

2600

The Monthly Journal of the American Hacker



VOL. 4 NO. 4

APRIL 1987

\$2

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There are some things you just assume will never happen to you. And, somehow, being hacked seems to always catch the victim by surprise.

We've been hacked before. Someone found our Skyline code (not knowing who it belonged to) and raised our bill to the heavens. This month, though, it was a bit more personal; a little closer to home.

Someone figured out the code for our answering machine and had actually listened to some messages that were left. No real damage was done, except our beloved privacy had been invaded.

We're considering calling in the FBI. They investigate this sort of thing, don't

they? And it would be a great opportunity to see how they work.

What we did do was call the manufacturer of our machine to complain about how easy it was to break in. They weren't in. They had their answering machine on. And theirs was the kind that you could change the outgoing message on. No need to elaborate, except to say we made our point.

We're using a different model temporarily. But if you call us, or if you call anyone else, don't leave sensitive information on an answering machine. And look for a hacker's guide to answering machines, coming soon.

STAFFBOX

Editor and Publisher
Eric Corley 110

Office Manager
Fran Westbrook

Cover Art
Tish Valter Koch

Writers: John Drake, Paul Estev, Dan Foley, Mr. French, Emmanuel Goldstein, Chester Holmes, The Kid & Company, Lex Luthor, Bill from RNOC, David Ruderman, Mike Salerno, Silent Switchman, and the usual anonymous bunch.

Production: Mike DeVoursney.

Cartoonists: Dan Holder, Mike Marshall.

Editor Emeritus: TSH.

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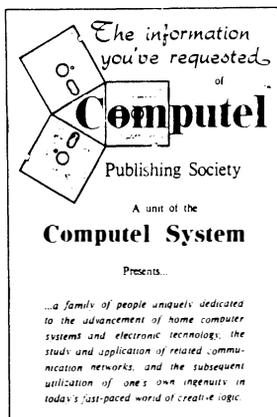
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COMPUTEL

If you have been reading *2600* over the past couple of years, you've no doubt heard of Computel. Many of our readers complained to us about this organization, operating out of Van Nuys, California, which claimed to publish a magazine about computer hacking and phone phreaking.

Not one edition of such a magazine has ever been found and those people that sent money never received a thing. We did some investigation and discovered that there was a link between this magazine and another which really did come out in the 1970's. It was called *TEL* (Telephone Electronics Line) and it was said to have been shut down by the telephone company for publishing "trade secrets".



Part of the booklet that was part of the ripoff.

Speculation mounted as to what the purpose of Computel actually was. Was it a mail-order scam? Or was it a sting run by some governmental or corporate enterprise, designed to get a list of names of people interested in hacking and phreaking?

What proved particularly disturbing was the fact that so many ads for this organization were appearing in all different kinds of magazines throughout the country. And, according to the bank records we were able to uncover, there was simply no way they could have been paid for. So what was keeping the organization going?

Several complaints were lodged with the post

office. It seemed to take an awfully long time for them to start investigating these people (nearly a year in fact), but in October of 1986 at least one letter was sent to Computel from the Regional Chief Inspector of San Bruno, California demanding "appropriate action" within 30 days. It came and *2600* recently found out what it was.

On November 18, 1986, Computel officially went out of business. Their sister company, Starburst Industries, whose purpose was never disclosed, also folded. (It should be noted that when calling Computel, the phone was always answered, "Hello, can I help you?" No specific reference was made to a particular organization, i.e. many different things could have been going on at once.) Mail addressed to Computel began to be returned and their phone lines, including their toll-free SBS Skyline number, stopped working. Jack Kranyak, supposedly the owner of the business, was described as "voluntarily" discontinuing his business. Kranyak was apparently also known to some as John Reynolds or Jack Cole.

On December 15, 1986, the following letter was written on Kranyak's behalf:

To Whom it may concern;

RE. Jack Kranyak, John Reynolds, Jack Cole Computel, Starburst Industries, Inc.

I have spent this past week in Van Nuys with Jack in an attempt to straighten out his financial and personal problems. Jack has a history of mental problems and is not capable of handling his financial problems. He has no visible means of support nor does he have any assets. He has been living on welfare and on occasion [sic] he receives some help from his mother for food money. She is in no position to offer any financial aid to Jack. At present and I am sure for the foreseeable [sic] future he has no way of satisfying his many debts.

He has closed his business due to action by the Post Office Department. A copy of this action is enclosed. He is at present under tremendous mental pressure as you all may realize.

As a friend of his mothers for the past few years I went to see him and could do very little to

PUT TO SLEEP

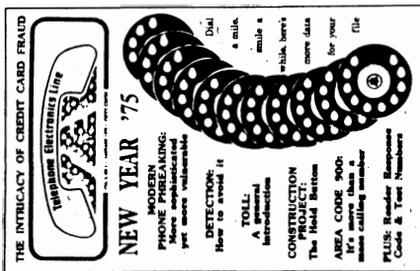
help him but I felt a notification to his creditors was in order and this is the purpose of the letter and contents [we did not receive a copy of the "contents"; we presume it was a bank statement of some sort]. I want to assure you of the sincerity [sic] of this letter and suggest to you that any legal action to collect monies due would be fruitless and only increase your loss.

I do have to advise you that Jack's mother is in no way responsible for any of his debts nor can she offer any financial help to him.

My name and address is below but responding to me can be of no help as much as I would like to as I am a business person and realize how important it is to have good credit and relations with suppliers.

Yours truly,
Robert Marshall
 c/o UBF
 P.O. Box 2806
 Hialeah, Florida 33012

A letter was then sent to those who complained about Computel from the U.S. Post Office Regional Chief Inspector, dated January of 1987, which said, "Since the firm is no longer in business, there is no further action we can take on your behalf. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention."



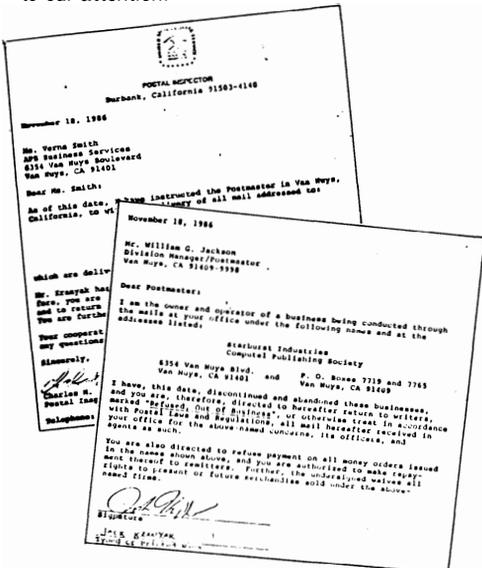
An old copy of TEL, which for some reason is sideways.

Naturally, many questions remain. While we're glad to see that no more people are being taken by this scam, why on earth did it take so long to get something done about it? The post office had been receiving complaints since 1984. It's most unusual for them to be so slow in responding to allegations of mail fraud.

If this really was just one person, we find it incredible that he was able to get away with so much for so long and in full view of the authorities. This organization had toll free phone numbers, full page ads, and they were extremely conspicuous. Computel was very easy to find—very little investigative work was needed.

