"This is Tom Killen calling from the White House..."

Perry Polk, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

NetDay96: How do you organize something that you can't touch or feel?

Our efforts to support NetDay96 got underway in early January, assisted in no small part by Warren Williams' article in *The Databus*. We formed a coordinating committee to try to corral the necessary staff support, to help organize volunteers, and to provide some guidance. Our superintendent had two rules for us: first, the projects were not to cost the district budgets any extra money; second, NetDay-related personnel costs were to be kept to a minimum.

The committee set about to work with volunteer groups. As you recall, it was not until January 22 that we had access to the NetDay Web Page where people were to register their sites and resource contributions. We knew we had a project at Ygnacio Valley High because the

NetDay *Champion* for the school had already been in contact with the district's Maintenance and Operations department, the Curriculum and Instruction department and Data Processing.

On January 22 (excluding that one school) we had something on the order of seven volunteers for seven schools out of 41. By February 5, we were up to ten volunteers for seven schools. Our committee met and developed a strategy. Our County Office of Education was not planning to encourage their districts to have NetDay activities. Instead, they suggested that March 9 was to be spent on a training conference to encourage volunteers and schools alike to develop a solid plan for

Late Breaking News

Reports have been received that the sponsors of NetDay96 are forming a non-profit organization to promote ongoing NetDay-type activities. Proposed events include another NetDay on May 18th and a National NetDay in October.

See Page 4 for additional details.

In This Issue:

CEDPA Information

CEDPA is an association of Educational Data Processing Professionals (technologists) within the State of California. Founded in 1960, the major emphasis of the association's activities are directed towards improving Administrative Information Processing in public education within the State of California and to prepare its membership to better meet and support the technological needs of the Instructional Program.

CEDPA is a California non-profit corporation, as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

As cited in CEDPA's bylaws, the purpose of this organization shall be:

(a) To provide information to the California public educational community concerning educational data processing via dissemination at an annual conference and through periodicals and special interest seminars.

(b) To foster the exchange of knowledge of educational data processing concepts, systems and experiences between educational data processing installations and other associations both at the state and national level.

(c) To inform the association membership of important information concerning educational data processing.

(d) To provide recommendations to the State Department of Education, State Legislature, school districts, County Offices of Education and other public educational organizations concerning educational data processing.

(e) To develop professional standards for the Educational Information Systems Community within the State of California.

Yearly membership in CEDPA is granted to attendees of the Association's annual conference. Individuals interested in the Association's mailings may request to be added to CEDPA's mailing list by writing to the address below.

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NetDay96—An Unexpected Success

Recap: NetDay96 accomplishments surpass expectations of IS Director.

Ken Jones, Lodi Unified School District

I really love it when I am wrong. Netday96 for Lodi USD was an unprecedented success. We accidentally did a couple of things right in planning and then were very surprised by the quality and quantity of volunteers and school staff who made the project work. In total, five of our 35 sites had significant wiring completed. One elementary school even took the planned 8 classroom installation and pressed on to complete all 22 classrooms and the library (before noon!). I was personally involved with activities that would make a fire marshall cringe, but the electrons must get through.

Please do not read this column as an out and out endorsement of the Gage/Kaufman vigilantes. Quite to the contrary, I believe that the goals of Netday96 were met at my district, and many others that I talked with, in spite of the dynamic duo. Maybe it was by design, but Gage and Kaufman's apparent ignorance of reality was the catalyst which pushed our district into action. Rather than subscribe to the foolish notion that a video tape or two could a network designer make, our district and others set the ground rules. No site could participate without district approval. In order to receive approval, the site had to get the commitment from a qualified network designer. We even gave them the job description of such an individual and held casual interviews of the volunteers prior to our approval. Netday kits went from "free" to "sponsored." Without much industry in our area, donations were almost nonexistent. However, district personnel ensured that all needed supplies were available to the volunteers. We wanted to create success despite Gage and Kaufman's inability to deliver on free stuff, and it worked.

Also contrary to popular opinion, we did not feel that allowing the planning to commence a day or two prior to March 9th was a good idea. Our network managers met with the volunteers weeks prior to Netday to finalize what was to be done, and where. Finally, we assigned at least one of our in-house network experts to each of the participating sites. We felt that time-and-a-half money saved over fixing a botched job.

The up-side of the experience (besides five schools with lots more Cat5 wire) was the bright spotlight it shined on our inadequate infrastructure to support the Internet and other electronic endeavors. Now when I discuss Internet access with school administrators and mention the lack of networking hardware, there is a degree of understanding.

http://www.cedpa-k12.org/

Warren Williams
Grossmont Union High School District

CEDPA has begun to expand the offerings on its web site. Most of the following services are currently available to the educational information technology community.

CEDPA Organization: CEDPA's by-laws and Board of Directors information provide the membership and casual observers access to facts about how the organization operates. The by-laws, as is all material on the pages, are downloadable to anyone. Members of the Board are identified by position and each has an email link to facilitate communication.

CEDPA History and Mission: For 36 years CEDPA has been serving California's educational technologists. For anyone with information about CEDPA's history, please email that information to us and we will expand the historical section.

The DataBus: Published every other month and distributed to the membership and other interested parties, *The DataBus* is once again available online. All issues since the 1994 Conference edition are located here. *The Databus* editor, Addison Ching, will continue to provide a quality source of information on this electronic format.

Calendar of Events: Convention and SIG meeting information is carried in our events section. Past and future convention dates with information about the purpose for the conventions is posted. In the near future we hope to include an online enrollment form for the attendees. As the convention date draws near, more information will be posted to keep you current about the events for the coming activity.

NetDay Sponsors Forming A Non-Profit Organization

Connectivity: Organizers push for May 18th as next scheduled NetDay and propose a National NetDay in October.

Addison Ching

The apparent success of NetDay96 has resulted in some interesting turn of events. As this issue was going to press, an e-mail message from your well-connected CEDPA Board of Directors came in.

"I just 'heard' from one of the major sponsors of NetDay96, that NetDay is now a non-profit organization and their phone number is 415 553-2406," reported CEDPA President-elect Greg Lindner. "I also heard that the next NetDay for California is scheduled for May 18 and the next National NetDay is scheduled for October 19, 1996."

Greg attempted to obtain additional information about this new development. "I logged onto the...url **http://netday.well.com/** but found nothing about the 'next' NetDay."

Next, Greg called the above number but received a voice mail message. He eventually received a call back from a NetDay spokesperson named Teresa. Based on his conversation with Teresa, the following information was obtained.

THE FACTS:

Teresa stated that they are in the process of setting themselves up as a non-profit organization. She also stated that an October 19th National NetDay is being discussed and that it may turn out to be a "NetMonth" instead.

She further stated that the next NetDay is being proposed and discussed for May 18th but is not firm. She stated that the NetDay organizers want people to "keep going" with their networking projects and not just stop because NetDay96 is over. That's why they are considering targeting a date (such as May 18th) to give people a specific day to shoot for and to encourage them to continue with and/or finish up their networking projects.

What does this mean to Schools?

That's up to each school to decide. Greg says, "I think it is good that schools are getting wired and the public and vendor community is supporting expanding technology into our schools. I think that's something we are all supportive of–at least I hope so!"

