1984, JOIN THE PARTY OF YOUR CHOICE!
by Cheshire Catalyst

Brave New Conference

The “Brave New Con” is being set up in the mold of a "science fiction convention". This "SF Con" is basically a weekend-long excuse for a party, with speakers and other program items. It is being held from 1984 January 13-15. It will be held at the Sheraton International Conference Center in Reston Virginia, about 30 miles outside of Washington DC, and free transportation from Dulles airport for guests. The Sheraton Hotel Directory at Sheraton should have a map for finding it. Rooms are $46 a night for a single, double, triple, or quad. Bring your friends and save some money.

I’ve been asked to put on the computer games exhibit, and with help from the New York Metro area software pirate, Dragon Lady, we’ll be setting up the convention on the same floor that we got to use for the TAP conference last year. There will be parties. The film program will include science fiction classics in 16mm, and laserdisk video of anything they can legally obtain. War-gaming (the board game variety, not movie style) will be available as well.

Convention registration is $12 at the door. Dragons and I will be hosting a party at your local Sheraton Saturday evening, and I’ll be dragging along some full "bricks" of all the back issues. Anyone who will buy a full set will get all the back issues from issue 1 (June 1971) should drop me a postcard to let me know how many "bricks" they’d like to drag along. They’re fifty bucks a piece.

The New Year’s Eve party I had planned back in March of ‘83, “1984 - The Party” died for lack of interest, but not before I had gone out to get membership cards printed so people could be Card Carrying Members of The Party (1984 style). Anyone showing up at our party in Reston will get one of these souvienne keepsakes.

And for the Europeans who can’t make it:

Euro-Party ‘84

After reading an interview with an American computer hacker in the 1983 November 14 issue of Der Spiegle, the Euro-Seminar company of Munich got in touch with the hacker and asked him if he would like to lecture at their 2 day seminar on Computer Crime in Munich in March. "Sure," I said, "but can you get me literature about your company by this Friday?" "Why Friday?" they asked. "Because on Saturday I am being interviewed by West German television for their documentary on "Computers in America" to be aired in Germany on 1984 March 30th."

With that, they got me the literature by Friday, and changed the dates of the seminar to use the airplay for publicity. As a result, I’ll be spending Saturday, 1984 April 7th at the Frankfurt Airport Sheraton. I’m hoping to get a hold of all the films that were entered into the Telecom ’83 Golden Antenna Awards to show on Saturday Afternoon.

If anyone would care to join me for this 16mm party, please drop me a postcard so I have some idea of how big a room to rent. In the mail we’ve gotten since the Der Spiegle article was published, alot of the people have asked how they can get together with others in their area. Well, we don’t give out people’s addresses, even to other subscribers, so here’s your chance to get together with others that just want to meet and discuss out-of-the-ordinary subjects. Please make your own reservations with the Hotel if you plan to stay overnight, and discuss with your reservation the TAP group, and it may get you a reduced rate. I’m negotiating with them via telex as I go to deadline.

Frankfurt was chosen because it has the best airline connections in that part of Europe. The hotel was chosen for its good parking for drivers, and train connections between Frankfurt and the Airport. Latest intelligence reports indicate that it has an indoor pool (which just may influence the decision a bit. The pool party will be Sunday afternoon). Attendees will be asked to contribute US$10 (one charge) per person to help defray costs in setting this up.

As at Brave New Con above, if you’d like a complete set of back issues, let me know, and I’ll bring along as many "bricks" as I get requests. These "bricks" are usually found between 9900 and 9999 in your local exchange. If you have the time and initiative, scan your exchange and you may become lucky!

Here are my findings in the 914-268 exchange:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange Scanning (99xx)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9701 - Verification (recording of a/c and exchange)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9727 - Dsr. tone (possible tone side of a loop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9776 - Voice # to the Telco central office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9917 - Voice # to the Telco central office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9941 - Computer (digital voice transmission?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9960 - Dsc. tone (tone side loop) — may also be a computer in some exchanges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9961 - No response (other end of loop?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9962 - No response (other end of loop?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9963 - No response (other end of loop?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9964 - Computer (see 9941)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9968 - Tone that disappears — responds to certain touch-tone keys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of the numbers between 9900 & 9999 will ring, go to a "what #, please?" operator, or will go to "you have reached a non-working..." # recording.

