FEBRUARY 1992

New Services & Development

Electronic Notice Board

Internet Services

Mail for Macintosh

Clear Water Bay Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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CCST Hot-line 6200
Mon - Fri : 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat : 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Computer Barn (Rm 4382)
Opening hours :
Mon - Fri : 8:15 a.m. - 10:45 p.m.
Sat : 8:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Consultation hours :
Mon - Fri : 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat : 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.

Business Computing Laboratory (Rm 4334)
Opening hours/Consultation hours :
Mon - Fri : 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat : 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.
New Services/Development

Our University network was successfully connected to the Internet network on January 24, 1992.

Currently, a 19.2K leased line runs from our University to the Chinese University of Hong Kong which in turn connects to Internet in the States through a 64K leased line. The touch down point on the other side of the ocean is NASA Ames Research Centre in Mountain View, California, where NSFNET, NASA Science Internet, and DoD's ESNET all come together.

As a matter of fact, our original plan was to install a 64K line. However, due to the poor quality of the telephone exchange in Clear Water Bay, only a 19.2K line could be installed.

Soon after the 19.2K line was connected, the utilisation of the line went up to more than 95% during peak hour, with an overall daily average of 75% (including night time). We are now working with the Hong Kong Telecom to upgrade the connection to Chinese University to a T1 (1.544M bit) line in the coming few months.

Internet Services

With the connection to Internet, our University is now more integrated into the world's academic and research communities. Authorized users are now able to access the vast amount of resources available in the Internet network.

With telnet, users can remote login any machine on Internet in which the user has the access right. It is now technically possible to access remote supercomputing facilities and library catalogues.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is a software for transferring files between two computers connected via Internet. That is to say, users are now able to access data archives (e.g., papers, public domain software) stored on a number of Internet server systems.

Full telnet and FTP services are now supported on Unix and VMS systems. Telnet from PC and Mac are also available. Direct FTP from PC and Mac will be provided at a later stage.

Users with previous experience with Internet are now using the service without too much assistance from CCST. For those who are new to Internet can expect to receive full support services including user guide, indexes to various Internet resources, and training classes in around April.

In view of the importance of the Internet services to our University, we will be forming the HKUST Internet User Group for information and experience sharing. Details will be announced shortly.

From the editor: Internet services will be the main theme of next (April) issue of Channel.
New Information Service
Under Development:  
Electronic Notice Board

One major concern of office automation is to improve the way information is communicated and disseminated. In HKUST, e-mail is an indispensable communication tool of most, if not all, staff and students.

Some departments also use the e-mail system to disseminate information to all staff/students. Topics covered include security issues, transport (bus) arrangement, seminar and activity announcements, etc. While e-mail provides an efficient way for doing that, it may not be the best way if the population size gets bigger and bigger. Below is a short description of a new information service - an Electronic Notice Board (ENB), being developed by CCST. The service will be available to users in the near future.

What is an ENB?

Electronic Notice Board (ENB) is a computer-based broadcasting system. It has some similarities to a normal e-mail system but there are some major differences as well.

E-mail is typically a person-to-person communication. In such a system, a third party cannot view the mail contents, and the mail is essentially a transaction between the sender and the recipient. Of course, a user can send a mail to a group of users, but privacy is still intact to the extent that users who are not on the mail distribution list will not receive a copy of the mail. ENB extends the e-mail model by allowing all users to have the ability to view all posted notices, and all postings made by users are public to all other users of the notice board.

Characteristics of the HKUST ENB

The first version of the HKUST ENB aims at providing a mechanism for disseminating non-confidential information such as seminar and activity announcements to all members of the University. It has the following characteristics:

a) To achieve the bi-lingual computing environment objective, the ENB is designed to support notices in English and Chinese forms, and eventually in image form as well.

b) The ENB is implemented based on the client-server model, different user interfaces are designed for different types of client machines (PC, Mac, Unix WS). That is to say, the ENB provides familiar 'look-and-feel' to users of the corresponding hardware platforms.

c) Users do not need to "login" the ENB explicitly to look up the needed information, a definite advantage over the time-sharing approach of most traditional applications.

d) The system will disconnect idle users from the ENB so that a good response time can be maintained.

Structure of the ENB

Electronic notices are grouped by folders. There are two types of folders:

a) Departmental folder: folder managed by individual department/student society which means that only certain account(s) is/are allowed to post notices into it. Examples are "CCST Training Courses", "Staff Club News", etc..

b) Public folder: folder in which all users of the ENB can post notices. Examples are "Lost and Found", "Advertisement", "Seminar Announcement", etc..

