welcome to advanced internet connectivity

Welcome to Activator(tm) the Internet Connectivity Management Tool!

Important Upgrade Information
Detailed Activator System Features List
Valuable Internet Recommended Applications
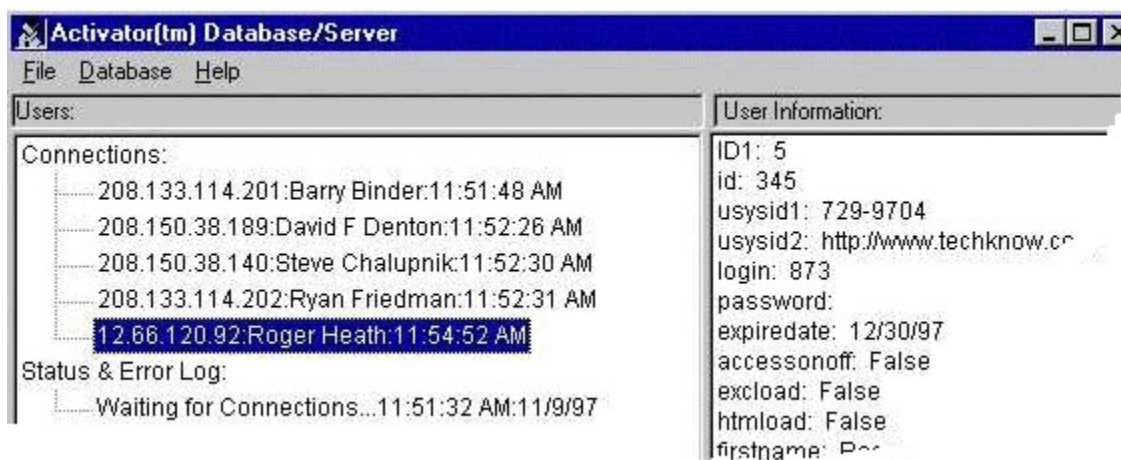Click here to see User input Dialog and Required Fields
Enabling Multiple Dialup User Accounting on the Client
Troubleshooting Tips
How to Contact Us and How to Register the Server
Exit this Utility

Above the database server window is shown with users 'who's on' logged into the internet via ppp and time logged on!

What is Activator(tm)?

Activator(tm) is a client/server system designed to remotely manage user internet connections and control loadup of predesignatedcontent! With the Activator(tm) Database/Server you may manage BOTH Unix and NT based PPP connections from just one server! This includes centralized realtime controls for managing users access, security, disconnection, loadup of content, quality control, and accounting using one standard MS-Access users database. This server runs completely independent of all the Unix and NT PPP dialup servers but acts as a stand alone 'traffic cop' displaying and managing them all.

The Activator(tm) client is also a substantial enhancement to DUN (Dial Up Networking) in Windows95 and NT4 providing for 'one click' connection to the Internet. The DUN client then communicates with its host Activator Server for interactive support from the system administrator. The administrator may also direct loadup of 'push' content in the form of a prespecified webpage or the award winning Excalibur interactive content system.   The client dialer program even makes and edits multiuser dialup passwords or accounts that independently controls select users access and times of access to the internet, so both businesses and families can manage security and productivity.

All of this is performed via a unique encrypted and secure client 'key' file, produced on the

Database/Server by the ISP or system administrator, that, when placed on the client, fully automates access controls and both the setup and login processes! With this arrangement, the administrator may customize and secure the customer's dialup even for loadup to a specified webpage or interactive content.

The Competitive Edge - with 'Activator(tm) Accounts'!

ISPs today need all the help they can get in competing in one of the most growing business opportunities in history.

With the use of these utilities now an ISP can offer 'Activator(tm) Accounts' which is a higher quality more secure internet connection control system for their users. Users deploying Activator(tm) clients have one click connection to the internet and a substantially higher degree of quality control and ISP support mechanisms in place. The result is significant tech support and management monetary $$ $avings, and much happier users! The opportunities for errors and abuse is SUBSTANTIALLY reduced by giving your users the Activator(tm).

The Activator(tm) Database/Server operates completely independent of RAServer as a 'second tier' centralized data collection and user account security system. This server also operates, interacting with Activator(tm) 'associated' clients all over the net with any group(s) of PPP logins 'associated' server(s), anywhere in the world. Since this server is totally seperate, matching login accounts must be created on the PPP dialups, e.g.as in WinNT's User Manager... Then all PPP   logins and monitoring and management is then done by Activator(tm) client and server operations.

Most ISPs today concentrate on server based operations. Activator(tm) methods are unique in many respects. First, we put the focus for the first time primarily on the client ('key') as a method of both control and security. Then once the client is online we provide for monitoring and tracking with a unique database/server.   Another unique feature is the patent pending methods from Zed Software that enable disconnection at any time or remote control of the users connections itself direct from the server by the administrator!

The Database format also has a 'billing method' field and a 'billing date' field, which can now be used with Microsoft Access to automate billing of users. User's total online time in minutes accumulates for billing as well.

FIRST TIME - Contracting and Account Monitoring Through Other   Servers and ISPs!!!

For the FIRST TIME, with the Activator(tm) Client/Server model , the smaller ISP or small business can act actually contract with multiple ISPs to provide an even broader number of services. PPP logins can even be monitored, and managed, no matter where, or on which server system the logins actually occur on a worldwide basis! The actual PPP dialup host software does not matter in such a situation. In addition, such an arrangement also provides for the smaller ISP or business to not burden his system with heavy local bandwidth requirements.

This can provide the smaller ISP with enormous opportunities to grow his services and system much beyond just the local rhelm! Only the Activator(tm) system performs this broad method of internet access accounts management and their unique remote control!

Activator(tm) Server/Database General Theory of Operation:

Content 'PUSH' Operations and QCA for ISPs!

The Activate(tm) Database Server is designed to keep user records in a standard MS-Access database. User records may then be used to generate 'activator.key' encrypted keys that will enable the client Activator(tm) program to login or connect to the internet via conventional PPP accounts! In addition, the client can be setup to deliver 'PUSH' in the form of Excalibur BBS client (via tcp/ip

logins) or in an HTML format launching a default browser. The Activator(tm) client then makes possible 'one click' login to the internet and a specific webpage or fully automated login to Excalibur or a web site.

To open and enter database records, click on Database pull-down menu above and then 'Load Database'. To make an access key for the client enter the user information, then click on 'Make Key'

Put this key into the client directory. This 'turns on' the 'Connect to Internet' button in the client. When this is clicked it dials up to the PPP, makes the connection, and then loads the 'PUSH' program assigned, e.g. browser or Excalibur terminal program. The Excalibur client may be used to install the key as well as the dialup and tcp/ip connect scripts via use of the LaunchPad or FileWiz plugins. Activator(tm) client does not use a script but direct program addressing.

The display above occurs after the client logs into the host server. It displays the first and last name of the user, or all the currently logged in users, or 'who's on',   and the IP address to which he is using on the internet. In addition, it shows the time the user logged onto the net, so you may see just how long he or she has been online. You may easily disconnect a user at any time by slightly altering his or her password in their database record. This server will function no matter where the PPP login occurs for all 'native' keys produced and issued by that server. In addition, the display shows last boot up time and any errors or acccess disconnects.

This list is updated every few minutes. If a user has disconnected, it may be a minute or two before he disappears off this list. The server logs all these activities and produces daily logs that may be archived!

Click here to see User input Dialog and Required Fields
Click here for Current Developments Features List

What is a client 'KEY' file?

