

ARPANET HOPPING: AMERICA'S NEWEST PASTIME

What is ARPANet?

ARPANet (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) has been around since the 1960s. Its intentions were to link many computers together in order to share resources. The various research projects on ARPANet involve both major universities and the United States military (the two are closer than either would care to admit).

Up until last year, ARPANet was one big happy family of military and university computers. Then, in view of *War Games*, etc., it was decided that perhaps the military would be better off on their own separate network. And so, MILNET was established.

This proved to be very convenient for hackers, since they now *knew* where all of the military computers were—all it took was access to MILNET in order to play with them.

Since ARPANet can communicate with MILNET and vice versa, all kinds of interesting possibilities exist. Elaborate routing makes it easy for a hacker to cover his trail, in much the same way that a phreak routes calls through three different long distance companies to protect his/her identity.

Where can dialups to ARPANet be found? All over the place. For one thing, many numbers are in circulation among hackers. For another, they're not considered all that much of a secret, since the numbers by themselves don't allow you to logon.

If you know of a major university computer, there's a chance that it's already hooked into the ARPANet. If this is the case, HELP files will be readily available on that system to explain how to access the network.

The network itself is an entire world waiting to be explored. Ironically, many sensitive computers that are "not accessible by phone lines" are accessible by ARPANet! There are a lot of lessons that still must be learned, it seems.

So Simple A Child Could Do It

Moving around ARPANet is very easy as almost any hacker that has used it will attest to. It was designed upon the principle that people on one system should have easy access to other systems. "Easy" is the key word here. If a direct ARPANet dialup is being used, there shouldn't be any problem. If a MILNET dialup is being used, you will need a TACID, which is a private authorization code.

The word ARPANet is used to denote all networks. There are many networks (see 2600, May 1984), but all can be accessed as one through "gateways", which are basically windows into other networks.

How It Works

There are two basic commands that can be used on the ARPANet: "@o" and "@c". "@o" opens a connection with a host. (For example, @o 26.0.0.1 will connect you with a host hooked to ARPANet—indicated by the 26.) Finding addresses is really the only hard part. At one time, a few systems had a HOST command that would give you a complete listing of hosts, and their addresses. In fact, this command is still on many systems but what was unique here was the fact that you could run the program *without logging in!!* Apparently, they got wise to hackers, and fixed HOST so that it only works from logged in accounts.

After typing "@o", the network will respond with "Open" or, if the attempt was less than successful, a self-explanatory error message such as "Bad" or "Destination host dead". When you get the "Open" message, that means you are now connected to the host computer and you can do whatever you want, like login, read help files, etc. Communication with the network is not cut off, however. The network is always there, waiting to be spoken to. Commands to the network must begin with "@". For example, type "@c" when you want to close the connection with whatever computer you hooked into. This will probably take a moment or two, since the network has to close up a few things before it can transfer control back to you. (Incidentally, if you need to send a command to the remote host that contains "@" in it, simply type an extra "@" next to the

first one and ARPANet will ignore it.)

Some Safety Tips and Interesting Programs

If you can dialup to a host that is connected to ARPANet, and you have an account on it, this is ideal. There is a good chance that the host will support a terminal simulation program, that when supplied the host name that you wish to communicate with, will connect you to it through ARPANet. It will then seem as if you're on a terminal connected to that remote host. To close the connection, you will have to read the documentation on the host that you dialed up to, since it changes from system to system. Naturally, using a local dialup to access a host instead of going through a MILNET or ARPANet dialup is much "safer", since you are not accessing ARPANet directly.

Another feature of ARPANet is the FINGER command available on most TOPS-20 systems, and many other types as well. The FINGER command will provide you with a listing of people currently logged into the system, with some information on them, such as their full name, where their terminal is located, and what their account is known as. You will also show up on a FINGER, and it will show whether you're on a remote host or not. FINGER followed by a valid account on that system will give you some very detailed info on that person. One other very nice feature of FINGER is that you can supply a remote host name, and get a listing of people on another host, *without connecting to it!!* (For instance, FINGER @SRI-NIC will give you a listing of people logged onto the Network Info Center.) Another program that gives details on users (though not all that much) is SYSTAT. Both can, in many cases, be run *without logging in*, and many HELP files are also accessible without logging in. Certain HELP files give information on login formats or list dialup numbers.