What you find depends upon the switching equipment in the exchange and the Telco operating company.

Since I have done the above 914-268-99XX scan, Longers (1983) has installed new switching equipment (DS1000). Some of the numbers are different, but we have noticed that on the DS1000, the recordings are all different recordings. Also, there are 2 pipe tone recordings at 268-9911 (deposit 5 cents or less) and 268-9913 (deposit 10 cents).

In some areas (like Delaware), I have noticed that 9997-57 is ringback. If you find anything interesting, be sure to drop me a line.

I'm not planning to pack my 9957-2767 in store for you!
Getting Sprint Numbers

Many times it is a good idea to have a few Sprint or MCI numbers in case your regular (stolen) account gives out. There are several methods to getting free accounts, each having a different degree of difficulty and risk.

The easiest is to hook a recorder to the earpiece of your telephone (which is illegal by the way). If you own a Bell phone and call up your local common carrier and listen for cross-talk. If it is a good night then you can hear the other party perfect (but they can't hear you) and after they hang up stay on the line. This is accomplished by hitting a digit to stop the tone and then pushing reset (# or *) before the system dumps you and you will hear the next caller enter his access and destination numbers. Make a tape of as many of these as possible on a good tape recorder, such as a tape deck. This method counts on luck somewhat since strong cross-talk isn't always available.

Another method is to put a tap on the line of a subscriber, but this is rather tedious. However if you know where your local common carrier office is then you can put a tap on one of their incoming lines. It would be a good idea to put a cycling one minute timer on the recorder, since your tape would get all "clogged up" from the talk between two callers. This method can also be used to get calling card numbers by tapping calling card phones. Who knows you might even get a WATS extender or two in the process!

Once you get the recordings you must translate them into numbers. I have included a schematic diagram for a PLL tone recognition device, ready for your immediate use, misuse and abuse. The outputs can be wired to LEDs or other output devices such as a computer.

If you don't (or can't) make one, you can still use the numbers you have aquired. Just re-tape the first 6 or 8 digits onto another tape and then play it to the net after you have dialed then up. Then put in your destination number and away you go.

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RS-232, GETTING THE "STANDARD INTERFACE" TO WORK

by Cheshire Catalyst

Every computer on the market these days is "RS-232" compatible, but what the fuck is RS-232, and why is it such hot shit? The RS-232 standard stands for Recommeded Standard (original aren't they). The RS series of standards is promulgated by the EIA (Electronic Industry Association). ANSI (American National Standards Institute) has a standard called ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange). ASCII is a standard method for representing the letters and numbers, the characters, that make up the English language. The method for translating English characters through modems over telephone lines, is to output the data out an RS-232 port to the modem, which sends the data over the telephone line. At the other end, the data comes in from the telephone line, and the modem passes the data through an RS-232 port to the receiving device. A serial interface is a connection that allows computer devices to communicate with each other one bit at a time. Therefore, you only need one line for data out and one line for data in. The RS-232 standard is used so that only three wires are necessary for data to flow.

The standard says there are two sides to the connection. The DTE (Data Terminal Equipment) and the DCE (Data Computer Equipment). The main thing to remember is that things are kept track of from the Data Terminal Equipment's point of view. Therefore, when Pin 2 says it is Transmitted Data, it is sent from the Terminal to the Computer (DTE to DCE). When Pin 3 is described as Received Data, it is received by the DCE (DCE to DTE). Pin 17 is the only other pin that NEEDS to be connected to make communications possible. That's the line called Signal Ground. The RS-232 standard mentions what voltage levels go through the pins, and sets up what goes over the 22 other pins, but for most purposes, connecting these three pins will be all you need to do.

