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Harley Hahn
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微机新软件系列丛书

Internet 参考大全

(中国大陆版)

Harley Hahn
Rick Stout 著

学苑出版社
1994.

(京)新登字 151 号

内 容 提 要

本书全面地介绍了 Internet 的概念、连接和资源,怎样通过 Internet 获得最新、最全的信息。本书对各位希望使用或正在使用 Internet 的朋友是一本难得的好书。

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The Internet Complete Reference
International Editions 1994

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When ordering this title, use ISBN 0-07-113981-8

Printed in China.

微机新软件系列丛书

Internet 参考大全

(中国大陆版)

著 者: Harley Hahn
Rick Stout

责任编辑:甄国宪

出版发行:学苑出版社 邮政编码:100036

社 址:北京市海淀区万寿路西街 11 号

印 刷:翌新工商印制公司

开 本:787×1092 1/16

印 张:52.125 字数:1210 千字

印 数:1~2000 册

版 次:1994 年 11 月北京第 1 版第 1 次

ISBN7-5077-0611-0 (TP·35)

本册定价:98.00 元

"This is by far THE most comprehensive book on the Internet. A must for novices, even experts will learn something new from this book. The attention to detail is first-rate, yet its presentation understandable for everyone."

Scott Yanoff

*Author of the "Yanoff List" of Internet services
distributed electronically throughout the Internet*

"This book is exactly what I have needed for a long time! Even if you already own other Internet books, *The Internet Complete Reference* is a must-read. It is at once tremendously useful and thoroughly readable. Harley Hahn's irreverent sense of humor and clear, insightful explanations will both keep you laughing and make you an Internet expert. I give it an absolute, unqualified recommendation for anyone who uses or plans to use the Internet."

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Microsoft Consulting Services, Microsoft Corporation

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*Founder and Senior Vice President, Operations
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*Sam Albert Associates
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Samuel Ko

Internet Book Reviewer, Vancouver, Canada

"At last, a single volume that not only explains what the Internet is, and why it is so exciting, but also provides detailed instructions on how to use all the major Internet services, and includes exhaustive listings of useful archive sites and a wealth of 'insider' information. Hahn writes with wit, clarity and depth that will entertain and inform both the curious novice as well as the experienced net dweller. Copies of this book should be in close proximity to any window onto the Internet!"

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*Technical Coordinator, Social Science Computing Facility
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"Finally, a book that painlessly releases the many gifts of the Internet! *The Internet Complete Reference* empowers the reader with a complete understanding of the facilities, terminology, and concepts necessary to participate in the Internet. Unique in its approach, this book covers everything, even the fun stuff, representing the Internet as it should be portrayed. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is curious about the Internet, and needs a thorough, hands-on-oriented explanation that can be easily understood without a technical degree."

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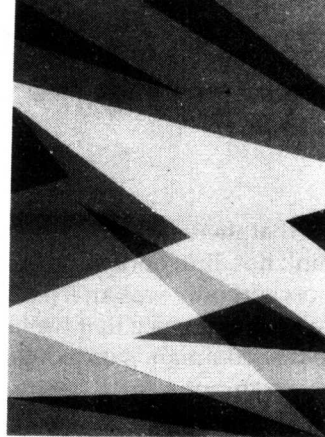
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"*The Internet Complete Reference* is an excellent tool for new Internet users and for anyone involved with training new users. Harley Hahn has succeeded in explaining Internet concepts in plain language, making it easy for the uninitiated to get started on the network. Just what every new user needs: a pro at their shoulder offering advice. The Internet resource catalog is great!"

Susan Calcari
Info Scout (Internet resource specialist)
InterNIC Information Services, General Atomics

"*The Internet Complete Reference* is an excellent introduction to the Internet for the novice. With the increasing access of K-12 schools on the Internet, this book should be a winner."

Bart Miller, Associate Professor
Computer Sciences Department
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Introduction

The Internet is, by far, the greatest and most significant achievement in the history of mankind. What? Am I saying that the Internet is more impressive than the pyramids? More beautiful than Michelangelo's David? More important to mankind than the wondrous inventions of the industrial revolution?

Yes, yes and yes.

Do I expect you to believe this? Of course not—not right now anyway. After all, the Internet is just a computer network and—let's face it—most of what we use computers for is pretty dull.

However, for years now, people have been connecting computers into networks. At first, the networks were a lot of trouble but, by the early 1990s, the engineers and scientists finally figured out how to make it all work most of the time. And now we have the Internet: a worldwide network connecting millions of computers and millions of people. What is amazing is that, within a few short years, the Internet has changed our civilization permanently and has introduced us to two completely unexpected ideas.

