP sees them. If the VP does see a non-prehunted elephant, the staff will (1) compliment the VP's keen eyesight, and (2) enlarge itself to prevent any recurrence.

Senior managers set broad elephant-hunting policy based on the assumption that elephants are just like field mice, but with deeper voices.

Quality assurance inspectors ignore the elephants and look for mistakes the other hunters made when they were packing the jeep.

Salespeople don't hunt elephants but spend their time selling elephants they haven't caught, for delivery two days before the season opens.

Software salespeople ship the first thing they catch and write up an invoice for an elephant.

Hardware sales people catch rabbits, paint them gray, and sell them as desktop elephants.

Ann Halpin (halpinae@dayton.bitnet) contributed the preceding, originally from Peter Theobald, National Center for Software Technology, Bombay, India.

Static in the Shortwave Listening Article

Dick Crepeau (szyy@cornellf.bitnet) reported problems with reaching the archive of shortwave listening (SWL) information mentioned in the previous Chaos Corner. Dr. Chaos points out that I typed the address as vmsserv@arecibo.aero.edu rather than vmsserv@arecibo.aero.org. Apologies to Dick and anyone else who tried to reach the archive.

A recent addition is "DX'ers Guide to the Galaxy", now available from vmsserv@arecibo.aero.org ("send galaxy.txt"). The guide contains information on DXing (long distance listening) satellites and other space communications, produced by Radio Sweden.

Interested in helping with cloud movies (like the Weather Channel?)

Joe Ahlgren (author of GeoClock, remember?) has been thinking for quite a while of developing a system where cloud overlays could be played across GeoClock maps, just as the sunlight overlay is now played. One of the local “crazies” there (Geoff Chester, who runs the planetarium at the Air and Space Museum) has built a system in his home to get weather satellite transmissions automatically and convert then to GIF format. He posts them on a BBS 4 times per day. Unfortunately, he cannot seem to get any calibration data so that pixel coordinates can be turned into lat/long. Joe wonders if there is anyone the Chaos Corner list who might be interested or helpful in this project?

Time Zone Map Available

Joe Ahlgren's time zone expert, Roger Wollstadt, said that the list of time zone names in the message we sent Joe confirmed his opinion that there were no standard names. He pointed out that quite a few zones had English names but no English speaking people! There is a new time zone paper map, beautifully done, which sites GeoClock as a source. It is available from MapLink, 25 E Mason St, Santa Barbara CA 93101, 805-965-4402, for $9.95 plus $5 S&H. (Joe says he doesn't have a piece of the action, but it is nice to seem his name in print.) Some interesting things are shown by the map. For example, the Navajo reservation in NE Arizona celebrates DST (unlike the rest of Arizona), but the completely surrounded Hopi reservation does not. The DST map, therefore, shows a square donut in NE Arizona.

Got an old version of NCSA Telnet? --- Update it!

Older versions of NCSA Telnet for both the Macintosh and the PC had a security loophole that you may not be aware of. By default they were shipped with a configuration file that specified "ftp=yes" meaning that an FTP server was available in your system any time the program was active. That FTP server allowed ANYONE on the Internet to have read/write access to all the files on your personal computer. Scared yet? If not, it may be because you wisely removed that line from the configuration file -- *wrong* -- "ftp=yes" is the default, so that option is in effect unless you changed the configuration file to specify "ftp=no", or unless you set up a password file using the "passfile=" option and the 'telpass' command. Current versions of NCSA Telnet are available from ftp.ncsa.uiuc.edu in the /PC/Telnet or /Mac/Telnet directories. The Macintosh version was last updated in July, 1992 and the PC version was last updated in April, 1992.

Cleaning Up Empty News Directories

If you happen to get a newsfeed to your Unix system, one problem you face is that as groups come and go, (particularly in the alt sections) the directories that were created are left behind to clutter up your file system. The "last word" on the appropriate command to clean up all these unused directories is the following Unix 'find' command:

```
find /usr/spool/news -depth -type d -exec rmdir {} \; >/dev/null 2>&1
```

This command removes all empty directories, even for active newsgroups, but that is OK because NNTP (or is it C-News?) will recreate the directory structure as necessary when articles come in. The only problem is with the directory 'out.going' (used for posting articles to the network). The suggested solution is to create a dummy file in the 'out.going' directory so that it doesn't get removed.

Converting sound files between various formats

So now you have Windows 3.1 and are having troubles finding the sounds you want in the .wav format? The popular utility, sox, for converting between various sound formats is available for PC users, pre-compiled and located in the /mirrors/msdos/sound directory on wuarchive.wustl.edu and in the /pc/sound directory on garbo.uwasa.fi (for those of you in Europe). Look for the file sox4d.zip, and don't forget to use the 'binary' option when transferring it.

Now that you have sox, you can convert the .au format files that you find on sciences.sdsu.edu in the /sounds directory into .wav files so that you can associate them with the various Windows events (just like Mac users have had for years!).

Frequently Asked Questions on Audio File Formats (Sound)

All you ever want to know about sound file formats is here in one easy-to-read 1400 line file. Like most of the FAQ files, this one can be found on pit-manager.mit.edu. To retrieve it via anonymous FTP, look in the directory /pub/usenet/alt.binaries.sounds.d, OR for an e-mail version, send mail to Dr. Chaos at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu asking for a copy of the FAQ on Audio File Formats.

Keeping up-to-date on the Time

If you want your Unix workstation to maintain the correct time, you should use the Network Time Protocol (Version 3 is most current). The authoritative source for information is on louie.udel.edu. The source code is in pub/ntp/xntp3.tar.Z. There is a file (clocks.txt) which lists the best NTP peers to use and also sources for your very own high-precision radio clocks.

If you just want to know the current time, try the command (this doesn't work very well from real or simulated 3270-type terminal, but otherwise it is OK) "telnet india.colorado.edu 13".

More Time Information than you'd ever want to Know

> The original GMT was the mean time derived from mean solar time (based on *smoothed* time between successive noons - it's smoothed as the actual solar time gains and loses about 16 minutes throughout the year due to the earth's elliptical orbit, etc.). This smoothed time, however, was not able to correctly deal with the small variations in the earth's rotation (on the order of thousandths of a second per day). UT0, based strictly on celestial observations, became the time which accounts for these variations. UT1 then became the time (based on UT0) which adjusted for the large scale variations on the earth's rotation.
>
> This time standard, however, was still not precise enough and in 1958, the US Naval Observatory established A1 using atomic clocks with the time coordinated with the Greenwich observatory. In 1967, a second was defined as 9,192,631.770 oscillations of a specific radiation from cesium 133.
>
> Until the end of 1971 the time was adjusted to match the earth's rotation when it was about 1/10 second "out of sync." On 1 Jan 1972, the system was changed and atomic time took over. Enter UTC. When UTC is out of sync with UT1, a leap second is added (or removed) to UTC. The last leap second

was *added* at 23:59:60 30 June 1992 (note the second is *60* and not *59*).