If you have an account on a system, the chances are quite good that that system will support FTP, which is short for File Transfer Program. This allows you to take files from one system, and copy them to the system that you're on. The one problem here is that you will need a valid account to use on the system you wish to take the files from. Most (if not all) TOPS-20 systems support file transfers, and consequently have an account set aside for that purpose. The account is called "ANONYMOUS" and it works with any password. Some other hosts use the account "ANONYMOUS" as well, but they are by no means consistent. The way file transfers work is through an FTP on the system that you're presently on. This program communicates through ARPANet with the host you want to take files from. On the remote host, there will be a program running that will take requests from other hosts, and transmit files through the network to them. You can do more than take files, though. You can transmit files from the host you are on to the remote host, or delete or rename files on the remote host, or get a directory of an account on the remote host. It's very handy to get a file from SRI-NIC which contains all network base addresses, addresses of gateways (ways of getting from one network to another), and addresses of all hosts on all networks.

And, of course, there's the ARPANet mail system, which allows you to communicate with *any* ARPANet user. It works in a similar fashion to FTP and FINGER as far as roaming the network to find a matching username or host ID. It is still said that there is a very active hacker community living in ARPANet mailboxes and it hardly seems surprising when considering how fast and efficiently this mail system works.

The Future

Since ARPANet was designed to be, and is still being used by people who are not very familiar with computers, it will always be easy to use ARPANet, and "hop" about it. It's very unlikely that they will change it in any way, since it is, for the most part, pretty good at keeping hackers away from things that they're not supposed to be looking at.

Maybe...

Electronic Switching Advances

DESPITE OBVIOUS DRAWBACKS, ESS HAS QUITE A FEW NICE FEATURES

Although most phreaks tend to look upon Electronic Switching Systems with loathing and dread, they are admittedly fascinating animals to study. The smooth sophistication of an ESS office, small machines purring away in contrast to the deafening din of step or crossbar offices, the conspicuous *lack* of relays, the presence of *software*, the calm, controlled, atmosphere.

Horrible, isn't it? Yes, quite, but still anyone who claims to be interested in phones must learn as much as possible about ESS. So this is a rundown of some of the interesting things that ESS can do.

Here are a few things that can be done in an ESS office with individual lines that are *very difficult* to arrange in crossbar types (the phone company likes to refer to these as "classes of treatment"): **Line fixed for OUTGOING calls only.** Incoming calls are thrown to an intercept operator or recording. **Line fixed for INCOMING calls only.** Battery but no dial tone if receiver is lifted on phone. **Line fixed for outgoing LOCAL calls only.** Attempts to call the operator rejected, as are calls with zero or one as the first digit. **Line fixed for outgoing LONG DISTANCE only.** Zero or one must be first digit dialed. **Line fixed for COLLECT calling only.** Paid calls rejected, as are 3rd number or credit card billings. (Used in prisons, jails, and other controlled situations.) On these, zero is the only acceptable first digit to dial. **Line fixed for OUTGOING CALLS REQUIRE I.D.** (what used to be a "Q" number in manual handling situations) Dial your call and enter a 4-6 digit personal code. (Large companies make use of this to keep track of their employees' calls.)

It's said that there are about *fifty* classes of treatment, with class 1 being totally unrestricted (i.e. a "normal" line). As the numbers progress the types of specialties change. About 20 "classes" are available, the remaining 30 or so are merely various combinations of the first 20 (outgoing calls only *and* no long distance calls allowed, etc.). Around 85 percent of the phone lines are just your average normal arrangement—the other 15 percent are very esoteric arrangements for super-large companies, institutions, government, etc.

