Computer Use In Social Services Network

Networking: The Linking of People, Resources and Ideas

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About the Network

Computer Use in Social Services (CUSS) Network is a nonprofit association of professionals interested in exchanging information and experiences on using computers in the human services. Members participate in the Network by:

- Sending materials for the CUSSN Newsletter, such as: member needs, interests, hardware/software use, activities, resources, ideas, experiences, computer applications, and events.
- Participating in the electronic network, skills bank, software clearinghouse and subgroups.
- Distributing Newletters at workshops and conferences. (I will send newsletters to distribute or place on a resource table.)
- Referring vendors to advertise their services and products through the CUSSN.
- Holding local CUSSN meetings. Local meetings in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Chicago, Baltimore and Australia have been successful.

Network Dues: $10 individuals, $15 institutions (payable in U.S. Funds). Contact Dick Schoech, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington, Box 19129, Arlington, TX 76019.

The Newsletter is published approximately 4 times a year and is sent free to all network members. Back issues $5 each.

The Electronic Network (CUSSnet) establishes local bulletin boards, national and local mail and file transfer, downloading of public domain software, and access to numerous repositories of electronically available information on human service computing. CUSSnet builds on FIDONET, approximately 900 microcomputer-based local bulletin boards across the U.S. and in 9 continents. Contact Dick Schoech for your local node, or call 817-273-3966 and type the file in the HELP file area called FIDOLIST.80. Communications are at 300-2400 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity. Almost any computer or terminal and modem will work.

The Skills Bank allows members to locate or share specific knowledge, skills and experiences for providing information about yourself. Contact Gunther R. Geiss, Adelphi U., School of Social Work, Garden City, NY 11530.

The Software Clearinghouse offers a computerized inventory of commercial and public domain available human service software, a software review file, and a software exchange. Contact Walter LaMendola, Professor, School of Social Work, U. of Denver, Denver, CO 80208.

Special Interest Group (SIGs) are subgroups where significant networking is occuring on a special topic.

Educators SIG, write Wallace Gingerich, School of Social Welfare, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

Hospital Social Services SIG, write Mike King, Director of Social Work and Discharge Planning, Saint Francis Hospital, 100 Port Washington Blvd, Roslyn, NY 11576.

Area Groups:

Baltimore, MD, contact Bob Elkin Professor, U of Maryland, School of Social Work and Community Planning, 525 W. Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

California, James M. Gardner, Department of Developmental Services, Fairview State Hospital, 2501 Harbor Boulevard, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Australia, Floyd Bolitho, La Trobe U., School of Social Work, Bundoora Victoria, Australia, 3083.

Israel, Menachem Monnickendam, School of Social Work, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, 52100, Israel.

CUSS Electronic Network

Overview:

The electronic component of the Computer Use in Social services Network (CUSSnet) establishes local bulletin boards, local & international mail and file transfer, and repositories of electronically available information.

CUSSnet builds on FIDONET, 1700 nodes (local BBSs (bulletin boards) across the world. These nodes automatically connect nightly to exchange mail and files. Most local FIDONET BBSs are free with the exception of a small fee for electronically sending mail. CUSSnet nodes perform functions such as:

- Maintaining a bulletin board (messages/files) for local users;
- Maintain a local message area for international mail & conferencing;
- Exchange weekly specialty information/files with other CUSSnet nodes;

CUSSnet Nodes (echo specialty means it only carries the CUSSnet conference)

To Use CUSSnet

If a CUSSnet node is in your city, you're in luck. Simply dial it up using your computer and a modem and follow the directions. If no CUSSnet node exists in your city, you can call long distance to any CUSSnet node listed below (you can learn to use FIDO BBS software by calling a local node. To locate a local FIDOnet nodes, ask your local microcomputer dealer or call any CUSSnet node and type find the nodelist in the file area. You can use a local FIDOnet node to send mail and pick up whatever CUSSnet information your local BBS operator will get for you. You may have to pay a small deposit to your local FIDO. Communications are at 300-2400 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity. Almost any computer or terminal and modem will work. Steve Ice (below) can provide assistance.

To start a CUSSnet Node, Call Steve Ice
in Seattle at 206 442-2430

City & State	Net/Node	Phone #	Operator	Specialty Focus
Arlington TX	130/5	817 273-3966	D. Schoech	Recent Publications
St. Louis MO	100/999	314 889-4696	B. Butterfield	Biblio. Info.
Murray KY	11/301	502 762-3140	B. Allbritten	Handicap Info.
Denver CO	104/614	303 871 2912	W. LaMendola	Software Info.
Milwaukee WI	139/450	414 963-4515	W. Gingerich	Curriculum Info.
New York, NY	107/37	212 532-2278	G. Hoffman	Training Info.
Raleigh, NC	158/101	919 851-6806	M. Bowen	Handicap Info.
Seattle WA	138/35	206 442-8127	S. Ice	Federal Info.12pm+
Garden City NY	107/240	516 228-7938	G. Geiss	Skills Bank
Arlington TX	130/10	817 649 2857	C. Brown	Disabilities Info.
Tempe AZ	114/23	602 965 1588	W. Hudson	Research papers
New Hampshire	132/111	603 798 4028	D. Hall	General
Phoenix AZ	114/15	602 235 9653	D. Dodall	Disabilities
Las Cruces, NM	15/4	505 646 2868	M. Connealy	NASW NM State info
Washington	109/672	202 775 1940	B. Straugham	Community agencies
Cardiff, Wales	510/43	0222 704739	W. Davidson	General
Wigan, U.K.	510/64	0942 722984	D. McKendrick	Health Information
Oxford, U.K.	503/46	882872	N. Middleton	Echo
Netherlands	508/14	+31837615363	M. Mazeland	General
Detroit, MI	to be added		L. Renaud	Residential Serv.
Indy, IN	11/207	?	?	
Israel	to be added		Monnickendam	General

Description of New CUSSnet Nodes

Net/Node: 15/4
Board #: (505) 646 2868
Sysop: Gerald West, Mike Connealy, & Reba Nichols; Manager Gerald Vest, ACSW; School of Social Work, New Mexico State University; Box 3SW; Las Cruces NM 88003 & Mike Connealy, Home Care Coordinator, City of Las Cruces; Drawer CLC; Law Cruces NM 88004 Work Ph #: (505) 646-2143 or 526-2494

Description:

NASW New Mexico (24 hours a day, 300-1200-2400 baud) is a 24- hour electronic bulletin board focusing on the human services. It is also a pilot project of the National Association of Social Workers aimed at creating the first link of a State-wide communications system. A Chapter Self-sufficiency Grant from NASW provided the funds to purchase the start-up system at NMSU in Las Cruces consisting of an Epson Equity II computer with a 30 megabyte hard card and a US Robotics 2400 baud modem. Five other USR modems were also purchased for establishing system nodes throughout the State of New Mexico.

The board is being operated through the volunteer efforts of the project's authors with the help of a hard-working student intern from the Social Work Department, Reba Nichols. We hope to bring a number of other students into the project with the objectives of promoting special interest group message areas and facilitating entry to the system by

new users through individual tutorial sessions. Several formal presentations are also planned including one for field practicum staff and students in February and another at the New Mexico State NASW Conference scheduled for March 28th 1987 in Albuguerque.

We have not yet adopted a specialty focus for NASW New Mexico. In fact, we anticipate spending the next year in experimentation with a variety of special interest groups, message and file areas and networking initiatives. It is our hope to develop a system which will be useful to a broad spectrum of professionals throughout the State, both as a communications network and as a resource for promoting the effective use of microcomputers in the human services.

Net Node: 114/15
Board #: (602) 235 9653
Sysop: Dr. David Dodell; Manager: Dr. David Dodell, St Josephs Hospital, PO Box 2071, Phoenix AZ 85001, Work Phone: (602) 860-1121
Description:

St. Joseph's Hospital BBS is a medical information BBS. Besides participating in the CUSSNet, we are the originators of the weekly Health Info-Com Network newsletter, plus the main host of the disABLED network. Our primary purpose is for the dissemination of medical information, not limited to AIDS, Center for Disease Control Reports, FDA News, Disabled Information. We are a free access board and welcome all to use.

Services Available

Vendor/Consultant	Contact Person	Services
Illinois		
OUTP ST, Inc. Drawer CNC6 119 Wilson St., Park Forest, IL 60466	F. Dean Luse, Ph.D., CSW, President (312) 748-3854	Consultation on feasibility and information system planning. Provides help with accountability, forms & report design, decision support systems, database development, software selection & evaluation, training your staff to use computer systems Extensive micro and mainframe computer experience.
Synergistic Office Systems (SOS) 438 Peterson Road Libertyville, IL 60048	Joseph Zefran, MSW (312) 680-8383 (312) 275-3747	The SOS team of human service/computer professionals help you with ready-to-use SOFTWARE exclusively for nonprofits - Fund Accounting, Donor/Fun Raising, Client Service/Receivables - and a full range of SERVICES - feasibility studies, programming, training, and support.
Florida		
Community Service Council of Broward County, Inc. 1300 S. Andrews Avenue P.O. Box 22877 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335	Susan K. Buza, Executive Director (305) 524-8371	Full range of consulting and technical support in the automation of Social and Human Services. Systems include Agency Inventory/Directory Production, Information & Referral, Client Case Management, Mental Health Client Tracking, Statewide Networking, Transportation Scheduling, Carpool Matching.
Maryland		
KBL Group, Inc. 'Knowledge Based Living' 808 Pershing Drive #100 Silver Springs, MD 20910	Karen Levitan, Ph.D., President, (301) 588-4633	Services to help you use information, technology, and systems as professional resources. We work for you; we work with you; we help you do it yourself.
Michigan		
ON-SITE 2955 Jackson Blvd. Highland, MI 48031	Larry J. Renaud (313) 887-2119 after 6:00 (313) 846-7020	ON-SITE offers consultation; information system planning; training; workshops; hardware and software evaluation.
New York		
King Associates, LTD. 215 Shoreward Drive Great Neck, N.Y. 11021	Michael A. King, D.S.W. (516) 487-5995	Producers of AMIS — flexible off-the-shelf software for hospital social work and discharge planning departments. Customized programs are also available.
North Carolina		
National Collegiate Software Clearinghouse School of Humanities and Social Sciences Box 8101, North Carolina State University Raleigh, N.C. 27695	G. David Garson Director (919) 737-3067 (919) 737-2468	A non-profit, educational, software service of North Carolina State University, the Clearinghous develops and distributes low-cost, programs for both IBM and Apple formats. Offerings include A-Stat, a full featured statistical package and Community Mental Health Simulation. Write or call for a free catalog.
Rhode Island		
Applied Innovations, Inc. South Kingstown Office Park Wakefield, R.I. 02879	800-272-2250 401-789-5081	A developer and manufacturer of numerous software programs designed to operate on popular microcomputers. The programs are fully supported, documented and operational in hundreds of locations. Programs assist with Psychological testing (eg MMPI) office management (eg billing/insurance forms) or Assessment (eg psychosocial histories).
Australia		
Human Services Information Systems 6 Chapman Blvd Glen Waverly Victoria 3150	Floyd Bolitho, Ph.D., (03) 687-6790, (03) 459-1806	Consultation for Human Services, feasibility studies, training, systems design and implementation. Software Development and hardware vendor.

The above paid advertisements represent no endorsement or favorable review by CUSS. When choosing a consultant, remember the standard advice: (1) talk to more than one consultant, (2) obtain several comparable bids, and (3) ask for several recent clients and talk to them about their satifaction.

Articles, Reviews and Reports

Results of Human Services Systems Survey

by Robert E. Neilson,
MPA is Director, Programm Systems &
Evaluation, DHHS, OHDS/OPD, Rm 740D,
200 Independence Ave. S. W., Washington,
D.C. 20201
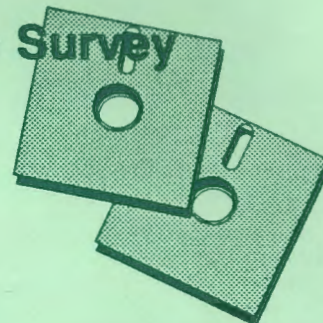
Purpose

The results of the Human Services Systems Survey have been tabulated. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain trends and general areas of future interest regarding the use of computer technology, especially microcomputers, in the human services. The Survey* contained in the Summer 1986 issue of the Computer Use in Social Services(CUSS) Newsletter and on CUSSNET contained questions geared to:

- Provide direction and content of the CUSS Newsletter and CUSSNET to better meet reader/user needs.

- Provide information to systems software and computer vendors so that they may be better able to target their products to the human service community.

- Provide information to federal, state and local governments and philanthropic organizations to better enable these organization to fund projects that meet the needs of human service providers.

In addition, members of the academic community may want to review the results of this survey to better target their curriculum development on those human service systems/computer topics that seem to have the greatest interest or at least stay away from those topics that are of little interest.

In reviewing the findings presented, one should be aware of some of the limitations to the information reported. Not all respondents answered all questions, plus respondents who were supposed to rank their responses did not do so in several cases. Consequently, where the data does not lend itself to a presentation of statistical measures, the findings are presented as general trends. Statistical measures are only used on those aggregate responses to questions that lend themselves to statistical measurement.

It should be noted that survey results were tabulated on a microcomputer using Lotus 1-2-3 software.

For a copy of the survey, see the Summer 86 issue of the CUSS Network Newsletter (Volume 6, No. 2.).