So what is GMT? GMT is UT1 (celestial time adjusted for the earth's rotation). What is Zulu time? So-called Zulu time is UTC which is based on a set of atomic standards and it may be close to 1 second out of sync with UT1. Who cares about this difference? Navigators taking fixes with a sextant need UT1/GMT. A one second error in timing a sighting will have a 1/4 mile error in the fix.

(The above is abstracted from "Types Of Time" by Bill Brogdon appearing in Ocean Navigator No. 47) with thanks to Rick Emerson at ssg.com.

How do you REALLY write code for BSD Sockets?

In the oldies-but-goodies department (as Dr. Chaos looks through some of the files that have been around for a while but that people still might find to be useful) we have a summary of where to locate information on and programming examples on how to use BSD Sockets for communications. It was compiled by "Tundra" Tim Daneliuk (tundra@eskimo.chi.il.us). Want a copy? Send mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu and ask Dr. Chaos for one.

What to do! What to do!

If you say that very often, you just might need the XView To-Do List manager (XVTDL) that has been recently updated to version 3.1 and, like much other fine X-Windows free software, is available from THE X11 site, export.lcs.mit.edu in the contrib directory. For XVTDL, look for the file xvtdl-3.1.tar.Z.

PC Games and supplemental programs

Of course, Dr. Chaos is sure that all you loyal readers recall that the "standard" collection point for PC games is at ftp.ulowell.edu in the msdos/Games directories. What you may not know is that a number of the games (in particular, the Apogee games like Commander Keen and Wolfenstein 3D) have had supplemental programs written for them that do things like provide maps (or allow you to easily build your own map), add new levels of play, and describe methods of patching the programs to get unlimited lives, ammo, etc. Jeff Bryer (umbryer@ccu.umanitoba.ca) maintains the archive at ccu.umanitoba.ca in the /pub/wolf3d directory. For a description of what's in the archive, send mail to Dr. Chaos at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Weather satellite images for others than North America

Weather satellite images in both the visible and infrared bands are available in gif format for anonymous FTP from two places that Dr. Chaos knows about. The files are updated several times a day and may be found at cumulus.met.ed.ac.uk; look for files /images/gifs/eur.vis.gif or eur.ir.gif. Other images are available if you replace "eur" with "norden", "uk", or "world" (this last one shows Europe, Africa, and the Middle East). Many of these images can also be found at mirror site in Switzerland, liasun3.epfl.ch in the /pub/weather directory (for your information, EPFL is the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne on the north side of Lake Geneva).

For weather on the Australian continent, FTP to marlin.jcu.edu.au and get some of regularly updated GMS-4 images. The images are available for various Australian states, and the entire country. The images are in a unusual format, but this is solved by retrieving a public domain package (ALCHEMY) from many FTP sites. It will handle the conversion from their format to gif or other formats.

Subscription Information

Dr. Chaos apologizes for the length of this issue, but the items were backing up and he was running out of disk space (isn't that always the case?). Remember, for subscriptions to Chaos Corner, send your request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Dr. Chaos (I have a Master's Degree

Chaos Corner V02 N09 15 Sep 1992

Chaos Corner makes the connection!

Based on the number of requests we got, it seems that ANY information at all about BSD Sockets is in great demand. Dr. Chaos was pleased that one programmer from Microsoft requested a copy of the document so that he could be sure that code sample would work in Windows NT with the new "WinSock" (Windows Sockets API) interface.

Not on alt.best.of.internet any more

The keeper of the newsgroup has requested that I not post Chaos Corner directly to alt.best.of.internet ... even though Dr. Chaos thought that that IS the subject matter of this newsletter. Anyway, someone else has to do it ... alternate newsgroups were suggested, such as alt.hackers, alt.religion.computers, talk.bizarre(!), rec.games.misc, comp.unix.misc, comp.sys.ibm-pc and soc.misc. Look for Chaos Corner in a news group near you!

Reader has some PC graphics questions

Eric Webster (ericw@redsone-emh2.army.mil) is having some problems with some animated graphics he has created. Things seem to work OK at 320x200-256 colors but he has some problems at higher resolutions like 640x480-16/256 colors or 1024x768-16/256 colors. He needs to know (1) if there is some general way to switch banks/pages on the video card without writing card-specific code each time; and (2) what are the different techniques are used for 16 colors rather than 256 colors? He's using Turbo C++ V 2.0 on a 486DX and a Trident 8900C video card (on which things are working ... he wants to make the code less device specific). Any advice or a pointer to a book would be really appreciated.

Mail access to IP Address Resolver

Eric pointed out to Dr. Chaos that the guardians of MILNET have decided that they will allow people to use anonymous FTP, but they "protect" things by not putting up any name servers ... therefore Eric needed the dotted decimal IP address for pelican so he could get a file from there (128.253.194.202). Dr. Chaos was able to point him to an Internet service that resolves names to IP addresses (and vice versa) through electronic mail (Eric couldn't use any of the standard Unix utilities because he's on a VAX). The secret (thanks

to the Internet Services List) is to send mail to resolve@cs.widner.edu [Note: the correct address is resolve@cs.widener.edu] where the body of the letter contains

site <address here>

and the server will return via mail the IP address of the site.

Help with Lightning Strike Data?

Alain Martineau at Hydro Quebec in Montreal is having problems plotting lightning strike information for the northeastern US and eastern Canada. He would like to find some public domain software that would put a cross in the right position of a map given the lat/long and intensity information (the cross would change in color as time passes and eventually disappear). He is looking for help on PC, Macintosh, or VAXstation platforms, and he is willing to consider making the data available as a public service if he can get this working. Contact him at martinea@ireq.hydro.qc.ca

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Balancing ()s is not that easy

Several eagle-eyed readers pointed out that the last Chaos Corner was missing a final) (Rich Brennen also had some very nice things to say). Gary Buhrmaster just pointed out that his LISP interpreter had problems with the last issue. Dr. Chaos points out that we NEVER promised any kind of balanced reporting!

