Lane Education Network Ranks High in National Competition

From a field of over 850 entrants nationwide, the Lane Education Network has emerged as a semifinalist in the annual National Information Infrastructure (NII) Awards. NII judges selected LEN as one of 20 semifinalists in the Public Access category of networking that are "representative of the best uses of the Internet and other networking technologies."

The Lane Education Network (LEN) is a collaborative effort involving 14 community, education, local government, health care, and industry partners in Lane County, including

- University of Oregon
- City of Eugene
- Lane County Regional Information System
- Lane Community College
- Lane Education Service District

- Sacred Heart Medical Center
- Oregon Public Networking
- Dynamix and Symantec
- U-LANE-O and SELCO credit unions
- Eugene, Bethel, & Springfield school districts

The Computing Center's Network Services group and Advanced Network Technology Center have been instrumental in the design and deployment of the network. LEN currently provides network access to some 70,000 people, with plans to expand the network to support distance learning in rural areas of the county.

The NII Awards program has won praise from many business, community, and government leaders, including Vice President Al Gore, who participated in last year's awards ceremony via video. The awards are sponsored by some 70 corporate, media, and government organizations. The goal of the program, as stated by NII Awards Chairman James Hake, is to "help educate and inspire people about the potential of a connected world."

A complete list of semifinalists is displayed at *http://www.gii-awards.com/SFIndex.html* For more information about LEN, check out *http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~mstearns/len/index.html*

This year's NII award winners will be announced in a ceremony in New York City on December 3, 1996.

New Computing Center Web Site Debuts

The Computing Center's Web site has a new look! Renamed, revamped, and sporting some new, easy-to-use navigational features, our new Web site makes it easier for users to find the information they're looking for. Among other resources, the new site provides links to

- computing help (including Computing Center documentation and e-mail access to consultants)
- the Microcomputer Purchase Program (current prices, special offerings, FAQs, and updates on Computing Center and product news)

- new technology updates (information about new developments, such as LEN, NERO, the Advanced Network Technology and New Media Centers, and USENET News services)
- Computing Center news and events (including an online version of our newsletter, *Computing News*, and Center workshop schedules)
- the world at large (local, national, and international Web servers)

New Web Site, continued...

In addition, the new site offers comprehensive information about Computing Center facilities and services, with links to staff, campus microcomputing labs, the Documents Room, and more.

How to Access It:

Just open your Web browser and type
http://cc.uoregon.edu

How to Navigate It:

In addition to *Netscape's* standard navigational tools, users have three options for navigating the new site: a search feature, the site outline, and links at the tops and bottoms of the pages. Here are some tips for using each of these methods:

1. CCSearch: You may search the site by keyword(s), using the "CCSearch" link, which invokes the *AltaVista* search engine. Type a keyword in the designated slot under "Search the Computing Center Site," then click "Search." The search generates a list of UO links containing your keyword. Scan the list until you find the item you're looking for and select it. (**Note:** You may have to scroll down past the header material to get to the keyword slot or the list of links on search pages.)
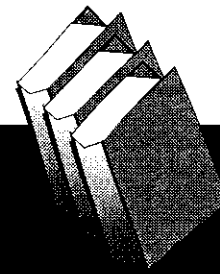
2. The Site Outline: You can view the site's complete table of contents at a glance by opening the link to the Site Outline (on the blue bar at the top of the home page). Scan the list of pages to

find your area of interest. When you find what you're looking for, select it to display that page.

3. Navigation Links: At the bottom of the home page, you'll find links to major Computing Center services and computing-related resources. Select a topic of interest to go to that page. Once you're there, look at the top of the page and you'll see more links to related topics. Explore the links that interest you, using the "Previous Page" or "Next Page" options to move forward or backward through the site. You might also want to check out the "How to Navigate this Site" link that appears at the top of many pages.

Coming Attractions

The Computing Center's Web development team will continue to make enhancements to the new site throughout the coming year. Among the planned features is the ability to download and print camera-ready copies of Computing Center handouts, using Adobe *Acrobat.* We're also planning to install a series of FAQs for each of the major computing platforms to aid beginning users, a Microcomputer Purchase Program buyer's guide, and a basic guide for new network users who need some tools to help them get up and running.

what's new in the docs room?