The table below shows the supported hardware platforms with the first version of the system. Those marked with a 'Y' are available in the first release.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platforms</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PC/DOS</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC/Window</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macintosh</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unix WS</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The entries marked with a 'P' are being planned. In particular, the PC window-based interface to the ENB will be available by the time we roll out the PC window environment in a large scale.
The folders are centrally maintained by the ENB administrator of CCST. Users cannot create or remove any folder themselves.

Electronic notices are posted using the Pathworks Mail for DOS. A user prepares a mail by completing a template and attaches the notice to the mail, and then sends it to a special ENB account. A computer process will then take the notice and post it into the ENB.

After a notice is posted, it can be retrieved and displayed on any client platforms the ENB supports.

Electronic notices can be retrieved based on one of the following selection criteria:

a) By folder and/or department: a list of notices of the specified folder and/or department will be shown on screen.

b) Today’s events: notices such as conference and seminar announcements can have event dates associated with them. User can request for a list of events which are happening on the current day.

c) Recent notices: a list of notices which were posted after a certain user specified date.

The list of notice headers is displayed in reverse chronological order. From the list, the user can select to view any of the notices or extract a notice to a file in his/her local machine.

Each notice has an effective date after which the notice will be purged automatically.

**What you can do ...**

As a user, you can contribute to the development/enhancement of our services by giving us feedbacks on the services that we offer. Once the ENB is available for use, please give us your comments and suggestions regarding the design and running of the system.

The diagram shows a typical appearance of the ENB on a Unix workstation screen. The client program is developed using the Motif toolkit. It can run on both Motif and OpenLook window managers. Window 1 shows the main screen of the ENB for user to specify the lookup criteria (the RNEWSS folder is selected in this case). Window 2 shows a list of all “NEWS” notices and window 3 displays the selected notice.
Mail for Macintosh
Available to Staff

Mail for Macintosh provides Macintosh users with a friendly interface for sending and receiving e-mails. Just double-click the "Mail for Macintosh" icon, you will be prompted to enter your e-mail user-id and password. On successful login, a directory listing of your new mails will be displayed, thereafter, you can read your new messages, send/reply/forward messages, store the messages into different folders, etc., in a full menu-driven environment. The following diagram shows the mail directory window in a typical mail session.

A preliminary Mail user guide has been prepared for Macintosh users. Two training classes on using the system are scheduled, one in February and the other in March.

Diagram shows the mail directory window in a mail session.
**Scientific Computation Research Laboratory Now Opens**

A HP9000/720 color workstation and five HP X-terminals have been installed in the Scientific Computation Research Laboratory (Room 4332). These facilities are now available to faculty and postgraduate students in need of high CPU power and graphics performance. More workstations and peripherals will be added to the laboratory when they are delivered.

The HP9000/720 runs under HP-UX 8.05 with the OSF/Motif based HP-VUE user interface. The machine acts as the compute server for the X-terminals. The following shows the hardware configurations:

1. **HP9000/720 PVRX Color Workstation (1 unit)**
   - 50 MHz HP PA-RISC CPU (performs at 57.9 MIPS, 17.9 MFLOPS, & 59.5 SPECmarks)
   - HP PVRX Graphic with i860 CPU, 16 bit Color, & 16 bit Z-buffer
   - 19" 1280x1024 Color Monitor
   - 32 MB ECC RAM
   - 2 x 210 MB internal disk
   - 1 GB external disk

2. **HP 700/RX-19Ca Color X-terminals (3 units)**
   - 22.7 MHz i960CA RISC CPU, performs at 86K Xstones
   - 19" 1280x1024 Color Monitor (8-Plane Color)
   - 10 MB RAM

3. **HP 700/RX-19Mi Monochrome X-terminal (2 units)**
   - 22.7 MHz i960CA RISC CPU, performs at 90K Xstones
   - 19" 1280x1024 Monochrome Monitor
   - 6 MB RAM

Software available on the HP9000/720 includes ANSI C, Fortran 77, Pascal, GKS, PHIGS, Framemaker, and SAS. More software will be added shortly.

For more information, please call the User Consultation Hotline, Extn 6200.
HKUST Campus Network

Accessing Computing Facilities at Home

For those who live in campus...

One decision made in the design of our campus network was that it should cover not only the academic buildings but also the Senior Staff Quarters and the Student Dormitories.

CCST has begun connecting staff members' own PC/Mac in SSQ to the network since mid January. With the right machine configuration, all the network services are available to staff at home. If you live in SSQ and would like to connect your PC/Mac to the University network, please obtain an application form from the CCST general office (Room 1044).

