

**SCOUTS-L**

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**BSA POLICY  
ON USING THE  
INTERNET**

**Date:** Sun, 3 Sep 1995 20:17:36 CDT  
**From:** "Settummanque, the blackeagle" <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

**Martin Flynn** <maflynn@GENIE.GEIS.COM> writes:

>At this time, the National Council, Boy Scouts of America,  
> does not sponsor, provide or hold official space for the  
> disseminating of information of any kind regarding programs,  
> activities, resources of lists of names of leaders or  
> chartered organizations on the Internet of other  
> computerized networks.

>

><snip>

>

>If this is correct, then who is this??

>

>Whois: scouting.org

> Boy Scouts of America (SCOUTING-DOM)

> PO Box 152079

> Irving, TX 75015-2079

>

> Domain Name: SCOUTING.ORG

> Record last updated on 26-Sep-94.

I was wondering when this would come up!

>Whois: bsa

> Arnold, Brian S. (BSA) arnoldbs@LBM.COM

> Boy Scouts of America (NET-BSA) BSA

> 198.102.98.0

>

>Whois: net-bsa

> Boy Scouts of America (NET-BSA)

> Boy Scouts of America National Office

> PO Box 152079

> Irving, TX 75015-2079

>

> Netname: BSA

> Netnumber: 198.102.98.0

**Brian Arnold** is a "worker bee" at the National Office's Information

**Management office, part of the Council Support Division.**

**>Can someone who is more familiar with IP addresses tell me if the above are  
> from the group assigned to internal networks, I.E. never intended to be  
> connected to the internet? They might be the IP for the internal LAN in  
> Irving.**

**The address is a valid Internet address, and was obtained through the BSA in order to keep other parties from obtaining the "Scouting.org" IP address. As you probably know, the letters "BSA" as well as the word "Scout" or "Scouting" are protected by Congressional Charter to the Boy Scouts of America, and only those organizations and groups that the BSA allow may use the name or description.**

**As far I can research, there's nobody out there with the "BSA.Org", "BSA.COM" or "BSA.GOV" IP name, but there could be. This could be pretty interesting if the BSA went to court to get an Internet address name from someone that they chose "not worthy" of having that name.**

**Originally, there were those within the BSA's National Office (and there's still a significant number) that wanted the BSA to have some sort of access to the 'Net. However, as the "development" of the Internet kinda got a little crazy, and as tales emerged of the 'Net's "darker side", the BSA quickly disassociated itself from this project officially while unofficially have been monitoring the progress of groups like ours and others on other forums (and they continue to do so).**

**The BSA DOES have electronic mail access between the National Office, the four Regional offices, the two National Distribution Centers, and each and every local Council office. The network is a "closed-end" system which DOES NOT ALLOW for entry by those outside of those organizations and which DOES NOT ALLOW for "pure Internet access" (in other words, there's no gateway between the BSA-NET and the rest of the Internet.**

**That address comes up from time to time here, as the "official address of the BSA online". The BSA, once again to emphasize, DOES NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS AND DOES NOT WANT INTERNET ACCESS PRESENTLY and would prefer that Scouters or others wanting to communicate with the National staff to snail-write to the National Office in Irving, Texas instead.**

**I get a couple of postings a week about that BSA address and whether or not questions sent there get answered or not. It doesn't work.**

Settummanque!

--

Settummanque, the blackeagle... (MAJ) Mike L. Walton (\_\_\_\_\_)\_  
co-Owner, Blackeagle Services \_\_\_\_\_)  
(h) 502-782-7992 (f) 502-781-7279 (w) 502-782-7467 |=--|]  
5350 Louisville Road, #52, Bowling Green, KY 42101-7211 -=====-  
Internet: WALTOML@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU/America  
KYBLKEAGLE@AOL.COM

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Blackeagle Services is NOT affiliated with & does not speak for Western  
Kentucky University but is the home to Leaders Online! Ask us about it!

Date: Mon, 4 Sep 1995 12:44:49 -0700  
From: John Lindner <johng@GARLIC.COM>  
Subject: Re: BSA Policy: The Interney (long)

Settummanque, the blackeagle <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU> writes:

>Martin Flynn <maflynn@GENIE.GEIS.COM> writes:

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>pretty interesting if the BSA went to court to get an Internet address  
>name from someone that they chose "not worthy" of having that name.

It could be interesting, but I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of BSA's lawsuit. Network Solutions Inc., which is responsible for assigning domain names has recognized this, too, with a recently revised policy on domain names, which reads (in part):

#### **"NSI DOMAIN DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY STATEMENT**

Network Solutions, Inc. ("NSI") is responsible for assigning domain names on the Internet. This Policy Statement ("Policy Statement") will clarify NSI's policies regarding the use and registration of domain names ("Domain Name(s)").

1. NSI is responsible for the registration of domain names on the Internet. NSI registers these Domain Names on a "first come, first served" basis. NSI has neither the resources nor the legal obligation to screen requested Domain Names to determine if the use of a Domain Name by an Applicant may infringe upon the right(s) of a third party. Consequently, as an express condition and material inducement of the grant of an applicant's ("Applicant") request to register a Domain Name, Applicant represents and warrants as follows:

(a) Applicant's statements in the application are true and Applicant has the right to use the Domain Name as requested in the Application;

(b) Applicant has a bona fide intention to use the Domain Name on a regular basis on the Internet;

(c) The use or registration of the Domain Name by Applicant does not interfere with or infringe the right of any third party in any jurisdiction with respect to trademark, service mark, tradename, company name or any other intellectual property right;

(d) Applicant is not seeking to use the Domain Name for any unlawful purpose, including, without limitation, tortious interference with contract or prospective business advantage, unfair competition, injuring the reputation of another, or for the purpose of confusing or misleading a

person, whether natural or incorporated.

2. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that this Policy Statement on the registration and use of Domain Names may change from time to time and that, upon thirty (30) days posting on the Internet at <ftp://rs.internic.net/policy/internic.domain.policy>, NSI may modify or amend the terms of this Policy Statement.

.....

4. Applicant is responsible for its selection of the Domain Name. Consequently, Applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless (i) NSI... (ii) National Science Foundation ("NSF")... (iii) the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority ("IANA"), ... and (iv) the officers, directors, employees and agents of NSI's parents and subsidiaries (collectively, the "Indemnified Parties") for any loss, damage, expense or liability resulting from any claim, action or demand arising out of or related to the use or registration of the Domain Name, including reasonable attorneys fees. Such claims shall include, without limitation, those based upon trademark or service mark infringement, tradename infringement, dilution, tortious interference with contract or prospective business advantage, unfair competition, defamation or injury to business reputation.... Applicant agrees that the Indemnified Parties shall be defended by attorneys of their choice at Applicant's expense, and that Applicant shall advance the costs of such litigation, in a reasonable fashion, from time to time. The failure to abide by this provision shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and permit NSI to immediately withdraw the use and registration of Domain Name from Applicant.

5. Applicant agrees that NSI shall have the right to withdraw a Domain Name from use and registration on the Internet upon thirty (30) days prior written notice (or earlier if ordered by the court) should NSI receive an order by a United States court or arbitration panel of the American Arbitration Association (hereinafter "AAA") that the Domain Name in dispute rightfully belongs to a third party.

6.(a) In the event that the Applicant breaches any of its obligations under this Policy Statement, NSI may request that Applicant relinquish the Domain Name in a written notice describing the alleged breach. If Applicant fails to provide evidence that it has not breached its obligations which is reasonably satisfactory to NSI within thirty (30) days of the date of receipt of such notice, then NSI may terminate Applicant's use and registration of the Domain Name.

(b) Applicant acknowledges and agrees that NSI cannot act as an arbiter of disputes arising out of the registration and use of Domain Names. At the

same time, Applicant acknowledges that NSI may be presented with evidence that

a Domain Name registered by Applicant violates the rights of a third party. Such evidence includes, but is not limited to, evidence that the Domain Name is identical to a valid and subsisting registration of a trademark or service mark that is in full force and effect and owned by another person or entity. In those instances where the basis of the claim is other than a registered trademark or service mark, Applicant shall be allowed to continue using the contested Domain Name, unless and until a court order or arbitrator's judgment to the contrary is received by NSI as provided in Paragraph 5.

(c) In those instances when the claim is based upon a trademark or service mark:

(1) Without prejudice to the ultimate determination and with recognition that trademark or service mark ownership does not automatically extend ownership to a Domain Name, NSI shall request from the Applicant a certified copy of a trademark or service mark registration... owned by the Applicant that is in full force and effect and that is the same as the Domain Name registered to Applicant.

(2) In the event that Applicant provides evidence of ownership of a trademark or service mark... Applicant shall be allowed...to continue using the contested Domain Name, unless and until a court order or arbitrator's judgment to the contrary is received by NSI.... In the event the Applicant fails to provide evidence of a trademark or service mark registration to NSI within fourteen (14) days of NSI's request, NSI will assist Applicant with assignment of a new Domain Name, and will allow Applicant to maintain both names simultaneously for up to ninety (90) days to allow an orderly transition to the new Domain Name. At the end of the transition period, NSI will place the disputed Domain Name on "Hold" status, pending resolution of the dispute. As long as a Domain Name is on "Hold" status, that Domain Name registered to Applicant shall not be available for use by any party.