But what happens when you do that, and it still doesn't work? The first thing to do is to reverse pins 2 & 3. Some terminals (VT-100, for instance) think they are such whopoe-do stuff, that they have their connectors hooked up as DCE. In this case, a "null-modem" is used to line up data, but have a connector in the middle that will swap pins 2 & 3. If you tried swapping them and it still doesn't work, there is one more surefire thing to do.

When hooking up your terminal to a modem or computer (or hooking up your home computer to act as a terminal with a modem or mainframe computer), one of these modems are obnoxious enough to want to see a signal on pin 20 which is called Data Terminal Ready. Most dumb terminals (and many home computers) are made so cheaply, that they don't have these signals on their connectors. The only thing you can do is a hardware hack that will "fool" the DCE into thinking that it has a DTR signal. If the device is obnoxious enough to want DTR, it will be smart enough to supply a signal called Data Set Ready (DSR) on pin 6. If you run a wire from pin 6 to pin 20 on the connector that gets plugged into the modem or computer, it will "see" its own signal, thinking it came from the terminal device, it should then happily crunch away (if your pins 2 & 3 are connected back the right way).

One happy little device is called "The Break Out Box." You plug one end into your terminal, and the other end gets the cable that would have been plugged into your terminal, and you get to throw a switch for each of the 25 pins on the connector. If you need to swap 2 & 3, you throw the switches so the signal can't get through, and then take a batch wire from pin 20 on one side to pin three on the other, again for the other connection, and there you have it neat and clean. Then if you need to switch 6 & 20, you just plug in the wire! Unfortunately, you can't find a good break out box for less than a hundred bucks. One good source for this sort of stuff is The Black Box Company, PO Box 1289, Pittsburg PA, 15234. Write them for catalog.
HOW (IS WHY) I TESTIFIED ON BEHALF OF PA BELL

by Cheshire Catalyst

The New York Telephone Company is about to split area code 212 into two regions, Manhattan and the Bronx will remain area 212, and Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island (herein referred to as "The Other Boroughs") will become the geographical representations of area code 718.

While this is being done for purely technical reasons (like they're running out of exchanges), the New York State Public Service Commission decided that Public Statement Hearings would be held. This means you have the opportunity to present opinions on the matter, but have no effect on the outcome. The date came for the Hearing, and public interest in the decision was making itself manifest already. There had been a discussion in the neighborhood of the affected boroughs. I didn't make it to the circuses in The Other Boroughs, but I made it to the one at the PSC Hearing room at the World Trade Center.

I had tried to get a friend of mine from the Telecon Library (a great mail-order book store, write for a catalog at 205 W 19 St 9th-flr, New York 11761) and tell 'em Cheshire sent you) to testify instead, but he was too busy. I don't have the luxury of time. It isn't enough to just want to testify myself, because being as close to the issue as I am, I try to shy away from being a part of any legitimate press representatives. Besides, if they ever show up, there will be a bunch of new knowledgeable Consumer Representatives hanging out in the halls of the PSC come rate hearing time, and it's a good idea to prefer to hold out. But no one ever got to do it, and no one else who had the time had my expertise of bringing it off in a hearing room. The kind of opportunity comes by only once in twenty years, however, and I wasn't about to let it pass by.

I took the place of "Clark Kent" glasses I keep around for such pressing occasions. I was an ill mannered Computer Communications Consultant from the Upper West Side, I went in and testified on behalf of The Phone Company. That's right. In favor of the split. After all, it is a technical consideration they want this for, and we are certainly in favor of the technological expansion of The Network.

And besides, most of my calls to Brooklyn and Queens are done by my computer, or autodialer. The four digits (1-718) won't mean much to me. However, I did mention that the four extra digits (1-718) will probably be an inconvenience to the little old ladies and gentlemen, and their civic organizations that were represented in the hearing room. One thing other I mentioned as well.

It was twenty years ago at the New York World's Fair when my parents dragged me around Flushing Queens. I specifically recalled one Bell System exhibit that asked me to dial my home phone number in Upstate New York (this being the area code) on the rotary dial while it timed me. Then it timed me while I punched in the same number. As unfamiliar as I was then with Touch Tone, my dialing time was cut in less than half.