We'd be most interested in any other information our readers might have. We're particularly interested in the connection to the old magazine, TEL. According to the above letter, Jack Kranyak and John Reynolds were the same person. Yet in the May 1975 edition of TEL, John Reynolds wrote "A Letter to Our Readers" telling how Jack Kranyak had been involved in a serious auto accident. "He lay unconscious for six weeks with severe head injuries," Reynolds wrote. He went on to explain how Kranyak was "the brains behind TEL" and that this unfortunate event had set them back tremendously which was why readers were getting the May issue in September. An address was given to write to Kranyak in the hospital: Northridge Hospital, Room 102, 18300 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91324. Perhaps John Reynolds was only a figment of Kranyak's imagination. Or maybe there's more to this than meets the eye.

(Our thanks to John Williams for his help on this story.)



The official documents that marked the end.

hacking

by **Cheshire Catalyst**

PC Pursuit (PCP) is a service provided by Telenet (a division of US Sprint) for \$25 a month for use after business hours weekdays, and all day on weekends. You can use it during the business day for rates that will beat out long distance voice, but not by much. Some interesting hacks have presented themselves in abusing, that is using, this service.

At the Telenet "@" prompt, a user types "C DIALXXX/12,USERNAME" where XXX is the area code of the modem near your destination, and 12 is the speed (1200 Bits Per Second (BPS)) you want to use at the destination modem. PCP provides you with a Username when you sign up for the service. We'll come back to the data rate later.

After you enter that command line, PCP then asks for a password. You are provided with a password by PCP, and cannot change it. You can have *them* change it, and send you the new password in the mail. After you type in your password, you are either connected to a "Hayes-compatible" modem in the distant city, or you are given the message "XXX BUSY", where XXX is once again the destination area code. As more people try to use the limited number of modems PCP has in what it thinks are major hotbeds of BBS action (Seattle?), more and more "busy signals" are encountered on the net.

When placing your call to the remote modem, the number after the slash tells Telenet what speed to set up the connection at. Besides "12", "3" is also valid (for 300 BPS). However, "12" is valid even if you are calling into Telenet at 300 BPS, such as from a Tandy Model-100 (don't laugh, I'm preparing this article on a Model-100). Telenet is known as a "value added" network, and this is where it provides its "value added" services. The modem at the other end doesn't know if you are at 300, or 110, or even a synchronous mainframe with Ebenezer Scrooge for a System Manager (watch for more "stingy manager" types to take advantage of these low rates).

It must be said, however, that if you download huge ASCII files via a 1200/300 connection, you may overload the network buffer with your

transfer. If that happens, you will get an error message of "BUFFER OVERLOAD - SOME DATA HAS BEEN LOST". The thing to do is to send a control-S once in a while. The stuff will keep coming at you for a while, because of the speed differential, and when the network buffer finally empties, the transmission will stop. Naturally, a control-Q will start you up again, if your host hasn't logged you off for inactivity in the meantime. Protocol transfers only transfer 128 or so bytes at a time, and will be slow, but will not overflow buffers.

PCP says that the first thing you should do when you hit the modem is type "ATZ" to reset the modem. On the contrary. The first thing to do when Telenet reports "CONNECTED" is to type "A/", the Hayes command to "Repeat last command received". Most people will let their host hang up the connection, and then just hang up on PCP. In such a case, the last command given the modem was an "ATDT" command to place the call. The PCP modems are funny, though. If they have received an "ATZ", and therefore have no command in the command buffer, they will not echo a "/" character. This tells you to immediately go about your own business. When you've finished perusing the computer your PCP predecessor left in the modem, dial up your own machine.

PC PURSUIT NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 1988

WELCOME TO PC PURSUIT! - and here is your copy of the first PC Pursuit newsletter. We need new members. You will receive this newsletter at least a times a year and I will have you listed on PC Pursuit - in adding new cities adding 2400 and other announcements, and good old-fashioned numbers to dial.

HEADLINE NEWS

- More enhanced files available
- Local exchange list available
- More cities opening
- 2400 rate available soon
- Improved password codes
- Improved protocols for file transfer
- We will be devising several user groups

(see below for more details)

MAGIC & COMMAND FILES
Several good command files and macros have been developed to make logging on to PC Pursuit even easier. Next routine that you just edit in your personal ID and the and then enter you GO. I called for Procom one and its real time on the net-exchange BBS at (703) 484-1981, accessible 8:00 thru PC Pursuit 122 area).

WE NEED A NAME! - a contest is now underway to select a good name for this newsletter - and the prize will be \$25 credit on your next PC Pursuit bill. So get creative and send your "give us a name" message to the sysop - and leave your name, address, and city in the mail your entries to: Telenet, PC Pursuit - 4124E, Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Va. 22090. All entries must be received no later than September 15, 1988.

EXPANDED PORTS

When we announced the enhanced PC Pursuit service in June, 1988, we knew we were flooded with new registrations, which resulted in such more traffic and overtaxing the PC Pursuit service. So, from July 23 to Aug 13, we expanded the PC Pursuit service to allow us to serve in about 3 areas from the time we identify a good city. It takes us about 3 weeks from the time we identify a city location to expand capacity there - but we are expanding our location to expand capacity in each city to avoid overloading the traffic between and volume in each city to avoid overloading the best possible service performance. (over)

pc pursuit

When you're through with your computer, either it will hang up on you, or you must tell the modem to hang up on it. If you have to hang up, type "+++". You have just sent the "Hayes wake-up" command to two modems. Yours (assuming you have a Hayes compatible yourself), and the remote PCP modem in the distant city. Type "ATS2=65" followed by a return. You've just told your modem that it should only wake up when you type "AAA" (3 capital A's) instead of "+++". Now type "ATO" to get back on line with PCP.

When we last left our remote modem, it was waiting for your command after receiving "+++" from you. Type "ATH" to hang it up. If you have other machines to dial in the remote city you've dialed, keep dialing (send the next "ATDT" command). If you've called area code 212 and want to reach a Brooklyn BBS, type "ATDT17185393560", since the 718 area code is within the New York City LATA (Local Access and Transport Area). The same for calling Burbank (818) out of the LA area code, 213.

One friend of mine recently had the mistaken impression that PCP no longer went to the 415 area code. Sure, it's busy alot, but that area's a busy hotbed of activity. To check out his claim, we got up on PCP and got busy message after busy message—at 415/12. We decided to try 415/3 for a 300 BPS modem, and sure enough, we got one. It was slow as expletive, but we got there. Then our BBS in Berkeley was busy, and we were back to square one.

After you've had your fun, *remember!* Now is the time to hit "ATZ", before you hang up on the remote modem. When you're through with all the calls you want to make in the city you've reached, you should type the "ATZ" to your remote modem, and get back to Telenet to set you up with a call to a modem in another city. The best way is to type "@" followed by a carriage return. This will wake up Telenet, and give you an "@" prompt. Type "D" for Disconnect, and it will drop your connection to the modem in the city you had called. At the next "@" prompt, type "C DIALYYY/12.USERNAME" (YYY being the new area code), and begin the whole process again.

Are you in an area with multiple calling rates (such as New York City), with toll rates within the LATA? "Some people" are known to use PCP within their own area code (my modest nature and my constitutional rights preclude me saying any more). A caller in Manhattan can get his or her 25 bucks back quickly just by using PCP to call up BBS's on Long Island. Westchester also has some neat boards in 914 that are easy to hit this way.

