UNIVERSITY COMPUTING

COMPUTING NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

New Policy:
Two-Hour Limit Imposed on Modem Sessions

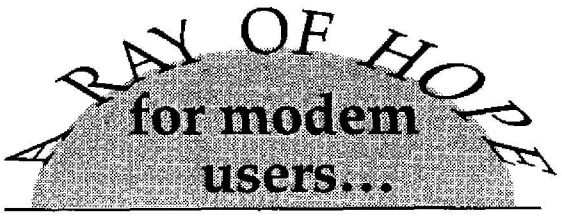
Analysis of UO modem pool data has revealed that some users have been monopolizing modems by logging on for as long as 101 consecutive hours while not actively using their connection. During the week ending April 27, we identified roughly five dozen such "modem hogs."

Given the fierce competition for the limited number of modems that are currently available, every effort must be made to ensure equal opportunity for dialin connections. Consequently, a two-hour time limit on all dialin modem pools will be imposed beginning May 21.

Under the new policy, users will automatically be disconnected from the modem pool after two hours. After being disconnected, they can redial and attempt to log in again.

In addition, the Computing Center staff asks for your cooperation in limiting your dialin time to no more than an average of two hours a day (or 14 hours per week). Those who exceed 14 hours of connect time per week will be contacted by a Computing Center staff member and encouraged to subscribe to a commercial network service provider who can provide a dedicated dialin line for their exclusive use (see the article, "Check Out Networking Alternatives," in this issue).

If you have questions about the new policy, contact Joe St Sauver (*joe@oregon.uoregon.edu*).



If you're among those who have been frustrated by busy signals on the UO's modem lines, take heart. Help is on the way!

The Computing Center's Network Services staff has received 96 additional modems and will install them as soon as all technical issues have been worked out—probably within the next two to three weeks.

Majordomo Shoulders E-Mail Tasks

After several years of implementing e-mail distribution lists at the UO, the old *mailserv* program is taking a back seat to *majordomo*. While *mailserv* will continue to operate existing distribution lists, from now on the creation of new lists will be handled exclusively by *majordomo*.

In addition to reducing the workload for the Computing Center's technical staff, *majordomo* provides list owners with enhanced abilities to modify their lists independently. For example, once a new list has been created, list owners may replace the "info file" for new subscribers without the intervention of Computing Center staff. Another desirable feature of *majordomo* is its ability to detect, intercept, and reroute common posting errors.

The simplest way to apply for the creation of a new e-mail distribution list is via the World Wide Web. To do this, open URL

http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~majordom/mdm.html

and select "Application for Majordomo List." This opens the page containing the *majordomo* list application form, which you can fill out and submit online. Center staff prefer that you use this method rather than applying via e-mail or campus mail, as it saves staff time and accelerates turnaround time. If you're not yet familiar with the World Wide Web, you'll find helpful introductory documents on the subject in the Computing Center Documents Room (205), and Web workshops are offered frequently throughout each term.

Web Browsing Note: For more information about *majordomo* and other e-mail lists, follow the "Exploring the Internet" link from the University of Oregon Home Page and select "Lists and Listservers" from the menu.

Need More Disk Space?

If you have an OREGON or DARKWING account and are feeling pinched for disk space, help is at hand. The Computing Center accounts clerk now has the ability to routinely increase user disk quotas on OREGON and DARKWING to a maximum of 100,000 blocks (50 MB)—twice the quota formerly allowed.

Center staff continues to encourage users to conserve disk space whenever possible by deleting unneeded mail and obsolete files, but those who genuinely require additional space will be able to obtain it more easily than before.

Check Out

Local Networking Alternatives

Eugene/Springfield area residents seeking to connect to the Internet via modem may want to investigate some local alternatives to UOnet, the campus network. Two popular local Internet providers, *Eugene Free Net* (EFN) and *Northwest Internet Services* (NIS), are described briefly below. To find out about other local providers, check the "Internet Service Providers" Web site at URL

http://www.efn.org/~tnewman/local_ISPs/local_ISPs.html

Eugene Free Net

EFN is a full-service Internet provider, and its basic service is free to those who are unable to pay. For those who can afford it, a donation of $7 per month is suggested. More advanced connections are available for a higher monthly fee.

To dial in to EFN, set your modem to 7-E-1 (1200-14,400 baud), dial **687-2996**, and log in as **guest**.

For more details about *Eugene Free Net*, contact Oregon Public Networking, P.O. Box 1914, Eugene, OR 97440 (voice mail: 484-9637; e-mail: *office@efn.org*). For an automated message about general access, the e-mail address is *info@efn.org*.

Northwest Internet Services

NIS offers full Internet access, including e-mail, newsgroups, and *FTP*. It supports *SLIP* and *PPP* protocols, and is Apple- and PC-compatible. Subscribers pay a modest, flat monthly fee. For more details, call Orion Marketing at 485-7601 (extension 301).

