



**CALIFORNIA
EDUCATIONAL
DATA
PROCESSING
ASSOCIATION**

**THE
DATABUS**

"Serving California's Public Education Technologists"

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Welcome!

Perry Polk, CEDPA President

Welcome to the Long Beach Sheraton and the California Educational Data Processing Association annual conference. During your visit to downtown Long Beach, you will find some wonderful restaurants, clubs, conference facilities and lots of sites to see. The Sheraton is one of the nicest and prettiest hotels we have used for a conference. The staff will bend over backwards to help you.

This year's conference, our 34th, will emphasize the commitment that we all have to the education of California's children. Distance learning, student records exchange and Internet are major topics on the plate for each of us. This is our conference emphasis.

I think you will find all of main speakers entertaining and enlightening. Each year the search for speakers has resulted in a really challenging group of speakers. This year is no different. We have four outstanding and challenging main speakers—George Luginbill, Dr. Phil Bossert, Ed Dry and Mark Kasperowicz. We've added Dr. Phil Bossert as a speaker at our luncheon on Wednesday because we don't want you to miss his talk about his work in Hawaii.

On Friday we will have a forum to discuss the details of wiring Internet connections and other topics concerning the technical aspects of routers, high speed telephone lines, "clouds", grants, licenses and design.

The Internet Room (see related story) gives you an opportunity to see and experience how to make physical connections to Internet and to understand how each piece of equipment works and how the system works together. You will also be able to "Cruise the Net." We are indebted

to two companies for their generosity in making the room work for you. GTE has given CEDPA a grant to pay for a T-1 connection to CSULB, and Internet Products, Inc. has provided much of the equipment and expertise. All of this was masterminded by Warren Williams of Grossmont Union High School District. Our hats are off to you Warren for a job well done.

Ken Jones of Lodi Unified is the speaker chair and will fill your time with interesting and challenging breakout sessions. The Thursday vendor show was arranged by Skip Sharp of San Diego County COE. These two guys have worked innumerable hours to make this conference a success for you. Thanks guys.

Have a terrific conference, enjoy Long Beach and plan now for a visit next November to the San Jose Fairmont, another top rated hotel.

The Internet Room—Gateway to the Information Highway

Be sure to check out the Internet Room, located in Marina Suite 420. The equipment in this room is connected directly to the Internet and has been assembled to illustrate one possible configuration of equipment that can tie a school agency to Cyberspace.

This room will be open during the entire conference. Experts will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about hardware and connectivity solutions.

In Retrospect...

Addison Ching, *The DataBus* Editor

This has been a very active year for CEDPA and *The DataBus*. Our issues seem to be getting larger and hopefully providing you with helpful information. Thanks to those whose contributions have added to the quality of the publication. While we are always striving to improve the quality of your publication, it can't be done without your help. Keep those articles coming. Let us share your experiences with new systems, your Internet implementation, your ATM installation, or any other topics that might be of interest to our readership.

The CEDPA Board of Directors is taking a positive approach towards the newsletter. Recognizing the importance the role of *The DataBus* plays in the support and advancement of the Association, the Board is recommending the addition of the *DataBus* editor as an officer of the Association. This will result in the shifting of *DataBus* support activities, currently supported by a director, to the new editor position. This, in turn, will release one of the directors to devote his/her resources towards the annual conference and other support activities of the Association.

In the tradition of *The DataBus*, future issues will contain articles and information that will keep you informed of technological advancements. Thanks for your support.

By-laws Change Proposed by CEDPA Board

The CEDPA Board of Directors is bringing to its membership a recommended change in the by-laws of the Association. The proposed change adds a new elected position—*The DataBus* Editor—to the Association's Board of Directors.

The DataBus, the Association's newsletter, continues to play an important role in disseminating technical and administrative information to its membership. By creating a full-time Editor's position, proper recognition is given to the importance of publication and Board resources can be better dedicated towards the publication. Previously, editorial functions were combined with other responsibilities of a directorship.

In addition to the newsletter publication, the Editor will be responsible for publishing conference announcements and programs and maintenance of the Association's membership database.

Connecting to the Internet, Part 2

Addison Ching
Newport-Mesa Unified School District

This has been an interesting year. Districts are connecting to the Internet and surfing Cyberspace. Some of us are experimenting with our own "Gopher Holes" or Gopher Servers, World Wide Web Servers, Newsgroup readers, POPmail servers, and the like. However, one thread runs through the entire Internet connectivity issue: Training. While we as technologists can take responsibility for making the technical connection to the Internet, who is responsible for training? If we're hooking up schools and classrooms to the Internet, how will teachers and students deal with this new learning resource? What about access control and security issues?

Several districts are in the process of adopting policies regarding the use of computing equipment in general and the Internet in particular. As soon as these policies are officially adopted and available for publication, they will be summarized in *The DataBus* and placed in entirety on the Newport-Mesa Gopher Server, which can be accessed at gopher.nmusd.k12.ca.us or 198.188.8.6. If you use Mosaic or another World Wide Web client, you can connect to the NMNet Web Server, also at 198.188.8.6 (www.nmusd.k12.ca.us). The gopher server can be accessed directly from the NMNet Home Page.

Connectivity to the Internet is becoming easier. Look for turnkey solutions from Apple and other vendors that make creation of your own Internet domain much easier. Some solutions include the "functionality" of Unix (domain name service and mail handling) without requiring a Unix computer.

Our journey through Cyberspace and the Information Highway will continue in forthcoming issues. Happy surfing!

Win a Door Prize!