(3) If Applicant fails to provide evidence of a trademark or service mark registration to NSI within fourteen (14) days and will neither accept the assignment of a new Domain Name nor relinquish its use of the Domain Name, NSI will place the disputed Domain Name on "Hold" status, pending resolution of the dispute. As long as a Domain Name is on "Hold" status, that Domain Name registered to Applicant shall not be available for use by any party.

(4) If Applicant provides the evidence described in Paragraph 6(b), and wishes to continue use of the contested Domain Name registered by Applicant, Applicant agrees to indemnify NSI on the terms stated in Paragraph 4 from any liability relating to the registration or use of the Domain Name registered

by Applicant and post a bond in an amount sufficient to meet the damages sought, or if no specific amount of damages is sought, in an amount deemed reasonable in NSI's sole discretion within fourteen (14) days of NSI's request. Without such agreement and the posting of the bond, NSI may, notwithstanding any trademark or service mark registration presented to it, place the use of the Domain Name in "Hold" status pending resolution of the dispute.

(5) NSI will reinstate the use and registration of a Domain Name placed in "Hold" status when and if it receives an order by a United States court or arbitration panel of the American Arbitration Association stating which party to the dispute is entitled to use and register the Domain Name or if NSI receives satisfactory evidence of the resolution of the dispute.

7. NSI WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OF USE, INTERRUPTION OF BUSINESS, OR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND (INCLUDING LOST PROFITS). REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), OR OTHERWISE, EVEN IF NSI HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. IN NO EVENT SHALL NSI'S MAXIMUM LIABILITY UNDER THE POLICY EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS.

8. Any dispute arising out of this Agreement or, at the request of NSI and upon the agreement of the challenging party, a dispute regarding the right to register or use Domain Name shall be resolved by binding arbitration by the AAA under its commercial rules then in effect in San Diego, California."

In other words, if you apply for use of a domain name that may be trademarked to someone else, better have the resources to defend your use of that name. As we all probably know, BSA has such resources and will use them to defend the Scouting name.

Take care,

John Lindner  
Eagle Scout '80

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Fri Sep 1 11:55:15 1995  
Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Received: from server1.capaccess.org (server1.CapAccess.org [198.69.201.5]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with ESMTP id LAA14535; Fri, 1 Sep 1995 11:55:15 -0400

**Date:** Thu, 31 Aug 1995 21:28:02 CDT  
**From:** "Settummanque, the blackeagle" <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: BSA Policy: The Internet  
**To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

**Of all of the ways that I feel that THIS FORUM has furthered the public and inter-Council (and inter-organizational) lines between Scouters, and between Scouts and Scouters, the memo from the National Director of Operations (for the Chief Scout Executive) has demonstrated that SCOUTS-L (and other forums) WORKS!**

**I can understand ScoutPro's situation, better than most of us here. There has been many times in the past, in which I have released parts or complete policies while "closely holding" the others. For this, I was jeered and told that in this environment, you can tell us all and "everything will be okay". While I do not presently work for the BSA, it is hopeful that someday I will return to fulltime work and perhaps serve as a 41 or 44 (District Executive or Exploring Executive) in a "full service District".**

**Mike perhaps feels now, that it's not a good time to test the limits of the National Staff (although his local Council staff, the folks whom hired him and can fire him, supports TO A POINT -- and Mike supports where his limits are as far as what his Council Executive and Director of Field Services says -- what Mike has contributed here). As was explained to me a while back, what Mike McDonald was doing was "no more than what he would share at a Roundtable meeting, except that he is now "crossing Council lines" and that SOME Executive out there would not want his volunteers to know that he's NOT "providing the promise" of supporting the volunteer!"**

**I for one, would welcome Mike's (and others') continued sharing and providing us all with what ANY District Executive, District Director or Senior District Executive provides his or her volunteers: the SAME information in which he presents or provides to his OWN District volunteers. I would not want Mike to lose his position within the profession (folks, its REALLY ROUGH ON A PERSON WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE OR SHE FEELS THAT THEY ARE DOING THE BEST THING FOR THE YOUTH AND OTHER SCOUTERS!!), but I don't see how sharing information with other Scouters (whom in turn, post it to a forum like ours) would interfere with his ability to manage a District or to work with other volunteers.**

**He just will NOT be allowed (as I have been doing) to place his own "spin" or "perspective" (which I have really enjoyed reading, by the**

way, Mike!) on various issues that we could not jointly as a group come "to grips on". I think that this was the SAME limitations placed on other professionals coming here: that what they say reflects their OWN personal thoughts, opinions and frame of mine and NOT the BSA (only now, he won't be able to point to a BSA reference like some of us can...how unfair \*sorrowful frowning\*!!!!)

(...yeah, I've looked at my copy of the Scout Executive's Code once again. I still think of participation here and elsewhere as an obligation to volunteers rather than a "disobeyance" of the BSA's rules and regulations. (Whenever statements by the CSE are posted, it is considered part of the BSA's Rules and Regulations that professionals must follow; hence ScoutPro's internal "tug-of-war"). Remember that the memo states that you do this all without being an "agent of the BSA". Therefore, you can report what you have stated to your volunteers (as long as what you state here is what is said there) in this forum. It's like me attending your District Committee meeting, taking copious notes (complete with BSA stock numbers) and reporting it here on Scouts-L.)

"HENRY S. HEINE" <hheine@WELCHLINK.WELCH.JHU.EDU> writes:

>

>Hi All,

>

>I hope that Mike will continue to relay that information to us.

>I have found his information useful in addition to watching the reaction

>of my DE when I ask him about something that he hasn't seen yet. He has

>come to depend on me to relay some timely information that he's not

>getting as quickly. By the way he showed me that memo and we both laughed

>about it.I believe that what National is really concerned about is the

>relaying of false or misleading information. I would think that as long

>as Mike or any other professional out there specifys what is fact and what

>is their HO there should not be any problem.

What National is really concerned about is the move from written communication, which is one-way and is forced downward, to electronic communication, which is multi-pathed, and is forced not only downward, but upward and sideways as well. When the existance of not only our list, but Arrow-L and APO-L were announced during this summer's Philmont Conferences, many career professionals were suddenly placed "on alert" that many of their volunteers now know more about what was going on in their Council and Nationally than they did (or wanted them to know).

Arrow-L proved to the National Order of the Arrow Committee that Council of Chiefs' meetings (those meetings between all of the Section Chiefs, the four Regional Chiefs, the National Chief and Vice

Chief and the professional and volunteer chairs) can take place WITHOUT the professional or volunteer chair NOR without all members being in one physical location. That, I was told, unnerved some senior professionals at the Irving Center.

When time after time during the Philmont conferences, volunteers were asking "when is the BSA going on-line like the rest of us?", only to be told the "line" that "we're working on it", that further made a lot of old-timer Pros uneasy because for the first time, volunteers were talking program, membership resources, volunteer transfers and even percentages of total available youth WITHOUT the benefit of professional "coaching".

At the same time, when younger senior professionals like Forrest MacVicar and T.J VanHooten state that the existance of groups like ours have "improved the process of getting and gathing information about the applicability of program and program options" (taken from a statement that Forrest told the Exploring Committee in the spring), and when Scouters at our National and Regional offices get copies of our impassioned postings, positive things happen. That's something that we can be all proud of and I hope will continue to occur. As long as we approach each new change as challenges and continue to do what our charter states, to "share information, ideas and techniques" with each other, I don't think it will matter if the information comes "officially" from Mike (which I want it to continue!) or from "other sources" (the way I get much of what I report here and elsewhere).

Mike has to decide what's best for him, his family, the local Council there in Big Mass, and the profession as a whole. I personally will support him in whatever he chooses, and if that means that he has to only "observe us here", then we'll all know you're here and we encourage you to continue to share your personal observations and stories with us.

We're keeping your place, as our "Roundtable Executive", around the Grand Fire, and I salute you -- and the other five professionals (we see you all there!! \*heeheehee\*) -- for your willingness to not only read what is here every day, but also for your contributions as individuals and as professional members of the BSA.

Mike, I want to personally thank you for your personal bravery all through this process. I am very hopeful that the BSA WILL see that electronic communication is not going away, is beneficial to both professional and volunteer, and is essential if we are going to "keep pace" with the youth we advise, coach and work with.

Settummanque!

--

Settummanque, the blackeagle... (MAJ) Mike L. Walton (\_\_\_\_)  
co-Owner, Blackeagle Services  
(h) 502-782-7992 (f) 502-781-7279 (w) 502-782-7467 |=--|  
5350 Louisville Road, #52, Bowling Green, KY 42101-7211 -=====  
Internet: WALTOML@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU/America  
KYBLKEAGLE@AOL.COM

OnLine

Windoze Wobbles?? We use GeoPublish (shareware) & Ensemble (commercial)!  
Fast & easy & \*full\* GUI. Try it! ftp://130.219.44.141/pub/geos/publish  
Blackeagle Services is NOT affiliated with & does not speak for Western  
Kentucky University but is the home to Leaders Online! Ask us about it!

Date: Thu, 31 Aug 1995 11:40:31 GMT  
From: Rodger Morris <rodger@FISHNET.NET>  
Subject: BSA Internet Policy (Long)

George Hutcheson wrote:

...

>You, and the others who are in the know and share it, are providing much  
>needed  
>information, and I for one really appreciate it. Talk on the phone and you've  
>reached one person, post to a listserver and you reach thousands. Talk about  
>leveraging your efforts! Someday national has \*got\* to realize this, but until  
>then - Keep Posting!

