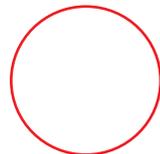


# after hours: *on line*



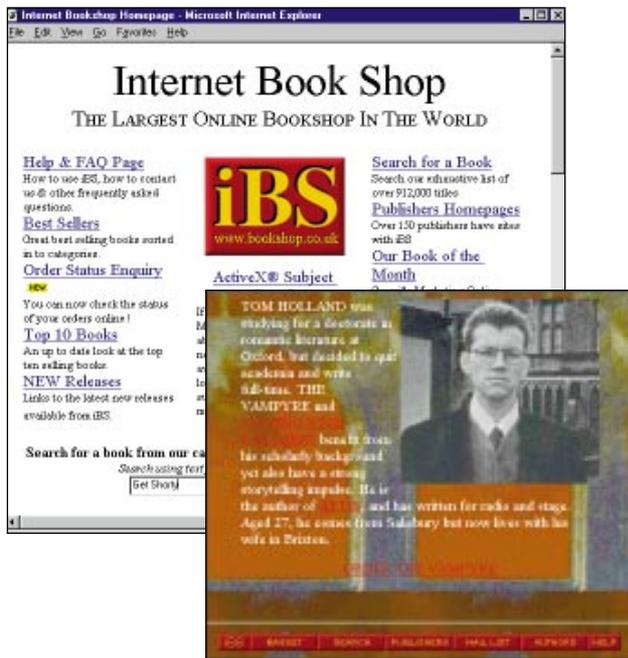
## CarPoint

Multimedia Web pages now assail our eyes and ears. How long before our noses too? The smell of new car upholstery would certainly be appropriate at CarPoint, Microsoft's fascinating on-line car-buying site, part of the MSN (Microsoft Network). Its Surround Videos effectively put you in the driving seat, letting you view the full interior of cars – a full 360 degrees and up and down – by clicking and dragging the mouse. The downside is that, naturally, US models dominate and even the European makes have left-hand drive. As well as the clever graphics you get road test results and previews of new models. Pity a right mouse-click doesn't get you a test drive though! [carpoint.msn.com/product.asp](http://carpoint.msn.com/product.asp)

This month Terry Pinnell checks out the latest movie rumours, narrowly avoids games addiction and gets slightly serious over an anagram of 'creamy cod'

## Internet Book Shop

Doing great business on the Web, Oxford-based Internet Book Shop (iBS) lets you browse and order books on line, choosing from something like a million titles. You can search on title, author, ISBN or publisher, or from some 2,500 different subjects. Once you've located a book you want, you simply add it to your shopping basket with a

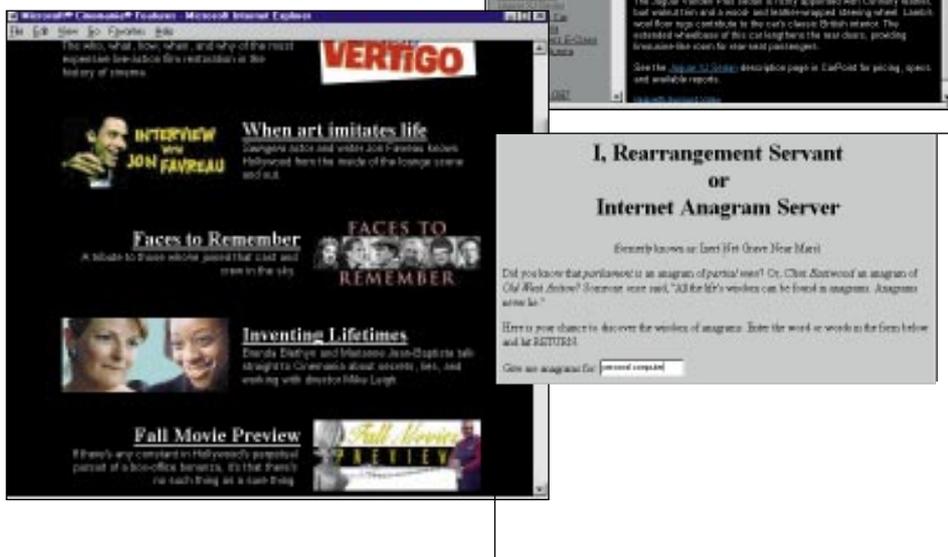


click. Without the dripping umbrella over an arm and briefcase at your feet you might not be so aware of your purchases, so it's reassuring to be able to check the basket to see if your enthusiasm is running away with your funds.

Finally, you pay on line and your order is then delivered to your door. Pending the arrival of *Star Trek* technology, that still gets done the old-fashioned way. [www.bookshop.co.uk/](http://www.bookshop.co.uk/)

## Cinemaniania

Here's another MSN site that manages to combine useful content with attractive presentation. You can review existing films, preview forthcoming ones, ogle pictures of your favourite stars or research their backgrounds and careers. The Features section includes not only the fairly predictable interviews with writers and directors, but also some crisp critiques and a neat guessing game based on identifying celebrities from fragments of their pictures. <http://cinemaniania.msn.com/>



### Steps to getting started

- 1 Install a fast modem on your PC (preferably 28.8 or 36.6Kbits/s).
- 2 For full Internet access, open an account with one of the many Internet Service Providers, within local call range.
- 3 If you can afford the extra cost, extend your scope by opening another account with a general on-line service provider, within local call range. You may be able to combine 2 and 3 with a single provider, but separate services generally provide better performance.
- 4 Install software for browsing the Web and using other Net and on-line services, plus off-line utilities.
- 5 Several 'Internet connectivity kits' are available which package the above elements into one bundle.
- 6 Revise your phone budget and free up a lot of hard drive space.