Greg continues, "I think we need to get more involved with the NetDay organization, however, so the actual NetDay days are not sprung on us without notice. It is clear that there is a lot of confusion and information circulating regarding future NetDays. It is also clear from several reports that I have heard that NetDay96 was highly successful. So... if we're involved in the planning process for future NetDays, they may be even more successful than the first one."

Greg has an excellent point. CEDPA will be investigating ways of involving itself with the newly-formed NetDay organization as your planning representatives. Hopefully this participation will result in more effective planning and communication of future NetDays with the technologists who are the underpinnings of NetDay activities.

Greg Lindner contributed substantially to this article.

President

(Continued from Page 1)

schools. On the other hand, we at Mt. Diablo had a big project that was already underway. We decided that Mt. Diablo would go our own way and targeted our own district planning conference for February 24.

We attended the State NetDay Workshop and fortunately heard both John Gage and Michael Kaufman. They did an excellent job in explaining the concept, whipping up interest and explaining both the motivation and future plan. Frankly, I was shocked to find that the venture was not altruistic but clearly political. I should have known after my years as an elected official that "everything" is political, but I confess I thought this idea was pure.

President

I interpreted John Gage's objective to wire schools to obtain the perceived benefits of access to the Internet (I'll let educators argue the merits of the technology in the classroom.) In addition to that, however, another of his objectives was to create an information network so that data, true or not, accurate or not, and without any interpretation by "the education bureaucrats," could be made available to anyone and everyone. He claimed that finally for the first time people will know everything they want to know about schools. He also said that his children attend schools in Berkeley, and he had never and would never attend a school board meeting as he sees the structure of education superfluous and inefficient. He believed that the interaction only at the school site level is necessary for effective education of children.

Although I stated that this was my interpretation of what he said, others indicated that they heard the same message. To say the least, my personal interest in NetDay was somewhat lessened by knowing that I was participating in a project that was intended to subvert the process to which I have dedicated part of my life.

Also, John and Michael could think of more ways to keep you busy than you have ever thought of. My reaction was a simple one: "I already have a full time job that I can't keep up with." Another reaction which put me into a slow steam was "Where were you guys when we were going through our huge budget cuts five and six years ago?" We needed corporate support for improving education in California so we could produce better workers, but it seemed that that was not a fashionable idea then—or now.

Now back to NetDay. Our committee set up a tracking system so we could find out about the level of volunteering for our schools. As you know, the process is very painful if you have a lot of schools.

No totals by school were available and there was no way to know who was newly added to the Internet signup. We also began earnest work on the Planning Conference. We sent out invitations to all volunteers via e-mail and to our school site technology coordinators, principals and other faculty. Each of the committee members had a role to play. Unfortunately, coordinating was a chore as we all lead busy lives and meeting time was hard to come by.

February 24 came and we had 57 people at our conference. The crowd was equally divided between volunteers and staff. It was a good day. We started by discussing the need for a technology plan for each site and the importance that the NetDay project be consistent with the tech plan. Our District Technology Coordinator, Mac Carey, talked about the importance of consistency and standard setting from our perspective. We had a section on organizing a NetDay activity. Our M&O department representative talked about construction standards, campus security, safety and environmental issues, e.g., asbestos. We then talked about networking, cabling and accessing the Internet, and the importance of testing, inspection and "as built" drawings. Finally, we had a section on hospitality, public relations and risk management. The day was a success, and we put most of our handouts on the MDUSD Home Page under Technology Center. (**http://mdusd.cccoe.k12.ca.us**).

So here we were at two weeks out, once again excluding Ygnacio Valley High, and we had only five sponsors for five campuses, 47 volunteers for 29 campuses and four organizers for four campuses. This is not a good base for many NetDay projects in a district our size. As you recall, about this time the intense publicity began throughout California concerning NetDay. Sun Microsystems had a big test project at a school in East Palo Alto which got nationwide attention. The airwaves and newspapers in our large market were getting daily press releases.

We had planned to have a conference "post mortem" on Thursday, February 29. I showed up but none of my committee did, so I walked back to my office knowing that I had a full desk of work on at least a thousand projects. Then the phone rang at 3:30PM.

I answered "This is Perry," my usual greeting. The voice on the other end said, "This is Tom Killen calling from the White House. I just want to let you know that the President and Vice President may be visiting your Ygnacio Valley High School on NetDay. This is just a "heads-up" for you." I said, "Okay, we'll take care of them." That was it! He hung up, so naturally I made a beeline for the Superintendent's Office. He was in a Superintendent's Council meeting, but I told his secretary about the call and she said she would get back to me shortly.

A few minutes later, she said for me to come to the Superintendent's office. I went in. He said to close the door, have a seat and continued, "Now tell me about this phone call." I did, and he said, "So much for security." It seems that the previous afternoon the County Office of Education had been contacted. They in turn recom-

President

mended Ygnacio Valley High in Concord and put the White House in contact with my Superintendent. He agreed that the site was a good one as campus security was controllable there and they had had a pre-election campaign appearance by Vice President Bush in 1988. We didn't know if this was a "go" or not.

Friday was an interesting day. The NetDay *Champion* for the campus visited me with a problem. He had a major issue with one of his sponsors over a deliverable. Frankly, I once had a problem with this particular vendor. We discussed a strategy, and he left planning to execute the plan. I, of course, was aware of the potential visit but it appeared that he was not. I certainly was not planning to tell him and put even more pressure on him over the weekend. By the way, Charlie (the NetDay *Champion*) and I had gotten to know each other quite well as he was a member of the District NetDay Coordinating Committee and we had both attended the NetDay96 CEDPA SIG meeting in San Jose. We spent many hours of highway time together.

On Monday morning I got a call from him reporting what he had done. He had completely changed our strategy. I thought this was odd but his new approach was consistent with his personality and was worth a chance. Later that day, I got a call from a member of the Presidential Advance Party inviting me to a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the visit of the President and Vice President to the school. It sounded serious to me. Charlie called a short time later and asked what I was going to do at ten o'clock Tuesday morning. I told him that I was going to be at his school in a meeting. He said that he wanted to make sure I knew about it. I guess he had learned about the Presidential visit that Monday morning. It certainly made his response to the vendor make sense.

We met with a team from the Presidential Re-election Committee. It turns out that whenever the President visits a state within six weeks of a Primary Election, the visit must be paid for by the Re-election Committee. We met a local person who was to handle the press, three Washington based people who were to handle the press and plan the entire trip and two White House Communications people. I recognized their hair cuts and sure enough they were Army personnel assigned to the White House Communications detail. I had a friend in my past life who did that, so I had some basis for my guess. Interestingly, the Secret Service was missing. It turns out that they were having a meeting at the same time with the Concord City Police.

After a conversation about what these planners wanted to do, we all adjourned to a tour of the campus and to see and experience the physical work place and NetDay job to be done. These people knew nothing about our business, so we needed to explain what NetDay was all about, why it was important to schools, what the benefits were to education, what it means to "wire" a school, why the job was complicated, how to open a computer, why we needed to put special cards in the computer, how we connected to the Internet, why Internet access was important, and other related issues. We walked the whole job site and talked about who would be working where. Of course, when you have a number of adults in business suits walking a campus looking "official," the students really get curious. The Re-election personnel mentioned what the visit was all about and the news traveled quickly. The school administration knew all about the visit and was part of the planning with both this group and the Secret Service.

