

Random Ramblings No.2

BY PAUL MONTGOMERY

For those of you who were left hanging by my last column, I won't keep you waiting any longer. To access COSMOS, you must call up the COSMOS computer dialup which serves your area. Two dialups in the Southern California area are: (714) 549-4941 and 549-4954. When you call in at 300 baud, hit <RETURN> and the computer will respond: LOGIN;

You must type in an account name (NOTE: All user input is underlined. Computer response is capitalized), as described in my previous column.

The computer will then log you in, and print a message welcoming you to the system. If the computer asks for a password, guess it. If it gives you an invalid account message, keep trying different accounts. The computer will now say WC?. It wants you to tell it what Wire Center database you want to access. Wire Center codes are two letters long. You can obtain the WC Code for a prefix by calling the COSMOS number given when you sign on. Say you are at the Frame or the Test Board and the Janitor threw it away by mistake, or what ever. Here is what it looks like after you type it in:

WC? AA
AAx

AA is the Wire Center. X indicates that it is online. Now you get to type in a command. ISH and SIR are the only ones I will explain today. The other commands take up 400 pages in the COSMOS manual. Lets say you wanted to find out what you could on 555-1234. Here is what it looks like:

AAx ISH
H TN 555-1234

H means Hunt (Through the database); TN stands for Trunk Number (Telephone Number); 555-1234 is the TN, and the . tells it to print out the info. You can give it Cable/Pair numbers, or Private Line circuit numbers instead of telephone numbers by typing:

H CP 11-4321 or H PL FBI4517JB

CP means Cable/Pair and PL means private line. The number following is the cable/pair and the private line number respectively. This is all done following the ISH command.

SIR is handy when you want to find all of the telephone company numbers that never leave the Central Office. This is called House Cable. You can print out all these phone numbers by typing:

AAx SIR
H SE HOUSE-CABLE (or a variation like HSE-CA, it's up to the CO)

Don't forget the . (period). Lets say you don't know your dialup, or can't figure out an account. Call your test board, Central Office, Line Assigner, and Frame. All these people have dialup numbers and account/passwords to COSMOS is in use in your area. Tell them you are so and so from the COSMOS Data Center and you've noticed illegal access attempts, and ask who is having the problem, etc. Then ask for the account and password so you can do an online check to see if the computer is malfunctioning. Make up a good story. These people also know the WC codes.

If you manage to get logged onto BIN, ROOT, or SYS, type this, and it should print out all the accounts and encrypted passwords on the whole system (Thanks to Ronnie Schnell for this info):
X CATA /ETC/PASSWD

Until next time, This is Captain COSMOS signing off, and wishing you the best of luck. Computer Technology is within our grasp (with a little help from TAP!). If you have any questions, suggestions or information, drop me a line. I pay for juicy tid bits for this column, just like a regular magazine does, you know.

Traffic 1: This land is my land

Mrs. Clifford Burger of Unionville, Iowa, says she is willing to do some horse trading after the county accidentally sold her part of a highway for \$5 at a tax sale.

"If they'll gravel over our lane at the farm I'll give them their highway back," she said. County officials say the sale should just be voided, but they can't figure out how to do it since everything was done legally. Mrs. Burger said a man from Missouri has offered \$4,500 for her part of the highway.

Fone co. sorry: wrong number

San Diego, Calif. — Pacific Telephone, as part of a project intended to improve service, changed the phone numbers of about 650 residents in the Pacific Beach area Wednesday.

There was a problem. The company didn't tell the customers their numbers were being changed.

A Pacific Telephone spokesman blamed the mishap on the breakdown of the company's postage machine.

"We were supposed to mail out the final notices telling people their new numbers and about the change, but the letters couldn't be posted," a spokesman said yesterday.

TAP

Room 603

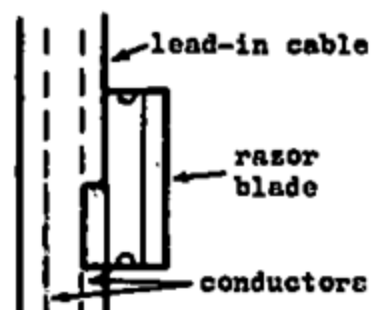
147 W. 42 St.