Findings

There were 130 respondents to the survey. More than half responded through CUSSNET which in itself is encouraging, in that, it shows that human service professionals are using technology in their day-to-day work. There were 130 individuals who responded to the survey:

TYPES OF RESPONDENTS

Students (44)

Consultants or (24) Vendors

Academic (10)

Public Human Service (30) Agency Employees or Managers

Private Human (22) Service Agency Employees or Managers

130 Total Respondents
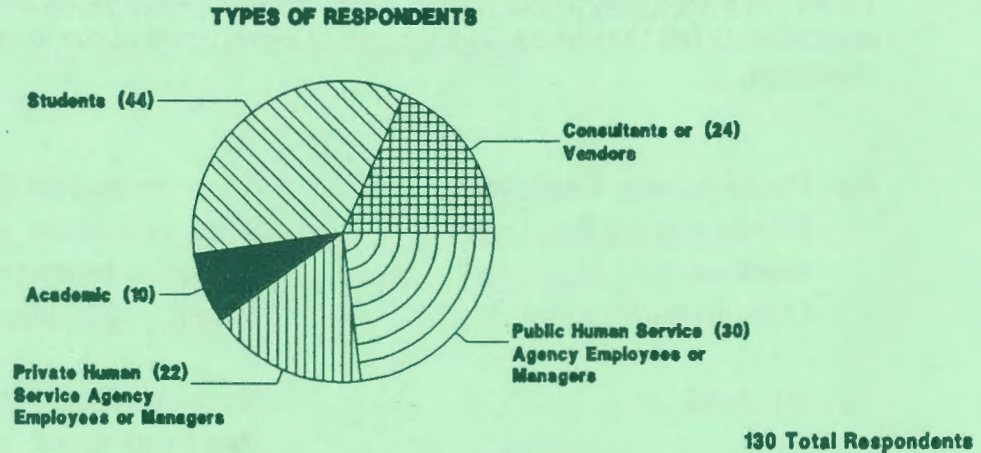
Those individuals who responded as a public human service agency employee/manager worked in agencies with an average size of about 400 employees while private human services agency employees/managers worked in slightly smaller agencies;where the average was 318 employees (Question 2). Regarding the issue of years of experience in human services (Question 3) the respondents had the following level of experience:

For: Public agency employees   9.7 years of experience (86)
         Private agency employees
         Academics
         Consultants/Vendors

For: Students   2.1 years of experience (44)

A significant majority of the respondents felt they were computer literate (Question 4).

For: Public agency employees   83% (71) felt they were computer literate
         Private agency employees   17% (15) felt they were not computer literate
         Academics
         Consultants/Vendors

For: Students   86% (38) felt they were computer literate
                             14% (6) felt they were not computer literate

Even though respondents who answered this survey were no doubt already interested in computers and probably computer literate, it's encouraging to see that over 80% of the respondents considered themselves computer literate. However, even though repondents considered themselves computer literate few respondents felt that had a high degree of experience in the systems arena. (Question 5).

For: Public Agency Employees   No experience = 20% (17)
       Private Agency Employees   Some experience = 20% (17)
       Academics   Moderate experience = 51% (43)
       Consultants/Vendors   Expert = 9% (8)

*For:* Students   No experience = 5% (2)
                                        Some experience = 42% (18)
                                        Moderate experience = 51% (22)
                                        Expert 2% (1)

It is encouraging to discover that 93% of the students had some or moderate levels of experience with information systems which may indicate that the academic community is emphasizing information systems and system analyses in their curriculums.

Question 6 listed 14 areas of interest where respondents believed more research and development (R&D) activity should be undertaken by federal, state, or local governments, philanthropic organizations, or within the academic community. Participants in the survey were asked to rank their top 5 priorities; some respondents did, some did not. Consequently, the presentation of the findings to this question only lends itself to a grouping of topics indicating which areas of interest were ranked the highest, which had moderate interest, and which had little or no interest.
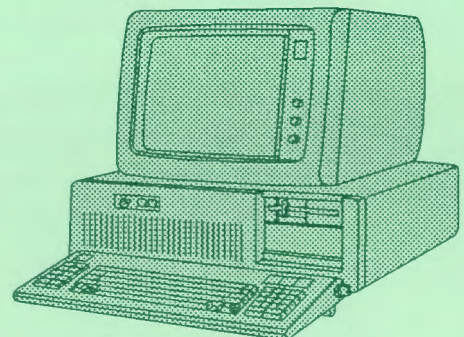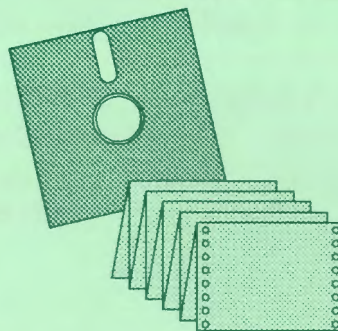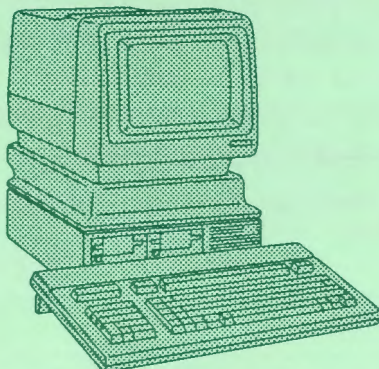
R&D Topics

High Level of Interest

1. Use of computer-generated graphics

2. Systems/Computer Training Curricula for Human Service Managers & Users

3. Micro software development for specific human service programs

4. Use/Presentation of information for decision making

5. Local Area Networks (LANs)

Moderate Level of Interest

1. End user software applications [adaptations of expert systems shells, spreadsheets, DBMS' for specific human service applications]

2. Micro-to-mainframe linkages

3. Multi-User Micro's

4. Telecommunications

5. Systems development strategies and guides, e.g. RFP writing, systems analysis, prototyping, knowledge engineering

Little Interest

1. Videotext

2. User support groups

3. Hardware acquisition and vendor support

4. Other

In analyzing the responses to R&D topics of greatest interest, results do not really indicate any pattern of need for future R&D activity. In the "High Level of Interest" category there are software issues, hardware issues and training issues. In analyzing the narrative responses to several questions included in the survey (Questions 12 & 13), respondents felt that computer and systems training was an issue that needed more emphasis and further study. These narrative responses support the ranking of "training" as an important issue for further R&D work.

In the, "Moderate Level of Interest" category, results show a potpourri of responses, focusing on hardware and software issues. Perhaps, respondents felt that they could receive information regarding advancements in these areas through the commercial or business sector and that further R&D efforts in the public sector should be concentrated on the "High Level of Interest" items.

In the "Little Interest" category, it was surprising to find that User Groups received little support in light of the fact that training in the use of computers ranked so highly.

Regarding the issue of the use of computers by human service professionals and analysts (Question 7), individuals responded as follows:

% of Total	# of Responses	
21%	32	Computers are primarily used by secretaries for wordprocessing.
16%	25	Most staff use computers in some aspect of their work.
12%	19	Computers are highly used by professional staff.
11%	17	Computers are not used.
9%	14	Only Programmers use computers.
9%	14	Other.
7%	11	We have no budget for training in the use of computers.
7%	10	We have few user friendly software programs to use.
4%	6	We have too few computers.
3%	4	We only input data, others may use the results.
1%	2	There are no software applications designed for our needs.
0%	0	Analysts are not interested in using computers.
0%	0	We are adequately trained in the use of computers.
100%	154	

In reviewing the four top ranked responses to Question 7, that the responses seem to indicate that human services agencies are split into two categories:

(1) Those agencies where professional use computers (a total of 28% of the responses).

(2) Those agencies where computers are not used or used only for word processing and not for analytic purposes (a total of 33% of the responses).

This finding may reflect a pattern of incremental introduction of computers into human service agencies, starting with the introduction of word processing and evolving into more sophisticated uses of computers. The only other significant finding which corroborates answers to other questions in the survey (Question 6) is that no one felt that they have been adequately trained in the use of computers. It was also encouraging to discover that none of the respondents felt that human service analysts were not interested in using computers. This perhaps indicates that there is a positive climate for using computers in day-to-day work and that professionals will be receptive to computer/systems training.

In order to better communicate advances in the field of human service computing to professionals in the field, various methods can be used to distribute information. Question 8 attempted to find out which methods seem to work best.

Method of Distribution (In rank order*)

(1) Newsletters

(2) Telecommunications Networks

(3) Regional Workshops

(4) Video Tapes

(5) National Conferences

* #1 was the respondents 1st choice; #5 was last choice

Respondents indicated that, by far, the use of newsletters and telecommunications networks are the two best methods to distribute information. For the remaining three methods, regional workshops, video tapes and national conferences, respondents gave almost equal emphasis to each method.

The following are responses in rank order of those subject areas which the respondents would like to see more information through the CUSS network (Question 9):

# Responses	Rank	Subject Areas
35	1	Data Base-Management
28	2	Client Tracking Software
28	2	Communications Software
28	2	Diagnostic Software (client/patient)
24	5	Statistical Software
24	5	Graphics Software
23	7	Case Load Software
22	8	Word Processing Software
21	9	Spreadsheets
19	10	Accounting Software
17	11	Budgeting software
10	12	Other - Expert Systems, Training Applications

It appears that Data Base Management seems to be the "hot" topic, with interest in the remaining topics pretty much evenly distributed with no one topic commanding a significant lead over the lesser ranked topics. Human Service professionals perhaps are realizing the power and versatility of data base management software and simply want to know more about the advantages and disadvantages of using them in specific human service applications. They possibly

realize that small investments in developing their own DBMS applications for use on microcomputers is a low cost way of solving agency "data processing" problems, without resorting to large contractual efforts or relying on large scale data processing facilities to help them.

Conferences seems to be a conventional method to exchange information/ knowledge about topics of great interest, however, the results of the survey indicate that there is only support for regional conferences rather than national conferences (Question 10).

		Other Respondents*	**Students**
Would Attend	National Conf.	28%(22)	10%(4)
	Regional Conf.	71%(59)	35%(14)

*Respondents including Public & Private Agency Employees, Academics, & Consultants, but not including students.

Question 11 attempted to determine if there was a market for instructional video tapes that would help orient or train human service personnel in microcomputer software applications.

Respondents, both students and all other respondents, were not predisposed to purchasing a training video cassette even if the purchase price was only about $20.00/copy. Of 123 responses to this question only about 34% (42) of the respondents said they would purchase a video cassette. The results seem to indicate that there would be little demand for instructional video tapes in the human service computer/systems arena. Perhaps the human service computer market has not been introduced to this kind of instructional method and work needs to be done to educate human service professionals to the value of self contained instructional programs.

The responses to the narrative questions in the survey were vast and varied and too voluminous to report. However, these responses will be used to help formulate the future direction of the CUSS Newsletter and Telecommunications Network.

Author's note: Thanks to Richard Greenberg who provided expert help in processing the results of the survey.

Information from the CUSSnet Conference Area

Editor's Note: This is a continuation of selected CUSSnet International echomail messages. The message listing began in the last issue, however, references to previous message numbers may not be accurate. If you or your local Fidonet node would like to pickup the CUSSecho, have him contact Bill Allbritten (See the CUSSnet Description in this issue).

Msg #50, 16 Mar 87 20:31:38
From: Roger Bloor
To: All
Subject: **COMPUTERS IN PSYCHIATRY**
THE COMPUTERS IN PSYCHIATRY GROUP IS AN INDEPENDENT GROUP FOR ALL USERS THE PSYCHIATRY / PSYCHOLOGY FIELD. WE HAVE A NEWSLETTER AND A REGISTER OF USERS IN UK contact DR ROGER BLOOR DEPT OF PSYCHIATRY RAF HOSPITAL ELY ELY CAMBS CB6 1DP Tel ELY 5781 EXT 260
--- v1.36
* Origin: Cardiff Fido (510/43)

Msg #51, 18 Mar 87 21:55:45
From: David Mckendrick
To: Roger Bloor
Subject: **CIP group**
Heard about your group. We have a Health Service BB on 0942-722984. Might be an idea to discuss having a section on the board.

Msg #53, 20 Mar 87 23:27:38
From: Bill O'connor
To: Fred Walker
Subject: **HELLO FROM BRIDLINGTON ENGLAND**
Hi Fred! Greeting from Alaska via Phoenix! I would be interested in your project using volunteers. Sounds similar to the Community Action Program we had here some time ago, but with a new twist...computers and hi tech. I am developing a volunteer ombudsman project here in Alaska, to visit nursing homes and look for quality care for the elderly. Hope to share views with you next go round. Bill O'Connor
---
* Origin: St. Joseph's Medical Center Phoenix AZ (602) 235-9653 (114/15)
*** There is a reply. See #88.

Msg #62, 27 Mar 87 00:47:48
From: Dick Schoech
To: Users
Subject: **German Software needed**
Does anyone know of any human service software in German? If so, Monika Vyslouzil Sickenbergg.7/16 A-1190 Wien Austria would like to be informed about it. Send inquiries via post to the address above.
--- v1.36
* Origin: Cardiff Fido (510/43)

Msg 66, 01 Apr 87 17:04:23 From: Wallace Gingerich To: Mental Health Educators Subject: **Behavioral Simulations**
Dr. Matthew Lambert at the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry in St. Louis has recently developed three computerized case simulations for use in teaching behavioral assessment and intervention techniques at the graduate level. A primary focus of the simulations is to help mental health trainees learn to integrate various behavioral assessment and treatment data. The three simulations dealing with the assessment and treatment of Agoraphobia, Chronic Headache Pain, and Bulimia are now undergoing Beta Testing at several sites. Additional sites are currently being sought. Qualified trainers of mental health professionals interested in reviewing the simulations or participating in Beta Testing should contact Dr. Lambert at the address below. Qualified trainers include professionals engaged in the training of graduate level mental health professionals (e.g., Ph.D.s, M.S.W.s, Psy.D.s, M.D.s, etc.) in behavioral assessment and treatment technology.
Matthew E. Lambert, Ph.D. (phone: 314 644-8828)
University of Missouri-Columbia
School of Medicine at the
Missouri Institute of Psychiatry
5400 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, MO 63139
---
* Origin: CUSSnet Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI (139/450)

Msg #67, 31 Mar 87 18:03:13
From: Marjorie Rydell, LCSW
To: Users
Subject: **Software**
I am looking for a software program that will facilitate the taking of psyosocial/developmental histories from families of psychiatric patients and be printed out in a narrative form. If you can help please contact:
Marjorie Rydell, LCSW
Director of Social Services
Mesa Vista Hospital
7850 Vista Hill Avenue
San Diego, California 92123
619-694-8349 Via Node 100/10, 03:01 4/1
---
* Origin: FidoRacer-Murray, KY (502) 762-3140 (11/301)

Msg #71, 06 Apr 87 22:03:16
From: Mike Connealy
To: All
Subject: **VIETNAM**
We have a discussion going in Las Cruces, NM, on the topic of Vietnam. Most of the 74 messages have been entered by a few vets from that era, but a few other people are starting to make contributions also. We would like to invite CUSSnet members to take a look at the discussion and possibly start an echo conference on the subject.
Mike Connealy, sysop
NASW New Mexio – Fido 15/4
bbs# (505) 646-2868
---
* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #72, 02 Apr 87 14:09:48
From: Average Guy
To: ALL
Subject: **HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH**
I am interested in communicating with someone who is interested in, or currently doing health services research related to the use of personal health services or hospital services in the US. I am also interested if you use your PC as well as the main frame to analyze the data. I am currently a doctoral student and hospital administrator looking at severity of illness in hospitalized inpatients.
Average Guy
---
* Origin: INSIGHT – Washington D.C. (202) 543-2146 (Opus 109/634)
*** There is a reply. See #73.

