

# Table of Contents

Introduction. . . . . 5

Some Added Thoughts. . . . . 6

Happy, Healthy, and Safe Surfing . . . . . 7

Internet FAQ. . . . . 8

## Electronic Mail

- E-mail FAQ. . . . . 10
- E-mail Tips. . . . . 11
- E-mail Shortcuts. . . . . 12
- Netiquette . . . . . 13
- E-mail Spotlight: KIDLINK. . . . . 14

## Mailing Lists

- Mailing List FAQ. . . . . 15
- Mailing List Spotlight: Liszt Directory of E-Mail. . . . 17  
Discussion Groups
- Mailing Lists to Try. . . . . 18

## Newsgroups

- Newsgroup FAQ . . . . . 19
- Newsgroup Tips. . . . . 20
- Newsgroup Spotlight: Newsreader Software. . . . . 21
- Newsgroups to Try . . . . . 22

## Gopher

- Gopher FAQ. . . . . 23
- Helpful Gopher Sites . . . . . 25
- Gopher Spotlight: Searching with Turbogopher . . . . 26

## File Transfer Protocol

- FTP FAQ . . . . . 30
- FTP Spotlight: ArchiePlex . . . . . 31

## Chat

- Chat FAQ. . . . . 33
- Chat Spotlight: Parent Soup . . . . . 34

# Table of Contents (cont.)

## Telnet

- Telnet FAQ . . . . . 35
- Telnet Spotlight: MicroMuse . . . . . 37

## Video

- Video FAQ . . . . . 38
- Video Spotlight: Connectix VideoPhone . . . . . 39

## World Wide Web

- World Wide Web FAQ . . . . . 40
- Web Page Design Guidelines . . . . . 42
- What to Expect from Your Web Browser . . . . . 43
- Other Browser Tips . . . . . 44
- Web Spotlight: Netscape Navigator . . . . . 45
- A Peek at Netscape Navigator 3.0 . . . . . 48
- During Those Inevitable Lulls on the Web . . . . . 49
- Rough Surfing on the Web . . . . . 50
- A Look at Search Engines . . . . . 52

## Web Site Reviews

- Awakening Your Social Conscience . . . . . 55
- Encouraging Budding Artists . . . . . 64
- Browsing for Fun . . . . . 71
- Bringing School Home . . . . . 85
- Broadening Your Knowledge Base . . . . . 96
- Enriching Your Family Life . . . . . 117
- Getting Direction on the Net . . . . . 125
- Publishing Your Work in Cyberspace . . . . . 135
- Enhancing Your Offline Time . . . . . 143

## Appendix A: Internet Software and Other

- Sites to Visit . . . . . 154

- Glossary . . . . . 155

- Bibliography . . . . . 160

# Introduction

The Internet was designed in the 1960s as a network that would enhance military communications. It gained further popularity (and its current name) when the National Science Foundation enhanced its capabilities to facilitate data-sharing among scientists and academicians. The biggest boom to the Internet's popularity, was the development of the World Wide Web. It was introduced at the European Particle Physics Laboratory (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, again with the goal of enhancing communication among scientists. However, as the Web's graphical, point-and-click interface developed, people began seeing more and more potential for all, not just scientists. So here we are . . . Welcome to all of you who are reading **Internet for Kids!**

If you use this book, you will be joining millions of people worldwide in the communications revolution of the 90s, known as the Internet.

## Objectives of this book

This book will help you to:

- explore. Hop on and see what's out there.
- contribute. Be part of this revolution and submit an essay, some fiction, or an opinion.
- learn. This entails a lot. Learn about nature, space, current events, other people. Learn about new interests. Learn where you will most want to "netsurf."

- team up. Collaborate with family and friends. Combine efforts with online acquaintances.
- most of all, have fun!

## How this book is organised

In the first half of this book, you will explore the tools that will help you mine the riches of the Internet—electronic mail, file transfer protocol, Usenet newsgroups, Gopher, video, chat, and Telnet. You will take a quick look at the mechanics of using these tools on a daily basis (computer time permitting, of course) by spotlighting a resource that can make them even handier and more valuable than they already are.

Then in the second half of the book, you will become acquainted with the World Wide Web and the numerous sites that can enrich a family's experience in cyberspace. Each site review will include the following:

- a brief overview of that site.
- a suggested activity (often collaborative in nature) to extend the experience beyond the computer.
- site highlights.
- at least one other site related to the site you are already exploring.

# Internet FAQ

## What is the Internet?

The Internet is a network of connected computer networks. If you have access to one of these networks, you can usually reach many other networks.

## What connects all those networks and computers?

Telephones, satellites, and high-speed data links.

## How many computers are on the Internet?

More than three million.

## How many users are connected on the Internet?

Right now about 32 million people use the Internet, but that number grows by about 10% per month.

## What do I need to connect to the Internet from my home?

- The basics first—a computer, a telephone, a modem (connects the phone and computer), and software to facilitate that connection.
- As with most everything technological, there may be exceptions to the lists below, but these are the essentials. **Note:** You can get by with less. These are general guidelines.
- To gain full (a relative term considering the almost-daily advances on the Net) access to the Internet, the rule of thumb is the faster, the more storage, the more RAM, the better.