A key file is a file made by the System Administrator running the Activator(tm) Database/server with the file extension '.KEY'. This file is an encrypted file with the user's login name, password, server id, etc, that automates login via PPP with the Activator(tm) client. The client reads this file and dials up the PPP account and logs in. The user never knows his login, password, etc... so there is much less room for account abuse or error. Once a key is made, for example, it won't be retyped again or with errors! Also the key may contain much more information about other proper settings, content PUSH client info, proper tcpip settings, account expiration, even enabling the user to create multple passworded dialup accounts, etc.

Fully automated installs can be placed a a couple of floppy disks be the administrator providing for 'Instant Access Setup' by the user! The key provides virtually all the information and is automatically installed by the installation process!

IMPORTANT CAUTION: Be VERY careful to only give the right Activator(tm) key file to the right user. If you do not, it is like handing someone else's PPP login and password to another user, and no proper account security and database/server controls are afforded!

PPP Connection Quality Control!

After the Activator(tm) client logs into the PPP connection an analysis of the quality of the connection occurs between the client and the host database/server! If the connection is of extremely poor quality, the caller is disconnected and asked to attempt a reconnection. Much more feedback on PPP connection quality problems occurs with the Activator(tm) client, than conventional DUN setups. For a detailed list of all of the built-in error codes click on the link below. Now you may also right click on the user and ping, traceroute, send a popup message, or hangup the user. Also the server disconnects duplicate logins so abuse of access is virtually eliminated.

Attention Excalibur Online System Administrators

Excalibur systems have essential files that must be placed on the client system to make sure Excalibur Terminal logs into your system via tcp/ip and PPP dialup properly. Click the link below for details.

Features and Essential Files for Activator(tm)/Excalibur Users

System Requirements & General Troubleshooting Tips

Activator(tm) Database/Server and the Client are made only for use on Windows95 or NT4.0. For most commonly asked troubleshooting tips click on:

Troubleshooting Tips

How to contact us or Register this Software!

How to Contact Us and How to Register the Server

Click here to see LIcense Agreement

Glossary

Activator(rm) is (C) 1997 Copyright by Roger Lee Heath   All rights reserved.
Certain parts of Activator(tm) are Patent Pending by Jack McMorris

This is a beta test software and may only be used by those authorized by the author only for beta testing. It may not be resold or used beyond only fully authorized test purposes from the owner and developer.

Activator(tm) is a trade mark by Roger Lee Heath.

developments events chronology

List of version developments or improvements:

This list shows the basic software development issues of both Activator(tm) client and server/database manager

- DEC 24, 1997 - New version issued that permits enabling of multiuser dialup accounting on client. This is enabled if a key file is made with a client administrator's password in the 'Admin Password' field in the database dialog. The new <u>server</u> MUST be used to enable this feature on the client. The new <u>server</u> actually acts as the time <u>server</u> for the client to obtain accurate references for 'real time' security.

- NOV 18, 1997 - Complete Revision issued. System Administrators should back up their ACTIVATOR.MDB user database. If backup of files is selected in the install, the current database is backed up. The new database has one field expanded to accomodate a <u>URL</u> that can be specified at loadup. This feature plants a <u>URL</u> into the key file and it is force loaded into a default <u>browser</u> after the <u>DUN</u> connection is made by the client. A seperate list of new features is attached within this <u>HLP</u> utility. Seperate installs now exist for NT and Win95. This is important as Activator utilizes the latest version 5 VB libraries and Active X components.

- NOV 18, 1997 - KEY FILE may now be distributed with the client on floppy disks! Just make disks for the user then on the last disk place his unique key file and name it 'user.key'. The client installation will detect the key file and place it into the Activator client automatically. Abuse of key files is no longer a concern as duplicate logins or connections in the database server are automatically disconnected leaving the last user to connect online. This makes for three basic key file methods... first on disk or via <u>e-mail</u> or via Excalibur Content Server which has a plugin to automatically install a key that matches the user number id in Grail database records.

- SEPT 3, 1997 - Client was upgraded to include detection of Excalibur Terminal and script files (ACTDIAL.EXC and ACTNET.EXC) and if not present refuse to connect or dial. This can be a mandatory switch and is now set by the 'Force Excalibur to Load' switch or checkbox in the user input dialog. If this is NOT checked, this will now permit a PPP login without Excalibur. Client now automatically attempts a reconnection through DUN if disconnected for any reason and 'Disconnect' or 'Exit' are not clicked.

- SEPT 2, 1997 - The Database /Server has been updated to include the ability to assign a local initial dialing number into the key. When the user first installs the client, this number is automatically installed in his ACTIVATOR.INI file unless a number is already present. Also installed was the registration limit assigned for maximum simultaneous 'who's on' or authentications in server license. Client is now allowed user editing, via 'Properties', of <u>ISP</u> PPP local dialup phone number and pathway to Excalibur Terminal, if used.

- SEPT 1, 1997 - DUN and <u>modem</u> detection added to client installation... and a dialup must be added by the user by the name 'Activator' and phone number 'Activator' for the client to function. Activator client needs at least one entry in Dialup Networking to function. This feature also causes the user to properly select up a <u>modem</u> or install one if one is not properly installed.

- AUG 31, 1997 - PPP Quality Connection Control client/server analysis installed. This feature detects the quality, via client/server communications, of the PPP connection, and disconnects the user if it is a very poor connection and requests caller to attempt reconnection! If the user's connection deteriorates during the course of his call, the same results will also occur.

- AUG 30, 1997 - First Stage 1 alpha of client server includes a server that manages the MS-Access user database, displays 'who's connected' with updates every few minutes, makes

encrypted 'key' files for ISPs to activate PPP accounts via the Activator(tm) client, also permits disconnecting or disabling accounts by change of password of user in database 'real-time'.

General new features policy:

R. Lee Heath has MANY features planned for the Activator(tm) system. We will not release new features until the appropriate moment, and when a feature has been thoroughly tested. Despite this we are sure there will be problems and would appreciate any input you may have for improvements or features.

If you have any questions, please e-mail: activator@wyndows.com

introduction to activator client/server

advanced internet connectivity management system

Activator Valuable Internet Applications

Free Evaluation of Activator!

How to Contact Us

activator client/server - an internet traffic-cop?

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All of this is performed via a unique encrypted and secure client 'key' file, produced on the Database/Server by the ISP or system administrator, that, when placed on the client, fully automates access controls and both the setup and login processes! With this arrangement, the administrator may customize and secure the customer's dialup even for loadup to a specified webpage or interactive content.

activator database/server feature summary:
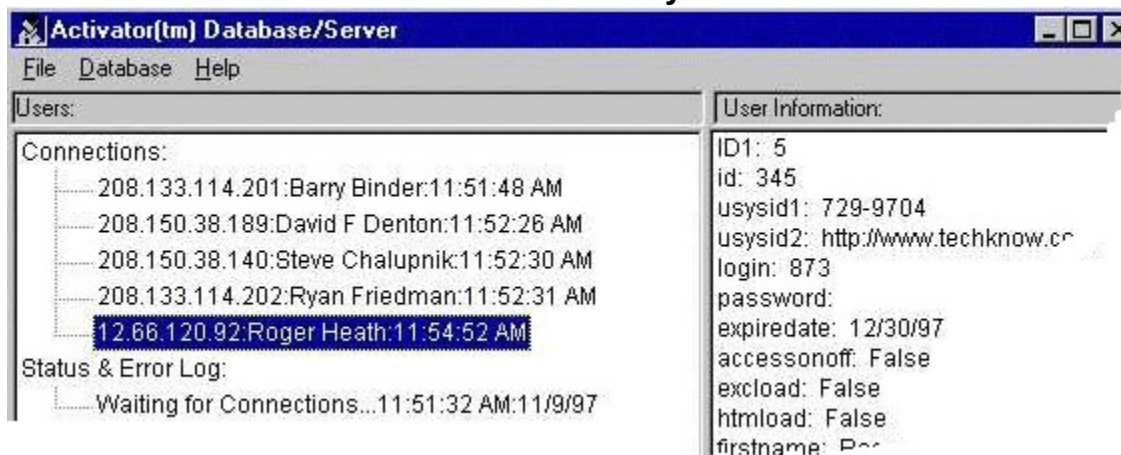
- Displays all users 'who's online' with date, time and IP number

