

# Re: Week Four Assignments

*EricElert@aol.com*

*Tue, 24 Sep 1996 19:47:51 -0400*

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Eugene Stovall: "Re: The Power to Change"
  - **Previous message:** Kevin Conde: "Re: Week Four Assignments"
  - **Next in thread:** Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
- 

As an educational technology consultant who has worked with many private schools with small budgets and big challenges, I have found many are receptive to banding together to achieve common goals. I'll be presenting to the Calif. assoc. of private schools conference in November in Anaheim about how to do that in supporting technology.

Once again, we find that where there's a will there's a way. The cooperation of schools otherwise not "connected" by any common bond, has been growing during the past few years.

The students who attend any private school are still kids who deserve equal learning opportunities with all their peers, private or public. In my former district, we could not have afforded to provide services if all the kids who went to private schools suddenly showed up at our public school doorstep. I always felt a debt of gratitude for the private schools taking some of the "financial burden" of supporting some students off our shoulders while we still collected their parents' property taxes.

Eric Willard

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- **Next message:** Eugene Stovall: "Re: The Power to Change"
- **Previous message:** Kevin Conde: "Re: Week Four Assignments"
- **Next in thread:** Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"

# Re: The Power to Change

Eugene Stovall ([estovall@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:estovall@ousd.k12.ca.us))

Tue, 24 Sep 96 17:16 PDT

- Messages sorted by: [\[ date \]](#) [\[ thread \]](#) [\[ subject \]](#) [\[ author \]](#)
- Next message: [Jan Bolluyt: "ICN followup \(Iowa Communication Network\)"](#)
- Previous message: [EricElert@aol.com: "Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)
- Maybe in reply to: [John D. Gravelle: "The Power to Change"](#)

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John,

Sometimes we must struggle against great odds because the stakes are equally great. It sounds that you have waged a great struggle in the area of universal service and educational discounts and you are a bit weary. But, you must have confidence that others are equally committed and will continue the struggle. Others know what the stakes are for their children and will not merely roll over and hope that the FCC, their lawyers and their experts will represent the interests of our children. The telecommunications giants stand to make billions... the telecommunications CEOs already earn millions. The name of the game is not sympathy or pity...its knowledge and commitment.

Schools must continue the demand for a fair share of a public utility that has been subsidized and funded from the millions of dollars paid by the American taxpayer and utility rate payers. The United States Congress has passed a law which has the impact of eliminating the power of the monopoly to fix rates and develop technologies to benefit their interests. This law will empower the American people not only to use the telecommunications superhighway to expand the educational horizons of their children, but also to open up opportunities for employment and community development. Major corporations including telecommunications giants are downsizing in order to beef up stock prices. We should use technology no merely to accumulate wealth for a few but to provide a decent living for the many.

We must look beyond our narrow, parochial views. There are many small telecommunications companies which have been denied access to the telecommunications marketplace... we can work with them. There are a number of organizations who do not believe that the telephone national association should be given the responsibility for administering the universal fund; this association only decides how much of the universal fund each of its members will get... We should join those calling for an objective, neutral administrator with a broadly representative board directors including a representative from the educational community. The Telecommunications Act requires unbundling; let us turn to the scientists at our universities to look at the way that the unbundling of telecommunications services can meet the needs of education.

There is much too much to be done before throwing in the towel and begging for mercy. "Those who stand for nothing will fall for anything!"

Eugene Stovall

>Hi all,

>

>I have read others'92 comments daily and appreciate all I have learned

>from all of you. The technical as well as the pedagogical posts are  
>excellent. I wish to enter a more philosophical thread and hope others  
>will followup.  
>  
>We, as educators, can lobby the FCC through this and other venues. Yet,  
>my experience precludes success. Bill Cosh has well represented the  
>post passage results of Wisconsin's telecommunications bill.  
>The only group that can change education via telecommunications is the  
>FCC.  
>  
>Mr. Hunt, Commissioners, and the many lawyers at the FCC: You have the  
>power to change the direction of PK-12 education.  
>  
>You alone have that power.  
>  
>I am positive that the FCC has the technical advisors who understand the  
>present technology and who are aware of the different evolving  
>technologies. I am positive the FCC has the lawyers who can write  
>regulations that will supply a Universal Service plan to all PK-12 and  
>libraries that will supply us with the needed resources to change  
>education.  
>  
>I wonder, though, if the FCC can withstand the pressures of many large  
>companies, many lobbyists, and national political pressures.  
>  
>In the summer of 94, before the Wisconsin Telecom bill was passed, a  
>major Milwaukee paper had a headline that stated Kids would be the FIRST  
>on the SuperHighway. I called the reporter and asked him who supplied  
>him with the facts. His source was a telecommunication company. I  
>lobbied for the Wisconsin bill and worked with a regional president of  
>one of the telecommunication companies. After passage, he would no  
>longer accept calls from me about education issues.  
>  
>I do not believe our efforts here or efforts from many other sources  
>will balance out the many who will oppose us. They have the expertise,  
>the money, and the personnel to interact with the FCC in ways we would  
>not and could not consider.  
>  
>Simple put, Mr. Hunt and the Commissioners of the FCC have the power to  
>change education profoundly. Do they want to see education changed?  
>--  
>  
>John D. Gravelle  
>Merrill Senior High  
>106 Polk Street  
>  
>Merrill, WI 54452  
>  
>715-536-4594  
>  
>gravelle@dwave.net                   finger gravelle@dwave.net  
>  
>  
>