VENDOR WEEK:

During the week of May 15 - May 19, representatives of five major computer companies will be on campus in the Microcomputer Support Center to answer questions about their products. Here's the schedule:

Dell Systems	Mon May 15	10am - 2pm
Symantec	Tue May 16	10am - 2pm
Microsoft	Wed May 17	10am - 3pm
Hewlett Packard	Thu May 18	10am - 3pm
Apple	Fri May 19	10am - 3pm

Microcomputer Support Center
• Room 202 Computing Center •

Explore Microcomputer Services Information on the Web

Now that two new Computing Center microcomputer information sites have been established on the World Wide Web, many microcomputing facts are at your fingertips. Some of the main features you'll find on the Microcomputer Purchase Plan and Microcomputer Services Web pages are summarized below.

Microcomputer Purchase Plan

The Purchase Plan Web site is continually being updated, and new features are already on the way. Currently, this site offers the latest price lists, information about promotions and special offers, eligibility guidelines, and links to other vendors' sites. To see for yourself, open URL

http://mpp.uoregon.edu/

To see Purchase Plan information, choose "How to Purchase One." For Microcomputer Services information, choose "Where to Go for Help."

Microcomputer Services

To learn more about other microcomputer services offered through the Computing Center, check out the Microcomputer Services URL at **http://darkwing.uoregon.edu:80/~mcshtml/**

Here, you'll find information on such topics as microcomputer consulting, public domain software, file conversions and transfers, and accessing UOnet via modem, as well as links to other Web servers pertaining to microcomputer products and services. A schedule of workshops and announcements of current events is also provided.

Web Browsing Note: You may also access both these Web sites from the Computing Center home page by selecting the "Microcomputers" menu.

Microcomputer Purchase Plan

SPRING CLEARANCE!

When?
Weekdays 9 am - 5 pm, beginning Monday, May 22

Where?
Purchase Plan showroom, 202 Computing Center

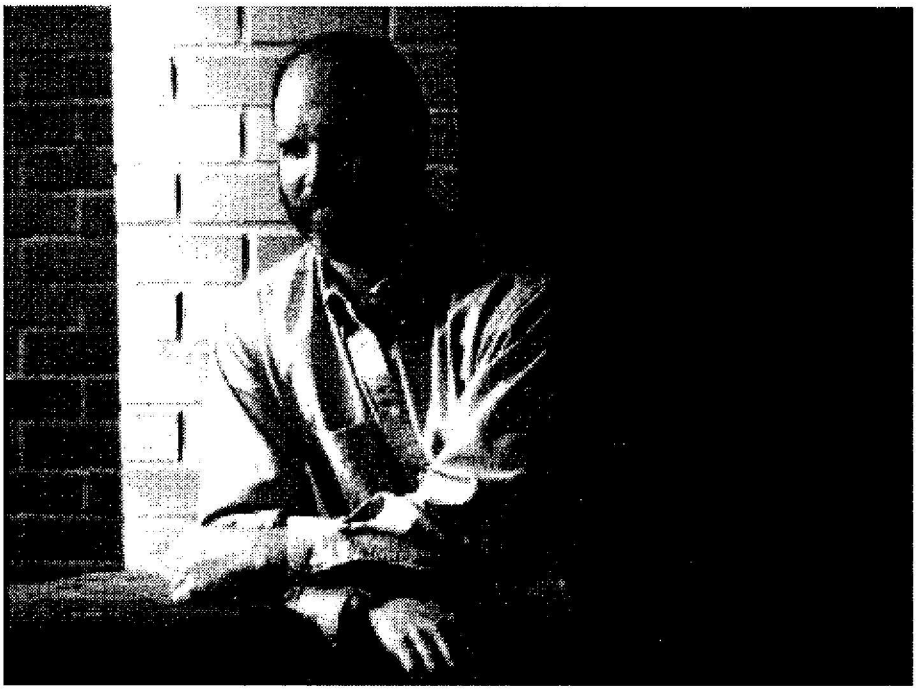
What?
New and used Mac and PC:
• computers • monitors
• printers • keyboards
• software

How?
All orders must be placed in person at the Purchase Plan showroom

Computing Center Engineer Frames NERO's Backbone

When we hear the word NERO, most of us think of a toga-clad pyromaniac. Likewise, our concept of "backbone" probably has something to do with spinal columns or moral resolve, not the connective structure of computer networks. In the rapidly expanding world of computer communications, however, these terms have entirely different connotations—and no one is more aware of these than David Meyer, Computing Center senior engineer and technical mainstay of the Network for Engineering and Research in Oregon (NERO) project.

Funded by a NASA research grant to the Oregon Joint Graduate Schools of Engineering, the NERO project is a collaborative effort between educational institutions, government research organizations, and private industry, working to realize the high-speed, high-bandwidth connections—the network "backbone"—that can facilitate valuable multimedia information exchanges between participants worldwide.



