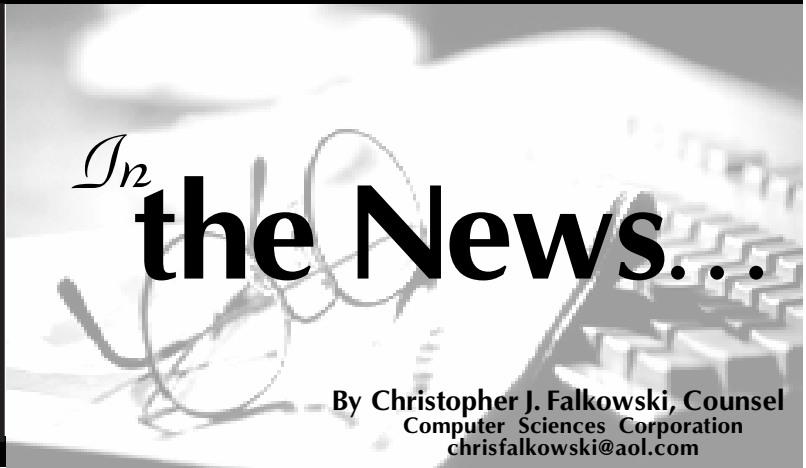


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Carnivore’s capabilities broader than previously believed. Carnivore is an e-mail surveillance tool used by the F.B.I. Recent tests of Carnivore indicate that its technological capabilities are more far reaching than was previously disclosed to the public. An F.B.I. lab report indicates that Carnivore can search out and retrieve potentially all unfiltered communications that go through a particular Internet service. The recent F.B.I. documents were obtained by David Sobel, general counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center (“EPIC”). EPIC obtained the information only after litigating its rights under the Freedom of Information Act. The F.B.I. contends that Carnivore is only used pursuant to a court order and thus such a broad capture of e-mail traffic would not occur in practice. For more information on Carnivore, visit www.epic.org and www.fbi.gov.

Proposed international cybercrime treaty draws criticism. The Council of Europe, a human rights group consisting of 41 member nations, has been working since May of 1997 to harmonize laws on such a wide variety of Internet issues including child pornography, fraud, hacking, and other crimes. The proposed treaty also seeks to create common methods for securing evidence and prosecuting cybercriminals. Publication of a draft text resulted in strong criticism from civil liberties groups. A new draft of the proposed treaty makes it clear that the treaty would be subject to domestic laws on important issues such as privacy, and that the treaty would not supersede national law. Proponents hope that the Council of Europe will accept the treaty by June of 2001.

I.D. Guard to protect against identity theft. While U.S. regulators consider new ways to protect consumers against the growing incidents of identity theft, private industry will offer a new Internet-based system to protect consumers. Privista, Inc. and credit bureau Equifax will offer free I.D. protection for life to consumers who sign up by December 31, 2000 at www.privista.com. Privista’s service will monitor a weekly Equifax credit file for unusual activity. If a suspicious event occurs, the user will be notified by e-mail. It is hoped that early detection will be the key to avoiding the potentially substantial impact of identity theft. When identity theft goes undetected for long periods of time, it is extremely difficult for the innocent victim to clear his or her record.

New domain names on the way. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”) is considering a wide variety of proposals to expand the number of commonly used domain names. Most familiar to current users are domain names such as .com, .net, .org, and .edu. Proposals for domain name expansion include non-English domain names such as domain names based on Chinese characters; a .geo domain name that would cross-reference all other Internet addresses based on a world-wide database map with every physical address/location on the earth; a .dir domain name to serve as a cross reference list for all e-mail address and web site names to facilitate the forwarding of mail when a person changes their e-mail address; and domain names reserved for devices such as cell-phones and pagers. More pedestrian proposals include such domain names as .biz and .web.

WorldCom to purchase Intermedia. The Justice Department conditionally approved WorldCom, Inc.’s proposed acquisition of Intermedia Communications, Inc. The acquisition will also provide WorldCom with a 55% equity stake and 94% voting stake in Digex, Inc. a Web-hosting firm

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which also monitors Web-hosting performance. The transaction is still awaiting approval from the Federal Communications Commission.

FTC warns e-retailers to not overpromise. In light of disappointments with online gifts not delivered on time during the holiday season of 1999, the Federal Trade Commission warned more than 100 e-retailers to not make promises about delivery schedules that cannot be fulfilled. As a result of the 1999 holiday season, ToysRUs.com and KBKids.com were both fined in excess of \$1 million for failing to give consumers adequate notification about delays and for promising unrealistic delivery dates.



If you have an article you would like considered for publication, send a copy to:

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