Net helps your 'cyber-family'

Internet is it has no houndaries. I get e-mail from people all across the country and, as research for a new book that the Zondervan Publishing Company (www.zondervan.com) will publish early next year the Complete No-Geck-Speak Guide to the Internet). That's how I came to meet Pat Hawn, who calls horself "Cybermom". In fact, she says, her family could be called a Cyberdomity because from suaries to be dime the family computer is almost always in use and someone is always online.

Pat is a marketing representative at public opinion company in Indianapolis and before she heads out the door each day, she sips her coffee while catching up on the morning news with CNN Interac-

on the morning news with CNN Interactive (www.cnn.com).

Then, it's A Word in Day, a mailing list that sends out a different vocabulary word to subscribers every day. She also is an avid cook and, more mornings than not, checks in on a site about bread making (www.bbgn.org) operated by the Bread Bakers Guild of America.

No sooner is Pat off the computer and out the door then her husband, David, a counselor and substitute teacher, usually log-on and c-mails a homework ussignment to his Indiana University instructor. David is taking some graduate education courses and the Internet is a key

The couple has two children. Eddie, 14, is a hoops fanatic. Remember, this family lives in Indiana, the Mecca for basketball

nans.
During the season, he's always on the Net, usually at the National Basketball

During the season, he's always on the Net, usually at the National Basketball Association's home page (www.nbaccom) Daughter Laura, 11, has several pen pals, including a former favorite tearber, who moved to Ohin "My kais do homework research on the Net" says Pat. "One time last year we downloaded pictures of Civil War soldiers from the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov).

The Hawns got their computer in early 1995 and were introduced to the online world through commercial online services. Both America Online and CompuServe were offering new users 10 free hours of use during the first month. The Hawns took both services up on the deal.

"This was before they started offering a fait fee of \$19.95 a month. We started out using the 10 free hours from AOL and CIS. They were too addicting. We ran up a ball of about \$100.00 on each," Pat says. Because being charged by the hour was too expensive for a family that uses the Net Se heavily, Pat made some calls and found an Indianapolis-based ISP that gave 120 hours of Net access for just



PCMike: You can check out Wendland's Web site at www.pcmike.com.

\$15.00 a month.

"We are on the Internet all the time and have never reached that amount of time," she says of her decision today. Besides, they only charge 50 cents per hour over 120 hours, so if we did go overboard, it certainly wouldn't cost as much as it did that first month with AOL.

When they first received full Internet access through the local ISP, the Hawns were worried about what their kids would be exposed to online.

They had seen the media stories about X-rated materials and cyberstalkers preying on children and decided they better investigate themselves before letting the kids go online.

"I have found that if you want information on a particular subject, you have to go looking for it," she says. "Therefore, you are not likely to come across any pornography without actually doing a search." Pat and David made sure they understood the Internet themselves.

They then taught the kids. "We sat down with the kids and set some ground rules such as no computer until homework and chores are done. We also discussed safety issues such as not giving out our address or phone number."

It's hard to find an area of the family's life that has not been affected by the Internet.

"I have a sister in Baltimore, Maryland," says Pat. "We have never been very close, but ever since I got her e-mail address I write her at least once a week."

She says the Net is also a great way to cut family expenses.

"My Saturday worening are snent fill-

She says the Net is also a great way to

She says the Net is also a great way to cut family expenses.
"My Saturday mornings are spent filing out online forms for free samples (www.auraland.com/free) and newelotters. I have received erasers in the shape of sushi from Jupan, free vita-

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EYE CARE/LABER SURGERY

mins, free pet food, free samples of soap, free bottles of Gatorade and lots more stuff."

And it's helped Pat emotionally, during what she thought was a serious health crisis. "One time I had an abnormal mammogram.

My first instinct was to check out the various Breast Cancer sites on the Net. There was so much information there it was mind boggling.

One of the best sites is OncoLink twow.oncolink.upenn.edu/) They have information about cancer prevention, symptoms, diagnoses and treatment. This is not only from a conventional viewpoint but also includes alternative medicine information."

In Pat's case, the scare was only that. Her problem turned out to be some routine cysts. But the way the Net gave her solid, reliable information made her even more devoted to spreading what she calls, the "good cybernews."

"The Internet has changed my life in many ways. All of the ways are good. It's changed the way we do business and communicate with each other. And I'm very excited about the way it will improve in the future."

How about you? Hw whas the Internet impacted the life of your family? Send me your story. You can reach me by email at mike Epemike.com.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV Newschannel stations across the country and can be seen locally on WDIV-TV4, Detroit. His "PC Talk" radio show airs Saturday afternoons on WXYT-Radio AMI270 and he is the author of a series of Internet books (call 888-222-1866). You can reach him through his Web site at http://www.pemike.com

Milestones from page C2

The Berline Group in Bloomfield The Bernine Group in Bloomiest Hills. Sine was previously a con-sultant for Business Market Solutions and was national director of marketing and public relations for Deloitte & Touch and director of marketing of Ward's Communications,



Donald Luciani
of Birmingham
has been promoted to partner at
Ernst & Young
LLP. He will be a partner in the corporate finance department

Luciani where he special-izes in acquisition and divestiture advisory assistance.



Michael Marquardt of Troy has been appoint of the Internet Operations Content in Southfield Marquardt of vice president of the Internet of operations and acting president in March when IOC merged with Greenlake Communications, Previously, he had been

tions. Previously, he had been manager of products and ser-



Doughs McKon of Sterling
Heights has
merged his CPA
practice with
Gordon & Company in Troy
effective this
month. He has
worked in public
accountancy for 12 years and
has extensis e experience in
auditing and accounting, corporate and personal taxes and
small business consulting. Douglas McK-

Kimberly Menzel of Rochester Hills has been named a market-Hills has been named a market-ing associate at Educor Data Services in Farmington Hills. She will be responsible for the design of advertising, promotion-al and direct mail programs, management of public relations and development of new client



Helen Jane Peters of Sylvan Lake has been promoted to indepromoted to independent branch advisor, the first level of sales field management, at The Longaberger Company, Peters markets and sells baskets, liners, protectors, dividers, lids, pottery, dinnerware, home accessories and greenhouse products through home shows for the company based in Desden, Ohio.



Rademacher of Northville has been appointed assistant vice

assistant vice president of marketing at the Amerisaure Company's special programs market area where hell be responsible for overseeing affinity and group marketing, risk management business, dividends and retromand business performance measurement. He began his career with Amerisaure in 1988.

Vickie Tollrien of Rochester Hills has been named assistant vice president in the northwestern region of The Huntington National Bank. She will oversee National Bank. She will oversee the development and growth of 22 retail banking offices. She will also be responsible for the implementation of the sales program at the branches through education and training. She has been with the bank since 1988.



Hedloy Williams of Rochester Hills has been named president and CEO of the Farbman Group since 1985 following positions in the banking industry. He will be responsible for the oversight and direction of brokerage, leasing, institutional sales, property management and land acquisition for federal and the property and president and the property and property and the property and t

and state agencies.

The Projections division of Grace & Wild Inc. in Farmington Hills has added two new employees to provide computer graphics and presentation services. Carey Garback of Royal Oak has been named production manager. She will act as a liaison between clients and art staff as well as manage job calendars, traffic projects and monitor budgets. Michael McClatchey of Ann Arbor has been hired as a technology manager. He will coordinate technology and development of business based on high-speed access to the Internet.



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