- 
- Next message:** Jan Bolluyt: "ICN followup (Iowa Communication Network)"
  - Previous message:** EricElert@aol.com: "Re: Week Four Assignments"
  - Maybe in reply to:** John D. Gravelle: "The Power to Change"

# ICN followup (Iowa Communication Network)

Jan Bolluyt ([jbolluyt@spirit-lake.k12.ia.us](mailto:jbolluyt@spirit-lake.k12.ia.us))  
Tue, 24 Sep 1996 20:03:02 -0500

- Messages sorted by: [ date || thread || subject || author ]
- Next message: Bill Cosh: "Universal Service Fund Meeting"
- Previous message: Eugene Stovall: "Re: The Power to Change"

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The ICN letter spawned some questions that would take too much time to respond to and are beyond the scope of my knowledge. The following address will give you more insight.

<http://www.icn.state.ia.us/>

Jan

- 
- Next message: Bill Cosh: "Universal Service Fund Meeting"
  - Previous message: Eugene Stovall: "Re: The Power to Change"

# Universal Service Fund Meeting

Bill Cosh ([bcosh@wasb.org](mailto:bcosh@wasb.org))

Tue, 24 Sep 1996 22:01:16 -0700

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Previous message:** Jan Bolluyt: "ICN followup (Iowa Communication Network)"
- 

I thought the group might find the following of interest. Today, when I attended a meeting of Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund Advisory Council (an advisory council set up in our telecommunications deregulation bill to act in an advisory capacity to Wisconsin's Public Service Commission on Universal Service issues) it was announced that some of the telephone companies in Wisconsin are refusing to pay the mandatory Public Service Commission assessments that they have received for the Universal Service Fund contributions.

These assessments are mandatory, and the Public Service Commission must now struggle with how they are going to actually enforce the collection of the assessments. Further, one telephone company has petitioned the state's Public Service Commission to be exempted from contributions to the fund entirely.

Also, the PSC announced that they expect another petition to be filed challenging the entire Universal Service Fund program (from small cooperative telecommunications providers and other small telco's), claiming the PSC does not have the authority to require them to contribute to the USF fund.

Just a few things to keep in mind as the federal program is developed. What's that saying, "If you fool me once shame on you, if you fool me twice shame on me!"

Bill Cosh  
Wisconsin Association of School Boards  
[bcosh@wasb.org](mailto:bcosh@wasb.org)

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- **Previous message:** Jan Bolluyt: "ICN followup (Iowa Communication Network)"

# Telecomm Act of 1996, Universal Service-online seminar

Marie SCROGGS ([scroggs@scis.acast.nova.edu](mailto:scroggs@scis.acast.nova.edu))  
Wed, 25 Sep 1996 00:05:55 -0400 (EDT)

- Messages sorted by: [ date ] [ thread ] [ subject ] [ author ]
- Next message: Bill Hatchett: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
- Previous message: :""

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September 23, 1996

To the Federal/State Joint Board and FCC Rule-Making Staff, greetings from Antelope Valley (Northeastern Los Angeles County), California... the upper desert valley and aerospace capital, home of the stealth bomber and the new space shuttle design.

We, being representatives of valley school districts in this 3,500 plus square mile region now known as the latest bedroom community to the Los Angeles basin, wish to make comment and/or recommendations for the Universal Service provision which will impact the students of our local region as well as our country.

This upper valley desert region has isolated areas as well as communities. The isolated areas, being deprived of commonly occurring services and information and/or research materials for the students, became the target of study for a collaborative group of concerned educators and community representatives a few years ago. This group began researching the availability of materials and services, conducting a rural family needs analysis, and developing plans to bring the same advantages to the rural desert student as was offered to the urban student.