- User record database dialog to make and customize all user individual information, dialup, content push, and database settings
- 'Make Key' feature makes encrypted key files to fully automate user setup, dialup connection, and push technology routines This key file may also enable multiuser passworded accounts to be created on the client for access and times of access controls for business associates or family members
- expiration date feature asks user to resubscribe for ten days then when account expires, user's internet access is auto-disabled. this is one of Activator's most powerful ISP features as ISPs may finally issue free trial access keys to users that stimulate real subscriptions and revenues!
- graphical database records grid to rapidly sort, locate, and manage individual user accounts for editing, refreshing, or updating
- key loads user to any prespecified webpage for support or personal or business purposes with the default web browser
- auto-disconnects duplicate user login connections reducing abuse
- left click on user connected displays that user's database information
- right click user in server to ping, traceroute, send popup message, or disconnect users with realtime controls
- accumulates total minutes online total and monthly in each user record for billing
- complete day by day logging of connections and associated IPs to trace abuse like spamming and archiving prior made connection records including view current log displays current day's connections log
- key specified loadup of Excalibur EIS16 client for content 'push' and user interaction
- PPP Dialup field for key autoinstalls best recommended dialup number on new client installs
- URL to Load field to specify URL to load after connection
- account disabled database on/off switch implemented
- turn on/off of all key 'push' loadup implemented
- user last-on time and date now placed in user database record
- year 2000 database compliance

activator internet dialer client feature summary:

- one click dialup and connection to the internet
- controls access by making multiple user internet dialup passworded accounts with built-in controls for security and even the times of the day permitted for each user's internet access for business associates and parents or family members
- automatically redial if a disconnection occurs
- eliminates need to regularly ping a server to stay connected
- stay-on-top dialing display for secure connection and controlled content loadup
- built-in FTP client system for easy fast files access
- built-in Stock Quotes system for quick market quotes and graphs
- button keyboard counterparts installed for automated dialup scripting
- quick server signaling of client close or disconnect for precise database online times updating

- client now fits on just two floppy disks and performs automated user internet access key file installation and reduces or eliminates need for expensive cdrom installs
- key specified loadup of Excalibur EIS16 client for interactive isp content 'push'
- client displays 'connected as' machine IP number assigned

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Activator(tm) WebPage: http://www.wyndows.com/activator

valuable internet recommended applications

Here are a few of the applications which Activator Client/Server is useful:

built-in multiuser internet access self-controls

Each Activator client contains a standalone multiuser <u>internet</u> access accounting system. With this dialer businesses, families, or parents may literally setup multiple client passworded login accounts. Each account has it's very own login name and secret password, but ALSO controls not only that user's access, but also the time range that user may be permitted to access the <u>internet</u>!

With this exclusive feature security and productivity may finally be managed. Businesses can disable each computer's access completely during select hours of the day and enable it for specified users only for use at specified times or tasks. In the home, each family member may have their very own login and password. Parents may use this feature to make sure children set aside time for homework, rest, and timely activities.

Perhaps Activator is the only cure for <u>internet</u> addiction?

business productivity management

Activator(tm) allows businesses to quickly and remotely manage employees access to internet dialups and may control loadup of default <u>browser</u> directly to the company's internet <u>website</u> or special web page for specified online activities overriding the browser's settings. This may be ideal for proprietary software distribution as well.

Businesses may also track their employee's total 'time-online' to be sure time is invested in a productive fashion. All connections and connection's times are logged for reference and archiving. Tracking may occur on one central <u>server</u> even if a firm has multiple dialups or use large national or international isps, regardless of employee's logins worldwide.

In addition, businesses may establish their very own 'AOL-like' graphical interactive communications system! (See EXCALIBUR EIS16 below)

isp or business 'instant' connections installs

With Activator(tm) ISPs may offer instant customized access programs with 'keyed' login disks for instant internet trial promotions or purchased access. Installs may auto install login password and best dialup number and manage dialup setup all in one simple user install procedure on just two floppy disks saving expensive cdrom installs. Dialup accounts may be presetup with auto accounts expiration for all Unix and NT PPP dialup servers no matter where they are located.

wholesale isp connections management

Activator(tm) allows ISPs, Internet Consultants, and <u>BBS</u> systems to intercontract with each other for expanded services and putting their systems or services up on a planetary access basis on the internet! Any one with a dedicated connection and a Win95 or NT server can setup and manage PPP connections, and push loadup on a global scale with the Activator(tm) system no matter where users log in.

higher security and spam control

Activator(tm) disconnects duplicate user logins significantly reducing abuse and increasing revenues or sales of individual dialup accounts. Encrypted login and password information assures   better security for users accounts. All connections are logged into daily text files providing full traceability of users, ips, connection times for followup and antispam policy enforcement.Accounts that expire are automatically disabled independent of dialup server's settings, but not without prior warning to users for ten days, giving them 'friendly time' to resubscribe.

reducing support costs

Frees the user from most connection setup hassles with a 'one click' connectibility to the Internet, and it frees the <u>ISP</u> from many related technical support, account security, and management expenses. Also, the Activator(tm) client fits on just two floppies and auto installs the user access key file reducing the needs for expensive cdrom programs. Access key may even trigger the user to automatically load to a support web page for current news and download of the latest internet utilities or files that would otherwise be outdated on an <u>isp</u> cdrom based install system.

centralized accounting and billing

No matter what group of Unix or NT servers are used the Activator(tm) Database/Server continuously displays all their logged in users regardless of their local login location worldwide and gives the ISP user notification and disconnection or access control independent of RAS Server or what ever PPP dialup server is used! The database is a standard MS-Access database with fields for fully automating billing by 'Rate Program' and 'Bill Date'. Total online time in minutes is updated with each user connection.

connections quality controls

The client and server also continuously test the quality of the connection and disconnects the user queing him to redial if the connection is unusable or has failed. This can be used to <u>address</u> pertinent connection quality issues if they exist. At any point any user may be pinged or trace routed to assess the connection's quality or viability.

'AOL-like' GUI interactive support system

Activator(tm) is a 'PPP Gateway' TO Excalibur based systems making the Excalibur Client 'push' technology. When an 'Activator(tm) Account' is established for a user, he clicks once, and Activator(tm) performs the entire PPP and then <u>tcp/ip</u> login process! This also breaks the 8-node barrier of EIS16 servers enabling setup of an unlimited amount of nodes on any one EIS16 server! The client makes use of standard Windows winsocks, virtually eliminating existing <u>gateway</u> winsocks compatibilities and throughput problems.

Excalibur may also be used for primary installation of the Activator(tm) client and related keys and scripts. A plugin already exists for automated access key install. EIS16 makes for full user interaction capabilities   including <u>chat</u>, latest utility downloads, fully automated software installs, and seperate private <u>e-mail</u> exchange, giving ISPs, or even businesses, a fully functional 'AOL-Like' graphical interactive support communications system.

Excalibur is Windows Magazine's best of 100 apps of 1995 supplying a full <u>GUI</u> BBS based isp or a business support system.

how to contact us and register

contact points:

You may contact us at:

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2555 Victor Avenue, Suite 602
Glenview, Illinois 60025-4866 USA

Telephone: 847-729-7522
Fax: 847-729-9719

Excalibur BBS via TCP/IP: @activator.techknow.com
Direct Dialup Excalibur BBS Modem: 847-729-2902

E-Mail: activator@wyndows.com
Web: http://www.wyndows.com/activator

software registration:

Software License

Activator(tm) Database/Server is not freeware.Your use of this software implies License Agreement acceptance. Click on link above to view this agreement. Single server accounts licenses are available from the above   contact points

Activator(tm) Database/server is purchased by the ISP. The initial license will handle up to 50 user simultaneous authentications. Lots or groups 100 more may be purchased in additional licenses of the server. If you plan to purchase a license for the server you may do so at the contacts above and require a system name and the domain or IP of the server for which it will be operated. Only one license is granted per server and may be used on one server machine, e.g. IP.