Msg #73, 10 Apr 87 00:24:58
From: Graham Wright
To: Average Guy
Subject: **hello**

Hi Graham Wright from OSL a Senior Tutor for nurses. I am currently working on performance indicators and quality of care using a pc. Contact me when our Health Services Board gets a node. Regards Graham
--- v1.36
* Origin: Cardiff Fido (510/43)
*** This is a reply to #72.

Msg #79, 13 Apr 87 23:21:40
From: David Dodell
To: All
Subject: **Fido to Bitnet/Usenet**

I'm sure many have this capability, but I thought I would offer. If anyone desires to have mail ported over to users on either Bitnet/Usenet/Arpanet I would be glad to handle the transfer. Bitnet is used by a lot of educational institutions and this might provide an cheap solution to our international mail.

If you wished something ported, send your message via private netmail to 114/15. Make sure you give me a complete EMAIL address for the other system and which network it is being ported over to.
---
* Origin: St. Joseph's Medical Center Phoenix AZ (602) 235-9653 (114/15)

Msg #80, 16 Apr 87 21:01:46
From: Wallace Gingerich
To: Stuart Toole
Subject: **General**

Thanks for your note
1 How many rules do you have in your system?
2 How do you cope with multiconditional factors for rule firing?
3 Our Enuresis system has a Definition, Assessment Treatment advice, failure detection & rectification and evaluation . I runs with 300 rules but is not ideal . We are developing the concept of frames to control rule firing.
4 The Child placement system is even more reluctant to be modelled by rules alone. These system are fascinating to my two colleagues from an expert systems background due to some of the modelling complexity.
5 I am most interested in how you get on with the shell from Texas Instruments. We have had problems when the systems get big and also with odd logic, particularly for shells which do inferencing from examples.
6 I have not got the version of Prolog to hand at the moment . Again we've tried a few. Working with micros limits one in this game but what Social Service Dept. is going to buy a system which runs on a CRAY or a dedicated workstation?

Look forward to meeting with you. Let me have comments on the material I've sent. Also send me more information on your system. I can't let you have a copy of our systems yet as were are bound by contract not to do so but I can talk about them Publish etc. We should have them to show at HUSITA. Can you bring your systems? Via Node 25/43, 09:57 4/16 ArcMail
---
* Origin: CUSSnet Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI (139/450)

Msg #81, 16 Apr 87 21:06:59
From: Wallace Gingerich
To: Stuart Toole Cardiff Fido
Subject: **Expert Systems**

Glad to get your message. My name is Wallace, although I go by Wally quite a bit.

I am afraid I am quite a neophyte at expert systems! I'm not sure I know what multiconditional factors are. The only system we have to date that is operational is BRIEFER. It contains only 68 rules, is a simple forward-chaining system after the procedure outlined by Winston and Horn. It does not include any certainty factors, or any complex procedures whatsoever. Nevertheless, we are quite pleasantly surprised at how well it functions as a demonstration prototype. I will be bringing it to HUSITA. It runs on PC-LISP. The entire system fits on one floppy disk! Nothing big!! Our PhD student and his professor are working on BRIEFER II. It is supposed to be a more complete and sophisticated system, but we have yet to see anything concrete. The student's interest is in building an expert system shell. At this point I am not too concerned about whether he ever gets the shell built, because I plan to start putting the knowledge base on Personal Consultant this summer.

I have Personal Consultant Easy. It appears to be a powerful and easy to use shell. The main scheme is back-ward-chaining, but it permits antecedent (forward-chaining) rules as well. It permits certainty factors, rule utility factors, certainty factor calculation, explanation (WHY, HOW, HELP) facilities, a Review facility, good debugging aids, interface to dBase data files, and graphics. Personal Consultant Plus, the more advanced version (list price $2995), includes frames, access to Lisp (Scheme dialect), meta-rules to control solution strategy, and larger knowledge base capacity. I have found the manuals with PC Easy to be excellent, a very useful way to learn about how to design and construct an expert system knowledge base. I'll let you know more as I really get into it, however. I am eager to receive your papers. It sounds like you are further along in your work than we are here. Thats good for me!!

Your idea about putting this on the CUSS echo is a good one. I'll see if I can get it accomplished.
---
* Origin: CUSSnet Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI (139/450)

Msg #83, 18 Apr 87 21:58:16
From: Philip Marshall
To: Dick Schoech
Subject: **CUSS in WALES**

I have been very interested to hear about CUSS. I have only recently started on Computer Communications although I have been an electronics enthusiast for some time. I am a Consultant Psychiatrist at Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett,Swansea SA2 0GH. Tel Swansea 582054. I use an ATARI ST system at home with a Miracle Technologies WS4000 Modem and FASTCOM software. Hoping to hear more details. Thanks Phil Marshall
---
* Origin: Cardiff Fido (Opus 510/43)

Msg #84, 14 Apr 87 12:39:50
From: David Dodell
To: Dave Appel
Subject: **TDD**

I have a program that emulates a TDD device using the cassette port of an IBM PC/PCjr. It is in the Programs section of my file area. I think the program is call TDD.EXE or something to that effect.
---
* Origin: St. Joseph's Medical Center Phoenix AZ (602) 235-9653 (114/15)

Msg #87, 20 Apr 87 14:52:48
From: Dick Barth
To: Dave Appel
Subject: **TTY's**

The baud rate for TTYs is 45.45 (or in practice, 45.5). The word format is 5 data bits, 1.5 stop bits, no parity, which is standard for Baudot. The Baudot code you need (and there are several) is the one commonly called the U.S. Military version, as opposed to the European version, the weather version, etc. etc.

You say you have a PC. If you have an IBM-PC or PCjr (and not an XT, AT or clone) I can send you public domain software that will allow your PC to talk to TDDs. It's public domain, no charge. Send me a blank floppy to:

Handicapped Educational Exchange (HEX)
11523 Charlton Drive
Silver Spring MD 20902

In addition to the software you will need some way to couple your computer to the phone line. The software's author, John Spalding, came up with a design that uses a Radio Shack telephone amplifier. If you're technically inclined you can come up with something original, of course. Full details are contained in the user's manual which will be on the disk you get back, along with the source code, executable, assembly listing, and assembly code for the Color Computer.

If any questions arise, you can reach me through this board, or through the HEX BBS which I operate at (301) 593-7033. It answers either TDD calls or 300 baud ASCII (8N1). Or via the ARPANET to 'barthmit-mc'. Or landline at (301) 681-7372 evenings and weekends.

Oh, similar software is available for other machines. If you don't really have a PC, let me know what you *do* have and we'll talk.
---
* Origin: INSIGHT – Washington D.C. (202) 543-2146 (Opus 109/634)

Msg #88, 25 Apr 87 23:59:41
From: Fred Walker
To: Bill O'connor
Subject: **PRIVATE HOMES**

Thanks for the message. I'm sorry I took so long to reply but I have been busy at work recently followed by a short walking holiday in North Yorkshire. The project isn't all that hi-tech, the computer and modem are mine at home. The newest technology at work is electronic typewriters – no word processors yet!

The volunteer ombudsman project sounds interesting. Are the volunteers visiting state and private establishments, or just one sort? Here in the UK there has been a rapid development in private (commercial profit making) homes for the elderly and people with mental health problems (mentally disordered as the law calls it!). This is because of the way the state welfare benefits system makes it very profitable for people to run commercial homes. The homes have to be registered, but registration is only based on the amount of floor space, fire precautions etc etc – with no judgement of the quality of life (activities, stimulation for the residents). A lot of people are making a lot of money out running homes, paying very low wages to their staff, and the residents are living an unstimulated life – often adding to their mental health problems and mental confusion. In some homes the residents have to be out of the home during the day whatever the weather – even in one local home on Christmas Day! Hope to hear
--- v1.36
* Origin: Cardiff Fido (510/43)
*** This is a reply to #53.

Msg #90, 23 Apr 87 07:13:15
From: David Dodell
To: All
Subject: **Free Drug Hotline**

Firms wanting assistance in dealing with employees who have an addiction might call National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1-800-843-4971. Lines operating M to F, 9 am to 8 pm EST. Advice on urine tests, educational programs etc.
--- delerium
* Origin: St. Joseph's Medical Center Phoenix AZ (602) 235-9653 (114/15)

Msg #92, 28 Apr 87 15:42:02
From: Bill O'connor
To: Fred Walker
Subject: **Information**

Sent you a reply via St. Joseph's BBS but forgot to ask you if you have any more information on the private homes you were mentioning in your message. I would be interested in learning more about the Ombudsman program of the UK. Could we correspond? My address is: 2600 Denali Street, Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99503-2740. Let me have your address and I'll respond. Thanks much.
---
* Origin: HDS HUMAN SERVICES BBS – CUSSnet (Opus 138/35)

Msg #93, 29 Apr 87 22:08:53
From: Walt Davidson
To: All CUSSNet Sysops
Subject: **NEW CUSS NODES**

I am delighted to report that there are now two new CUSSNet nodes in the United Kingdom, both fully linked into the International CUSS Echo via the UK CUSS Gateway, Cardiff Opus (510/43). The new nodes are:

OSL Opus (Open Software Library), Wigan, England (510/64)
Sysops: David McKendrick and Graham Wright.
on +44-942-722-984 at 300/300, 1200/1200 and 1200/75 bauds CCITT.
BANAT TBBS, Oxford, England (503/46)
Sysop: Nik Middleton
on 44-865-882-872 at 300/300, 1200/1200, 1200/75 and 2400/2400 bauds
CCITT.

Both Boards are on-line 24 hours daily and both are equipped for 24-hour incoming Crash-mail. By the way, the Cardiff Node (510/43) is now running Opus software and can also receive 24 hour Crashmail.
---
* Origin: OSL Health Services BBS – Wigan UK (Opus 510/64)

Msg #96, 28 Apr 87 19:28:59
From: George Herman
To: Mike Conealy
Subject: **TCY tryout**

The Special Education/Communication Disorders TCY unit is up and running. The person most familiar with it is Dr. Gary Rushakoff. Since it is not continuously monitored, your best way to test your program will be to make an appointment with Gary to call the TCY at a time he can be there to respond. You can set up a date with him by calling him via voice telephone at 646-4121. I'll be interested, but you'll get there faster by working directly with him. Good luck.
---
* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #97, 28 Apr 87 22:02:45
From: Mike Connealy
To: George Herman
Subject: **deaf communications--TCY tryout**
George, Thanks for the info on the new unit at NMSU for telecommunications for the deaf. My recent interest in the subject was inspired by a program for the Tandy 102 called DEAF.100 which I picked up from Bill Allbritten's KY CUSSnet node. Since there was no doc file with the program, I am not sure how to go about using it or what kind of devices it might be able to communicate with. I discussed the program this evening with Webb Turner; he thought it unlikely that I could use it to talk to the older tty machines because of the peculiarities of the protocol used by those devices. Webb has written a program and constructed a modem which permits his Commodore 64 to talk to tty/tdd machines. I am looking forward to exploring this topic further with him and perhaps some other CUSS members will be able to shed some light on the question.

---

* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #101, Mon 4 May 87 09:50
From: Bill Allbritten
To: All Sysops On This Echo.
Subject: **employment registry**
Do you think it would be of value to set up a separate echo in which individuals could post brief resumes as they search for positions in the social/human services? It might help some of our graduate students. Let me know what you think.
Bill Allbritten, 11/301 (voice 502 762 6851)
--- FastScan v2.0
* Origin: FidoRacer-Murray, KY (502) 762-3140 (11/301)

Msg #102, 04 May 87 23:36:17
From: Nik Middleton
To: Anyone
Subject: **HELP**
Hi, my board has just joined the conference, could anyone please tell me the aims of the conference and it's objectives please , I know this may sound a little dumb but this is not really my field and I need to know what section of my callers to aim this conference at.
--- TBBS v2.0
* Origin: Banat UK1 Oxford (503/46)

Msg #109, 04 May 87 18:57:47
From: Mike Connealy
To: Nasw Members
Subject: **Computer Networking**
Our bbs in Las Cruces New Mexico was set up for the dual purposes of creating a CUSSnet node here and also being the first link in a State-wide communications network for NASW members and other human services professionals. We have made some good progress locally as a result of conducting numerous individual tutorials in bbs use as well as several large formal presentations for social workers around the State. However, we would like to expand our contacts nationally in order to find out what NASW members are doing elsewhere with computer communications and to initiate a conversation on a broad scale about issues of interest to members. If there is enough interest shown in the topic, we would be happy to host an echomail conference.

---

* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #110, 05 May 87 22:26:55
From: Mike Connealy
To: Bill Allbritten
Subject: **employment registry**

Our student coordinator at NASW New Mexico, Reba Nichols, has been maintaining a message area devoted to job announcements in the human services area. I think a lot of us enjoy reading the want ads even when we are not actively seeking a new position. Sharing information on jobs around the country seems to me like a good idea.