The study led to the conclusion that even though this Antelope Valley area has the prestige of aerospace specialty knowledge, the local student is in dire need of the opportunity to learn technology skills that will be beneficial in being placed in the mainstream of job-marketing upon graduation from the educational track. As was shown by reduced graduation percentiles, the impetus for the local student to excel in school has also been linked directly to being (or not being) cognizant of the current methods of information gathering and technology training as is demanded in today's workplace.

The educators of the local school districts have recognized this glaring void and have subsequently taken action to alleviate the condition by applying for a grant through the Federal Department of Education's Challenge in Technology Program.

Topic: Aggregation and Competition

WAGON, Westside Associate Group on Networking, unites eleven plus public and private school districts and their libraries with local public libraries and museums via the cable company and telephone companies.

The California School Library Association (CSLA) Board has authored a what/why document advocating strong school libraries. This document includes the following points regarding the current topic of the seminar discussion:

- What: Technology, including computers networked to the community and the Internet; sufficient CD-ROMs related to the school curriculum.
  
- Why: Improve student achievement  
Foster literacy  
Produce a technologically astute workforce  
Nurture life-long learning  
Create engaged citizens  
Ensure a better future

It is the sincere desire of WAGON to foster these points and to give our school students the means to succeed in life. "Information literacy through technology" is one such component of their education. Perhaps these same points could also be considered from your perspective.

We, of the Antelope Valley, appreciate that your goals are the same as our goals. If there is any way for us in Antelope Valley to be of further assistance in the design of the Telecom Act's Universal Service provision and the FCC rule-making for allocation of school/library funding, please call on us. We are at your service.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Jean Fuller, Superintendent, Keppel School District  
Allan Sacks, Superintendent, Westside Union School District  
Richard Norris, WAGON Administrator/Coordinator  
Marie Scroggs, WAGON Project Director  
Linda L. Storsteen, Palmdale City Librarian

scroggs@scis.nova.edu

- 
- Next message: Bill Hatchett: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
  - Previous message: ;

# Re: SCANS and Universal Service

Bill Hatchett ([hatchett@k12.colostate.edu](mailto:hatchett@k12.colostate.edu))

Wed, 25 Sep 1996 02:55:02 -0600 (MDT)

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
  - **Previous message:** Marie SCROGGS: "Telecomm Act of 1996. Universal Service-online seminar"
  - **In reply to:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
  - **Next in thread:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
- 

On Sun, 22 Sep 1996, Betty Dawn Hamilton wrote:

>  
> Well, I'm not sure.... but I seem to recall that at \*some\* meeting  
> somewhere, we were told to peddle the SCANS \*without\* the name because it  
> was done under a different administration. No one disagrees with the  
> value of the research; it's the political nature of the study that may  
> have kept it from more publicity.  
>

Then I guess there is some politicking being done. That brings up  
the question as to whether the American Schools are doing a good job or  
not. Certain politicals would want people to think not.

Had you heard of the Sandia Report?

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- **Next message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
- **Previous message:** Marie SCROGGS: "Telecomm Act of 1996. Universal Service-online seminar"
- **In reply to:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
- **Next in thread:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"

# Re: SCANS and Universal Service

Betty Dawn Hamilton ([bhamilt@tenet.edu](mailto:bhamilt@tenet.edu))

Wed, 25 Sep 1996 06:06:16 -0500 (CDT)

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Travis Thompson: "Re: us-nd-digest V5 #2"
  - **Previous message:** Bill Hatchett: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
  - **In reply to:** Bill Hatchett: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
- 

On Wed, 25 Sep 1996, Bill Hatchett wrote:

> > somewhere, we were told to peddle the SCANS \*without\* the name because it  
> > was done under a different administration. No one disagrees with the  
> > value of the research; it's the political nature of the study that may  
> > have kept it from more publicity.

> >

> Then I guess there is some politicking being done. That brings up  
> the question as to whether the American Schools are doing a good job or  
> not. Certain politicals would want people to think not.  
> Had you heard of the Sandia Report?

Off hand, I don't remember if I had heard it \*before\* here (us-nd) -- but  
you can be sure that where I heard it first was \*online\*. That should  
tell us \*something\* about the value of internet/cmc/access!

I have learned a \*great deal\* by being online the past 5 years or so.  
I'll include an example or two when I post my responses to the week-5 query.