Late in the meeting and before we took the tour, we were joined by a person from Sun Microsystems. He accompanied us on the tour. As we moved from one place to the next, he began to suggest alternatives and changes in the schedule of events. At one point when Charlie was explaining the fiber backbone wiring, the Sun representative suggested that "we really ought to have that part finished before NetDay as it was key to going on-line for the building the President was going to work in." I could see Charlie begin a slow steam. After a bit, he lost his temper, saying something to the effect that he had been working on this project since before Christmas and it was a little late for someone to walk in five days before the event and begin telling what ought to be done.

We proceeded to the Library where just the day before the ISDN line worked for the first time. As you all know, Pacific Bell does it right the first time. Not! We saw the CUSEEME operation over the ISDN line, and we learned that the President was to connect with Secretary of Commerce Brown and Secretary of Education Riley over the Internet on NetDay as they would be in California awaiting his connection. The Sun representative said that this arrangement (the ISDN circuit) was just too slow and jerky and what we needed was a full T-1 and a better video delivery. I pointed out that the last cable pair on the entire campus was used for the ISDN line, and if anything was

NetDay96 Success Stories...and Otherwise

Activities: Many school agencies enhance their connectivity. Good project organization, a pool of volunteers and corporate sponsors were tantamount to their achievements.

Addison Ching

NetDay96 was a large success for many school agencies. Those districts and county offices that chose to go "all out" with planning and preparation for NetDay96 benefited the most from the day's activities. A common thread running through success stores points to a clear definition of what was to be accomplished on that day, realizing that in most cases NetDay96 could not possibly result in the development of a total networking infrastructure and connectivity for the agency involved.

Ann Murphy, a spokesperson from KQED, one of NetDay96's sponsors, speaks of the "huge success of NetDay96 in our California schools," and goes on to state that the NetDay96 web site has been updated with a lot of new information about the March 9th activities, including News, Snapshots From the Schools on NetDay, and School Diaries on each individual school home page.

"A few examples of interesting success stories located on school's diaries are Sir Francis Drake High—San Anselmo, Balboa Magnet—Northridge, Sierra Madre Elementary—Sierra Madre, Ivanhoe Elementary—LA Fairfax Senior High—LA, and Brooklyn Avenue Elementary School—LA," reports Ms. Murphy.

A straw poll of MIS directors and other technologists throughout the state that were involved with NetDay96 provided some interesting comments. Effective NetDay activity organization, volunteer recruitment and participation and support from corporate sponsors seemed to be the major factors for achieving NetDay success.

Bennett Kayser from Pasadena Unified School District reported that "NetDay96 was a huge success at Pasadena USD. Sixteen of our 30 schools had well over 200 volunteers to wire 5 or more classrooms."

He continued, "The volunteers included parents, neighbors, alumni, and staff and/or students from Pasadena City College and Caltech, and District staff."

"There were also volunteer technicians from JPL, Pac Bell, PacLink Communications (a Pasadena Internet Service Provider that offers English/Chinese bilingual Internet access)," said Bennett. " Eight more schools are planning to pull Cat5 cable within the next month. We had sponsors for 14 of our NetDay kits, as well as other tools and supplies."

Bennett's closing remark summarizes the sentiment of many technologists whose efforts with network interconnectivity have been given a jump-start from NetDay96: "I'm looking forward to NetDay97."

Santee School District in San Diego County took a different approach when deciding what their NetDay96 goals would be. That district is in the middle of a project to connect the district's administrative sites and develop a "sample" school whose network connectivity design can be replicated in other schools throughout the district. Realizing that site wiring efforts slated for NetDay might conflict with the district's overall plan under development, their NetDay96 goal was to install Wiremold and an outlet box in each of the district's classrooms.

John Tofflemire, Director of Educational Projects, reported that their NetDay efforts began at 8:00 on March 9 and by noon, installation of the Wiremold and outlet boxes was complete. "Santee District... installed wiremold and outlet boxes in 320 rooms. This was tremendous and everyone is now wondering when we will be on line," said John.

Skip Sharp, Director of Information Management Services for the San Diego County Office of Education said that no particular NetDay96 activities were slated for that office. "We've been having NetDay for the past few years," reported Skip, referring to that county's ongoing efforts to provide San Diego districts with networking and connectivity assistance wherever possible. That County follows the State's model for making available Internet connectivity and services to subscribing districts. In addition to direct connectivity for school agencies through their Intergate server, their overall plan calls for toll-free dialup access to be made available to school staff and faculty through strategically-placed modem phone banks located throughout the San Diego County.

Montebello Unified School District in Los Angeles County also had a successful NetDay96. "We were able to wire two schools," reports Larry Mueller, Director of Information Systems. "Bell Gardens Elementary wired

Success

two complete buildings, 6 classrooms, a lab, teachers lounge, and six offices," reports Larry. "They had about 20 volunteers, mostly from the Gas Company and Ambient Data Technology. The Gas Company sponsored their site.

"Montebello Intermediate School wired a twenty station lab in the library and several offices. They had about 12 volunteers, with Southern California Edison sponsoring the efforts at their site," said Larry.

Larry has already implemented Internet support services for his district. A Compaq ProSignia Pentium server running the Windows NT Server 3.51 OS hosts the district's domain name service, electronic mail service, World Wide Web site (**www.montebello.k12.ca.us**) and acts as the proxy server for the district's web browsing clients.

By contrast, some districts made the decision to defer NetDay activities to some future point in time. Philip Tsoi-A-Sue, Information Management System Administrator for Orange Unified School District in Orange County reported that their district had a few 11th hour calls from volunteers wondering how they could help and to see what the district's plans were. Phil reports that after consultation, the district's Assistant Superintendent of Education Services made the decision that OUSD would not participate in NetDay96.

Another school district in Orange County, the Huntington Beach Union High School District, had a productive NetDay96 that resulted in some computers actually gaining access to the Internet. Wray Miller, the district's Data Processing Director, provided a synopsis of their NetDay project.

"Our principals met with District personnel in mid-January to discuss Netday. At that point we had no volunteers or sponsors. We decided to concentrate volunteers at one site if we got any volunteers. Marina High School had a volunteer-works-in-progress under way already and we felt Netday might help focus attention on it and get it jump started.

"Throughout the last year, MHS had accumulated tons of old used computers, parts and printers. A lot of it has come from Rockwell and some items were purchased with the help of a foundation recently established. The goal for Netday was to upgrade the computers to 386's with at least 4MB RAM and establish a lab of networked computers for the English department. They wanted a place where students could go to use word processing.

"By the end of the day, with the help of about 70 volunteers, MHS was well on the way. They had 20 PCs networked with NT Server and Windows for Workgroups running Word 6.0. Workgroups, DOS 6.22 and Word were donated. We received a NetDay Kit from the OCDE *(Orange County Department of Education-ed.)* at 3PM on March 8, which we didn't use on the 9th.

"By 4:30 on Saturday, I looked at the NetDay Kit sitting untouched under a desk, and then I looked at all we had done, and I thought that putting in that NetDay Kit would have been much easier! However, MHS is thrilled to have the lab and it certainly is more useful than a few wires that go from here to there.

"On a side note, half a dozen workstations were hooked up on NetDay to the Internet via the District's dialup service at the District office."

Greg Lindner, Director of Information and Technology Services for Yolo County Superintendent of Schools (YCSS), provided a snapshot of activities at their county office, including some of the efforts they made to assist their client districts. "All-in-all ours was very successful," he commented.