For students who live in the Student Dormitories, application for machine connection will be accepted shortly.

For those who live away from campus...

Users can dial in to our central machines using a Hayes compatible modem and a telephone line. Details on modem setting, dial in numbers, and connection procedures can be found in the leaflet "Dial up Service for Staff of HKUST", obtainable from CCST general office (Room 1044). A separate leaflet "Dial up Service for Students of HKUST" prepared for students can be obtained from the Help Desk of the Computer Barn (Room 4382).

Electronic Mail

Problem in using long distribution list in PCMail

There are reported incidents that in using PCMail to send out mail message to a long distribution list (say, to all staff members), sometimes not everyone in the list receives the message.

The problem has been reported to DEC, the software supplier.

If you need to send out a mail to a long distribution list, please do so using VMS mail, Unix mail, or Pathworks Mail. Should you have any queries, please contact the User Consultation Hotline, Extn. 6200.

Note the following in using Pathworks Mail

Binary Attachment

Binary attachment is a useful feature of Pathworks Mail, however, we've recently identified a bug in it. If you send out a mail with an attached file and then immediately you send out another mail without attachment, the file you attached to the first mail will be attached, not upon your request this time, to the second mail as well.

According to DEC, the software supplier, this is a known bug.

To workaround the problem, after you send out a mail with binary attachment, you should read a mail (any mail) before sending out another mail.

Self-copy Option

Please note that in setting the self-copy option to receive back a copy of the mail you send, reply, or forward, the
option is effective only for the current mail session. That is to say, you need to set the option each time you start a mail session to have the desired effect. To activate the option, press "0" when the Pathworks Mail full directory screen is displayed. You should see the phrase "saving outgoing message" shown on the status line.

Leave a blank line before you enter the body of mail message

When you prepare message with Pathworks Mail, you should leave a blank line between the date/time line and the message body. Otherwise, the top portion (first paragraph) will be left out in the outgoing mail.

Do Not Simply Send Your WordProcessor Files

Please note that e-mail messages can only contain plain text. Formatted documents prepared using a word processor (e.g., WordPerfect) contain not only printable characters but also special characters which are meaningful only to the word processor. Because of this, "formatted" mail message will appear as garbage to the mail recipient.

At this point, you may wonder why PCMail/Pathworks Mail can use WordPerfect for preparing mail message. The reason is that the system automatically converts the message into plain text format before actually sending it out (note that all formattings are lost).

If you want to incorporate a file into a mail message, the file must be in a format compatible with the message editor of the mail system that you are using (e.g., the file is a WordPerfect file and you use PCMail or Pathworks mail). Otherwise, the file must be in plain text format.

As an example, consider the situation that you have a WordPerfect file on a PC and you want to send the file using VMS mail (to workaround the long distribution list problem). You should do the following:

- Inside WordPerfect, save the file in text format
- Upload the file to VMS
- Send the file using VMS Mail Send command.

VAX News

Do Your VMS Computational Work on USTCC3

For those who need to do computational works on VMS platform should do so on USTCC3. USTCC1 and USTCC2 are reserved for supporting e-mail and some other network services.

If you do not already have an account on USTCC3, please complete an account application form obtainable from CCST general office (Room 1044).

Tips & Hints

Printing on Letterheads in MS Word on Macintosh

Certain setup procedures are needed in order to print letterheads in MS Word on Macintosh. We have prepared a leaflet which contains instructions on the setup and printing procedures. Please contact either the Computer Barn Help Desk or the CCST General Office (Rm 1044, Ext. 6188) for a copy of the leaflet.

Remember to Backup Your Files

Please be reminded that you should backup your valuable data to safeguard against data loss as a result of accidental corruption by your own work or machine failure.
For data stored on the central machines and file servers, CCST operations staff backup the data regularly. However, for those data that are stored on your local machine, it is your own responsibility to backup them. Since backup does require your time and effort, you should judge for yourself which files to backup and the frequency based on the importance of the data to you and how much money and effort you prepare to put in to recover/reproduce the files if they are corrupted. Be careful, however, you may not be able to 're-produce' a file once it is lost!

Normally, you would backup your data using floppy diskettes. If you have real big files which you consider cumbersome to backup on a large number of diskettes, please discuss your need with us.

Documentation

UNIX User Guide Available

The UNIX User's Guide, prepared by CCST, has been distributed to academic and administrative staff recently. Teaching staff who would like to obtain copies for their students, please contact CCST at Extn. 6188.