New York 10036

MARCH 1982 No.73

Rip-offs, Screws and Outright Swindles

Ma Bells Dimension PBX has opened a new dimension in PBX phreaking. All one needs in a t-tone fone and a buisness with a dimension PBX. Call up the PBX at a late hour in the night, and if you get a dial tone you are in buisness. The dial tone is a new feature in the Dimension system, called the auto operator. It enables employees with a code # to use the PBX to make calls. Because of a fuck up in the ROM you can dial 1-2-3-4 in rapid succession and bypass the code #. Then dial 9 and you are on a regular line. If the area is equiped for international dialing you can even call over-seas. Another way to call for free is the old linemans trick of line hopping. If you have above ground lines and don't want to go pole climbing you can tap house lines by following the black lead-in wire from the pole to the house. Then use a pair of safety razor blades to cut into the wire as shown in the diagram.



Now clip on your test set and dial away. If you have underground cables all you need is a ratchet wrench or large chain nose pliers. There are two types of underground terminal boxes (cans). Old and new. The old ones are semi-circular and opened by removing a screw on the front top of the can. Now grasp the top of the can and pull up. These old models do not have terminal blocks and are full of loose wires. The little white things are connectors, and can be tapped through the hole in the top. A VOM probe that has been filed flat works well. The new cans are rectangular and are made to discourage nosey people. You must have a ratchet wrench to be able to remove the screw, which is located on the lower right - hand side. There is a lip on the bottom of the can. After removing the screw, pull straight up. The front of the can will move up 2", now pull out, and the cover comes off. The terminal block inside is ready to be clipped on. There is a SPRINT type of thing at 800-521-84XX (XX= 00 to 50). It has an 8 digit access code. When you hear the tone input your #. If you fuck up push * to reset and start over. The kicker is that if you call from a rotary fone or pay fone you wait 3 seconds and a computer comes on and ask s for the #. Just say the digits and the computer will register them. The beep you here after each number you say indicates that it has been registered. Its fun to play with and impresses your friends. Some people who thought Compuserve (Micronet) was too expensive visited a Trash 80 store and asked to see their Video-text software, which includes a free hour on Compuserve, and borrowed the password. After the free hour was up they used credit card#s and names (that were obtained by finding the carbons of charge slips) to continue the accounts. It takes 2-3 months for these accounts to be found. Jensen Tools now sells 3 types of linemans test sets although they are rather expensive. They also sell line tracers and other interesting stuff such as linman's roach clips (aligator clips that bite through insulation) at \$25 for a set, of 4.

The Stainless Steel Rat

Sex spray reportedly attracts women

VANCOUVER, B.C. — A Canadian company has developed a sex-spray-in-a-can that it says will do wonders for men on the make.

The company, Bodywise Products, says that a two-second spray — a little dab on the backle, shirt cuff or collar — of their British-developed male-hormone derivative will make women want the wearer badly for the next several days.

The spray has a "secret ingredient," androsterone, one of a family of chemicals called pheromones, which "broadcasts a powerful subconscious sexual call to women in the area," the company says.

The spray is "normally odorless. A woman wouldn't know why she's attracted, just that she wants to know the man better," the company says.

A 2.5-ounce can costs \$29.95 (three for \$80) and should last for about five months, the company says.



Homemade Fireworks Pt. 2
By The Magician

KAA--BAMMMMMMMMM

In issue 72, you were instructed on how to construct M-80s, Cherry Bombs etc. Pt. 2 of this article deals with more advanced firework construction. You are reminded to STRICTLY follow all the safety rules given in issue 72.

This article is for informational purposes only, and neither TAP or the author can take any responsibility for any damage or injury resulting from its use.

