

# Standing back to assess the dot-com carnage



MIKE WENDLAND

**W**ho will What a couple of weeks it has been. The dot-coms have tanked. Everywhere you go you hear everyday people complaining about the Nasdaq tech-stock collapse and what it's doing to their 401Ks.

And with good reason. Consider the damage. The E-Music Web site has lost 92 percent of its value from its high. Drugstore.com is off 87 percent. Egghed is down 83 percent. Barnes and Noble.com dropped 67 percent and even Amazon.com, the supposed model of e-commerce (which still, by the way, hasn't made a profit), lost 55 percent of its worth over the past two weeks.

That's why people are panicking. For a depressing but complete assessment of the dot-com carnage, check out the detailed dot-com disaster chart and analysis compiled by MSNBC (www.msnbc.com/news/394638.asp).  
Meanwhile, two respected

Internet marketing and financial firms are predicting even more massive gloom and doom for the dot-com industry. Forrester Research says most will go out of business by next year. The research firm blames investor flight, competitive pressures and weak financials for the poor performance of the companies. The exact same scenario is predicted by Michael Fleisher, president and CEO of GartnerGroup. "We believe that the vast majority—perhaps 95 to 98 percent—of all dot-com companies will fall over the next 24 months," he says.

Fleisher is a major player in the industry and his remarks, delivered in San Diego at a big information technology conference last week, carry a lot of weight.  
But despite the shakeup, the Gartner Group's CEO says "virtually no traditional companies will be able to survive without a significant Internet component as part of their business model."  
What he sees is a resurgence by winning companies that focus on "old economy concepts" such as market share, brand equity, distribution channels, financial control.  
And that was exactly the theme I kept hearing at the Michigan IT conference in Dearborn last week. I moderated the

afternoon automotive e-commerce roundtable and introduced Gov. John Engler. And despite what the Nasdaq was doing, I have never seen such optimism.  
From the governor to the high-tech hot shots who spoke to the crowd of 1,100, everyone was pointing to the trends that show business-to-business e-commerce becoming much more important than business-to-consumer e-commerce.  
How much more? Gartner estimates that worldwide b-to-b transactions will rise, from \$145 billion in 1999 to \$7.3 trillion in the year 2004.

**High-tech jobs**  
About 35 percent of the estimated 1.6 million new jobs being created in the information technology industry will end up in the Midwest, according to a new survey of 700 companies released last week by the Information Technology Association of America.  
The companies said they need information technology specialists, people to help install and troubleshoot corporate computer networks and new high-tech equipment. And the companies are worried. Based on the qualifications of current applicants, they estimated that more than half of the openings, about

843,000, may be difficult to fill.  
Behind tech support, the fastest growing jobs categories are database developers and administrators; programmers and software developers; and people who design and manage Internet sites.  
Among other categories included in the survey were technical writers, digital media specialists and systems integrators. The survey says after the Midwest, the West stands to gain most from new information technology jobs, followed by the South and then the Northeast. About 10 million Americans now work in the information technology field.

**Young adults trust Net**  
The Internet, not traditional radio, television or newspapers, is now the leading choice of "useful information" for young adults 18 to 24. A study, commissioned by an academic research group called the Round Table, found 69 percent in the age group say their household gets more "useful information" from the Net than from newspapers; 63 percent say they receive more information from the Internet than from TV.  
For specific questions, 68 percent are more inclined to consult the Internet than turn to a newspaper, and 67 percent are more likely to go to the Net than rely

on television.  
**Hackers exposed**  
Broadband Internet access may let you surf a lot faster than with a dial-up modem, but a new study says it also makes you vulnerable to hackers. In fact, the study says one out of every four DSL or cable Internet subscriber is exposed to a potential hack attack.  
The reason? A feature called file sharing, meant for networked computers so programs and printers can be shared and files can be moved back and forth.  
If that is enabled on a computer, the always-on status of broadband Internet hookups means everything on your hard drive is as easy for outsiders on the Internet to access as if you had posted them to a public Web site.  
A Web site called Shields Up! (https://grc.com/x/ne.dll?bh0bkyd2) allows anyone to test their exposure to hack attacks free of charge. As of the end of March, about 2.3 million people had tested their computers at Shields Up!, and almost 650,000 of those computers—or 28 percent—allowed anyone on the Internet some sort of access to their file systems. About 8 percent were "wide open," meaning anyone could copy or even delete files.

**Problems with browsers?**  
We had a lot of discussion on the PC Mike radio show last weekend about bugs, glitches and other assorted problems involving the new Netscape Version 4.0 Web browser and Microsoft's Version 5.5 of its Internet Explorer. While both versions are beta, or pre-release test copies, both are getting a lot of attention in the media and a lot of users are downloading the free evaluation copies.  
Listeners and e-mailers complained to me about incompatible Web sites and the inability to display certain graphics and JAVA programs. And Bernie Johnson, the owner of Michigan Connect (www.michiganconnect.com), a Detroit-area ISP firm, said the beta version of IE 5.5 so locked up his own computer that he had to reformat the whole hard drive. My advice: Stick with Version 4.7 of Netscape and 5.01 of IE until the beta bugs are worked out.  
**Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV NewsChannel stations across the country. He is the author of a series of Internet books. You can reach him through his website at http://www.pcmike.com and hear him Monday through Friday at 8:26 p.m. on NewsRadio 950, WJW, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 4-6 p.m. on TalkRadio 1270, WXYT.**

## Parkinson

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**Study**  
A recent study published by Clinical Exercise Physiology magazine showed that the Boston program led to "statistical improvement" for participants, improving their endurance, strength, and flexibility. A related Harvard University study showed that moderate levels of

exercise lead to "higher levels of dopamine, which could be protective against the development of Parkinson's disease or delay the progression rate."