"We were able to get 6 Netday kits donated which we dispersed throughout the county. Davis USD had several volunteers and worked on wiring 4 schools. Winters and Woodland USD utilized the day as a Technology Faire to show the public what their plans were and what they currently had in place. YCSS wired our Greengate Site. We had generous donations from vendors and several volunteers as well. If we paid to have the Greengate Site wired it would have cost us between $4000 and $5000 for all the materials and labor." Greg concluded, "So...yes - it was quite successful."

Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) also enjoyed a great NetDay96. The Director of Information Systems, Charles Burns, summarized their NetDay activities.

"Elk Grove USD has set up a partnership with AT&T Wireless. On Friday March 8, 1996 "Netday96 Eve", AT&T Wireless delivered 5 Laptop computers, cell phones and cellular modems to Elk Grove High School. These 5

Update on Breakout sessions:...

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Room	A	B	C	D
11:00 A.M.	**George Araya** Desert Hot Springs	**Charles Burns** Elk Grove Unified	**Eric Boutwell** San Francisco Unified	**Ken Chapman** Beardsley
1:30 P.M.	**Linda Wilson** Zuk	**Bill Honniker** San Diego Unified	**Farley Stewart** Internet Products	Bay Area Networks
2:45 P.M.				
4:00 P.M.				

THURSDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Room	A	B	C	D
8:30 A.M.	Macro Educ. Systems			

FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Room	A	B	C	D
9:15 A.M.				

We still have a need for more breakout sessions. The above table shows the time slots available. We would like to include the breakout session schedule in the Conference Announcement which will go to the printer in late June or early July. Please reserve your time early. Put your name, phone number, school/district/company in one of the time slots above, mail or fax it to me, and I will contact you for the details. If you prefer, you can simply fill out a Call for Speakers form contained in this issue of the DataBus.

Some suggested topics for breakout sessions: hardware and network maintenance issues; Internet—access, security, forms capability, etc.; software support issues; help desk—anything you know; student system software successes and/or failures; financial and/or payroll software using client server technology; software training offered by your district/COE; your plan for NetDay96; standardized account code structure; millennium issues; classroom technology. There are many topics common and of interest to us all. Get your reservation in early. Mail or fax or E-mail me at:

Ventura County Supt. Of Schs. Office
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012   Phone: 805-383-1954   Fax: 805-383-1997
E-mail: acosta@vcss.k12.ca.us

Breakout Sessions - Why YOU Should Make a Presentation

If instant fame and fortune is your desire, you won't get it by making a presentation at the CEDPA Conference. However, if you eliminate the fortune part from "fame and fortune", you will become famous (or infamous) in one brief 45-minute period of time.

Perhaps you could talk to us about your district's approach to NetDay96. By the time of the conference, you will certainly know whether you took the right or wrong approach. If it was a success, let us know your secret; if not, let us know the problems encountered and what you would do to avoid them next time.

How are you handling the approaching millennium change? Is your software all ready for the big day? If you feel secure in your resolution to this potential problem-–let us know.

Do all the classrooms/teachers in your school or district have access to the Internet? Let us know how you achieved that success. Perhaps a teacher could make a presentation with you to explain all the advantages the Internet has brought into his/her classroom.

There are many, many subjects on which you could make a presentation. We will all benefit from your experience. If you would like, you may contact me to discuss the topic you are thinking of before you commit yourself to a breakout session. My phone number is 805-383-1954 or you can E-mail me at acosta@vcss.k12.ca.us.

Call For Speakers

California Educational Data Processing Association
36th Annual Conference
October 16-18, 1996
Marquis Hotel, Palm Springs, California

Would you be interested in presenting at the 1996 CEDPA Conference? Breakout sessions are being developed and many opportunities to speak are available. If you have a unique application, experience in implementing new technologies, budget saving ideas, or an information management or technology story to share, please consider presenting a breakout session.

Some sample topics are:

- **COMPUTING IN THE CLASSROOM** - Collaboration between MIS and Educational Technology

- **SUPPORT ISSUES** - Help Desks, Training

- **NETWORKS** - LAN/WAN connectivity involving the Internet, Novell, AppleTalk, UNIX, Windows NT

- **SECURITY ISSUES** - Use policies, firewall construction, proxy servers

If you are interested in being a presenter, your participation could help make the 1996 CEDPA conference a real success. Suggestions for additional topics or items within topic areas are welcome. Please contact Judy Acosta, speaker chairperson, at (805) 383-1954, by FAX at (805) 383-1997, or by Internet e-mail at acosta@vcss.k12.ca.us.

TOPIC: _____

Topic Description: _____

_____

Overhead Projector? YES   NO   Other A/V Aids? YES   NO

Explain: _____

Presenter's Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone No.: _____   FAX: _____

MAIL TO JUDY ACOSTA, VENTURA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
5189 VERDUGO WAY, CAMARILLO, CA 93012
OR CALL (805) 383-1954

As Time Goes By

Technology: Changes affect County Office processing and organization, but user needs must still be met.

Judy Acosta, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

The Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office has offered Student Personnel Services to user districts/schools since 1968. I was hired in June, 1971, by VCSS, as a secretary to Jack Totheroh (whom some of you "old timers" will remember) and was also assigned to process the student standardized testing that was done at the time—my first experience with student systems. That was almost 25 years ago, and that same student system is about to "die" in June of 1996. Should we be happy and throw a party, or should we be sad and hold a wake? Probably a little of both. The system needed a lot of attention—actually, a new one was needed. But, it has provided me with lots of challenges over the years, and I have met and worked with lots of interesting people.

In the beginning—everything was batch processing. All of our work—from payroll to student attendance was collected on paper and/or holorith cards. If the data did not arrive in card format, it was quickly audited and converted to card format. There was little that couldn't be done using those cards. Keypunch machines and operators were an integral part of the data processing department. If you ever found yourself with spare time or a "non-urgent" job, you were very quickly assigned to an empty keypunch machine and taught to verify the work of the more experienced operators. At certain times of the year, such as prior to second semester, there would be tables of locator (schedule) card changes in boxes. The boxes would be lined up in the order that the changes were received from the schools. At that time, on our student file was just under 200,000 students, so you can imagine the stacks of paper. Of course, payroll and accounts payable always took priority, so it seemed that we were always in a catch up mode with student processing. There was a tremendous amount of work to be done and overtime was the rule rather than the exception. In all honesty, I have to say that I had a really good time. We worked hard, and we played hard as well. Lots of laughter and camaraderie. It could be that I was young and foolish and needed the money I earned working overtime. Whatever, there were lots of good times.

The student, payroll, and accounts payable systems at VCSS evolved to on-line processing over time, and the need for keypunch operators and off line equipment operators went away. On line processing removed a tremendous workload from the data processing department, and the resulting loss of personnel was sad but necessary.

I have learned over the years, that student administrative systems are very complex. There is very little about a student system that is "cut and dried". Many people think that all a student administrative system does is take attendance and report a.d.a. Those of us who have worked closely with these systems know better. Attendance is the least of the problems encountered. I will miss the VCSS student system with all its complexities. However, VCSS has formed a business partnership with Macro, and we are supporting their student systems in Ventura County. Although different, student systems will still be a part of my "work life" as well as other assignments.