Therefore, with de-regulation coming in a few short months, shouldn't The Phone Company rework the pricing changes for Touch Tone service in exchange for permitting the split area codes. After all, it has been twenty years since Touch Tone was introduced. Surely all exchanges could by now accommodate to TT with very little hassle (herein refers to as "The Other Boroughs") will become the geographical representations of area code 718.

VENDING MACHINE KEYS

by The Pyro

This worked for a friend of mine at school (I would never do anything like this) it got him over $900 in one day.

Here's how to do it:

On almost all vending machines they have those round almost unbreakable locks on them so

When no one is looking quickly press a piece of hardened clay into the lock. (Press hard enough to get a good impression.)

Remove the clay carefully and let it dry for however long the clay has to dry for as specified on the package.

You now have a key to fit that lock, (this type of key can be easily crushed if you're seen. But if you're smart you won't though)

Have Phun!!
Many of the department stores in my area use a large plastic device stapled to clothing as a security precaution. Several years ago, an adventurous friend of mine got hold of one of these somehow, and we took it apart. Inside was a heavy paper strip laminated to aluminum foil (\(\text{\textcopyright}\)). As I recall, this paper strip was about half an inch wide and 3-1/2 inches long. When this device got close to a pillar or column at the exits of a store, an alarm would sound.

My friend put this paper in his wallet, and we had a lot of fun wandering in and out of various stores at a local shopping center. We would enter when a group of people would enter, or exit with several other shoppers all together, when we entered a local Sears. In the shopping center in the main corridor of the indoor mall, a loud bell rang. A family with kids was just leaving. The nearest clerk ran out the entrance to look at everyone standing around. A plain clothes security guy appeared out of nowhere. Everyone had a good time. The next store we went in was also packed with people and the Manager (\(\text{\textcopyright}\)) got paranoid when the alarm went off. If you move about discreetly and don't wear a jacket or a coat, you can live up the busiest of stores. But don't go into an empty store with one of these in your wallet. That's a no-no.

Could you please secure a quantity of these paper strips and send them out with your next issue? Or offer them for sale? They can be great fun, especially in a Christmas mob. The one we had came unlaminated and wouldn't work any more. This might be a great money maker for TAP. You might even want to devote an entire issue to this neat gadget. These strips could be left inside candy wrappers and placed near these detector columns or pillars, or near a paper near a pillar. The uses and fun could be endless. The ringing of the alarm could also be endless. A good senior class project would be to freak out every alarm in every store so equipped, at 2 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon when the shopping mall is really packed. Please have your security committee go to work on getting a couple million of these things so that everyone can have several. It's more fun than going to the movies.

Dear Purchasers

At this, the end of my first year putting together this publication, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have been reading and enjoying it. Some of you have even written me to ask for more. I am glad to hear this, and I promise to do my best to keep you all interested.

I want to make sure everyone believes their phone is working when it is not. I have an idea that might help: Is there a dial-tone generator block anywhere? I think so. I will try to be more specific next time.

Secondly, you know the access keys those big copiers need when their use is to be limited? They're about 3 x 3 inches and have a counter. Does anybody have the circuit? Can I just jump the pins? I haven't been able to try it.

Regarding the money-drawer alarms described in one of the last issues (these are contact switches through which the total bill is passed): banks have them in no lower a drawer than the 20's. A way to heist a drive-in teller (even video-operated ones) is to have a friend pull up in a cab with you in back. Threaten to kill the cabby unless the teller sends out all the tens and twenties, period. Chances are they won't have a drawer alarm and it'll be fast.

You can save a cheap rate in Asian hotels by asking for the embassy discount when you make your reservation. This can be done from the airport when you arrive. You might even get a car sent. The Dana Hotel in Bangkok is a great one. When computing around the Third World, lay Playboys in your suitcase where they'll be the first things Customs will see. They will accept them as "gifts" and promptly return to you your luggage and any sensitive material inside.

Want free SCUBA gear? Sign up for a class where the student must pick up the gear for the pool sessions. Never go back.

T.A.P.
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"Middle East? Hell, no. I'm calling the Dial-a-Porn Hotline!"