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Maine IS Technology

A publication featuring the Information Services technology of Maine State Government

Intelligent Spatial Technologies
A New Maine Company

By Philip Helgerson

Just imagine touring Augusta, equipped with a user-friendly "Smart Map" that fits into your jacket pocket, about the size of a small camera or personal assistant. Simply point the device toward the state capital building and learn its history. Intelligent Spatial Technologies (IST) is researching and developing location based services (LBS) - dynamic GIS-based applications driven by orientation and location sensors that run on mobile computing devices.

Chris Frank[1], founder and president of IST thought it would be great to offer a hand held mapping device for users to identify landmarks and facilities. With the help of the Target Technology Center in Orono, Frank founded IST in April 2003, as an opportunity to realize the commercial potential of the innovative technology developed during his Masters research into a sensor based mobile spatial query system.

Location-based services are a powerful way to deliver information. LBS offers users the ability to quickly locate, identify, and document specific features, buildings, conditions, or other information. Mapping utilities or facilities, for example, could provide instant access to a large database of information based on location.

With applications that are mobile, flexible, and up to the minute, the LBS industry is expected to grow rapidly in the next five years as wireless carriers establish their strategies.

An example of Maine's emerging new technology business community, Frank was one of three presenters representing "Maine's Creative Future" at the Maine Development Foundation's (*http://www.mdf.org/*) annual conference in Augusta.

Equipped with integrated geospatial positioning, navigation, and wayfinding information, IST's visionary device will down-link specific information based on precise location and positioning. Frank developed this concept and the tools to accomplish the vision while a graduate student at the University of Maine in Orono. By knowing where someone is and what direction they are facing, IST is developing mapping systems that automatically align to the user and instantly provide relevant information about nearby geographic objects.

As part of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, (*www.ncgia.maine.edu*) Frank was among the researchers that moved into the Target Technology Center when it opened in 2002. The NCGIA is an independent research consortium dedicated to basic research and education

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Judiciary Uses Web-Based Survey Tool

By Jaclyn Carson & Hon. Jon D. Levy, Chair of Judicial Resource Team

Maine Judicial Branch's Judicial Resource Team (JRT) undertook a project to assess the workload of judicial resources in Maine's trial courts. The team was tasked with generating a new model for scheduling trial courts and allocating judicial resources. The team learned on-line surveys can be a very efficient and effective way to gain valuable information from the people most important to your organization.

The JRT requested the assistance of an outside consultant, Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker (BDMP) in conducting this work. Starting in September 2002, this project was unique in that the JRT used a collaborative approach, and sought to develop recommendations that would promote collaboration among the trial courts. This was accomplished through the use of a web based survey and one-on-one communication. The survey was created to solicit information from clerks, administrators, judges, and Case Management Officers (CMOs) related to objectives identified in the JRT's charter.

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in geographic information science and related technologies, including geographic information systems (GIS). University researchers occupy about a third of the space at the center. The University presence at the Target Center also includes computer technology researchers who use a "supercomputer" in the center, made up of more than two hundred PC's linked serially to comprise a high speed, high capacity computing capability that ranks among the fastest and biggest in the world.

The Target Technology Center offered Chris Frank the opportunity to transition his research and development into a commercial venture. Target Center director Debbie Neuman, explains, "Chris moved his office from the research spaces at one end of the building, down the hall to incubator space, where he has now started Intelligent Spatial Technologies." With the help of the Target Center, Frank has received seed grant funding from the Maine Technology Institute, and commercialization assistance from technology business counselor Meriby Sweet. Frank has received help in developing a business plan for his idea, and has received help from Woody Higgins, who has an on-site office of the Maine Patent Law Program, offering assistance in intellectual property matters.

While Frank fine-tunes the technology, he also takes part in scheduled business training programs in entrepreneurship and business management, at the center. Everything is in one convenient location, close to campus, down the hall from his research colleagues, and across the hall from other emerging entrepreneurs.