Downsizing and San Francisco

We recently attended the Downsizing Expo in the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Cathie Dager from SLAC won a free printed copy of Chaos Corner volume 1 by correctly identifying Dr. Chaos in a crowd of several thousand people. Dave Gomberg of UCSF won a similar prize for locating a hotel in downtown SF that saved us $45/night over the "special" expo rates at the Hilton. We hope to be putting together a trip report Real Soon Now -- let Dr. Chaos know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you would like to receive a copy when it is complete.

Kermit 3.12 for MS-DOS moves to Beta-test

A greatly enhanced version of Kermit is available for MS-DOS machines, but it's still in beta-test. If you would like to take a look at the new features, use anonymous FTP to access the file at watsun.cc.columbia.edu and look in the kermit/bin directory for mstibm.exe. Don't forget to use "binary" for the file transfer. There is also a new version of the "shim" that allows Kermit to run under Windows and use packet drivers (the packet

driver has to have some place to put incoming data while Windows is executing some other program). The new version of WINPKT is at packet-drivers/bin/winpkt.com ... If you know any techno-weenies, they might be interested in the help file located at packet-drivers/doc/winpkt.hlp. Use of some of the new features will require that the Kermit program on the other end is also 3.12, or is a soon-to-be-released version of C-Kermit, or IBM Mainframe Kermit. By the way, the directory kermit/bin contains some executable modules of C-Kermit already compiled for several different Unix machines. Look for files of the form wermit.rs6000 or wermit.next. (No, wermit is not a typo.) [These files are now named ckuker.rs6000 and ckuker.next]

Tired of Converting Usenet files to Binaries?

A program is now available (well, actually, it's a perl script) that scans newsgroups containing binary files, retrieves (from disk or via NNTP), organizes, and decodes them, depositing them in a configurable location. No human intervention is required. The scripts are available from sgigate.sgi.com, and as of this writing the current version is in file aub.2.0.5.shar in /pub/aub.

Interesting lists of phone numbers

Let Dr. Chaos know if you would like any of these phone number lists by sending mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu: modem manufacturer Tech Support and FAX numbers; the phone number from "Sneakers" of the female NSA agent; the number to call to reserve a place at the Second 1st Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony (held at MIT on October 1 -- sponsored by the Journal of Irreproducible Results (hurry! the current issue is the swimsuit edition!)); the number to call to specify a person in your MCI Friends & Family Calling Circle for whom you get a free 10 minute call every month for the next year; the numbers and service summaries for companies providing public access to the Internet (the PDIAL list); toll-free numbers in Germany (the 0130 list); 800 numbers for various software & hardware vendors; numbers for getting directly to Microsoft Tech Support groups without going through the long phone menus; and last but not least ... the US Senate/House phone/fax numbers.

Want more Information about free Unix on 386/486 machines?

Certainly, many people will claim it's not Unix, but the Linux effort to develop a full-features OS on a Intel architecture machine continues. Many people across the net are contributing to the project ... and the price of the code is right ... free. One of the major distribution points is tsx-11.mit.edu but Dr. Chaos has a list of other sites if you are interested (and don't have access to archie). Dr. Chaos also has as summary of Unix clones that run on PCs. For a copy of the list, just ask for it at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Revealed! The OS/2 Printer -> Driver mapping

If you ever wondered at the mapping of Printers to Print Drivers in OS/2, now is the time to request this information from Dr. Chaos. That's chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. We know you can hardly wait.

What kind of Fool am I?

What kind of person does it take to track things down across the Internet? You might be interested in the results of the first Internet Hunt on the LIBREF-L list (and we didn't even know it was happening). Players had to answer how they would find the solutions to such problems as: (1) I'm leaving tomorrow for Japan; approximately how many yen can I get for a dollar? (3) I'm taking a job as a social studies teacher at a high school in Denver CO; where can I find a list of environmental organizations that could come to speak to my classes? (6) Bill Clinton made a speech somewhere on Earth Day this year; where can I find the text of it? (7) I just read an interesting paper by a Bradley Smith in the Chemistry Department at the University of Western Australia; is it possible to get an email address for him? The answers to these questions and more are available from Dr. Chaos ... test your net-navigating skills!

NetNews group on Northern Exposure

An immediately popular NetNews group [alt.tv.northern-exp] has started around the television program, Northern Exposure. One poster claims that if you want to see the real beginnings of Northern Exposure, go rent the movie Local Hero (it takes place in northern Scotland and concerns an oilman but many of the other characters are the same). Another poster gave a trip report on what it was like to visit Rosalyn, WA where much of the filming is done (the scenes that look onto the street or take place in the street).

Secret Screens and other Tricks?

Ever wonder what programs had those little secret screens with pictures of the authors (like Windows 3)? How can you cheat at Solitaire? Learn all this and more when you request Joe Morris' (Mitre) collection of Ye Olde Secrete Screene Cheete Sheete (long; 1300+ lines). Again, send your request to Dr. Chaos at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Are you facing a Co-Processor Quiz?

If you have a REAL need to know about math co-processors ... we have a four (4) part posting on EVERYTHING you would ever want to know about them. Dr. Chaos just sneered at me and said that I would I would save doggie doo if it was posted in four parts and labeled as a FAQ. Come to think about it, I think that there is something like that over here in the rec.pets.dog folder .....

Hitchhiker's Guide on BBC!

If you have access to a shortwave radio (you can get a GE radio for $60-70), you might be interested in the Hitchhiker's Guide series that started on BBC on August 20. It is broadcast on Wednesday evenings (in the US) at 8:30 EDT (0:30 CUT on Thursday morning). Of course, we have the BBC frequencies for you at that time ... 7325, 6175 Mhz in North America, 90200, 648 Mhz in Europe. Other locations (au & br) should send mail to Dr. Chaos if they want the frequencies ... or ftp the frequency list (can you figure out where?).

The Physics of Computation

A new book due out this autumn is _Computation: The Micro and the Macro View_ by B. A. Hubberman (Xerox Palo Alto).

"The laws and methodology of physics are starting to provide powerful insights into the nature and dynamics of computation. This book contains a number of articles that illustrate how fields ranging from quantum mechanics to statistical physics and nonlinear dynamics can help elucidate the nature of computation."

You probably won't find it at the check-out line of the grocery store, so if you have to order it, use ISBN 981-02-0981-9 (US$ 45) or, for the paperback use 981-02-0982-7 (US$ 28).