Let us start by discussing a fireworks favorite- rockets. The simplest type of rocket is a single match rocket which is very easily constructed as follows: Take a paper match from a match book and lay a pin flat and parallel on one side with the point resting about halfway up the head. Now take an approx. 1/2 by 3 inch piece of aluminum foil and roll it around the pin and match head with approx. 1/8 inch protruding beyond the end of the head. Now twist the 1/8 inch foil beyond the head into a little nose cone. Now, with your fingers form the entire aluminum foil VERY tightly around the pin and match, then slide the pin out leaving a little exhaust nozzle. Your rocket is now complete. In order to fire it, lay the rocket on a rock at an approx. 75 degree angle with the nose protruding in the air. Light another match and hold it under the nose, heating the foil. The match head inside will ignite, and with any luck (and practice) your cute match rocket will go 20 or more feet. Do not be discouraged by your first few being duds, it does take a knack, and a little bit of experimentation. Note: these rockets are very safe, just make sure you use them outdoors, and don't launch them into anything that can catch fire! Also, be sure to wear goggles and resist the temptation to use more than one match head. Using more than one, will NOT increase the distance at all and forms a very dangerous concussion sensitive explosive when confined.

More complex than the match rockets, are bottle rockets. Bottle rockets are made as follows:

roll from heavy paper, or buy from a distributor (see issue 72) a paper tube approx. 1 1/2 inches long by 3/16 inch inside diameter. take some modeling clay that hardens and, (using a dowel) on a hard flat surface push the clay down to the bottom of the tube forming an approx. 3/32 inch plug. Now fill the rocket approx. 3/4 full with a

mixture of approx. 18 parts potassium nitrate (NOT chlorate!), 3 parts sulfur, 4 parts charcoal dust, 1/2 part aluminum dust by weight. (Note: potassium Nitrate is used in place of Chlorate because rocket fuel mixture burns slower than exploding mixture, also it is ok to mix sulfur with potassium nitrate). If you wish the rocket to explode

at its' zenith, put a little bit of flash powder on top of the rocket fuel. Now seal the top with a wad of tissue paper dipped in glue. Take a thin metal rod with a point on the end and poke a VERY small nozzle hole in the clay plug on the bottom, and a little into the mixture. Take an approx. 3 inch piece of thin Chinese style paper fuse (available

from distributors) and push it up into the nozzle so that it reaches a bit into the powder mixture. Prime the nozzle with a tiny bit of flash powder, and put a drop of dextrine type glue to hold the fuse in. Allow to completely dry then tape or glue an approx. 8 inch light stick (Balsa etc.) to the side in order to guide the rocket in flight. The rocket is launched from pop bottles and is good for several hundred feet.

Whistle rockets are similar to bottle rockets except that don't use a nozzle, and use either potassium picric, or gallic acid for fuel. The construction of these rockets is difficult, and the chemicals involved are very hazardous, so best to buy them pre-built (where available).

The same goes for large sky rockets over 1 oz. their fuel is easy to make (variations on bottle rocket fuel) however their construction such as nozzle, center hole for fuel burn etc. requires special tools and is near impossible for an amateur.

Volcanos, fountains etc. are made as follows: Form a heavy cone by glue rolling paper (as described in Pt. 1 for cases), and leave a small hole on top. Insert 3/32 safety fuse in the hole, and put a drop of glue to hold it in. Fill the cone with a mixture of equal parts of magnesium

powder, zinc powder, powdered iron, powdered charcoal, powdered sulfur, and a double portion of potassium nitrate. Seal the wide bottom with a heavy card board disc, and glue. When lit, this spectacular firework will start with a little spray of sparks, and gradually grow (depending on how large you made it) to an incredible pyrotechnic shower of sparks going up to 10 feet or more in the sky, and raining down.

A very common fireworks device is sparklers. They are made as follows: Prepare a mixture of 2(parts potassium nitrate, 4 parts sulfur, 6 parts charcoal dust, 8 parts iron filings (approx. 40 mesh), 1 part aluminum dust (by weight). Now add the mixture to some shellac solution forming a very thick paste that will stick to the wire. Dip a stiff piece of wire into the paste, and coat thoroughly. (Experience will show you how to get just the right coating). Allow the sparklers to dry. A great many sparklers can be made at once this way.

At this point, I should tell you that any of these show type fireworks can be made to have color by adding a little strontium nitrate for red, barium chlorate for green, or copper sulfate for blue etc. (DO NOT use a sulfate with a chlorate! see Pt. 1.)

Dense military type smoke bombs can be made by the following mixture in a noncritical length paper tube either bought or rolled. Use relatively thin and loose paper end caps and safety fuse inserted. The smoke mixtures are, YELLOW: 5 parts potassium nitrate, 2 parts sulfur flour, 3 parts arsenic sulfide, red (very poisonous! Do not get on hands!). WHITE: 12 parts potassium nitrate, 16 parts sulfur flour, 1 part charcoal dust. OLIVE: Same as white but add a little arsenic sulfide, black.

