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# INSTALLation Notes

A C Lynn Zelmer

*The editorial team for **Informatics in Healthcare-Australia** recently met to review the first four issues and to chart its future. We reaffirmed the goal of producing a magazine oriented towards a broad audience, one that strives to represent the various health informatics interests in Australia and assists in defining standards and issues related to the field.*

***INSTALLation Notes** is one of the results of that meeting. It will be a regular column to highlight issues, techniques and resources, often from other fields, that are of value to the health informatics reader in Australia. **INSTALLation Notes** will be a collection of brief items-journal and book reviews, news items, and gossip from the industry. It will include items submitted by readers as well as from my own reading. Please send your contributions direct to the address at the end of the column.*

## Development in Regional Context:

The Faculties of Health Science and Business at the University of Central Queensland held a one day conference last November on *Health Information Systems: Development in Regional Context*. The sessions, attended by over 50 participants from across Central Queensland, heard speakers from Rockhampton, Mackay and Melbourne speaking on the use of information systems in determining clinical costings, systems to support decision making, purchasing an integrated system for three hospitals, information needs of Board members, reactions to change in the workplace, management strategy plans, and the latest trends nationally and internationally.

Copies of the proceedings may be ordered from: Conference Proceedings, Health Science, UCQ, ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4702. Cost \$25.

## Piracy Definitions Broadened:

John Collins of the Sydney office of law firm Clayton Ult, writing in *ComputerWorld Australia* (16/10/92), states that Australians seem 'reluctant' to accept 'copyright is primarily the right of authors', and reminds us that 'unless there is some agreement to the contrary, the author owns the copyright on whatever he or she writes or creates'.

Reporting that 'Informed estimates are that one in every two computers in Australia runs at least one pirate application program', he goes on to indicate that computer programs are only one aspect of the problem, particularly for those of us involved in multimedia and similar applications. 'It is now commonly accepted that scanning constitutes a "reproduction" within the meaning of the Copyright Act'.

Recent *Guardian Weekly* articles (27/12/93 and 17/1/93) indicate that simply having the permission of the artist, photographer, or publisher of an illustration may not be sufficient\_a French Court recently ruled that the permission of the owner of the property itself (a chateau in this case) had to be obtained before a sketch or photograph of the property could be reproduced, and a photographer was being sued over the identity of (and payment to) subjects in one of his decades-old photographs.

## Interactive Multimedia:

Interactive multimedia is one of the latest 'buzz' words in computing, and includes technology as diverse as touch screens, CD-ROMs, computer simulations, multimedia, and virtual reality. Just in case you think that this has nothing to do with health informatics, several educators at the 1992 ANZAME Conference in Brisbane demonstrated that Australian educators have been in the forefront of practical uses for the technology for over

a decade. Laser disks, CD-ROMs, and multimedia are very much a part of current educational practice at our tertiary institutions, and are beginning to be used in patient/client education.

The 1992 ITTE (Information Technology for Training and Education) Conference further demonstrated the possibilities. For example, Joe Henderson (Dartmouth Medical School, USA) demonstrated (via satellite video-conference link) a simulation he has been developing for training military medical personnel. Combining computer simulation, computer assisted learning, and live video, these alternatives to predictable and isolated laboratory exercises are an attempt to educate practitioners for working in the 'swamp' of the real world.

Another participant highlighted the legal and moral problems of developing non-traditional teaching materials and suggested:

*'Administrators need to become more realistic and flexible in developing institutional policies regarding copyrights and royalties. Faculty members also need to have a more realistic sense of the value of knowledge, and that knowledge cannot be held hostage to the demands of increased compensation.'*  
(ITTE '92 Proceedings, 47-8)

The ITTE Conference, perhaps more than any other in the last several years, provided practical examples of the appropriate use of computer technology. Conference Proceedings are likely still available from Continuing Education, University of Queensland, QLD 4072. Inquire for costs.

APITITE 94, jointly hosted by ITTE, ACCE (Australian Council for Computers in Education), ACS (Australian Computer Society), ASCILITE (Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education), IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing), and SEARCC (South East Asian Regional Computer Confederation) will be a major instructional technology conference and exhibition in Brisbane, 28 Jun-2 Jul 1994. Inquire from the Secretariat, PO Box 1280, MILTON QLD 4064. FAX: (07) 369 1512.

## New Publications:

*Computer Mediated Communications: A Selected Bibliography for Educators*, compiled by Elizabeth J Burge, contains approximately 360 citations, and is available prepaid (\$C22 by air, \$C17 surface) from:

OISE/Distance Learning Office  
252 Bloor St W, Rm 12-205  
TORONTO, ON, CANADA M5S 1V6

*Aspects of the Computer-Based Patient Record*, edited by Marion Ball and Morris Collen (Springer-Verlag, Computers in Health Care Series 1992), is a compilation of several of the support papers prepared for the US Institute of Medicine's 1991 report on improving patient records. That report, defining a Computer-based Patient Record (CPR), its attributes, and implementation, is available as *An Essential Technology for Health Care*, edited by Richard Dick and Elaine Steen (National Academy Press 1991).

Ball and Collen's book is divided into three sections—User Needs, Technologies, and the Future—detailing the current state of the art and strategies to achieve CPR and CPR Systems. Of particular interest are the scenarios illustrating future possibilities.

## LAN Security Standards:

Computer security concerns, always a high priority with large system managers, are becoming more important to general users, particularly those connected together through in local area networks (LAN). A recent article by Jon David in *Computers and Security* (192:11, 607-619) discusses LAN vulnerabilities, suggests sources of help, and provides operational techniques to minimise these vulnerabilities.

The interconnection of PCs using LANs, interconnected LANs and gateways to larger systems is not a passing fad. The PC user, once connected, does not want to give up access to wider resources. Unfortunately, with every new PC connected, there is an increased risk of losing data integrity and/or system integrity. This is particularly so with novice users who fail to understand the

need for even minimal security precautions.

David emphasises that computer security is only realised through a continuing program of vigilance, and that users must *'work at security, you don't just but it and forget it'*. This isn't just a user problem\_ *'LAN security is only as good as the LAN administrator makes it and maintains it'*. The first step for those of us operating a LAN without any administrator is obvious\_ someone *knowledgable* needs to be responsible for establishing and maintaining an appropriate level of security. This individual needs the support of both management and users, and have enough time and other resources to learn about,

and implement, a secure LAN management program.

David provides a quite complete checklist of operating procedures for such a secure LAN management program, however, he also warns that a good security system is not sufficient to keep out all intruders, it just makes it difficult enough to dissuade a normal intruder. As technology changes, the level of security required will also change.

Lynn Zelmer is a Lecturer in 'end user' computing, with particular interests in health informatics, change and technology, problem-based learning, and the use of simulations, multimedia, and hypermedia in computer assisted learning. He can be reached at the Department of Mathematics and Computing, University of Central Queensland, ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4702.

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*Karen Wood, Director of Information Systems  
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