Dave Meyer takes a rare break from the drawing board to humor our photographer

Meyer became involved in the project in April 1994, when NERO's corporate partners, U S West and GTE, instituted a technology trial for a new high-speed communications technology known as Asynchronous Transfer Mode, or ATM. One of the primary objectives of the ATM experiments in Oregon is to determine what types of user applications would generate widespread acceptance and utilization of ATM wide-area networks by getting real-life, hands-on feedback from leading-edge universities.

Thanks largely to Meyer's tireless designing, testing, and refining over the past year, a substantial portion of NERO's high-speed, high-bandwidth ATM network infrastructure is now in place. The network currently connects the Oregon Center for Advanced Technology Education, the Oregon Graduate Institute, Oregon Health Sciences University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon—as well as two "K-12" school districts, a community hospital, the UO's Pine Mountain Observatory, and OSU's Hatfield Marine Sciences Center.

Simply put, the goal of NERO is to "allow more people to do more, faster," as Meyer says. A recent example was the instantaneous transmission of medical images from Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis to Portland's Oregon Health Sciences University, enabling doctors to confer on key elements affecting diagnosis and treatment. This trial was enormously successful, presaging future diagnostic exchanges between urban medical

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Notice:

OREGON, DARKWING Accounts Available for Classes

In recent weeks, we've encountered a number of instructors who mistakenly believed they couldn't arrange for student accounts on DARKWING or OREGON. *This is not true!* Student accounts are available on DARKWING or OREGON, provided instructors make arrangements for their class members in advance.

By using DARKWING or OREGON, instructors can help alleviate potential overload on GLADSTONE, as well as make it easier for their students to get their work done.

To arrange for student accounts on DARKWING or OREGON for your class members, contact the Computing Center accounting office (telephone: 346-1738; e-mail: *account@oregon.uoregon.edu*).

If you have further questions, or would like to know what software is available on academic timesharing systems, contact Joe St Sauver (e-mail: *joe@oregon.uoregon.edu*; phone: 346-1720).

New Tape Drive on Horizon

In the very near future, the Computing Center will replace its two aging 9-track reel-to-reel tape drives on the VMScluster with a single new drive. To avoid excessive competition for that one drive, users are urged to use cartridge tapes rather than 9-track tapes whenever possible.

Today, reel-to-reel tapes are primarily used only in data exchanges with sites that require that media. Reel-to-reel tapes are an increasingly outmoded technology, and more and more users are employing cartridge tapes instead.

The VMScluster offers two types of cartridge drives that represent newer and better technology:

- the **IBM 3480 compatible**, recommended for applications requiring up to 200 megabytes of storage
- the **Exabyte 8 mm compatible**, which accommodates up to 10 gigabytes

Two 3480 and four 8 mm cartridge drives are available on the VMScluster. Users should choose between these cartridge types based on their capacity requirements (keeping in mind that the two 10 GB drives are frequently used by Operations staff for running backups). Below is a current list of all VMScluster tape drives:

- MUAO 9-track (the new drive, to be installed soon)
- MUA1 9-track (soon to be replaced by MUAO)
- MUA10 (IBM 3480)
- MUA11 (IBM 3480)
- MUA20 (5 GB 8 mm)
- MUA21 (5 GB 8 mm)
- MUA22 (10 GB 8 mm)
- MUA23 (10 GB 8 mm)

Tapes may be purchased in Room 108 Computing Center, at the following rates:

1400-foot 9-track	$22.00
3480 cartridge	9.00
8 mm	18.00

Watch your VMS log-in notices for progress reports on the MUAO installation.

Call for proposals...

A resource known as the New Media Center (NMC) is now available on campus to assist faculty in realizing their multimedia concepts for education.

Interested faculty members who have already gathered significant materials for a multimedia project related to university teaching or research are invited to submit their proposals to the NMC by June 1.

Address proposals to Art Farley in the Computer and Information Science Department (e-mail: *art@cs.uoregon.edu*). Include a brief overview of the project, noting its degree of completion and materials used, as well as your objectives in collaborating with the NMC.

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Engineer, *continued...*

institutions and their more remote rural cousins.

In another successful demonstration involving the Council of the Great City Schools, Meyer was instrumental in providing the networking for a multimedia teaching session. In this trial, "The Electronic Universe," a class given by UO associate physics professor Greg Bothun was simulcast from Eugene to Grant High School in Portland, using video, audio, and World Wide Web technology. The event was so successful that it was repeated on May 3 in Washington, D.C., at the National Learning Network's *21st Century Classroom*, a national colloquium of educators presented by the Council of the Great City Schools and the Smithsonian Institution.

In addition to coordinating projects like these, Meyer is busy flying cross-country, conferring with NASA officials and representatives of the academic and business community, and presenting technical papers to his peers. At the end of May, he'll be addressing the North American Network Operators Group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Next month, he will speak in Seattle as part of the ICC '95 Conference on Communications, and in October he flies to Minneapolis to address the 20th Annual Conference on Local Computer Networks.

There is still a long way to go before the vision of universal desktop teleconferencing, educational video, and multimedia transmissions can be realized. But thanks to the dedicated efforts of Meyer and others, that vision is fast becoming a reality.