There have been so many changes in technology these past twenty-five years that when you let your mind meander back, you become truly amazed. What does not change is the basic need of the customer—attendance accounting, scheduling, mark reporting, transcripts, etc. We have downsized our data processing departments and transferred the workloads to the customer, usually based on user request. Sometimes I wonder whether users are happier being in total control of their "own" systems. One thing I know for sure, they have a lot more work to do.

Providing users with what they need has always been our goal at VCSS, and that will not change. It will simply take a different direction. The structure of our organization has changed and continues to change, and I believe that it is for the best. It's time for "out with the old and in with the new" so let's discover new ways to be of service to our users and see what the next 25 years bring.

Windows 95 Update Released

Microsoft has released the Microsoft Windows 95 Service Pack 1 Update. This update contains several minor bug fixes involving OLE32, Shell, Common Dialog and File and Printer Sharing. The update is available from Microsoft's web site, **www.microsoft.com.**

Cisco Systems Committed to Education

Direction: Vendor dedicates itself to supporting California school agencies.

Sue Mangiapane, Cisco Systems, Inc.

Who is Cisco? Cisco Systems is the leading global supplier of Inter-networking devices including routers, LAN and ATM switches, dial-up access servers, and network management software. These products, integrated by the Cisco IOS software, link geographically dispersed LANs, WANs, and IBM networks.

Cisco, as a corporation, is uniquely dedicated to Education, and Cisco's exceptional product line secures a school's investment whether it be connecting to the Internet today or allowing for growth for future networking opportunities.

Cisco has established several help resources especially for schools that provide advice on the use of Internet resources within the schools and explains how to learn more about schools getting connected to the Internet.

Here in California, Cisco has also dedicated three individuals to work with and support the schools. Development of Newsletters, Web Resources, and Regional Seminars are just a few of the things available through them. More importantly, Districts have access to highly trained WAN Design Engineers to help with individual site planning and implementation.

For more information on your local resources please contact

> **Sue Mangiapane (714) 789-5006**
> **Jill Nelson (415) 439-2529**
> **Laura Reynolds (415) 377-5695**

Cisco is also very well known for its customer support and high degree of customer satisfaction. The resources committed to these areas of Cisco's business have been specially tailored to the unique needs of Education.

The Education Helpline is at 800-EDNTWKS or call (800) 888-8189 x22859 and you will be connected with Todd McNeal, the inside Cisco product representative for the West Coast.

For information on Cisco products and services, consult the Cisco Connection Online (CCO) web server at **http://www.cisco.com**, or send questions regarding Cisco Educational Programs to edu@cisco.com.

Networkers 96

As Networking Professionals, you are a part of the hottest global technology developments in recent history. In just the past few months, the industry has seen an astonishing array of developments, some expected, some big surprises. With the tremendous amount of information out there to keep up with, understand, and make decisions about, it is our pleasure to invite you to Cisco System's Seventh Annual User Symposium, **Networkers 96**. For three full days, you get virtually unlimited access to the best network training and information resources assembled anywhere in the industry - **Absolutely FREE**!

Keynotes include Cisco President and CEO **John Chambers**, technology guru and MIT lab director **Nicholas Negroponte**, and network security expert and author **Clifford Stoll**. The rest of the time is packed with technical overviews, workshops, demonstrations, engineering sessions, and informal discussions. Attendance is limited and registration will close as soon as courses are full. This year's Symposium is in Dallas, Texas, May 7-9, 1996.

For more information, call 1-800-NETWKRS (638-9577) or visit the web page **http://www.cisco.com/nw96/go/**.

Sue Manguapane is Account Manager for Cisco Systems, Inc. Her e-mail is smangiap@cisco.com.

COMING EVENTS

- SIG Meeting (South)
    April 18, 1996
    Marquis Hotel. Palm Springs
- SIG Meeting (North)
    May 8/10, 1996 (TBA)
    San Jose/Monterey (TBA)
- SIG Meeting (South)
    June 5, 1996
    Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego
- SIG Meeting (North)
    July 10/12, 1996
    Location TBA
- Annual Conference
    October 16-18, 1996
    Marquis Hotel, Palm Springs

Security Flaw in Netscape Reported

Java: Applet Security Manager bug allows data on your hard disk to be seen remotely.

Addison Ching

If you use the Netscape Navigator browser version 2.0, you need to be aware that there is a bug in Navigator 2.0 (beta and released versions) that may compromise the security of your computer's data.

Members of CSUNet received the following e-mail message early last month from the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), a unit of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) that was established in 1988 to address computer security concerns of research users of the Internet.

From: cert-advisory-request@cert.org, Tue, Mar 5, 1996
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CERT(sm) Advisory CA-96.05
March 5, 1996

Topic: Java Implementations Can Allow Connections to an Arbitrary Host
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The CERT Coordination Center has received reports of a vulnerability in implementations of the Java Applet Security Manager. This vulnerability is present in the Netscape Navigator 2.0 Java implementation and in Release 1.0 of the Java Developer's Kit from Sun Microsystems, Inc. These implementations do not correctly implement the policy that an applet may connect only to the host from which the applet was loaded.

The CERT Coordination Center recommends installing patches from the vendors, and using the workaround described in Section III until patches can be installed.

As we receive additional information relating to this advisory, we will place it in f**tp://info.cert.org/pub/cert_advisories/CA-96.05.README**

We encourage you to check our README files regularly for updates on advisories that relate to your site.
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I. Description

There is a serious security problem with the Netscape Navigator 2.0 Java implementation. The vulnerability is also present in the Java Developer's Kit 1.0 from Sun Microsystems, Inc. The restriction allowing an applet to connect only to the host from which it was loaded is not properly enforced. This vulnerability, combined with the subversion of the DNS system, allows an applet to open a connection to an arbitrary host on the Internet. In these Java implementations, the Applet Security Manager allows an applet to connect to any of the IP addresses associated with the name of the computer from which it came. This is a weaker policy than the stated policy and leads to the vulnerability described herein.

II. Impact

Java applets can connect to arbitrary hosts on the Internet, including those presumed to be previously inaccessible, such as hosts behind a firewall. Bugs in any TCP/IP-based network service can then be exploited. In addition, services previously thought to be secure by virtue of their location behind a firewall can be attacked.

III. Solution

To fix this problem, the Applet Security Manager must be more strict in deciding which hosts an applet is allowed to connect to. The Java system needs to take note of the actual IP address that the applet truly came from (getting that numerical address from the applet's packets as the applet is being loaded), and thereafter allow the applet to connect only to that same numerical address.

We urge you to obtain vendor patches as they become available. Until you can install the patches that implement the more strict applet connection restrictions, you should apply the workarounds described in each section below.

A. Netscape users

For Netscape Navigator 2.0, use the following URL to learn more about the problem and how to download and install a patch: **http://home.netscape.com/newsref/std/java_security.html**

Until you install the patch, disable Java using the "Security Preferences" dialog box.

B. Sun users

A patch for Sun's HotJava will be available soon.

Until you can install the patch, disable applet downloading by selecting "Options" then "Security...". In the "Enter desired security mode" menu, select the "No access" option.

Netscape

In addition, select the "Apply security mode to applet loading" to disable applet loading entirely, regardless of the source of the applet.

C. Both Netscape and Sun users

If you operate an HTTP proxy server, you could also disable applets by refusing to fetch Java ".class" files.