First, tens of thousands of people have been laboring to build the Internet. They have worked alone, in small groups, and within organizations, but always like so many ants in a global anthill. Most of these people are only doing their jobs but, just like the ants, they serve the common good while having no conception of the order and the compelling forces that drive their work.

Is it possible that there is a biological urge for us to create computers in the first place? I think not. But, once we did develop these strange and wonderful slaves, there most certainly was an irresistible genetic program for us to follow. Deep inside us, there is a voice that we hear only subconsciously and only as a species; a voice that commands us to take these computers, connect them into networks and . . . communicate.

This leads to the second great idea: that when we connect computers we invariably create something that is much more than the sum of its parts. As we said, the Internet consists of millions of computers and millions of people, but the computers are not important: we use them only to run our programs (that is, to follow our instructions). What is important is something that we cannot yet understand, the answer to the question: What happens when millions of people gather in a safe place to talk and to share? That is what the Internet is all about and that is what we are just beginning to find out.

I sense that we are near the beginning of a great and important change in human affairs. Personally, I don't understand this change. Indeed, I suspect that it is beyond the capabilities of any of us to completely appreciate what is happening, and that the best we can do right now is ride the wave. What I do understand is that there is a reason why we built the Internet and that, as human beings, we have an obligation to learn how to use it and to participate.

Now, about this book.

Before we start, I want to make sure that you understand an important point: the Internet is easy to use, but is difficult to learn. I have filled this book with technical details, important details that you must understand and master in order to use and enjoy the Internet. Still, don't for a moment think that you need to be a computer expert. The Internet is not for nerds, but just as surely it is not for dummies: it is for those people who are willing to think and to learn.

If you ever have one of those days where everything seems to go wrong, and the computer just won't cooperate, and you can't understand what is happening, take a moment and try to see things in a larger sense. As a human being, you share the birthright of intelligence, curiosity and, above all, the ability to learn. However, these gifts are not free. By your very nature, you can not only learn, you are compelled to learn if you are to remain happy and fulfilled. Still, as the saying goes, there is no royal road to knowledge.

To use the Internet, you will have to expend some time and some effort (actually, a great deal of time and effort). But if you do, here is what I promise you:

I promise that I will stay with you.

I promise that I will guide you.

I promise that I will teach you the new words and the new ideas and the new skills that you need to use the Internet.



I want you to know that I have taken a great deal of time to organize this book so as to lead you from one topic to another in a way that will make sense to you (at least, in retrospect).

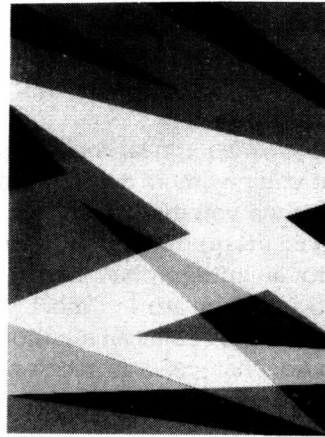
However, you do not need to read everything from start to finish (although I think you should). Actually, this book comes with only two simple instructions:

1. Start by reading Chapter 1.
2. When in doubt, do something enjoyable that requires effort.

I have not forgotten what it is like to be faced with a large, inconceivable mass of unknowable information. What you are holding in your hands is much more than a computer book. It is a connection—a real connection—between you and me. Your job is to put in the effort and the time. My job is to open the doors.

Buy this book. I am on your side.

— Harley Hahn



Acknowledgments

The writing and production of this book required the help of a large number of people. The most important is my co-author, Rick Stout, who worked a great many hours researching and creating the list of Internet access providers, the master list of Usenet newsgroups, and the extensive catalog of Internet resources. If you enjoy using the catalog, you may want to send Rick a small gift on his birthday (October 9th). Don't worry if you've missed it, Rick will accept presents all year round.

The second person I would like to thank is my senior technical reviewer, Michael Peirce, of the Computer Science Department at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Michael read over every word of this book and tested every example, sending me back hundreds of "suggestions". Without Michael's careful reviewing and comments, this book would have been finished in half the time (and would have been about one third as good).

On the publisher's side of the aisle, the person with the most profound influence on this book was the Acquisitions Editor Scott Rogers. Throughout the course of the writing, Scott provided daily demonstrations of patience and skill that would be difficult to overpraise. In the chain of evolution, computer book editors generally lie somewhere between diamond-backed rattlesnakes and landlords, making Scott's exceptional enthusiasm and respect for writers all the more valuable.