Some other classes of treatment that are no problem for ESS to arrange are: **Decline to accept operator assisted calls.** The operator is unable to intercept the line to test for busy or to interrupt in case of an emergency. This feature shows up a lot on modem lines, since as many have found out, an operator cutting in on data transmission will frequently wind up inadvertently disconnecting the modem. **Hotel/motel service.** A guest dials his/her calls normally, but TSPS will come on line to take the room number or credit card number *without having to dial zero plus*. TSPS sends the charges on "paid" calls back to the hotel via a private line to either a Teletype machine or billing equipment on the hotel premises. **Automatic reverse charge accepted.** This is your "800" service. Under ESS, it's possible to simply take an ordinary line (a regular seven digit phone number) and assign an "800" billing code to it. **Coin service.** This is your traditional "pay phone" but in a new arrangement. Instead of a coin hitting a lever which makes the tip go to ground for a half second (ground start line), the ESS gives "dial tone first" and instead of the five cent "ding" and the ten cent "ding ding" and the twenty five cent "dong" as the coins are deposited, the coins being deposited make certain frequencies on the line. ESS is told from a phone in this "class of

treatment" to expect these frequencies, etc.

The Touchtone Problem

As most phreaks already know, if a central office is set up for touchtone service, then every line is set up for same. All one has to do to obtain touchtone service is liberate a touchtone phone someplace. If the tones don't sound when they're pressed, then the tip and ring are most likely reversed. Change the position of the red/green (yellow/black) wires and the problem should stop. But in ESS offices, you can forget it!!

In an ESS office, when you lift the receiver to make a call, you are extended one of two types of line selectors. The one is for customers who have *paid* for touchtone service. The other is for customers who are listed as having rotary service. Oddly enough, when you reverse the tip/ring, you won't get the tones—place them properly and you *will* get the tones—but—touchtones *won't cut the dial tone* in an ESS office unless you've paid for it!

This feature always causes huge problems whenever an office is cut over to ESS. For various reasons, the phone company's outside plant records are usually a complete shambles. They tend to keep very poor records about just what is on the subscribers' premises. So what usually happens is this: a big company that has their own centrex line opens its doors on Monday morning (most ESS cut-overs take place on Sunday mornings to lessen the effect of any interruption in service) and finds that half of its touchtone phones don't work! The phone company records didn't say to set up those particular lines with touchtone! Everyone has fun.

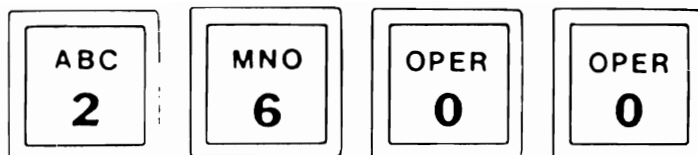
Let's Be Fair

For dedicated phreaks, ESS poses a number of serious problems. But, at the same time, an awful lot of new features (i.e. toys) are making their way in our direction, thanks to ESS. The increased ease in call supervision is one feature you don't hear much about from the phone company and one that many of us would prefer to do without. But there are these "good" things that the telco uses as a selling point in ESS—how beneficial these are to you, versus the obvious disadvantages, you'll have to decide (even though it won't change a thing).

Call Forwarding: Forward incoming calls to whatever phone you want, local or long distance. **Call Waiting:** A tone comes on the line to let you know that another call is trying to reach you while you're using the phone. **Three Way Calling:** Use the switchhook to hold one party while bringing a third party on the line. **Consultation Calling:** Like three way, but you converse privately with a third person, hang up and get the first one back who had been waiting on hold. **Speed Calling:** Allows calls anywhere in the U.S. or Canada by dialing just one digit and the star sign. **Store and Forward:** If you can't reach your party, you can dictate a voice message to the ESS computer. Tell the computer to try every fifteen minutes until the party answers, then deliver your recorded message to him. **Answering Service:** Like a phone answering machine, but it is in the computer! Dial a special code, dictate your "answering service" message and hang up. If you don't answer after a set number of rings, the computer will play your recording and take a message from the caller!

Phone companies all over are finding that these "enhanced features" are big sellers. In future issues, we'll discuss some of the bugs that have been found in these features, and in ESS systems in general.

