



## **Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive**

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Information Technology and Communication Services (ITACS) Computer Center Bulletin

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1997-05-19

# Bulletin of Computing Services/Information Services / 1997-05-19

Monterey, California, Naval Postgraduate School

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/52611>



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# BULLETIN

OF

## Computing



## Services



## Information

## Services



Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, California

19 May, 1997

<http://web.nps.navy.mil/~frazier/bul.html>

### Computing Services News

America Online maintains a List of Mailing Lists at

<http://www.idot.aol.com/mld/production/>

Mailing Lists are e-mail based, unlike Usenet. Sign up to a list that interests you, and you receive e-mail sent out to others of similar interests. Some lists generate many dozens, or even hundreds, of mail messages a day.

Here's a page identifying 1000+ file extensions:

<http://www.wp.com/resch/exteng.htm>

"Is it just me, or is the Web slow today?" It might not be you or the whole Web; it might be your Internet Service Provider. Here's a page giving frequent reports on how fifteen or so of the biggest providers are doing.

<http://www.internetweather.com/>

The Bupers site has some useful info; among others, the Selections Board Results.

<http://www.navy.mil/homepages/bupers/select.html>

### *Search NPS Web Pages*

AltaVista is as quick a way as any to find Web items at NPS. How to find only NPS items? How, for example, to find the NPS Strategic Plan, without receiving all the other strategic plans in the world? (It might not be labeled "NPS Strategic Plan.") AltaVista, at

[www.altavista.digital.com](http://www.altavista.digital.com)

makes it possible to specify that you want to see only sites with "nps" in the URL. You'd search for `url:nps.navy.mil "strategic plan"`

### *PC Takes Dictation*

Voice entry systems used to be \$2,000; then they came down to \$500. Now one is available (from one of the three major players) for \$75, including the microphone. If you'd like to try it out, see Larry Frazier, In-113, x2671, email [frazier@nps.navy.mil](mailto:frazier@nps.navy.mil)

### *Site Crashes Netscape*

From time to time, you'll find a Web site that causes Netscape to crash immediately. Local experience indicates that the culprit is one or another of those cute little advertisements that twinkle and flutter and try to get your attention. Since most sites change their ads frequently, the problem usually goes away before long. Meanwhile, you can usually get to the site by turning off Auto Load Images, within Options.

### *ADP Security Alert*

Taking advantage of the rash of virus hoaxes going around on the Internet, a real Trojan Horse [doesn't replicate and distribute itself, as a virus does] called AOL4FREE.COM has recently been released. This is an actual COM file which, when executed, will start deleting

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all of the files on your hard drive. NPS and tenant users are cautioned not to download or execute this file. For additional information, see

<http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/bulletins/h-47a.shtml>

If you have questions, contact your system administrator or the NPS ADP Security Officer (ext. 2469).

## *Opening E-mail Can't Hurt*

### *ADP Security Note*

There have been numerous alerts on the Internet (and at NPS), recently, concerning viruses which attack systems when e-mail is opened. Invariably, these are hoaxes - as with the Good Times virus. Propagating these scares before they are substantiated plays right into the hands of the mis-guided people who originate these so-called alerts.

As a matter of policy, ALL virus alerts should be routed to Jeff Franklin, Command ADP Security Officer, for evaluation (info Mr. Tony Cricelli - Network Security Officer), rather than being broadcast to the whole campus. If they do, indeed, represent a threat, an appropriate alert will be promulgated to the campus.

*Jeff Franklin ADPSO Ext. 2469*

## *Virus Tips*

With the recent frisson of excitement over the AOL4FREE "virus", it is a good time to review the basic precautions that can prevent damage to your computer files.

It is important to keep viruses in perspective. They are but one threat to your data and programs. It is far more likely that you would be affected by user error or hardware malfunction than by catastrophic damage from a virus. You can only get a virus by executing an infected program or booting from an infected diskette. Any diskette can be infected by a boot sector virus, even non-bootable diskettes. Most viruses are transferred by booting from an infected diskette (e.g. Stoned, Form, Stealth-B, AntiExe, Monkey).