Betty

Betty Hamilton, LRS  
[bhamilt@tenet.edu](mailto:bhamilt@tenet.edu)  
Brownfield High School



701 Cub Drive  
Brownfield TX 79316  
(806) 637-4523

- 
- **Next message:** Travis Thompson: "Re: us-nd-digest V5 #2"
  - **Previous message:** Bill Hatchett: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
  - **In reply to:** Bill Hatchett: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"

# Re: Re: Week Four Assignments

Brenda Williams ([Brenda\\_Williams@kcpt.org](mailto:Brenda_Williams@kcpt.org))  
25 Sep 1996 16:49:08 GMT

- **Messages sorted by:** [ [date](#) || [thread](#) || [subject](#) || [author](#) ]
  - **Next message:** [Bob Carlitz: "new survey"](#)
  - **Previous message:** [Travis Thompson: "Re: us-nd-digest V5 #2"](#)
  - **Maybe in reply to:** [EricElert@aol.com: "Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)
  - **Next in thread:** [Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)
- 

Betty Dawn wrote:

"Please consider the possibility of leveraging the school's technology back to the business community and the general community. We pay for our "special person" (A.K.A. yours truly) by offering classes after school and in the evenings. Ea also rent out our lab to businesses for offsite training on the weekends and in the Summer."

We find many businesses enjoy being asked by schools or community groups (such as night adult classes or other businesses) to furnish qualified personnel to present classes, workshops, or just speak to one class. They feel recognized in their community roles, would be gaining company PR, and the school could provide the location and computer labs--again combining everyone's resources for everyone's benefit to utilizing the technology our taxes pay for through Universal Service or whatever plan eventually serves schools and libraries.

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- **Next message:** [Bob Carlitz: "new survey"](#)
- **Previous message:** [Travis Thompson: "Re: us-nd-digest V5 #2"](#)
- **Maybe in reply to:** [EricElert@aol.com: "Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)
- **Next in thread:** [Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)

# Re: us-nd-digest V5 #2

Travis Thompson ([etechojt@juno.com](mailto:etechojt@juno.com))

Wed, 25 Sep 1996 13:27:50 EDT

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
  - **Previous message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"
- 

>  
>From: "John D. Gravelle" <[gravelle@dwave.net](mailto:gravelle@dwave.net)>  
>Date: Sun, 22 Sep 1996 21:43:00 +0000  
>Subject: The Power to Change

<snip>

>

>In the summer of 94, before the Wisconsin Telecom bill was passed, a  
>major Milwaukee paper had a headline that stated Kids would be the  
>FIRST on the SuperHighway. I called the reporter and asked him who  
>supplied him with the facts. His source was a telecommunication  
company.  
>I lobbied for the Wisconsin bill and worked with a regional president of  
>one of the telecommunication companies. After passage, he would no  
>longer accept calls from me about education issues.

>

It is refreshing to read frank and realistic commentary on the list. Obviously, you are among those without a hidden personal agenda. While the commentary has been of a high level and authoritative it seems doubtful that what is being discussed will translate into much more than a few freebie's for the schools; that teachers, staff, and administrators will receive the most benefit from implementation.

>I do not believe our efforts here or efforts from many other sources  
>will balance out the many who will oppose us. They have the expertise,  
>the money, and the personnel to interact with the FCC in ways we would  
>not and could not consider.

>

>Simple put, Mr. Hunt and the Commissioners of the FCC have the power  
>to change education profoundly. Do they want to see education changed?

>

The current status quo is profitable and pays CEO's and officials 100s of thousands, if not millions in the case of the telcos to maintain the status quo. Who among them wants to rock that boat? Now that commercial interests see the viability and power of the Internet, which was developed primarily by individual effort and contribution their prime objective is to stage a hostile 'take-over' and the public is virtually unaware.

At the same time educators seem to be gullibly led (pardon the inference) into supporting the macro-plan to take control of the Internet from the public, even though most may be well intentioned. Amazingly, on top of that we have seen educators accept and/or come to the table on this list with criticism about the way in which Juno provides a major level of free

public access to the Internet. Ironically, many of these same educators enjoy full free access to the Internet and also advertiser supported free software such as Netscape Navigator, that is provided to the schools and not the public or the students. If those of us in the real world are not supposed to benefit from advertiser supported free products and services, then educators should not be using Netscape Navigator or Internet services provided by telco and other advertising \$\$\$.

