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BBS

THE
BULLETIN
BOARD
SERVICES
MAGAZINE

March 1996

US \$4.95

Canada \$5.95

70992-35460

the Internet Grab

**Making
Friends in
AlphaWorld**

bbs.notebook

**Microsoft
Gets
Netted**

**AT&T, MCI
and Sprint
prepare
to do battle
for your
online time**

Worldgroup on a Budget



Sysops in Australia are waging a battle against Telstra Corporation, Ltd., the principal telephone company in Australia, after receiving notice that their telephone line rental rates would be increased by 96% as of Feb. 1, 1996. Telstra, which recently launched their own Internet Service, "On Australia," changed their Basic Carriage Service Tariff to include all bulletin board systems in the same category as "Information Service Providers." The change in the tariff allowed the company to change the billing status of part-time and hobbyist boards

Sysop-Telco Battle Down Under

from residential to business rates. The current "residential rate" sysops pay is \$139.80 a year per phone line, which would be increased to \$274.80 per year under the business rates. BBS callers also pay for their BBSing, as local calls are 25 cents each, billed through Telstra.

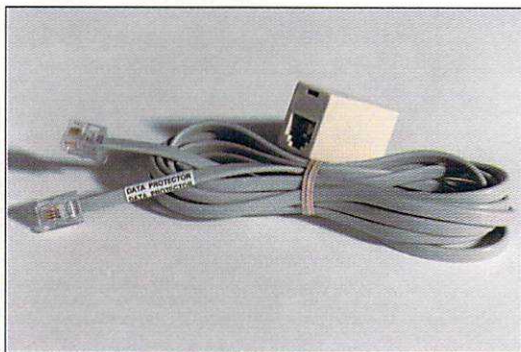
Sysops whose boards were listed in the Australian Bulletin Board Registry received a registered letter from Telstra informing them of the rate change. The "Registry" as it is known, is a voluntary listing created ten

years ago and maintained to resolve the problem of obsolete BBS lists in Australia and currently lists over a thousand active boards. The Registry is published on a monthly basis in Australia's Fidonet's BBS_News conference, and two magazines, *Australian PC* and *Your Computer*, also publish monthly updates of the list.

Frustrated and angry sysops responded both online and off by using Telstra's only competitor, Optus, for local and STD calls, and organizing a petition to protest the

actions taken by Telstra. The major complaint is that the majority of BBSs are hobbyist in nature and shouldn't be considered businesses. Other complaints are over the use of the BBS Registry, and that AUSTEL (the Australian Telecommunications Authority) hadn't been consulted before Telstra initiated its decision. AUSTEL is the government telecommunications watchdog, similar to the FCC in the United States. Currently, Telstra is reviewing their decision and may limit the increase in costs to only multiple-line BBS systems.

— by Gaelyne Moranec



neither should Data Protector from Dalco Products.

Place the Data Protector line cords on the trouble-making extensions and they are simply blocked out of access. This will prevent eavesdropping during voice calls, too.

The Data Protector goes for \$16.95 with discounts on the purchase of more than three.

For more information contact Dalco Products in Roberts, WI at 715.749.0160.

What's POP-ing at ExecNet

Saying it's something "long overdue for ExecNet," ExecNet BBS/ISP President Andy Keeves is establishing

two POPs (Points of Presence) serving five New York City boroughs in an effort to reduce regional customers' telephone bills.

The POPs will allow ExecNet callers to access the global information of the Net and the local content the

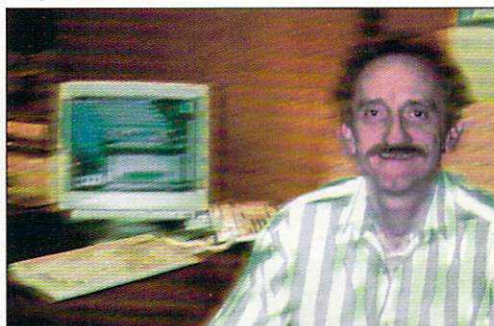
online service with a local call.

Keeves' move — though not the first by a BBS sysop — indicates the continuing shift by sysops toward expanding "local" callership beyond the standard range of a regular local call.

ExecNet charges a \$14.95 flat monthly rate for access to the BBS and 36 hours of Internet.

For more information, con-

Andy Keeves



tact ExecNet at 914.667.2150 or call the service at 914.667.4567. For details on availability of the POPs, send email to support@execnet.com.

Automating the Office

Small company or large, keeping track of who's where is always a hassle. Unless you know about Who's Where.

That's "Who's Where" from Core Technology Corp., developers of this new office automation software that lets everyone in the office know when Jim's out to lunch, Cindy's on a coffee break and when Bob's meeting with Mr. Topman again about that raise.

Working over DOS, Windows, NT, Workgroups and Windows 95, the system operates through LANs and WANs with NetBIOS or IPX network protocols — the latest version includes integration with standard email packages and TCP/IP protocol support.

A component of Core Tech's Core Suite of soft-

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