- You cannot get a virus simply by being on the Internet, or connecting to an online service.
- You cannot get a virus by reading e-mail.

You will only become infected if you download an infected file and execute that file. In the case of the new Macro Viruses that are spread through Microsoft word and Excel

documents, you can become infected by opening an infected document.

Good habits are the primary way to protect the integrity of your work, in combination with a good virus-detection program. From

<http://www.itsecure.com/itviprtp.html>

and

<http://schwanda.dorms.tamu.edu/~mason/virus.html>

come these tips on things you can do to minimize the chance of being infected with a virus:

### DOs

- \* Check all floppy disks before using - they're the most common means through which viruses are spread.
- \* Check all incoming software, even from reputable sources - software companies have shipped shrink-wrapped software with a virus.
- \* Make regular backups - Backup is the ultimate insurance against a virus attack. Make sure you have backups for all of your files. Backups are essential not only to recover from virus infections, but also to recover from other sources of data failure.
- \* Educate yourself to handle a virus attack.
- \* Install a good virus-checking program. You can download FProt from the PCS in IN-151 or in the Consulting Office, In-146. Call x3429 for help.

### DONTs

- \* Boot from a floppy diskette.
- \* Keep a diskette in the drive when machine is turned off.
- \* Use new software without checking it with your virus-detecting program.
- \* Use pirated software.
- \* Panic if hit by a virus.

The Computer Science department is teaching a class on Advanced Computer Security, CS4602, in the summer quarter, if you are interested in finding out (a lot!) more about the topics. But you don't need to be a security expert to follow the guidelines above to protect your data from corruption or destruction.

*Caroline Miller, postmaster*

### *Inappropriate Use*

The incidence of unauthorized or inappropriate use on NPS computer systems has been on the rise at NPS. Indeed, we recently had a complaint about the network activities of an NPS user from a "concerned citizen" who threatened to notify his congressman. Abuse of the School's computing resources makes us vulnerable to these kinds of threats. More importantly, however, it impacts the availability of important network resources such as bandwidth, dial-in modems, etc. that can be used for legitimate academic purposes.

Steps have recently been taken to increase the School's network monitoring effort. Incidences of abuse or inappropriate use will be documented and referred to the appropriate chain of command for action. A summary of the School's policy on Standards of Conduct and Appropriate Use of NPS Computing Resources is provided below. All hands should familiarize themselves with it.

*Jeff Franklin ADPSO Ext. 2469*

### **POLICY ON APPROPRIATE USE OF NPS COMPUTER SYSTEMS**

Individual computer system administrators normally define the parameters for use of their respective systems. However, certain activities are clearly inconsistent with the NPS mission and its status as a professional graduate school, and are expressly prohibited:

1. Illegal, fraudulent, or malicious activities; partisan political activity; political or religious lobbying or proselytizing; or activities on behalf of organizations having no affiliation with NPS.
2. Activities for the purpose of personal or commercial financial gain, including chain letters, business or service solicitations, etc.
3. Storing, processing, or displaying offensive or obscene material, such as pornography, "hate literature", etc.
4. Storing or processing classified information on any system not explicitly approved for classified processing.
5. Using E-Mail to circumvent/bypass the normal chain of command for official actions.
6. Annoying or harassing another individual, e.g.,

through uninvited e-mail of a personal nature, using lewd or offensive language, etc.;

7. Using another individual's account or identity without their explicit permission, e.g., by forging e-mail, etc.
8. Viewing, damaging or deleting other users' files or communications without appropriate authorization or permission.
9. Attempting to circumvent or defeat security or auditing systems, without prior authorization from the Command ADPSO, and other than as part of legitimate system testing or security research.
10. Use of unlicensed or unauthorized software.
11. Permitting an unauthorized individual (such as a spouse, relative, or friend) access to any NPS system.
12. Modifying or altering the operating system or configuration of any system without first obtaining permission from the owner or administrator of that system.