Sources for UCB Logo

Dr. Chaos has noticed that the Windows version of Logo that he mentioned in an earlier issue was quite popular (it has gone through several changes in version number since that issue was distributed so you have to look carefully to find it. In any case, there is another implementation of Logo developed at UC Berkeley and it can be found on anarres.cs.berkeley.edu in the following files:

pub/ucblogo.tar.Z
(Unix version)

pub/ucblogo.zip
(DOS version)
pub/ucblogo.sit.hqx
(Mac version)

Mail Server for Macintosh archive at U-Mich

The large Mac archive at the University of Michigan can now be reached even if you have only electronic mail access to the Internet. For more information on how to access the archive, send a mail file with the single word "help" to mac@mac.archive.umich.edu (if you put the word "index" on another line, you will also receive a COMPLETE index and description of all the files available in the archive.

Worried about Software License compliance on Macintosh's?

One program at the U-Mich archive can be of help in taking inventory of Macintosh systems. In /mac/system.extensions/da/tattletale1.50.cpt.hqx is a program allowing you to "obtain DETAILED reports of your current configuration, files, reserved System heap space, available and unavailable traps, and much more. VERY complete. Version 1.5.0 includes greater help and many bug fixes."

Version 1.1 of Socket has been Released

"Socket(1) implements an interface to TCP sockets at shell level. Client and server sockets can be used from shell scripts or interactively. Socket can also run a program with stdin, stdout, and stderr connected to the socket connection. Sample shell scripts implementing a finger client (remote only) and a finger daemon are included." This has been posted to the Usenet sources, so if you check with archie, we're sure you will be able to find copies on sites near you.

The Small World Department

If you have been reading for a while, you know that Dr. Chaos located one of his fellow draftees not too long ago ... and they had been out-of-touch for about 18 years. Well, it's happened again. Dr. Chaos thought he would try out Eric Jacobsen's shell script to query the server at pit-manager.mit.edu ... needing something useful to try, Dr. Chaos put in the name of his college roommate that he hadn't heard from in approximately 15 years. When the response came back from the server, Dr. Chaos send a mail file asking, "Are you the ..." ... within an hour the response came back that contact had been re-established!

That's all for now ... remember, if you want your own subscription to Chaos Corner, just ask (simply e-mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu), after all it's free!

Dr. Chaos (I have a Masters Degree ....)

Chaos Corner V02 N10 24Nov92

Thanks to all who have written asking what has happened to Chaos Corner... shall we just say that the past couple of months have been hmmmm "interesting" (you remember the old Chinese curse, right?).

Correction of error on Address Resolver in N09

If you can still remember last issue, we managed to make an error in entering the name of the address resolver available on the Internet. The correct address is: resolve@cs.widener.edu

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Review/mention of pbm and sox

Paul Joslin suggests we mention the two utilities "pbm" - the "swiss army knife" of Unix graphic utilities, and "sox" - a similar program but for audio files (pun not intended, but we'll let it stand). Of course, to find the latest version of these programs ... check with your local archie-server. If you think you don't have a archie server, ask us for the Internet Services List at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

On detecting VGA monitor type

Joe Ahlgren has the following to say about how a program detects the type of monitor attached to the system on which it is running (PC):

> There is a shareware program called "VGAKIT" which scans for the videocard type, and provides low level services such as read and write pixel in 640x480x256 and higher video modes. There is a sophisticated bankswitch routine included, which can be used to write higher level graphics functions in a card-independent manner. Your inquirer can get a copy of VGAKIT50.ZIP from my BBS (703-241-7980) and many other sources, or contact the author directly (John Bridges, CompuServe 75300,2137) [From the Internet you would use the address 75300.2137@compuserve.com (note the use of “.” rather than “,” in the Internet address)].

Accessing the Mac software archive at U. Mich

Bob Blackmun had two comments on the item about accessing the Macintosh software archive at the University of Michigan.

1) the *very best way* to access this wonderful mac archive is via AFS; if you don't have AFS, you should! 2) I *did* experience some strange problems retrieving the directory (that arrives in about 14 sub-sections) via my mac e-mail 'client' (Eudora); the problems appear to be with the client rather than with the archive's mail-server.

Any Lawyers out there?

Joe Morris was pleased when I told him of the popularity of his cheete sheete ... and offers the following alternative (addition) to Dr. Chaos:

Speaking of Dr. Chaos, there's a similarly breeze column you might want to read which covers the personal computer world...from the viewpoint of the *user*, in a *law office*. It's "Technology Update", which appears in _Law_Office_Practice_, a publication of the American Bar Association. The author is Burgess Allison, who is one of the engineers here at MITRE(!). You can get an idea of his attitude by noting that many of his internal memos here are signed "Surly Ol' Burge (SOB)". While it isn't as technical in nature as Dr. Chaos' column, it's a fun read with a healthy dose of cynicism about the stupidities of the desktop system vendors.

PostScript program to plot Sierpinski's gasket

Have you ever wanted to plot Sierpinski's gasket on your local laserprinter (we certainly wouldn't recommend that you unleash this on someone else's laser printer)? Sierpinski's gasket, by the way, is the fractal pattern built up out of successively smaller triangles, ...maybe we will use it as the cover for this year's hardcopy version of Chaos Corner ... in any case, we have a PostScript program that will print the gasket on a PostScript (tm)-capable printer. Let us know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu if you would like a copy.

PostScript printing of a Digital World

Patrick Dockhorn in Karlsruhe, Germany has contributed to the public domain his C program to convert map files (MP1 format) from John Allisons "The World Digitized" package into EPSF 2.0 PostScript files. "The Digital World" data is evidently available from several servers (check with archie for "worldmap") and the format of the data is described in the header of the wmap2ps.c program. Note, the program is freeware (ask

for it at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu) but the data (if you find it valuable) is not ... but the shareware fee is $20 so it won't hurt you to repay someone for a lot of work.

Keeping your Unix system intruder-free

The program Tripwire provides a framework to allow Unix Sysadmins the ability to monitor changes to critical files and directories. The program was developed at Purdue University by Gene Kim as part of the COAST Project (directed by Gene Spafford). Copies of the program may be found at ftp.cs.purdue.edu in the pub/spaf/COAST/Tripwire directory.

Looking for more TrueType fonts to add you your collection?

If you are looking for more TrueType fonts to add to your machine, look no further than ftp.cica.indiana.edu ... in the directory with the path of pub/pc/win3/fonts/truetype you will find fonts with such names as GoodBadUgly, Barcode, Hebrew, Mapmaker, and many more. Microsoft loves this because it helps to make TrueType fonts more popular.

Interested in the Windows API for Sockets?