Sophisticated as it may seem, ESS is by no means perfect.



No More Free Info

2600 News Service

In a move that caught almost *everyone* off guard, AT&T quietly put an end to the age-old tradition of free directory assistance. As of the end of May, it now costs 50¢ for each call to long distance information (XXX-555-1212) within the United States. And unlike previous instances of local telephone companies charging for directory assistance, there is no way to avoid this by using a public phone! Information costs 50¢ from everywhere with these exceptions: local directory assistance, which is still controlled by the local companies and not AT&T; 800 & 900 info; Canadian info; and overseas info. AT&T is also generous enough to allow you two *free* calls to long distance info per month, providing you make at least two long distance calls per month. (No, other calls to information don't count as long distance calls!)

Reaction to this change ranged from total ignorance to complete disbelief. An AT&T operator told us, "We didn't even know about this until today! [the day it went into effect] I don't understand these people—they're going to lose a lot of customers by doing this. What they *should* do is charge only the people who aren't using AT&T as their primary carrier. Then we can advertise "free directory assistance" which no other company can."

As it happens, other companies such as Skyline now allow customers to dial long distance information on their networks. The calls are billed as if they were regular calls to that area. Since calls to directory assistance generally last less than thirty seconds, the charge winds up being less (sometimes significantly) than 50¢. If you choose this way to call information, you may be lucky enough to hear one of the info operators say, "Thank you for dialing AT&T." You can then have a good laugh at their expense.

Meanwhile, phone phreaks around the country were particularly indignant. "This puts a real crimp on silver boxing," one said. "And I'm sure our favorite corporations won't enjoy paying for our information calls now on top of all the other ones." Others have suggested ordering as many free telephone books as possible, and distributing them around the country or actually setting up an alternate directory assistance center. Free telephone books can usually be obtained through local phone companies.

2600 Writer Indicted

2600 News Service

It's been reported here and there that the editor of an underground magazine called 2600 has been charged with wire fraud in connection with the GTE Telemail investigation (see previous issues for details on this case).

One of our coordinating writers is, in fact, involved with this case—however he is not the "editor" of our magazine. 2600 is not handled by a single person, but by different people all over the country who contribute whatever they can according to their abilities.

We are not an "underground" magazine; we don't break laws or publish items that are illegal to publish. We simply discuss interesting things that can be done with today's technology. There is certainly no reason for us to go underground.

As for the investigation, we are confident that our writer will be vindicated and left alone. He is planning to write a story concerning this "adventure" when it's all over, regardless of how it ends. He has our full support and we hope he has yours as well.

Computer Threat Causes Chaos in Albany

Associated Press

Federal and local officials were baffled by a message which appeared on a computer terminal May 19 at Albany County Airport in Albany, New York. The message said that armed individuals would be boarding a plane, according to the FBI.

At about 7:15 am, the message was found on a computer screen at Boarding Gate 3. It warned that if anyone tried to interfere, "people would die." Security personnel searched a plane that was coming in at that gate, but found nothing.

The FBI and local authorities are trying to determine if the message was left by an airport employee or by an outsider who somehow broke into the computer system.

E-COM Is Going Away

Associated Press

The Board of Governors of the Postal Service has voted to get out of the computer mail business and possibly turn it over to a private contractor.

E-COM is what the Postal Service calls its computer mail operation, short for Electronic Computer Originated Mail. The system was designed for mass mailers, but never met its expectations since it began in January, 1982. The chief users of the system had been financial institutions, retailers, airlines, and hospitals.

[For more info on E-COM, turn to page 5.]

AT&T Limits Use of Their Credit Cards

Combined News Sources

AT&T is in the process of barring direct-dial credit card calls from south Florida to 26 countries. The nations include most of Central and South America, some in the Caribbean and some in Asia, including Israel.

"The countries selected for the suspension of credit card calls are places to which a majority of international fraudulent calls are being made," said Barry Johnson, an AT&T spokesman.

The Israeli prime minister was unavailable for comment.