...

I concur.

Most of the BSA executives at the national office are functionally illiterate, albeit not in the way in which one usually thinks of illiteracy. Simply put, they do not understand these newfangled technologies, have little wish to do so, and are afraid that the utilization of computer technologies will cause them to lose control of the information stream that constitutes most of their "raison d'etre."

This, of course, is an oversimplification, as their are BSA executives who are making a real effort to learn how to use the new technologies in the service of Scouting. As always, it requires a grass-roots effort by the volunteers to educate these people. The BSA is simply going through the process that for-profit businesses went through about ten years ago.

To pull a similar situation from history, consider the advent of the telephone about 1885:

The head of the London Stock Exchange said (quoted from memory):

**"We have no need of this 'telephone'. We have more than enough messenger boys here in Great Britain. Perhaps the telephone may prove to be of some use in the colonies or in America, but I doubt it."**

**One progressive mayor in the USA waxed enthusiastic about the new technology (likewise quoted from memory):**

**"Why, this telephone is a wonderful device! It will revolutionize communications. Why, I can foresee the time when every village or town of any size in America will have at least one telephone!!"**

**The BSA national executives are the modern-day equivalent of the head of the London Stock Exchange in 1885. We who read and contribute to SCOUTS-L are the modern-day equivalent of the mayor. We can but dimly and inadequately grasp the full effects that the current and future technologies will have on Scouting, so we shouldn't get too smug about the ignorance of those illiterate BSA executives in our employ.**

**The BSA national office is still staunchly insisting that we have no need of telephones because we have more than enough messenger boys.....**

**;-)**

**Scott Adams, the creator of the comic strip, "Dilbert", wrote a humorous article for America On-Line, wherein he split the human race into three evolutionary categories:**

- 1) Computer power users, who would evolve into noncorporeal, godlike beings, who will eventually rule the universe (except for those in tech support).**
- 2) Computer users who pretend to be power users, but who secretly use hand calculators to add figures together before putting them into their Excel spreadsheets. They will gravitate into jobs such as high school principal and pet crematorium owner, and will eventually become extinct.**
- 3) People who cannot use computers. They will devolve, and will eventually sit in cages throwing dung at tourists.**

**I am precluded from being in the first category, because I work professionally in computer tech support. <GRIN>**

**In my experience, most BSA executives fall squarely into the third category. Fortunately, in recent years, an increasing number of the District Executives, and even Council Executives (mine included),**

are falling into the second category. We even have a few DEs who fall into the first category, some of whom are SCOUTS-L participants. Eventually, one of these people will become Chief Scout Executive.

When that happens, we shall see the proactive adoption of "man-multiplier" technologies. Until then, the BSA's adoption of technology improvements will remain purely reactive in nature.

Yours in Scouting,

Rodger

Rodger Morris <rodger@fishnet.net>

Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 852, Camarillo, CA

Ventura County Council, Boy Scouts of America

National Woodbadge 416-18, Philmont, 1973

"I used to be a Beaver..."

Date: Fri, 1 Sep 1995 12:57:46 -0400

From: Susan Ganther <susan@EMAIL.UNC.EDU>

Subject: Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

I don't see anything in this memo that should be interpreted as stifling communications. It is a simple disclaimer, that makes it clear that we do not act as official spokespersons on BSA policy. BSA has numerous legal challenges lately, and if our opinions about policy were used as official interpretation of policy we would have an extremely tough time sorting things out. Someone posted a few months ago that a large amount of transcripts from on-line computer bulletin board providers had been admitted as evidence in a case against BSA. I believe it was one of the three G's that was involved. This the need for the disclaimer to make it clear that opinions of BSA members should not be admissible as evidence of official policy. If our opinions could be taken as official communications of policy, then we would have a real stifling of communication. Everything we wanted to post would have to be approved first. The policy stated in this memo enables us to continue to communicate freely.

YiS, Susan

On Thu, 31 Aug 1995, Byron Hynes wrote:

> I always wonder about organizations that work to stifle communications,  
> rather than encourage it.

>

> >The following memo has been issued by the national office of  
> >the Boy Scouts of America:

>

> >>Individual units, youth, and adult members act on their own

> >as private individuals and do not represent or serve as  
> >agents of the BSA at any time, especially when disseminating  
> >information over computerized communication networks  
> >(Internet, etc.).

>

> -----

> Byron Hynes bph@internorth.com  
> 71 Gold City Court Fax: 403-920-4446  
> Yellowknife, NWT, Canada Days: 403-873-5658  
> X1A 3P6 Home: 403-873-4939

>

Date: Fri, 1 Sep 1995 21:22:28 CDT  
From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle" <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

Susan Ganther <susan@EMAIL.UNC.EDU> writes:

>

>I don't see anything in this memo that should be interpreted as stifling  
>communications.

By you or me (as volunteers), no. By youth members, no. By chartered organizational representatives, maybe. But definately by those within the profession of Scouting or by those holding National or Regional positions.

Jessi and I was talking about this last night. See, I take things on this list rather personally, even though I have very little to do with this list. When the small group of us back in 1991 was sitting around, charting out electronically how we would like to see Scouts-L grow, it was very easy for us to "forget the pros" and only allow volunteers and youth access. However, "Lefty" (Doug) Coleman, Jon Edison, Don Izard and I all wanted and expressed how much MORE we can share if our fellow professionals were allowed to not only read, but to post their comments (instead of reading Mike Walton's reflective memories of his part-time adventures in career Scouting). I agreed, and we all asked (pestered) those whom we knew personally at National, at the Regional offices, at our local Councils to at least "try Scouts-L out".

We got a lot of "what you're doing is nice, but I don't (have the time) (have the interest) (don't want to "rock the boat") by my presence. But DO send me some of those "transcripts" and I'll do my best to read and comment to you about what I read".

And they did and we were (and still are) very appreciative.

That's the way we went at things until two years ago, when after Mike Schalzberg's columns in the Jamboree Journal and our "visually visible" first "Scouts-L Face-to-Face" at the National Jamboree, folks started to pay attention at that little list that talks about Scouting. We received more new members after the Jamboree (and after the Order of the Arrow National Conference last year) than we got at any one time since the list started. And we received PROFESSIONALS. Those like Mike, that said "Hey look. I can't and WON'T speak for the BSA or \*my\* Council. But I'll help out with some perspective, some personal opinion. Don't get me wrong. I want to participate more, but you see, there's something called the Scout Executive's Code out here, that I said I would follow. This is a JOB, and it pays my mortgage, my car payment, my children's education. It pays for the groceries and for the electricity and phone to connect to all of you. Please don't ask me to do more than sit back and observe."

We all smiled, nodded our heads and extended electronic left hands outward as we welcomed them (and later on, Josh) to the list.

We smiled because that was just like a new Scouter coming to a meeting and saying "Hey. I don't know about this Scouting jazz. I can teach first aid. I can drive some kids for you. I can help you make some decisions. But please don't ask me to be an "assistant" anything!"

We KNEW that those professionals that came here would not only bring their personal background, but would from time to time share what it is like to be a professional TODAY, not in Mike Walton's time (early to mid 80s). They would share information that we would get anyways (except that unlike Walton's "this is coming", we all knew WHEN it was coming and WHAT it is exactly!) from written BSA publications (and not "second hand, no matter the source") and open dialog.

Jessi says that ScoutPro and others are NOT "on the clock" and therefore nobody should be able to tell them what to do or not when they are not working. She said that's like the President of the bank where she works at telling her that since she talks about the recipes that their bank gives out, that she cannot stay as an administrator on EAT-L or make postings about their recipes and how they get them.

I responded by explaining that professional Scouters are much like doctors or lawyers or military people....they are always "on duty" even when they are not in their offices or doing things "officially" and that's how the BSA through a local Council can "control their actions". Their actions are always visible and their statements are

always "on the record" legally. That's why when we've asked ScoutPro or others questions, it took them some time in order to respond. They wanted, like I do frequently, to make sure that what they say reflects what the BSA says (or they can't say it).

I also felt really bad for Mike as well as for Chuck, Paris, Steve and Debbie. Their participation here (even as little as just making minor comments reminding us to consult our local Council) means more to them than it will ever mean to all of us. See gang, we cut them out of much that we talk about when they are around us. It's not that we don't like them, but over the years we've developed this "us-them" mentality that somehow doesn't exist in an electronic "town hall". Here, it made them (and others) \*equal\* to all of us volunteers. They could not "tell us what to do" and we could say whatever we wanted (within reason, remember the tenor of our list!) and not worry about "will our Scout Executive hear about this in the morning". They really felt as PARTS of this list and now, because the BSA hierarchy doesn't remember the basics of communication (the part about the feedback loop comes to mind here), they want to continue to place our career staff out of the reach of you and me.

>It is a simple disclaimer, that makes it clear that we  
>do not act as official spokespersons on BSA policy. BSA has numerous  
>legal challenges lately, and if our opinions about policy were used as  
>official interpretation of policy we would have an extremely tough time  
>sorting things out.

Anytime someone here posts a reference to a BSA publication, it becomes a "statement on BSA policy". That means that we have all at some time, became "official spokespeople". I think that the average person can figure out what the BSA (through the "printing" of a passage from an official publication or through a statement to a volunteer which is typed in here) is saying as opposed to what we FEEL should be the "policy" or procedure!