However, an echo area devoted to resumes of job seekers does not seem like such a good idea to me. My experience in job search training tells me that the best way to find jobs is to knock on real doors of people who have jobs suitable to your experience and training. Casting your resume adrift in the bit stream does not sound like a sure-fire strategy to me.

On the other hand, electronic mail is a fast way to get your message to distant places that might be hard to reach by any other means. In fact, I know a human services employer here in Las Cruces who said he would have been very impressed if someone had sent him a resume via our bbs as he was looking for someone with computer expertise for a financial management position in his agency.

---

* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #112, 08 May 87 16:22:27
From: Dave Appel
To: All
Subject: **fund raising software**
Fund-Master' is a software system that runs on IBM PC/XT/AT's, Novell network, PC-Network, 3Com, and Data General minis. Currently in use by over 300 hospitals, colleges, museums, and other not-for-profits in the U.S. and Canada. Write or call for your ==FREE== 85 page executive overview. This is the most widely used fund-raising software in the U.S.!
  Interfaces to Word Perfect.
  Master Software
  8604 Allisonville Road, #309
Indianapolis, IN 46250
  Phone: 317-842-7020
--- FastScan v2.0
* Origin: FidoRacer-Murray, KY (502) 762-3140 (11/301)

Msg #114, 09 May 87 19:39:06
From: Mike Connealy
To: Nik Middleton
Subject: **The $64,000 Question**
You have come up with a very good question. This seems to be a conference in search of a topic. We may assume that the general theme is computer use in the social services, but that covers a lot of territory. In a way, this indefinition is symptomatic of the state of affairs in the human services regarding the use of computer technology. There seems to be universal optimism about the potential of the computer to assist in the solution of social problems, but real applications fall far short of expectations. In my State, New Mexico, the Human Services Department recently inaugurated a massive computer system which supports eligibility determinations for financial and medical assistance. One of the features which they seem most pleased with is the ability to interface with other large databases such as the State Tax and Motor Vehicle Departments. I am sure that thrills those whose primary aim is fraud detection, but it just looks like Big Brother to me. Meanwhile, a recent study published in Scientific American showed that the Food Stamp program is serving an ever smaller proportion of the needy community. The message, I think, is that the constraints on social progress are neither technological nor economic, but political.

I suspect that many who are members of this network harbor the hope that the marvelous advances being made in microcomputer technology will somehow empower the

individual human services worker and lead to the development of systems genuinely responsive to human need. The existence of this network gives encouragement to that possibility, but it is naive to think that a revolution in information management will take place without a struggle whose boundaries extend far beyond the technological realm.

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* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #115, 09 May 87 9:58:37
From: Brian Hughes
To: Dave Appel
Subject: **fund raising software**
Just wanted to let you know that using the net for commercial gain is considered bad taste as a minimum, and a royal pain by most sysops. I'm considering sending you a bill for my long distance connect charges used to pull in your message. If you want to advertise, buy a magazine add, don't do it on my time and money.

P.S., since this so annoys sysops, these bombing runs to sell commercial products, you might also take this as a hint considering the ill will you are generating by letting us advertise for you to stop it all together. Your message was promptly deleted from my board.

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* Origin: INSIGHT – Washington D.C. (202) 543-2146 (Opus 109/634)

Msg #116, 16 May 87 6:28:22
From: Dick Schoech
To: Users
Subject: **Advertisements**
The messages on advertisers point out two problematic situations. One is the fact that most people handle the CUSSnet echo as an addition to their normal work and fund the operation themselves. The second is a need for those developing human service software to advertise their products. The common complaint from vendors is that it is very difficult to reach the human service software market.

Could we find a solution to these problems. I would be willing to collect money from vendors for their posting a new product in the CUSSecho area and periodically (every 6 months or so) divide the pot and send every sysop a check. That way, everyone would benefit.

Any comments????

I personally like to know of new products and feel CUSSnet echo is a good way to get the information out fast. I also don't like to pay for commercial messages.

---
* Origin: Cardiff Fido (Opus 510/43)

Msg #121, 17 May 87 23:42:31
From: Nik Middleton
To: Dick Schoech
Subject: **ADVERTISEMENTS**
Sounds like a good idea, perhaps the adds could be limited to a certain size and form to the extent that sysops would not mind sending them around the net. Also if some one were to collect payment from an advertiser then presumably that person would be able to monitor the standards of the adds. lets face it, this conference is supposed to be a way of advancing the art of computer assisted welfare, or so I'm led to believe.

--- TBBS v2.0
* Origin: Banat UK1 Oxford (503/46)

Msg #124, 14 May 87 21:05:17
From: David Lansky
To: All users
Subject: **CMHC software ideas**

I've been asked to locate integrated software for a community mental health center, including client intake, service tracking, staff activity, billing, AP, AR, GL, and scheduling. Should be DOS-based and run on Novell LAN. I'm most interested in recommendations from CUSS folks, and demonstrated reliability in several sites. We're concerned about probable lack of local support and want assurance that package has served others well. If you know of a great system that you can confidently recommend, advice would be much appreciated. Thanks.

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* Origin: HDS HUMAN SERVICES BBS – CUSSnet (Opus 138/35)

Msg #127, 23 May 87 21:24:14
From: Graham Wright
To: all
Subject: **Profiles**
Hello, I,m a curriculum planner with the National Health Service, working with Nursing students. Has anybody had experience of using student profile on health courses, who would like to exchange views with the U.K.

The U.K. is moving away from summative examinations to continuous assessment, and I am looking at the feasibility of using profiles to assess communication skills , attitudes and psycho motor skills.

---
* Origin: OSL Health Services BBS – Wigan UK (Opus 510/64)

Msg #133, 30 May 87 18:14:27
From: Marko Mazeland
To: Walt Davidson
Subject: **welcome**
Thanks for your welcome to the Dutch participants in the CUSS conference. Since English isn't our native language we do have a local conference on computer use in social sciences in Dutch. If anything worth mentioning here arises there, we'll (try to) translate it, and the other way around. We try to stimulate a strong participation from our Fido users here, though our English might be a bit pidgin.

If we've raised the funds to upgrade the equipment here to a 24 hours a day Fido for social sciences, the number of users (and the number of participants in the conference) will increase. I'm sure you'll be hearing a lot of us. [But I don't think we will be using the fund raising program advertised in this conference, since fund raising is done a bit different over here, with a strong government participation in welfare and welfare work.] In return I say welcome to the US and British folks to our Dutch BBS.

--- v1.36
* Origin: Marsh Mallow, Remmerden Netherlands (508/14)

Msg #134, 26 May 87 21:17:48
From: Chuck Mastrini
To: Bill Allbritten
Subject: **Employment Registry**
I think the idea of an employment registry has a lot of merit. This has been one of the things that I would like to be involved with. I had been previously toying with the idea of setting up an echo for the other CUSSnet members, as well as other interested parties. Well you can count on us to become involved in any capacity you so desire. I might add that we are going to be installing TBBS this summer, and we will have the capacity of operating a database online' which would be very conducive to displaying career type information.

---
* Origin: Mile High CUSS – DENVER, CO (104/614)

Msg #135, 26 May 87 21:23:46
From: Chuck Mastrini
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **Employment Registry**

I would like to poinout that many of the agencies in larger metro area do in fact publish their vacancy announcements. As a matter of fact most of the agencies I am personally associated with always advertise position vacancies as standard procedure.

I can't help but feel that a national echo between Cussnet boards would be a beneficial products for users of our systems. The University of Iowa currently maintains a BBS for FOSTER CARE type employment situations. I think we could easily establish a E-Mail area similar to ABLED from Phoenix. I also feel it would be a good method of giving a lot of students a real reason to become involved with this medium. Thanks Chuck

---

* Origin: Mile High CUSS – DENVER, CO (104/614)

Msg #136, 26 May 87 08:08:10
From: Mike Connealy
To: Steve Ice
Subject: **Reply to CUSSPOLL.143**

NASW New Mexico, FIDO 15/4, currently has 14 message areas active including 4 echo conferences which are AIDS/ARC, CUSS, GRANDROUNDS and VIETNAM.

We are using a standard FIDO system at present. I have recommended that we upgrade to SEAdog and OPUS and that we also go to a multi- tasking environment such as DESKVIEW.

I am the manager of a small State and City financed home care agency in the City of Las Cruces which provides personal care and home manage- ment services to low-income, homebound elderly. On the job I use an Epson Equity I with two floppies and 640K RAM. Software currently in use includes WordStar, TWIN (a LOTUS clone), PC-FILE and PROCOMM. We formerly used a database program, DATA-STAR, but I found it cumbersome and poorly suited to our needs. I am presently trying to formulate a strategy for managing my case records on the computer and would appreciate suggestions in this regard.

None of the echo conferences we are running are getting much attention from users at present. My experience has been that most bbs discussions tend to run out of steam after a couple of months regardless of the topic. I am not sure what the reason for that is and I think it is an issue which is deserving of some attention. In facilitating our local bbs discussions I have found that it is most productive to encourage people to share direct personal experiences rather than opinion or theory. I would like to see more of that kind of sharing of experience in the CUSS echo, particularly in reference to strategies for promoting computer use and computer networking in the human services. I would also be interested in knowing who is doing what research in this area and what their major findings are. From the references in the CUSS newsletter it appears that researchers in the UK are looking at the bbs phenomenon, but there doesn't appear to be much happening in that regard in this country.

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* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #137, 02 Jun 87 1:27:20
From: Dick Schoech
To: Users
Subject: **Welcome to the PICA Node**

The Washington D.C. (PICA) CUSSnet node is finally up. Congratulations to Bob Sabath, Denise and the rest of PICA staff. I hope they are hooked into the CUSSnet Echo. Also, just this week we have expanded the CUSSnet echo to Holland. The CUSSnet nodes including those which only carry the echo are listed below.

I hope the communications between D.C. and the Maryland CUSSN group and the rest of the CUSS network will now increase. The Maryland group has a lot to offer. Maybe Bob Elkin can send me something on the NASW conference in New Orleans. We hope to hook the NASW conference and HUSITA together via CUSSnet. Steve Ice is working on the details.

My special thanks to Bob Neilson for making all this possible. For all of us in the U.K.

Msg #142, 03 Jun 87 18:46:11
From: William Madonna
To: All Who Can Help
Subject: **Turbo Prolog**

I am trying to learn how to use Borland's Turbo Prolog on an IBM PC/XT. If you have ever read one of Borland's manuals, you will understand that using this as your sole instructor will frustrate you to the point where driving a jeep for a terrorist organization will look like a desirable alternative. Unfortunately, I don't know *ANYONE* who has more than just a casual acquaintance with Turbo Prolog.
QUESTION:
Given a list [Tom,Dick,Harry]
How would you add the symbol Mary to the list?
(Mary is NOT another list)
QUESTION:
Is there anyway to assign a variable to a list?
EXAMPLE: Y = [Tom,Dick,Harry] If anyone can give me some advise (short of give it up kid') on this I would be deeply in debt to that fortunate sole for the rest of my natural life. You can either send a message on this BBS, or contact me on the FIDO SOUP BBS ((505)525-2498 hours of operation 2200-1200)

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* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (15/4)

Msg #143, 05 Jun 87 09:32:44
From: Michael Van.meter
To: To See
Subject: **column--DEPRESSION**

I read a column by Ginger Hutton recently which consisted of reactions to a previous column regarding teenage suicides. It had a chilling effect on me... I twice attempted suicide when I was a teenager – long before the media brought public attention to the problem. Sadly, this problem is growing, and the problem is a difficult one to solve. When a person decides not to live, their self esteem is usually so low that they do not feel that they are worth helping... and so never seek help – besides ... who would listen anyway. Depression was a daily companion for me then. I was 13 when I first attempted suicide. I was not just lonely. I was being victimized and terrorized by some bullies in my class at school. I had no friends, no close family members, and no hope. My mother and I visited some family friends, and I stole some barbiturates from their medicine cabinet – they never even missed them.

I carried them around with me a couple days, then decided to go ahead and do it. I took the pills, then said goodnight to my mother. The frightening part? The only time I ever felt free in my life was between the time I took the pills and the time I went to sleep.

I survived, mainly because the dosage I took wasn't sufficient to kill me. I am told that I was dropped while they carried me out to the ambulance... I wouldn't know. When I woke up, I punched a doctor in the nose in the initial delirium. The only help' I got was a consultation with a Psychiatrist... which fulfilled the legal requirement!

I'm ok now, because I sought help and got it. I strongly urge anyone else with suicidal feelings to do so as well. Money is NOT AN PROBLEM – There are government programs to provide help for those who really need it

If this article will be of help to anyone, please print it. there is a poem associated with it, and you may get the complete article from me by calling me at (602) 275-3946. Sincerely, Michael S. Van Meter
--- FastScan v2.0x
* Origin: St. Joseph's Medical Center Phoenix AZ (602) 235-9653 (114/15)

Msg #145, 09 Jun 87 23:00:43
From: Peter Veeling
To: William Madonna
Subject: **Turbo Prolog**
Adding an item in front of a list can simply be done with the expression: [X|L]. If you want to define an explicit procedure for this function try: add(X,L,[X|L]). Assigning (or bounding) a variable to a list can be done in the way you suggest. Look at this (to complicated) alternative way to declare the Add-procedure mentioned above: Domains

slist := SYMBOL* Predicates
add(SYMBOL,slist,slist) Clauses
add(X,L,Z) :-
Z = [X|L].