A lot of information about Microsoft products is available on CompuServe. For those of you without CompuServe access, an alternative for some of the information is to ftp to ftp.uu.net and look in the vendor/microsoft directory for interesting information (for instance, the compuserve-libs directory). Another directory contains a Word for Windows document that describes the programming interface that has been worked out to allow multiple Windows applications to use the same TCP/IP stack. Dr. Chaos is eagerly awaiting software that actually USES the interface and TCP/IP stacks that IMPLEMENT the calls.

Running multiple Unix sessions over one telephone line

There is a server you can run on a Unix system that allows you to run a program on a Macintosh, or DOS, or Windows systems to run multiple Unix sessions at the same time. Rather than re-enter all the information, Dr. Chaos recommends that we just republish the information posted by Ted Richards:

> Unix Windows consists of two programs. One is a server that runs on a Unix system that you dial into, and the other is a front end that runs on your home computer. The combination lets you run up to seven separate shell sessions (on the Unix machine) with each session being displayed in a separate window on your home computer. The programs take care of

multiplexing the separate communications streams through a single modem connection.

There are at least four different front ends, all of which talk to the same Unix server. One is for the Mac, one is for the Amiga (neither of which I know anything about, but check your standard FTP sites), one is for Windows, and one for DOS.

The Unix server supports many nice features, such as background downloads in a window while other things are being done in other windows, automatic resizing of windows, displaying of strings in the title bars of the windows, etc. The different front ends support these features to varying degrees. The Mac version was written by the person who wrote the Unix server, and so probably supports all of the features.

UW-WIN is available as uwwin103.zip in pub/pc/win3/util on ftp.cica.indiana.edu. You need to run a server on the Unix machine, see uwserver.zip in the same directory. As far as I know, it is the same server as used for the Mac, and presumably Atari versions. UW-WIN is the shareware Windows version (but only $15, I think). Unfortunately, it does not support file transfers. It displays each shell session in a separate Windows window. You can move and resize each window independently (but if you try to change the window width, it crashes - you can change the height OK).

It runs quite well under WIN-OS2, with one exception (besides the window width change problem) - it hangs my entire WIN-OS2 session if I try to reinitialize the modem, but I also have similar (or worse) problems with other Windows comm programs that others have used without problems, so I may have some strange hardware or configuration problems.

UW-PC is available on SIMTEL20 as UWPC201.ZIP in PD1:<MSDOS.MODEM>, or equivalently as uwpc201.zip in /pub/msdos/modem on oak.oakland.edu. This is the released DOS version (freeware). It is somewhat more complete than UW-WIN, but can only display one window at a time (a key switches between windows). It does supports file transfers in one window while you are doing other things in a different window. Again, you need the uwserver.zip file. I think it's in the same directory.

Need some clues for the Minesweeper game under Windows?

If, before you click on any squares, you enter "xyzzy" <enter><shift-enter> then it is reported that the pixel in the upper left corner will change whenever you are over a "safe"

square. Depending on your monitor, it may be hard enough to see that you can ignore the pixel until you get into one of those situations where you have to guess which square the mine is under -- Dr. Chaos claims an easier way to a high score is just to edit the high score that the game keeps in its INIfile.

Want to have a REALLY big Windows Desktop?

A utility called bigdesk allows you to create a desktop that is nine times the size of your screen. The icon for the program give a very reduced picture of the desktop, and clicking on a part of that view will shift the focus of the screen to the part that you clicked on. It's really nice to work with, very intuitive, and it reportedly even works with seamless Windows under OS/2! That particular utility happens to be mixed in with one or two other utilities in a ZIP file called 'menudesk.zip' .... you can either look for it using archie, or get it from puffin.cit.cornell.edu (don't forget to used 'binary' when you transfer the file).

Problems with transferring files from Puffin

We have been using the 2.x version of QVTNET software on puffin.cit.cornell.edu and it is clear that a number of you have been encountering problems when attempting to do file transfers ... it appears that that particular version gets confused about ftp portnumbers ... so Dr. Chaos has to restart it every once in a while when he notices that there have been problems. In the mail file that Dr. Chaos sends to new subscribers, he has started recommending that they get back issues from pelican.cit.cornell.edu rather than puffin.cit.cornell.edu because of exactly those stability issues. However, since a number of you still seem to be using puffin, you might be glad to know that over the Thanksgiving break, we will be switching to the newer version of QVTNET (version 3.03) in hopes of getting more stability. Wish us luck!

Free software for AIX on RS/6000 that is already patched for AIX 3.x

While Dr. Chaos assumes that you already know about the AIX 3.x software archived at aixpdslib.seas.ucla.edu, you may not know about the additional or more recently updated packages at such less well-known sites as straylight.acs.ncsu.edu (look in pub/rs6000) and also (across the pond) at iacrs1.unibe.ch (University of Berne). These archives take a lot of work to maintain, so if you find something useful or that saves you some time, spend just a little bit of that time to drop a note to Marin Schuetz (schuetz@iacrs2.unibe.edu) or David Joyner (david_joyner@ncsu.edu) ... it means so much to know that someone is out there (especially when your boss asks why you spend so much time doing this stuff, instead of your REAL job).

It's now officially available - C-Kermit 5A

C-Kermit 5A is now available for Unix, VMS, OS/2, Amiga, Atari, and others. Lots of new features ... Dr. Chaos thinks that it basically brings C-Kermit up to approximately the same feature set as PC-Kermit. (It even works on OpenVMS running on the DEC Alpha chip.) If you don't want to mess with compiling it yourself (some do, some don't), the Unix binaries for many systems are available from watsun.cc.columbia.edu in the kermit/binary directory -- look for file names of the form wermit.<system-name> (e.g. wermit.next) [This has now been changed to ckuker.<system-name>]. The OS/2 version can be found in the same place, with a name of ckoker32.exe for the 32-bit version requiring OS/2 2.0, and ckoker16.exe for the 16-bit version that will run on all releases of OS/2. Dr. Chaos did point out to me that it might be a good idea just to mention that kermit is the nearly "universal" terminal emulator / file transfer package because (1) the price is right and (2) it has implementations for almost every type of computer (see(1)).

Interesting X-Windows packages updated or recently available

Generally speaking, the packages mentioned below are available on export.lcs.mit.edu in the contrib directory.

xtpanel

xtpanel provides a quick and easy way of producing a panel containing interactive objects such as buttons, sliders, and text fields, either from the command line or from an xtpanel script file. Each panel object maintains a string representation of its value. When the object is modified it updates its value and it can also perform an action such as printing its value or calling a system command. Object scan make use of the values of other objects in constructing their actions, and they can set the values of other objects as the result of an action. The result is an interactive X windows program, without the need for conventional programming.