After an ISP purchases a server license, he or she may distribute the client free under the above licensing agreement.

Activator(tm) software license

Activator(tm) Client/Server Connectivity Management System
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This product uses patent pending licensed products from
Jack McMorris or Zed Software.

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agreement signed by Roger Lee Heath, your use of this software
by you indicates your acceptance of this license agreement and
warranty.

Registered Version

The Activator(tm) Client is for free distribution to clients of
the authorized fully registered user of the Activator(tm) Database
Server (ACTDBSRV.EXE) only. No charges, fees, sales, or
modifications to the client may be made without express written
permisson of R. Lee Heath. The Activator(tm) Client is free
software, however, it remains the property of R. Lee Heath and its
use is governed by this License Agreement.

One registered copy of Activator(tm) Database Server may either
be used by a single person or single business who uses the software
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or licensed accounts server use license registration from Roger Lee
Heath. You agree, through the use of this software, to use only on
one server or one machine for each such individual license account
registration package from R.Lee Heath.

Governing Law

This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of
Illinois.

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THIS SOFTWARE AND THE ACCOMPANYING FILES ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND
WITHOUT WARRANTIES AS TO PERFORMANCE OF MERCHANTABILITY OR ANY
OTHER WARRANTIES WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. Because of the
various hardware and software environments into which Activator
(tm) client and server may be put, NO WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A
PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS OFFERED.

Good data processing procedure dictates that any program be
thoroughly tested with non-critical data before relying on it.
The user must assume the entire risk of using the program. ANY
LIABILITY OF THE SELLER WILL BE LIMITED EXCLUSIVELY TO PRODUCT
REPLACEMENT OR REFUND OF PURCHASE PRICE.

Evaluation and Registration

This is not free software. Subject to the terms below, you are
hereby licensed to use this software one time for evaluation

purposes only without charge for a period of 10 days. If you use
this software after the 10 day evaluation period a registration
fee is required. Payments must be in US dollars drawn on a US
bank, and should be sent to R. Lee Heath as outlined in a current,
order form for the products. Current order forms and pricing may
be changed by R. Lee Heath at any time, but may be obtained
by writing R. Lee Heath, 2555 Victor Avenue, Suite 602, Glenview,
Illinois 60025-4866 USA.

Unregistered use of Activator(tm) Database Server after the 10-day
evaluation period is in violation of U.S. and international
copyright and patent laws.

Distribution

Distribution of this product by any one other than fully authorized
distributors appointed in writing by R. Lee Heath is prohibited.

Any questions or for updates to this license agreement should be
directed to:

R. Lee Heath
2555 Victor Avenue, Suite 602
Glenview, Illinois 60025-4866 USA

e-mail: heath@wyndows.com

activator(tm) database dialog and fields

Pictured below is the Activator(tm) Database/Server account input dialog. Presently all fields can be used, but not all fields are used for 'key' based control. The dialog below shows not only the connections tree, but also bootup time and errors or disconnections.

Disconnecting or Denying User Access

To disconnect a connected user or to deny user access, simply check disable access. The next time the client tries to authenticate the user, he will be disconnected and sent a message, "Disconnected.. please contact System Administrator.".Check boxes function now for forcing URL loadup and Excalibur loadup. For a URL to load it must also be entered in the URL to load field. If thse boxes are unchecked, then a pure PPP authentication will occur. PPP Dialup will install a specified phone number into the new client installation if it is a first time installation and should be the best PPP dialup number for the user to start with..

The enter expiration date is one of Activator's most powerful ISP features as ISPs may finally issue free trial access keys to users that stimulate real subscriptions and revenues! Once the key file is created it may be placed on the install floppy disks given to the user. If it is on the last disk and

named 'user.key', it will be automatically installed on the client giving them 'instant access'.!

If 'Admin Password' field is entered above, then this enables creation of multiple dialup accounts by a business or parent on the client. You must provide the confidential password to this person who will be the administrator. There is no other way for them to obtain this password.
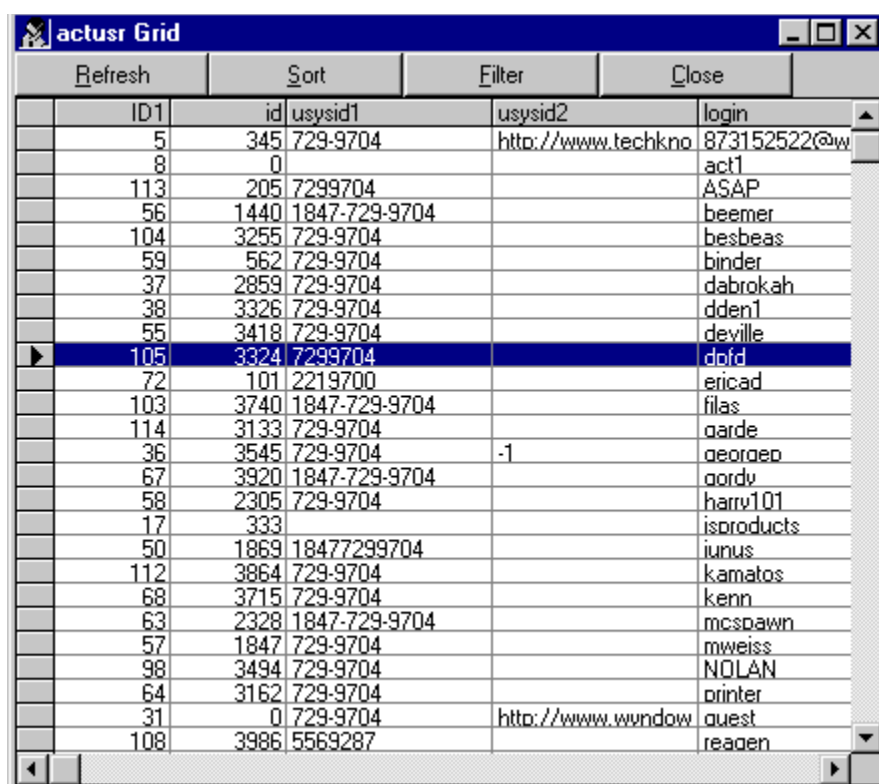
Click here for details on Multiuser Client Accounts

User Account Billing

The above database format also includes the fields, 'rate plan' and 'bill date' which can associate user records with a particular billing plan and a billing date. Since this is a standard MS-Access database, Access may be used to automate the billing process! Total time in minutes online is also accumulated now.

Finding a User Record Fast with Grid

Clicking on the 'Grid' button brings up the Database Grid and all of it's fields! You may edit any one field at a time. To goto a record in the main dialog just click on the grey button at the left of the record, e.g. record id 105 shown below. To goto a field and edit it, simply click on the field to reedit.

