The American Family That Lives Here Doesn't Have To Pay for TV Programming

The residents of the White House are one of the few American Families that don't have to pay for TV programming to get the latest in world news. They have access to the best news gathering teams that your tax dollars can pay for . . . round the clock intelligence reports from the CIA, the FBI, the Secret Service and other government agencies.

Most Senators, Congressmen, Judges, and other government officials have similar access to the latest news, either through government agencies or cable programming - again, paid for with your tax dollars.

Every other family or household in America is on its own against the unfair trade practices of the cable monopoly. Of course, there is always the home satellite dish - but since Congress passed laws making it a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment to attempt to get the daily news from satellite without proper authorization, most people don't use them anymore.

Americans get most of their daily news of events in the world from TV - TV that is increasingly controlled by the unregulated cable monopoly that not only controls the distribution of programming in most cities, but also controls the content and pricing of the programming it airs.

The free flow of news and information is important to the freedom and growth of a society. We only have to look to recent events in China to see what can happen when the press is controlled. And we do have a controlled press in this country - at least to the extent of cable TV. TV has changed American society - cable programming can affect the knowledge, opinions, buying and voting habits of its viewers. Now monopoly control of the content and distribution of programming may turn TV into a tool for brainwashing the public.

We believe that Americans should be concerned about the nationwide cable monopoly, and what the future of TV controlled by a private monopoly can mean to the freedoms this country was founded on. Let your Congressmen know that you want the cable monopoly stopped.

For more information about the nationwide cable monopoly, and it's effort to stamp out competition and influence Congress, read the Satellite Watch Newsletter. Call 1-800-321-3845 for a free sample. Subscriptions just $30.00. The battle for free TV in America may be the last chance citizens have to hold on to the freedoms that this country was founded on. Once TV is under the total control of the monopoly, they will have the power to redefine reality. We urge concerned citizens to contact their Congressmen and let them know how you feel about this issue.
The 6th annual congress of Hamburg's Chaos Computer Club (CCC) was held on 27-29 December 1989 in Hamburg. The recent political development in Germany also influences the hacker scene; only after a controversial debate, the organizers denied a suggestion to move the congress to East Berlin. Among the about 300 visitors, about 50 people were from East Germany. A few foreign visitors came from France, Netherlands and USA. The congress was male-dominated, with a growing female participation (about 40). The other major German hacker groups (from Bavaria, Cologne) were not present.

Following trends of the 5th CCC congress, themes relating to computer security were less dominant. As CCC members and congress organizers age and their professional background dominates (a significant part works in computing), the political impact of computerization becomes dominant, not only under a revised West/East German scenario. Even the presentation of computer security changes: invited speakers with solid scientific background lecture in traditional style, some even with overhead folios from international conferences; even a state attorney (responsible for the case FRG vs. S. Wernery re hacking!) participated in a surprisingly fair and open discussion on criminal law against hacking.

Major themes were:
- info about computerisation and network infrastructure in East Germany
- cooperation with East German computer freaks
- cooperation with eco-groups
- 'female computer handling'
- KGB-hacker 'Hagbard'
- Security in open networks (2 invited speakers)
- Hacker ethics and Harper's Hacker Conference (Cap'n Crunch)
- Free Flow of Information, Copyright
- UNIX discussions: several workshops, UUCP
- Virus Forum II.

Several sessions were devoted to the state and possible developments of computers + communication (c+c) in East Germany. With insufficient computers and a outdated telephone net, CCC appealed to the German public to donate unused equipment (C64, Apple II, PCs) to eastern groups. As substitute of the insufficient telephone net, the recently installed 'packet radio' should be used for computer communication; pc-communication with packet-radio was demonstrated at the exhibition. As a start of computerization, CCC plans to hold another congress (Kaos Kommunikation Kongress) in East Berlin early in 1990.
Representatives of the East German citizen movement, esp. from 'New Forum' discussed possible developments. Many participants (most oriented towards the left wing of the political spectrum) advised the East Germans not willingly to follow West German ccc industry and public authorities (Telakom) to install traditional technology; as an example, ISDN is widely criticized because it neglects data protection laws.