Xloadimage version 3.03 containing the following fixes/enhancements:

* JFIF-style JPEG images are now supported.
* Color PCX files are now supported.
* -zoom now works with 24-bit images.
* -rotate now works on all systems at all multiples of 90 degrees.
* A bug in root window handling for DEC and NCD servers has been fixed.
* A bug in -normalize has been fixed.
* Several bugs in -smooth have been fixed.
* Several bugs in -merge have been fixed.
* The man page now gives correct information on slide shows.

xfishtank has lots or pretty fish swim around on the background of your screen (it's not just a screensaver -- there are bubbles and swimming fish all the time -- a total of 29!).

A Motif-based ftp client named nxftp -- look for it on osl.csc.ncsu.edu in the pub/ncsu_motif directory under the file name of nxftp.1.0.tar.Z.

Last but not least is the Pie Window Manager. PieWM is built around the fact that menus are much easier to use if they appear as "pies" that pop-up around the cursor rather than dropping down -- each item corresponds to a large slice shaped target area and the farther you move the cursor, the larger target you have to hit. Several study papers are referenced. All features of tvtwm are supported. Get it from the machine bongo.garnet.cs.cmu.edu in the pub directory stored as the file piewm.tar.Z.

From the Bookshelf

We recently completed reading _The Fifth Discipline_ (The Art and Practice of The Learning Organization) by Peter M. Senge -- highly recommended. A two-page summary of the book was written by Dr. Chaos, he liked it so much (if anyone would like to fund the lecture series...). Another book you might find likeable is: _The Best of The Journal of Irreproducible Results_ edited by Dr. George H. Scherr (it covers issues from 1955 to 1983). As a part of another project, we have been looking for sources of cartoon-type line art having to do with computers. Dr. Chaos finds it amazing that search as he might, he cannot find any such books on the topic in the USA but managed to find many such books in Germany (many of the pictures are good enough that it's not necessary to translate the caption). Any speculations about what that says about German sense of humor (or sense of the absurd) as opposed to Americans?

Needed: Single (inexpensive) console for multiple servers

Does anyone have a solution for the problem of how to have a single ascii console (say, a VT-100) shared between a bunch of servers (say, RS/6000s) so that the single console can be used for sysadmin tasks on all the servers? We have seen a configuration from BlackBox, that almost allows such a configuration ... except that it is too smart and "interprets" some of the VT-100 control codes which means that it is impossible to run SMIT (the system management tool) through that interface. Anyone know of another vendor/solution?

Product of the month IBM ThinkPad 700C

Looks like a wonderful laptop; 486, 10.5 inch active matrix COLOR display; reasonable sized disk. Now, if it only cost half as much...

To subscribe ... drop a note to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu

Dr. Chaos (I have a Master's Degree ....)

Chaos Corner V02 N11 21 December 1992

Here we go with the last issue of the year. Once again, Gary Buhrmaster is the first to request a bound copy of this year's issue of Chaos Corner. While the bound version of volume 2 will not be available for giving this holiday season, Dr. Chaos hopes you will keep it in mind for that special someone on Valentine's Day.

Information on getting Information about Germany

A wealth of information on contact telephone numbers and addresses for various sources of information about German and Germany is assembled in the Frequently Asked Questions list for the NetNews news group soc.culture.germany [Note: the correct newsgroup is soc.culture.german]. Sources in North America for German Language videos and cassette tapes are included, as well as the address/phone number for getting a (free) 8-page weekly summary of news from Germany (available in German or English). If you would like a copy of this FAQ, send electronic mail to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu. Those of you with satellite dishes probably know that Deutsche Welle TV is now (since 1 Nov) available on INTELSAT K (338.5 degrees East) at 11.605 GHz. To celebrate the new service, Deutsche Welle transmitted live a new production of Richard Wagner's Parsifal performed by the German State Opera in Berlin.

Turtle PostScript and Fractal Images

In response to the item in the last issue about a PostScript program for generating Sierpinski's Gasket, Christian Wettergren in Sweden sent a Logo-like PostScript program that uses a turtle language to implement a number of examples from the book _The Science of Fractal Images_, by M.F Barnsley; ISBN 0-387-96608-0. For a copy of the postscript program, send mail to Dr. Chaos at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Call Deutsche Welle to be added to their Mailing List

Would you like to get on the mailing list for the Deutsche Welle world-wide programs but can never bring yourself to send an international letter to Cologne? Now, in North America, you can call 1-800-393-3248 [the correct phone number is 1-800-392-3248] to give DW comments on their short-wave programming or request a subscription to their "tune-in" programming guide. If you are ever driving on the autobahn between Aachen and Koeln (Cologne), the radio antenna array near the town of Juelich (we have seen it a number of times at 5 am as we drive to catch a plane from Frankfurt back to the USA) ranks right up with the brown coal pits as some of the most amazing things to see in the

area. (We assume that our friends at the KFA will correct us if those antennae are not for DW.)

Macintosh interface for Gopher, WAIS, etc.

Peter Shames, at Jet Propulsion Lab has a recommendation for you Mac users. Peter says, "I've been using TurboGopher for some time now and find it to be an ideal Mac client for Gopher, Archie, and even WAIS though I like WAISstation better for that. Find TurboGopher at:

boombox.micro.umn.edu	under /pub/gopher/
ftp.uu.net	under /pub/archiving/gopher

Highly recommended ... it even knows enough to display README files and to un-binhex files automatically and ask if you wish to UnStuff any .sit files. Pretty slick."

New "Best of Journal of Irreproducible Results" coming soon

Mark Dionne tells Dr. Chaos that a new volume of the best articles from the Journal of Irreproducible Results has just been finished by the current editor, Marc Abrahams, and it will soon be available. Dr. Chaos is eagerly awaiting the January thaw so he can capture some cluster flies and try out the fly-powered airplanes described in volume 1.

Become your own Holistic Detective

In the Macintosh archive at the University of Michigan you can solve the paradox of the sofa and the staircase as detailed in _Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency_ by Douglas Adams. Look for mac/graphics/graphicsutil/holisticsofa0.91.cpt.hqx in with many other interesting files (like new After Dark modules) at mac.archive.umich.edu or one of the mirror sites:

N. America	wuarchive.wustl.edu	in mirrors/archive.umich.edu/mac
Australia	archie.au	in micros/mac/umich
Europe	src.doc.ic.ac.uk	in packages/mac/umich

If you would like to be on the frequent ftp'ers (recent files) mailing list, just drop a note to mac-recent-request@mac.archive.umich.edu.