SmartMap version 1 will be ready for commercialization in 2004, and sales of the product will support investigation into more complex research issues and development of the next phase of products. IST was recently awarded a MTI seed grant to support the process of filing a patent for these innovative technologies, and has won a subcontract with the University of Maine to develop two prototype versions of the SmartMap. Additional funding is being sought through several federal grants.

The Target Technology Center is one of seven Applied Technology Development Centers[2] established by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Each Center is independently operated as a non-profit corporation. Like the other centers, the Target Center offers office space and shared equipment and facilities at a reasonable cost, and delivers personalized training and business support services to its client firms. Companies like IST can operate from offices located at the center, or can choose to take part as "Affiliates," participating in programs and resources, but maintaining a company location elsewhere.

Nationally, companies that have had the benefit of business incubator programs achieve higher success and growth rates than other firms, and have a higher survival rate. According to the National Business Incubation Association, more than 80% of incubator graduate firms are still in business five years after graduation from their centers.

Curious to learn more? Visit these websites:
www.i-spatialtech.com
www.targetincubator.org
www.atdcmaine.org
www.ncgia.maine.edu
www.maine.edu
and/or contact the author by calling 207-624-9802 or e-mailing Philip.Helgerson@Maine.gov.

[1] Mr. Frank also has a Bachelors of Science degree in Spatial Information Science and Engineering as well as a minor in Computer Science. As entrepreneur and president, Chris is the driving force behind IST. He is dedicated to establishing a successful technology company in Maine and creating exciting opportunities for other graduates to work in this field.

[2] For more information see A Public/Private Collaboration Promoting Maine Businesses By Philip Helgerson, Maine IS Technology Newsletter, November 2003 *http://www.state.me.us/newsletter/nov2003/a_public.htm*

Challenge

By Lester Dickey

What comes next in the following series: j31, a31, s30, o31, n30, ____?

For an additional challenge, but no chance for the pizza, what comes next in the following series: A, C, F, J, O, ___?

Please e-mail **Lester Dickey** with your answer and your name, phone number, and the organization for which you work. Or call **Barbara Buck** at **624-9501**. The winner will be drawn from all the correct entries and will receive a **FREE** donated pizza, either from **CJ's Pizza** or from the **EDOC Cafeteria**. All answers must be in no later than the **14th** of the month.

Last month's challenge brought 48 submissions, with 41 being correct answers. The winner, chosen by random drawing, is **Nick Zaharchuk** of **BIS**.

The answers to last month's Challenge: A "pear" would cost 12 cents (3 cents per letter). A "plum" would cost 5 cents (5 cents per vowel).

Gifts for you - Best wishes for Happy Holidays from the Newsletter Editorial Board!

Looking for better project management skills?
Check out ***http://www.gantthead. com/Gantthead/default/***.

What's Your Stress Level at Work?
Take this quiz to find out: ***http://quiztime.natsem.com/workstressquiz.cfm***

Telephone long distance charges getting you down?
Visit ***http://www.skype.com/***. Skype uses P2P (peer-to-peer) technology to connect you to other users – not to share files, but to talk for free with your friends. The technology is extremely advanced - but super simple to use... You'll be making perfect quality free phone calls via your computer to your friends in no time!

Judiciary Uses Web-Based Survey Tool, cont. from Page 1

BDMP worked closely with the JRT to develop a comprehensive survey instrument.

Web based survey tools offer the following benefits.

- Security – Surveys are sent via e-mail using the Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) field. This ensures everyone on the list will not get the e-mail addresses of all other participants.
- Reliability – The survey tool only allowed users to submit data once. Therefore, there could not be multiple responses from one participant.
- Easy way to analyze large number of results - Reporting survey results is the final step in the survey process and involves the creation of a report which is automatically created by the push of a button from the data that was submitted by participants.
- Easy to notify individuals of survey using e-mail – Notification of the survey and reminders to get participation are sent via e-mail.