The following activities, while not absolutely prohibited, are almost always considered inappropriate, and individuals may be asked to justify their reasons for engaging in such activities:

1. Excessive use of computing resources, such as personal e-mail, storage or transfer of excessively large files, etc., and which, in the judgement of the responsible system administrator, interfere with other legitimate purposes or degrade system performance.
2. Inconsiderate conduct toward other system users.
3. Storing files or materials which could reasonably be used for illegal or fraudulent purposes.

### *Oracle Schedule*

According to information available 4/11/97

#### MAY

- 1 SQL Statement Tuning
- 6-7 PL/SQL Coding Techniques
- 8 Developer/2000 Tuning
- 13-14 Developer/2000 Forms 4.5 (Final Broadcast)
- 15 Developer/2000 Reports & Graphics (Final Bdcst)
- 20-21 Oracle7 Architecture and Start (This is DBA I)
- 22 Data Warehousing Fundamentals for DBA's

#### JUNE

- 4-5 Oracle8 New Features

- 10-11 Oracle Language Fundamentals
- 12 Introduction to Data Warehousing
- 17 Developer/2000 Fundamentals
- 18 Dev/2000 Deploy Web-Based Apps NEW
- 19 Object Technology Fundamentals
- 24 Oracle7 Data & Security Mgmt (1st day DBA II)
- 25 Or.7 Bkup & Recov. Strategies (2nd day DBA II)
- 26 Oracle7 Performance Tuning Strategies (Revised)  
(Replaces Database Tuning)

NOTE: Developer/2000 Forms 4.5 and Reports and Graphics will no longer be offered after May 15th.

NOTE: DBA I and DBA II have been renamed.

The Developer/2000 Rel 2 New Features class scheduled for June 3 and July 1 has been postponed; the product is not yet ready. Look for it to be rescheduled in or around September 1997.

To sign up for any class, see Lois Brunner in IN-103 or send email to [brunner@nps.navy.mil](mailto:brunner@nps.navy.mil) two weeks before the start date of the class. The current contract with Oracle for these classes had been scheduled to end June 30, 1997; however, a one-year extension has been arranged. Many courses are being revised to keep up with the evolution of the Oracle system.

Classes are held in In-119 from 0900-1300 (with three ten-minute breaks).

## *Netfuture*

### *Technology and Human Responsibility*

From Issue #47 Copyright 1997 Bridge Communications  
April 30, 1997 Editor: Stephen L. Talbott You may redistribute this newsletter for noncommercial purposes.  
<http://www.ora.com/people/staff/stevet/netfuture/>

### *What Price for Our Selves?*

The April 24 *Wall Street Journal* ran a story about some of the newer, more aggressive advertising ploys on the Net. In one current test, a commercial "robot" will try its pick-up lines on you if you drop the right keywords in a chat room. (Mention "clean" or "dirty" and then be prepared to hear, "Hi. I'm Dusty. Would you like to learn more about Black & Decker's Dustbuster?")

Some sites are making viewers download full-screen ads before getting to the site content. This is to guarantee that the ads are actually seen, since people quickly learn to

recognize and ignore banner ads.

Push technology offers further opportunities for advertisers:

Ads are essentially beamed to the PC screens of viewers, instead of waiting for viewers to visit a Web site .... Ads can appear on your browser all day, whether you like it or not.

My favorite of these new gambits is the "virtual slot machine," running in a small window whenever you're online. Every four minutes, the slot machine spins three new symbols: If they match and the viewer clicks on the "match" button in the window, he or she is registered to win prizes ranging from cash to T-shirts. Thus, the more attention a viewer pays to the ticker, the better the odds of winning.

And the better the odds of seeing an ad. The small window also houses rotating pitches for products such as Duracell batteries and Tinactin foot powder.

What we see on the Net, as throughout much of society, is a developing, highly competitive market for your and my attention. We sell our precious and limited stores of attention (which is often to say that we accept distraction) in exchange for a bit of content.

