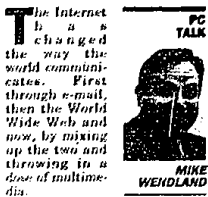


Net users clamor for more



MIKE WENDLAND

The Internet has changed the way the world communicates. First through e-mail, then the World Wide Web and now, by mixing up the two and throwing in a dose of multimedia.

As a medium of its own, the Internet is evolving daily. And its users keep clamoring for more.

Dell Computer Co., which sells about \$10 million in PC systems every day through its Web site, recently commissioned a study that underscores how much the Internet and personal computers have become an integral part of everyday life.

The line between the two ... the PC and the Net ... is increasingly blurred.

"Consumers see the PC and the Internet as one tool, one experience," says Janet Mountain, who manages Dell's consumer division. "Not only do consumers want the Internet to help them with their daily chores, they want to use it for learning, communicating and having fun."

Dell commissioned a study of 1,991 Net users who access the Internet at least once a week and called it the TechKnow Generation 2000 survey. It found consumers anxious to use Internet technology in a wide variety of activities.

Half of those surveyed want their PCs and the Internet to help with household chores, like doing the laundry (50 percent), watering the lawn and house plants (50 percent), monitoring

home security (67 percent) and ordering groceries (47 percent). But they also are looking for more. For example, 20 percent think they should be able to renew their driver's licenses on the Net; 78 percent want to use the Internet to vote and 71 percent want to use a personal trainer to help get them in shape on the Internet.

The survey also picked up some signs of impatience. Net users are anxious for faster broadband, or high-speed access. Almost half of those surveyed (48 percent) ranked high-speed Net access as their number one essential for a new home, topping an extra bathroom (44 percent) or swimming pool (14 percent).

As I received the results of the Dell survey, I also came across two Web sites that seem to perfectly illustrate this growing marriage of the Internet and personal service.

Both are sites that specialize in group scheduling. The first is called "Evite" (www.evite.com) and what it does is let you and your friends plan parties, picnics or participatory things. For example, suppose you want to get a group of friends together to attend a picnic.

With Evite, there's no more phone tag or multiple e-mailings. You just set up a list of those you want to have linked up. Then, organize them. Send out notices and plan the event on a special Web site created just for your get-together.

What kind of food should people bring? Who'll bring it? Who can come? Who can't? Who has a problem with the date? You can include a map on how to get to

the destination and even a discussion board to talk about the details.

Evite automates everything. You send out one central message and, whether its to 6 people or 500, all you have to do is check the Web site every now and then to see how the event's taking shape. Evite tallies the RSVPs, and displays group feedback and decisions on the private, personalized group event web page - created just for you and your group.

Another similar site is called eBoard (www.eboard.com). On this site, though, you set up a virtual bulletin board to post messages and pictures online. One of the examples they show is a soccer coach's team page, complete with schedules, pictures and league standings.

Another example is from a teacher who set up page for her class. eBoard is perfect for groups of people who would like to have a "home base" on the Internet, but who either don't need a Web page or don't want to deal with the hassle of one.

See how the Net is becoming a service tool? A helper in handling life?

I'll offer up more cool sites next week as we continue looking at the latest trends in this maturing medium.

Meantime, don't hesitate to send me your favorite sites to check out, too.

Mike Wendland reports about computers and the Internet for NBC-television stations coast-to-coast. His radio show is heard every weekend on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT. You can reach Mike through his Web site at www.pcmike.com

CAMPUS PIPELINE

DICKINSON DEAN'S
Courtney M. Juy, a freshman at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., was named to the dean's list for the 1999 spring semester. She is the daughter of Eugene and Heather Juy of Farmington Hills and a graduate of North Farmington High School.

LTU GRAD
John W. Fernald, son of Richard and Kathleen Pennala of Farmington Hills and a 1994 graduate of North Farmington High School, graduated from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

GVU GRADS
Christina A. Maki of Farmington and Eric E. Coleman of Farmington Hills both graduated from Grand Valley State University in April at the conclusion of the winter 1999 semester.

PHI OMEGA AWARD
In recognition of her efforts in the field of theater, Amanda M. Bill recently received the Chi Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega Award at Siena Heights University. Bill is the daughter of Ron Bill of Farmington Hills and is a 1999 graduate of Mercy High School.

HONORS AWARD
In recognition of their efforts in the field of hotel, restaurant, and institutional management, Amanda M. Bill and Juliantha G. Harsh were recently awarded with Division

Awards by the Business and Management Department at Siena Heights University.

BRANDEIS DEAN'S
Alissa Waller of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list for the spring 1999 semester at Brandeis University in Williamstam, Mass. Waller, class of 2001, is the daughter of Frederic and Enid Waller. Dean's list honors are given to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

MIAMI DEAN'S
Jessica A. Dalglor of Farmington Hills was named to the dean's list at Miami University. Students who achieved a 3.5 or better grade point average for the second semester are named to the dean's list.

RY SCHOLARSHIP
Ritara N. Sheikh, daughter of Doris and Ayaz Sheikh of Farmington Hills, has been awarded a National Rochester Society Scholarship at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology for the 1999/2000 academic year. Sheikh is a fourth-year social work major in RIT's College of Liberal Arts.

GVU DEAN'S
Kristen M. Lee of Farmington Hills and Kelly A. Coughlin and Kathleen A. Gratz of Farmington Hills were all named to the dean's list for the winter 1999 semester at Grand Valley State University.

Golf outing planned for Independence Hills

Catholic Social Services of Oakland Golf Committee, announces its 4th Annual Golf Outing Friday, Aug. 27 to bene-

fit the families and children served by the agency. It will be at Independence Green Golf Course in Farming-

ton Hills. Golfers will begin with a noon lunch followed by a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start. Call 648-4044.

Hills woman attends convention

Amy Lazare of Farmington Hills recently attended the Creative Memories National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minn.

The convention is the largest gathering of home-based photo preservation professionals in the world.

Lazare was recognized for her promotion to unit leader. She

received recognition for being in the top 100 across the country in sales and recruiting.

Creative Memories World Headquarters and Technology Center is located in St. Cloud, Minn. The company is the largest manufacturer and distributor of photo-safe albums and supplies in the United States.

Lazare and more than 44,000 other Creative Memories consultants teach people how to organize and preserve their photos and chronicle their family history in safe, meaningful scrapbook photo albums.

The consultants lead various home classes and workshops. She began working as a consultant in 1997.

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Oakwood Welcomes
Yasser M. Awaad, MD, MSc
Director, Pediatric Neurology and Movement Disorders Program

Education and Professional
Practice Information
In addition to his pediatric neurology practice and role with the Movement Disorders program, Dr. Awaad is also joining Oakwood's new Program for Exceptional Families - a multidisciplinary program that provides comprehensive, coordinated care for children with chronic, complex disorders and disabilities. He is currently seeing patients at the office in the Oakwood Waterworks Building on Michigan Avenue in Dearborn. To schedule an appointment today, please call 313-701-4323.

To schedule an appointment please call
(313) 791-4323

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