Be sure to deposit your door prize ticket at the registration counter to be eligible for one of the many door prizes graciously donated by our supporting vendors. You may win a Champagne Gift Basket, a Financial Calculator, or even a Sony Watchman! A reminder: You must be present at the drawing to be eligible. Drawings will be at 3:30 on Thursday in the exhibit area.

Diverse Speaker Program Greet Attendees

Program: Wide variety of topics provides “something for everyone.”

Ken Jones, Speaker Chairperson

The 1994 Conference Speaker Program has really come together in the last several months. The themes of the conference of integrating technology with education and internetworking are very well represented.

Our kickoff is **George Luginbill** who will present his views on making technology available to education. We are all wrestling with the problem of converting our hard won expertise with administrative computing into a package that the educators in our districts can use. Educators are discovering the need for the technology in the classroom, but generally do not have the skills for district-wide deployment. George has been working with districts and county offices to solve this problem and make a marriage between the two areas work.

We are trying a new format by including a terrific luncheon speaker on Wednesday. We don't want to give you a chance to slow down! **Dr. Philip Bossert's** credentials show him to be the perfect speaker to address the implementation of large scale networks. He put Hawaii on the digital map and will be sharing the good, the bad, and the ugly of these large scale projects. My district is working through these problems right now and I am really excited about hearing Dr. Bossert's insights.

For lunch on Thursday we have a treat with **Edward Dry** speaking on the current state of client/server technology. We have been hearing about the advantages of this technology for some time, but for those of us who have dabbled in it, we know that there are some major hurdles to be jumped. Ed will share some of his experiences and those of some of his customers. This talk should be very informative as well as entertaining.

Friday morning kicks off the last day of the conference with **Mark Kasperowicz** discussing something we deal with every day—getting to the heart of our customers needs and delivering on them. As downsizing (or rightsizing) continues to change our industry, we must continually reevaluate ourselves in these terms. Mark has run some large Information Systems shops and has lots of good ideas for us.

The breakouts this year are heavily focused on internetworking and the Internet. By the end of two and a half days, you should have a working knowledge of what is available on the Internet, how to use it, and how to build

the bridge in your organization to access it. To bring the point home, an Internet lab will be available during the entire conference so you can actually see the physical boxes that can make the connection happen, and you can sit down and “surf” the net.

Finally, we will close with a panel discussion on Friday with a number of Internet and internetworking experts to answer any questions that you still have. This panel, moderated by **Brian Lloyd and Mike Loring**, will be a rare opportunity to talk to so many experts in the same room at the same time—that is if your head doesn't explode with all this new information.

Thank you for joining us this year.

The CEDPA Board of Directors

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Sisnet SIG Meeting Summary

Greg Lindner, SISNet SIG Chair

The latest Sisnet meeting was held at the San Diego County Office of Education on September 23, 1994. I want to express a special thank you to Harry Bloom for all his help and for shuttling us to and from the airport. I also want to thank Skip Sharp for getting us a room which helped us keep the costs of the meeting to a minimum.

While attendance at the meeting was light, it allowed us to be very informal. The meeting started off with Russ Brawn from Far West Laboratory giving us a summary and status report on the CSIS project and AIRS. Since it was an informal setting we were able to jump in with questions whenever we wanted. I believe everyone in attendance had a much better understanding of CSIS and what AIRS is all about after Russ' presentation.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing how districts or counties buy equipment and software. The question was raised about leasing versus buying. Apparently there are companies that will lease hardware and software to a school or district instead of selling it to them. This would allow the school to always upgrade to the latest hardware and software for a fixed annual cost. This raises some interesting questions about funding for purchases—either one-time funding or on-going funding. The group was interested to learn more about this topic.

Another issue discussed was the use of Ethnic Codes. The question was raised about how schools or districts handle the situation of having a student that does not necessarily fit into one of the defined ethnic codes. After much discussion, it was the consensus that the codes do not always fit and this often puts schools in a difficult position.

The remaining topics covered included the Internet, Training, and Site License Purchases for Software. San Diego COE is currently providing training on the use of the Internet and has trained over 500 teachers since early this year. Additionally, San Diego COE is working on a Site License Purchase for software from Microsoft and Claris. The pricing for this type of site license is extremely competitive and should be looked into by any large district or county. I will attempt to find out more specifics on this issue for future articles.

All in all it was a very rewarding meeting.

CEDPA Presents Awards to Ten-Year Attendees

This year marks the tenth year that awards will be made to CEDPA members to recognize their dedication to and support of the Association. These awards are presented to those members who have attended five successive conferences.

This year also marks the first time in CEDPA history that ten year awards will be given out. These awards are made to those members who have attended ten conferences in succession.

This year, ten-year attendee awards will be presented to the following individuals:

- Paul Bewley, Santa Ana Unified School District;
- Sandra Ching, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District;
- Mike Trempe, San Diego County Office of Education; and
- Gay Wellencamp, Riverside County Office of Education.

In order to qualify for an attendee award, members must attend the specified number of conferences in succession and register as a full conference attendee. CEDPA Board members are not eligible for awards.

If you attended the conference in San Diego two years ago and last year in San Jose, you are more than half way towards your first award. See you in San Jose and Burbank?

FUTURE CONFERENCES

- 1995 (North)
November 1-3, 1995
Fairmont Hotel, San Jose
- 1996 (South)
October 16-18, 1996
Burbank Airport Hilton and
Convention Center
- 1997 (North)
October 29-31, 1997
Radisson Hotel, Sacramento