As I have remarked before, the power of attention is almost another name for the self. Only by directing my attention do I steer through life along my own particular path. In selling this attention, I am selling myself. It's worth an occasional pause to ask, "What am I selling myself *for*?"

## *Search the Whole Net*

This message was forwarded through the Red Rock Eater News Service (RRE). Send any replies to the original author, listed in the From: field below. You are welcome to send the message along to others. For information on RRE, including instructions for (un)subscribing, send an empty message to [rre-help@weber.ucsd.edu](mailto:rre-help@weber.ucsd.edu)

Date: Wed, 26 Mar 1997 08:20:28 -0500

From: John Pike <[johnpike@fas.org](mailto:johnpike@fas.org)>

To: [pagre@weber.ucsd.edu](mailto:pagre@weber.ucsd.edu)

Subject: Flawed AltaVista Internet Search Engine

"As web-surfing enthusiasts already know, AltaVista is a program that will search the entire Web..." was the way Amy Schwartz introduced a review of the new book "The AltaVista Search Revolution" on the oped page of the Washington Post ["The Information Laundromat" 22

March 1997].

<http://discuss.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/wPlate/1997-03/22/015L-032297-idx.html>

While AltaVista is indeed an estimable implementation, most web surfers will be astonished to learn that, contrary to this conventional wisdom, AltaVista indexes only a small, flawed, arbitrary and not even random sample of what is on the web today.

Estimates of the total content of the web are of necessity speculative, but run as high as 150 million pages. AltaVista

<http://altavista.digital.com/>

claims to be "the largest Web index: 31 million pages found on 476,000 servers." So where are the missing pages ??

There are many reasons a web page might not show up in the AltaVista index. Some parts of some sites are hidden from public view with the Robots Exclusion Protocol, which tells search engines not to index certain pages. Other types of content, such as the Adobe Portable Document Format [PDF] do not currently support indexing. Some large sites dynamically generate their content, rendering it invisible to search engines. And other sites have security access controls which may [or may not!!! but that is another story.... ] preclude indexing their pages.

But surely this does not explain why the estimable AltaVista indexes only 20% of the web.

The AltaVista FAQ sez:

<http://altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/query?pg=tmpl&v=faq.html>

How do I submit my site to AltaVista? Use our Add URL feature, found at the bottom of every page. Simply type in the main URL for your site. You can submit several URLs, but it is considered bad taste to manually submit your entire site: just let Scooter do this for you.

This certainly creates the impression that once AltaVista has even one URL from a site, it will automatically [in the fullness of time, but that is another story as well....] include the entire site in its widely used index. Certainly, this claim is the reason that AltaVista is so widely relied upon, and the reason that most web users assume that "if it ain't in AltaVista, it ain't online"

I webmaster the Federation of American Scientists site,

<http://www.fas.org/>

which is a medium-sized website with some 6,000 pages and about 1/2 Gig online. Recently I noticed that the Alta Vista search engine seemed to only index about 600 of our

pages. I thought that this was rather odd, since I had long had the impression that AltaVista indexed pretty much everything, or at least made a good-faith best effort to do so. I asked them about this, and this is what I got back:

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 1997 09:08:39 -0800 (PST)

From: Alta Vista Support

To: johnpike

Subject: Re: AltaVista not indexing www.fas.org

That is probably a good estimate... We have 600 pages from you indexed in the system. You will probably not see much more than that for any one domain. Geocities has 300...and they have 300,000 members.

I confess that I was rather horrified as I contemplated the implications of this [which can be verified by searching AltaVista on < host:geocities.com > ... try this trick on your own domain and see what happens!!!].

For a medium to large site, such as ours, it means that they are only indexing some arbitrarily selected subset of our total content. Thus corporations, universities, or most other really content-rich sites will be poorly represented in their index.

It also means that for smaller entities that do not have their own domain, their content will also not be indexed. As in, are the reported 300,000 users of Geocities aware that the fact that their pages are hosted @ www.geocities.com [or the larger number of folks who are hosted @ members.aol.com] means that they are effectively invisible to AltaVista, one of the most widely used and admired search engines???