Text of the Maastricht Treaty Online

As an informed citizen of the world, Dr. Chaos is certain that you will want to know where to obtain your own personal copy of the treaty signed recently in Maastricht. If you use anonymous ftp to get to Princeton.edu, just look in the /pub directory for the file named Maastricht.Treaty.tar.Z -- remember to specify "binary" before transferring the file. Dr. Chaos must sadly report that it was not immediately obvious where the Chaos Corner archive was located on Princeton.edu.

Netfax becomes a GNU Project

Peter Ware at Ohio State University has the following good news:

> "I've started maintaining netfax for the Free Software Foundation. I'd like to collect fixes to incorporate into the next release. In particular, I'm interested in any fixes you have needed to incorporate to get netfax to compile on your system.
>
> "I'd also like to start maintaining a list of OS's netfax runs under and a list of modems netfax works with including revision information. If you could email me this I'll include it in the list. [ware@cis.ohio-state.edu]
>
> "My goals for the next release (within two months) are:
>
> 1. Remove dependencies on GNU make
> 2. Automatic configuration
> 3. Have an "install" target for the Makefiles
> 4. Improve the documentation
> 5. Improve portability to other OS's, modems.
>
> "After that there are several directions I can go with netfax:
>
> - Incorporate "chat" scripts so netfax can work with any modem. This may be fairly painless as I can build off of taylor-uucp.
> - Add an X UIF for sending, receiving and viewing faxes.
> - Allow a person to receive and then distribute faxes electronically.
> - Make netfax independent of postscript for rendering (i.e. assume input is in g3 format). Any additional ideas? Any preferences? [ware@cis.ohio-state.edu]
>
> "Finally, continue to send bug reports to bug-fax@ai.mit.edu"

Interested in more information about free Unix (Linux)?

One of the best places to get more information about the very popular free Unix-like operating system, Linux, is from the Linux Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Matt Welsh at Cornell provides the following methods of getting the file:

1) ftp to tsx-11.mit.edu. It's the file /pub/linux/FAQ. It's one big ASCII file (about 150k). or ftp to sunsite.unc.edu. It's the file /pub/Linux/docs/FAQ. Again, one big ASCII file, same thing as on tsx-11.mit.edu.

2) If you don't have FTP access, retrieve it via the mailserver at pit-manager.mit.edu. Send mail to mail-server@pit-manager.mit.edu with the word "help" in the body. or If you simply can't find the FAQ, Matt will mail it to you. Just send to mail (mdw@tc.cornell.edu).

3) The most recent FAQ will be posted to comp.os.linux and news.answers every month (if you want to wait...).

Problems with W4W under the OS/2-Win3.1 Beta?

If you are having problems running Word for Windows under the OS/2 beta that supports Windows 3.1, in that some of the drop-down menus don't -- Jason Mitchel at Harvard suggests copying user.exe from the system directory of a running Windows 3.1 system, and putting it in the os2/mdos/winos2/system (or wherever you have Windows 3.1) directory named os2user.exe. Be sure to rename the old version of os2user.exe in case this doesn't work for you (Dr. Chaos happily reports that it solved his problems with Word for Windows under OS/2-Win3.1 Beta.

New releases of Excel and Word for Windows

Without a lot of fanfare, Microsoft has released some fixed versions of W4W and Excel. If you haven't received your fresh copies from Microsoft in November/December 1992, you're backlevel. The current version of W4W is 2.0c --- Excel is probably 4.0a, but Dr. Chaos hasn't had time to get it loaded to check. Call your Microsoft support number for the free update.

FLIST for OS/2

People that work with computers hate to have to learn new tools when they move between platforms -- they believe that they shouldn't have to conform to the "brain-dead" tools that are available on the new system. For current or former CMS users moving to

OS/2 and looking for a full screen file utility like FLIST, try /pub/os2/all/diskutils/flist58.zip from ftp-os2.nmsu.edu.

Movie credits for actors, actresses, directors, writers

Each year, many books are published that rate movies and tell which actors and actresses starred in them. But where do you find an up-to-date list of the movie credits for each actor, writer, director? Correct, the network, of course. At boulder.colorado.edu in the pub/tv+movies/lists directory, Dr. Chaos found a README file that is quoted in part below:

> This directory contains the latest releases of the USENET rec.arts.movies lists. The lists are intended to provide useful, current references to TV and film credits in an electronic form.
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | actors.list | maintained by Col Needham <cn@otter.hpl.hp.com> |
> | actress.list | maintained by Andy Krieg <kreig@titan.med.ge.com> |
> | cinematographers | maintained by Michel Hafner <hafner@ifi.unizh.ch> |
> | composers | maintained by Michel Hafner <hafner@ifi.unizh.ch> |
> | dead.list | maintained by Col Needham <cn@otter.hpl.hp.com> |
> | directors.list | maintained by Dave Knight <dknight@elm.sdd.trw.com> |
> | writers.list | maintained by Andy Krieg <kreig@titan.med.ge.com> |
>
> The lists are posted to rec.arts.movies on roughly a monthly basis, spread randomly throughout the month. They will be updated here at the same Frequency.
>
> The tools directory contains a set of Unix shell scripts that enable users to create and search a massive movie database using the information contained on the lists.

Helpful FTP but no dates?

Many sites are now running a version of FTP that provides you with a single line description of the file when you do a 'dir' command. The problem with that feature is that sometimes you want to see what files are new since a certain date and that information is not displayed. It turns out that the date information is available if you specify 'dir -d' -- we are sure this is clear if you read the documentation available at those sites (READ THE DOCUMENTATION?), but such things aren't always possible (or even likely). (Parenthetical comments courtesy of Dr. Chaos)

Looking for a good Majongg game to run under OS/2?

Naji Mouawad at the University of Waterloo recommends that you try out majongg.zip [Note: the correct name for the games is Mahjongg and the file is named mahjongg.zip] from the soft/os2/Demo/Games directory (case matters) on rusmv1.rus.uni-stuttgart.de. He says that it is better than several other versions he has found, although it is optimized for use with a 8514/A video driver.

Guide to Books about Unix

The Concise Guide to Unix Books is an excellent starting point for finding out where to look for more information on the Unix operating system. The subject areas covered include:

A. General Unix Texts
B. Shells
C. Unix Editors
D. Networking and Communications
E. System Administration
F. Unix Security
G. Programming
H. TeX
I. X Window System
J. Dictionary
K. Other Lists

where "Other Lists" references other Unix bibliographies. The latest version of the guide is at pit-manager.mit.edu (along with many other FAQ lists from Usenet news groups) in /pub/usenet/news.answers/books and look for the file named 'unix'.