I'am using two book's which I recommend as an (advanced) introduction to TurboProlog:
Prolog Programming for Artificial Intelligence by Ivan Bratko, Addison Wesley (Int. Comp. Science Series)
Advanced Turbo Prolog; Herbert Schildt; Osborne/Mcgraw-Hill At the moment I'am working on the outlines of an Expert'- system (better call it an consultancy-aid) which should be used in the offices of the Dutch Sociaal-Raadslieden' (social-consultants comparable to the U.K.'s NACAB). The system should give fast (what-if) answers to question about the more and more complicated system of the dutch social- security system. It is especially focused on the connection between the different parts: unemployment-Aid, Rent-grants, Income-Tax, etc. I'am planning to use Turbo-Prolog for the implementation of this system. Who else is working on this kind of system's? What kind of user-interface are you using and what other experiences do you have?
--- v1.36
* Origin: Marsh Mallow, Remmerden Netherlands (508/14)

Msg #146, 10 Jun 87 00:19:39
From: Hein De.graaf
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **research**
Reply to CUSSPOLL.143 Hello Mike. A little late I read your message on the Dutch bulletin board. In my dutch version of english I will try to have a go at answering your question about who's doing research in this field. I've just finished a preliminary study about the use of computers in social services in Holland. A major finding is that half of the agencies have already got computers but they only use it for clerical purposes. The only advice they got before buying the equipment was from the seller of the equipment himself. Nearly all made the mistake of buying computers before asking themselves the question: Do I need them and for what purpose. In other words they don't know the rule: First know your organization then decide where computers can play a role. There were a lot of tragic stories about wrong decisions and crying victims (mostly the girl who was expected to work with the thing. The next time I will tell you a little bit more about the computer as a Trojan horse in a agencies. Till next time. My name is Hein de Graaf, I live near Leiden in the west of the netherlands and I'm a researcher by profession (degree in psychology).
--- v1.36
* Origin: Marsh Mallow, Remmerden Netherlands (508/14)

Msg #150, 10 Jun 87 16:44:54
From: Bill O'connor
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **Case Mgmt software**
I see your name frequently on the BBS's I check. Just wanted to let you know that Framework II allows great case mgmt flexibility with provisions for multiple cases and individualized correspondence, case chrono's, telephone messages, etc. to be framed' in each case file, similar to a filing cabinet with individual case files. I have been using it for ombudsman files working as the long-term care ombudsman for Alaska. Do you have access to AGE-NET with the National Assoc. of State Units on Aging? Like to talk to you more about this.
--- FastScan v2.0x
* Origin: St. Joseph's Medical Center Phoenix AZ (602) 235-9653 (114/15)

Msg #151, 3 Jun 87 21:08:18
From: Dorothy Dean
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **Technology & social services**
Re: The $64,000 Question Your message sums up the state of affairs succinctly. I have a hard time seeing how technology will produce a better human service system. I suppose you could argue that the technology could at least free up the time of human service professionals so they would have more time in direct service. I'm not sure that experience would bear that out. I chair the local Combined Community Services Board (channels $40 million in state mental health $$ to Milwaukee County residents—mostly through contracts with private agencies). I also have been using micro computers for about 10 years. Also run a bbs (414-278-5390 24 hrs 300/1200 baud). I find it disappointing that the only real use that we seem to have found for using computers is to do the fraud checks that you mentioned. Of course, that part of it is on the social services side of the system rather than the mental health part. I'd like to see more discussion of possibilities beyond fraud detection! There must be others. I am impressed with computer bulletin boards devoted to specific interest areas and I think there are tremendous potential applications for hearing-impaired and possibly vision-impaired people. A much more useful system than the tty-type systems. Dorothy
---
* Origin: CUSSnet Milwaukee – Milwaukee, WI (139/450)

Msg #152, 15 Jun 87 3:02:11
From: Dick Schoech
To: Users
Subject: **Israel Node to be established**
Stuart Toole and I just got back from a trip to Israel and I am pleased to announce that Israel has agreed to put up a CUSSnet node in the near future. We found quite a lot of things happening in Israel. They are small enough to use micros for many of their applications. If you want information on what is happening in Israel or want to contact the person who will be setting up the CUSSnet Node, contact
Menachem Monnickendam
School of Social Work
Bar Ilan University
Tel Aviv, Israel
---
* Origin: Cardiff Opus on 0222-704739 (Opus 510/43)

Msg #153, 12 Jun 87 15:38:50
From: Mike Connealy
To: Bill O'connor
Subject: **Case Mgmt software**

I was very interested in what you had to say about the case management applications of FRAMEWORK II. It sounds like FRAMEWORK might be a lot better suited to the needs of our small home care agency than the odd assortment of software we are currently using. After reading your message, I pawed through my old CUSSnet newsletters, but couldn't find any references or ads. Can you supply me with some more info on availability, price, etc? If I can get the info fairly soon there is a possibility I could still get something in the budget for the coming year.

The only age-specific on-line system I know about is the AGELINE bibliographic database accessed through BRS. Would also be interested in hearing more about AGE-NET. We get some funding for our City programs including a Senior Companion program through the State Agency on Aging and the local AAA director is an active participant in our node; am sure he will also be interested.

Nice hearing from you again and look forward to further contact. I am amused that we are able to pursue this dialogue over such a considerable distance.
---
* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (Opus 15/4)

Msg #154, Fri 12 Jun 87 22:53
From: Tom Baughman
To: Bill O'connor
Subject: **Case Mgmt software**
I also use Framework II, primarily for budgeting and forecasting. I would be interested in further information on your applications. Have you developed an application or are you referring to using the Outline feature and separate Frame lables?
--- v1.35
* Origin: LINKS.BBS – (916) 343-4422 – Chico, CA (119/13)

Msg #157, 13 Jun 87 20:46:34
From: Mike Connealy
To: Hein De.graaf
Subject: **research**
Thanks for your comments on the use of computers in human services agencies in the Netherlands. It sounds like agencies in your country are undergoing experiences very similar to those in the U.S. I think your research findings are also very relevant to the introduction of computer networking to the human services.

Our computer bulletin board system is located at New Mexico State University near the State's southern border. Funding to buy our equipment was provided by the National Assoc. of Social Workers in hope that our system would be the first link in a human services communication net that would cover the State. Toward that end we have put on many demonstrations and workshops.

While there is a growing group making use of our bbs, a very small percentage are human services professionals. As you mention, many agencies and individuals have obtained computers, but few are employed to maximum effect. Strange as it seems, people are willing to invest thousands of dollars in hardware, but not many seem interested in putting in the few hours of thought and study needed to acquire basic computer skills.

It seems, therefore, that attitudes and professional preparation are greater constraints to the effective use of computers than are financial considerations. Part of this, as you mention, is unrealistic and simplistic expectations regarding computer use. It is all too obvious that micro-computers have revolutionary potential in the area of information management. However, it should also be apparent that the mere existence of a technological complex provides no guarantee that it will be used in a progressive manner. In fact, the record of performance of our large human services institutions demonstrates a great capacity for bending new technology to fit retrograde social policy.

I think the topics of your research are of great importance to those of us who participate in CUSSnet and I hope you will continue to share your thoughts on these matters with us.
---
* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (Opus 15/4)

Msg #158, 14 Jun 87 8:37:35
From: William Madonna
To: Peter Veeling
Subject: **Thanks**
Thanks a lot for the help on Prolog. It really saved the day. I will try to get a hold of those books you recommend and see if they can help further my knowledge of Prolog further. Your project sounds interesting and complicated. All the luck in the world, wish I could return the favor and help ya out. Again, thanks...
---
* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (Opus 15/4)

Msg #160, Mon 15 Jun 87 14:28
From: Tom Baughman
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **Case Mgmt software**
Framework II is an integrated software package that combines wordprocessing, speadsheets, data-base and telecommunications. I have found the programming of spreadsheets to be very useful in budget development. Framework has it's own programming language, FRED, which increases the power of this software considerably. You are able to develop applications around the integrated features to met your needs. I can see how a case management program could be developed with the tools that Framework II provides, however it is not something that you could sit down and start entering information into. You would need to develop or pay someone to develop an application to met your, data-base word processing needs.

It is not something that could be knocked out in a couple of hours unless you had some programming experience or were extremely familiar with the FRED programming language and the capabilities of Framework II. That is unless you would be satisfied with a rather simple system. It is something like $395 mail-order.
--- v1.35
* Origin: LINKS.BBS – (916) 343-4422 – Chico, CA (119/13)

Msg #161, Mon 15 Jun 87 14:46
From: Tom Baughman
To: Dorothy Dean
Subject: **Technology & social services**
[From a previous message]. *Of course, that part of it is on the social services side of the system rather than the mental health part. I'd like to see more discussion of possibilities beyond fraud detection! There must be others.*
I run a non-profit that providers mental health services and services to the developmentally disabled here in California. I've had a computer for about six years now and am just beginning to explore the possibilities. The first, and still foremost, application has been in budgeting, followed by standard word processing. My agency budget in right around $1 million, small but totally unmanageable without a computer. I have no clerical staff or other administrative staff, the computer is it. The time has saved me in budget preparations and word processing has been the only way we could have survived without more administrative support.

I am just beginning to get some of my programs to use the computer to transfer information between programs. Not everyone thinks it is a fantastic as I! I could see a data base program that would track residents after discharge in order to attempt to determine long range effects of our programs. I could be the computer handling the various report requirements in a way more than just a fancy typewriter. I even feel

that I could develop some of the software to do it (I'm playing with the C programming language). The problem is time and money! No time and not enough money. As I mentioned in another post, Framework II is a software package that is powerful and could do many of the things I am suggesting if an application were written. Other programs, Lotus 1-2-3 among them, have the ability to provide a format for similar applications, they could be written from scratch.

As a former case-worker I can see many applications that would be useful and relatively cheap to produce. I know of a couple of folks who are doing some work along these lines,but they are doing it privately for their own agency (as I have). I am surprised that more hasn't been done...or perhaps I just haven't seen it.
--- v1.35
* Origin: LINKS.BBS – (916) 343-4422 – Chico, CA (119/13)

Msg #162, 16 Jun 87 21:25:02
From: Mike Connealy
To: Dorothy Dean
Subject: **Applications**
You have mentioned several important applications of microcomputers in your recent message. If you do not presently receive the ABLED Echomail Conference, you might want to check it out as there is a debate underway there now regarding the relative merits of tty and bbs systems.

While it is interesting to speculate on some of the more exotic applications for microcomputers in human services work, I think it is easy in the process to overlook what may be the most important benefit to human services professionals-- the enhancement of individual productivity. Any kind of information management activity is bound to be facilitated by a microcomputer in the hands of someone well-versed in its use. As the home care coordinator for the City of Las Cruces I supervise 4 home aides and 3 Senior Companions and am the case manager for about 50 home- bound elderly. Because of my access to microcomputers, my need for clerical and secretarial support is near zero. I don't compete for scarce clerical help to get my correspondence sent out and my reports and case files are up to date and responsive to the needs of me and my clients rather than to some distant bureaucrat. As I compose this message on my portable, the office pc printer is churning out 30 pages of up-to-the-minute health news from Dr. Dodell's electronic newsletter which arrives via our local CUSSnet bbs node. In terms of quantity, I would guess that I am processing about twice the information of co-workers who do not use microcomputers and, in the process, I am accessing a world-wide database. Assuming my case management skills are up to par, and given the choice between me and a worker with no computer literacy (the average bsw), who would you hire to work in your agency?
---
* Origin: NASW New Mexico – Las Cruces, NM (Opus 15/4)

Msg #163, 20 Jun 87 15:08:02
From: Hein De.graaf
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **research**
It's very interesting that you got funding for your equipment with the purpose of beginning a nationwide communication net for the human services. That's exactly what we in Holland are trying to do with the Fido-node we started in connection with CUSS. But our problem is not so much the equipment (the computers are already there, and modems are not that expensive) but the organization. We are aiming at a system to put the messages and text files in a database with a retrieval possibility like they use in libraries. F.i. programs like superfile and cardbox. But such a retrieval-system is not possible in Fido. So we try to get money to start a Viditext-Telstar program beside the fido. In that program you can log

in and get entry into the database-program to search for information: 'I want everything about expert systems in the field of Child Abuse' for example. As opposed to fido this system costs money. Moreover we need the assistance of a professional documentalist. I expect that near the end of this year we will succeed to get the money necessary for these plans. The whole thing depends however on the quality and quantity of the information we will exchange in our own group in Holland and also in the international CUSS. The messages and files that will be exchanged are the necessary proof for the institution that will possibly fund us that it is worth while. So I end this message with the hope that you and your friends in America will keep up the good works. If you or others want to know more about our plans or about the situation in Holland, and it is to complicated to use the CUSS than you can write me. My address:
Hein de Graaf
Charlotte de Bourbonlaan 5
2341 VC Oegstgeest
Netherlands Next time more about my report. I'm writing an English article for the Husita Conference in Birmingham (England) next September. So you can read all about it after it's finished. Good bye, Hein
--- v1.36
* Origin: Marsh Mallow / Dutch CUSS, Remmerden Netherlands (508/14)

Msg #164, 22 Jun 87 0:15:49
From: Dick Schoech
To: Hein De.graaf
Subject: **Data Base outside FIDO**
Rather than the expensive Video Text system, you might try a database package that is connected to the outside function of FIDO. That way, users could exit fido and get into your database. We did that using Rbase for the National Association for Retarded Citizens Database on Technology for the Developmentally Disabled in Arlington Texas (Fido 130/10). Send Carrie Brown a message for details if you want. You would have to have a database that handled a memo type field like dbase III. Our main problem was getting the drivers to refresh the database screen across a modem. I think others have done this, possibly Walter Lamendola in Denver (104/614). Some databases have a natural language interface that could allow users to set up queries in their own language (Rbase does), but my experience with Rbase natural language interface is not very impressive. Anyway, maybe there is an inexpensive solution to your problem.
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* Origin: Cardiff Opus on 0222-704739 (Opus 510/43)
*** This is a reply to #163.

Msg #166, 22 Jun 87 19:18:02
From: Hein De.graaf
To: Dick Schoech
Subject: **Data Base outside FIDO** Did you have problems when people have access to your hard disk via the rbase program and in that way access other programs and make a mess of your beautiful files?
--- v1.36
* Origin: Marsh Mallow / Dutch CUSS, Remmerden Netherlands (508/14)

Msg #168, 15 Jun 87 9:01:20
From: Brian Hughes
To: Mike Connealy
Subject: **research**
I'm afraid techie fear and/or loathing is not limited to MSW's, but the church as well. We put up this system a year ago as a demo for online community resources (a database containing resources, tty numbers, barriers to services, bus routes etc,etc.) as well as experimenting with Dutchie points,

UUCP gateways, TTY access etc. Well, the number of Lutherans on the system compared to our users could be labeled statistically zero. I've met some wonderful people via these echos; I look forward to meeting a number of you at the FidoNet Conference here in Washington this August. As far as a means for communication for my particular constituency, this system is a bust. As far as a window into the growing field of E-Mail and networking, I'm hooked for life!