Perhaps the most important of Scott Roger's contributions was his willingness to actually acquire an Internet account and learn how to send and receive electronic mail, proving, as he so properly observes, that "anyone can do it".

If you ever find yourself near the Osborne McGraw-Hill offices, we recommend that you pay them a visit. Walk up to the receptionist (her name is Ann) and ask nicely if you might be allowed to go in and shake Mr. Rogers hand. (However, don't be disappointed if he happens to be in a meeting and you are forced to settle for an autographed picture.)

Aside from Scott, there are a number of other people at Osborne McGraw-Hill who deserve special mention. The Project Editor, Kelly Barr, was always ready to do whatever was necessary to make this book as good as possible. As you can see, he succeeded. (Although, between us, it may not have actually been necessary for Kelly to sleep with the manuscript under his pillow each night for four months. Still, there are many tricks of the publishing trade that I still can't figure out, and one does not argue with success.)

The other Osborne people that deserve mention are Sherith Pankratz (Scott Roger's Editorial Assistant) for her excellent editorial assisting; Marcela Hancik (Production Supervisor) for all the extra work she did designing special formats for our tables and figures; Peter Hancik, also in production, who contributed significantly (and at short notice) to the design of the catalog; Ann Kameoka (Publicity Manager) who made sure that everyone in America knew about this book; and Ann Pharr, the most courteous receptionist west of the Mason-Dixon line. Finally, there is the big man in charge, Jeff Pepper (Editor-in-Chief), whose conception of this book was so immaculate as to assure his place in literary history.

By the way, as you can tell from their names, Marcela and Peter Hancik are married. If you are like me, you are probably wondering what the home life of two book design people must be like. To satisfy your curiosity, here is a typical dinner conversation:

Marcela: Thanks for setting the table Peter, but why did you place the salt shaker so far to one side?

Peter: Well, Marcela, I wanted to align both the salt and pepper shakers flush left in order to balance them with the napkins.

Marcela: But what about the forks?

Peter: Well, I decided to go with the regular dinner forks which, as you know, are three point sizes larger than the salad forks. But since all the cutlery is monospaced, I had to put the plates on the floor to make sure that everything else fit within the whitespace around the outside of the tablecloth.

Marcela: Looks good. Let's go with your design and if there is any problem, we can change it in the next reprinting at breakfast.

On a more punctuational note, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the excellent copy editing of Lunaea Hougland, queen among copy editors. Time after time, Lunaea has always managed, under great pressure, to ensure that each comma was in its exact place. In fact, take a few minutes now and check out

some of the commas in this book. See what I mean? You will never see "hel,lo" or "ball,oon" or even "ranny,gazoo"—not in one of Lunaea's books.

Throughout the research and writing of this book, there were many Internet people from all over the world who contributed greatly. Here they are:

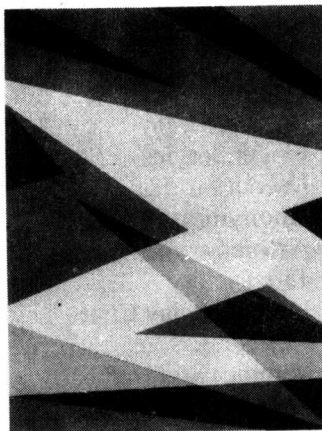
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- Paola Kathuria: ArcGlade Services, London, England
- Paul Vixie: Vixie Enterprises, Redwood City, California
- Peter ten Kley: Utrecht, The Netherlands
- Peter Wemm: Demaas Proprietary Limited, Perth, Australia
- Randy Bush: PSGnet, Portland, Oregon
- Rhett Jones: University of Utah
- Rick Broadhead: York University, Toronto, Canada
- Robert W. Hill: University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
- Scott Yanoff: University of Wisconsin
- Stewart Alpert: Santa Cruz Operation
- Tom Gerstel: Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York



The Internet Complete Reference

I would like to take a moment to offer special thanks to three wonderful people who helped Rick and me tremendously by sending us a great number of insightful comments, as well as hidden treasures, from around the Internet. These people are Mary Axford (ace reference librarian) at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Peter ten Kley in The Netherlands, and Rick Broadhead at York University in Toronto, Canada.

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderful wife Kimberlyn, whose beauty and grace are surpassed only by her intelligence and talents.



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