Self-Help on the Net

or

(*How to Find Information on the Net*)

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[These slides (or some variation, thereof) will be available via anonymous ftp from the `ftp.dreams.org:/pub/self-help` directory.]

Where to Look

- **Newsgroups**
- **Mailing Lists**
- **anonymous FTP sites**
  - **Archie**
- **Information Servers**
  - **WAIS**
  - **Weather**
  - **Geographic Information**

Where to Look (cont'd)

- **Interfaces to Servers**
  - **Prospero**
  - **WWW (WorldWideWeb)**
  - **gopher**
- **White Pages**
- **Online Documentation/Guides**

USENET Newsgroups

- **comp.org.usenix**
- **comp.archives**
- **comp.newprod**
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**
  - **news.answers**
  - **archive of `news.answers` is in the:**
    `rtfm.mit.edu:/pub/usenet` directory

Vendor Related newsgroups

- Sun stuff
  - comp.sys.sun.admin
  - comp.sys.sun.all hierarchy
  - alt.sys.sun
- DEC stuff
  - comp.sys.dec
  - comp.unix.ultrix
- IBM/AIX stuff
  - comp.unix.aix
  - comp.sys.ibm.pc.rt

Vendor newsgroups (cont'd)

- HP stuff
  - comp.sys.hp
- NeXT stuff
  - comp.sys.next.all
- MAC stuff
  - comp.sys.mac.all

misc. UNIX admin newsgroups

- comp.unix.admin
- comp.unix.large
- comp.unix.all (really all of them :-)
- comp.admin.policy

Security newsgroups

- comp.security.announce
- alt.security.index
- alt.security
- comp.virus
- misc.security

Sources newsgroups

- comp.sources.all
- alt.sources

Standards newsgroups

- comp.std.announce
- comp.std.unix
- comp.std.all

USENET news related groups

- **news.announce.all**
- **news.admin**
- **news.sysadmin**
- **news.lists**

Mailing Lists

- **Lists of publicly accessible mailing lists**
  - `ftp.nisc.sri.com:/netinfo/interest-groups`
  - `rtfm.mit.edu:/pub/usenet/news.lists` **directory**
- **Subscribing/Administrivia**
  - **typically, subscription requests go to: mailing-list`-request`@whatever.site instead of** *mailing-list*.

Mailing Lists – admin

- **sun-managers-request@eecs.nwu.edu**
- **decstation-managers-request@ornl.gov**
- **sysadm-list-request@sysadmin.com**
- **sun-nets@brillig.umd.edu**
- **suns-at-home-request@ea.ecn.purdue.edu**
- **info-mac-request@sumex-aim.stanford.edu**

Mailing Lists (cont'd)

- **Security**
  - **security-request@uninet.cpd.com**
  - **cert@cert.org**
  - **cert-tools-request@cert.org**

Searching FTP archives – Archie

- developed at McGill University in Canada, by Peter Deutsch, Alan Emtage, and Bill Heelan
- database of various anonymous ftp sites' directory listings
- methods of access
  - telnet to archie server – login as `archie`
  - e-mail interface – `archie@archie.server`, where `archie.server` is one of the servers
  - clients run locally (using the Prospero protocol)
    - shell interface (just called `archie`)
    - X interface (called `xarchie`)

Archie Servers

• `archie.mcgill.ca`	Canada, first site
• `archie.sura.net`	MD, USA
• `archie.funet.fi`	Finland, Europe
• `archie.au`	Australia
• `archie.ans.net`	NY, USA
• `archie.rutgers.edu`	NJ, USA
• `archie.doc.ic.ac.uk`	UK/England

Archie Clients – How to Get

- typically, the various clients are available via anonymous ftp from each archie server.

- `ftp.cs.widener.edu:/pub/archie`

- Xarchie (only)
  - `export.lcs.mit.edu:/contrib`
  - `crl.dec.com` and other X archive sites

Anonymous FTP sites

- source

- mailing list and USENET newsgroup archives

- misc. information archives

- papers, slides (such as these), etc.

sample FTP sites

- `ftp.uu.net`
  - USENET source archives, many things
- `wuarchive.wustl.edu`
  - mirrors SIMTEL20 and other sites
- `terminator.cc.umich.edu`
  - /unix/sysadmin/how-to directory
- `research.att.com`
  - Plan 9 papers, setting up a secure gateway, other misc. papers – look around

FTP sites (cont'd)

- `ftp.cs.toronto.edu`
  - Official Cnews distribution, Henry Spencer's packages, and other cool stuff
- `titan.rice.edu`
  - Sun-Spots archive and other misc. stuff