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* Origin: Insight – FidoNet Conference Info (202) 543-2146 (Opus 109/634)

Msg #172, 25 Jun 87 15:32:10
From: Dave Appel
To: all
Subject: **Fund-Master'** EMDownload the file FUND-MAST.TXT for a brief overview of Fund-Master', by Master Software. Or call our BBS, 317-842-7728, 7:00 pm to 7:00am central time, Sysop is Dave Appel. This is the most widely used fund- raising software in use in the U.S. and Canada. We are Fido Node 11/207.

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* Origin: HDS HUMAN SERVICES BBS – CUSSnet (Opus 138/35)

Msg #173, 05 Jul 87 0:21:59
From: Dick Schoech
To: Hein De.graaf
Subject: **fido-dbase**
The outside function to our database is protected by a password system and we assume that no BBS connected computer is secure. Therefore, the valuable information is not transferred to the BBS, but retained on a separate computer. The BBS runs a copy of the database.

For details, contact Carrie Brown at 130/5 at the U.S. National Assn for Retarded Citizens in Arlington, Texas. This is the National Headquarters office.
--- v1.36
* Origin: Cardiff Opus on 0222-704739 (510/43)
*** This is a reply to #166.

Health and Human Service Networking
Reprinted from Fidonews.

The Allied Health Teleconference Network by Bill Hliwa, Asst. Professor, Sysop, The Med Tech FIDO (260/10), State University of New York at Buffalo, Dept. of Medical Technology, AA107, 462 Grider Street, Buffalo, NY 14215, 30 Mar 1987, P. 3.

The Allied Health Teleconference Network (AHTN) is in the planning phase and participants are now being sought. This will be a specialized EchoMail conference covering topics including but not limited to:

Medical Technology (Laboratory Science)
Physical Therapy
Exercise Science
Occupational Therapy
Health Education
Biomedical Engineering

We would like to see as many participants as possible state side', but are also very interested in locating practitioners and educators in other parts of the world. External funding is being secured for this three year study, so that we plan to POLL all participants for their mail (anywhere in the world!).

Discussions will be moderated and we hope to arrange for guest speakers' who will answer user's questions and add insight to current topics.
• Is your board based in a clinical health setting?
• Is your board at a university or college with a school of Allied Health or programs in any of the above disciplines?
• Do you have users with backgrounds in an Allied Health field?

• Do you know of a local university, college or hospital that might be interested in participating through your board?
If you can answer'yes' to any of these questions, please contact me, Bill Hliwa, at The Med Tech FIDO (260/10) or via land mail.

Health oriented BBSs, by Edward DelGrosso, Black Bag BBS 126/120, from Fidonews, 13 Apr 1987, Pg. 8.
Late in 1984 I began to search the nations bulletin boards in order to create a list of boards specifically related to medicine. That first list had about 5 numbers on it and that really took some searching !

Since that time, health care professionals have really begun to take advantage of this powerful new form of communications, and now the list consists of over 90 numbers. Fido Net has been instrumental in this growth. Although still small in number, the sysops of these boards are now publishing their own weekly medical newsletter (Thanks to Dave Dodell at 114/15) and with the advent of echo mail, conferences have developed on a variety of medical topics including AIDS, Social Work, Alcoholism and Emergency Medical Services.

I have submitted the following list of medical bulletin boards to Fido News because I think they are a special resource within Fido Net. In addition to being a unique and vital medical communications link, these boards offer general users access to a wealth of medical information in the form of files, programs and on line professionals.

I'd like to appeal to the Fido Net Community in enhancing this list. It is an important asset which I feel needs to be aggressively maintained. For my part, I've confirmed the existence of these boards on the dates shown below and will continue to do so. I hope any Fido Net users having any additions !!!!!, corrections (especially name and baud rate) or suggestions would take a few minutes and net mail me the info at the address below.

Finally, I'd like to thank ALL those who have made Fido Net possible. It truly is the wave of the future and I congratulate those who have been, and are being so responsible in assuring that it evolves in a useful and coherent manner. Also, a special thanks has to go to all those medical Fido Net sysops who have done a superior job in attempting to help and educate society using this new medium.

Name of Board	Phone Number	Baud
ALASKA ANMC (Alaska Native Medical Center)	907-265-9550	1200
ARIZONA		
Doktur's Z Node	602-279-2762	1200
EMBBS	602-626-7957	2400
Eye Net (114/14)	602-941-3747	2400
St.Joseph Hospital BBS (114/15)	602-235-9653	2400
CALIFORNIA		
AIDS Info BBS	415-626-1246	1200
Digex-SDCS Disabled Int. Group.	619-454-8078	1200
Disability	415-841-6253	1200
Dr's Office RBBS	415-365-9124	1200
Environmental Health	408-298-4277	1200
Fog City Fido(125/10)	415-863-9697	1200
Friend of Bill W. (Alcohol)	415-833-1780	300
Legacy	213-553-7418	1200
LLUMC Medical Library	714-824-4328	1200
Medic	714-964-0454	1200
RBBS BIOMED	916-454-3324	1200
Recovery Room (125/9)	415-621-5206	1200
Survival Communications (125/7)	707-545-0746	1200
The ARB Research Bulletin	916-324-6997	1200
Wellspring	714-856-7996	1200
COLORADO		
8th Sea (104/610)	303-252-9235	2400
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		
Casualty Care BBS	202-576-0211	1200
Psych Research	202-466-2485	1200
DELAWARE		
Chemist's Comport (150/190)	302-479-0302	1200

FLORIDA		
Dr. Fido (18/15)	305-744-7862	2400
Epics Division EBBS (135/9)	305-883-6892	1200
Medical Information Sys.	813-885-5443	1200
GEORGIA		
Atlanta Medical Forum	404-351-9757	1200
Head-Board	404-987-0666	1200
HAWAII		
Doc Overlook's Fido (12/1)	808-941-5827	1200
ILLINOIS		
Dirty Ole Man(100/482)	618-254-2763	2400
Midwest Biomedical Engineering	312-227-7455	1200
INDIANA		
Testing Station	317-846-8917	1200
IOWA		
Anesthesiology BBS	319-353-6528	1200
KANSAS		
Medical Network BBS	316-688-5329	1200
KENTUCKY		
Fido-Racer(11/301)	502-762-2155	1200
Operating Room	502-245-3516	1200
LOUISIANA		
LA Medsig	504-737-8173	1200
MARYLAND		
Maryland Med-Sig	301-332-7386	2400
Micronetics Mumps BBS	301-948-6825	1200
The FIDO Solution(109/644)	301-363-7617	2400
MASSACHUSETTS		
Physics Forum (101/110)	413-545-1959	1200
MICHIGAN		
Michigan Med Sig	517-782-5342	1200
Psych Forum MSU	517-353-2003	1200
MINNESOTA		
Minn. Medical Conference	612-434-6315	300
MISSISSIPPI		
Optometry Online (100/514)	314-553-6068	1200
NORTH CAROLINA		
Health Education Forum	704-264-0674	1200
NORTH DAKOTA		
N.Dakota Family Med.	701-780-3228	1200
NEBRASKA		
Creighton U Pharmacy	402-280-3023	1200
NEW JERSEY		
BMBBS The Hospital	201-992-9893	2400
NEW YORK STATE		
Infancy Research (260/208)	716-244-7418	1200
The Med Tech Fido (260/10)	716-897-0504	2400
MicroLab BBS (107/233)	516-682-8525	2400
NEW YORK CITY		
American Psych Exchange	212-662-7171	1200
Clinically Oriented Fido	716-897-0504	2400
Emergency Info Line	212-269-3023	1200
Emergency Medic (107/110)	718-238-8120	2400
NYU Medical Fido (107/18)	212-254-3190	2400
Pharm Stat	718-217-0898	1200
NEW YORK STATE		
Infancy Research (260/208)	716-244-7418	1200
The Med Tech Fido (260/10)	716-897-0504	2400
MicroLab BBS (107/233)	516-682-8525	2400
OHIO		
Black Bag BBS (126/120)	614-421-7254	1200
CHIPS (157/697)	216-929-8483	1200
CHRF	513-559-8098	1200
Free-Net	216-368-3888	1200
Health Care (157/501)	216-331-4241	1200
OKLAHOMA		
Laboratory Forum	405-721-4502	1200
PENNSYLVANIA		
Datamed	412-656-0775	2400
Eye Opener BBS	215-834-8594	1200
Freedom Network (13/18)	717-253-4354	2400
Hemisphere	215-489-2768	1200
Jets RBBS (Jefferson Med)	215-928-7503	1200
North Star Medical CP/M	412-881-1749	2400
Phila Med	215-848-1152	1200
Scooters Sci Exchange	215-922-2541	1200
The Abstraction	215-295-1864	1200
The Second Opinion (129/31)	412-826-0822	2400

TEXAS		
Bare Bones Tox Net (117/1270)	409-845-9316	1200
COMSYS (Chemistry)	713-747-9547	1200
DataBankII(160/102)	512-643-2251	1200
Diabetes Discussion	512-454-9821	1200
Disabled Interest Group	915-592-5424	1200
Doc's Dental Office	214-463-6581	2400
Health Link	512-444-9908	1200
NET-WORKS Medi-Quip-Network	713-747-1232	1200
NFormation(Neurofibromatosis)	713-558-9908	1200
Vet Tech Hos (117/1261)	409-845-9199	1200
XRoads Med Net (19/210)	512-572-0715	1200
VIRGINIA		
ShanErin (109/604)	703-941-8291	2400
The Flying PCAT(109/612)	703-556-0253	2400
WASHINGTON STATE		
Cardio Board	206-328-7876	1200
Health Online	206-367-8726	1200
Midwife's Bag (138/41)	206-275-4146	2400
US HDS Human Service (138/35)	206-442-8127	1200
WISCONSIN		
Dent-Tech	414-224-1062	1200

National Vietnam Veteran's Echo-Mail Conference

by Todd C. Looney, 143/27 FidoNews 4-18, 11 May 1987, Pg. 9.

> *There is one other wall, of course.*
> *One we never speak of.*
> *One we never see,*
> *One which separates memory from madness.*
> *In a place no one offers flowers.*
> *THE WALL WITHIN.*
> *We permit no visitors.*

I started out with Steve Mason's poem because it tells a story in itself. I believe it accurately describes in very few words one of the very many complex, and probably one of the most protected, commonalities shared not only among a vast majority of military combat veterans of ANY war, but among nearly every person who has witnessed and survived any kind of life-threatening traumatic experience as well. This wall shields us from our darkest, most horrifying memories. It is, without question, one of the most significant components manifested in Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTS).

One of the toughest things for any combat veteran can be to open his or herself up (yes, there are women who have seen combat, too) to another human being and share the traumatic events from their past. It is rare in this instance when the occasion can be found when both the will and and a sympathetic, non-critical ear are both available at the same time. Most us of find it very hard, even when conditions are perfect, to 'tell it like it really was'. One has to have an awful lot of trust in a person to risk the consequences of lowering 'the wall', much less to permit others to visit among our long-since buried memories and feelings. When it gets right down to the line, most of us lose the courage to face the emotional ramifications which unmercifully enshroud us when we dare to share our deepest, most personal secrets with someone else. It is especially difficult when that other person has never experienced the same kind of traumatic events, making it difficult if not impossible for them to truly understand our pain.

How do you tell someone who has never experienced combat what it REALLY feels like to witness a comrades violent death? What will that person think of you when you tell them what it REALLY feels like to have to take the life of another human being? Is the emotional relief from getting it off your chest REALLY worth the gamble of possible rejection, ridicule, or criticism? Well, I can tell you from my own experiences that is is far less painful to keep the walls in place than it is to face up to the terrifying realities they imprison.

There are a few places where I can feel safe bringing up those old, painful memories; places where I can slowly pull each one out and deal with it in a comfortable atmosphere free of mis- understanding and criticism. The local Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center is one, but I sometimes have problems in one-on-ones. The others are computer bulletin boards where I can find others like myself who have been there and understand where I am coming from. I have also discovered in the past several months that there are an awful lot of non-vets, many who were either not born or were just too young to serve at the time, who can teach me a lot about myself and the residue of feelings still lingering beneath the surface of my consciousness. I have 'met' countless ex-protesters who have buried feelings of their OWN which need to be expressed. And, I am sure now, that we all have shared a learning experience together as we communicate our thoughts and feelings to one another.

I started a bulletin board just like that in my home in San Jose, California, now the Vietnam Veteran's Valhalla. I also conceived a national echo-mail conference devoted to the Vietnam Veteran and put out the call for supporters across the country. That call was answered by so many Fido, Opus, and TBBS sysops that I wouldn't attempt to name them all for fear of leaving one out. Together, we have linked our systems between the east and west coasts and I am proud to boast of our success, and proud of the long hours and hard work they have ALL put toward making the conference a grand success!

There are people from all walks of life contributing to the National Vietnam Veterans Echo-Mail Conference; combat and non- combat veterans from all wars, non-veterans of all ages, and Vietnamese military veterans and refugees. Just because you are not a Vietnam Veteran, or even a military veteran at all for that matter, is no reason not to call one of the boards closest to you. All you need is an interest in learning about the realities of the Vietnam war, and hearing about it from those of us who were actually there; who know the true cost of war and have paid that price. No historian, unless he or she has been there personally, can tell you what WE can! And conversely, no one can tell US what YOU can!