Computer Training

Computer Training Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1002</td>
<td>Introduction to WordPerfect 5.1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1202</td>
<td>Advanced WordPerfect 5.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Macintosh Basics</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3001</td>
<td>VMS Concepts and Applications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5001</td>
<td>Cangjie Chinese Input Method</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5002</td>
<td>ET Chinese System Basics</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5003</td>
<td>Introduction to CWI Word Processing</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6002</td>
<td>VAX Mail</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6003</td>
<td>Macintosh Mail</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7001</td>
<td>Database Concept</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The rightmost three columns indicate dates for the courses. For example, course 1002 will be conducted on 19, Feb. and 9, Apr. 92.
**General News**

**Visits to CCST**

Since the opening of the University, there have been a large number of visitors to the campus, including honored guests, scholars from other educational institutions worldwide, and secondary school students.

Visit to CCST’s computing facilities was in the agenda of most, if not all, campus tours. From our records, we have up to now received more than 70 visitor groups.

The following shows the visits which took place during the week 6 Jan. - 11 Jan., 1992.

- 6 Jan - Mr. Lu Ping, Director, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office
- 7 Jan - Sir John Burgh, President of Trinity College, Oxford University
- 8 Jan - Mr. Pau Han Zhou, Vice President of Shenzhen Radio and Television University
- 9 Jan - Presidents of Universities in China
- 11 Jan - UPGC members

**Staff News**

Eddie Kwok, Computer Officer of the Systems & Operations team, left CCST at the end of January to join the Mass Transit Railway Corporation as a project manager. We wish him every success in his future career.

Charles Choy, formerly Assistant Computer Officer of the Systems & Operations team, has been promoted to Computer Officer in December 1991.


**QUIZ**

I have several work areas on the same spreadsheet (e.g. one for expenses, one for income, and one for a summary). Sometimes I run into layout problems. When I add columns or rows to one of the areas, the added columns and rows may also affect the layouts of the other work areas. Can you help to suggest a way to solve this problem, still keep the various work areas on the same worksheet?

Answer to the quiz will be published in the next issue of Channel.

Answer to the Quiz of Last Issue

Insert the following macro into a blank section of the worksheet. The macro clears and freezes the control panel. Then it freezes the worksheet area of the display. The (SYSTEM exit) command activates DOS and executes the EXIT command, which returns control to 1-2-3. However, because the control panel and worksheet area are frozen, 1-2-3 doesn’t update the now-blank display. The macro pauses until you press a key, then the worksheet reappears.

```
A B C
1 key
2 \n [PANELOFF clear]
3 (WINDOWOFF)
4 (SYSTEM exit)
5 [GET key]~
6
```
## CCST Contact Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>User Consultation Coordinator</td>
<td>6243</td>
<td>cc@tony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Services Coordinator</td>
<td>6248</td>
<td>cc@scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Courses Registration</td>
<td>6189</td>
<td>cc@anna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Computing Resources</td>
<td>6241</td>
<td>cc@danny</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Problem Reporting E-mail Account - CCCHELP

For users to send in their problems and difficulties via e-mail. A consultant will respond to messages sent to this account as soon as possible.

### Suggestion E-mail Account - CHANNEL

For users to send in their queries, ideas, suggestions and comments concerning services we provide. A

### Phone & E-mail

![Phone & E-mail](image)

## Centre of Computing Services and Telecommunications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Dr. Wm. Max Ivey</td>
<td>6182</td>
<td>cc@max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgr. Systems &amp; Operations</td>
<td>Mr. Lawrence Law</td>
<td>6201</td>
<td>cc@law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgr. Information Systems</td>
<td>Mr. William Tung</td>
<td>6221</td>
<td>cc@wltung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgr. CIC</td>
<td>Mr. Danny Tang</td>
<td>6241</td>
<td>cc@danny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgr. Systems Engineering</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Tang</td>
<td>6261</td>
<td>ccwmctang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor of Channel</td>
<td>Miss Esther Chan</td>
<td>6242</td>
<td>cc@esther</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Phone & FAX**

- FAX 358 0967
- Dialup 358 2440
- Computer Operation 6220
- SE workshop 6280

*Registered users of the CCST services are placed automatically on the mailing list.*

## Channel Mailing List

A mailing list is maintained for the distribution of Channel. To be placed on the mailing list*, fill out this form completely and mail to the Computing Information Centre, CCST, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay Road, Hong Kong. Please print clearly.

- [ ] Add my address to the mailing list
- [ ] Address change (write new address below)
- [ ] Remove my name from the mailing list

Name: ____________________________
Organization: _____________________
Address: __________________________

*Registered users of the CCST services are placed automatically on the mailing list.*