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The CERT Coordination Center thanks Drew Dean, Ed Felton, and Dan Wallach of Princeton University for providing information for this advisory. We thank Netscape Communications Corporation, especially Jeff Truehaft, and Sun Microsystems, Inc., especially Marianne Mueller, for their response to this problem.

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If you believe that your system has been compromised, contact the CERT Coordination Center or your representative in the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST).

We strongly urge you to encrypt any sensitive information you send by email. The CERT Coordination Center can support a shared DES key and PGP. Contact the CERT staff for more information.

Location of CERT PGP key: **ftp://info.cert.org/pub/ CERT_PGP.key**

CERT Contact Information

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Email   cert@cert.org

Phone   +1 412-268-7090 (24-hour hotline). CERT personnel answer 8:30-5:00 p.m. EST (GMT-5) / EDT(GMT-4), and are on call for emergencies during other hours.

Fax   +1 412-268-6989

Postal address: CERT Coordination Center, Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890, USA

To be added to our mailing list for CERT advisories and bulletins, send your email address to cert-advisory-request@cert.org.

CERT publications, information about FIRST representatives, and other security-related information are available for anonymous FTP from **ftp://info.cert.org/pub/**

CERT advisories and bulletins are also posted on the USENET newsgroup comp.security.announce

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What does this mean?

The holes are in the Netscape and HotJava Java Applet Security Manager's handling of JavaScript, a scripting language developed by Sun Microsystems that enables real-time interaction with displayed web pages. Features such as moving billboards and interactive games have already been developed and are available from various websites incorporating the Java enhancements.

Researchers at Princeton University discovered an implementation flaw with the Java Applet Security Manager. This discovery shows that the Domain Name Service (DNS) of your network can be subverted, allow-

Education First Highlights

Paul J. Sosa, Pacific Bell

On February 7 the California Public Utilities Commision (CPUC) approved the Knowledge Network ISDN access rate for K-12 schools. The rate is $40.00 per month per line for unlimited local and Zone 3 usage plus the cost of their ISDN access line. This means that calls up to 16 miles will be covered by a $40.00 flat usage rate. Certain terms and conditions apply.

Ascend Corporation announced several new products. The Max 1800 serves 8 BRI's and a serial port that can be configured to Point to Point or Frame Relay service. An optional feature allows analog PPP support. This is a perfect solution for a small district Wide Area Network. The second product is the Pipeline 130 that supports one BRI and one Frame Relay port. These products are excellent low cost alternatives to traditional routers.

Paul J. Sosa is a System Designs Consultant, Educational Services for Pacific Bell. He can be reached at (213) 975-2287 or by e-mail at pjsosa@pacbell.com.

Netscape

(Continued from Page 14)

ing a Java applet to make an arbitrary network connection. This is done by confusing the correct computer names with their actual IP addresses, a process known as DNS Spoofing.

Another problem with the Security Manager, was discovered by a tenth grade student, who reported the problem to Netscape. By exploiting this problem, skilled programmers could build "rogue" web pages that can gain access to important information on a client's computer. A device known as a "cookie" is created on the client computer's hard drive and can be accessed later by the web server, potentially for unscrupulous purposes. Cookies can be designed to include account information or any other "secure" information that shouldn't be made available to anyone, especially those doing commerce on the Internet. This device allows the perpetrator to literally monitor everything you do on your computer.

Netscape supposedly fixed the bug in a subsequent beta release of Navigator but the youth was able to rewrite his script to again perform the same cookie-grabbing operation.

Netscape immediately responded to this situation by releasing a temporary fix to version 2.0, claiming that the problem only affected certain versions (Windows) of Navigator. However, the "cookie" problem has been demonstrated to affect Macintosh versions of Navigator as well, substantiated by testing performed by Warren Williams.

Netscape subsequently released version 2.01 of Navigator around the middle of March. According to information available on their website, this version fixes the security flaws with Navigator. Go to **http://home.netscape.com** for additional information and the updated files, available for platforms including 16- and 32-bit Windows and Macintosh. Their Security Enhancements web page (**http://home.netscape.com/newsref/std/java_security.html**) provides information about the JavaScript bug in Naviagtor.

CERT is a stockpile of security-related information about the Internet. Available from CERT's FTP server are guides published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) relating to computer viruses and related threats, and the protection of information resources. Also available are all the advisories issued by CERT, vendor-initiated bulletins that deal with security problems and solutions related to the vendors' respective platforms and systems, and a Frequently Asked Questions file about the CERT Coordination Center and its work. Tech tips about anonymous FTP configurations and packet filtering can also be obtained, as well as security-related software tools. FTP to **ftp://ftp.cert.org/pub/** and view the 01-README file for information about CERT and its services.

February SIG Meeting Summary

Eric Boutwell
San Francisco Unified School District

NetDay96 was the major topic at CEDPA's February SIG meeting hosted by Cisco Systems. Twenty-nine people attended and shared their hopes, fears and plans for Netday96. Michael Kaufman of Public Television station KQED spoke and gave a detailed history of how Netday96 came about and how it evolved over time. Michael then addressed all the who, what, when, where and why questions that the group posed to him. Michael's detailed responses and well thought out answers lowered many attendees' anxieties and got must of us thinking how we could maximize the benefit and minimize the problems of Netday96.

The Netday96 check off list that was part of the last *Databus* was distributed at the meeting for all attendees who had not seen it or needed a second copy. The check off list was a big help to many of us in that it was a reminder of all the things we needed to do to make Netday96 a successful event for our district and schools.

I believe the most beneficial part of the meeting was when we opened the meeting up to general discussion. We shared with each other what plans and ideas we were considering for Netday96 followed by a general discussion of wide area networking (WAN)and local area networking (LAN). The number of ideas and the creative solutions that come out of this kind of interaction is always inspiring. Although I went into the meeting thinking I had a good solid plan for Netday96, the additional ideas talked about at this meeting helped me to significantly improve my plan.

I would like to thank Cisco for hosting this meeting and giving all of us who wished to stay after a tour of their facility. I look forward to seeing many of you again at the next SIG meeting in Palm Springs.

President

to be added to the campus it had to come from the street and we certainly didn't have the money to pay for that project.

The school library was to have virtually all of its furniture removed so that a wide screen video operation could be set up for the press. Other talk was about a series of large screen computer monitors for various people to use. I once again explained that none of this was available in the school or in the district and that we couldn't afford to buy it. The planning was proceeding with grand ideas which were well outside of the reality schools operate within.

The tour broke up a few minutes later and all parties agreed that we would meet again on Thursday at ten, just two days before NetDay. By then the planning party would have the President's itinerary fully outlined, and we would also have the input from the Secret Service.

As each day passed, the number of volunteers for our schools grew. On Wednesday before NetDay, we had six sponsors for six campuses, 88 volunteers for 31 campuses and seven organizers for seven campuses. The problem we faced was simply "too many, too late" for planning to take place. We had narrowed the work down to two high schools where work would be done and two more high schools where planning would be done on NetDay. Other campuses were getting close to being ready but they clearly could not go on NetDay. The last minute volunteers were especially ready to work, but it was just too late for any preparation. I directed some of them to the *Champion* at Ygnacio Valley. The worst of our dreams were beginning to take shape. Except for Ygnacio Valley High, it looked like a great opportunity to make all of us in education look badly.