The Computing Center Documents Room has been stocking up on books and manuals for fall. Here's a sampling of some of the many new titles:

- *Actually Useful Internet Security Techniques*
- *Designing Web Graphics*
- *The Essential Client/Server Survival Guide*
- *Exploring JAVA*
- *Guide to Netscape Navigator Gold*
- *Microsoft Windows 95 Resource Kit*

In addition to books, manuals, and periodicals, the Documents Room also stocks Computing Center handouts on a variety of computing topics, including instructions for using e-mail and connecting to the campus network.

The Documents Room is located on the second floor of the Computing Center in Room 205. Hours are 9:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Alpha Software Evolves

During the past month, eight new software packages were added to the Alpha cluster to encourage campus users to take advantage of the new DEC systems for compute-intensive jobs:

- *lindo*
- *sas*
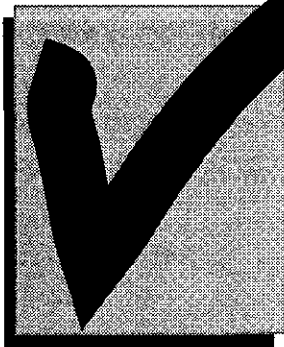- *maple*
- *slam*
- *matlab*
- *Splus*
- *minitab*
- *spss*

Three of these packages (*maple, minitab,* and *spss*) were moved from

DARKWING to the Alpha cluster so they could utilize Alpha's increased computing power.

To access the Alpha cluster, you must have an account on DARKWING. Telnet to **alpha.uoregon.edu** and log in using your DARKWING username and password. All your DARKWING files are available to you on Alpha computers.

maple **and** *minitab* **Users, Please Note:** Existing *maple* and *minitab* files on DARKWING can be used without modification on Alpha.

Check Out the New Windows 95/NT Public Domain Software Server

Public, a new public domain software server for Windows 95/NT users, is here!

The new server is the Windows counterpart to the Macintosh CC Public Domain. Among other related resources, it offers software and documentation specific to *Windows 95* and *NT* systems, including

- UO network application installers
- network software (*Netscape, Telnet, Eudora*, etc.)
- hardware drivers for CD-ROMs, Ethernet cards, sound cards, etc.
- printer drivers
- system updates
- multilingual software
- games
- graphics and sounds
- informational documents

Alpha, continued

***spss* Users, Take Note!** The license for *spss* on DARKWING expires on December 31, 1996, and will not be renewed. If you're an *spss* user on DARKWING, you'll need to export your system files on DARKWING to *spss*-portable format and import them on Alpha. Here's how to do it:

1. Start SPSS in command line mode:

   `% spss -m`

2. Tell *spss* which system file you want to export:

   `SPSS> get file=filename.sys`

3. Export the file in a portable format:

   `SPSS> export outfile=filename.exp`

4. Exit *spss*:

   `SPSS> finish`

5. Telnet to Alpha and run *spss*:

   `% telnet alpha.uoregon.edu`

   `:`

   `% spss -m`

6. Import the SPSS portable file:

   `SPSS> import file=filename.exp`

7. Save the imported system file:

   `SPSS> save outfile=filename.sys`

Questions?

Send an e-mail message to Hans Kuhn (*hak@oregon.uoregon.edu*) if you have questions about using the Alpha cluster or any of its software.

New software will continually be added to Public throughout the year and into the future. If you would like to see specific software added to this server, or have suggestions for documentation or organization, send an e-mail message to *microhelp@oregon.uoregon.edu*

▶ How to Access Public

You may access the Public server in one of two ways—either directly from a networked *Windows* system, or via *FTP*:

1. From a networked *Windows 95* or *NT* system:

   (1) Select the "Run..." menu option from the Start menu

   (2) Type **\\public** in the Open box

   (3) Click "OK"

After a few moments, a new window opens. Click the "software" folder to access the Public server. A password or network username is not required.

2. Via *FTP:* Connect to Public by typing

   ftp public.uoregon.edu

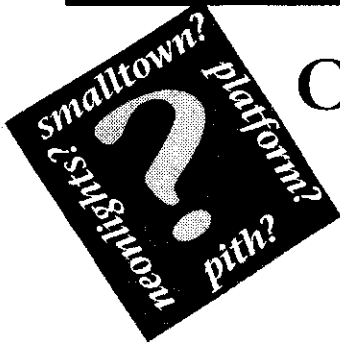Log in with the username **anonymous** and password *your-username@* (replace *your-username* with your timesharing or modem-account username)

▶ Windows 3.1 and DOS Users: Please Note...