FCC Actions

Various Connections We Have

- The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that operators of the so-called "dial-a-porn" phone services must restrict children's access by limiting hours of operation to after the sun has gone down. Under the ruling, which goes into effect on July 12, tape-recorded messages will be restricted to between 9 pm and 8 am. Live services will still be available on a 24-hour basis, however. They usually require a credit card number.

- The FCC has voted to use a lottery to select three "network organizers" who would be responsible for constructing nationwide paging services. Such systems would allow a New York businessman traveling in California to be "beeped" by his home office (or anyone else who knew how to tap into the system).

The organizers will construct a long-distance transmission system using either satellite or telephone facilities to link local paging companies across the country. They will also oversee the use of one of the three special frequencies that have been set aside by the FCC to transmit the paging signals.

- Over the protests of MCI and GTE Sprint, the FCC has decided to allow AT&T to immediately begin a service that sets a flat monthly rate for an hour's worth of long-distance calls.

Under this new option, customers can pay \$10 a month for an hour's worth of calling time each month for direct-dialed domestic calls placed during night rate periods. Wow.

THE DARK AND TRAGIC SIDE OF THE GREAT BREAK-UP

I have had it up to here with this divestiture crap! I consider myself to be a very loyal phone phreak who has always hated Ma Bell with a passion. What I wouldn't give to have the good old days back, when Bell was the only game in town!

Now there's this strange entity called AT&T Communications. I *still* don't know where it is they're coming from. They're not my local company. They're my long distance company that I never asked for. My local company (not AT&T!) decided to tell my long distance company that I wanted a special service that allowed me to make lots of long distance calls within my state for a discount. I didn't object at first. But then I saw myself getting charged a minimum fee every month I didn't use it! Who do I complain to? My local company? AT&T? They both blamed each other. Finally, AT&T said they'd fix it, but they never did. Now who do I complain to? The Public Service Commission in my state doesn't handle national telephone companies—only statewide ones. The business office ladies of my local company are very happy to listen to my complaints and are even happier to say, "That's AT&T, not us. We're not the same company anymore."

My local operator, for some reason, seems to be a part of AT&T. If I call to tell her that my house is burning, I fully expect to hear her say that I have to call my local telephone company and please leave AT&T out of it.

We never should have been allowed to get hooked on the Bell system—that's what spoiled us. Equal access from the beginning would have made sense. To have it suddenly start now is one big fat pain!

It's the government that's to blame, really—they're the ones that have screwed things up so badly. No one knows from one minute to the next how they're going to dial a number. First, they say we're going to dial 950-10XX for every long distance call. Then they say we're going to skip the 950 part and just dial 10XX plus the number. Now they're telling us that we're going

to have to subscribe in advance to MCI, Sprint, etc. Meanwhile all of these long distance companies are popping up out of nowhere with advertising blitzes that make you feel like an idiot for not signing up right away. All it's doing is confusing the hell out of older people and people who aren't too bright as well as those who just aren't phone phreaks. My parents can't keep up from one minute to the next and I'm not much better off, despite my knowledge of the system!

The way I see it, this divestiture is going to cause all the smaller companies to give poorer service and go up on their rates even more. (Soon I won't be able to afford to call people *unless* they're long distance—local rates just keep climbing!) Local companies are letting their exchanges fall apart. They claim they're going to have to raise their rates to pay for maintaining the C.O.'s. Service has gone downhill—even worse than it ever was. The whole thing is a mess.

Think of how easy it used to be. It was you and the phone company. The phone company provided your phone, fixed your phone, gave you local calls, long distance calls, operators, free directory assistance. If you were a phone phreak, you had to worry about the phone company. Today, a phreak has to worry about so many different companies it'll make his head swim!

The old days will never come back, I guess. But let's try to remember them this way: things were horribly unfair and dictatorial. But at least everything worked. The phone company took pride in its work instead of shifting the blame to another phone company. It was easy to complain, easy to get repair service to your door, easy to figure out if you could afford to make a call. The instruments lasted forever—in fact, my phones from the forties and fifties are in *much* better shape than the new crap I have!

