

Report From the SIGNET Users Group (SNUG)

The Survey

Thank you for participating in the ICONDESK survey. We were very gratified to receive hundreds of responses to the survey. These are now being analyzed. Hopefully, we will be able to provide you with a report on the findings in the next few weeks.

According to the network managers, the survey was a unique use of SIGNET and ICONDESK. We were pleasantly surprised that it could be used in the way that it was. It certainly demonstrated an efficient and effective way to reach all users.

A cursory examination of the returns suggest that there is neither abject rejection of ICONDESK nor complete happiness with its performance. Not surprisingly, many of you indicated that improvements are needed; and in large measure, specific comments overlap with the improvements that are contained in ICONDESK 4.4 that is now being implemented.

"...the impact of informatics consists of five per cent technology and 95 per cent change in culture."

-Andy Macdonald

Chief Informatics Officer,
Government of Canada

(Hum, February 1995, p. 28.)

E-Mail Rules of the Road

The Electronic Mail - Standards and Procedures - paper has just been finalized. As you have been recently informed by broadcast message, the document has been distributed to your local I drive (I:\corpinfo\ror). It is a first attempt to provide you with guidelines on the use of e-mail. Every effort has been made to reflect your many suggestions; additional suggestions and comments are welcome, as we plan to re-issue the paper early in the summer.

Several of you have commented on the bounding distensibility of addressing in e-mail. The "rules of the road" paper provides some guidance on this; however, since the 'addressing' power is now in the hands of each user, the solution rests with you. Restraint must be exercised. Otherwise, there will be an adverse impact on the performance of SIGNET, as well as on all users.

Mission SNUG Committees

Most missions have now established SNUG committees. Many missions have asked for further guidance on role and activities. Program review notwithstanding, we would hope to provide a brief paper on the matter in the next few weeks.

Information Management Plan (IMP)

Over the past several months, Ron Hartling has chaired a group of users, including the chairman of SNUG, on the development of the

Plan, whose purpose is to guide computerization in the Department after April 1. It has been a massive effort. The many comments and suggestions you've made on needed improvements to SIGNET and new services and features that you would like to have incorporated into the system, have been reflected in the discussions. Hopefully, most will also be reflected in the Plan.

One of the most significant features of the IMP is its emphasis on the management of information in the Department as a comprehensive, all encompassing issue for SIGNET and its associated features. The concept that is reflected in the Plan is for an operational information system that will encompass internally generated material, as well as that from outside sources. The idea is to provide users with tools (client-server or other types of applications and formatting tools) that would permit the use of this material on demand. This system would support the political, economic, legal and social work of the Department.

The Plan should be completed in late March. Further details will be available at that time.

Our Mistake!

In the article "How to be Ergonomically Comfortable at Your Workstation" (*SIGNET Newsletter*, February 13), we said that missions should contact SRMP if they need to obtain new furniture. Please note the acronym should have read SRMD.