So there you have it. Remember to "ATZ" the modem before you leave it. While the next caller can't find out what number is in the buffer, they can certainly get at least one call into whatever you've just hung up on. I've even wound up on Teleconnect Magazine's BBS on an "A/", much to everyone's surprise.

Some of you may recall back in the early days, PC Pursuit had a rather unique system. You dialed a special number and entered all of your personal information—ID code, password, and number you wanted to reach. PC Pursuit would then hang up and call you back at a predetermined number.

That system was limiting because you couldn't use it from more than one location. Some hackers claim to have gotten into their outgoing lines as they were dialing out and gained access in that way.

The way the system is set up now is almost acceptable. PC Pursuit must set up many more modems in many more cities before we sign up again.

It's also possible the way they have it working to tie up the entire system single-handedly. For example, from the Telenet number in New York, we could call the Telenet number in Seattle, enter our ID over there, call the Telenet number in Dallas, and set up a huge nationwide circle.

We saw this done once and the delay between the time a character was typed and the time it showed up on the screen was nearly 30 seconds! Needless to say, there were many busy signals that day.

the telecom informer

BY DAN FOLEY

Cellular Fraud Bust

As some of you may know by now, the first cellular phreaking bust in the U.S. happened last month. On Friday, March 27th the FBI and Secret Service arrested 18 New Yorkers for making cellular phone calls on altered cellular phones. They also arrested seven others for altering and selling these phones. The method that was used is exactly the one described in our February column. A cellular phone transmits two numbers whenever a call is placed. The first is the ESN (Electronic Serial Number). The cellular MTSO (Mobile Telephone Switching Office) then checks whether this number is valid. Then the cellular phone transmits an MIN (Mobile Identification Number) which identifies the party to be billed for the call. By reprogramming the MIN one can make a multitude of calls ending up on the MIN owner's bill (much like using a stolen calling card or extender code). Any cellular repair shop can do the reprogramming on the side, and seven of them in Brooklyn actually did. It makes you wonder how many others are also doing this on the side. According to the FBI, organized crime wasn't involved in this case. Estimates claim that cellular fraud costs the New York cellular companies \$40,000 a month, and about \$3 million is lost per year to cellular fraud in the US. This is the first of a series of ongoing investigations by the FBI and Secret Service, so expect a bust near you soon.

Electronic Communications Privacy Act

With the passage of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (Public Law 99-508) earlier this year (effective January 19, 1987) there's now a new breed of cellular criminals. Now anyone who listens to the "forbidden frequencies" of cellular telephony is committing a federal crime. The law is questionable in many aspects. The act

makes it illegal to manufacture, sell, advertise, or own any device or kit "primarily useful for the surreptitious interception of electronic communications." Nowhere is it stated what "surreptitious" means in this case, and attempts to have this clarified have been ignored. "Surreptitious interception" is *not* limited to electronic communication that is illegal to receive. One could interpret any receiver that monitors between 15 and 30 MHz or between 50 and 500 MHz as illegal, even though they are widely available. One could even go so far as to claim that any radio primarily for indoor use (and thus not readily observable from the outside) or AM-FM radios within stuffed animals are "surreptitious receivers".

Another problem is that if one is receiving interference from a source that was illegal to receive, and knew this, then one would be in violation of this act. So if your TV or stereo was getting noise from a cellular phone, and you knew this, you would be a federal criminal, even though your TV or stereo was listening to the proper frequencies. Previously it would have been the fault of the cellular phone company for transmitting such a dirty signal that one could receive on other frequencies not allocated for cellular phones.

The premise behind this law is that cellular phone calls are "not readily accessible to the public" anyway, so why not make it illegal to receive them? However, as many readers of *2600* and scanner users know, this is false. Cellular uses old TV channels, so an old TV set tuned to channels above 80 will receive listenable calls. Also, many video cassette recorders, service monitors, and scanners receive these frequencies, totally unmodified and out of the box. Cellular is in fact more vulnerable to interception than cordless phones, as there are millions of old TV sets in the

US, and comparatively few radio scanners that receive cordless frequencies. Cellular phone calls are much more modulation-compatible with TV's, and their range is many miles, as opposed to cordless ranges of hundreds of feet.

Instead of dealing with the problem of scanner users listening in to cellular calls by encrypting the calls, the cellular phone companies and suppliers instead decided to legislate away a serious problem. Now cellular users can use their phones in communicating business deals and personal conversations believing that no one is listening. This false sense of security is misleading. Cellular phone companies don't want to deal with the problem logically. And this brings up the final problem, enforceability. This law is totally unenforceable. All it is good for is to tell customers not to worry about the confidentiality of their calls. The FCC was against the bill, along with the Electronic Industries Association and other cellular industry organizations and companies. However, many powerful companies lobbied for this bill, as they saw it as a quick fix to the very serious problem of cellular eavesdropping. The Justice Department at the time of the hearings on this bill clearly stated that they "have no intention of enforcing that part of the bill," referring to the privacy sections of the Electronic Privacy Act. There basically is no way they could attempt to enforce the law, considering that England has outlawed pirate radio, and millions still listen to the offshore stations. The Soviet Union has to jam Western broadcasts that they don't want their citizens to receive.

When AT&T filed a petition asking to merely label cellular phones with a warning sticker saying that calls may be monitored, other cellular phone companies reacted violently. AT&T's

petition with the FCC states that "cellular users have an unwarranted sensation of privacy, which a label would help dispel.... Customers buy cellular telephone sets with the expectation of privacy. In due course, they learn that they lack the privacy they expected, and may feel that their suppliers have misled them." Instead of dealing with the problem by scrambling cellular signals or even merely placing a warning label, the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association instead replied that the FCC "should not consider any labeling regulation which would place the burden on citizens to protect their privacy," and lobbied Congress for the passage of the Cellular Privacy Act. Bell South Mobility went as far as to say that "cellular users can expect a high degree of privacy," despite the fact (which any scanner user knows) that all it takes is to tune in to the 800-890 megahertz band with a scanner (or even an old TV tuned to the UHF channels). "Forbidden frequencies" include those in the February 2600. A penalty of up to \$10,000 would result from merely detecting the signal of one of the protected frequencies, even as much as the hiss from an encrypted transmission. Monitoring by scanner the VHF and UHF bands is illegal in the 153, 161, 450, and 455 MHz bands. Also, receiving radio common carriers in the 153, 158, and 454 Mhz band along with FM subcarrier service or voice or message paging services is a crime. And certainly, receiving 800 to 890 MHz (that of cellular telephony) would be a crime. Willful receiving of a cellular telephone call results in up to six months in jail, plus a fine of up to \$500. Receiving manual and IMTS car telephone calls could result in up to a \$10,000 fine plus up to a year in jail. Cordless phones, amateur radio, CB,

(continued on page 22)