Likewise, when a professional speaks, we should NOT take it as "the Holy Word" as was the "policy" before this list came along. That was part of the reasoning for the great success of this list (and other forums)....that there's NOW some way that we can "find out from a variety of sources -- including some at our "highest levels" -- what the REAL answer is". The BSA has responded to our continued inquiries by attempting to "block communication between national staff and members of online communication forums", but it hasn't stopped the flow of good, necessary, important information from the BSA's

National Office as well as from other offices to all of us here.

We learned how to "question authority" again and in doing so, we have shared with others how easy it is (was) to get the official BSA documents and booklets we need to do our jobs well.

>Someone posted a few months ago that a large amount  
>of transcripts from on-line computer bulletin board providers had been  
>admitted as evidence in a case against BSA. I believe it was one of the  
>three G's that was involved.

Yes, it has been admitted as both defense and prosecutorial evidence in a number of cases and appeals, which goes back to 1992. In all of those cases, however, it was a very small portion of the overall case and no cases were won or lost nor appealed based on electronic communications between Scouters. However, you do have a point that the BSA would rather see a group of volunteers to provide information which could be correct or not than a professional providing information at all.

>This the need for the disclaimer to make  
>it clear that opinions of BSA members should not be admissible as  
>evidence of official policy. If our opinions could be taken as official  
>communications of policy, then we would have a real stifling of  
>communication. Everything we wanted to post would have to be approved  
>first. The policy stated in this memo enables us to continue to communicate  
>freely.

That's the reason in part why Jon reminded everyone of the statement in our WELCOME file, and here it is so everyone can once again read it:

"the advice given here is given on the same basis as what you would receive from a friend (which we all hope to become). None of us speaks on behalf of a youth organization in any capacity except in the cases where we have identified ourselves as a volunteer or career executive."

Hope this all adds to the discussion.

Settummanque!

--

Settummanque, the blackeagle... (MAJ) Mike L. Walton (

**Date:** Sat, 2 Sep 1995 17:30:34 -0600  
**Reply-To:** SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
**Subject:** Re: BSA Internet Policy -- long discussion

There has been discussion, pained, heated, cautious, pick your writer... about National and the Internet.

Now let us step back a moment and think a bit about the actual situation. The National CSE wrote (and I'll stick in a comment or two as we go:

- > A memo from the Chief Scout Executive Jere Ratcliffe, dated
- > June 29, 1995.
- >
- > Subject: Computerized Communications Networks - The Internet
- >
- > The position of the Boy Scouts of America regarding the
- > Internet is as follows:
- >
- > At this time, the National Council, Boy Scouts of America,
- > does not sponsor, provide or hold official space for the
- > disseminating of information of any kind regarding programs,
- > activities, resources of lists of names of leaders or
- > chartered organizations on the Internet of other
- > computerized networks.
- >

In other words, the National Council is not on line. A simple truth.

- > The Boy Scouts of America disseminated information through
- > regional offices and local councils to chartered
- > organizations, unit leaders, and youth members.
- >

In other words, BSA already has a network for communications, which I would analogize to the 'Adidas net' we all used to have in our offices -- a young person in tennis shoes taking papers around, then later taking disks around. This is very true.

- > For example, the Exploring magazine published and
- > distributed four times annually is the official national
- > communications tool for unit leaders and youth members
- > registered in the Exploring program. Similarly, Scouting
- > magazine provides a more generalized format for BSA programs
- > and activities.
- >

We have a real newsletter device going that is a very polished class act. True.

- > Individual units, youth, and adult members act on their own
- > as private individuals and do not represent or serve as
- > agents of the BSA at any time, especially when disseminating
- > information over computerized communication networks
- > (Internet, etc.).
- >

In other words, not everyone who cares to speak up on the Internet about Scouting knows what the National policy on his topic really is.

- > At this time a national council task force is evaluating the
- > issue of alternative communication methods such as the
- > Internet. After a full and thorough evaluation, the findings
- > of this task force will be made available to all local
- > councils.

In other word, we are looking into this tool.

Now let's string that together. The National Council is not on line. BSA already has a network for communications. We have a real newsletter device going that is a very polished class act. Not everyone who cares to speak up on the Internet about Scouting knows what the National policy on his topic really is. We are looking into this tool.

Now let's get off National's back. All that above is perfectly reasonable for people not yet conversant with the 'net.

Those of us who are actively talking Scouting on the 'net need to realize and accept that the Internet is the world's largest rumor mill. Stories can get started and spread like wildfire, that have little basis in fact. It is a whole new dimension where the marketplace for ideas is really getting started. The idea that free speech is safe because the wildest story can be counteracted by the truth, meets its real test on the 'net.

On the other hand, the difference between your neighborhood gossipNet and the Internet is that, unlike the GossipNet, the target of the gossip is very likely listening. Rumors about Scouting could always get started from 1910 forward. The net merely spreads them quicker and farther. Unlike those other rumors, National does not need to wait for enough DE's to tell enough CE's to tell enough, etc., etc. for the story about untrue rumors to filter up to Irving. Someone watching Scouts-L or rec. scouting can find out about the stories or misinformation immediately.

As a government officer in my small town I am sensitive to the local gossip. For example, at the same time that we were adopting a budget that held the line with inflation, and no more, a local activist wrote a letter

to the editor that our real estate taxes would be going up by 40%. Had that been on the net, had our budget discussions been on the net, the error (and I am persuaded this person believed what she wrote) would not have been made. I am sure the 40% error is continuing to make its way around town. We have official publications. We have employees in charge of answering public questions. But the rumor will continue to spread until people get the by then 'good' news in December with their bills. In some ways BSA is like that. BSA has always met this risk by saying that your DE and CE are the sole sources of gospel. Ask them. BSA has been afraid of creating greater credibility for the uninformed by permitting a belief that a variety of people know the gospel. If they mailed the National statements & new policies to the general public, any member of the public (having read the stuff or not) becomes a credible reporter of the content of the mailing. This must be the nature of their real concern.

What they need to realize is that the Internet can be the solution to this problem, as opposed to the cause of it. If National put up all its written policies and guides on the net in hypertext format, for example, there would be no possibility of misunderstanding.

Then there is the element of debate. The net is a place where among other things the 3G's are hotly debated. This may be something national would prefer not to get drawn into. They would not wish to be endlessly defending their policies on various topics, which could be immensely time consuming. There would be defense to this, however; they could from time to time post a message to the effect that they stand above the debate, are really looking for good ideas within the debate, will be delighted to see consensus, etc. etc.

Another problem national may perceive is that they would arm people who are not Scouters with all the correct indicia that they are associated with the program. The simple answer to that is that anyone who spends enough time on rec.scouting or Scouts-L, and buying things in Scout shops, can do that.

As noted by one of us, possibly national is concerned that if they encourage Scouts to get on the net they will expose them to bad things. Anyone who worries about the 'net in that regard should spend ten minutes in a High School and come to realize that Scouting is a refuge from the courser side of life to which Scouts are exposed daily. I have never found 'free' on the 'net anything anywhere near as provocative as publications available in their local fast-serve markets. Now there are some fairly obnoxious newlists, but many of them are not accessible through their local provider.

As the 'net grows, and as folks at National get more familiar with it, they

may suddenly get the idea they can get really useful feedback from the 'Net. Suppose they had posted a message on Scouts-L that they were thinking of taking the cargo pockets off the field pants to save every purchaser two dollars, and what did we all think....

who is netAddressed for, personal use, as: tedburtn@cris.com  
and for business use as: tedburtn@halcyon.com

**Date:** Sat, 2 Sep 1995 00:07:08 -0400 (EDT)  
**From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
**To:** Rick Touchette <Rick.Touchette@SEAG.FINGERHUT.COM>  
**Subject:** Indianhead Experiment

Rick,

I've heard that National is using your Council as a testbed for developing software and playing with how to use the internet. Have you heard/experienced any of this? Be interested in learning what they are doing.

Noticed you were from Indianhead. Would you have an extra CSP to trade for one of ours?

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

**Date:** Thu, 31 Aug 1995 12:50:45 -0400  
**From:** Stephen Hoar <hoar@AGDIS01.NEWARK.AF.MIL>  
**Subject:** Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

And we wonder why the requirements for the computer MB are out of date.

If we explained it to them in terms of knots, flint and steel, or perhaps even fundraising they could perhaps grasp the concept.

**Question:** How many national execs does it take to send an e-mail message?

**Answer: five**

**One to scratch it on the monitor screen with a piece of flint and four to stuff the computer into a mailing envelope.**

**Steve**

**Old enough to know better**

**Not too old to use the best tool to get the job done!**

**Date: Thu, 31 Aug 1995 03:17:02 -0400**

**From: Michael McDonald <scoutpro@TIAC.NET>**

**Subject: BSA Policy: The Internet**

**The following memo has been issued by the national office of the Boy Scouts of America:  
(read the memo and see the comments about my dilemma at the end)**

**---begin memo---**

**A memo from the Chief Scout Executive Jere Ratcliffe, dated June 29, 1995.**

**Subject: Computerized Communications Networks - The Internet**

**The position of the Boy Scouts of America regarding the Internet is as follows:**

**At this time, the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, does not sponsor, provide or hold official space for the disseminating of information of any kind regarding programs, activities, resources of lists of names of leaders or chartered organizations on the Internet of other computerized networks.**

**The Boy Scouts of America disseminated information through regional offices and local councils to chartered organizations, unit leaders, and youth members.**

**For example, the Exploring magazine published and distributed four times annually is the official national communications tool for unit leaders and youth members registered in the Exploring program. Similarly, Scouting magazine provides a more generalized format for BSA programs**

and activities.