Through this project, the JRT learned to:

- Keep it straightforward and simple – If your questions are unclear or ambiguous you will get misleading responses from participants.
- Only allow web based responses – If you allow participants the ability to submit their responses on paper, the administrator will spend a significant amount of time manually entering the results into the survey tool.

There were over ninety survey participants representing State of Maine Judicial Branch including clerks, Superior Court Justices, District Court Judges, and Case Management Officers. The data from the survey helped the Judicial Resource Team to identify changes to current processes that would promote collaboration among the trial courts. As a result of the survey, and the analysis of current operations, the JRT was able to present its recommendations to the Supreme Judicial Court. Its work was concluded in late September 2003.

Jaclyn Carson, a Management Consultant, at Berry, Dunn, McNeal & Parker, has recently completed a process assessment assignment with the Judicial Resource Team. Questions? Jaclyn may be reached by e-mailing jcarson@bdmp.com or by calling 541-2267.

Don't Forget:

Donations for this year's Head Start Holiday party are still being accepted by Barbara Buck at 145 State House Station or call 624-9501. Please put December 10 on your calendar and join us at the Armory to see for yourselves what happiness and delight you have helped bring to these less fortunate children in our area.

I Have a Little Change In My Pocket . . .

By Ginnie Ricker

Want to save some money for your agency? How about using audio or web conferencing services rather than traveling? For as little as .08 cents per minute per caller, you can host a meeting with participants from around the world, the state or even the city. You can have a 1-800 number, so you can pick up the entire tab, or you can have a long distance number, so the participants pay.

Below are some Questions and Answers (Q&A) about the new audio/web conferencing services that have recently been contracted for. See http://www.state.me.us/newsletter/july2003/new_meeting_services.htm for more information.

Q What does it cost to establish an audio conference call? Right now I pay a $15.00 charge per setup.

A With Premiere Conferencing there is no setup fee.

Q What about cancellation fees? Sometimes multiple parties cancel at the last minute.

A With Premiere Conferencing there is no cancellation fee.

Q Our agency uses audio conferencing services all the time, it is so time consuming calling to set up a meeting.

A With Premiere Conferencing each agency has the ability to have a dedicated number with moderator and participant pass-codes. They also provide access to setup conference calls via their website, or you can call their customer support desk.

Q I have documents that I want to share with the participants of a call. How can I do that?

A With Premiere Conferencing you can establish a web conference (Premiere offers several different levels of web conferencing), using your phone for the verbal communications and the web for sharing documentation.

Q When will BIS bill us for the use of these services?

A BIS will no longer be providing audio conferencing services. Agencies that want to utilize these services will establish an account with Premiere Conferencing. As part of the account setup, the agency will include the billing process that works best for them.

Q What is the annual fee for this service?

A There is no annual fee. This is a pay per use service. Premiere Conferencing specializes in these services. This is their business!!!

Q Okay, I want to save my agency M-O-N-E-Y, I want to have multiple choices of how to have a meeting AND I want my own number. How do I do it?

A Please go to http://inet.state.me.us/bis/services/index.html select the three items under Communications. Read the information that has been provided. Print or save the New Account Setup Form, fill in the information, and submit to the names listed on the form.

Should you have any other questions, please contact the contract administrator, Lavana Snyder at Lavana.Snyder @maine.gov or 624-9511.

Rediscovering History via Database Technology

By Bruce J. Bourque

For 25 years I have been recording my research of Native history into databases. This has included Native history of the Maritime peninsula, a region spanning Maine and the Maritime Provinces, bounded on the north by the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the south by the northwest Atlantic Ocean. This was the homeland of the Wabanakis, a group of eastern Algonquian-speaking communities ancestral to the modern-day Penobscots, Passamaquoddies, Maliseets and Micmacs.

http://www.maine.gov/museum/anthropology/index.html

The geographic range of this database extends westward to Montreal and southwestward into Massachusetts to take in Native communities whose members retreated northward into traditional Wabanakis territory under pressure of English colonial expansion. The cultures of all these peoples, shaped by similar environments and histories, shared much. However, they are neither uniform nor static.