Windows software still exists on the ZEUS file server and will continue to be there for some time. However, only the most critical *DOS* and *Windows 3.1* software (such as remote access and network application installers) will continue to be updated, due to the extremely high cost of maintaining the old-style, DOS-based menu system on ZEUS.
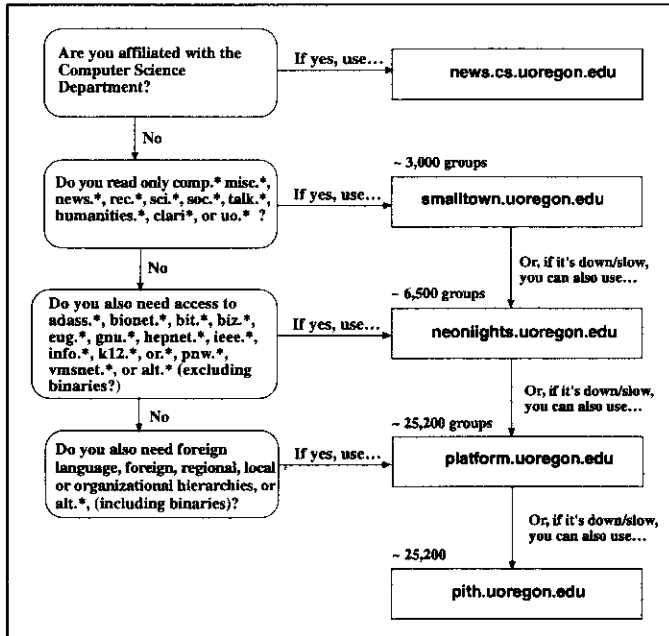
▶ Problems?

If you have problems connecting to the Public server, contact Microcomputer Services (e-mail: *microhelp@oregon*; phone 346-4412). Their office is located upstairs in Room 202A Computing Center, and they are open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

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Choosing a USENET News Server

USENET news servers at the UO continue to give newsgroup buffs more options. These servers—**smalltown**, **neonlights**, and **platform**—are structured to meet your particular needs and improve response times into the bargain. The chart below offers some guidelines in choosing a server:

(This diagram omits mention of non-public UO news servers that are not available for use by general readers. Note that the information presented here is subject to change without notice.)

In general, you should choose a server that limits the roster of newsgroups to the ones you actually use (i.e., the higher up on this flowchart you are, the better). By doing so, you'll enjoy faster response times and free up capacity on the more inclusive machines (lower on the flowchart) for those who need access to groups that are available only on those systems. *(Note:* Group availability and article numbering in individual groups may vary from server to server. You may want to save a copy of your .newsrc file prior to trying a different server, just in case you decide to return to your old server).

How do I identify the news server I wish to use?

* From UNIX systems (GLADSTONE, DARKWING, Alpha, etc.), type

    % **setenv NNTPSERVER** *server*

    identifying the server you wish to use. For example, if you wanted to select the **smalltown** news server, you'd type

    % **setenv NNTPSERVER smalltown**

* From VMS systems (for using *TIN* on OREGON, DONALD, or DAISY), type

    $ **define nntpserver** *server*

    identifying the server you wish to use.

* From *Netscape2.0* or later, display the Options menu and select "Mail and News Preferences" to identify the server you wish to use. Or, you can try using a URL such as *news://smalltown* (To see an initial list of newsgroups, open the following sequence of menus: Window ➡ Netscape News ➡ Options; then, select "Show All Newsgroups")

If you have further questions about news servers, contact Joe St Sauver (e-mail: *joe@oregon.uoregon.edu*)

Purchase Program for Holidays

The Microcomputer Purchase Program showroom (202 Computing Center) will be closed from December 23 through January 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. There will be no deliveries to departments during this period. Normal hours will resume Thursday, January 2.

The Purchase Program showroom is open weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. For more information about educational discounts on microcomputer products, special promotions, and purchase advice and assistance, send an e-mail message to *mpp@oregon.uoregon.edu* or call 346-4402. You can also visit the Purchase Program's Web site at

http://mpp.uoregon.edu

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