



Senior computer operator Mark Debelich, foreground, and acting operations administrator Alberto Bartolomei carrying out tests on the new AARNet. Photo by Verna Costello

A world of information will soon be at our finger tips

CALM soon will be able to gain access to information worldwide through its membership of Academic and Research Network (AARNet), the Australian component of the international network INTERNET.

It is useful to think of INTERNET not as one network, but more like a collection of networks, that includes AARNet.

According to INTERNET, we will be able to gain access to "megabytes of data on almost any topic imaginable," and "in addition to searching online databases, you can carry on discussions with colleagues worldwide, participate in discussion groups, subscribe to electronic journals, and collect free software".

INTERNET'S resource catalogue lists more than 300 resources on topic areas such as biology, chemistry, computer science,

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environment, forestry, health, nutrition, oceanography, physics and many more.

CALM's membership means these vast resources of information will be available to those staff whose personal computers are connected to the local area network (LAN)

We will be able to move whole pages, documents and files from all over the world on to our personal computers.

Electronic mail (e-mail) is an example of one of INTERNET's time and paper-saving features.

CALM staff will be able to 'mail' messages to anyone in Australia who is connected to AARNet or anyone around the world who is connected to INTERNET.

Within minutes, for example, a letter can be sent and delivered, and a re-

sponse received almost immediately.

Apart from running our own e-mail lists we can be placed on the e-mail lists of any number of other member organisations.

With e-mail it is just as easy to send a message to a group of people as it is to send it to one person.

CALM staff will also be able to gain access to any computer in the world that is connected to INTERNET.

Many organisations, such as libraries and universities, allow access to information on their computers.

Information Systems branch manager Bevan Kerr says CALM's membership costs \$5 500 a year, but when weighed against the cost of mail, phone calls, faxes and time saved gaining access to the world's information, the savings are considerable.

And the more we use AARNet and INTERNET, the cheaper each

use becomes.

INTERNET's guide tells us that its networks are in more than 40 countries, and rapidly expanding.

Eastern European and even the poorer Third World countries are looking at ways to take part in a means of raising the education and technology levels.

Further information on AARNet or INTERNET is available from Information Systems branch on (09) 334 0257.

There is a lighter side to INTERNET - for example, let's suppose you've worked long into the night and find you have to prepare your evening meal.

And let's also suppose you've lost your favourite recipe for Loubia B. Luz (Algerian green beans with almonds), and that nothing else will do; no problem - the recipe, both German and English will be at your fingertips. Bon appetit!



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