SIGNET access to the World Wide Web is here

DFAIT business managers will soon see their expressed need for widespread Internet access satisfied. SIGNET-D access to the World Wide Web (WWW) has been available on a trial basis at Headquarters and at three missions (Detroit, Hong Kong and Copenhagen) since July 1996. The trial has satisfied concerns over the capacity of the "firewall," which is necessary to keep our internal data secure. The service via SIGNET eliminates the costly use of commercial Internet service providers.

SIGNET Access to the World Wide Web is one of four Internet-related projects [1] that are part of the Department's strategic planning in the field of information management and information technology. The goal

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"In order for knowledge to be used it has to be selected out of an undifferentiated mass. Knowledge that cannot be selected is knowledge lost in vain."

- Vannevar Bush
  As We May Think,
  Atlantic Monthly,
  April 1945

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now is to provide desktop access to the WWW to all employees who need it at Headquarters on Monday, November 18, 1996 and to the majority of SIGNET missions beginning the week of November 18. The date co-incides with the expansion of bandwidth and the availability of the enabling Netscape software.[2] The launch of the service at Small Mission SIGNET posts will unfortunately be delayed for technical reasons.

Employees who currently have WWW access accounts will still need to use their IDs and passwords to access the Internet; however, as of Friday, November 15 this will no longer be necessary. Employees new to the service will be required to sign the Department's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). We will advise you shortly on how this will be handled. Please note that the recent *Policy on Acceptable Use of E-Mail Facilities by DFAIT Staff* (Circular Document 9/96, September 25, 1996) also applies to use of the Internet. A policy on Internet and Intranet use is forthcoming from the Information Management and Technology Bureau (SXD).

The WWW is accessed by using the Web browser software called Netscape. The Netscape icon will be located in the Network Applications group of Program Manager. After logging into SIGNET, click on Netscape and the DFAIT Intranet Home Page will open by default. A link to the DFAIT Internet site (http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

appears on that Page. The current version of Netscape (1.1) will take approximately 45 seconds to open. The updated version of Netscape will be available soon. At present, the Internet service is supported from 0800 to 1600 hours Ottawa time, Monday to Friday. If a problem occurs after hours, it will be handled the following business day.

The Informatics Learning Centre at Headquarters (SXCL) offers a two-hour course twice a week on how to navigate the Internet. To register, please call Marie Morin at 996-2476. SXCL is preparing a training guide for missions. The guide will be available from your systems administrator (SA) in late November. An Internet Handbook is also available online to familiarize you with the basics of Netscape.

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[1] The other projects are the DFAIT Web site, the Intranet Web site and The DFAIT Research Page (see "Special Supplement on DFAIT World Wide Web Activities," *SIGNET News* No. 18/96, March 18, 1996).

[2] See "Getting More with Less," *Connexions* No. 5/96, September 30, 1996, page 3.