For users of **Windows** machines:

- 486 or Pentium processor
- eight megabytes of RAM
- 300 megabyte or larger hard disk drive
- colour monitor
- mouse
- 28,800 or 33,000 bits per second (bps) modem
- Internet software that includes a Winsock.DLL file

For **Macintosh** users:

- 68040 or PowerPC processor
- eight megabytes of RAM
- 300 megabyte or larger hard disk drive
- colour monitor
- mouse
- 28,800 or 33,000 bits per second (bps) modem
- Internet software that includes TCP/IP software

---

**Note:** To users of UNIX, OS/2, 80386 Windows machines, 68030 Macintoshes, Amigas, etc., these machines will run on the Internet, as well. You may just need to adjust some of the above requirements.

# Electronic Mail FAQ

## What do I do with electronic mail?

Its function is almost self-describing by its title. The beauty of e-mail is its immediacy.

When using e-mail, you can send messages that will usually reach their destinations within minutes, often sooner. When using e-mail, friends in Finland are as close as your friends next door. Correspondence with friends is just one use of e-mail. Many documents that you would normally fax are generally quite acceptable via e-mail. Just keep the main function in mind—to communicate. (The next section, which talks about mailing lists, will stretch your e-mail capabilities even further.)

## How do I go about sending a message?

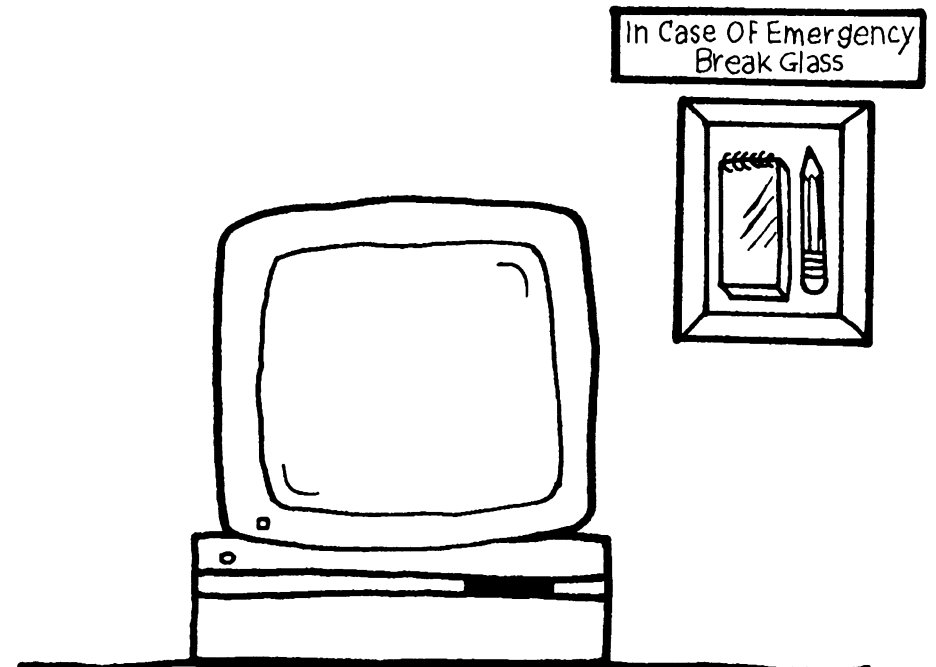
Here's the basic process:

1. Open your e-mail software program.
2. Select a command called New Message.
3. Type the recipient's e-mail address (it might look something like this: `ebunny@garden.com`) where the e-mail form says, :To:."
4. Next, type your message's main theme next to: "Subject:."
5. Then, type your message in the main text area.
6. Finally, click the Send box or use the menu command Send, and it should be a matter of minutes before

`ebunny@garden.com` receives your message.

## Where do you get e-mail software?

- If you have joined a commercial online service, (**OzEmail**, **CompuServe**, **Microsoft Network Australia**, etc.), your e-mail capability is built into its software.
- If your Internet connection is through a local provider, you probably have two e-mail channels:
  1. Your World Wide Web browser. Most browsers are now providing capable e-mail features.
  2. Software that came with your account (**Eudora Light** and **Pegasus** are popular shareware choices).



# Netiquette

As with face-to-face interaction, communicating with plain text requires manners, or netiquette (Internet etiquette).

Here are a few points of netiquette you might want to keep in mind as you interact via e-mail, mailing lists, and Usenet newsgroups.

1. Do not assume your e-mail is private. So, do not send something you would not want broadcast on the evening news.
2. Reread your e-mail before sending it. (That includes double-checking the To: box.)
3. Keep your writing short and to the point.
4. When you quote a previous posting (a helpful practice in itself), edit it down to the pertinent points. That will help streamline your message.
5. Consider using a signature when communicating with folks you don't know. A signature may consist of your name, a position you hold, e-mail address, and city.
6. Capitalising all your text constitutes shouting. Capitalise words only to emphasise an important word or phrase. (An alternative to capitalisation: surround the key words with asterisks. That is Shift-8 on your keyboard.)
7. Always check with the original author before you forward any e-mail to a mailing list or newsgroup.
8. Be careful when using humour. Yours may not match the recipient's. Use smileys to ensure that the reader knows you have written with tongue-in-cheek.