We want to put out the call again and ask for the support of other sysops around the country to become a part of this valuable public service by hosting the Vietnam Veterans Echo-Mail Conference in your area, or just to call and browse through the messages accumulated since June of last year. Please contact me, Todd Looney, at the Vietnam Veteran's Valhalla in San Jose, California by FidoNet mail at node 143/ 27, or direct at (408) 293-7894, or one of the coordinating SysOps listed below:

Mike Sellaroli	The Board #1	200/100	213-498-6425
Jerry Hindle	SpaceStation Opus	123/6	901-353-4563
Bob Richards	New York Transfer	107/105	718-442-1056
Jerry Nuckols	Lighting Rod	18/11	601-545-1225
Tracy Graves	The FORUM	138/39	206-565-1476

Echo-Mail is one of the most effective means of mass-communications brought to light this century, let's USE it!

THE DIRTY DOZEN: An Uploaded Program Alert List, Issue #7 by Eric Newhouse, From FidoNews 4-26, 13 Jul 1987, Page 11.

[Editor's Note: If you do not use public domain software, most of the information may only be of passing interest. However, the information on how to recover from a hard disk crash is important. I wish I had seen it when I accidentally formatted my hard disk.]

The problem:

Recently, many unlawfully copied or modified programs have appeared on various IBM PC bulletin boards across the country. THE DIRTY DOZEN is a list of known examples.

There are four major categories of bad software: commercial pirate jobs, unauthorized copies of otherwise legitimate freeware programs, malicious 'TROJAN' programs which damage your system, and miscellaneous illegal software. Please look in the definitions section of this document for a more detailed explanation of these terms.

SysOps: Please be careful with the files you post in your download libraries! An professional quality uploaded game or disk utility should arouse your suspicions, especially if it doesn't include the author's name, address, and distribution policy. Such programs are probably NOT public domain! The BBS community is already under legislative threat at the State and Federal level. We cannot fight this trend effectively while our directories sit stocked with cracked Sega games, war-games dialers, and malicious 'trojan horses!' Let's demonstrate a little social responsibility by cleaning up our download libraries.

If you as a SysOp have any of these files on your system, please delete them and post 'blocking' dummy file entries like this one:

ZAXXON.COM DELETED!!   NOT PUBLIC DOMAIN!!

If everyone works together to fight this new brand of software, the growing numbers of piraters and trojan horse writers may well be put 'out of business!'

The idea behind THE DIRTY DOZEN is to bring this important issue to the attention of more SysOps and users – to act as an information 'clearing -house' for the latest known examples of 'bogusware,' so that an educated public can fight effectively for safe downloadable files.

The Dirty Dozen is a big project, and it needs your help to succeed! Please call in any updates of bad software that you know of, but DO NOT modify this article yourself. If everyone who discovers a pirated program starts modifying the DD, there would be hundreds of issues in circulation.

Also, I think it's quite unfair, especially considering that I've spent over a hundred hours of my time on this list, for just anyone to put their name at the top of the list and say that they write, or helped write, the DD. For example, someone named Gerhard Barth added two files, both of which were already listed in the DD, and proceeded to write Updated by Gerhard Barth, please send all further updates to Gerhard Barth, etc. If everyone does this, how will anyone know which file is the latest and TRUE Dirty Dozen? If you have an update, please see the end of this article for information on how to reach me with new information.

A word on TROJANS: I have been hearing more and more reports of these 'worm' programs, from all directions. While I don't doubt their existence, do not get hysterical. Remember, a Trojan rumor is much easier to START than it is to STOP. Some people have accused legitimate *joke* programs, like DRAIN (which pretends to be gurgling excess water out of your A drive) of being 'killers.'

If a program locks up your system, it isn't necessarily Trojan; it might not like co-residing with Superkey, or your graphics card. Ask around a little before you announce something as Trojan. I would appreciate a bagged specimen of any real Trojan program that you might have the (un)luck to find.

A word on Pirated programs: Recently many pirated programs such as AUTODEX have been going under many different names. Although I will try to keep all these names current in the DD, the best way to check for piracy in a file is to run that file yourself – checking for (C)opyright notices of commercial manufactures, similarities in looks and operations of commercial programs, and of course whether the name is in this list.

Finally I want to thank all BBS SysOps and users that notified me of updates, additions, and/or corrections to DIRTYDOZ.006. It's great to see so much support! In this issue more people than ever called in with updates. Everyone else who reads this list, along with myself, really appreciates the effort!

NOTE: If I do not supply a file extension, that means that the file circulates under many different extensions. For instance, users commonly upload with extensions of either: .EXE, .COM, .EQE, .CQM, .LBR, .LQR, and .ARC.

If you run a trojan horse:

While reading this, bear in mind that there is no better remedy for a drive that has run a trojan horse than a recent backup..

The first thing to do after running what you think to be a trojan horse is diagnose the damage. Was your [hard] drive formatted? Did the trojan scramble your FAT table? Did every file get erased? Did your boot sector on the [hard] drive get erased/formatted? Odds are that the trojan incurred one of these four disasters.. After the initial diagnosis, you are ready to remedy the problem.

1) If the trojan low-level formatted your [hard] disk: Hope that you have a recent backup; that's the only remedy for this disease.

2) If the trojan high-level formatted your [hard] disk: There is only one way out of this mess, and that is to use the MACE utilities by Paul Mace. MACE has two devices in it to recover formatted disks, and believe me, they work! I will talk more about the MACE utilities later.

3) If the trojan scrambled your FAT table: Once again, there is nothing to do. However, there is a program called FATBACK.COM (available on my board named as FATBCK11.ARC) that will back up your FAT table in under a minute to floppy. Using FATBACK, it is easy and non time consuming to back up your FAT regularly.

4) If the trojan erased file(s), and the FAT table is undamaged: There are many packages to undelete deleted files. Norton Utilities, PC-tools, MACE, and UNDEL.COM will all do the job. I recommend the first three, but they are more expensive than the Public Domain program UNDEL.COM. When you are undeleting, be sure to undelete files in the order of last time written to disk. I know that PC-tools automatically lists undeletable files in the correct order, but the other three may not.

5) If the boot sector on your [hard] disk gets erased/ formatted: There are four things to do if this happens, and the worst that can happen is that you will go without a [hard] disk for a while. To be on the safest side, back up everything before even proceeding to step 'A,' although I can not see why it would be necessary.

   A) Try doing a 'SYS C:' (or SYS A:) from your original DOS disk, and copy COMMAND.COM back onto the [hard] drive after that. Try booting and if that doesn't work try step B.

   B) If you have the MACE utilities go to the 'other utilities' section and 'restore boot sector.' This should do the job if you have been using MACE correctly.

   C) If you are still stuck, BACK EVERYTHING UP and proceed to do a low level format. Instructions on how to perform a low-level format should come with your [hard] disk controller card. Be sure to map out bad sectors using either SCAV.COM by Chris Dunford or by manually entering the locations of bad sectors into the low level format program. After the low level format, if your have a hard disk, run FDISK.COM (it comes with DOS) and create a DOS partition. Refer to your DOS manual for help in using FDISK. Then put your original DOS diskette in drive A: and do a FORMAT drive letter:/S/V. Drive letter can stand for 'C' or 'B' depending on whether you are reformatting a hard disk or not. Finally you are ready to attempt a reboot.

   D) If you are still stuck, either employ some professional computer repairmen to fix your drive, or live with a non- bootable [hard] drive.

By now you may be saying to yourself:
'How can I get a hold of a 'MACE+'' utilities package so that I can guard against trojans? Why, MACE can recover a formatted drive, undelete files, restore boot sectors, optimize a disk, and provide a disk cache!

Anyone can obtain these marvelous utilities in one of two ways: one is to call up the Paul Mace Software Company (tm) and order them at a retail of $ 79.95. The other is place an order for them at the WEST LOS ANGELES PC-STORE, which supports next day UPS shipping! The BBS phone for the PC-STORE is at the end of this document.

Finally:
If you have any additions or corrections for this list, send them to Eric Newhouse at any of the following places: (in order of most frequented)
   * The Crest RBBS (213-471-2518) (1200/2400) (80 MB)
   * The West LA PC-STORE (213-559-6954) (300/1200/ 2400)

TROJAN HORSE PROGRAMS:

ANTI-PCB [*TROJAN*] The story behind this trojan horse is sickening. Apparently one RBBS-PC sysop and one PC-BOARD sysop started feuding about which BBS system is better, and in the end the PC-BOARD sysop wrote a trojan and uploaded it to the rbbs SysOp under ANTI-PCB.COM. Of course the RBBS-PC SysOp ran it, and that led to quite a few accusations and a big mess in general. Let's grow up! Every SysOp has the right to run the type of BBS that they please, and the fact that a SysOp actually wrote a trojan intended for another simply blows my mind.

ARC513.EXE [*TORJAN*] This hacked version of arc appears normal, so beware! It will write over track 0 of your [hard] disk upon usage, destroying the disk.

ARC514.COM [*TROJAN*] This is totally similar to arc version 5.13 in that it will overwrite track 0 (FAT Table) of your hard disk. Also, I have yet to see an .EXE version of this program..

BACKTALK [*TROJAN*] This program used to be a good PD utility, but some one changed it to be trojan. Now this program will write/destroy sectors on your [hard] disk drive. Use this with caution if you acquire it, because it's more than likely that you got a bad copy.

CDIR.COM [*TROJAN*] This program is supposed to give you a color directory of files on disk, but it in fact will scramble your disks FAT table.

DANCERS.BAS [*TROJAN*] This trojan shows some animated dancers in color, and then proceeds to wipe out your [hard] disk's FAT table. There is another perfectly good copy of DANCERS.BAS on BBS's around the country; apparently the idiot author in question altered a legitimate program to do his dirty work.

DISKSCAN.EXE [*TROJAN*] This was a PC-MAGAZINE program to scan a (hard) disk for bad sectors, but then a joker edited it to WRITE bad sectors. Also look for this under other names such as SCANBAD.EXE and BADDISK.EXE...

DMASTER [*TROJAN*] This is yet another FAT scrambler..

DOSKNOWS.EXE [*TROJAN*] I'm still tracking this one down - - apparently someone wrote a FAT killer and renamed it DOSKNOWS.EXE, so it would be confused with the real, harmless DOSKNOWS system-status utility. All I know for sure is that the REAL DOSKNOWS.EXE is 5376 bytes long. If you see something called DOSKNOWS that isn't close to that size, sound the alarm. More info on this one is welcomed -- a bagged specimen especially.

DPROTECT [*TROJAN*] Apparently someone tampered with the original, legitimate version of DPROTECT and turned it into a FAT table eater.

DROID.EXE [*TROJAN*] This trojan appears under the guise of a game. You are supposedly an architect that controls futuristic droids in search of relics. In fact, PC-Board sysops, if they run this program from C:/PCBOARD, will find that it copies C:/PCBOARD/ PCBOARD.DAT to C:/PCBOARD/HELP/HLPX. In case you were wondering, the file size of the .EXE file is 54,272 bytes.

EGABTR [*TROJAN*] BEWARE! Description says something like 'improve your EGA display,' but when run it deletes everything in sight and prints 'Arf! Arf! Got you!'

EMMCACHE [*CAREFUL*] This program is not exactly a trojan, but it may have the capability of destroying hard disks by:
   A) Scrambling every file modified after running the program,
   B) Destroying boot sectors.
This program has damaged at least two hard disks, yet there is a base of happily registered users. Therefore, I advise extreme caution if you decide to use this program.

FILER.EXE [*TROJAN*] One SysOp complained a while ago that this program wiped out his 20 Megabyte HD. I'm not so sure that he was correct and/or telling the truth any more. I have personally tested an excellent file manager also named FILER.EXE, and it worked perfectly. Also, many other SysOp's have written to tell me that they have like me used a FILER.EXE with no problems. If you get a program named FILER.EXE, it is probably alright, but better to test it first using some security measures.

FINANCE4.ARC [*CAREFUL*] This program is not a verified trojan; there is simply a file going around BBS's warning that it may be trojan. In any case, execute extreme care with it.

FUTURE.BAS [*TROJAN*] This 'program' starts out with a very nice color picture (of what I don't know) and then proceeds to tell you that you should be using your computer for better things than games and graphics. After making that point it trashes your A: drive, B:, C:, D:, and so on until it has erased all drives. It does not go after the FAT alone, but it also erases all of your data. As far as I know, however, it erases only one sub-directory tree level deep, thus hard disk users should only be seriously affected if they are in the 'root' directory. I'm not sure about this on either, though.

NOTROJ.COM [*TROJAN*] This 'program' is the most sophist-icated trojan horse that I've seen to date. All outward appearances indicate that the program is a useful utility used to FIGHT other trojan horses. Actually, it is a time bomb that erases any hard disk FAT table that IT can find, and at the same time it warns: 'another program is attempting a format, can't abort!' After erasing the FAT(s), NOTROJ then proceeds to start a low level format. One extra thing to note: NOTROJ only damages FULL hard drives; if a hard disk is under 50% filled, this program won't touch it! If you are interested in reading a thorough report on NOTROJ.COM, James H. Coombes has written an excellent text file on the matter named NOTROJ.TXT. If you have trouble finding it, you can get it from my board.

TIRED [*TROJAN*] Another scramble the FAT trojan by Dorn W.Stickle.

TSRMAP [*TROJAN*] This program does what it's supposed to do: give a map outlining the location (in RAM) of all TSR programs, but it also erases the boot sector of drive 'C:'.

PACKDIR [*TROJAN*] This utility is supposed to 'pack' (sort and optimize) the files on a [hard] disk, but apparently it scrambles FAT tables.

PCW271xx.ARC [*TROJAN*] A modified version of the popular PC-WRITE word processor (v. 2.71) has now scrambled at least 10 FAT tables that I know of. If you want to download version 2.71 of PC-WRITE be very careful! The bogus version can be identified by its size; it uses 98,274 bytes whereas the good version uses 98,644. For reference, version 2.7 of PC-WRITE occupies 98,242 bytes.

QUIKREF [*TROJAN*] This ARChive claims that it will load RBBS-PC's message file into memory 2 times faster than normal. What it really does is copy RBBS-PC.DEF into an ASCII file named HISCORES.DAT...

RCKVIDEO [*TROJAN*] This is another trojan that does what it's supposed to do, then wipes out hard disks. After showing some simple animation of a rock star (Madonna, I think), the program will go to work on erasing every file it can lay it's hands on. After about a minute of this, it will create 3 ascii files that say You are stupid to download a video about rock stars, or something of the like.