Individual units, youth, and adult members act on their own as private individuals and do not represent or serve as agents of the BSA at any time, especially when disseminating information over computerized communication networks (Internet, etc.).

At this time a national council task force is evaluating the issue of alternative communication methods such as the Internet. After a full and thorough evaluation, the findings of this task force will be made available to all local councils.

---end memo---

As a professional / employee (District Executive) of the Boy Scouts of America I am faced with a dilemma. For almost a year I have had the opportunity to provide "national updates" to the Internet as a way of giving all volunteers an opportunity to get (directly), the best possible information relating to BSA news and policies.

I have in the past year been an "unofficial" information channel. giving volunteers of Scouts-L, WWW, and Rec. Scouting information about the Scout program as I have received it "straight from national;" without the filtering of the local council.

As part of the "official channel" i.e. I work for a local council, I can't see how I could be a "private individual" or use a "disclaimer" and give out information and not be a representative of the BSA.

At this point I see no other course but to discontinue my national updates. Anyone who has a perspective on my decision can certainly e-mail me in private or comment publicly.

At some point I may seek permission from the National Council to continue my work, but as a busy District Executive I'm sure they would see my time better used in other activities (new unit organization, etc.)

Well, for now my national updates have ended, but I have other projects in the works that should not break these rules. Look for my massive collection of clip-art to be made available soon as well as electronic versions of some historic BSA publications, i.e. old handbook chapters as well as game/activity books.

Bye for now :)

\*\*\*\*\*

Mike McDonald \* Exploring Executive &  
SCOUTPRO@TIAC.NET \* Inner-City District Executive  
\* Mohegan Council, Worcester, MA  
\* Boy Scouts of America  
\*

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed are just that, my opinions. Statements about Scouting policy are based on the most current information I have available, and I document my sources if asked nicely.

\*\*\*\*\*

Date: Sat, 2 Sep 1995 17:46:30 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: Michael McDonald <scoutpro@TIAC.NET>  
Subject: Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

Michael,

Your postings will be sorely missed. You were my only way of getting a lot of information, because our Council SE filters out about 98% of this information or sends it through such a convoluted chain that hearing about change is chaotic and not predictable. Too many professionals do not share the view that sharing information is service and instead see it as a way of holding "power" over volunteers. Now I don't hold that against anyone, but would certainly much rather have the information. Unlike many I don't see this as an us/them contest, but a situation like one finds in almost every workplace where there is a wide variety of management styles - some better or much better than others. And it seems that the most successful managers always empower their people to excel. You were doing that. Your attitude is commendatory and your success will be much greater because of it. If you ever need a recommendation on management skills in communicating, you've got it.

I understand your dilemma and you unfortunately have had to make the right, albeit tough, call of backing off for now. As a lawyer I can all

too well understand the damage that the nay-saying twits are doing by suing BSA and the vulnerability that is created, if these lists and forums can be turned into evidence and misused. The sad thing is that many will misdirect their anger at BSA instead of the real culprits (damn their sorry hides).

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Sun, 3 Sep 1995 23:04:16 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: Michael McDonald <scoutpro@tiac.net>  
Subject: Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

Mike,

Unfortunately the reason I understand is that I am a Government lawyer used to the swirling mists of bureaucracy and the all too many information control games played out on that stage everyday. A few years back I was a crusader on that stage, got burned, but survived and managed to succeed in spite of things. In the process I learned a little about keeping a certain amount of distance from the issue to see all of what was going on instead of rushing forward in attack. There are a lot of ways of approaching this, but the best would seem to be a patient nudging sort of way - usually works faster long-term as the folks who need to change begin to feel ownership of the change.

I was not aware that the National Chief had been asked to shut down his Web Page. I wonder how long before I am on the hit list with Bill Nelson or Gary Hendra for our Web Sites. If asked, I will most likely comply because of a desire to continue to be of service.

I do sincerely hope that do not take it upon themselves to start policing the net to stifle information. If they do, I can assure you that as a lawyer talking with other information lawyers that there are dozens of reputation hungry lawyers that would love to bring a lawsuit against BSA for deliberate attempts to abridge the Constitutional right of free speech by its members under an assortment of statutes and case law in the civil rights area. This would be called a Constitutional tort and the remedial action would be an injunction, damages, and punitive damages. And even if the action were lost, it would cost BSA dearly. Not all of

the folks with Web Sites are going to look at the value of the program and be motivated by a desire to serve sufficiently to forgo this route. My prediction is that BSA at this point is playing with explosives. I hope they think things through very carefully before beginning to police the internet.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Sun, 3 Sep 1995 12:15:55 -0400  
To: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
From: Michael McDonald <scoutpro@tiac.net>  
Subject: Re: BSA Policy: The Internet

>  
>Your postings will be sorely missed. You were my only way of getting a  
>lot of information, because our Council SE filters out about 98% of this  
>information or sends it through such a convoluted chain that hearing  
>about change is chaotic and not predictable. Too many professionals do  
>not share the view that sharing information is service and instead see it  
>as a way of holding "power" over volunteers.

Of all the messages on this subject that I have gotten I think your the first person to fully understand what is going on.

Information is power and National still supports a structure that allows local coucil executives absolute control of the information in their service area.

Things are changing quickly and national is going to have a lot of pressure on them. As an example you may know that the National Chief of the Order of the Arrow has been asked to close his Web page. The reason given is the same "not a proper method of giving out information"

Things are going to get interesting. :)

\*\*\*\*\*

Mike McDonald \* Exploring Executive &  
SCOUTPRO@TIAC.NET \* Inner-City District Executive

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\* Mohegan Council, Worcester, MA  
\* Boy Scouts of America  
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**Disclaimer: Opinions expressed are just that, my opinions. Statements about Scouting policy are based on the most current information I have available, and I document my sources if asked nicely.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Date: Mon, 25 Sep 1995 11:30:45 CDT  
From: Todd Norman Tingblad <tingbltn@uwec.edu>  
Subject: National's Computing Status**

**With all the talk about National's missing Internet presents, I thought it would be good to give you some updated information I received Thursday about the BSA National computer front.**

**National is having computer mainframe problems. These problems are like any other business. Earlier this year I told the Scouts-L community about the Accounting Program changes that were giving National real big problems. The major problems with this change in Accounting have finally been fixed. There still remains a few problems with it, but it finally almost done (8 months late). As part of this change in the Accounting System comes the problem of getting it all to work on two different UNIX platforms (TI Business Systems and HP-9000 Series). Councils are not moving off the old TI stuff to the newer HP stuff as fast as National wants. The problem on the council's side is the cost of the HP systems. HP-9000's needed by some councils can get into the \$70,000+ really fast. \$70,000+ can give a lot of kids a lot of program elsewhere in the council (camps, events, training and so on). Council Exec's have a really hard time spending \$70,000+ and not get anything new from the system (features, access, and many other things).**

**National also has a new "Consultant" to go to council's and help them move from the TI box to the HP box (compute talk box = computer). This "Consultant" is a former Council Exec and seems to not have any formal computer training or background. Seems he could not move up any further on the Exec path and so got this job on computer consulting at National instead.**

All development on improving the National supplies Council programs that run on the TI and HP boxes continues to be going no where. One of the requests Indianhead Council made was to have some form of Unit Level data input...like for School Night registration. The idea was to have a simple registration program that units could run to input the new members. Save this information to a diskette. Send the diskette and the registration forms to the council office. An electronic update (upload or something like that) would be done to the Council's TI or HP box. The new data would be all set for daily transmission to National's mainframe.

The committee at National that is looking into the Internet stuff is watching the Girl Scouts' Internet setup with great interest. It seems that they are making some headway. However, don't plan to see anything for a year or two. For all those Councils, Districts, and Units putting up Web Pages, BSA is looking at them. Getting ideas. Looking for problems.

That's the latest I have coming through official BSA communications channels (my council's Communications/Information Systems Director).

YiS,

Todd Tingblad -- TINGBLTN@UWEC.EDU

Date: Wed, 27 Sep 1995 14:37:46 -0500  
From: Pat Meehan <alf@KGN.IBM.COM>  
Subject: Re: National's Computing Status

Can someone tell me (us) why it is necessary the computer be an HP/9000 ... ?

I can certainly sympathize with Council's when asked to purchase a \$70,000 computer... why? From what little info I know about HP's (9000 series), that price range is a server model. We had purchased a couple years ago, a Model

730 (1 Gig Dasd, 48 meg memory) and spent only \$20K ... Certainly a council wouldn't need 'Server' models for their operations... and if the data got to be too big, they can add external dasd later...

So if someone could a) justify the \$70,000 machines and b) justify why HP and not some other machines (a dozen come to mind in a smaller price range) and c) what is the OS they are using (Unix??? NT? ... ) if unix - why?

I work with computers everyday, unix oriented - Sun's, HP's, SGI's and RS/6000.

At this level it is hard to imagine the need for a unix based environment, although I find it easier :) ... but then i work / program with it everyday!

Any thoughts!!!