You now have been exposed to the basics of homemade firework making. If you are really interested, read as much as possible (Ignore any book that recommends formulas involving mixtures of chlorates or perchlorates and sulfurs or sulfides. This is a good indication that the author does not know what he is talking about (see Pt. 1.) PLEASE! be careful. We do not need our elected officials to use you getting injured as an example for even stricter laws on fireworks. Lets keep fireworks a fun, safe tradition. Any questions, comments, new formulas etc. Mail to TAP, C/O The MAGICIAN

The Polygraph Test

Today, more than ever, the polygraph test is being used to intimidate and investigate the allegedly free citizens of our country. Although the polygraph test has been ruled too unreliable for use as evidence in court, its use by employers continues. Many large retailers require periodic tests to deter employee theft. Though supposedly used to check honesty, questions like DO YOU LIKE YOUR JOB? or else ARE YOU PLANNING TO QUIT SOON? are frequently slipped in.

The first thing you should know is that the machine doesn't detect lies. All it can do is measure your blood pressure, respiration rate, and skin conductivity. The examiner watches graphs of these functions and tries to guess if you're lying. Guess is the right word too.

The best thing to do is avoid polygraph test if possible. Refuse on the basis of religion or ethical reasons. Tell the employer tests are unreliable (they are!) and use sources quoted here to prove it. The money he saves on polygraph tests could be used for better wages!

Second you might try to control your physical responses. This can require months of training, but even a don't-give-a-shit-attitude can help lower your reactions. The examiner will be serious and try to get you hyped-up. Try to relax and be as calm as possible, even blasé.

Finally, use some chemical aide. Tranquilizers like Valium or Librium may be some help. Alcohol or pot won't help and might be detected. But don't go in like a zombie. SCIENCE magazine, April 3, 1981 has an excellent article on using Miltown (meprobamate) in 400 mg doses to beat the old lie detector. While you're at the library look up ESQUIRE, January 1978 for some examples of the worthlessness of the whole procedure. Show it to your boss, so he can see how he's wasting his money.

If he doesn't agree, all you will need is a couple of Miltowns (meprobamate requires a prescription and is sold under other trade names). It works..... believe me!

FCC ruling will mean telephone rate hikes

Washington. —The Federal Communications Commission, moving finally to implement a key policy change approved more than a year ago, yesterday cleared the way for telephone rate increases across the country.

By a 7-to-0 vote, the agency authorized the nation's largest telephone companies to significantly speed up the depreciation of their equipment and facilities.

The decision is expected to translate into an additional \$1 billion in local rate increases across the country as state utility commissions adjust to the companies' higher level of depreciation expense.

Without the changes being implemented today, the telephone companies would have been entitled to collect an additional \$150 million in depreciation expenses in any event. With the change, the depreciation expense rises to \$1.015 billion.

The effect of the new depreciation schedules on local rates in any given state will vary, in part because the FCC does not review all the depreciation accounts of each of the 38 firms every year.



In addition, state regulatory commissions must consider how rates for different customers—such as business and residential—will be affected.

But FCC officials say by the time the new depreciation schedules are reflected on the local level, the increases probably will average roughly 50 cents a month.

The process begun yesterday will affect all the local operating companies owned by the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

ALTHOUGH THE faster depreciation schedules may ultimately become a factor in the break-up of AT&T, as proposed in an antitrust settlement reached two weeks ago, they were not prompted by that settlement or by efforts to deregulate the industry.

The key policy change now being implemented was approved by the FCC in November 1980. It allows telephone companies to depreciate their equipment using a so-called "remaining life" technique instead of "whole life."

While the change increases the amount of revenue needed in the short run—and thus raises rates—experts say it is designed to benefit consumers in the long run because the telephone companies won't have to turn to expensive money markets to finance construction and can introduce advanced equipment more rapidly.

Increases in telephone fraud causes NJ Bell crackdown

With the escalation of fraudulent phone calls on University campuses, New Jersey Bell Telephone, with the help of the University police, is conducting a campaign to discontinue such activities.