On Thursday morning at 6:30AM, I called Charlie about the volunteer situation. He broke the news to me that the Secret Service told him that he had too many volunteers for them to control and he would have to cut the list. He said he would have to cut the list even from the original group.

At the meeting, on Thursday, all of the players in the President's visit were present. We went over the full detail of who, where, what and when. Mac Carey, John McBrearty (the MIS director for the County Office and a former CEDPA director) and I were to be "press volunteers." We were to help explain to the visiting press what NetDay is all about and how this volunteer effort was to help education.

Our Curriculum and Instruction Director had loaned Mac to Charlie to help with logistics. Charlie was the most sought-after person in Concord. He was being bombarded with questions from all sides and with interviews with the press. Heady stuff for a modest cabinetmaker who just had a vision for helping kids.

All of the "big guys" were falling all over themselves to help. "What can we do, how can we help, what do you need?" Sun, Apple, and HP appeared out of nowhere bearing gifts. Software companies appeared with their gifts and demands. Surely, the President will need to work with something better than THAT!

To his credit Charlie made one big statement, "If it comes on this campus, it stays on this campus. If it's good enough for the President, it's good enough for the kids at Ygnacio."

Charlie had received commitments from White Pines Software, a software company, Worldtouch, a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) and Cygnus, a local systems integrator, back in December. They had been with him the whole way, but now the big guys were muscling in on the show. Raw economic power was being exhibited because the President was coming.

On Friday, the three of us who were to be press volunteers met at the campus to review our "pitch." I arrived just as school was out and stayed on the campus for about an hour. It was the most interesting surreal scene. All of the normal Friday afterschool events were occurring—a baseball game, flag girls practice, loitering and matchmaking. In and among all of these normal events, a stage was being built, walls were being painted, telephone wire was being strung for the press, fences were going up, windows were bring covered, drapery and banners were being hung, sound systems were being tested, etc.

Saturday morning dawned clear after a couple of weeks of off-and-on rain. I picked up Mac at the Pleasant Hill BART station at 6:45AM. We saw long lines of people working their way toward Ygnacio Valley High. Fortunately, we were on the school parking list, so we got right in.

I went over to Charlie Merrill to congratulate him. He said, "You know, Perry, this thing got away from me."

The Great Internet Virus Hoax

Scare: Needless alarm caused by perpetual "warning" messages about "Good Times."

Addison Ching

Dr. Robert Jones, Senior Microcomputer Consultant for the Los Angeles County Office of Education submits the following information about the "Good Times" virus hoax that perennially plagues the Internet.

"I downloaded from the net a few of the notices on this hoax which included the CERT advisory. The text below appears to be the original CIAC bulletin. The author is now with Cisco."

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THIS IS A HOAX. Upon investigation, CIAC has determined that this message originated from both a user of America Online and a student at a university at approximately the same time, and it was meant to be a hoax.

CIAC has also seen other variations of this hoax, the main one is that any electronic mail message with the subject line of "xxx-1" will infect your computer.

This rumor has been spreading very widely. This spread is due mainly to the fact that many people have seen a message with "Good Times" in the header. They delete the message without reading it, thus believing that they have saved themselves from being attacked. These first-hand reports give a false sense of credibility to the alert message.

There has been one confirmation of a person who received a message with "xxx-1" in the header, but an empty message body. Then, (in a panic, because he had heard the alert), he checked his PC for viruses (the first time he checked his machine in months) and found a pre-existing virus on his machine. He incorrectly came to the conclusion that the E-mail message gave him the virus (this particular virus could NOT POSSIBLY have spread via an E-mail message). This person then spread his alert.

As of this date, there are no known viruses which can infect merely through reading a mail message. For a virus to spread some program must be executed. Reading a mail message does not execute the mail message. Yes, Trojans have been found as executable attachments to mail messages, the most notorious being the IBM VM Christmas Card Trojan of 1987, also the TERM MODULE Worm (reference CIAC Bulletin B-7) and the GAME2 MODULE Worm (CIAC Bulletin B-12). But this is not the case for this particular "virus" alert.

If you encounter this message being distributed on any mailing lists, simply ignore it or send a follow-up message stating that this is a false rumor.

Karyn Pichnarczyk CIAC Team ciac@llnl.gov

There is a computer virus that is being sent across the Internet. If you receive an e-mail message with the subject line "Good Times", DO NOT read the message, DELETE it immediately. Please read the messages below. Some miscreant is sending e-mail under the title "Good Times" nation wide, if you get anything like this, DON'T DOWN LOAD THE FILE! It has a virus that rewrites your hard drive, obliterating anything on it. Please be careful and forward this mail to anyone you care about.
****

WARNING!!!!!!!! INTERNET VIRUS

The FCC released a warning last Wednesday concerning a matter of major importance to any regular user of the Internet. Apparently a new computer virus has been engineered by a user of AMERICA ONLINE that is unparalleled in its destructive capability. Other more well-known viruses such as "Stoned", "Airwolf" and "Michaelangelo" pale in comparison to the prospects of this newest creation by a warped mentality. What makes this virus so terrifying, said the FCC, is the fact that no program needs to be exchanged for a new computer to be infected. It can be spread through the existing e-mail systems of the Internet. Once a Computer is infected, one of several things can happen. If the computer contains a hard drive, that will most likely be destroyed. If the program is not stopped, the computer's processor will be placed in an nth-complexity infinite binary loop -which can severely damage the processor if left running that way too long.

Unfortunately, most novice computer users will not realize what is happening until it is far too late. Luckily, there is one sure means of detecting what is now known as the "Good Times" virus. It always travels to new computers the same way in a text email message with the subject line reading "Good Times". Avoiding infection is easy once the file has been received- NOT READING IT! The act of loading the file into the mail server's ASCII buffer causes the "Good Times" mainline program to initialize and execute.

The program is highly intelligent-it will send copies of itself to everyone whose e-mail address is contained in a receive-mail file or a sent-mail file, if it can find one. It will then proceed to trash the computer it is running on. The bottom line here is - if you receive a file with the subject line "Good Times", delete it immediately! Do not read it!. Rest assured that whoever's name was on the "From" line was surely struck by the virus. Warn your friends and local system users of this newest threat to the Internet! It could save them a lot of time and money.

Bob suggests that there is a very good review of the hoax and related issues and questions posted at the following sites:

ftp://usit.net/pub/lesjones/good-times-virus-hoax-faq.txt
http://www.usit.net/public/lesjones/goodtimes-faq.html
http://users.aol.com/macfaq/goodtimes-faq.html

A FAQ is also available on CEDPA's web site.

Viruses and the Internet

email: Origin of so-called viruses makes it virtually impossible to propogate infections.

Brian Lloyd, Lloyd Internetworking

I don't know about you but, over the past year I have received a copy of the same electronic mail message over and over. The message warns of the "Good Times" virus *(see related article-Ed.)* being propagated in an email message and that reading the message is enough to infect your computer with the virus.

The short answer is, no, your computer will not become infected with a virus by simply reading an email message so you can safely ignore this particular message. *PLEASE* do not forward it on to others! To do so is to perpetuate a not particularly funny joke.

In fact, in a way this annoying email message is a virus of sorts. While it doesn't actually do anything at all on the computer, it does reproduce and replicate itself on other computers. The reproduction process is a concerned human who replicates the message and sends it on to friends and acquaintances, who then send it on to friends and acquaintances, who then send it on ... ad nauseam. If you happen to receive this message, just ignore it and break the chain.