>  
>John D. Gravelle  
>Merrill Senior High  
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>  
>Merrill, WI 54452  
>  
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>  
>gravelle@dwave.net                   finger gravelle@dwave.net  
>

Travis

- 
- **Next message:** Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
  - **Previous message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: SCANS and Universal Service"

## **new survey**

Bob Carlitz ([bob@info-ren.pitt.edu](mailto:bob@info-ren.pitt.edu))

Wed, 25 Sep 1996 16:12:33 -0400 (EDT)

- **Messages sorted by:** [ [date](#) | [thread](#) | [subject](#) | [author](#) ]
  - **Next message:** [Marty Tennant: "Local Influence in the Process"](#)
  - **Previous message:** [Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)
- 

There is a new survey accessible from the Universal Service/Network Democracy home page

<http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/network-democracy.html>

or directly at

[http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/survey\\_3.html](http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/survey_3.html)

This survey deals with the conclusion of the seminar and seeks your opinion on how well the seminar has functioned. Please take the time to fill out this survey, since it will help determine the structure of future efforts of this sort.

If you have not already done so, please complete the previous survey on the allocation of Universal Service subsidies. The URL for that survey is

[http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/survey\\_2.html](http://info-ren.pitt.edu/universal-service/survey_2.html)

Thanks for your participation.

Bob Carlitz  
Moderator

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- **Next message:** [Marty Tennant: "Local Influence in the Process"](#)
- **Previous message:** [Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"](#)

# Local Influence in the Process

Marty Tennant ([marty@sccoast.net](mailto:marty@sccoast.net))

Wed, 25 Sep 1996 17:18:26 -0700

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
  - **Previous message:** Bob Carlitz: "new survey"
- 

I want to say how much I've enjoyed all the comments over the weeks, and the opportunity to express myself too.

I hope we can walk away positively from the experience. I don't want to see resignation in the face of the seemingly unsurmountable large structures and powers in front of us.

I truly believe that new network infrastructures, led by schools and communities, will bring forth the types of solutions we are searching for.

There is an interesting conference coming up in the D.C. area that I just became aware of called "The First 100 Feet".

They are trying to turn around the "problems" of the last mile issues into an "opportunity" for new solutions that go beyond traditional technology participants and networks.

I urge you to check out:

<http://ksgwww.harvard.edu/iip/first.html>

I wish I could attend, but our Universal Service proceedings at the SC PSC start on the 28th of October.

Become aware of the new technologies that are available. Organize around a core of people that understand and appreciate the alternatives. Make it a community issue. Find a public interest hook that brings in oversight and understanding from the parents, and hope for the best.

I still see a palatable future if enough common sense is applied.

Marty Tennant  
Low Tech Designs, Inc.

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- **Next message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
- **Previous message:** Bob Carlitz: "new survey"

# Re: Re: Week Four Assignments

Betty Dawn Hamilton ([bhamilt@tenet.edu](mailto:bhamilt@tenet.edu))

Wed, 25 Sep 1996 17:48:46 -0500 (CDT)

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date ] [ thread ] [ subject ] [ author ]
  - **Next message:** Frank Odasz: "Final Comments"
  - **Previous message:** Marty Tennant: "Local Influence in the Process"
  - **In reply to:** Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
- 

Sorry -- but neither of these paragraphs came from me. It looks like something must be missing from the message. Did you intend to comment, Brenda?

Betty Dawn  
[bhamilt@tenet.edu](mailto:bhamilt@tenet.edu)

[Moderator's Note: The quote in the first paragraph is from a message submitted by Diane Seagle, who quoted Kevin Conde. The second paragraph is Brenda's comment on Diane's message. Somehow Betty Dawn's name got attached to Diane's quote in Brenda's message. Sorry about the confusion. I believe that Betty Dawn had also commented on Kevin's message, but Diane was quoting Kevin and not Betty Dawn. And we thought that Universal Service was a complex issue!]

On 25 Sep 1996, Brenda Williams wrote:

> Betty Dawn wrote:

>

> "Please consider the possibility of leveraging the school's technology back  
> to the business community and the general community. We pay for our  
> "special person" (A.K.A. yours truly) by offering classes after school  
> and in the evenings. Ea also rent out our lab to businesses for offsite  
> training on the weekends and in the Summer."

>

> We find many businesses enjoy being asked by schools or community groups  
> (such as night adult classes or other businesses) to furnish qualified  
> personnel to present classes, workshops, or just speak to one class. They  
> feel recognized in their community roles, would be gaining company PR, and  
> the school could provide the location and computer labs--again combining  
> everyone's resources for everyone's benefit to utilizing the technology our  
> taxes pay for through Universal Service or whatever plan eventually serves  
> schools and libraries.