Release 1.2 of Xgopher is now available

Support for new types (image files, binary files, tn3270 sessions), new bookmark support and a host of other features have been added to the most recently released version of Xgopher. Look for the file on ftp.cso.uiuc.edu in the uiuc/src directory or on export.lcs.mit.edu in the contrib directory (the name of the file is xgopher.1.2.tar.Z). Of course, another good place to try is the home of all gopher software boombox.micro.umn.edu (in the pub/gopher/Unix directory).

Network News - Other sources

Dana Noonan publishes Network News about library collections and other things that might be of interest. One way suggested to find out if there might be a bitnet discussion list of interest to you on a particular topic is to send a mail file to listserv@bitnic.bitnet with the following one line command:

list global /topic for example: list global /chaos

The results of the search will be sent back to you within several minutes. If you are interested in trying out Net News, send a mail file to listserv@ndsuvm1.bitnet containing the line:

subscribe nnews <first-name> <last-name>

The ftp archive for back issues is on vm1.nodak.edu in the NNEWS directory. Another good list of Internet sources is Jean Polly's Surfing the Internet, now in version 2. Use anonymous FTP to access host nysernet.org and look in the pub/resources/guides directory for the file surfing.the.internet.2.0.2.txt (check for similar names because the version number is changing as it is being updated).

Preview Issue of the CYBERSPACE VANGUARD is now available

A new electronic magazine is just starting up with an area of focus on things of interest to the science fiction community (Dr. Chaos claims that that doesn't focus things down very much). They are also looking for authors, so here is your chance if you want to contribute to a new publication. For more information, write to cn577@cleveland.freenet.edu. If you would like to see the preview issue, let us know at chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu -- a sample from one of the articles is shown below.

What do Captain Picard and Scrooge have in common?

The following article is excerpted from the preview issue of the CYBERSPACE VANGUARD.

> [Note: Patrick Stewart's one man version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will run from December 15, 1992 until January 3, 1993 on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theater (235 West 44th Street in New York City). Tickets are $45 and can be ordered from Tele- Charge at (212) 239-6200.]
>
> OK. Jean-Luc Picard as Scrooge. You can picture that, can't you? Heck, some of you probably think he IS Scrooge. All right, how about Picard as Bob Cratchit? Or Marley's Ghost? Now. How about Patrick Stewart, the man

who plays Picard on Star Trek: The Next Generation, as all of them. And Tiny Tim. And dozens of others. At the same time.

"It's the ultimate piece of fun for an actor, because not only do I get to play the dramatic role of Scrooge but also the children, Mrs. Cratchit and Mrs. Fezziwig," Mr. Stewart said in an interview with the New York papers around this time last year.

This is the third year that Patrick Stewart has taken time off during the holidays to perform his one man adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Mr. Stewart has created his own adaptation of the book. More than just a reading, he performs all the roles, including the props. (You know it's not English 101 when you're dealing with a man who takes a break for an imaginary glass of water.) At one point, during the Fezziwigs' party, he plays eleven roles at once. "It's a stupendous actors' workout and that's what it's meant to do: Keep my stage arteries from clogging up."

Need access to NetNews?

If you have a newsreader, or something that can talk to NNTP servers on TCP/IP port 119 (telnet will do this if you want), give uwm.edu (129.89.2.1) or sol.ctr.columbia.edu (129.59.64.40) a try [another site worth trying is umd5.umd.edu]. For a public access Unix system with Usenet NetNews, try using telnet to nyx.cs.du.edu (130.253.192.68) -- login as "new" -- reports are that it is a nice system but can be a little slow.

Results of the November and December Internet Hunts

First with archie, then gopher, wais and now veronica ... it's almost becoming TOO easy to find things on the Internet, right? Let Dr. Chaos know if you would like a description of how the winners did it when it came down to finding incredible things on the network (the December winner did almost all his work from within gopher). Have no fear, look for Dr. Chaos on a wais server near you in the coming year. For the Hunt results send your request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu.

Scientist's Workbench Version 2.0 is now available

The following information has been provided by Caroline Hecht, Project Manager at the Cornell Theory Center:

The Scientist's Workbench (SWB) is an X and Motif-based software package developed at the Cornell Theory Center. The main functions of the Scientist's Workbench are to bring together the tools and software required by scientific

researchers in a distributed computing environment, to provide a graphical interface to access those tools, and to provide the software necessary to allow researchers to easily build their own graphical interfaces.

Included in the distribution are executable widgets (small X clients) that provide graphical interfaces to common tasks such as displaying and responding to a prompt, or specifying a file name. The output from the executable widgets is sent to standard output by default. Executable widgets may be invoked from the command line or shell scripts, enabling users to easily replace text-based interfaces with graphical ones.

Version 2.0 of the Scientist's Workbench software is now available from the Cornell Theory Center. The new software may be obtained via anonymous ftp from info.tc.cornell.edu, in the directory pub/swb. The file README.TOP describes the rest of the files in the anonymous ftp. We are now providing binaries for Sun SPARC, RS/6000 (AIX 3.2), SGI, and DEC 5000 (and 3100), as well as the source code. To build from the source, the user must have OSF Motif; however, to install and run the binaries Motif is not required.

CCITT Documents to be available across the network!

Carl Malamud, author of several Interop books, has been waging a campaign for several years to get the CCITT documents widely available. It stands to reason that without wide availability of the standards documents, not as much software will be developed that conforms to the standards. At long last, starting in November 1992, the TELEDOC distribution system became operational. Document formats that are planned to be made available include ASCII, Microsoft RTF, Word for Windows, PostScript and CCITT ODA/ODIF. For more information or to obtain a user's guide, the press release recommends you contact either shaw@itu.arcom.ch or bautista@itu.arcom.ch.

Subscribe to Chaos Corner

We will now close off the year of 1992 as we head into the winter season. Dr. Chaos and I hope you have found some items in the past year that have been helpful, amusing, outrageous (where did we put the Complete Set of Clinton Jokes?) or instructive. If you would like a subscription, send your request to chaos-request@pelican.cit.cornell.edu and you will be sent a confirmation and directions for obtaining back issues (hint: look in the pub directory of pelican.cit.cornell.edu).

Dr. Chaos (I have a Master's Degree ...)

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