CUSTOMER NAME ADDRESS (CNA) NUMBERS

201	NO KNOWN CNA	New Jersey
202	304-343-7016	Washington DC
203	203-789-6815	Connecticut
204	204-949-0900	Manitoba
205	205-988-7000	Alabama
206	*206-345-4082	Washington
207	*617-787-5300	Maine
208	303-292-3370	Idaho
209	*415-781-5271	California
212	*518-471-8111	New York
213	*415-781-5271	California
214	*214-464-7400	Texas
215	412-633-5600	Pennsylvania
216	*614-464-0511	Ohio
217	217-789-8290	Illinois
218	402-221-7199	Minnesota
219	*317-265-4834	Indiana
301	304-343-1401	Maryland
302	412-633-5600	Delaware
303	303-292-3370	Colorado
304	304-344-8041	West Virginia
305	*912-752-2000	Florida
306	306-347-2878	Saskatchewan
307	303-292-3370	Wyoming
308	402-221-7199	Nebraska
309	217-789-8290	Illinois
312	312-796-9600	Illinois
313	*313-223-8690	Michigan
314	*816-275-8460	Missouri
315	*518-471-8111	New York
316	*816-275-2782	Kansas
317	*317-265-4834	Indiana
318	*504-245-5330	Louisiana
319	402-221-7199	Iowa
401	*617-787-5300	Rhode Island
402	402-221-7199	Nebraska
403	403-425-2652	Alberta
404	*912-752-2000	Georgia
405	*405-236-6121	Oklahoma
406	303-292-3370	Montana
407	NO SUCH AREA	CODE
408	*415-781-5271	California
409	*713-861-7194	Texas
412	412-633-5600	Pennsylvania
413	*617-787-5300	Massachusetts
414	*608-252-6932	Wisconsin

Used to find out who belongs to a phone number

415	*415-781-5271	California
416	416-443-0542	Ontario
417	*816-275-8460	Missouri
418	514-394-7440	Quebec
419	*614-464-0511	Ohio
501	*405-236-6121	Arkansas
502	502-583-2861	Kentucky
503	*206-345-4082	Oregon
504	*504-245-5330	Louisiana
505	303-292-3370	New Mexico
506	506-694-6541	New Brunswick
507	402-221-7199	Minnesota
508	NO SUCH AREA	CODE
509	*206-345-4082	Washington
512	*512-828-2501	Texas
513	*614-464-0511	Ohio
514	514-394-7440	Quebec
515	402-221-7199	Iowa
516	*518-471-8111	New York
517	*313-223-8690	Michigan
518	*518-471-8111	New York
519	416-443-0542	Ontario
601	*601-961-8139	Mississippi
602	303-292-3370	Arizona
603	*617-787-5300	New Hampshire
604	604-432-2996	British Columbia
605	402-221-7199	South Dakota
606	*502-583-2861	Kentucky
607	*518-471-8111	New York
608	*608-252-6932	Wisconsin
609	NO KNOWN CNA	New Jersey
612	402-221-7199	Minnesota
613	416-443-0542	Ontario
614	*614-464-0511	Ohio
615	*615-373-5791	Tennessee
616	*313-223-8690	Michigan
617	*617-787-5300	Massachusetts
618	217-789-8290	Illinois
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702	*415-781-5271	Nevada
703	304-344-7935	Virginia
704	*912-752-2000	North Carolina
705	416-443-0542	Ontario
706	706-685-0042, 5906	Mexico
707	*415-781-5271	California

(continued on page 14)

LETTERS

Communication

Dear 2600:

I would like to correspond with one of your contributors. If I forwarded a letter to you would you address it and remain?

It really depends upon who it is. Some of our contributors are very mysterious people while others are simply mysterious....

More ANI's

Dear 2600:

In reference to your ANI articles. The ANI for the 305 (South Florida) area is: 200-XXX-XXXX. Usually it is any 7 digit number after 200, but sometimes (usually at night) only 200-999-9999 works.

Congratulations on the new magazine format.

**JA
Florida**

Comments

Dear 2600:

Sorry for the delay on my re-subscription to your newsletter, but I was leery when you mentioned your recent mishap concerning the electrical storm. Nevertheless, I do like the new format, so therefore I will cheerfully submit a check for a continuation of my subscription.

I have to admit that the series on British Telecom is interesting, but I find it a little too far from home to provide any useful function (personally). I could have used it three years ago. Another point may be due to my ignorance, but some of the acronyms are hard to follow, having not been enlightened in the first place about their significance.

The series on VMS and UNIX are always interesting. Keep up the good work. Perhaps XENIX?

**Kirk
California**

French Loophole

Dear 2600:

It appears that the French PTT is encouraging better US/French relations by providing a unique free international telephone service.

Apparently there is a glitch in the international system that prevents the PTT from identifying a number being called in France as that of a pay station, not a residence.

Collect calls originating in the U.S. from pay stations to pay stations in France are on the rise!

One wonders if they cut a bill on a regular basis to the phone booth and if the PTT cuts service to the booth for non-payment?

Also—how long will it be before they close this lovely loophole?

P.S. Michael Marr was correct! Definitely more needed on European systems.

The Cote D'Azur

Stuck on Busy

Dear 2600:

Although I have an automatic/-manual redial feature on my telephone, I have been unable to get past the busy signal, even after hours of manually pressing the redial button as soon as I got the busy signal. How can I get through, since this is a frustrating situation?

If you held off dialing the last number of a telephone number, it was possible to prevent any new calls getting through to the number called and your call would get through. Now, after approximately 60 busy signals, the telephone disconnects. On automatic, it is about four or five busy signals and approximately 30 seconds before it redials the number. The automatic time is too long and of no value if you do not have the time to wait.

F.B.

LETTERS

You need a new phone with a quicker redial function. Some PBX's allow outside callers to "camp on" to a busy signal by simply staying on the line. The busy signal disappears and you're put on call waiting. (You start getting billed at that time.) When a line opens up, you'll hear a ring. This feature isn't available too often and usually the busy signal will just stop or disconnect after a minute or two.

Praise

Dear 2600:

I love the new format (mostly for the length). On BBS's, where everybody says how great their new "Kool Phreakerz" magazines are, *2600* used to get slandered. Now, with the new format, everybody likes it a lot better.

Keep it up!

Criticism

Dear 2600:

Liked the old format better as it was convenient to file in a 3 ring binder.

A shame to waste so much space on "TAP the Legend" in the January issue. I doubt that many of your subscribers are history buffs.

Russell Grant's advertisement is better left to the mags that cater to that type of crap. I don't think it has a place in *2600*.

The left side of page 11 showing a *TAP* sample was also a waste of space since it is unreadable even with a high power glass.

There are many publications on computers. You would do better to make phones the main subject of your publication.

Wish you success on your endeavors.

**RDM
Texas**

We didn't print the picture of TAP for people to read, but rather for people to get an idea of what it looked like. For

the really curious, good microscopes have come down in price.

Advice

Dear 2600:

If I were to search my memory, I would undoubtedly find an appropriate story, anecdote, or analogy which would "make my point" better than this narrative. But I don't feel up to the challenge.

In the January, 1987 issue of *2600* you have announced two changes. The first deals with mailing your publication without an envelope; and, the second hints at the possibility of newsstand distribution.

As a former *TAP* subscriber, with an alias, out-of-town post office box address, living with a bit more paranoia in my day to day living style then versus now, since I receive your magazine under my own name at my residence. I am certain that you may view my conservative approach with a bit of skepticism since this is the land of the free and all of that type of thing.