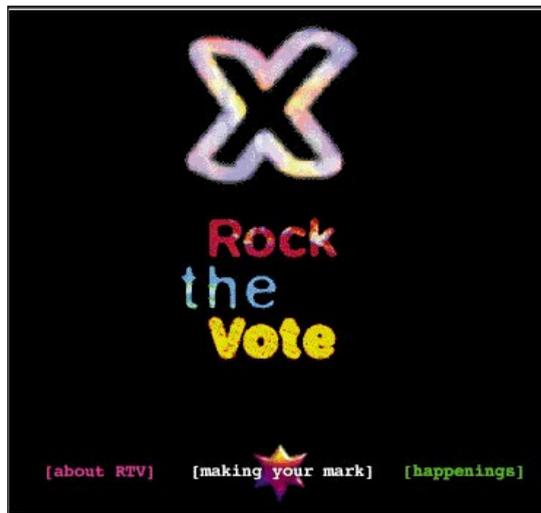
### Glossary popular gobbledegook

- FTP** File Transfer Protocol; an 'FTP site' is a source for downloading files.
- HTML** Hypertext Mark-up Language; for making Web pages.
- IRC** Inter Relay Chat; using the Net like a CB radio.
- IP** Internet Protocol; an addressing system.
- ISP** Internet Service Provider; sometimes confusingly abbreviated to IP.
- JPEG** Joint Photographic Experts Group; popular graphics file format (JPG).
- PPP** Point-to-Point Protocol; communications program.
- SLIP** Serial Line Internet Protocol; another program for communications.
- UUE** UUEncoded files used with Internet News Groups.
- URL** Uniform Resource Locator; Web addressing system.
- Winsock** Windows Socket; standard interface between applications (like Netscape) and networking protocols (like PPP).

### Contacts

Major on-line services and/or Internet Service Providers:

- Pipex:** 01223 250100  
**CompuServe:** 0800 289378  
**CIX:** 0181 296 9666  
**Microsoft:** 0800 750800  
**AOL:** 0800 376 5432  
**UK Online:** 01749 333300  
**Demon:** 0181 371 1234  
**Pinnacle:** 01293 613686  
**Direct Connection:** 0181 297 2200  
**BT:** 0345 776666  
**Cityscape:** 01223 566950  
**Global Internet:** 0181 957 1003



### Rock the Vote

Here's a non-profit organisation with charitable status, set up to encourage younger people to vote. At the 1992 General Election only 57 per cent of under 25s voted, compared to 69 per cent in 1987. Rock the Vote aims to reverse the trend, through participation of rock bands, comedians and other celebrities. Its Funktastic Juke Box is great, based on ActiveX and Real Audio. You can play the Rock the Vote CD that's about to be launched, with tracks from the likes of Menswear, Radiohead and Steve Coogan. While you're browsing, the Rock The Vote theme tune plays and there are also some nice animated GIFS. The Real Audio streams have been donated by Demon Internet and the Real Audio controls



are set to detect whether you're using a 28.8 or 14.4Kbits/s modem.

Indifference over voting has to be bad news for democracy. There's your 'creamy cod' anagram, incidentally; but given Rock the Vote's aim of discouraging apathy, maybe 'decry coma' would be better?  
[www.rockthevote.org.uk](http://www.rockthevote.org.uk)

### Anagrams

Thick cut hose. No, sorry, I mean: Check this out. If you're into words, you'll like this site. Type in your word or phrase and in seconds out comes a string of anagrams. You get some non-existent words, but plenty of good-quality results too.  
[www.wordsmith.org/awad-cgibin/anagram](http://www.wordsmith.org/awad-cgibin/anagram)



### Games Domain

Spend much time here and you risk starting down the slippery slope to all-out addiction. Games Domain, widely acclaimed as the Web's top games site, is the place to go for independent reviews of computer games. Its site map is a good place to start, or you could begin with one of the many Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and their answers. To avert insanity when you just can't puzzle out that winning move, there are also 'walkthroughs' to help you to cheat - but they can easily ruin the fun.

It's a great source of patches too; for example, you can download a number of Quake patches to fix bugs and add enhancements. If studying reviews and trying out games still leaves you with time on your hands, you could help convert the backlog of FAQs and walkthroughs to HTML format, report errors, or provide games information if you find something that isn't on the site. Or you could even start your own games site. Providing it's original, of high quality and not too large, Games Domain says it'll be able to find room for it.  
[www.gamesdomain.co.uk](http://www.gamesdomain.co.uk)

### Feedback welcomed:

Terry Pinnell: 102404.2400@compuserve.com Or  
 What PC?: 70007.5417@compuserve.com or  
[andon@dial.pipex.com](mailto:andon@dial.pipex.com)