During the first half of the seventeenth century, those living to the south and west practiced agriculture and had contact primarily with the New Englanders, while those to the north and east were traditionally nonagricultural and had contacts primarily with the French of Nouvelle France and Acadia. During the later seventeenth century, Native populations tended to shift northward toward the French, or at least away from the English, altering the ethnic and linguistic composition of established communities and even creating new ones.

My original intent in compiling these data was to resolve some long-standing issues surrounding Wabanaki ethnicity that had confused anthropologists and historians for over a century. Prior to this research, it was customary to discuss the history of these peoples at the level of purported "tribes", which were generally seen as rather stable sociopolitical groupings that survived intact and in place from prehistory into the late twentieth century (Speck 1941; Snow 1976, 1980; Prins 1999). Upon closer examination of primary sources, however, this picture of stability breaks down in the face of evidence for immigration, population movement, and ethnic realignment during the colonial period.

It was in hope of elucidating these dynamic processes that I began to gather the data included in this database. I soon realized, however, that such a corpus might lend itself to many other uses, including genealogy, demographics, political and economic history. It is in order to facilitate these broader uses of the data that we plan to make it accessible on the website of the Maine State Museum.

The current sample is comprehensive but probably not exhaustive. For the colonial period, much data comes from obvious sources, such as English and French colonial documents, mission records and land deeds. After the Seven Years War, Indians no longer defended French interests or threatened English control of the region. No longer a significant focus of attention by the larger society, they entered a period of marginalization, when prevailing popular opinion held that they would soon disappear as distinct communities.

Much data for this period comes from provincial and state records, letters, travel accounts and sporting literature. Another large contribution comes from parish records and, after Maine statehood in 1820, from the accounts of state-supported agents to the Penobscots and Passamaquoddies. Although fragmentary, these data help demonstrate the survival of Native communities, the recovery of their populations after a century and a half of decline, their political struggles, and the minor yet significant roles they began to play in the emergance of modern economies of this international region.

The database includes few entries beyond 1850. This terminating date was dictated by practical considerations and by the fact that Native communities began to achieve a degree of official and public recognition during the latter nineteenth century. This makes tracking individuals and their communities less difficult than earlier times. The format we have developed provides a minimum of interpretation, which invites researchers to seek further information in the original source.

We have imposed judgment upon the original record in only one respect, by adding the "standard name" category to help tame orthographic variability (the shifting patterns of name giving practiced in the region during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and differing French and English pronunciations of Native names). Our interpretations are probably flawed in some cases, but we have also provided the category of "recorded name" to allow for other interpretations. The "date" category will often not include the month or day that pertains to the account, usually because these data do not appear in the original source. The rest of the categories are self-explanatory.

In cooperation with InforME, we plan to have the data base accessible on the Maine State Museum's website by summer 2004. We are also beginning development of a GIS interface for easier access to all entries by geographic location.

Bruce Bourque received his Ph. D. in Anthropology from Harvard University in 1971. After a brief period of

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Museum Database, cont.

teaching at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, he accepted a position as archaeologist at the newly-opened Maine State Museum in 1972. Since that time he has conducted archaeological research throughout the state. In 1980, he began planning for a large exhibit titled "Twelve Thousand Years in Maine. Faced with the need for better information on Indians of the historic period than was then available, he began examining primary historic accounts that have generated most of the data included in the data base.

Norwegian penny issued by King Olaf Kyrre between A.D. 1065 and 1080, found in 1957 at the Goddard site in Brooklin. The Maine State Museum has conducted excavations at this important archaeological site since 1980. The site appears to have been a major Indian trading location around 7-800 years ago and it is thought that the coin arrived there along with other artifacts from the far north in connection with this trade.