>

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- **Next message:** Frank Odasz: "Final Comments"
  - **Previous message:** Marty Tennant: "Local Influence in the Process"
  - **In reply to:** Brenda Williams: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"

# Final Comments

Frank Odasz ([franko@bigsky.dillon.mt.us](mailto:franko@bigsky.dillon.mt.us))

Thu, 26 Sep 96 9:13:29 MDT

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Wong, WayJane: "ISPs"
  - **Previous message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"
- 

Week Five; Final Comments

From: Frank Odasz

Director of Big Sky Telegraph

I've directed the Big Sky Telegraph network since 1988, based at a Western Montana College of The Univ. of Montana, a teachers college in a town of 4,000, Dillon, MT. The project started by providing free modems and online courses in "Microcomputer Telecommunications" to rural teachers in one and two room schools. Leveraging through common sense "affordable and appropriate" connectivity has always been our emphasis.

There have been many special projects conducted on BST over the years, demonstrating how an online system can support teacher-driven innovations. We've had to keep changing along with the technology. Our biggest impact has been encouraging others to create educational and/or community networks with an emphasis on 'Real Benefits for Real People.' Our challenge remains unchanged; to make people aware of the benefits of telecomputing.

With the arrival of local flat rate Internet the good news is most folks now have SLIP access, the bad news is that group conferencing has somewhat disappeared from the scene for many folks, replaced by solo web browsing. Citizens need an easy way to create their own group conferences. Groupwork skills for a global distributed knowledge economy take more to develop that is currently appreciated, IMHO. BST plans to implement web-conferencing and offer a new slate of online courses in the web format, appropriate for international/multicultural support of lifelong learning.

Use of BST's Internet email cost \$50/year for an account and the cost of phone serves started at 1 cent per page transmitted globally through long distance dial-up exchange, for a few years we used 800#'s until we ran out of money and realized this didn't teach self-sufficiency. Offline readers are still an elegantly cost-effective 'trick,' particularly the newer web-based autoexchange software Resnova is supposed to be coming out with. (Have not used it, personally.)

I've posted several documents on the above themes in the info-ren archives, thanks to Bob, and would be happy to serve as an ongoing resource for anyone interested. "Value-pull, not Tech-Push" and "People First, Technology Second" are two strong suggestions. Someday, I hope to be able to tell the full human story behind Big Sky Telegraph; our motto has been "You're

limited only by your imagination."  
<http://macsky.bigsky.dillon.mt.us/>

Godspeed to the Future,  
Frank Odasz

\ /  
- >>>>--Big Sky Telegraph--> Welcomes your imagination!  
/ \ Frank Odasz; franko@bigsky.dillon.mt.us  
Western Montana College of the University of Montana  
>>>--> <http://macsky.bigsky.dillon.mt.us/>  
Telnet: 192.231.192.1 Dialup:406-683-7680, Type bbs

- 
- **Next message:** Wong, WayJane: "ISPs"
  - **Previous message:** Betty Dawn Hamilton: "Re: Re: Week Four Assignments"

# ISPs

Wong, WayJane (WAwong@smtp.cde.ca.gov)  
26 Sep 96 16:14:48 PDT

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date | thread | subject | author ]
  - **Next message:** Kevin Conde: "Re: ISPs"
  - **Previous message:** Frank Odasz: "Final Comments"
  - **Next in thread:** Kevin Conde: "Re: ISPs"
- 

To Whom It May Still Concern -

Thank you again Information Renaissance... time consuming but worthwhile...

I realize the following comments or questions are not part of this week's assignments and this is the final week, but I was wondering if there might be someone out there who could help me sort this out...

Reflecting on my own previously submitted comments:

"All services, whether basic or advanced, would be available to schools and libraries as discounted rates and all telecommunications carriers including internet service providers should be considered as providers of these services".

My question is:

If the ISPs were to be classified as providers of advanced services, they would have to be REGULATED... Once regulated, all ISPs would then be eligible for the Universal Services Fund or possibly be providing discounted services by means of a competitive procurement process. Might the simple act of regulating ISPs actually increase overall internet service costs to everyone without anything else happening? I wonder what the ISPs think... Do they want to be regulated? Should they be regulated? If ISPs are regulated, would this mean everyone who is currently in business as an ISP or anyone planning to start an ISP service would have to be approved by each state public utilities commission? Has someone already addressed these concerns?

Any comments?