	ID1	id	usysid1	usysid2	login
	5	345	729-9704	http://www.techkno	873152522@w
	8	0			act1
	113	205	7299704		ASAP
	56	1440	1847-729-9704		beemer
	104	3255	729-9704		besbeas
	59	562	729-9704		binder
	37	2859	729-9704		dabrokah
	38	3326	729-9704		dden1
	55	3418	729-9704		deville
▶	105	3324	7299704		dpfd
	72	101	2219700		ericad
	103	3740	1847-729-9704		filas
	114	3133	729-9704		garde
	36	3545	729-9704	-1	georgep
	67	3920	1847-729-9704		gordy
	58	2305	729-9704		harry101
	17	333			isproducts
	50	1869	18477299704		iunus
	112	3864	729-9704		kamatos
	68	3715	729-9704		kenn
	63	2328	1847-729-9704		mcspawn
	57	1847	729-9704		mweiss
	98	3494	729-9704		NOLAN
	64	3162	729-9704		printer
	31	0	729-9704	http://www.wyndow	quest
	108	3986	5569287		reagen

enabling client dialer multiuser accounts

With the Activator Database/Server an administrator may enable the client to make multiple dialup accounts with limited user times access. To enable this feature for the client dialup user, just enter an 'Admin Password' into the Database dialog and click 'Update', then 'Make Key' and supply the new key to the user. The administrator must then confidentially inform the user 'Administrator', such as a parent of business administrator, what the password is. Then that person may open the client dialog (shown below) to create and administer as many client dialup accounts on the client machineas they wish. If this field is left blank, then this feature is not key file enabled on the client.

Below is the instructions contained with the client dialer for reference:

activator dialer allows many internet user dialup accounts

This is a quick guide to creating, using, and managing multiuser <u>internet</u> access dialup accounts feature of the Activator <u>modem</u> dialer client program:

24 hour quick local access times reference chart

```
00:00 = (12 mid )   13:00  ( 1pm    )
01:00 = ( 1 am  )   14:00  ( 2pm    )
02:00 = ( 2 am  )   15:00  ( 3pm    )
03:00 = ( 3 am  )   16:00  ( 4pm    )
04:00 = ( 4 am  )   17:00  ( 5pm    )
05:00 = ( 5 am  )   18:00  ( 6pm    )
06:00 = ( 6 am  )   19:00  ( 7pm    )
07:00 = ( 7 am  )   20:00  ( 8pm    )
08:00 = ( 8 am  )   21:00  ( 9pm    )
09:00 = ( 9 am  )   22:00  (10pm    )
10:00 = (10 am  )   23:00  (11pm    )
11:00 = (11 am  )   23:59  (11:59pm)
12:00 = (12 noon)
```

setting up multiuser dialups and user access times

This version of Activator includes the ability to create and administrate individual user dialup accounts on any Windows 95 or NT computer! With this feature a business administrator or parent may create individual user or family member user accounts on the computer limiting access to the internet. Each user may have their very own login name and secret password. When turned on, this feature then prompts the user for his or her login and password. If valid, the user is then connected to the internet.

This feature also includes the ability for the administrator of these accounts to limit access times. Each account may be created giving hours of the day that the user is allowed access to the internet. Each time Activator logs in it confirms the time on it's preassigned time <u>server</u>, and if access is not allowed at that time the connection is terminated. If the user is allowed access, but his or her time is reached when access is not allowed, then that user is disconnected. (typically within 10 minutes access time stops)

how to get started or turn on this feature

To turn on this feature in Activator, you must obtain and install an   Administrator password key file from your internet service <u>provider</u> or system administrator. Once you do so, this feature is activated and you may then create dialup accounts.

using the administrator dialog to manage dialup accounts

Below is the main dialog of the administrator account manager. To start this dialog use the pull-down menu in Activator and click on 'Setup' then 'Access Accounts'. You will be prompted to enter a user name and password. The user must be Administrator and the password must be the password given to you confidentially by your internet service provider or system administrator. After you enter the proper login and password, click 'OK' and the dialog will appear. Then you, as Administrator, may create and change or update individual dialup accounts that may be used to connect the internet.
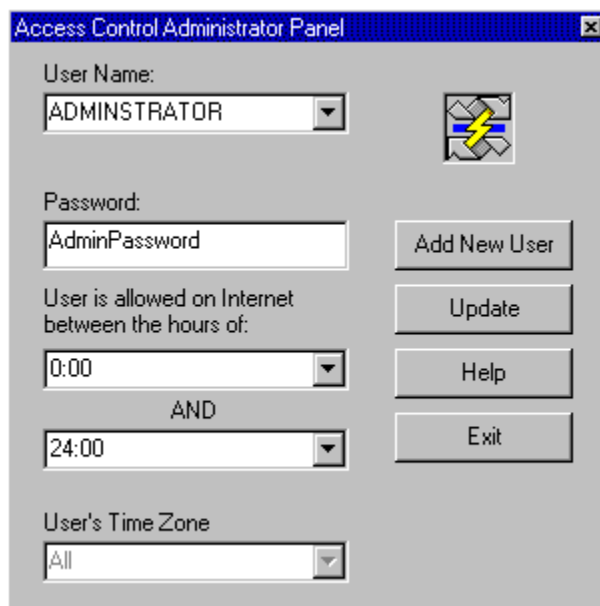
Pictured at left is the account setup dialog. When loaded it displays the Administrator's account.

Adding a New User:
To add a new user, simply click "Add New User' and enter the new user's account name, password and set the time range allowed for this user's access. When finished, just click 'Update' to save this account. Users passwords may be viewed in this dialog, so it is appropriate the Administrator perform these operations while alone.

Editing an Account:
To reedit a user's account settings just use the drop-down list box on this dialog to select the user account. Make the changes to the account and then click 'Update' to save the new settings.

Important Notes:
To make the new settings active you must exit or unload the main Activator program and then reload it. Then the new user account settings will work.

Exercise care in reediting the Administrator's login password. If you change it and forget it, then you will not be able to open the Administrator Panel wiithout requesting a new password key file.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All logins and passwords are 'case-sensitive' and must include exact upper case and lower case letters to operate properly.

how dialup accounts security works

Activator does NOT make new dialup accounts on your internet provider's or administrator's connection servers. It only creates dialup accounts on the local client dialup machine only. Only one user account may be used at a time and cannot be used on other computers.

Activator client saves the login names and passwords into a file called users.dat. These are encrypted, so they may not be read accept by the login of an Administrator on the client dialer

program. If any person attempts editing of this data file, with say a hex editor, this file will disable accounts. If any user attempts a changing of the clock on the local computer machine, this will not enable access. Each time Activator logs in it is given the 'real time' by it's <u>host</u> time server. If the time is not permitted, the user will be disconnected. Resistance is futile.

troubleshooting

This section details common questions and solutions that have been found in experiences in both the Activator client and Database/Server.

- Nov 18, 1997 - If the server registration fails it may be becuase the incorrect IP was attempted. This may happen on   machines with multiple NICs. or Network Cards. When the registration fails the IP that is shown in the dialog will now show the IP that Activator Database/Server sees. Report this to get the proper registration number. Virtually all dabase fields are now working in this new updated version. The most common problems in the client at this stage have been the user forgetting that DUN and TCP/IP must be installed with a DialUp Adapter in Windows FIRST. Then when Activatoir client asks to make a DUN entry this is case sensitive and must be spelled exactly as 'Activator'. In addition any bogus telephone number may be made and the client will override this in the dialing routine.

    REGISTRATION PROCEDURE NOTE: Activator server registration process always takes the last IP in the TCP/IP properties ADVANCED when there is more than 1 IP for the same machine in Win NT 4.0. If the registration fails you may need to remove the IP and add it again so it appears at the bottom of the multiple IP listings.

- Sept 3, 1997 - Database works as a complete MS-Access database. Presently most fields are not used for key making. Fields that MUST be filled for a valid key include FIRSTNAME. LASTNAME, LOGIN, PASSWORD (from the PPP Server Setup) and finally the PPP DIALUP phone number. (this is the number for local dialup ideally suited initially for the user)

- Sept 3, 1997 - Registration serial numbers limit total authenticated 'logins' to the server. If you reach the limit of the total license, users will be disconnected or turned away. Additional licenses can be purchased in 100 user/simultaneous authentication lots.