Nonetheless, I am reasonably well read and carefully monitor the trends in our society, especially those which deal with governmental intervention, and those issues which I call "perceived threats" to the average man. *You*, my dear friends, are in my opinion, just such a source of perceived threat to many because of the contents of your publication. Our society remains computer illiterate with much fear about the black boxes which are taking over our way of life. You dare to publish mildly technical information dealing with the operations of the system—not for the intelligentsia of computer circles, i.e. scholars, computer literate, or business user—those who may have a need or right to know about such things, but for people who want to know more about what

(continued on page 20)

CNA's

(continued from page 11)

Many CNA numbers now require a spoken code number before information on a particular phone number is given. A star (*) indicates those that definitely do. The only CNA number that is officially open to the public is the one for Chicago (312). That number also operates 24 hours a day.

708	NO SUCH AREA	CODE	
709	NO KNOWN CNA		Newfoundland
712	402-221-7199		Iowa
713	*713-521-8988		Texas
714	*415-781-5271		California
715	*608-252-6932		Winconsin
716	*518-471-8111		New York
717	412-633-5600		Pennsylvania
718	*518-471-8111		New York
719	NO SUCH AREA	CODE	
801	303-292-3370		Utah
802	*617-787-5300		Vermont
803	*912-752-2000		South Carolina
804	304-344-7935		Virginia
805	*415-781-5271		California
806	*512-828-2501		Texas
807	416-443-0542		Ontario
808	212-334-4336		Hawaii
809	212-334-4336		Caribbean
	809-429-5050	x313	Barbados
812	317-265-4834		Indiana
813	813-228-7871		Florida
814	412-633-5600		Pennsylvania
815	217-789-8290		Illinois
816	*816-275-2782		Missouri
817	*214-464-7400		Texas
818	*415-781-5271		California
819	514-394-7440		Quebec
900	201-676-7070		Dial-It service
901	*615-373-5791		Tennessee
902	902-421-4110		Nova Scotia
903	NO SUCH AREA	CODE	
904	*912-752-2000		Florida
905	NO KNOWN CNA		Mexico
906	313-223-8690		Michigan
907	NO KNOWN CNA		Alaska
908	NO SUCH AREA	CODE	
909	NO SUCH AREA	CODE	
912	*912-752-2000		Georgia
913	*816-275-2782		Kansas
914	*518-471-8111		New York
915	*512-828-2501		Texas
916	*415-781-5271		California
917	NO SUCH AREA	CODE	
918	*405-236-6121		Oklahoma
919	*912-752-2000		North Carolina

Several months ago, we encouraged readers to send in their favorite list of "word numbers", that is, phone numbers that also spell out words. One of our readers, Any Mouse of Illinois, came up with this list of toll-free word numbers. Feel free to send us your list--remember, they don't have to spell what the company on the other end WANTS them to spell! Numbers like RIP-OFFS or DUMB-ASS are perfectly OK with us.

Number	Company	Number	Company
800-6GLASS-HR	Ford Glass Division	800-NATURAL	Taster's Choice Coffee
800-K-9-BONUS	Wayne Pet Food	800-DIGI-KEY	Digi-Key Electronics
800-FLOPPYS	800 Floppys	800-60-U-HAUL	U-Haul Reservations
800-222-LUNG	Respiratory Medicine	800-COCAINE	Cocaine Hotline
800-ALL-CALL	Teleconnect Portal	800-USA-DISK	Comm. Electronics
800-32-DSIPC	Digitalolutions	800-621-SAVE	Personal Computer Net
800-222-WAGS	WAG's Computers	800-T0-ASK-US	TIP2 Direct
800-321-DATA	Computer Toolbox	800-237-CHIP	Delta Computers
800-USA-SCAN	Comm. Electronics	800-233-WAVE	3rd Wave Technology
800-5-LEGEND	Legend Industries	800-FOR-MIDI	Future Music
800-44-FLUKE	Fluke Instruments	800-428-SAMS	Howard W. Sams & Co.
800-742-HEAT	Thermalite	800-432-USAF	U.S. Air Force
800-232-USAF	U.S. Air Force (CA)	800-CALL-ATT	AT&T Reach Out
800-327-NAVY	Navy Recruiting	800-KLOCKIT	Klockit
800-545-PLUS	R&R Direct	800-OKI-DATA	OKI Printer
800-U-HELP-ME	I-Search	800-FOSTER-5	Ask Mr. Foster
800-CAKE-USA	Telecake	800-221-BEST	Best Stores
800-USA-GNMA	1st Interregional	800-IRA-5000	T. Rowe Price
800-4-ATLANTIC	Atlantic Financial	800-USA-0001	USA Today
800-BEST-MLM	Best MLM	800-822-KASH	Unknown
800-USA-MINT	Rarities mint	800-VIDEO-44	Videotapes
800-AIR-GATE	Airline tickets	800-424-FORM	IRS Form Info
800-USA-CLAS	USA Today Classified	800-GET-COKE	Coca Cola
800-NO-BLOOD	Bloodless Surgery	800-SAA-WORLD	South African Airlines
800-EGGHEAD	Egghead Software	800-99-ALGER	The Alger Fund
800-ACS-2345	American Cancer Soc.	800-ID-ALERT	Medic-Alert
800-FOR-KIDS	UNICEF	800-55-TAPES	Verbal Advantage Tapes
800-SMC-INFO	Service Merchandise	800-PRANGES	Prange's Dept. Stores
800-TEL-TEMP	Tel-Temp Ent.	800-221-SIDS	Sudden Infant Death
800-DRAKE-NY	Drake Hotel	800-9-BASKIN	Baskin Robbins
800-ROAD-WIS	Wisconsin Road Cond.	800-LAST-BET	Compulsive Gamblers
800-327-BABE	Cocaine Baby Hotline	800-732-IRAS	Bank of Chicago
800-EMBASSY	Embassy Suites Hotel	800-258-CASH	Preferred Funding Corp.
800-AF-PARIS	Air France	800-2-HAWAII	Hawaiian Holidays
800-556-CARE	CARE Unit	800-MOBILE-1	Ameritech Mobile Comm.
800-44-KODAK	Kodak Datashow	800-GET-WYSE	WYSE Technology
800-IBM-2468	IBM	800-JAVELIN	Javelin Software
800-44-SHACK	Great West. Electronics	800-NEC-SOFT	NEC Tech. Assistance
800-6GLASS-HR	Ford Glass Division	800-REAL-LOG	Real Log Homes
800-H20-TEST	Water Test Corporation	800-22-SLICK	Ft. Morgan Slick Oil
800-255-VIDEO	Time-Life Home Video	800-CABLE-ME	HBO Sign Up
800-4-AIRCAL	Air Cal Airline	800-227-WINS	N.A. Sports Association
800-USAT-NFL	USA Today NFL Line	800-HOLIDAY	Holiday Inn
800-USA-LION	Dryfus GNMA Fund	800-JCP-TRIP	J.C. Penny Travel
800-DIAL-IRA	Charles Schwab, Broker	800-ACDC-LUX	Cool-Lux Lighting
800-4-GERBER	Gerber Baby Food		

Since these are 800 numbers, they may not be reachable from all locations.

goings on

An 18-year-old computer whiz who cracked the access codes to the computers of the Technion and the Weizmann Institute (Israel), and who planted a fabricated story in *Yediot Aharonot* by sneaking it into the paper's computer, was sentenced recently to a two-year period of probation by the president of Israel's juvenile court, Aharon Melamed.

