

# BBS

THE  
BULLETIN  
BOARD  
SERVICES  
MAGAZINE

September 1995

US \$3.95  
Canada \$4.95  
70992-35460

5th Anniversary Issue

## how to **Launch** a **BBS** the right way

by John Hedtke

WWW  
Telnet BBSs  
Sharewareing  
bbs.notebook





## Worldgroup's Their Oyster: Galacticomm's ISVs Deliver the Goods

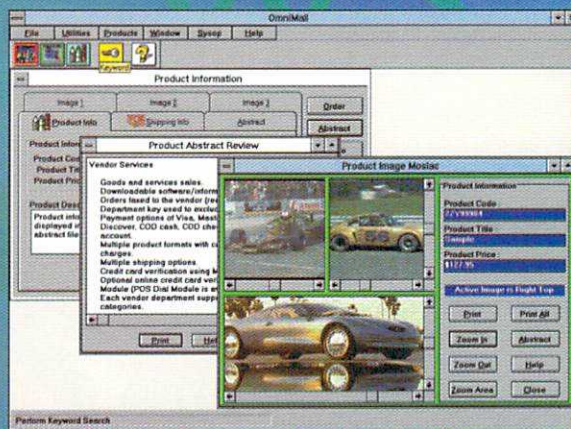
As promised, Galacticomm's Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) are serving up new applications for the Worldgroup client/server software with an initial batch of 24 cool tools and apps that offer both sex appeal and hard-core functionality.

"...basically, client/server extensions of every nature can be linked through the Internet or via regular dial-up modem or ISDN lines," said Scott Brinker, Galacticomm CEO. "And this is really just the first wave of Worldgroup extensions. We're aware of a number of incredible new products that are in the early development stages."

Says Brinker, with the openness of Worldgroup's client/server platform, "ISVs — or an organization's own staff — can create these applications easily using our Client/Server Developer's Kit with Visual Basic and Borland C++."

Some of the Worldgroup extensions include two online shopping packages (with JPEG photo support) that permit credit card orders to be processed while the caller's online — MEGA Market by American Banking Systems and Omni-

Mall by DataSafe. A new document archiving database with support for Adobe Acrobat files, giving publishers the tools to display documents online in their original format — ALEX



Document Management by Parallax Development. A voice/image conferencing package lets users speak in their own voices with other users around the world, accompanied by their photograph — TeleTalk by CineCom. A new xBASE compiler allows organizations to design and implement relational database applications, with photos and WAV sound files, to be accessed online — xBasic by BSI Technologies.

Other applications include paging software for integrating personal pagers with Worldgroup, multiplayer games and various utilities.

Though ISVs (third parties) have been known to make a mediocre product a good one, their task here is significantly different, as the Worldgroup package itself is a brilliant and graphi-

## Happy Birthday, BBS

Half a decade ago, a little monthly magazine was born with just 40 pages, no staff writers, two colors and a meek system of distribution — word of mouth. Called *BBS Callers Digest* in those days, the magazine's original goal was to inform the growing number of BBS callers about the best ways to access this new online world. (The more things change...)

"We hope to bring you the most up-to-date information concerning your next call to a local or long distance BBS," wrote publisher Richard Paquette in the first issue. "We will try to inform

you of ways to make each and every call more productive, but mostly more efficient."

The feature story christening issue one looked into Mark Herring's Qmail 4. Columns covered PCBoard, Wildcat!, TBBS, RelayNet, Interlink, and Intelec; there was an "Answer Man" fielding heavy questions about the difference between extensions ARC and GIF.

A utilities column looked at programs like COPYDISK and FormatQM while a "What's New!" story discussed the entrance of BBSers into the fax

age when sysop Andy Keeves' first BBS/Fax gateway transmission succeeded.

Five years on, the magazine's got a new name, broader focus, more pages, flashy color, and a worldwide distribution.

It's nearly impossible to enumerate the changes the magazine has experienced since 1990. Even more difficult would be to predict what will happen in the next five, except to say we'll still be offering readers a choice of the best ways to communicate, inform, play and learn in the non-physical world.