FTP by Mail

- send mail message with a body consisting of the single word `help` to get more info on the commands needed for each FTP by mail server
  - `ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com`
  - `bitftp@pucc.princeton.edu`

White Pages

- X.400

  `$ telnet wp.psi.com`
  login: `fred`

- WHOIS / misc.
  - `nic.ddn.mil`
  - `finger name@mit.edu`

White Pages – WHOIS

- WHOIS

```
$ telnet nic.ddn.mil
@ whois
whois: composer
```

Kellem, Jeff (JK341) composer@BEYOND.DREAMS.ORG
Beyond Dreams
P.O. Box 15070
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 739-0202

Record last updated on 13-May-92.

WHOIS (cont'd)

```
whois: dreams.org
```

Beyond Dreams (DREAMS-DOM)
P.O. Box 15070
Boston, MA 02215

Domain Name: DREAMS.ORG

Administrative Contact, Technical Contact, Zone Contact:
Kellem, Jeff (JK341) composer@BEYOND.DREAMS.ORG
(617) 739-0202

Record last updated on 24-Sep-91.

WHOIS example (cont'd)

Domain servers in listed order:

CHEM.BU.EDU	128.197.30.18
WORLD.STD.COM	192.74.137.5
EFF.ORG	192.88.144.3

Would you like to see the known hosts under this secondary domain? `n`

White Pages (cont'd)

- **Knowbot**
  - `telnet nri.reston.va.us 185`
  - accesses NIC WHOIS, NYSERnet X.500, PSI's fred, and others to search for e-mail addresses

WAIS

- Wide Area Information Server
- allows users to search and access information from a single interface
  - from text to sounds to images to anything
- an extension of the ANSI Z39.50-1988 information retrieval protocol
- various interface clients
  - GNU Emacs
  - dumb terminal, shell
  - Mac, NeXT, X Windows

WAIS (cont'd)

- `think.com:/wais` directory
- try it out:

```
$ telnet quake.think.com
login: wais
```

Information Server Interfaces

- Gopher
  - menu-oriented interface to information servers and other services

    ```
    $ telnet consultant.micro.umn.edu
    login: gopher
    ```

- WorldWideWeb (WWW)
  - `telnet info.cern.ch`

Online Libraries

- card catalogs searchable online
- UNT Barron Library Catalog list
  - `ftp.unt.edu:/library`
- St. George Library Catalog list
  - `nic.cerf.net`
    `/cerfnet/cerfnet_info/library_catalog`

Online Texts (in general)

- **Project Gutenberg**
  - **Michael S. Hart, Director, `hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu`**
  - ***Alice in Wonderland, Moby Dick,***
    Declaration of Independence,
    ***CIA World Fact Book*, among others**
  - **`mrcnext.cso.uiuc.edu:/etext` directory**
  - **`quake.think.com:/pub/etext` directory**
  - **searchable via WAIS source, `sample-books`**

Online Texts (cont'd)

- **Online Book Initiative (OBI)**
  - **Barry Shein, Software Tool & Die**
  - **100+MB of online text available**
  - **`obi-request@world.std.com`**
  - **`obi.std.com:/obi`**

What if I want to provide the info?

- **setup anonymous FTP site**
- **setup a WAIS server**
- **comp.archives type searching**
- **offer a newsgroup/mailing list "clipping" service of info**
- **write up a new tool!**

Online Documentation/Guides

- *Zen and the Art of the Internet*
  - **by Brendan Kehoe**
  - **ftp.cs.widener.edu:/pub/zen directory**
- *There's Gold in them thar Networks!*
  - **by Jerry Martin**
  - **RFC 1290 / FYI 10 (***"Where RFCs and FYIs are sold.. ;-)"***)**
- *NorthWestNet User Services Internet Resource Guide*
  - **ftphost.nwnet.net:/nic/nwnet/user-guide directory**
- *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Internet*
  - **by Ed Krol**
  - **RFC 1118**
- *Internet Resource Guide* **– NNSC**

- nnsc.nsf.net:/resource-guide directory

- *A Network Management Tools Catalog*
  - **RFC 1147 / FYI 2**

- *Improving the Security of your UNIX System*
  - **by David A. Curry**
  - **ftp.erg.sri.com:/pub/security-doc directory**

Hardcopy Books

- *Life with UNIX*
  - **by Don Libes and Sandy Ressler**

- *The Matrix*
  - **by John Quarterman**

- *The User's Directory of Computer Networks*
  - **by Tracy LaQuey**

- *Zen and the Art of the Internet*
  - **by Brendan Kehoe**