What this seems to mean is that medium-sized sites of a few hundred pages are going to show up nicely in AltaVista, but larger and smaller implementations will be nearly invisible, which is a rather odd way of doing things. I mean, this is sorta like buying a map that shows some arbitrary number of roads but doesn't have any of the main interstates, or a phone book that only has even-numbered phone numbers, or something.

I confess that I was not previously aware of this practice of AltaVista, which is certainly not been previously reported anywhere, and is certainly @ variance with their apparent claims that if you supply them with one URL from their site they will spontaneously include the rest of their site in their index.

This is not to trash AltaVista, which at least has an implementation that enables one to determine just how many of your pages are in their index [I can't seem to make the other engines do this neat trick]. But it is to say that anyone

whose online presence has been predicated on their entire site [large or small] showing up in AltaVista had better think again. And that anyone trying to search the 'entire' web [as opposed to some arbitrary sample thereof] had best look somewhere other than AltaVista.

Frankly, I think this is a more significant story than the widely reported "flawed Pentium chip" or "browser security flaws" stories. These highly visible episodes affected only a small number of users, or were more in the nature of theoretical problems. But AltaVista claims to be used nearly 30 million times a day, so this "undocumented feature" of AltaVista affects nearly everyone who uses the web [doesn't everyone??].

As someone who uses AltaVista many times a day, and whose webpresence strategy had been predicated on "If I build it, they will come, cause they will find it in AltaVista" this has really come as a shock to me, and I imagine that it would come as a shock to many others as well. I mean, it is one thing to admit that regenerating a web.wide index takes a long time, and that your index goes stale after a month or so, but it is another to admit that you are just not even trying to index large sites, or small sites that are appended to an ISP's domain, and I am pretty astounded.

To keep track of this issue, Melee's Indexing Coverage Analysis (MICA)

<http://www.melee.com/mica/index.html>

examines the relative page coverage for a select group of search engines. Each week, Melee Productions will retest the engines on the list and publish an update to the MICA Report. They will be happy to test any publicly accessible search engine that supports date-range and host/domain constraints, and purports to index at least one fifth of the "web".

Stay tuned for further developments!!!

John Pike

<http://www.fas.org/spp/>

[Ed.: I checked out NPS, and most of our domains show 2000 pages indexed. I sent a note to Mr. Pike, and he saw the same thing, saying we are "richly blessed."]

Computer questions (Unix, PC, Mainframe, Cray)? Send email to [consult@nps.navy.mil](mailto:consult@nps.navy.mil) or call ext 3429 or visit Consulting (Help Desk): In-146, Mon-Fri 0900-1130 1315-1545

**Status recording: 656-2713**

Dial-up: 656-2709; up to 28.8 kbps

**Computing Services POC**

**NOTE:** Email addresses in this section are simply the last name @nps.navy.mil, unless shown otherwise in *italics*.

Assoc. Provost for Computer and Info. Services

James Emery *jemery* In-310 3614

Director, Academic and Administrative Computing

David F. Norman *dfnorman* In-129 2574

Assoc. Dir., Academic and Admin. Computing

Bob Gentry *bgentry* In-132 3698

Manager, User Services (acting)

Dennis Mar In-133 2672

AIX: Jim Hart *jahart* In-106 3661

Editor, Bulletin Larry Frazier In-113 2671

User Registration Ruth Roy In-109 2796

ADPSSO (Security) Neil Harvey In-108 2088

Shift Supervisor, Operations In-140 2721

Unix Sys Admin: Hiram Cooke In-116 3662

Eldor Magat In-116 4156

Joe Blau (Mgr.) In-111 3204

**Unix Workstations (AACS Labs)**

In-141 has 15 Sun SPARC 10/41; Ro-222, 14; Sp-311, 7; Ha-201C, 3. (Each has an HP LaserJet 4si printer.)

**Mainframes**

We operate (1) An Amdahl 5995-1100 (384 MB processor storage, 1 GB expanded storage). Interactive computing is provided under VM/XA CMS, batch processing under MVS/ESA with JES3 networking. (2) A Cray J94 (4 cpus, 1 GB memory, Unicos). VM/CMS and MVS are available 24 hrs/day, 7 days a week.