YiS  
Pat

Date: Thu, 28 Sep 1995 13:15:22 CDT  
From: Todd Norman Tingblad <tingbltn@uwec.edu>  
Subject: Re: National's Computing Status

Pat Meehan and others:

Here are the answers to your questions:

a) Why a \$70,000 machine?

This machine is in the Server range of power and connectivity...yes! The thinking as it was explained to me was to have all your terminals and PC's connected to it so that you do not need to have another network like Novell running to run the commercially available software. Plus, Councils pay National's IT folks maintenance money. Put it all on one package with one bill and it will all be simpler. This is old Mainframe thinking going on here...one size fits all. Right.....

b) Why HP and not some other machines?

National is running a "Turnkey" system for Councils. National will supply

and support all parts of your computing needs (as long as it is on their box). Limiting it to one vendor's box lowers the cost of support greatly. To support this, National has included the code in their software that will only allow it to run on Texas Instrument (TI) Business Systems Unix or HP-9000 Unix. HP bought TI's Unix line two years ago, so National had to change to something else as the TI boxes were discontinued. HP was the logical choice. Back when the first Unix system were coming out from National, some councils with help from some IT (Information Techology) professionals, purchased PC clones that ran Unix. There were a lot of problems getting software run and the datacomm back to National's mainframe.

So National said, "We will only support this stuff on this machine and only this machine." From a management standpoint to control costs, this makes since.

c) What is the OS they are running?

It's Unix. On the TI machine, it is a very old System V 1.3 (or is that TI's version?). On the HP machine, it is HP's current System V Unix that is a bit different from most vendor's Unix (includes some special stuff that is HP only things). At the time this system was designed (1982) (there was an even

earlier design in the late 70's), Unix was the only low cost decentralizable OS that the data transfers could happen on. Like most buinesses, moving to a

new OS is a very large process. Because of HP's purchase of TI, the conversion was needed. All code has been converted to run on the HP Unix machines. The code is written in COBOL. The port (conversion) to HP required code rewrite from TI COBOL to Micro Focus COBOL. This is a great move since Micro Focus COBOL is the COBOL for PC LANs like Novell, NT, OS/2

and most every other system out there. So down the road (Jan. 1, 2030?) BSA

may have enough money to get this software to a PC LAN type OS. That's the

biggest problem National's IT department has right now, MONEY. They are just

trying to keep what they got running to continue to run, plus their own in-house information system. That's too bad for the Councils.

In my council, Indianhead, St. Paul, MN, we have a large staff (40 in the office and 4 distant year-round camps). All the staff really need access to

the database information on the TI system. The TI system only has 16 serial ports to connect to. To get enough ports or to put the HP machine on an Ethernet backbone, \$70,000 bill is the needed money for this type of system.

In Chippewa Valley Council in Eau Claire, WI (right next door), a much smaller system is needed since their staff is very small and the current TI machine is overkill in power. So what do you do? If you are like most councils, you hope that all that money you have sent to National for IT support will also be the best IT solutions available. We on the Indianhead Council Computer Consultants Committee do question that to a degree.

So if you got \$2 Million (that is most likely too low to do a really great job) just setting around doing nothing, give it to National to be used only to bring Council Support Services IT software up to the 1990's so it can run on a PC type LAN. (Personal Note: I would vote to get all this Council software to run on a Windows NT environment...but that's just a personal choice...but I really don't like giving Bill Gates any more money than I really need to...). With software that our Council Pros can really use to make Scouting available to more kids is what we need. Our DE's could get a single report that could show: 1) How A Unit Is Advancing; 2) If A Unit Is Going On Outings (day outings & camping); 3) Training Needs As Leader Come And Go Day To Day; 4) Unit Fundraising Efforts; 5) Past Member Resources; 6) FOS/SME Levels; 7) Unit's Leadership In Other BSA Functions (District & Council Committees). That's just the DE, this and other information, even with what is already in the current databases, can help many in the Council and the District if only we had the tools to get at the information without doing overnight data dumps and off-line data sorts.

Hope that all helps you understand this stuff a little better...I don't have all the answers. Sometime down the road, when your DE says, "I can't get that information", it's because there's just no way to get it out of the Council's computer system...even though you know it's in there. (Where's Tim "The Toolman" Taylor when you really need him). :-)

YiS,

Todd Tingblad -- TINGBLTN@UWEC.EDU

Date: Mon, 12 Feb 1996 11:56:56 -0600  
From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle (MAJ) Mike Walton"  
<blackeagle@HCC-UKY.CAMPUS.MCI.NET>  
Subject: BSA Online (was Re: BSA Publication List)

Jack Pevear wrote:

>It was announced at a recent conference by Mike Hoover, assistant chief Scout  
>Executive, that BSA will have an "Internet presence" by late spring.

Thanks for the confirmation, Jack!! I've received a LOT of email and a couple of phone calls this morning about this...and it sounds promising until I asked "what KIND of prescence" are we talking about? A web page? A FTP site with Scouting publications? Someone to answer OFFICIALLY and AS A BSA NATIONAL STAFFER questions that we cannot answer here or in other forums?

"No comment".

The closest "response" I can get is from someone in BSA Council Support and it was "after the last review from the BSA's "Internet task force", it was decided that the BSA could NOT ignore the Internet and the 'power' that we volunteers tend to have here, but there was still some concern about who would run "it" here at National, what kind of input the various groups at the National Office would have, and most importantly, how much information which usually goes from N-R-L (national-regional-local council) to the volunteer and membership will now circumvent that path and instead go down the "superhighway" ".

Present "thought" is to have the Program Group to "run it", like they "run" the columns in \_Boys'\_Life\_ and \_Scouting\_, to fill it with the "filler stuff" that

currently goes to local Councils each month in the Council Packet, and add some clipart (and there's a problem with the clipart...currently everything that gets onto the Internet gets "bogarted" (it gets reused and cut and pasted to other documents and other forums) with little if any regard for copyright or usage restrictions. What's to keep a Scouter from taking a nice clipart item and posting it, for example, onto alt.clip-art? What's to keep a Scouter from sending it to Canada or South Africa?).

As I've written over at Arrow-L, the "Internet task force" has been meeting several times over the past seven months (since the "BSA-Internet" letter was released), have used several Web search programs to "ascertain how large the present "BSA" presence is on the Web" and getting samples of postings from various mail/resource groups to see just what format the BSA's presence should be.

>From what little stuff was sent to me, I think that the task force underestimated the number of active Web sites (they counted somewhere in the low 70s or so) and mailing lists (they only list the ones they knew of...the Jewish Scouting and the Exploring lists were not included, as well as the Electronic Scouting support mailing list). The TF only lists the Pluto FTP site, and basically ignores anything outside of the USA.

The BSA has asked National committeemembers not to have a "visible presence" out on the Internet, and it has caused the National Order of the Arrow Chief to "shut down" his Web site. There are many of those members that have still maintained email boxes anyway and there's still some "national-level business" still being conducted using email.

A copy of one interim report says that one \*possibility\* will be a "BSA-L" mailing list (similar to Scouts-L), with membership only available to

currently registered Scouters. This would answer general questions of program and unit support but will NOT answer "local" questions in the detail or depth that we get into here on Scouts-L. This also has the added "safety" that the listowner (whomever that will be) can "kick off" anyone that the BSA deems (like any other list).

Another possibility is the creation of a closed USENET NEWS list, similar to the ones that the Girl Scouts of the USA are considering for it's leadership. "Closed" in the manner that only those that request permission to join the list will be able to post; anyone else will be able to read.

Finally, according to the interim summary, it is a conclusion that the BSA will have an official Web site, and the summary keeps referring to Bill Nelson's website (the U.S. Scouting Service one) as a "model". However, it was not clear as to whether or not links to Bill's or to the MacScouter (the Hendras') or to anyone else's would be "permitted" (can someone please educate me on how it's possible to RESTRICT links to a Web site?)

Jack's confirmation from C. Michael Hoover, whom is a "internet surfer" and one of (Scouts-L's) our most vocal proponents at the National level (he's received a LOT of email transcripts from us over the years and I still believe that he has a mailbox on Prodigy or CompuServe) assures me that we will be hearing quite soon about some REALLY IMPORTANT CHANGES to our program shortly...important because it will affect us all as Scouters and will reflect just how \*powerful\* our daily conversations and chat has been to the BSA -- and other youth programs!!

I'm just a little leery as to how it would all work...and if we, the "average Scouter" will receive a positive benefit from it. The final report from the BSA's Internet Task Force group will be released sometime in late March or early April

and the Chief Scout Executive is expected to review and approve it sometime in May and public announcement is expected to be announced in Scouting's "summer edition" soon afterwards.

Thanks again for the information, Jack...and welcome!!

Settummanque!

Date: Thu, 15 Feb 1996 00:24:32 -0800  
From: Mike Montoya <mmm@IMS.MARIPOSA.CA.US>  
Subject: Re: Confirmation on "BSA Online"

At 04:50 PM 2/14/96 -0600, you wrote:

>>

>>At their meeting last week in Dallas, the National Executive >Board of the >BSA approved spending \$40,000 on an official BSA web >page. Michael Hoover, >Deputy Chief Scout Executive, told me that >the page would be up in April. >Woohoo!