The judge described the youth from Kiryat Tivon as an extremely intelligent, positive person who let his prankish urge get the best of him. Last June, on a dare from his friends, the youth planted a story in *Yediot* that a businessman and an electronics teacher from his town had been arrested in the U.S. on drug charges. Mischief isn't his only hobby, though. Over the past few years, he's organized computer clubs in his school and developed a computerized telephone message service for the deaf, all on a voluntary basis.

And while we're over in Israel, it's hard to imagine the problems those poor folks are having when they open up a telephone book! This letter appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* last year:

The Jerusalem telephone directory in English is a real disappointment. What a waste of time, energy and money! Many hundreds, nay thousands, of names are distorted, many of them beyond recognition.

It is conceivable that when looking for names like Breitbart, Gelernter, Schnabel or Kugelmass you might still find them, although they are listed as Britbrat, Galranter, Shanbal and Kogelms. But where would you find Foerster, Spitz, Pereira, Corinaldi, Procaccia or Preuss, when they are listed as Parster, Shafitz, Frieria, Korindeli, Fruktzia and Frois?

Nor did Arab names escape mutilation. What is Chochmat, Avdelala, Tzantzor, Fried, Griss and Allentesha but Hikmet, Abdallah, Sansur, Farid, Jaris and Elnatshe?

Would you recognize Anrika as Enrique, York as Jurek, Churcha as Jorge, Ovri as Aubrey and Olina as Evelynne? Have you ever heard of first names like Vabatris, Varusi, Vaznet, Vambel or Vahager? Well, they are names of ladies when they appear after their husbands' names with the Hebrew prefix v added which stands for "and". Thus they mean—and Beatrice, and Rosie, and Jeanette, and Mabel, and Hagar!

Institutions did not do better. Where would you look for the Palace of Hisham in Jericho? Why, under A. It is listed as Ancient Hisham Palace. What is Konsula Amerikea? Do you know the Bible Evenjelistik Mission?

How did we, a supposedly polyglot and cosmopolitan society, end up with such a product?

The editor noted that Bezek (apparently their telco) sent out forms to all subscribers requesting them to return them with the correct spelling of their names in Latin characters. Few did, so the translation was then entrusted to a computer. And, as another reader pointed out, "how can anyone teach a computer to decide whether the Hebrew letter *peh* should be rendered as P or as F, the letter *bet* as B or V, the letter *waw* as W, V, U or O, etc.? How would it choose a vowel if none appears in Hebrew?"

We should keep this in mind the next time we call international information (which is still free, by the way) and ask for a listing under a particular name. Plain English just doesn't come easily in some places.

Speaking of English, British Telecom has launched a service called TextDirect, which provides a link between the telex network and personal computers. Messages can be typed directly or prepared in advance and stored in the TextDirect computer in London. Messages are then delivered to the telex network via BTI's Telex Plus service, which provides store-and-forward

facilities. Incoming messages are stored on the TextDirect computer and retrieved by the user when convenient. A password will help give the impression of security.

BTI is also working on the first worldwide satellite telephone service for air travellers. BTI and the telecommunications authorities in Norway and Singapore will begin testing the system, which BTI will launch on transatlantic routes in 1988. A special antenna mounted on the aircraft will transmit the signals to the INMARSAT satellite, where they will be downlinked to the earth station, and then switched to the public telephone network. A dedicated earth station at Goonhilly Downs in Cornwall, England will be used for BTI Skyphone, as will other stations in Norway and Singapore for their phone service.

And they're not stopping there. British Telecom is introducing Centel 100 in August, providing all the facilities of a modern electronic switchboard. It will be run from a new digital public exchange British Telecom is installing in London.

And residents of Tokyo now have "answering machines" tied into their touch tone phones! The Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. has made this option available to every touch tone phone in Tokyo, even pay phones. Customers can record up to 10 messages, each 30 seconds long.

Over in Scotland, the Scottish Law Commission is setting out to plug a gap in the law which could allow hackers to practice openly. A spokesman says, "We looked at how a computer can be misused and then looked at existing computer crimes. We came to the conclusion that one area which was most clearly not covered by the law was hacking. Other areas, for example, logic bombs, are covered by criminal damage law."

Quite a different story in the Soviet Union, where finding Soviet-made software is nearly impossible. Soviet children are actually playing games like "Rambo" and "The Battle of 1917".

Two reporters from *Komsomolskaya Pravda* met with officials, programmers, and hackers, known as "sinklerists", apparently after the British-made Sinclair computer.

One sinklerist showed them a list of 277 computer programs that he was selling for five rubles (about \$8) apiece. "There was not one nationally made program," they said.

Meanwhile, we may all be in danger from Open Systems Incorporated. They're a Minnesota-based software house that's offering free software to anyone who provides information about coworkers who copy software. As if that wasn't enough, they're threatening to take legal action against people who know about illegal copying but don't say anything! Computer users around the country are surely trembling. Even the sinklerists are concerned.

A slightly friendlier approach is being taken by Pride Software Development Corp. of Oakland Park, Florida. They claim to have come up with the ultimate weapon against software piracy. It's a program called "Smarty Arti".

Pride President Wayne Wolfe has strapped Arti to a \$100 amortization program called the "Loan Ranger" and will give \$25,000 to the first hacker who breaks through the protection.

According to Wolfe, Arti stops attempts to decipher it by fighting back when it senses hackers using tools needed to inspect and crack protection schemes.

And spies who can read data on a computer screen from another building or from a van parked outside may be thwarted by a new device being developed by Luton (England) based EMC-Datocare Ltd. who specialize in interference suppression.

(continued on next page)

goings on *(continued)*

A prototype module, code-named Datacover, confuses the signals emitted from the screen making them unreadable by an interceptor.

If you're a hacker or a spy, then the Telecom Security Group of Wallkill, NY wants you to participate in its first On-Line Hacker/Phreaker Survey. Until May 4th, when you call the TTSG BBS at 914-LOG-ONIT (914-564-6648) and type "SURVEY" at the last name prompt you will be brought into the survey portion of the board. Once on you will be asked questions about yourself, your interests, attitudes, etc. Each survey will be closely read and beginning May 4th the results will be gathered. The final conclusions will be published in a national security magazine and distributed to security people.

Slowly but surely, Telenet seems to be getting the message. First, they introduced PC-Pursuit, which allowed modem users unlimited access to bulletin boards all over the country for a set fee. Now, they're selling individual mailboxes for their electronic mail system, Telemail. For a \$20 monthly minimum, regular people can have electronic mailboxes too.

Allnet has a new service that is lasting through April. It's called Tell-A-Friend. If you're an Allnet customer and you tell someone to sign up for Allnet and they actually listen to you, you stand to make \$5! But the offer is a bit deceiving. The

person you get to sign up must become an "Allnet Customer", which they define as someone who chooses Allnet as their primary carrier, not someone who simply signs up for an account. So, if your friend becomes dissatisfied with Allnet, they must pay a fee to change to another company. A fee of \$5, to be exact.

