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<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Goh, Jeffrey</td>
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A User Friendly Guide To The Information Highway

By

Jeffrey Goh
A User Friendly Guide to the Information Highway

Jeffrey Goh
National Computer Board

Today's Presentation

• Peeking at the Roadmap
• Cruising down the Highway
• Stopping over in Singapore
• Potholes to watch out for
• Looking over the Horizon

The Global I-way of today is

• The Internet, which is now
  • 25 years old
  • present in over 150 countries
  • linked to over 5,000,000 computers
  • used by 25,000,000 people
  • delivering 700,000,000,000 pieces of mail every month
  • serving over 1,600,000,000 pages of information every month

What is the Internet?

• The means by which all the world’s computers are able to communicate with each other
• A means to communicate, share and discover
• A new way of life, a new way of doing business

Who is using the Internet?

• schools and universities
  • students and teachers
• businesses
  • banks, lawyers, publishers
• homes
  • parents and kids
• government
  • presidents, ministers, civil servants
State of the Internet

- over 5,000,000 "off ramps" into over 154 countries
- over 25,000,000 commuters online
- over 70% commercial traffic

Services on the Internet include

- Messaging
- Directory Services
- Forums
- Many Information Services, including
  + Financial Services
  + Commerce
  + Arts and Entertainment

Messaging

- Sending faxes possible
- Sending email messages better because it lets you
  - attach programs
  - attach pictures
  - attach audio clips

Directory Services

- X.500
- Whois
- Netfind
- Prospero
- CSO
Electronic Forums
- Over 10,000 forums online including
  - science and technology
  - entertainment
  - politics
  - religion
  - culture

Growth in Information Services

WWW Server Growth

Financial Services
- Quotes online
- Charts online
- Market news
- Buying Stocks

Electronic Commerce
- Advertising
- Product Information
- Transactions
- After sales support

Arts and Entertainment
- Museums
- Art Exhibitions
- Movie Reviews
- Television scripts
- Interactive Games
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Stopping over in Singapore

Singapore Services
- Singapore Online Guide (STPB/NCB)
- Online Museum (NHB/NCB)
- Chinese Services (NSTB/NCB)
- Asian Diver (private/NCB)

The I-way in Singapore
- Need a "car" and "license"
  - Technet for research (November)
  - Singnet for everyone else (mid '95)
- Unnecessarily Expensive
- "Causeway" too crowded

Cost of Internet Connection

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<tr>
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<th>Singnet</th>
<th>Technet</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>35c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dedicated-Organization</td>
<td>4.21c</td>
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Potholes on the I-way include
- Lack of privacy
- Pornography
- Piracy
- Excessive Regulations
- Pending Toll-Roads
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Over the Horizon

Line speeds getting faster

- New ways of connecting are
  - ATM (only for PTT)
  - ISDN (56,000 bps)
- Even old ways are getting faster
  - 300 bps, 1200 bps (1980)
  - 2,400 bps (ca 1986)
  - 9,600 bps (ca 1990)
  - 14,400 bps (1993)
  - 28,800 bps (1994)

More Internet capable computers

By end 95, every new computer will have
  - OS/2 Warp ... or
  - Windows 95 ... or
  - Unix ... or
  - Mac OS
  - ... all of which will be Internet capable

By 2001, Everyone will be online!

Summary

- The Information Highway is here today
- There are still a few potholes...
- but the future is very, very good.