On the other hand, this type of message certainly points out both the concern and lack of understanding surrounding computer viruses. There are ways to send a virus to someone's computer using email. Now granted the recipient has to actually perform an additional step beyond reading the message in order to infect his/her computer but many will unthinkingly perform that step and thus infect their computer(s).

The key factor for any computer virus is that, somehow, the computer must execute or "run" the virus code. Therefore *ANY* type of program can conceivably contain virus code. If you don't run the virus code, your computer won't become infected. Most viruses are propagated by becoming attached to a popular program or game, or by infecting the "boot block" on a floppy disk. [footnote: the boot block is a small hidden program at the very beginning of a disk that is usually executed when the disk is inserted and/or booted.] This sort of virus is somewhat more difficult to automatically propagate over the Internet.

So how do crackers and other evil denizens of the Internet coerce you into doing their dirty work for them? Usually it is by offering you something, usually a program, that you would like to have. For that reason beware of *ANY* program you receive from an unknown or unexpected source. While I am unaware of any crackers actually mailing a trojan horse program to someone, it can be done.

For the most part, programs from the major software repositories are safe. I have never received an infected program from any of the major software repositories. Use a virus scanner just in case.

There is a new threat that has recently appeared. It turns out that some crackers have discovered that it is possible to write a virus as a Microsoft Word macro. The macro is embedded as part of a document that appears perfectly innocuous. When you open the document the macro is executed by Word. The macro makes permanent modifications to Word macro environment so that the macro is replicated into every word document after that. From then on, whenever you give a Word document to someone, you infect their computer as soon as they look at the document.

Steps to avoid infection:

1. Never execute a program you have gotten off the Internet without first checking it with a virus checker. Be especially careful of programs from the alt.binaries news group.

2. Never execute a program mailed to you as an attachment especially if it comes from an unknown source.

3. Never open a Microsoft Word document without first disabling Word's ability to execute startup macros.

So be careful but don't be paranoid. Your local BBS is a much greater threat to you than the Internet. Use common sense and you won't be burned.

Brian Lloyd is president of Lloyd Internetworking. He is past chairman of the Internet Engineering Task Force's (IETF) Point to Point Protocol (PPP) Working Group and co-author of The Internet Security Handbook*." He can be reached at* brian@lloyd.com

President

We joined the other press volunteers and immediately got assigned to work the press credential desk. The press couldn't enter unless they showed an ID and were on our list. The same entrance was being use by the VIPs. Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman George Miller came through along with our School Board and other dignitaries. The press, ranging from high school reporters to AP/UPI/Fox, came streaming through. We were released from our duties about 9:00AM and found our way to the scene where about 10,000 people awaited the President and Vice President.

The show started shortly after his arrival and our Superintendent welcomed everyone to the district and YV, as the school is affectionately known. Very few people knew that just eight hours before he welcomed the President, our Superintendent's father had passed away in Modesto. It was a bittersweet day.

Everyone made speeches. The President left to shake hands with everyone who could reach him. I, too, got to shake hands with both of them. He went to work—you saw the pictures. He did his thing in the Library and then disappeared. All the crowd left so only the handshaking hopefuls, the press and our crew of volunteers were left waiting and waiting and waiting. It turns out that The Man probably had lunch out of sight.

Finally, about 12:30PM Charlie shouted, "Let's get to work. Team leaders gather you crews." NetDay began at Ygnacio Valley High School in Concord just like it had been planned three months before.

Perry Polk is the Data Processing Director for Mt. Diablo Unified School District in Concord, CA. He is a former president and director for CEDPA and has served as an elected Councilman for the city of Fairfield, California.

CEDPA SIG Meeting
April 18, 1995, 9:30AM-3PM
Marquis Hotel, Palm Springs
**"A Discussion on Microsoft's NT Server
and Back Office Products"**

contact Darryl La Gace for reservations
(619) 589-5734 or
e-mail: dlagace@lgsd.k12.ca.us
$25 registration fee-lunch included

Success

will be used for internet access from all areas of the campus and can be checked out by teachers for home use. The evaluation period of the efficacy of this equipment/ service combination will be tested through the end of this school year, and then all equipment will become the property of Elk Grove High School. So, Elk Grove celebrates Netday96 with a **wireless** solution.

"Additionally, we had purchased some new hubs for Elk Grove Elementary School's computer lab and on Saturday March 9, UltraLink (from Roseville, CA) provided us with all the necessary connectors to convert from Appletalk to Ethernet. The entire lab was brought online with 10BaseT that day.

"EGUSD had over 50 people volunteer to work in our schools that day. Since our Telecommunications Upgrade Plan far exceeds the goals of Netday96, we elected to continue on with our fully funded plan and redirect the volunteers to other projects," said Charles, referring to his district's plan for classroom technology enhancement (see "Elk Grove Goes for Voice, Video and Data in Every Classroom," *The DataBus* Vol. 25, No. 3 - May-June, 1995)

Oakland Unified School District enjoyed a great success, according to Gary Meissner, MIS Director for that agency. "On NetDay an amazing effort took place at 53 Oakland Schools," he exclaimed.

"We had 523 volunteers wire 325 classrooms! A really great day. Ninety-nine percent of the wiring was also terminated and tested. For many of our schools, NetDay marks the beginning of many long-term partnerships with parents, community, volunteers, and sponsors. We are going to do NetDay again in October '96."

That district's NetDay96 accomplishments are documented on their web site. Gary suggests, "Check our Web Site at http://ousd.k12.ca.us for more info..."

Overall, NetDay96 appears to have accomplished several things. Network interconnectivity of varying degrees was accomplished in schools of many districts, providing a start and impetus for future and ongoing activities, in spite of the supposed political overtones associated with the project and its perpetuators.

More importantly, however, NetDay was the catalyst to raise consciousness about the need for support from volunteers and corporate sponsors to achieve the goal of connecting classrooms to the information superhighway.

Web Site

(Continued from Page 3)

SIG meetings are now held monthly and meeting information, including topics, contacts and directions, are posted. Here also, we hope to have online sign-up in the near future.

Two new and expanding services are now offered.

Job Listings: Many IS shops need comparative data when it comes to job classifications and postings. This new section will offer two kinds of information. *Job Descriptions* will list job specifications for district and county offices. Currently available are Grossmont Union High School District positions, but as soon as other districts or offices send in these descriptions they will be posted. Also, this service will hopefully assist managers and job seekers to remain current with respect to the kinds of tasks required of employees across the State. *Current Openings* has opportunities to individuals around our State. There are two postings available now, but the list should grow as the service gains in usage.

Vendor List: As vendors sign up for this year's convention, CEDPA will post a small logo and URL for participating organizations. Also posted will be any information about door prizes and assistance that an organization may want to provide for the convention.

In the future, CEDPA will have an area for *RFP information*. Some mechanism will be designed to share RFP's to assist members who need to draft these documents. It is hoped that *legislative and technical data* will also be posted to help keep members abreast of emerging issues.

If you have any suggestions about the design of the page or information you would like to place there, contact webmaster@grossmont.k12.ca.us. You can also recommend the Databus and CEDPA to others and they can request membership by filling out the *Online Request Form.*

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