Speaking of phones, Chicago is now an all-ESS town. Their 46th and final switching center has been converted to electronic switching from electromechanical. This makes Chicago the nation's largest all-electronic telephone city, ending an 18-year conversion process.

Then there is the story of a man wandering around getting alternate pay phone manufacturers awfully upset. His name is Marc Tobias and he is on a one-man crusade to expose the ease of defrauding most customer-owned coin-operated telephones (COCOT's).

By publishing an article on fraud in *Pay Phone Magazine*, Tobias has caused an uproar. He's being accused of getting publicity so he can sell more of his own phones.

Tobias says he's called the U.S. Embassy in London without using coins or cards from several alternate payphones. "If a phone can be beaten, it will be, and often," he says. Other manufacturers disagree with his methods, claiming Tobias, by publicizing the specifics is doing the

(continued on page 23)



2600 marketplace

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR Ben Harroll would like to hear from other P.I.'s and/or ANY other "spooks" i.e. N.S.A., C.I.A., F.B.I., etc. for purposes of exchanges in ideas, techniques, sources, and equipment. (619) 239-6991. 425 "F" St., San Diego, CA 92101

TAP BACK ISSUES. Reprints of complete collection. Quality copies. Delivery included. Send cash, cheque, or MO (Payable to IPS). \$60. John L., P.O. Box 722, Station A, Downsview, Ontario M3M 3A9.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1987 AT 5 PM. That's when the first weekly 2600 meeting will occur in New York City. If you want to drop off articles, ask us questions, meet people, or just see what we look like, come on by. Check our May issue for exact location or call (516) 751-2600 after May 1.

ETHICAL INVESTING is a shareware "database" that provides background reference information on socially responsible investing. This information is provided to help spread the word about ethical investment choices. Included are a suggested reading list, socially responsible mutual funds, even an ethical VISA card. There is also a list of the top 100 defense contractors and the owners of nuclear power plants. The price of the disk is \$10. Write to: Jerry Whiting, P.O. Box 20821-CL, Seattle, WA 98102-1821.

I'D LIKE TO TRADE PC software with ANYONE having an IBM PC or compatible. At present my PC library approximates 110 products including the latest games, diagnostic programs, business software, utilities, and various word processing and other application software. Readers can contact me by writing: Software, PO Box 73, Uniondale, NY 11553.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE BLUE BOX WANTED! I am a beginning phone enthusiast and would greatly appreciate it if someone could help me in designing a blue box. Of course, as you might have guessed it, this is for "informative" purposes only! Send your replies to Mr. Oscar Statuto, 224A Washington St. #9, Lynn, MA 01902.

WANTED: A decent modem program for use on a Zenith Z-100 running MS-DOS. Contact Manny @ 2600, (516) 751-2600 or PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953.

RESEARCH ELECTRONICS TSU-3000, TRD-800, CAPRI Tap Trap and RF Detector. Best offer. John L., P.O. Box 722, Station A, Downsview, Ontario M3M 3A9.

DOCUMENTATION on electronic & digital PBX's and switching systems. Willing to trade/purchase. Also looking for Bell System Practices and other such paraphernalia. Write to Bill, c/o 2600, PO Box 752B, Middle Island, NY 11953.

CELLULAR TELEPHONE INFORMATION WANTED. I will pay a modest fee for info which has not yet been published in 2600. Please describe the type of info that you have and name your price. Mr. B., P.O. Box 2895, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

MANUALS OR INSTRUCTIONS NEEDED for two modems labeled Dataphone Channel Interface. One has label on the outside that says: 44A2 Series 1, Data Mounting, SD-1D247-01-J23 and the other says: 44A2 DATA MTG, SD-1D247-01-J23, SERIES 1 83 MG 12. The boards on the inside are labeled: DAS 829B-L1A, SERIES 4, 81MG3 and DAS 829BL1A, SERIES 5, 84 MG 04. Send info to: P.O. Box 50346, Raleigh, NC 27650.

TAP BACK ISSUES—complete collection, vol. 1-83 plus supplemental reports and schematics. Approx. 400 pages of quality copies sent via UPS or US Mail. \$100 includes delivery. Send cash, check or MO (payable to PEI). Cash sent same day, others allow 4 weeks, to: Pete G., Post Office Box 463, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL? Looking for something to buy? Or trade? This is the place! The 2600 Marketplace is free to subscribers! Just send us whatever you want to say (without making it too long) and we'll print it! Only people please, no businesses!

Deadline for May issue: 5/5/87.

LETTERS

(continued from page 13)

makes things work.

Your magazine contains articles and letters from those underground anarchists who would overthrow our system of checks and balances—knowledge is power, but don't spread it around to the masses since they would then demystify the matters of which you write, and thereby upset the system.

Look at previous issues envisioning a contents page such as the "Contents" page of the January issue, and imagine the implications of having these "threatening" manuscripts delivered to your home or office in full view of the Postal Service and its employees, your corporate mailroom personnel, office staff, family, ad infinitum. Makes no difference, you may say; I say, it damn well does make a difference.

It is not a matter of personal freedom which should guarantee that I may read anything and everything I wish which govern in this instance. Why are most copies of men's magazines sold at newsstands rather than by subscription? It is a part of our heritage—do it, but don't offend by blatantly publishing your taste in reading material by letting anyone know that you have such interests. Maybe you wish to help challenge this inconsistency by circulating 2600 Magazine in the mails and newsstands; such is your right, but don't do it at my expense nor others who feel as I do.

Expanding your subscription base is something which drives any publishing entity; you wish to provide more people with the information which is contained in your magazine with a better return on your investment in time and energy. However, there is a cost which I hope you will weigh in making your decisions. Yes, I know that *Mother Earth*, *Mother Jones*, *Playboy*, and a host of other magazines started

their publishing existence in controversial and threatening manner to the then prevailing societal norms; they have gained legitimacy.

However, please reconsider your actions in light of the comments which I have made in this letter. We are free, and yet we are not. Don't jeopardize my right of privacy without at least being aware of what I and others view as adverse consequences which may occur because of your actions.

**Thanks
A Reader**

Contest time: Name us one group of people in any moment of history that has achieved justice through hiding.

A Warning

Dear 2600:

I am convinced that as a result of your mailing 2600 without envelopes, many innocent people will be arrested and charged with crimes that they have not committed. Your statement that 2600 is not illegal etc. is only true on the part of 2600 publishers but you want to imply that no envelopes will not harm your subscribers. This is not true. Let me remind you how the criminal justice system works: "You are innocent until proven guilty." But even if you are innocent, if some creep suspects that you are not innocent, it could cost you \$100,000 to prove in court that you are indeed innocent.

Newark, NJ

We respect your opinion. But why did you have to send us those comments on a postcard so that the whole post office could read it?

Coin Test

Dear 2600:

I have heard that there is a number that can be called that will talk back to you the coin that was deposited in a fortress phone. This would be very

LETTERS

useful for testing and alignment of red boxes. Does anyone know the number?

Box Tester

In fact we have it right here. But we only use it to distinguish the difference between coins when we're unable to do so ourselves. The number, in most areas, is 09591230. Naturally, it only works from payphones and, yes, you do need the zero. A pleasant female voice comes on in our area and says, "Coin test. Please deposit nickel." After you do so, she says, "Nickel. Please deposit dime." And so on. And, of course, she always gives you your money back in the end.