- Sept 2, 1997 - The Database/Server requires the latest MS-Visual Basic version 5 DLLs and libraries. If you install an older program using older VB libraries it might disable the server or corrupt the database. The solution is to install the latest Activator(tm) database/server again.

ppp conection quality error codes

Below are the error codes which are returned on the Activator(tm) client if connection problems occur. Keep in mind that the client initially anaylzes the quality of the PPP connection to the database server, and if it is bad then disconnects the caller. In some instances a text status message is returned, otherwise a error number is returned in the status line of the client so you may help he or she troubleshoot their setup...

Error Codes

Value	Description
601	Invalid Port Handle
602	Port Already Open
603	Buffer Too Small
604	Wrong Info Specified
605	Cannot Set Port Info
606	Port Not Connected
607	Event Invalid
608	Device Does Not Exist
609	Device Type Does Not Exist
610	Buffer Invalid
611	Route Not Available
612	Route Not Allocated
613	Invalid Compression Specified
614	Out Of Buffers
615	Port Not Found
616	Async Request Pending
617	Already Disconnecting
618	Port Not Open
619	Port Disconnected
620	No Endpoints
621	Cannot Open Phonebook
622	Cannot Load Phonebook
623	Cannot Find Phonebook Entry
624	Cannot Write Phonebook
625	Corrupt Phonebook
626	Cannot Load String
627	Key Not Found
628	Disconnection
629	Remote Disconnection
630	Hardware Failure
631	User Disconnection
632	Invalid Size
633	Port Not Available
634	Cannot Project Client
635	Unknown
636	Wrong Device Attached
637	Bad String
638	Request Timeout
639	Cannot Get LANA
640	NetBIOS Error
641	Server Out Of Resources
642	Name Exists On Net
643	Server General Net Failure
645	Auth Internal
646	Restricted Logon Hours
647	Account Disabled
648	Password Expired
649	Not Dial In Permission
650	Server Not Responding
651	From Device
652	Unrecognized Response

```
653        Macro Not Found
654        Macro Not Defined
655        Message Macro Not Found
656        DefaultOFF Macro Not Found
657        File Count Not Be Opened
658        Device Name Too Long
659        Device Name Not Found
660        No Responses
661        No Command Found
662        Wrong Key Specified
663        Unknown Device Type
664        Allocating Memory
665        Port Not Configured
666        Device Not Ready
667        Reading INI File

668        No Connection
669        Bad Usage In INI File
670        Reading Section Name
671        Reading Device Type
672        Reading Device Name
673        Reading Usage
674        Reading Max Connection BPS
675        Reading Max Carrier BPS
676        Line Busy
677        Voice Answer
678        No Answer
679        No Carrier
680        No Dialtone
681        In Command
682        Writing Section Name
683        Writing Device Type
684        Writing Device Name
685        Writing Max Connection BPS

686        Writing Max Carrier BPS
687        Writing Usage
688        Writing DefaultOFF
689        Reading DefaultOFF
690        Empty INI File
691        Authentication Failure
692        Port Or Device
693        Not Binary Macro
694        DCB Not Found
695        State Machines Not Started
696        State Machines Already Started
697        Partial Response Looping
698        Unknown Response Key
699        Receive Buffer Full
700        Command Too Long
701        Unsupported BPS

702        Unexpected Response
703        Interactive Mode
704        Bad Callback Number
705        Invalid Auth State
706        Writing Init BPS
```

```
707      X25 Diagnostic
708      Account Expired
709      Changing Password
710      Overrun
711      RASMAN Cannot Initialize
712      Biplex Port Not Available
713      No Active ISDN Lines
714      No ISDN Channels Available
715      Too Many Line Errors
716      IP Configuration
717      No IP Addresses
718      PPP Timeout

719      PPP Remote Terminated
720          PPP No Protocols Configured
721      PPP No Response
722      PPP Invalid Packet
723      Phone Number Too Long
724      IPXCP No Dialout Configured
725      IPXCP No Dialin Configured
726      IPXCP Dialout Already Active
727      Accessing TCPCFGDLL
728      No IP RAS Adapter
729      SLIP Requires IP
730      Projection Not Complete
731      Protocol Not Configured
732      PPP Not Converging
733      PPP CP Rejected

734      PPP LCP Terminated
735      PPP Required Address Rejected
736      PPP NCP Terminated
737      PPP Loopback Detected
738      PPP No Address Assigned
739      Cannot Use Logon Credentials
740      TAPI Configuration
741      No Local Encryption
742      No Remote Encryption
743      Remote Requires Encryption
744      IPXCP Net Number Conflict
745      Invalid SMM
746      SMM Uninitialized
747      No MAC For Port
748      SMM Timeout
749      Bad Phone Number

750      Wrong Module
```

three essential excalibur client files

Excalibur sysops with advantages:

Activator(tm) finally enables the Excalibur System Operator to overcome compatibility and speed problems with gateways offered for their systems. Mortmer's Flipsock(tm),   Zed Software's Zedsock(tm), and Excalibur's Weber(tm) have been great boosts to Excalibur systems worldwide and played an absolutely critical role in keeping EIS16 rolling as a competitive <u>ISP</u> setup. The drawbacks have been the shuffling of winsocks (winsock.<u>dll</u> and wsock32.dll) and serious compatibility issues. All of these issues are bypassed by use of the Activator(tm) system whereby a direct PPP connection occurs with Microsoft's very own winsock files. Suddenly users may use ICQ, login to AOL, and run every major program without compatibiluty problems! The client install even restores the Microsoft winsocks in a one simple procedure for the user overwriting the special <u>gateway</u> winsocks..

The exciting part about all this is the seamless way it works... Once setup properly, the caller just clicks ONCE   on 'Connect to Internet' and then after his status line indicates he is authenticated, it loads Excalibur and logs in <u>tcp/ip</u> all automatically! To get started from scratch all he really needs is Excalibur Terminal. He or she dials up direct via <u>modem</u> and places an order for <u>internet</u> access. Then Activator(tm) and the scripts and key are all then installed via VRLab's LaunchPad or Zed Software's FileWiz!

Another important aspect to all this is the ability now of Excalibur operators to use third party providers PPP accounts and dialups to literally log people, on a world wide basis, right into their Excalibur systems in one click of their mouse! Excalibur operators can contract with other ISPs, sysops, and just use their PPP dialups...and make their online systems and services one click away any where an <u>internet</u> connection can be made! With Activator your Excalibur system is truely a local dialup from any such location!

Files for client proper operation:

If you are using Excalibur EIS you will need to install three files on your users machine using Launchpad or Filewiz. These files must be properly configured for normal operation.

the key file   ACTIVATOR.KEY

We have designed Activator(tm) client to first look in it's own directory or folder for any '*.KEY' file extension and use it. You must NOT have multiple key files or Activator(tm) client may not work. If the client does not find a key file in it's directory it then looks for one in the Excalibur Terminal path. This path may be edited by the user in the Activator(tm) client pull-down properties menu. Be careful to put your VRLabs key files (for Launchpad etc) in a seperate directory if you are using your own dialup via Activator(tm) client on a <u>host</u> system.

the 'Connect Direct' Excalibur Terminal script file:

Excalibur terminal runs preedited SCRipt text files to automate login sequences. The command line for this is

EXCALIBR.EXE name.exc   (where 'name.exc' equals the name of the script...)