Thanks,

Way Jane Wong

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- **Next message:** Kevin Conde: "Re: ISPs"
- **Previous message:** Frank Odasz: "Final Comments"
- **Next in thread:** Kevin Conde: "Re: ISPs"

# Re: ISPs

Kevin Conde ([KevinC@sutter.k12.ca.us](mailto:KevinC@sutter.k12.ca.us))

Fri, 27 Sep 1996 09:50:36 -0700

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date | thread | subject | author ]
  - **Next message:** Barbara Pryor@rockefeller.senate.gov: "a message for the seminar"
  - **Previous message:** Wong, WayJane: "ISPs"
  - **Maybe in reply to:** Wong, WayJane: "ISPs"
- 

At 04:14 PM 9/26/96 PDT, Wong, WayJane wrote:

>To Whom It May Still Concern -

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>

>Thank you again Information Renaissance... time consuming but  
>worthwhile...

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>I realize the following comments or questions are not part of this  
>week's assignments and this is the final week, but I was wondering if  
>there might be someone out there who could help me sort this out...

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>Reflecting on my own previously submitted comments:

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>"All services, whether basic or advanced, would be available to schools  
>and libraries as discounted rates and all telecommunications carriers  
>including internet service providers should be considered as providers of  
>these services".

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>My question is:

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>If the ISPs were to be classified as providers of advanced services,  
>they would have to be REGULATED... Once regulated, all ISPs would then  
>be eligible for the Universal Services Fund or possibly be providing  
>discounted services by means of a competitive procurement process. Might  
>the simple act of regulating ISPs actually increase overall internet  
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>currently in business as an ISP or anyone planning to start an ISP  
>service would have to be approved by each state public utilities  
>commission? Has someone already addressed these concerns?

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>Any comments?

>  
>Thanks,  
>  
>Way Jane Wong  
>  
Way Jane Wong:

No, I don't think ISPs should be regulated! ISPs should be allowed to flourish or die the same as any small business. The free market should determine the quality and quantity of their service. It's the telecomm service providers that need regulation, or in some cases deregulation. In some cases they need to be required to provide a basic level of service, to include frame relay and ISDN, to all subscribers in their area. At the same time we must allow competition between telecomm providers, because with out competition, they have little incentive to improve their service or efficiency.

Kevin

Kevin Conde  
Technology Coordinator  
Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office  
916-741-5115, x103

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- **Next message:** [Barbara\\_Pryor@rockefeller.senate.gov](mailto:Barbara_Pryor@rockefeller.senate.gov): "a message for the seminar"
  - **Previous message:** [Wong, WayJane: "ISPs"](#)
  - **Maybe in reply to:** [Wong, WayJane: "ISPs"](#)

# a message for the seminar

*Barbara\_Pryor@rockefeller.senate.gov*

*Thu, 26 Sep 96 15:46:56 EST*

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Gerry Hamor: "Fifth week question"
  - **Previous message:** Kevin Conde: "Re: ISPs"
  - **Next in thread:** Ronda Hauben: "Re: a message for the seminar"
- 

Senator Jay Rockefeller

Message to participants in the Information Renaissance Seminar

September 25, 1996

This on-line seminar on Universal Service illustrates the potential -- and the power -- of access to the Information Superhighway. As someone trying to make sure public policy promotes access, I appreciate the ideas, energy and interest generated by the group.

To be specific, I feel passionately about providing access to every American through the Snowe-Rockefeller provision of the Telecommunications Act. We have an enormous opportunity to promote access and enhance education with proper implementation of this bold new law. Thanks to this seminar, you understand the issues that we are debating as the Federal Communications Commission seeks to implement this important provision.

I urge you to take the next steps after this seminar to generate the decisions and commitment we want to see as the Telecommunications Act is implemented. I urge you to contact public policymakers, at both the state and federal level regarding your views on access to telecommunications. Your voice can and should be heard. My best regards to you.

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- **Next message:** Gerry Hamor: "Fifth week question"
- **Previous message:** Kevin Conde: "Re: ISPs"
- **Next in thread:** Ronda Hauben: "Re: a message for the seminar"

# Fifth week question

Gerry Hamor ([ghamor@mail.vcnet.com](mailto:ghamor@mail.vcnet.com))

Fri, 27 Sep 1996 20:01:13 -0700

- Messages sorted by: [ date | thread | subject | author ]
  - Next message: [Melanie Van Liere: "Week 5 Assignment \(Pohl & Van Liere\)"](#)
  - Previous message: [Barbara Pryor@rockefeller.senate.gov: "a message for the seminar"](#)
- 

Greetings everyone,

I hope this seminar has been as helpful to others as it has been to me. I have enjoyed reading about the progress that has been made in telecommunications in other areas of the US. Thank you, Bob, Laurie, and the folks at Information Renaissance, for making this seminar possible. I hope to establish continuing communication with several participants in the near future.