More Resources

Dear 2600:

First, I would like to congratulate you on your new format for the magazine. I have also found a very good magazine which keeps up to date with the new things that are happening in the UNIX world. It is: *Unix Review*, P.O. Box 7439, San Francisco, CA 94120-7439. It is \$35 for a one-year subscription. Finally, I found a place which sells all sorts of hard to find equipment. It has two major sections that you might be interested in—computer equipment and telecom equipment. Included in this is: Model TS 21 rotary/tone line powered lineman's handsets, rotary and rotary/tone line powered handsets, I and R tone test set, and tone generators. Their address is Jensen, P.O. Box 50020, Phoenix, AZ 85076-0020.

Het Kapittel

In Reply

Dear 2600:

In the January 1987 issue Cocopelli asked about a WATS directory and how to get one. In a file called "Exchanges 976", the author gave Directory of Toll Free Numbers by Rudolf F. Graf as

recommended reading. It is \$4.95 and has 25,000 listings. I hope Cocopelli and other 2600 readers can use this information.

Also in the January 1987 issue was a letter from Arab 149 complaining about Consumertronics' asking of \$2 for back issues of *TAP*. Arab 149 did not explain it correctly. First, Consumertronics *does* accept checks and money orders, but only in U.S. currency. They hold checks 2-3 weeks and do not accept credit card orders. Second, if you send U.S. cash to pay for the order you get 10% off. Personally, I think being able to get *all* of *TAP*'s 91 issues for only \$160 is *very* reasonable! You also get 10% off all orders over \$100. To get their address, look on page 2 of the January 1987 issue. I hope I was able to clear up any misunderstanding.

MAC???

Got a letter? Send it to 2600, P.O. Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953.

**Who, What, and Where in Communications Security
1986 Product Profiles
Marketing Consultants International, Inc.
100 West Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740-4780**

Review by Roland Dutton

Despite the jazzy title, this publication is not exactly good bedtime reading. For those interested in buying a stand-alone encryption or scrambling box, this guide has a list of manufacturers and specifications of their products. The products covered are voice encryption, data encryption, and voice scrambling. If you need an encryption or scrambling box to plug into your computer or voice system, you can use the lists of specifications to help you in your purchasing decision.

The "1986 Product Profiles" are for the most part an update to one chapter of the original "Who, What, and Where..." guide, published in 1981.

(continued from page 9)

and General Mobile Radio Service are not protected.

"Fixing" Your Radio Shack PRO-2004 Scanner

The release of the Radio Shack PRO-2004 scanner was delayed until the passing of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. Radio Shack is a major marketer of cellular phones, and thus lobbied hard for the passage of the bill so purchasers of their cellular phones could feel that the privacy of calls was secure. Therefore the release of their PRO-2004 scanner was delayed for four months in order to see if the bill would be passed. When the scanner was finally released, the "forbidden" 800 megahertz region was unable to be accessed. All Radio Shack did was connect an extra diode to the circuit board to prevent reception of the "forbidden frequencies." Below are instructions reprinted from page 48 of the March 1987 (Volume 6, Number 3) issue of *Monitoring Times* on how to remedy the situation.

1. Remove the four cabinet screws and the cabinet.
2. Turn the receiver upside down and locate circuit board PC-3.
3. Remove seven screws holding board and plug CN-501.
4. Carefully lift up the board and locate diode soldered in place below the module.
5. Snip one lead of the diode carefully, leaving it suspended by the other lead for later reattachment if desired, such as warranty repair.
6. Reverse first four steps above for reassembly. Radio will now cover 825-845 and 870-890 MHz and search in 30 KHz increments for no-gap 760-1300 MHz reception.

The "Forbidden Frequencies"

Now the more adventurous readers may want to go listen to these forbidden frequencies. Check the February 1987

issue of 2600 for a common breakdown of the cellular channels, which are between 800 and 890 megahertz. Not all cellular networks have this number of channels, but they can be easily figured out by careful listening to a scanner. Most cellular conversations can be listened to in their entirety without losing them due to cell site switching hand off. However, even when this occurs to the call you are listening to, you can easily pick it up again by merely scanning the frequencies again for the next cell. In this way and with a car one can follow a conversation in its entirety. A few words of warning though. This use of a scanner clearly violates the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. The use of a scanner (or often the mere presence of a scanner) within a car violates laws in many states and localities, so check this out before you let one into your car. Using any information gathered off of the airwaves for personal gain violates federal law. As this activity is clearly illegal, 2600 does not condone or encourage listening to cellular calls.



At least one good use for those cheap phones.

goings on

equivalent of showing the world how to make a nuclear bomb. The editors of *Pay Phone* say they edited out the parts of his article that were specific to particular types of phones. Sounds like Tobias should be writing for *2600*.

Pacific Bell in San Francisco has begun sending out bills with itemized service charges instead of the single service charge they had been using. Customers previously had no idea if they were paying for call waiting or any other features. The California Public Utilities Commission ordered the change after investigating PacBell for allegedly coercing customers into subscribing to services they didn't order.

Some problems with law enforcement and phones: a district justice in Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania told police she put a bug on her own office phone because her secretaries were failing to give her any messages. She's now facing wiretapping charges.

And the police department of Wallington, New Jersey almost lost their phones because of nonpayment recently. "The letter said telephone service to 473-1715 would be cut off Monday," a stunned Mayor Walter Slomienski said. "That's the police desk! I couldn't believe it."

New Jersey Bell said it was a mistake, even though the bill of \$500 is outstanding. "It isn't a practice to discontinue service to municipalities. But, as with any other customer, we expect them to pay their bill."

Prescott Valley, Arizona has a problem. Sometime between New Year's and Valentine's Day, somebody erased

(continued from page 18)

all of the revenue and expenditures figures for December of 1986 from a hard disk used on their Eagle PC.

And in what's bound to be a precedent-setting case, Jay Clark, a radio talk show host on WATR-AM in Waterbury, Connecticut has filed a lawsuit against one of his listeners. The charge? Harrassment. According to Clark, the listener, Thomas W. Speers, won't stop calling his program. But, according to the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, "since the radio station invites people to call in, the callers have a First Amendment right to get through." We'll keep an eye on this one.

In Melbourne, Florida, Hazardous Waste Solutions Corp. has put up a BBS. Its purpose is to alert hazardous waste generators on the latest government regulations and provide a list of hazardous waste transporters and disposal companies. Yet another example of a happier life through computers.

One more example: coin-operated parking meters may soon be a thing of the past. At least in New York. Officials there are considering replacing them with electronic meters that take cardboard cards with magnetic strips. Like some subway systems, the amount on the card would decrease with use. The new system would eliminate the problem of theft as well as the cost of collecting coins. They're even thinking of having them accept credit cards! With that feature, your car could be located very quickly if the need arose.

Finally, for some fun, call 800-552-5519.

The First 2600 Public Get-Together
Friday, June 5, 1987, 5:00 P.M.
IN NEW YORK CITY
(exact location will be announced in our May issue)

CONTENTS

COMPUTEL PUT TO SLEEP	4
HACKING PC PURSUIT	6
TELECOM INFORMER	8
CNA LIST	10
LETTERS	12
GOINGS ON	16
2600 MARKETPLACE	19

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