Using Common Technologies Uncommonly To Create a New Traveling Museum Exhibit

By Mary N. Cloutier

Bruce Bourque is chief archaeologist and curator of ethnography at the Maine State Museum, and also is a senior lecturer in anthropology at Bates College. His profession has been aided exponentially by commonly available digital cameras, database software, and Internet based e-mail.

In collaboration with a multinational, multi-ethnic and multidisciplinary team, the Maine State Museum is currently planning a new traveling exhibit. Textiles, Clothing and Costume of the Maritime Peninsula will focus upon Native textiles of the Maritime Peninsula, a region encompassing eastern Maine, the Maritime Provinces and southern Quebec. This geographic region is not well known because it is divided by the U.S. - Canadian border. Nevertheless it was historically a region of remarkably uniform Native culture, and this uniformity is clearly manifest in the beautiful textiles made there since prehistoric times.

The material culture of the region, both prehistoric and historic, has become much better understood during the past three decades as the result of archaeological and ethnohistoric research. Simply put, "ethnohistoric" research enables subject experts to link source data together to rediscover facts. For example, obscure, recorded historical source information on Wabanaki may be found in private European collections, baptismal registers, state archives, libraries etc. Starting in 1984, Bruce realized he could not understand if/how these bits and fragments of source material related to each other, unless he recorded information on individuals in a database.

This, and discoveries made during field (digs) research (documented digitally) has allowed museums to build significant collections of textiles newly recognized as originating from the region. Collections from the Maine State Museum, the New Brunswick Museum, and the Nova Scotia Museum will provide the bulk of artifacts for the Maritime Peninsula exhibit.

The exhibit's design process will involve extensive consultation (typically via e-mail, often with digital photos of artifacts attached) with appropriate curators and specialists from the Unites States and Canada, as well as representatives from Indian tribes of the region. The Maine State Museum will design and construct the exhibit, and have already included graphics of delicate and rare artifacts into request for proposals seeking professional exhibit designers and conservators (experts in collections' care.) They anticipate technology will also be employed as part of interactive museum exhibits explaining Wabanakis culture as far back as 7,500 years ago.

Museum designers also plan to demonstrate linkages between costume and sociopolitical change (which was dramatic throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the arrival of Europeans) using ethnographic garments and artifacts, paintings, first-hand accounts, and other media. They will define "textile" broadly to include woven basketry, snowshoes, and even birch bark artifacts that involved an element of stitching. After opening at the Maine State Museum, this exhibit will travel to the New Brunswick Museum in St. John, and the Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax. Other possible venues include the American Textile Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts, and the Musée de l'Homme in Paris.

Questions? Contact Bruce Bourque by e-mailing bruce.bourque@maine.gov. Copies of his book, Twelve Thousand Years American Indians in Maine may be purchased at the State Museum store.

Soaring Imagination

On December 6, 2003 the Maine State Museum will open a new exhibit called "Soaring Imagination" to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk. It will feature a full-size replica of a glider made in 1911 by a 17 year-old boy from Lewiston named Harold Cooper that will hang in the Museum atrium. It will also include the tail section from the original glider, as well as artifacts from the Maine State Museum, Library and Archives relating to the early days of flight in Maine. The tail section and other artifacts will be on view from December 6, 2003 through May 1, 2004. The replica glider itself will remain on view for several years. See http://www.state.me.us/museum/whatsnew/index.html for more information.

Radio Free Belfast (Maine)

By Harold E. Nelson

Maine's city of Belfast did not play a part in bringing down the Berlin wall (as the title suggests). However early radio experiments conducted there in the 1920's by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) did contribute to advancements in radio technology. My research started in May 2003, and it is just beginning to reveal the major radio complex that existed in Belfast 80 years ago.

