SIGNET NEWS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

We're On The Internet!

CHANGE LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION

[This is the first in a series of articles on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Info-Internet Implementation Plan.]

On July 26, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Gordon Smith, inaugurated the Department's Site on the Internet. Speaking to a large crowd assembled in the lobby of the Lester B. Pearson Building, Mr. Smith said that the day was an historic one for the Department. "Our presence on the Internet," he commented, "is part of the Department's strategy to use technology to help achieve its mandate. By establishing this presence, we have not only broadened the Department's profile in the international community, but we have also enhanced the service we offer our clients by providing them with instant, cost-effective access to up-to-date information on our services and activities."

The Deputy Minister concluded his remarks by saying that to make the DFAIT Web Service a success, we need to provide the InfoCentre with up-to-date and relevant information on the broad range of topics that relate to the Department's mandate. "The challenge for each of us," Mr. Smith remarked, "is to think 'electronic' when preparing material for the public – and therefore to provide the InfoCentre with an electronic copy of your text."

There are currently several Internet-related projects under way at Headquarters. These are all co-ordinated within the framework of an over-arching Info-Internet Implementation Group, composed of personnel from all key areas of the Department that have an interest in

Editor's Comment

SIGNET News is back! After a brief absence, with this issue we begin publishing monthly.

It is you, our clients, that make the newsletter what it is. Much of its contents comes from readers who have questions to ask about SIGNET, or who've found shortcuts, tricks and solutions to working with ICONDESK and who like to share them with others. You've probably benefitted from a query or a timesaving tip that one of your colleagues sent in, and we're sure there are many people who would benefit from knowing shortcuts that you use. Let us know.

One of the primary goals of *SIGNET News* is, however, to keep you informed about changes to SIGNET, and to tell you what's coming down the pipe. This month, we tell you about our initiative to stabilize SIGNET. We also promote the Department's new Internet site which, as you'll discover, depends on you to make it a success.

We also like to teach you smart ways of working with ICONDESK 4.4. We encourage you to try new things. If you've never moved messages to ICONDESK folders, we offer you a great way to do that (it's easier than you think) in the hope that you will learn how to manage messages efficiently and effectively. The results will be gratifying.

In each issue, we'll also have an article on information technology of general interest to all employees in the Department. This month, we conclude our three-part series on office ergonomics. In the fall, we are planning to cover access and privacy principles on the information highway. What would you like to read about?

In keeping with the government's strategic interest in linking its investment in information technology to department priorities and directions, we'd like to include articles on how you use technology as a tool to meet the Department's broad objectives. Send us your ideas. They would be most welcome.

And, yes, later this year we expect some posts to receive the *News* electronically. For reasons of bandwidth, the majority of you will, however, continue to receive it in "hard" copy for sometime to come. We'll keep you advised.

Douglas Rosenthal
Director
SIGNET Client Services Division (STC)

Listening To You

Have you a question about SIGNET? a time-saving tip you'd like to share or an article you'd like to submit? We encourage you to let the SIGNET Client Services Division (STC) know.

via ICONDESK:

Suggestions SIGNET Suggestions