Fifth week question:

What successful telecommunications projects have you been involved with?

Did these projects depend upon any special telecommunications rates? If so, give a brief description of these rates and indicate whether you think these rates might be jeopardized by new Universal Service subsidies. (This could happen if, for example, state PUCs were to decree that new subsidies supersede old rate structures.)

We are in the building stage as we begin to develop projects. I used a personal shell account to first bring the internet to my school. Using a text only format, our students, with adult assistance, were able to seek information that related to their class activities. When PPP accounts became available through a new local ISP in June '95, I established a partnership with the the owners of the new business and they agreed to provide a free single line account to the school - an offer that was later extended to the other schools in the district. I developed our school web page (posted Oct '95), and provided inservice presentations to staff, parents, and other administrators. During the '95-'96 school year groups of Gifted and Talented students received instruction from me in html and wrote passages that were put on our web page. We communicated with a college student from our community who was living in Jerusalem last year and one classroom developed email contacts with students in another state. We look forward to activities this year that will involve our students in more projects that connect us to others around the world.

At this stage, thanks to our generous ISP, we have had free access to the www. As more classrooms are connected and our district WAN expands, this good fortune will probably not last.

It is my hope that our classrooms and classrooms throughout the nation will become connected and will be able to use internet resources without paying rates that make it necessary to cut back in other important areas of education. We are currently deciding whether to spend money on improved technology or on early literacy. While our educational needs exceed our ability to meet them, we should not have to sacrifice tomorrow's literacy (telecommunication skills) for today's literacy (decoding/encoding), or vice versa. Literacy in the 21st century will require all of these skills.

If our local fledgling ISP can take it upon itself to connect our local schools as a community service - free, then it can be argued that our giant telcos, faced with the Universal Service legislation, can extend the same consideration to all classrooms and reimburse the ISPs for their portion of the service.

Gerry Hamor  
Principal  
Dos Caminos School  
Camarillo , CA  
<http://www.vcnet.com/doscaminos>

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- Next message: [Melanie Van Liere: "Week 5 Assignment \(Pohl & Van Liere\)"](#)
- Previous message: [Barbara Pryor@rockefeller.senate.gov: "a message for the seminar"](#)

# Week 5 Assignment (Pohl & Van Liere)

Melanie Van Liere ([vanlier@erols.com](mailto:vanlier@erols.com))

Sat, 17 May 1980 19:38:29 -0700

- **Messages sorted by:** [ date || thread || subject || author ]
  - **Next message:** Christine Rademan: "AzTeC Free-Net"
  - **Previous message:** Gerry Hamor: "Fifth week question"
- 

In response to this week's discussion we would like to provide you with a little background of our school district. Norfolk Public schools is behind the times of communication. There is only one school in our district, Ruffner Middle, that has made great efforts and had great success with our local cable carrier.

Cox Communications and Ruffner have established a partnership where Cox provided roughly 300 computers with networking and internet connection through fiber optics. We have toured Ruffner and were impressed with their set up. The connection is also the fastest we have used. This situation is ideal and we see no reason why the Act would terminate any such relationships such as this one.

We also believe the Act will make these situations more popular. It is easy and affordable to upgrade donated computers and this makes networking possible. With the Act getting more lines for communication and cheaper access to the internet there is no loss to anyone or any program.

Before we talk about our school let us briefly describe the program we are involved with. Public schools Restructuring for Inovative Mainstream Education (PRIME) is a project that envolves six schools in our district. One aspect of PRIME is to increase technology and education. The layout is one high school and its five main feeder schools. Through PRIME we are currently applying for an NSF grant to help with our goals.

We at Lake Taylor High School are currently trying every angle to fully network our school (Intra and Inter), this is only a part of our technology plan. We have recieved a donation of 50 386 IBM computers from a hopefully soon to be partner USAA. With slight upgrading these computers will be ready to "surf" the net. One of our other partners in education, the USS Stout, has vounteered to do all the wiring for the networking. To start our plan two proffesors of computer science from Old Dominion University are diagraming our school for the wires.

Unfortunatley due to the age and size of our building this task will take a few months, but we are on our way. Now we need funding for additional computers, phone lines, software, and internet access. For this we are waiting on the response from NSF for the grant. However, would'nt it be great if the money we recieve from the grant could be used towards more things if the Act lowers costs and increases substities for education?

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