

Gopher makes Internet tour easier



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While Internet's Telnet will make a direct connection to a site you are specifically aware of, Gopher generates new discoveries.

Gopher searches throughout the Internet, up one road and down another, to find information.

Gopher is menu-driven, making searches easy. Its method is akin to driving down the freeway, exiting onto a major thoroughfare, driving down a side street, and then up a driveway. At any point, the user may return to the side street, thoroughfare, or freeway and move in another direction.

This tool was developed at the University of Minnesota whose college mascot is the gopher, thus the name. But it's also very fitting because the gopher is an animal that burrows deeper and deeper, which this tool also does.

The Observer On-line with Internet service provides a local Gopher server with some beginning points pre-selected. These beginning points are topical, i.e., government, music, sports, history, weather.

The last choice (22) is "Pick Your Own Server." If you choose this you hit RETURN you will end up with the Master Gopher Server, a major starting point for the Internet at-large. At the Master Gopher Server you will also find several choices, including different Veronica options. Veronica is the search tool used to look for specific Gopher sites. We will do Veronica searches later.

Personally, I enjoy most going to the Master Gopher Server and taking off from there — traveling down one road, backing up, and then taking off down another. I enjoy finding unexpected jewels lying along the roadway — free for the picking.

For today's discoveries in Gopher we will remain with the preselected options system operator Greg Day has provided. In fact, for each Gopher journey we will depart from Choice 10 (English). Some of what we find also can be accessed from other choices, say Music or History.

Anywhere in Gopher, to move forward select your choice and hit RETURN. To move back one step, type the letter u. At any major server (starting menu), you must type q to go back. Using our analogy, to back out of any driveway, side street or thoroughfare, you shift into u. For a freeway entrance ramp, shift to q.

Almost anywhere in Gopher, when you find what you are looking for or discover a jewel you want to keep, there are at least two choices, maybe three. The easiest choice is to mail the discovery to yourself. Do this by typing m, filling in your e-mail address, and hit RETURN. Another choice is to save the discovery. Do this by typing s, then typing in a file name of your choice, and hitting RETURN. The saved discovery will end up in the File Manager area of O&E On-line where you can go later and download it to your PC.

Most sites will offer the option of printing the document by typing p and hitting RETURN. Do

not be frustrated, though, if this does not work. I'd recommend mailing it to yourself and then going to Pine to print it out. At any site a connection might not work because it is too busy or is having technical problems. If faced with an "connection failed" message, select Control G to back out.

So, what of interest can we find using Gopher? How about the complete lyrics to "Phantom of the Opera"? After you sign in to O&E On-line, type P for Programs, I for Internet, G for Gopher, then select choice 10 (English). On the next menu select 30 (music), then 25 (musical lyrics), then 13 (Phantom of the Opera), and then m to mail.

If you have not overused on OJ Simpson, an interesting article by Jeffrey Klein on OJ, called "Crime and Punishment," can be found by starting with 10 (English), then 21 (Journals & Newspapers), 13 (Mother Jones), 24 (Sept/Oct. 1994 issue) and 6 for "Crime & Punishment." Type m to mail and hit RETURN.

Want a dramatic reading? How about Martin Luther King's speech, "Free at Last." Start with 10 (English), then 19 (History),

then 31 ("Free at Last").

Given the interest in the recent GM strike in Flint, how about reading an article on the 60th anniversary of the Flint Sit Down Strike? Once again, start with 10 (English), choose 13 (history), then 30 (Flint Sit Down). Type m, or p. If you type s, refer to an earlier column (Sept. 29) on how to download from File Manager.

By now you can see how easy Gopher is and the wealth of information out there. As we were headed down our roads today, you saw many other road signs of interest. Return on your own. Go where ever you choose.

Just remember to type a to go backward, and q to leave a Gopher Server Menu.

So do some gophering on your own. If you find jewels to share with others, send them to me via e-mail.

You can direct questions to Emory Daniels by e-mail with emory@coonline.com, at voice mail at 313-963-2047 then dial 1910, or fax number 313-963-2111. To sign up for O&E On-Line, dial 313-591-0903, at "log-in" prompt type "new" and at "Key:" prompt type GLANV2.

DATEBOOK FEATURES UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE METRO BUSINESS COMMUNITY. To list an event, write: Datebook, Building & Business, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. Our fax number is (313) 591-7278.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14

CRIME PREVENTION
Oakland Rental Housing Association hosts Citizens Against Crime which will make a presentation on crime prevention and protection at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. Dinner at 7 p.m. is \$16. Cost of the program only at 8 p.m. for non-members is \$10. Reservations required at (800) 747-6742.

SUNDAY, OCT. 16

BUILDING A HOUSE
Jim Nawrot presents a two-hour introductory seminar on a more intensive series of workshops he promotes on building a house 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, 17100 Laurel Park Drive N., Livonia. The introductory seminar repeats 9:30-11:30 a.m. Oct. 22 at the Livonia Marriott. Cost is \$10 per session in advance, \$20 at the door. For reservations, call Nawrot at (313) 462-0944.

TUESDAY, OCT. 18

RETIREMENT PLANNING
Smith Barney hosts a free retirement planning seminar 7-8:30 p.m. at its

office in the Columbia Center, 201 W. Big Beaver, Troy. Topics include managing assets and jump start distributions. For reservations, call Diane Thweyer at (800) 227-1931.

NEW VENTURES SCORE, the service corps of retired executives, and the U.S. Small Business Administration conduct a workshop on things to consider when starting a business 9 a.m. at Detroit Edison headquarters (auditorium) in Detroit. Cost is \$15. For information, call SCORE at (313) 226-7947.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19

POLITICAL AWARDS
The Detroit Section of the Society of Women Engineers features the League of Women Voters 6:30 p.m. in a meeting at the Lincoln Park Library, Southfield at Dix. Topics include issues on the November ballot and government structure. Refreshments served. Cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members in advance, \$5 and \$7, respectively, at the door. For information, call (313) 322-6996 or (313) 323-2268.

EFFECTIVE NEWSLETTERS
Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education Services offers a program "Publicity Techniques for Smaller Promotion-Newsletters" to achieve maximum results internally and externally 8-10 p.m. on campus in Livonia. Cost is \$32. To register, call (313) 462-4448.

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