*Mainframe Terminals*

In-141 6 3192-2 Graphics/APL

Bldg223 11 3178-2 (1 APL)

*Mainframe Printers*

In-140 IBM 3800-3 Laser (215 ppm)  
 IBM 3262 Impact (650 lpm)  
 In-141 Tek 4693D Color Printer/Plotter  
 In-148 Shinko CHC-743MV Color Printer  
 Sp-311 IBM 3203 Impact (1000 lpm)  
 Ro-222 Ha-201B IBM 3262 Impact (650 lpm)

**Visualization Lab In-148**

Matt Koebbe In-102A *phaedrus* 3778  
 7 Silicon Graphics: 1 380 VGX, 1 Onyx, 3 4D TG, 1 Indigo<sup>2</sup>  
 Extreme, 1 Indy; 1 ea.: Abekas frame recorder, Mac Quadra  
 700, HP 730, DECstation 5000, Sun SPARC 10/41

**LRC's: Open: M-F 830-1630**

Ro-262 20 Mac Quadra 700 6 PC 486/DX 50  
 GL-203 33 PC 486/DX 33  
 GL-318 19 HP 730 1 PC 486/DX 33  
 In-151 12 PC 486 (33/50), 4 PC 386/33, 1 HP IIIsi  
 GL-128 15 PC 386/20 2 Z-248 (286)

**LRC Points of Contact**

Debbie Kreider	GI-203	x4163	<i>dkreider</i>
Joe Rogers	GI-241	x3660	<i>jrogers</i>

**Knox Library**

Director: Maxine Reneker	<i>mreneker</i>	2341
Library Web	Glen Koué	<i>gkoue</i> 3324
Library Systems	Doug Gould	<i>dgould</i> 3342
Info. Systems Mgr.	Greta Marlatt	<i>gmarlatt</i> 2344

**Library Catalog (BOSUN)**

Available via dialup and from most networked computers all the time; now from the Web. For access from a PC or Mac, GUI software is available for checkout from the Library at the Circulation Desk.

**Administrative LAN Group POC**

Manager: Joe LoPiccolo *jlopiccolo* 2994

**Network Administrators:**

Codes 00, 008, 01, 013, 02, 03, N11, 06, 07, 08, 10  
 Lonna Sherwin *lsherwin* 1065  
 Codes 006, 031A, N00, N1, N2, N3, N31, N5, OR,  
 MA, NS Renée Lightcap *rlightcap* 1066  
 Codes 004, 01B, N4, 09, PSD, CCMR  
 Chris Abila *cabila* 2195

Curric Offices and Academic Depts not listed are assisted by all administrators.

Mac Support: Charles Taylor *ctaylor* He-E204 2875  
 Lary Moore *lary* He-E202 3170

General Points of Contact ADP Security, Jeff Franklin, He-E208 *jfranklin* 2469

**Computer Users Council (CUC)**

Colin Cooper, President	2454
Ed Nath, Secretary	3014
Ed Moorman, Student Representative	

**NPS Computer Club**

Email addresses are @nps.navy.mil unless specified otherwise. For "nps", put *nps.navy.mil*

Club URL: <http://web.nps.navy.mil/~npscompu>  
 Club President: Mike Holden *mjholden*  
 Vice President: Jim Cummiskey *jccummis@cs.nps*  
 Secretary: Kern Lunde *lunde@aa.nps*  
 Treasurer: Doreen Jones *DMJONES88@aol.com*  
 or *dmjones*

Membership Chairman: Rich Moorman *moorman*  
 User Groups Coord. Ann Sires *lady21@aol.com*  
 OS/2 SIG Chair: Ed Devilliers *deville@cs.nps*  
 DOS/Win. SIG Chair Chris Henderson *cbhender*  
 Mac SIG Chair Chris Kirkham *cckirkha*  
 Linux SIG Frank Free *freef*