Students Explore, Enjoy Web
Activities, Living Groups, and Individuals Provide Information

By A. Arif Husain

Seeking to join the global information exchange, many students have tapped into the World Wide Web, a hypermedia-based network of information. Over 700 MIT students provide their own personal "home pages" on the Web using the Athena Computing Environment.

Students interact with the Web by accessing information on computers on and off campus and providing information of their own. On the Web, information providers can create pages or hypermedia documents for users to access. These documents can contain textual "links" to several other related documents, images, and audio or video clips. These linked documents can be located on the same computer as the original page or anywhere else on the Internet.

The home page, the primary Web document, contains personal information about the author and links to any other interesting Web sites the author has chosen. In some cases, the home page is accompanied by peripheral documents that contain more specific information on a subject or group links to various sites on a specific topic.

The hypertext interface allows users to rapidly navigate from one site to any of the other connected sites. This system of interlinkages is where the Web gets its name. More than a dozen students who wish to provide more extensive resources choose to run their own Web server on a private computer in their room.

Cheo-Kung Lim G operates a Web site which is dedicated to the alumni of his high school in Singapore. The site contains a list of alumni contact information and provides a means for them to keep in correspondence, Lim said. Lino also offers his former school's quarterly newsletter on-line.

Student groups make use of Web sites. A large number of student groups and organizations maintain Web sites that provide information for their numbers and general students. The Lecture Series Committee, for example, provides on-line schedules for their movie offerings.

The Student Information Processing Board (SIPB) server. The server receives an approximate 50,000 documents requests for documents per week, Izawa said.

"Any server can provide access to home pages and information, but we like to think that we have interesting and useful information that is presented in a way that is more aesthetic and entertaining than many other places," Izawa said.

Some campus publications also publish electronic editions, some with photographs and comic strips. The Tech publishes each issue on-line and provides a searchable archive on its Web server, also one of the first 100.

Many other ethnic, service, and performance organizations use the Web for advertising and recruiting members.

Also, several dormitories and independent living groups have Web sites that have been used to provide residents with house rules and social event information. Some also provide a listing of residents.

Welcome to the Student Information Processing Board World Wide Web server.

Now on the World Wide Web! Maybe you don't know Music from HTTP, Don't be discouraged! Check out The World Wide Web for Beginners, a quick, non-Jargon intro to WWW and our server.

SIPB will be offering a number of computer-related courses over IAP '95. Check out our IAP Course Guide for more information.

We welcome any and all feedback you'd like to make, via our (optionally anonymous) contact page.

MIT has an official MIT web server with information about MIT.

In order to follow hypertext links, click on the link you want to follow, or enter the number of the link you want to follow. This is a single link on the same server, and this is a different link, this time, in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois, USA.

What's New?

New and interesting things that are happening to the SIPB WWW server.

The SIPB server receives 500,000 requests every week. This is the group's home page.

Exam Confusion Due to Calendar

Michael J. Hopkins cancelled the 18.06 quiz scheduled for today after a student questioned whether it followed the faculty rules. Other exams and quizzes, including one in Physics 1 (8.01), have not been cancelled.

Half day of exams Friday

The reason for the discrepancy is that this year, the reading period begins next Thursday and ends halfway through next Friday. Exams, which traditionally begin on the Monday following a Sunday reading period, begin next Friday afternoon, Jaffe said.

The extra half day of exams was added to Friday to shorten the exam period by one day, Jaffe said. "It was thought it was unneeded, and to keep students around here through Friday, Dec. 23," he said.

"Technically, literally the faculty regulations say six days," but the skewed calendar this year produced the discrepancy, said Registrar David S. Wiley '61.

The academic calendar underwent extensive revision last year.

"At the time the calendar was changed, that particular rule [in the Regulations] was not modified to keep up with the calendar," Wiley said.

"At some point the rules should be modified," Wiley said.

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Interested?

We will be recruiting at MIT on February 27, 1995. Contact the Office of Career Services if you are interested in more information or would like to interview for the above position.

If you're a Grad or Undergrad student and would like to relax or unwind.

FINALS Lounge

Friday, December 16

and Monday - Thursday, December 19 - 22

between

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

in the Bush Room (10-105)

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