Following discussions on CCC congress 88, several projects of ecological data processing and communication started (e.g. data collection in the environment of industry and nuclear power plants). CCC and some eco-groups plan to install an information center on a ship during the EEC's North Sea conference (March 1990). A special session and workshop was also devoted to female computer-handling: a group of male (30) and female (20) participants discussed the role and attitudes of women in education and profession; similar discussions in national and international conferences (e.g. IFIP TC-9) may point to revised design principles (e.g. reduced complexity, possible plausibility control).

Only a minor part of the congress was devoted to traditional hacker themes. Suprisingly, CCC did not follow its tradition to extensively discuss hacker experiences of the last year. The KGB hack (broadly published in March, 1989) was *no theme*; instead, a session was devoted to the memory of Karl Koch alias 'Captain Haybard', one of Cliff Stoll's 'Wild Hackers' (CACM 5/1988) who, after having been at the public authorities as one of 2 chief witnesses in the case, committed suicide. 3 personal friends (without any interest in computing) and PENGO (the other chief witness) described Riedel's's story, full of family problems and addictions (drug, hacking). The role of the media as well as CCC's role (part of which had strongly denied any contact to the crackers) was controversially discussed.

Btw: the trial against KGB hackers will begin on Jan 11, 1990.

A whole 4 hour session was devoted to 'Security in open networks', with Dr. Raubold (director in GMD, the national research institute for computers and communication) and Dr. Pfitzmann (Karlsruhe, Faculty for Informatics) introducing into technologies of encryption (DES, RSA) and of secure communication in open networks; the 20 participants which stayed until the end were mainly students of Informatics and programmers.

'Cap'n Crunch' reported about the recent electronic conference which was sponsored by Harp's; the results will be published in this magazine early in 1990 (Ed- March) (survey documents in English available on request). More will be demonstrated, via AT&T operator switched connection, Picture-Phone.

Virus Forum II (1989) was intended to show the developments since Forum I (1985) where CCC made viruses publicly known in FRG. Ralf Burger (author of a Virus Book, where he published also virus code including a MVS/370 virus) and Wau Holland (CCC's founding father), Juergen Wieckmann (editor of Chaos Computer Book) and K.Brunnstein discussed trends of viruses. Meanwhile, more than 80 viruses are known on INTEL 80xxx-systems, and more than 70 on several 68.000-systems as AMIGA, Atari and Macintosh. Viruses are found to grow from 'families', the descendents of which are even more difficult to analyse and produce growing damages.

While the participants agreed in the threat assessment, there was significant disagreement about the consequences. Burger argued that anybody can program a virus; publication of virus code does not contribute to the virus threat. Brun­nstein argued strongly against, that many young programmers learn to program viruses mainly from published code which they change slightly to produce there own virus; even if they program a virus for learning purposes, they loose control when it spreads via the friends' diskettes. Virus publication as part of virus distribution presents severe threats to data processing in economy, public services and private life.

IFIP General Assembly

Another controversy raised when Burger told the audience: 'My antivirus finds every virus'; unfortunately, he did not accept a bet from the audience to prove his promise. Burger also said, that he needs only one hour to detect and eliminate any anomaly; this differed significantly from the 250 hours which according to Brunstein are needed to analyse and classify a complex virus and to produce the proper antivirus.

Some participants from the audience differentiated between: the good use of viruses and bad use. It could be Good Use of viruses against unacceptable activities, such as nuclear weapons or state activities such as census. Following such ideas, Wau Holland said that the existence of viruses gives a chance to analyse whether they are 'socially acceptable'.

The 'electronic newspaper', which reports the major discussions of CCC '89, was significantly more professionally organised than last year; it was produced by the team of CHAotland, CCC's newly (1989) founded electronic newspaper, as edition no.4. Due to the minor foreign participation, most documents are German, with only two documents are written in English (Capt.Crunch's report on the Harper Hacker Conference, and the IFIP General Assembly's resolution on legal activities against viruses). There may be an English translation of the CCC newspaper in some time (yearly February); I will send a short notice to PGN when this is available. People interested in the German version (794 Lines, 97Kbytes) or the English documents (135 Lines, 6Kbytes) can request it from the author.

Conclusion: CCC and its constituency is on the way to professionalism. On this way, CCC may loose control and even contact to real hacker groups, which they previously hold in cases such as Btx and NASA hack; in the KGB case, CCC evidently had neither information nor control of the crackers. On the other hand, CCC's propagation of UNIX enlarges the threats inherent in UUCP and the UNIXes.

Klaus Brunstein University of Hamburg, FRG January 3, 1990