SECRET.BAS [*TROJAN*] BEWARE!! This may be posted with a note saying it doesn't seem to work, and would someone please try it; when you do, it formats your disks.

SIDEWAYS.COM [*TROJAN*] Be careful with this trojan; there is a perfectly legitimate version of SIDEWAYS.EXE circulating. Both the trojan and the good SIDEWAYS advertise that they can print sideways, but SIDEWAYS.COM will trash a [hard] disk's boot sector instead. The trojan .COM file is about 3 KB, whereas the legitimate .EXE file is about 30 KB large.

STAR.EXE [*TROJAN*] Beware RBBS-PC SysOps! This file puts some stars on the screen while copying RBBS-PC.DEF to another name that can be downloaded later!

STRIPES.EXE [*TROJAN*] Similar to STAR.EXE, this one draws an American flag (nice touch), while it's busy copying your RBBS-PC.DEF to another file (STRIPES.BQS) so Bozo can log in later, download STRIPES.BQS, and steal all your passwords. Nice, huh!

TOPDOS [*TROJAN*] This is a simple high level [hard] disk formatter.

VDIR.COM [*TROJAN*] This is a disk killer that Jerry Pournelle wrote about in BYTE Magazine. I have never seen it, although a responsible friend of mine has.

This is the end of the 'bad files list.' The rest of this document contains instructions on what to do if YOU run a trojan horse, an update history, a glossary, and information on how and where to contact me with updates.

The FEMINISM EchoMail Conference, by Kim Storment, Fido 100/523, Feminism Conference Coordinatorfrom FidoNews 4-17, 4 May 1987, Page 6.

You're not an ordinary woman—or you wouldn't be reading this. Want a chance to share your views on subjects that affect us, as women, and how we affect the world? What does 'feminism' mean to you? (You'd probably be surprised at the diversity of opinion on that one!) We've recently been discussing:
* Equal Rights / Civil Rights
* The 'Cinderella Syndrome'
* Surrogate motherhood
* Equal parenting responsibility
* Whether or not (fe)male strippers are exploited
* Inequality (real and/or perceived) in the job market

Contact any one of the nodes below for a hookup!

NODE#	NAME	CITY, ST	PHONE	BAUD
14/341	Terraboard	Minneapolis, MN	1-612-721-8967	2400
100/523	WeirdBase	St. Louis, MO	1-314-389-9973	2400
107/6	SEAboard II	Clifton, NJ	1-201-473-8522	2400
107/169	Utopian Quest NYC	New York, NY	1-212-686-5248	1200
107/269	Utopian Quest LI	Bellmore, NY	1-516-842-7518	1200
107/316	Metatek Fido	Tom's River, NJ	1-201-286-2567	1200
124/103	Opus USA	Plano, TX	-Unpublished-	2400
124/109	The Diplomat	Carrollton, TX	1-214-242-9399	2400
141/488	Alice's Restaurant	Branford, CT	1-203-488-1115	2400
161/93	ThelemaNet	Berkeley, CA	1-415-548-0163	2400

P.S. Men who are willing to think are welcome, too!

Members Comments and Activities

New Position from Lynn Vogel, Director, Medical Center Information Services, 5841 South Maryland Ave., Chicago, IL 60637 [Lynn was formerly the co-editor of the CUSS Network Newsletter]

Since I have been out of touch for some time, I thought I would catch everyone up on my activities. In 1985, I decided to move more directly into the healthcare area which I felt would be more responsive to information technology introduction. I was becoming quite frustrated with cutbacks in research support and in many agency plans to introduce automation. I accepted an appointment as Associate Director of Hospital Finance with the U. of Chicago Hospitals in September 1985, which continuing my teaching at the School of Social Administration (SSA). At the Hospitals, I had responsibility for inpatient admissions and the financial aspects of outpatient registration. My social work skills were enormously valuable in that role since we were involved in major organizational changes involving the admitting staff and the introduction of more sophisticated computer systems support for the admission and outpatient registration processes. I resigned from SSA in September 1986 and became full time at the Hospitals, and began several major projects involving using microcomputers as a 'front end' to our mainframe hospital information system.

Last month I was asked to assume responsibilities as Director of Medical Center Information Services, the department with responsibility for virtually all major computer support activities for the U. of Chicago Hospitals. This is an extensive responsibility, since it includes almost a dozen major computer systems, a communications network which supports almost 1,000 separate devices, keeping track of almost 20,000 inpatient admissions and 230,000 outpatient visits annually. What is unusual about this opportunity is that the Hospitals have given the overall responsibility for information systems development to a social worker!

From a practical standpoint, these new responsibilities mean that I've pretty much lost touch with computer issues related to the human services. It is simply impossible to keep up with all that is happening in the health care field as well as human services. Even my subscriptions to PC Magazine have languished in the face of expectations to be up-to-date in the mainframe hardware and software developments in healthcare. We are exploring many of the same issues I was interested in several years ago—expert systems, micro- mainframe integration, decision support systems in a mainframe-based environment, etc. So while the interests have continued to develop, my ties to human services have unfortunately diminished.

Automating Medical Library from Fred Romero, Patient and Family Support Services, Mountain States Tumor Institute, 151 East Bannock, Boise, ID 83712

This year I'm involved in the development of a funding proposal. The first objective of the project is the production of a community resource directory for cancer resources. The second objective is to automate the patient education library and the medical library at the Institute. The overall outcome is making existing cancer information and resources more accessible to consumers and health care professionals in the Idaho area. We are looking at computer hardware and existing software at this time.

Our department secretary uses an IBM DisplayWriter for word processing and has created graphs of casework data for the department monthly report. I am interested in computer applications in health and social work.

Medical Expert System at the Dallas VA Hospital excerpted from AI Interactions, a publication from the Texas Instruments Data Systems Group, 12501 Research Blvd., M/S 2244, Austin, Texas 78759.

Dr. Herb Doller, Chief of the Neurophysiology Lab and the AI Lab and Dr. Richard Homan, a neurologist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dallas is developing Epileptic Assistant, an expert system to detect epileptic seizures. Epileptic Assistant will help improve the quantity and quality of care after a patient has been diagnosed as having epilepsy. Epileptic Assistant will allow non-physicians to handle preliminary information gathering and pass that information to the physician in a format that would reduce treatment time and, it is hoped, improve quality. The system will allow non-experts to effectively gather and format information for the 'true experts', functioning much as the traditional consult to improve quality control.

Apple Computer Establishes Centers excerpted from Computer Disability News, National Easter Seal Society, 2023 West Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60612, Vol 4(2), Summer 87,

Apple Computer recently initiated the National Special Education Alliance (NSEA) which is a coalition of regional nonprofit computer resource centers across the U.S. During a six month trial period, Apple will stimulate and observe community grass roots efforts at ten centers across the U.S.: Santa Monica, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Kettering, OH; Denver, CO; Salina, KS; Minneapolis, MN; Winter Park, FL; El Cerrito, CA; Louisville, KY; and Chicago, IL. Each center will display computers and potential assistive peripherals appropriate for a host of disabling conditions, with interested parents of disabled youngsters in the community providing guidance. The centers themselves may be located in community civic halls or in section of libraries, but wherever they are, their existence will empower visitors with new knowledge of the independence computers can provide people with disabilities.

For more information on the project, write Robin Coles, Apple Computer, Office of Special Education, 20525 Mariani Ave., MS 36-M, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Information for Children's Rights from John F. Prior, POB 2168, Rockville, MD. 20852-2168.

I am the director of MIS for the National Council for Children's Rights. I run a RBBS based BBS with a door that allows users access to the commercial relational DBMS Oracle. I have used Oracle to implement a full membership management system for NCCR. It uses tables that can be joined to other tables such as a table of the 95,000 zip codes in the U.S.; thus saving keying of city and state information. Other tables available now contain the roster of the House of Representatives and the Senate. I am interested in exchanging information with any CUSS organization that is interested in furthering Children's rights.

Observations from Sandy Anderson, Program Coordinator, 690 Cataraqui St., Windsor, Ontario N9A 3PI.

I am pleased to renew my subscription. I have two observations.
1. This newsletter suffers from the same problem as many other recent publications on computers and human services—lots of information—but little sense of what good it is doing us.

2. The focus on telecommunications seems misplaced in human services, because we have little need for two of its main advantages, i.e., speed and computer to computer linkage. We are not stock brokers.

Can we have more articles concerning the ideas behind using computers in human services and less on the technology? For example, Dr. Bud Hansen at the University of Windsor is conducting research on the use of computers to teach statistics to social work students. His theoretical background to this effort would make interesting reading.

Issues in patient tracking--Conference theme from Shelley Sprung, MSIS Conference Coordinator, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, Information Sciences Division, Orangeburg, New York 10962. (914) 359-0002

Issues in patient tracking is the theme of the tenth MSIS National Users Group Conference to be held November 12- 13, 1987 at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, New York. This Biennial forum co- sponsored by the Information Sciences Division of the Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research and the MSIS National Users Group will address patient tracking from several aspects, including quality care, privacy/confidentiality and technology.

J. Frank James, M.D., Commissioner, Oklahoma Dept of Mental Health and President, National Association of State Mental Health Directors, will give the keynote address. Various state and local projects will report on the program process and technology of their tracking systems.

Over 200 professionals are expected to attend representing clinical, quality assurance, administrative, legal and technical interests. Papers and research findings in applied information sciences in health and human services will be presented.

Resources and Materials

Electronic Information Resources

SpecialNet is the largest education-oriented computer based communications network in the U.S. It is designed to provide up-to-date information and instant communications for persons concerned with educational services and programs. SpecialNet includes electronic mail, electronic bulletin boards, and data collection and information management. Write the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, 2021 K Street, N.W. Suite 315, Washington, D.C., 20006.

Job Accommodation Network has a computerized database of job accommodations that employers have used to enable disabled people to work. JAN is funded by the National Institute of Handicapped Research and other resources. For details, contact JAN--PCEH, POB 468, Morgantown, WV 26505.

SCAN--Shared Communication and Assistance Network is was developed by the American Association of University Affiliated Programs (AAUAP) for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. SCAN is a joint undertaking of government and the private sector which established one common communication medium for state and local information resources, referral services and national databases. For details, contact SCAN, c/o AAUAP, 8605 Cameron St., Suite 406, Silver Springs, MD 20901.

On-line Government Training Course Directory. A directory of training and development courses available to federal, state and local government employees is now available on-line. To obtain a free password, call the Government Program Office at Timeplace, Inc., toll free (800) 544-4023.

Newsletters, Magazines, & Journals

FOCUS, a new quarterly newsletter from the National Council on the Handicapped. FOCUS will report on the activities of the Council as well as issues pertinent to persons with disabilities. For a free copy, contact The National Council on the Handicapped, 800 Independence Ave., S.W., Suite 814, Washington, D.C., 20591.

Books and Reports

Mental Health Personal Computers: Markets and Technology by Psychological Research Associates, 1511 Fifth St., Suite 126, Missouri City, Texas 77489 (713) 499-3932, 380pp, $38 (1987).

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I.   Introduction and Prospectus (page 1) History of Mental Health Computers What the Mental Health Profession Requires from the Computer Industry What Services Personal Computers can Perform for the Mental Health Professional
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    Results of Survey of Computer Use at University and Colleges
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Federal Government Information Technology: Electronic Record Systems and Individual Privacy U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, OTA-CIT-296, Washington D.C., U.S. Government Printing Office, June 1986, 152 pages.
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    Summary Electronic Record Systems and the Privacy Act: An Introduction (p. 11)

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F. Privacy and Data Protection Policy in Selected Foreign Countries.

Software Announcements

I-View SKills is a instructional software package which presents concepts and principles of 15 interviewing skills. It is designed for both self instruction and classroom use in conjunction with lectures and text. $35. From OUTP ST, 119 Wilson, Park Forest, IL 60466.

Two Free Demo Disks Available. The Insite Software Catalog lists two free demo disks. One if for the Multi-Provider Billing System, the other is for the MMPI. Contat Applied Innovations, South Kingstown Office Park, Wakefield, RI 02879 (800) 272-24250.

Upcoming Events

Third Annual Computer Technology Special Education/Rehabilitation International Conference, 15-17 Oct 87, Los Angeles Claifornia. Write California State U. Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330.

Quality Assurance: New Tools to Improve Human Services, 22-24 October, 1987, Charleston, South Carolina. Contact Ms Andrea Evans, State of South Carolina, State Health and Human Services Finance Commission, POB 8206, Columbia, S. Carolina (803) 253-6154.

Technology and Aging: The Impact of Technology on the Quality of Life of the Elderly, October 25-27, 1987, Miami, Fl. Contact Office of Continuing Education, O. of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI 54751.

Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care (SCAMC), November 1-4, Washington D.C. Contact Katherine Baker, (202) 994-3415.

British Computer Society—Specialist Group for the Disabled: 3rd Annual Conference, 25 Nov 1987, Condon. Contact BSC, CEGB, Sudbury House, Newgate St., Condon, EC1.

Tenth MSIS National Users Group Conference, November 12-13, 1987, Holiday Inn, Suffern, New York. Conference theme: Issues in patient tracking. Contact Shelley Spring, Nathan Kline Institute. Information Sciences Division, Orangeburg, New York 10962 (914) 359-0002

The First International Conference on Computers in Health Care, Training, and Education, Keele University, October, 1988. Following the successful CBT '86 the open software library together with the National Health Service Training Authority (NHSTA) will organize this three day conference for people in caring professions. Abstracts should be sent to Graham Wright, Conference Chairman CBT '88, Open Software Library, 164 Windsor Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, England WN4 9³S, Telephone 9042 712385

Third Annual National Symposium on Information Technology as a Resource to Health and Disability Professionals, April 24-27, 1988 in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. For more information contact Girish Yajnik, Kathy Mayfield, or Denise Wiles, National Symposium on Information Technology, 1244 Blossom St., 5th Floor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. Carolina 29208, 803-777-4435.

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