Dr. Sue Anderson, a chiropractor in private practice in Ann Arbor, has found that chiropractic treatment can help people with Parkinson's, particularly in

the latter stages of the disease.  
"Getting adjusted can help with their balance and help maintain better mobility," she said. "It's certainly not a cure, but it helps the patient function at 100 percent of their potential, just like you or me."

me was time with my kids," he said. "I'll never forget the good quality time I had with them, time I probably wouldn't have had had I not had the disease. It gave me some good things even though it's a bad deal. It made me a better person. You don't appreciate what you have until you lose it. I think back to the days I hated to go to work. When they tell you can't work, you miss it. You cry like a baby."

Henry Ford, currently the only hospital in Michigan with FDA approval to perform the tremor control procedure involving the subthalamicus, is still seeking candidates for the study. Interested patients may call the hospital's neurosurgery department at (313) 916-3528.  
Dr. Jann expects the technique will receive overall approval within a year's time, making it widely available.  
"One thing the disease gave

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**INVITATION TO BID**

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for playground installation at seven (7) Elementary Schools as described in the specifications at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shilawassee, Farmington, MI 48336 until 2:00 P.M. local time on Monday, May 8, 2000 at which time they will be opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

There will be a mandatory prebid meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 3:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the above address.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any item in the bid; to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. All bids shall be firm for sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening. Questions should be referred to Annette McNamara, Landscape Architect & Planners (617) 485-0500.

Public: April 16 & 20, 2000

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**INVITATION TO BID**

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for ROOF RENOVATION AT FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL AND TEN MILE ANNEX at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shilawassee, Farmington, MI 48336. Bids will be publicly opened and read at 1:30 P.M., Wednesday, April 19, 2000 for recommendation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

A bid bond for 5% of the bid amount issued by a carrier licensed by the State of Michigan and with an excellent or superior rating from AM Best Company must accompany your bid proposal. No certified checks accepted.

It is strongly suggested that bidders attend a prebid meeting on Monday, April 10, 2000 at 10:00 A.M. at the front lobby of Farmington High School, 32000 Shilawassee.

Bids may be obtained by calling Paul Hain, Purchasing (248) 489-3344. Any questions should be referred to Mr. Kevin Holyzaska of Tranco at (810) 220-0551 or Mr. Ron Aten at (248) 469-3435.

Public: April 9 and April 16, 2000

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**INVITATION TO BID**

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for music equipment for Harrison High School as described in the specifications at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shilawassee, Farmington, MI 48336 until 1:30 P.M. local time on Monday, May 8, 2000 at which time they will be opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any item in the bid; to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder. Prices bid are to be F.O.B. Farmington, MI. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. All bids shall be firm for sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening. Bid documents may be obtained by calling Purchasing at (248) 489-3344.

Public: April 13 & 16, 2000

**FIND STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.**

Cancer can leave you feeling awfully alone. But there are a surprising number of people who can help. Like the nurses at Cancer AnswerLine. They can give you information about the latest cancer research, treatment options, or clinical trials. Or assist you in getting a referral or second opinion. So, you see, you're not so alone after all. There are lots of people who want to help, just a phone call away.

**Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
University of Michigan Health System  
Feel Better  
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1-800-865-1125

**Arthritis Today**  
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY  
18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (248) 476-7860

**ARTHRITIS THAT DOESN'T FIT**

Textbooks devoted only to arthritis can run into 2 volumes and include over 2000 pages. You would think that at those words would eventually describe arthritis, and how each one can present.

However, nature is elusive and at times will fool a veteran human observer. In arthritis, a good example of this deceptive behavior is the difficulty physicians face at times in making a diagnosis between rheumatoid arthritis and polymyalgia rheumatica.

Polymyalgia is a condition of profound morning stiffness in the shoulders and hips. The features of rheumatoid arthritis are swelling of the small joints of the hands and feet accompanied by marked aching and stiffness of the joints in the morning. You would think that these conditions are so different that a doctor would have no difficulty distinguishing one from the other.

However, polymyalgia, which is a condition of the elderly, can involve the joints of the hands and feet in a manner that mimics rheumatoid arthritis. In turn, rheumatoid arthritis can exist in the older person with shoulder and leg stiffness in the morning that looks exactly like polymyalgia.

Making a correct diagnosis is important as you treat polymyalgia with cortisone, while therapy for rheumatoid arthritis begins with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications with the addition of drugs like methotrexate if needed.

Blood tests don't help as an elevated sedimentation rate can be present in both conditions, and a positive rheumatoid factor is common in old age.

The correct diagnosis comes only by observation over time.

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**CITY OF FARMINGTON**  
**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
(Summary)

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, April 10, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 25500 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

**PRESENT:** Bush, Campbell, Hartsock, McShane, Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** None.

**CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, Director/Gov. City Manager Leuboff, Assistant City Manager Richards.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** County Commissioner Sever.

Council met with commissioner Sever to discuss the fire department reporting system; Farmington Road replacement status and schedule; Farmington/Evergreen Sewer System; Environmental Infrastructure Fund; telephone exchange and Public Safety radio status; potential Act Council tax proposal; and other issues on which Commissioner Sever represents the City at the county level.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

**WILLIAM B. HARTSOCK, Mayor**  
**PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer**

Public: April 16, 2000