>>

>>Josh Feigelson  
>>(Still a member of the National Executive Board)

>

>No comment on why so much money to develop a series of pages,  
>but with that much money, I think that we will see a grand effort.  
>Be looking in Scouting for the \*other\* shoe to fall, however!

I wonder if they're putting it out for bid?

Mike

-----  
Mike Montoya, ASM, Troop 94            mmm@yosemite.net  
http://www.yosemite.net/mariposa/clubs/t94/  
"I used to be ...Faster, Lighter, & Less Gray!"

Date: Thu, 21 Mar 1996 13:49:43 -0500  
From: Ray Callaway <ric@BEAU.ATLANTA.DG.COM>  
Subject: BSA National in the News (computers, training)

**The following article appears in a trade publications for people working in the service provider business:**

**\_Service News\_ , Vol 16, No. 4, March 1996, p. 18  
by Kim Acker Lipp**

### **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SALUTE COMPUTER TRAINING**

**To put it in the words of Don Baldwin, the education manager of Boy Scouts of America, "We are not [an organization] that will ever be on the leading edge. But we will never be left behind either."**

**The official motto of Boy Scouts (for those of you who did not earn your merit badges) is "Be prepared." Preparing for future computer training needs is exactly what Baldwin is trying to do as the Scouts move from a mainframe into a client/server environment.**

**The Boy Scouts is divided into four regions across the United States, with headquarters in Irving, TX. The regions are broken down into 340 local Councils, which are responsible for monitoring the 44,203 troops nationwide. Baldwin and his staff are responsible for bringing training to the staff at headquarters and down to the more than 3,000 end users at the Council level.**

**In the past Baldwin has relied on instructor-led training. Baldwin has two instructors in each of the four regions who travel to various sites to conduct lessons on the Scouts' proprietary software.**

**As part of a new initiative, Baldwin is introducing computer-based training into the mix. Baldwin has dedicated a full-time member of his staff to the task of writing the CBTs, which will be distributed throughout the Council level.**

**"We will roll out the CBTs in May, and will start with out accounting systems,**

which seems to be our biggest nemesis. The first four modules of CBT will be for accounting," says Baldwin. "It will help bring everybody up [who needs traing] to the beginning level. We'll still run instructor-led courses, but they will be working with learners that are at a basic level."

The Scouts' IS division has had to create its accounting application for the organization's non-profit financial systems, as well as fundraising, membership, and support applications. "All of those are proprietary, just because of the uniqueness of what we do," says Baldwin. Two members of Baldwin's staff are working to create manuals for the proprietary applications, which Baldwin says he will eventually out on-line.

At headquaters, the staff is migrating its 750 PCs to Windows. For training purposes, Baldwin has contracted two outside instructors. For the Windows training, the Scouts organization tried something new and required employees to attend training. Baldwin says the mandatory training has lowered calls to the help desk and he hopes in the future to require CBT training for proprietary applications.

In the meantime, Baldwin says he is continuing to explore new training technologies and delivery tools. "In the long range we've got to do it, it's the future," says Baldwin. "We have to find ways to get the best for our dollar."

\_SERVICE NEWS\_

Ray Callaway | The opinion expressed above is  
ASM, Troop 534 | personal and does not represent  
Atlanta Area Council | the views of my employer, Data  
| General Corporation.

Date: Tue, 26 Mar 1996 19:55:33 CST  
From: MARK A WILBUR <wilbur-ma@CLAVIN.MED.GE.COM>  
Subject: National Computer Survey on Training  
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

I received an interesting survey in the mail from the National

Office in Irving Texas dated March 11, 1996.

It seems that they are considering alternatives to deliver a "Training Message" to leaders and would computer assisted instruction be attractive?

They have sent this survey to three Councils: Quapaw Area (Little Rock, AK), St. Louis Area Council, and Chief Seattle Council. It is a simple survey that wants to know how many Troops have access to a computer. Also, what kind and capabilities it has.

Sounds very interesting to me... Maybe we really going to move out of the dark ages!!! My main return comment was that the training material be available FREE of charge. Maybe on their new WEB site.

---

Mark Wilbur	wilbur-ma@clavin.med.ge.com	/\mmm/\
SM: Troop 374	Ceremonial Team Advisor	Owl (o) (o)
St. Louis, Mo.	Vigil: Allogagwa	NC-516 \ v /
Eagle Scout	Shawnee Lodge #51	+++
Ham: NOUII	"May God Bless... (Red Skelton)"	

---

Date: Tue, 9 Jul 1996 21:24:05 PDT  
From: "Ronald W. Fox" <us018956@POP3.INTERRAMP.COM>  
Subject: Re: National's Web Site (LONG)  
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Mike Walton and others responded to my posting. I will use Mike's posting as a template, but I mean to respond to all. I've done a little editing and reordering to facilitate this.

>>1) The opening paragraph states that "if you are a boy between >>the ages of 7 to 20", and goes on to state that you might be >>interested in one of the BSA's programs. No mention that young >>women between the ages of 14 to 20 have options in the BSA >>program as well.

>The references to only male youth is not a mistake. The BSA >is currently in litigation on two separate fronts dealing with females >in the program, and has chosen wisely not to include the fact that >female youth ARE a part of the BSA's program through the young >adult Exploring program (or at least in bold lettering).

However, the site DOES note elsewhere that female youth are welcome as part of the program; just not in the opening paragraph. I don't understand why, since they do reference it in the site, they don't reference it in the opening.

Can anyone supply specifics about this litigation?

>>No recognition that few males over the age of  
>>about 12 care to be referred to as a "boy".

No one responded to this.

>>And, just who is BSA's target audience for this site, anyway?

>The BSA's web site is NOT designed to do  
>anything but to serve as an example to local Councils as to  
>what kinds of things National will "buy off" on without a long  
>discussion.

And, again:

>The target audience hasn't really been made. The site was designed  
>to meet the needs of the local Council, which several have been  
>asking for some sort of example of what a "Council site" should  
>look like and what it should contain. This is why I've been working  
>nearly overtime on the "Cardinal Council" site, which I feel (biasly)  
>would answer those questions a little better than the BSA official  
>site.

1) Where has the BSA informed it's members of this? Or, has it only told this to the Councils, and not to it's own members?

2) Regardless of BSA's intent, the site is open to the public and will be viewed by a number of potential members, both youth and adults. The site should be structured with that in mind.

>>2) There hasn't been a change in the "What's New" section since  
>>the site opened. Currently, it touts a tour of Norman Rockwell  
>>art that ended 2 months ago. Doesn't project an image of a  
>>program that's really with it.

Chaplain Morrison agreed with me here. Cheryl Singhal wrote:

>These pages I rather think of as flyers in the library: here's the basic  
>info and a contact point.

>Of course, if I were putting up a page purporting to be, say, a calendar  
>of coming events, or if I were sharing time-sensitive or even timely  
>material, that's a different question. As is the link that says "For the  
>Latest on this, click here" and the "click here" was last updated a  
>year ago. <G>

The latter paragraph is my point. If you've got a link marked, "What's New", it ought to be something new. Scouting has enough of an image problem with being boring, etc., without adding to it on the fastest moving and most "with it" environment on the planet.

>>Do they think youth between  
>>the ages of 7 to 20 care about an art exhibit tour? How about  
>>something on what's been happening at the High Adventure bases  
>>this year? How about some news about some of the remarkable  
>>achievements of units or Scouts around the country?

Back to Mike:

>You'll find all of that in Scouting and Boys' Life, Ron. Again,  
>the main purpose of the BSA's official site is NOT of communication.  
>It is only (right now, anyway) of national promotion and as an  
>example of what a local Council website should look like.

True, you will find that in "Scouting" and "Boys' Life". However, non-members generally don't get these. Regardless of what National's purpose for this site is, it's available to the public and should present an appropriate face to the public.

>>3) There are a few typos and grammatical errors on the site. This  
>>was O.K. for the start, but it's been two months or more now, so  
>>these should have been cleaned up.

>

>I have a few typos and grammatical errors on my pages, and I  
>just haven't had the time to go back and fix them, and some pages  
>have been up since December of 1995. I would say that there are  
>many pages that fit this same description as well.

>

>When you are designing and crafting information, as well as doing  
>other tasks, there's really not enough time in the day to go back and  
>constantly clean everything all of the time.

>

>Yeah, its' an excuse, but a valid one, I feel.

Sorry Mike, but I disagree with you here. This is a corporate site, not a personal one, and was crafted by a professional service for the BSA (or so I understand, anyway, I don't know this first hand). It should be both literally and figuratively letter-perfect, or we didn't get our money's worth (note the use of WE and OUR, not "the BSA's").

>>4) Of course, one of the biggest things is that there's no resource  
>>material (read, BSA publications) on the site.

>

>You won't see any. One of the concessions that the BSA's  
>Information Technology task force made was that there would be  
>NO online "manuals" or "publications", simply because those things  
>already appear in printed form, the BSA spends a lot of money to  
>distribute them and place them in the hands of the local Council, and  
>because local Councils asked that many of the publications NOT be  
>"placed on the Internet" simply for control purposes (my statement).

O.K. I accept that the mission of this site is not to provide copies of official BSA publications.

>If the only way you can get a copy of the Chartered Organization  
>Representative booklet is through the Council Service Center, you  
>are going to go in and maybe someone will hand you a copy.

Someone had d\*\*m well BETTER hand it to me. Fast.

>If you can "get it from the Internet", why have a local Council  
>office?