A Maine Radio Pioneer A native of North Haven, Harold Henry Beverage[1] had an interest in radio, a new technology that was developing rapidly, and he became a HAM (amateur radio) operator at an early age. While working at the U. S. Naval Radio (Fabbri) facility at Otter Cliffs on Mount Desert Island, Beverage experimented with an antenna concept called the "wave antenna". It was a long wire suspended on poles with insulators, not unlike a telephone line. He found that if the wire was pointed in the direction of the transmit source, reception was better than if the signals broadsided the wire. The antenna was set in place just in time to receive news from Europe that the Armistice had been signed, ending World War I. This wire antenna, developed with his colleagues Rice and Kellogg is still known as the Beverage Wave Antenna, and is often used by HAM operators today.

The Belfast Array International Radio Telegraph Company (IRTC) operated a ship-to-shore radio service out of Rockland for a year, and in 1920 moved their radio facility to Belfast. Near the intersection of Congress Street and the Route 1 bypass, IRTC built two radio masts, anchored by 6 large concrete piers[2].

Because RCA had many overseas contracts, IRTC sold their Belfast facility to RCA in 1921. David Sarnoff, CEO of RCA, (who would later go on to create the National Broadcasting Corporation), visited Belfast to inspect the site. RCA expanded their experimental/commercial radio relay station in the ensuing years. Indeed, the old section of the Belfast Armory was built by RCA when a larger facility was needed. RCA also built two Beverage Wave antennas, one south from the Armory building crossing Belfast Reservoir No. 2, probably served South America. Another Beverage extended 10 miles west-southwest from the RCA complex stretching across Dog Island to the foot of Moody Mountain in Searsmont.

My Beverage Exploration By profession, I am a geodetic survey technician for the Maine Department of Transportation (*harold.nelson@maine.gov*). My background in geodetic, plane, and engineering surveys greatly aided the effort to locate the wave antenna lines. The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture office in Belfast had 1939 aerial photographs that clearly showed both Beverage routes. Using Maptech software, I plotted the antennas on topographic maps electronically, created "waypoints" along the route and downloaded them into a Garmin GPSIII-Plus handheld unit. GPS greatly added to the efficiency of the search, as one can easily get "turned around" in the woods!

Last summer, I was greatly assisted by Mr. Bruce Clark, a HAM operator (who owns two Beverage antennas) in finding "guy-anchors", or "backstays" and coils of Belfast's Beverage wire on what we called the "Reservoir" line. Bruce and friends also retrieved artifacts for the Belfast Historical Society for their developing radio display.

Belfast Relays Radio History On March 14, 1925, the Belfast relay station made radio history! Live dance band music from the Savoy Hotel in London was sent by:

1) landwire to radio station 5XX in Chelmsford England, then
2) sent by longwave to Belfast.
3) RCA station 1XAO Belfast caught the signal on the 10 mile long "Dog Island" wave antenna, then
4) sent the signal via shortwave to another RCA station in Van Cortland Park in New York City.
5) RCA then broadcast the program on AM broadcast band via station WJZ to New York listeners.
6) The program also was sent by landwire to Washington, D. C. where station WRC broadcast the same.

Ongoing Research Bruce Clark, "radio archeologists" friends, the Belfast Historical Society, and I are continuing to follow up on ever unfolding leads on Belfast radio history. The American Telegraph and Telephone Company (AT&T) studied radio signal strengths from Europe, later selecting a site in Houlton for their Transoceanic Radiotelephone Receiving Station that opened in 1927. At some point, RCA switched to using AT&T Long Lines connections to relay radio received from overseas, and AT&T owned a farmhouse and acreage along Woods Road in Belfast. The farmhouse still has giant concrete piers inside the cellar below a "radio room". Because of conflict between receiving antennas and transmit antennas being close proximity, RCA may have operated remote transmit antennas as far north as Brooks and Monroe.

Much more field research (e.g. interviews with local people), and countless hours in libraries needs to be done. Kudos to Bruce Clark for all his time already spent in the Belfast Public Library, and going through microfilms of the Republican Journal newspaper archives.