Today things are fair and equal, or getting there. I, for one, can really see the difference.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

5/28/84

Dear 2600:

This is Quasi Moto, SysOp of the late Plover-Net Bulletin Board System (BBS). I am writing this letter to try to explain to all of you just what really happened to Plover-Net.

I guess the main reason that I took the system down was that I could only take so much of all of it. What exactly do I mean by "all of it"? Well, first and foremost, it's not easy going to bed every night thinking, "Will the Feds call tonight? Will my BBS be crashed by some hacker with nothing better to do?" and so forth. And then I awaken at 4:40 am to the annoying sound of the Rana recalibrating. Since I'm up, might as well validate users, etc. I notice that "?Syntax Error" is on the board, yawn and snicker as I smash the RESET key and the modem gives a sharp click as it disconnects that loser from the BBS.

The BBS re-runs itself and I logon. The first new user is "Fuck You" from "Your, asshole". 3 users later it's "Rachal Amato" (the name CN/A has for the BBS line). And then there are 2 messages with I/O errors in them which I must delete, despite the fact that the Rana is full at 202 messages and I must delete the first 5-10 (which takes on the order of 5-10 minutes). Then I get to take a shower and get dressed before school!

But I guess the real reason I took Plover-Net down was money. The phone bill, on the order of \$50 or more a month was defrayed by about \$15-20 per month. Which left me with about \$30 every month to pay *from my own pocket*! This doesn't even touch the electricity it draws or all the software updates. That is when I put a stop to it.

I would like to stress the point that Plover-Net was *not*, I repeat, *not* busted, or for that matter, ever contacted by any law enforcement agency. I took it down of my own free will. I would like to take this final opportunity to give a piece of advice to all

you other phreak SysOps...stay cool and put up my disclaimer. It's the "perfect" disclaimer. If you need a copy, or need to get in touch with me urgently, write to Quasi Moto c/o 2600 Magazine.

Dear 2600:

Your article on step switching was super informative. Now I have a question. I found a really strange telephone switching center. It's 518-789. Can you tell me what type it is? It is so strange when you call it you can hear it dialing the number. And it starts ringing and you can still hear it dialing! It is crazy! What is it?

Awfully Curious

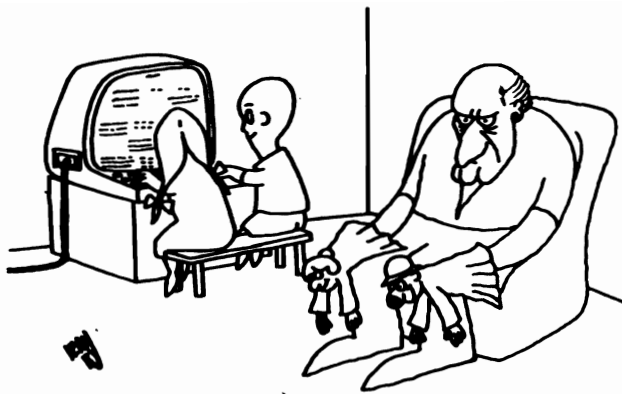
Dear AC:

518-789 is a very, very small (XY) step by step switching center. And if it's like most of them, it could be in a trailer or a very small building. It could even be in a house where the owners can keep a close tab on it. A test number for this exchange is 5187893299.

The dialing sound you described is fairly common with step offices. We're dealing with an independent phone company toll center here—it only does what it's told to do. The toll switcher is dialing a complete 7 digit number. Now, Western Electric doesn't allow you to hear pulses. When you dial into a step, though, different rules sometimes apply. If, for example, you dial 5187892000, it will immediately start ringing after the 7892 because there is no 7892 group. But it will dial the three zeroes after the two anyway, and you can hear that on top of the ring. (If you have a question about a particular telephone exchange or a comment about phones and/or computers, send it to us at: 2600, Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953. Anonymous letters accepted cheerfully!)

A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR E-COM SUBSCRIBERS WHO'VE LOST THEIR NUMBERS.