Because my local Council office is busy as h%@l trying to provide program to the youth of my community, and offloading this clerical function would free them up to do other work.

Cheryl Singhal wrote:

>Monday, 8 Jul 96, I read in either the Washington POST business section

>or in a TIME magazine article the statement that only <some small number,  
>5% or 8%, I forget which> of America is on-line. Given previously  
>published stats that claim Americans make up "most" of the 'net's  
>non-official users ... Seems to me it's going to be Looooonnnngggg time  
>before d/l something off the web is commonplace.

True, the number is small, but they're distributed. If a large number of units have one or two people with access to the net, many more than 5% or 8% of units will benefit, much as many units benefit because each one seems to have a guy with a truck, and one adult who is a carpenter, and another who can teach the Scouts to fish, etc., etc., and will help out other units who don't have someone like this.

>And -- once I d/l it, where do I store it? Do I tote my computer with me  
>to meetings so I can quote from it? Or do I print it off and schlepp the  
>hardcopy? If the latter, wouldn't it be easier to get the official,  
>nicey formatted, pre-printed version from Council rather than paying  
>for my own toner, my own paper and spending my time doing  
>something they've already done?

What you do, is answer the question that came up that caused you to download the document to begin with, and then keep it around until the next question comes up. Now, you're right, having the printed document around is great, and has many advantages, but having the document on my hard disk is much better than having neither hard-copy nor disk copy.

I'm not naive regarding the "control" issue, but there's a lot of basic information that could be placed out there.

>>5) Finally, there's no Webmaster E-Mail address. Can someone name  
>>another site on the Web that doesn't have a Webmaster E-Mail  
>>address?

Back to Mike:

>The reason why there are no email addresses is a rather simple one:  
>They don't want to be pummelled with literally hundreds of email  
>postings, everything from "Can Pedro write me back please?" to "Why  
>is the BSA such a homophobic, sexist, racist organization?" and  
>stuff in-between. Imagine the excitement that would be created when  
>"a BSA email address" is sent out to the world!! \*grinning\*

**Yah, too true, too true. I'd like a way for the Internet-aware Scouting community to interact with the designers of this site, but there'd be no way to restrict it.**

**>>The average youth accessing [www.bsa.scouting.org](http://www.bsa.scouting.org) has seen quite a few sites. He (or She) is not going to be impressed with a site that obviously hasn't been maintained since it was put up.**

**>**

**>But again, there's a lot of youth that haven't seen the site and would view it and say "kewl! The BSA has a web site!! I wonder if my Council has one, too!"**

**I'm thinking more of what a non-BSA member would think. I'm not interested in preaching to the choir.**

**>>Bonus: I'll send a CSP of Des Plaines Valley Council for the best .JPG or .GIF of a design for a Troop or Council Webmaster patch.**

**>**

**>Working on it.**

**You're not the only one! Hope to see some good entries. I'll send out more than one CSP if I get multiple cool entries.**

**>>Please understand that my comments here are intended to try to get National to make the web site that officially represents our movement attractive to the very people who we are trying to attract into our movement. I'm glad that National finally put a web site up, but I fear that National doesn't understand what to do with it.**

**>**

**>Do I agree with you, Ron!! The BSA spent a pretty penny on this access, and slowly but surely, they'll catch on that now that they have a site, that they have to constantly update and refresh it or nobody will stop by it anymore!**

**Bingo. Exactly what I meant. But it shouldn't be "slowly". Everyone who logs in to the site in it's present state could be a lost opportunity. They need to figure this out now. It's kind of like a manager who budgets money for a computer, but doesn't budget for maintenance, supplies, etc.**

**Ron Fox**  
**Cubmaster, Pack 69**  
**Working on becoming Scoutmaster for (new) Troop 69 (2/97)**  
**Des Plaines Valley Council (W & SW Chicago Suburbs)**  
**E-mail: ronfox@pop3.interramp.com (Ronald W. Fox)**

**Date: Wed, 10 Jul 1996 21:13:23 PDT**  
**From: "Ronald W. Fox" <us018956@POP3.INTERRAMP.COM>**  
**Subject: Re: National Web site**

**--- On Wed, 10 Jul 1996 16:20:59 U Mike Schatzberg**  
**<mike\_schatzberg@M1MAIL.SBI.COM> wrote:**

**>I've taken the liberty of passing along the Scouts-L messages pertaining to**  
**>the BSA National Web site to the folks at National responsible for the site.**  
**>**  
**>If you like**  
**>this initial attempt, and would like to see more, let National know.**

**O.K., Mike, I've already made some comments, but please pass these along:**

- 1) Please let us know what the mission of this site is.**
- 2) You could really stretch your dollars if you used some of the people on the 'Net who are running Scouting Web sites already to give National a hand. I haven't taken Wood Badge (yet), but I understand one of the things they stress is "Use your resources." We're part of the Scouting movement. We are your resources!**
- 3) The area marked "What's New" has got to be something NEW! There are plenty of resources available for this: see point #2. Stress what Scouts are doing, not some art exhibit.**
- 4) I'm willing to grant the point of the E-Mail address. National would be swamped.**
- 5) I'm willing to grant the point of not using the Web server to distribute BSA documents AT THIS TIME. However, I believe that National should work towards distributing at least a useful subset of its documentation on a Web/FTP site within the next 12 months.**

**National doesn't use the 'Net for communicating under normal conditions, but this is an exceptional circumstance. I think it's reasonable for someone involved in this effort to communicate directly with the Scouting 'Net community, as long as we all agree to limit our discussion to the Web site and the Internet itself.**

I am very glad to see National set up a web site. I don't want my criticism cause them to withdraw into a shell. I'd like to help make it better.

Ron Fox  
Cubmaster, Pack 69  
Des Plaines Valley Council  
E-mail: ronfox@pop3.interramp.com (Ronald W. Fox)

Date: Fri, 12 Jul 1996 01:52:04 GMT  
From: Dave Hultberg <dave.hultberg@paonline.com>  
Subject: Re: National Website

On Thu, 11 Jul 1996 12:26:26 -0500, Mike Walton wrote to Dave Rogers:

>I would love, Dave, to say that the BSA or the GSUSA really \*cared\* about us  
>all here on Scouts-L or other forums. The truth of the matter is, they care  
>very  
>little. Why? Because they have \_Scouting\_, \_Exploring\_ and \_Boys' Life\_, which  
h  
>combined with those letters sent to the program and support divisions by  
>volunteers, professionals and members, are MANY, MANY TIMES MORE  
than  
>the postings sent here on all of the electronic Scouting forums.

If the above is the true attitude of our professional Scouters then I am truly disappointed. We may be smaller in numbers than the readership of Boys Life, Scouting and Exploring, but I submit that a LARGE number of Scouts and Scouters are online and the number increases daily. Whether they want to acknowledge it or not we are their customers and they should be listening to all of us. The paradigm has shifted and the old style rigid "chain of command" flow of information isn't good enough anymore. I've worked for the Navy over 27 years and it has been called (rightly IMHO) the most conservative of the services. My headquarters is setting up a corporate intranet that will be accessible from every headquarters and field activity employee's desktop. We already have public web servers at headquarters and all major field activities. Instructions, reports and manuals are being distributed electronically via the web pages and email instead of the traditional mailed paper copies. Technical manuals are delivered to our ships on CDROM saving

the cost and weight of tons of paper. Even our ships have their own web pages!

This same model would work for the BSA. All of the council offices could be linked to the regional offices and national over the internet. Public data could be made available via web servers and other data could be distributed over an internal intranet server. Both services actually use the internet as the transport mechanism, but only properly authenticated users have access to the intranet servers. Instead of the expense of sending pouches of paper from national to over three hundred local councils, it could be sent via email or downloaded by the local councils from the national server.

I have heard enough stories as I'm sure you have, of professionals who "forget" to pass on information that national intended to go out to the volunteers. Information is power and unfortunately, sometimes the SE or DE withhold information from the volunteers. There is no way the Scouting, Boys Life and Exploring can publish all of the news coming out of national. They also can't afford to allocate enough space to thoroughly explain the policies they announce.

A lot of BSA publications, especially the free ones, if made available on a web or ftp server could cut down the workload of the overburdened staff of the council office, freeing up time to actually work on programs instead of distributing paper. Units with internet connections could submit advancement data to the council office via the net and with proper authentication download updated reports on their units.

I could go on and on, but I think you get my drift. As BSA downsizes like we are doing in government and industry, automation and electronic communications are essential to keep delivering the program to our Scouts and Scouters.

+-----+  
|David B. Hultberg           email: david\_b\_hultberg@nslc.fmso.navy.mil|  
|Director IRM Division (N01A)   dave.hultberg@paonline.com        |  
|Naval Sea Logistics Center   http://www.nslc.fmso.navy.mil        |  
|P.O. Box 2060                Phone: (717) 790-4507 or DSN 430-4507   |  
|Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0795 FAX: (717) 790-2915 or DSN 430-2915|  
|  
+-----+

>However, as I've written here several times in the past, technology has a way of clubbing even the BSA over the head, and therefore the BSA had to do something to at least "try and keep up".

+-----+  
|David B. Hultberg, ASTA #1781      email: dave.hultberg@paonline.com|  
|Advancement Chairman, Troop 196      Eagle Scout Class of 1967      |  
|Keystone Area Council              Bobwhite NE-VI-34              |  
+-----+