

# There's More Than E-Mail on the Internet

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## **Introduction**

A number of different communication and information access concepts exist on the Internet. Not all are described in this presentation, but the four major types are listed where specific bovine veterinary applications or information exist. The access to each of these types varies between the specific computer workstation and local computer host.

## **Telnet**

A software utility and a communication protocol for connecting to a remote computer via the Internet. An analogy to telnet is the use of telecommunication software and a modem to communicate with a bulletin board. With telnet, you connect using Internet communication lines instead of normal telephone lines. An account with a login id and password is usually required on the remote computer, but some systems allow for public or guest logins. Users can utilize the telnet utility if their workstation is connected directly to the Internet. Users not directly connected can use telnet from a local host computer, often running the Unix operating system.

## **Gopher/WAIS/Veronica/Jughead**

Gopher and Wide Area Information Servers (WAIS) started as independent Internet information search and retrieval systems. Many features of the two systems are now integrated and the same information is usually available using the same software. Gopher and WAIS refer to two separate software systems; server and client software. The informational database is organized and made available on the Internet using server software. You use the corresponding client software utility to browse or search the informational database using a series of nested menus. The client software will switch servers without any special action by the user, and frequently without the user's knowledge. The number of Gopher/WAIS servers has increased so rapidly, that it

is very difficult to find information by just browsing through the nested menus. The Veronica and Jughead software utilities have been developed to search Gopher servers for information matching certain search criteria. Veronica software searches all of the Internet for items of interest. Jughead software searches only one particular Gopher server. Users can utilize the Gopher and WAIS utilities if their workstation is connected directly to the Internet. Users not directly connected can use Gopher and WAIS from a local host computer. Veronica and Jughead are usually only available on local host computers. The Gopher and WAIS server software does not require excessive computing capabilities, individual users can make their own specialized database available to other Internet users, if their workstation is connected directly to the Internet.

## **WWW/Mosaic/Lynx**

An extension of the Gopher server concept is the World Wide Web (W<sup>3</sup> or WWW) server. The two types of servers are compatible, but WWW servers can also handle multimedia applications that include text, photographs, sound and moving images. Gopher servers are frequently limited to displaying text only. Further, WWW servers make extensive use of hyper-media links to information, images and sound on the same or different servers. The Mosaic and Lynx software utilities are the most popular client software used to work with WWW servers. Mosaic software can handle text, images and sound, so it requires a graphical interface on the user's workstation. Versions of Mosaic are available for Windows, Mac's and X-Windows Unix workstations. Lynx software can handle text only, but is designed to still take advantage of the hyper-text linkages. Lynx software is available for DOS, Mac and Unix systems. Mosaic users must have a direct connection to the Internet, but Lynx can frequently be used on a local Internet host.

## **FTP/Archie**

The standard file transfer protocol for the Internet

is termed FTP, and there is a software utility for FTP. Archie software can search the Internet for files with names that match certain criteria. FTP software utilities run much faster on a workstation connected to the Internet than downloading a file from a bulletin-board system. Additionally, FTP can transfer binary files, while E-Mail usually handles only text files. Examples of binary files are executable software programs, images, and word processor files.

### Internet Access

#### *Some Internet Access Besides E-Mail*

Good for users who have lots of experience with telecommunication software and/or electronic mail. Some host-specific telecommunication software is available.

Delphi 1-800-695-4005 by voice or

1-800-365-4636 (n-8-1) by modem for free 5 hr trial. After connect, press Enter once or twice.

At Username, enter JOINDELPHI. At Password, Enter WRD31X.

America-On-Line 1-800-827-6364

Genie 1-301-251-6475

#### *Full Internet Access from Remote Host*

Good for users who have lots of telecommunication experience and some experience with Unix or VMS. Host-specific telecommunication software is frequently not available. Some local or close long-distance numbers, a few 1-800 numbers, but most are a long distance call away. Exploring on the Internet takes time, and can cost money at long distance. This area changes on an almost daily basis. To get an updated list of commercial hosts, send an e-mail message to info-deli-server@netcom.com and put send pdial in the body of the message. InterNIC Information Services has a toll-free phone number in the US, and they will provide a list of Internet providers by electronic mail or by regular postal mail. The phone number is 1-800-444-4345.

#### *Direct Connection to Internet*

Direct connection of a workstation to the Internet is possible and costs are dropping rapidly. One inexpensive method is from Interamp, PSI Inc. 1-800-774-3031 or 1-703-709-0300.

## AABP Software Library

AABP has a growing collection of over 150 software programs which may be copied freely - without infringement of copyright.

Some are "Shareware" ("S" on the catalogue listing), meaning complete, usable programs which you may try out on your own before deciding whether to buy. You then pay the program author a registration fee if you decide to use the program.

Others are "Demos" ("D" on the catalogue listing), that is, demonstration versions of commercial software programs. These are NOT fully functional, but give potential buyers an idea of what the programs are like.

Others are in the public domain. Such "Freeware" is designated "F" on the catalogue.

At the annual AABP meeting, several computers are set up as disk-dispensing machines. All the software in the AABP library is loaded on the hard disks of these machines.

They are on sale floppy disks (of all sizes) that are blank, formatted, initialized, and labeled with the AABP label. What you do is pay a small disk fee for these floppies, take them to the dispensing machines, and copy the software you choose from the dispensing machines.

Each program has been compressed into one or more "ZIP" files. The "ZIP" files must be decompressed before the program can be run. *Directions for decompression are posted here, are available on a handout, and are already loaded onto each floppy disk on sale. To see the same directions as the handout on your screen at home, put your AABP floppy in a drive and type BP <>.*

There is great variety in the AABP software library: from practice management to programmers' languages to dairy and beef records to children's word-games. The list of categories is posted. Also posted is the complete library catalogue, sorted by category. Also available is a three-ring binder with a descriptive sheet for each program, sorted by category.

*This library travels!* The librarian will ship you a laptop computer loaded with Disk Dispenser<sup>®</sup> and the library programs, for your local AABP-affiliated meeting. Contact your AABP District Director first.

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