

Windows Everywhere?

Microsoft Corp. will acquire privately-held WebTV Networks for about \$425 million in a move aimed at bringing the personal computer and the television closer together.

Microsoft said it hopes to develop the frontier of digital television so consumers can enjoy better picture quality, additional programming, and Internet access using a device with which they are already comfortable.

"We want to take the personal computer and its progeny ... quickly into the home," said Microsoft Senior Vice President Craig Mundie.

WebTV Networks has developed the technology to make set-top boxes that allow consumers to use their televisions to surf the net and use email.

The set-top box is about the same size as a cable TV box, connects to the Internet via a regular telephone line, and is simple to use. It includes a credit card reader so consumers can shop online.

About 98% of homes in the United States have televisions, even more than have telephones. Slightly over 40% have computers, and about a third of those have access to the Internet.

This acquisition is Microsoft's biggest in the Internet sector, and it will bring Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser and Windows CE, a scaled-down version of the Windows 95 operating system made for pocket computers, to WebTV which will lead to a more sophisticated product, Mundie said.

Who Knows How Much You Made Last Year?

The Social Security Administration website permitted citizens to review their social security records, including annual earnings; however, the site may not be as secure as you would like.

The www.ssa.gov site restricted access by requiring the citizen's birthdate and mother's maiden name...the same data that most of us openly disclose.

Within a few days of the site's opening, public outcries over security forced the SSA to remove access to personal data.

To Enter, Press Here

Mytec Technologies, www.mytec.com, has developed a patented fingerprint verification system.

Using the system, a mouse or keyboard may contain an optical device that makes a positive read of the user's finger print.

The company will release a commercial version of the product this year for less than \$1,000

Upcoming Classes

Windows 95, Lvl 1 4/16, 5/5
Windows 95, Upgrade 4/25, 5/15
Word for Win, Lvl 1 4/17, 5/1
Excel, Lvl 1 4/15, 5/19
Access, Lvl 1 4/30
Access, Lvl 2 5/13

Spring Classes

DGL's spring schedule of classes is now available. Call Kanda for your copy, 410.290.7000.

Iomega Zip Inside

Computer manufacturers are starting to include the highly-touted Iomega Zip drive in their new personal computers.



Zip drives allow users to easily transfer large files and backup critical data on disks that have 70 times the capacity of standard 3.5" high-density floppies.

Damar Group includes the Zip drive in its **DGL Gold** computers.

Using the Windows 95 Plus! compression software, DGL Gold users easily store 225MB of data on a single 4" disk.

"Zip disks are the most convenient way to store critical data—they can be used over and over again, and they work just like the floppies you use now." said Dave Murphy, Damar Group president.

New Domain Names

The Enhanced Domain Name System registry is now online. The new organization is known by its acronym, eDNS. The eDNS site is www.edns.net.

Until now, the domain name registry has been controlled by InterNIC, which is run by Network Systems, Inc. of Herndon, Virginia, under contract to the National Science Foundation.

With the new system, eDNS will register new top-level domain names such as .biz, .corp, .per and .web.

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