The investigation of telephone fraud began at the University in March of last year and continued through final exams in May, according to a representative from Bell's security department.

Telephone fraud deals with charging calls to an unconsenting third party, to phone booths, to stolen credit card numbers and 11 other means to avoid paying for phone calls, according to a Bell Telephone brochure which was passed out at phone centers on campus.

Bell is now signing complaints against persons suspected of phone fraud, said the representative. If a person is accused of fraud, Bell will prosecute the offender, he said.

People taken to court and found guilty will now have to pay a fine for their action, pay for the amount of their fraudulent calls, for court costs, and will also wind up with a criminal record, he said.

Previously, when Bell caught an individual in the act of phone fraud they would bring the matter to the attention of that person, and if he or she admitted guilt, they would be prosecuted on a lesser charge. The security representative added that in nine out of ten cases the offender would continue to defraud the phone company.

The criminal record an individual receives from a phone fraud charge is permanent, said the representative. At the University last year 11 peo-

ple were investigated for alleged phone fraud, according to Detective Robert Garrett of the University police. Three convictions were made last year in May by Bell, said Garrett, adding that complaints on the others were not yet signed by the phone company.

When University students charged with alleged phone fraud were taken to court, they usually pleaded guilty, said the detective. As the offenders kept coming to court, the judges got less lenient with them, first fining them \$20 (not including court costs and the phone bill) and later increasing the fine.

Bell's investigation into phone fraud is not restricted to University students said the representative. Faculty and staff are also included in the investigation and this study is being conducted on college and university campuses throughout the state and the country, he said.

The cost of telephone fraud that New Jersey Bell incurred over a six-month period was \$1,865,100, as of July 30, 1981, said the Bell representative, adding that the expected cost for this year amounts to \$2.7 million.

"A good portion of the loss comes from college campuses," he said, adding that the phone company has "surveillance procedures" to track fraudulent calls in progress.

The security representative said that approximately 95 to 98 percent of the University community are not committing phone fraud, but on a large campus such as Rutgers, "it is at a point where it is getting out of hand."

"It may be a small portion (of the University community), but we have to stop it," he said.

Boy bandit 'settles' for \$100

Don't ever let anybody tell you something is non-negotiable. Everything is negotiable. Look what happened yesterday at the



U.S. Savings Bank on Broad Street in Newark.

About 11:30 a.m. a boy 13 or 14 years old comes into the bank and hands a teller a note: "This is a holdup. Give me \$2,000 or you're going to get hurt."

There were 20 or 30 customers in the bank and about seven employees. There was no mask, no weapon, no real stir.

The teller didn't know what to do, and she said nothing.

"Okay," said the young robber. "Give me \$200."

Teller still speechless, paralyzed.

"How about \$100?" says the robber.

The robber walked out with five twenty-dollar bills.

Police are looking for a "baby-faced" suspect about five feet tall, with a yellow shirt. If you know anything about the crime, call the Youth Aid Bureau.

If you're the robber, turn yourself in. Who knows? You might be able to negotiate something.

'Johnny Larceny'



"Lately, I feel I'm not accomplishing anything. It's been months since I voted myself a pay raise!"

"Please remember that law and sense are not the same." — Nehru.

Stamped out

STOCKHOLM — A 19-year-old would-be thief wound up in jail after trying to rob a man who was leaving a post office here.

"This is a holdup," the man told the intended victim, Police Commissioner Rolf Wikberg, who quickly overpowered the youth and took him away.



NOVEL POSTAGE — Short of 2-cent stamps, Samuel Spector of Edison taped pennies to this envelope to make up the latest postal rate increase. The letter arrived on schedule, with the coins canceled by machine.

Mail-icious

FLORENCE, Ariz. — Three Death Row inmates at the Arizona State Prison have been using their idle hours to hawk outside firms through the mail, authorities report.

They said Saturday that the convicts' fraudulent schemes involved rare coin and stamp deals and the ordering of books and magazines from publishers without paying for them.

An unidentified inmate swindled more than \$1,000 from collectors from New York to Taiwan in stamp and coin deals, investigators said.

TAP, Room 603, 147 W. 42 St., NY 10036

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Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 3
Kensley, N. J.