ACTDIAL.EXC

```
ADD 1-847-729-2902
NAME Activator(tm) Dialup
COMMENT (required for main ISP Activator(tm) dialup operations)
ENDADD
DIAL 1-847-729-2902
```

The above four line text file/script   file must be in the user's terminal directory to 'dial direct' using the

Activator client 'Connect Direct' button. You can edit it for your own system's phone number...

the 'Connect to internet' Excalibur Terminal script file:
ACTNET.EXC

```
ADD @activator.wyndows.com
NAME Activator(tm) Internet Connect
COMMENT (required for main ISP connect over internet)
ENDADD
DIAL @activator.wyndows.com
```

The above four line text file/script must be in your user's terminal directory to 'connect to internet' login to a tcp/ip node of your Excalibur host server. This is the script that is run after Activator(tm) client makes a PPP connection successfuly and then authenticates in the Activator(tm) Database Server. Of course you need to edit these for your particular EIS setup before your users recieve these via LaunchPad or FileWiz.

How do you install the above files?

Launchpad or Filewiz may be used to place the above files into your users directory! You can use these host plugins to install these files using their own scripts....

glossary

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Address

In online terms this commonly refers to a particular machine or computer system connected to the Internet. Machine 'addresses' exist on the Internet for servers for e-mail sending and receiving, web page or web site access, and almost everything functioning on the Internet.

ARQ

Automatic Repeat Request. A general term for error control protocols featuring hardware detection and retransmission of defective data. This term is used primarily by US Robotics.

ASCII

American Standard Code for Information Exchange.   A 7-bit binary code representation of letters, numbers and special characters. It is universally supported in computer data transfer.

Asynchronous

Asynchronous - Data transmission in which the actual data is preceded by a start bit and followed by a stop bit since the time between transmitted characters varies. Compare Synchronous.

Auto Answer

The modem feature which enables detection of a ring and answering   without assistance from a program.

Baud Rate

The number of discrete signal events per second occurring on a communications channel. It is often referred to as Bits per second (BPS) which is technically inaccurate but widely accepted.

Baud

The number of discrete signal events per second occurring on a communications channel. It is often referred to as Bits per second (BPS) which is technically inaccurate but widely accepted.

BBS
Bulletin Board System

Bit

Binary Digit. A single basic computer signal consisting of a value of 0 or 1, off or on.

bps

Bits Per Second - refers to the speed at which a modem can transmit data

Browser

Commonly refers to an Internet Browser like Netscape or MS-Internet Explorer where you may 'browse' the World Wide Web as if it were one big book of infromation to read and view!

Buffer
A memory area used for temporary storage during input/output operations.

Bulletin Board System

A host system, into which callers may dial with their modems to read and send electronic mail, upload and download files, and chat online with other callers.

Byte

A group of Bits acted upon as a group, which may have a readable ASCII value as a letter or number or some other coded meaning to the computer. It is commonly used to refer to 8-bit groups. 1 kilobyte = 1,024 bytes; 64K = 65,536 bytes or characters.

Cafe

Popular today are Internet Cafe's where one may go and dine and also play on the Internet.

Carrier

A continuous frequency capable of being either modulated or impressed with another information-carrying signal. Carriers are generated and maintained by modems via the transmission lines of   the telephone companies.

CCITT

A French acronym for the International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee. This international organization defines the standards for telephone equipment such as the Bell 212A standard for 1200 baud, CCITT V.22 for 2400 baud and CCITT V.32 for 9600 baud.

Chat

Refers to a service provided by many online systems where users may communicate realtime in an interactive conversation by typing messages to other users in the chat 'channel'

Client System

Another word for the callers (users) computer calling the BBS.

Client

Another word for the callers (users) computer calling the BBS.

Conference

An area of public messages on a Bulletin Board System, usually with a particular topic and, often, a conference host or moderator to guide the discussion. Also called Folder, SIG (for "Special Interest Group") or Echo.

CPS

Characters Per Second. A transfer rate estimated from the bit rate and length of each character. If each character is 8 bits long and includes a start and stop bit for Asynchronous transmission, each character needs 10 bits to be sent. At 2400 baud it is transmitted at approximately 240 CPS.

CRC

Cyclical Redundancy Check. An error-detection technique consisting of a cyclic algorithm performed on each "block" of data at the sending and receiving end of the transmission. As each block is received, the CRC value is checked against the CRC value sent along with the block. Many protocols including XMODEM-CRC and ARQ will request a resend until the block is received correctly.

Cyberspace

A term coined by novelist William Gibson to describe the world of data created by million of computers worldwide

Data Compression Protocols

Compression of data by the modem allows more information to be   transferred in a shorter time frame. Protocols for data compression include CCITT V.42bis and MNP 5,

Data Transmission Protocols

These are standards for modulation and transmission of data at various speeds. The standards are Bell 103 & V.21 for 300bps, Bell 212A & V.22 for 1200bps, V.22bis for 2400bps, V.32 for 9600bps and V.32 bis for 14,400bps. Proprietary protocols are also used extensively for higher baud rates.

DLL

Dynamic Link Library - very similar to an actual computer program which runs as software on a PC, but a DLL is usually run or loaded as a part of an regular computer program.

Download

Receiving a file from a Bulletin Board System, using a terminal program (for example QModem or Excalibur Terminal) and a transfer protocol (for example Zmodem).

Driver

A driver is software that works in conjunction with the particular hardware or device on your computer. Drivers are used for video displays, modems, hard-drives, mouse, and almost every device. If you have an old driver or an improper driver the device might not work properly or reliably.

DTE

Data Terminal Equipment. The device that is the originator or destination of the data sent by a modem.

DTR

Data Terminal Ready. A signal generated by most modems indicating a connection between the DTE (computer) and the modem. When DTR is "high" the computer is connected.

DUN

Dial Up Networking - a feature within Windows that permits modem connections to other machines

Echomail

Public Message Conferences on a Bulletin Board System which are shared and distributed among other Bulletin Boards as part of an Echomail Network.

E-Mail

Electronic Mail - refers to messages that are sent via computers to other users on a bbs or network like the Internet

Error Control Protocols

These are various modem-based techniques which check the reliability of characters or blocks of data at a hardware level. Examples include MNP 2-4, V.42

Excalibur

Online software developed by Excalibur Communications in Tulsa, Oklahoma.. the best online software in the world!

Expanded Memory

Extra memory (above 640k) on your XT or AT-compatible computer,   which is installed with an EMS driver, and may be used by some programs to store data.

Extended Memory

Extra memory (above 640k) on your 80286 or 80386 compatible computer. Not normally usable by DOS applications, but may be configured as a virtual drive or a disk cache on an 80286 computer, or as Expanded Memory on an 80386 computer.

File Attachment

Method by which an actual file may be 'attached' to an e-mail message and sent through a computer network with that message.

Flame
To be pummeled with hostile e-mail by an Internet purist.

Flow Control

A mechanism that compensates for differences in the flow of data to and output from a modem or computer. Either hardware or software can be used for this control to prevent data loss. Hardware flow control using the modem makes use of a buffer to store data to be sent and data received. Flow control is necessary if the Communications port is locked at a higher rate than the connection rate. This is especially important for high speed modems, like 14,400 bps and above, that should almost always be setup for CTS/RTS hardware flow control.

Freeware

Computer software which may be distributed on Bulletin Board Systems, and for which the author requests no license fee or registration fee.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol - 'FTP' - a standardized text based method of transferring files over phone lines from one computer to another usually froman 'FTP' Server on the Internet.

Full Duplex

Signal flow in both directions at the same time. It is sometimes used to refer to the suppression of online LOCAL ECHO and allowing the remote system to provide a REMOTE ECHO.

Gateway

Similar to bridges, gateways connect incompatible networks or applications so data can be transferred. Excalibur systems commonly use gateways to open up a path to Internet Access with utilities like Flipsock, Zedsock, or The WEBer.

Gopher

A menu driven, information finding and retrieval tool providing acces to databases, text files, and other resources on the Internet.