Original RCA relay station. Note the giant tuning coil to the right. Congress Street is in the background.
Photo source: Republican Journal Newspaper Archives, Belfast, Maine

[1] The book, Genius at Riverhead, a Profile of Harold H. Beverage by Alberta I. Wallen, Published by North Haven Historical Society, gives a good synopsis of his life and details how this technically oriented man got a job with the telephone company as a youth, graduated from the University of Maine Electrical Engineering program in 1915, and went on to become the Chief Research Engineer at the Riverhead, Long Island RCA facility.

[2] One of the piers marked "1920" is still easily visible in the backslope of Route 1 just north of Congress Street.

IBM MainFrame Access Changing

By John C. Tyler

Currently, the Bureau of Information Services (BIS) has two pathways for IBM mainframe access for full screen and file transfer functions. Their IP addresses are 141.114.124.15 and 10.10.90.1 respectively. Early in 2004, we will be installing the next release of the IBM operating system. In preparation for this upgrade, BIS has scheduled the removal of the older 141.114.124.15 pathway on December 28th, as part of the regularly scheduled system reset that occurs every Sunday. This change is part of a series of cost saving measures. Retiring the older network will save the state money.

There are still a few users that directly point to the old pathway IP address to get to mainframe applications, such as NECSES or MFASIS. These users will lose connectivity after December 28. (Users who use the new address or use the names memvs.dafs.state.me.us or memvs.ddp.state.me.us will not be affected by this change.)

If you have any questions about your connection to the IBM, please contact the technical person responsible for your PC.

John C. Tyler is a Senior Technical Support Specialist, in BIS' Systems and Software group. He may be reached by e-mailing john.c.tyler@maine.gov, or calling 624-9446.

New On-Line License Renewal Service

By Renee Loring

Maine Professional Engineers benefit from improved eGovernment service and delivery.

One need not be a computer expert to benefit from on-line service. With a computer and a few clicks of the mouse, Maine's 6,000 licensed engineers have the option to renew their licenses from the comfort of home or office, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week!

The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, in partnership with InforME, Maine's eGovernment Portal, is delighted to now offer Maine engineers a convenient on-line service alternative called On-line License Renewal service. The new service is available at: *https://www.maine.gov/professionalengineers* for the 2004 renewal period.

By inputting a unique license number and last name, an engineer's license record is quickly retrieved, and a payment screen is provided. Credit card payment is accepted through secure socket layer, ensuring security, and privacy of personal information. With instant access and payment, the renewal process is quick and easy!

Engineers are required to renew bi-annually, and may do so within the first three months of their renewal date. For more information regarding the Board of Engineering, please visit: *http://professionals.maineusa.com/*

For more information about InforME, please visit: http://www.maine.gov/informe/

During this holiday season, let's not forget our troops overseas. The Department of Conservation's Information Technology Manager, Tom Driscoll, is a helicopter pilot with the 112th, stationed in Iraq and Kuwait.

Thanks to satellite dishes, like the one pictured here ("next to the admin tent – where the maintenance guys live at Udairi, our main camp in Kuwait") Tom can communicate with family and friends stateside via e-mail.

Although an accomplished helicopter pilot, Tom seems to have trouble convincing another type of transportation into action! If you have experience motivating mules, e-mail Tom to give him the benefit of your advice, and to wish him well. tom.driscoll@us.army.mil

THANKS TO ALL THE 2003 AUTHORS

Drawing and lettering by **Nicki Bistrais**

TRANSITIONS

TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL CHANGES IN YOUR AGENCY?
SEND NOTICES TO *mary.cloutier@maine.gov* TO HAVE THEM POSTED HERE.

Joe Kilcoyne, Systems Section Manager for Production Services' Software Support, retired effective November 30, 2003. After more than 37 years of service to the State, Joe's last work day was Friday, November 14, 2003. Best wishes Joe in your retirement!

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