2028424458	3124610866	5134213804	300
2028424457	3124610867	5134213729	1200
2028424427	3124610864	5133815413	2400
2028424426	3124610865	5133815415	2400
2028424428	3124610863	5133815448	4800
2028424429	3124610869	5133816421	4800
2066226870	3139652614	6022538938	300
2066227801	3139653783	6022539683	1200
2065870139	3139653772	6022521827	2400
2065870138	3139653773	6022521828	2400
2065870135	3139653775	6022523775	4800
2065870136	3139653776	6022522776	4800
2125949064	3144365330	6123759089	300
2126951272	3144365340	6123759149	1200
2126954577	3144363642	6123330437	2400
2129473092	3144363671	6123330438	2400
2125949068	3144363731	6123330435	4800
2129472759	3144363742	6123330436	4800
2136212634	4047630640	6152422966	300
2136212635	4047630664	6152422970	1200
2136173541	4047611337	6152420849	2400
2136173555	4047611376	6152420856	2400
2136173628	4047611543	6152420870	4800
2136173634	4047611620	6152420875	4800
2147497947	4123913528	6175424301	300
2147497945	4123913153	6175424324	1200
2147490757	4123913415	6174516105	2400
2147490758	4123913416	6174516108	2400
2146989154	4123913412	6174516106	4800
2146989155	4123913414	6174516107	4800
2153870184	4142726455	7043939141	300
2153870181	4142726500	7043939142	1200
2153866002	4142715231	7043938245	2400
2153866001	4142717691	7043938276	2400
2153866003	4142713081	7043938304	4800
2153866004	4142718592	7043938325	4800
3038256793	4152821422	8043291536	300
3038256794	4152821421	8043291964	1200
3035958433	4152822800	8043291073	2400
3035958434	4152822801	8043291279	2400
3035958435	4152822855	8043291380	4800
3035958436	4152822856	8043291485	4800
3058593591	5045233697	8162212459	300
3058593672	5045233724	8162212537	1200
3058591399	5045246047	8162212940	2400
3058591786	5045246073	8162212673	2400
3058593427	5045247019	8162213077	4800
3058593432	5045247242	8162213115	4800
	5126535517		300
	5126531935		1200
300/1200 ASYNC	5126534938		2400
	5126537940		2400
2400/4800 BISYNC	5126530007		4800
(2780/3780 PROTOCOL)	5126533041		4800



New York Telephone

1095 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

DATE. TODAY'S DATE

RE: PHONE NUMBER

YOUR NAME

YOUR STREET ADDRESS

YOUR CITY, STATE, ZIP

It is the Company's Policy to notify a subscriber when we receive a subpoena or summons for the subscriber's toll billing records.

However, if there is a certification for non-disclosure in the body of a criminal or legislative subpoena or summons or an accompanying letter referring thereto, signed by the individual who procured the issuance of the subpoena or summons, notification will be deferred for 90 days from the date of the subpoena or summons.

Accordingly, on DATE 90 DAYS AGO, we received a subpoena from WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS WHOLE THING (US DEPT OF JUSTICE, ETC.) for the toll billing records for your telephone number. This subpoena contained a certification not to disclose for 90 days.

This Company, in response to this subpoena, furnished these toll records to NAME OF HEAD HONCHO on THE VERY SAME DATE 90 DAYS AGO.

The Company has no information as to the purpose of this request or the nature of the inquiry or investigation being undertaken. Any questions you may have should be referred to the above-mentioned agency.

Very truly yours,

Security Investigator.

THIS IS THE FAMOUS "LETTER OF DOOM" THAT SUSPECTED INDIVIDUALS GET FROM NEW YORK TELEPHONE WHEN THEIR LINES ARE BEING MONITORED BY VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. IN THIS CASE, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE PHONE COMPANY WOULD RATHER NOT BE INVOLVED, BUT LEGALLY THEY HAVE TO BE. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PHONE COMPANY ITSELF IS MONITORING YOUR LINES, ODDS ARE THAT YOU WON'T GET A LETTER AT ALL. SO IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY LETTERS LIKE THE ONE ABOVE, YOU SHOULD START WORRYING.