GPF

A General Protection or GP fault occurs when an application overwrites memory belonging to another application. Since the memory has become corrupted, Windows steps in and terminates the application. It is not always easy to tell which Windows application caused the GP fault. Sometimes the error message window will provide an application name and a memory address, but this information is not always reliable. The best thing to do when you get a GP fault is to save your work in your other applications, and exit and restart Windows as soon as possible.

GUI

Graphics User interface - Pronounced 'gooey', a GUI uses graphical symbols in combination with keystrokes and a mouse or pointing device to carry out commands.

Hacker

Slang term for a technically sophisticated computer user who spends a lot of time at a computer. He or she 'hacks' at the keyboard all the time...

Half Duplex
Signal flow in both directions, but only one way at a time. It is sometimes used to refer to activation of LOCAL ECHO which causes a copy of sent data to be displayed on the sending display.

HLP

A Windows HLP Hypertext File - This refers to the computer filename extension of Windows help files (like this one). You may load HLP files using Windows File Manager or File Explorer and simply double-clicking on them

Host System

Another name for a Bulletin Board System (BBS)

Host

Another name for a Bulletin Board System (BBS)

Hotspot

A hotspot is an area of a screen that works like a button but doesn't look like a button. If you click it some task or program will begin just like clicking a button with your mouse pointer!

http

Hyper Text Transfer Protocol - refers to the protocol used to load or transfer a web page from an internet website server. These 'addresses' starting with HTTP are usually typed into the top of a web browser like Netscape or MSIE to loadup a specific web page.

Internet

A worldwide network of computer systems originally founded for the US Defense Department but is now also privatized and in use by some BBS systems for data, message, and file transfers on a global scale.

IP

Internet Protocol - Normally refers to an Internet machine address number or the location number of the machine or computer on the internet.

IRC

Internet Relay Chat - A type of interactive communication on the Internet where users chat realtime to each other through a chat server.

IRQ

Interrupt ReQuest - refers to a number of a hardware interrupt request by software commonly utilized in drivers for various devices on a computer using MS-DOS. These interrupts are used to keep devices functioning virtually at the same time. Generally each device on the computer must have a different IRQ number to operate properly. Certain IRQs are preassigned in DOS to the keyboard, harddrive, printer ports, etc.

ISP

Internet Service Provider - usually refers to a online system or bbs system that provides Internet access and services such as e-mail, ftp, websites, etc.

Local Area Network (LAN)

A group of computers joined with cables and software, allowing hard disks and other devices to be shared among many users.

Mail Door

A subsection of a Bulletin Board System which creates .QWK mail packets for downloading and reading messages offline. Then .REP (reply) packets can be created offline and then uploaded saving online telephone connection costs!

Mailing Listserver

E-mail electronic private discussion groups that link a relatively small group of people with a common interest. If you belong to a mailing list, you will receive mail from any member of the list that posts mail to it.

Message Thread

A group of BBS messages and replies linked and sorted by topic.

MNP - Microcom Networking Protocol

A set of hardware error protection protocols (MNP levels 1 - 4) and data compression techniques (MNP level 5) developed by Microcom, now in the public domain. It makes use of CRC and retransmission of defective blocks by checking performed within the modem.

Modem

MODulator / DEModulator - a device that permits computers to communicate over telephone lines using audio data signals.

NetMail

Private electronic mail which is transmitted by a user calling one Bulletin Board System to another user calling a different Bulletin Board System. Also can refer to mail received from over the internet.

Newsgroups

A group of public messages about a single topic on the Internet. Newsgroups bring together thousands of people on the Internet to discuss shared interests.

NRAM

Nonvolatile Random Access memory. A user-programmable memory chip whose data is retained when power to the chip is turned off. NRAM is used in many modems to store default settings.

ON/OFF Hook

A descriptive term referring to manually lifting a telephone receiver (taking it OFF Hook) and replacing it (going ON Hook). OFF Hook produces a busy signal on the phone line.

Packer

A program to compress multiple files into a single file, such as PKZIP, ARC or LHARC

Packet

A mail packet (with a .QWK extension) from a host system

Parity

An error detection method used in both communicaions and computer memory checking to determine character validity. Communications now makes use of more efficient "block" checking although parity must still be matched in a communication session for transfer to take place correctly. Host communication in the BBS environment omits parity checking (no parity).

Protocol

A system of rules and procedures governing communications between two devices. File transfer protocols in your communications program refer to a set of rules governing how error checking will be performed on blocks of data.

Provider

In online terms commonly refers to the business or individual who you use to dial-up and access the Internet.

Public Domain

Computer software on which no copyright exists (usually by a specific statement to that effect by the author), and which may be freely used and distributed.

Remote Echo

A copy of the data being received is returned to the sending system for display on the screen. See Full/Half duplex.

Resolution

Refers to video resolution displayed on a computer display. There are several levels of resolution VGA (640x 350 pixtels), Super VGA which is 800x600 or 1250x850 etc. Resolution may also refer to the amount of colors displayed, like 16 colors, 256 colors, etc.

Server

Server commonly refers to a software designed to 'serve-up' data or to 'receive-data' on a network. there are many kinds of Servers on the Internet, for e-mail, web pages, file exchange, etc. E-mail utilities will work with an e-mail server, Web Browsers will work with a website server, etc.

Shareware

Computer software which is distributed on the "Honor System", which may be freely copied and distributed, but for which a registration fee or payment is required for continued use beyond an initial evaluation period.

Signature

In online terms this normally refers to the text that appears at the end of an e-mail message that is usually the senders name and Internet E-mail address. Most Internet e-mail programs permit 'preconstructing' signatures so one doesn't have to type them over and over..

Snail Mail

Refers to using the old postal service to deliver mail by hand.

SysOp

The SYStem OPerator of a Bulletin Board System. The person responsible for setting up and maintaining the BBS. (CoSysop usually helps the SysOP...)

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol - A language giverning the communication between all computers on the internet. TCP/IP is a set of instructions that dictates how packets are passed over multiple computer networks. Also included is packet error checking to insure that they arrive at their destination in the right order.   When used in regard to the Excalibur Terminal tcp/ip means the machine address to 'dial' 'telnet style' to connect to an Excalibur bbs over an internet connection!

telnet

Telnet refers to a method of connecting to a bbs over the Internet or a network. Usually this is done using a telnet client.   If one connects to an Excalibur system, the Excalibur Terminal must be used instead of a telnet client.

Thread

A group of BBS messages and replies linked and sorted by topic.

Unpacker

A program to uncompress a file from a Packer like PKUNZIP, UNARC...etc.

Upload

To transfer a file from your computer to another computer, using your terminal program (for example Qmodem) and a transfer protocol (for example Zmodem)

URL

Universal Resource Locator - a naming or addressing convention that enables you to locate a page on the World Wide Web

UseNET Newsgroups

Internet discussion groups; may be considered free floating bulletin boards becuase once a message is 'tacked up' anyone can go and see it.

Virus

A rogue computer software program created to 'infect' other computer softwares with copies of itself. Viruses may clone themselves and multiply constantly seeking new hosts. Some viruses are benign serving more as an annoyance, while others are designe to damage programs and data. Most Excalibur based bbs systems scan and destroy computer viruses.

WebSite

An address and place oin the Internet where a Web Browser (like Netscape) may be used to 'read' files and images. These are usually managed by individuals or business to make information or products and services available on the Internet.

WinZip
<What are ZIP files anyway>

World Wide Web

A Internet-work wide, menu based, software program providing hypertext and hypermedia links to information resources the world over on the internet

WWW

Refers to World Wide Web or the Internet's hypertext servers. A Internet-work wide, menu based, software program providing hypertext and hypermedia links to information resources the world over on the internet.

Zip

Refers to a method of compacting related files into a single file with a 'ZIP' filename extension. The intent is to simplfy distribution of file groups. Once on the users computer, he or she must 'UNZIP' the file to actually use the files inside it.