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INTERNET TOOLKIT FOR WINDOWS

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A wide variety of software supporting Internet capability on Windows microcomputers is available. This paper presents selected software comprising a Windows toolkit for Internet work from a Windows 3.1 framework though many Internet software for Windows have 32 bit versions for Windows 95. For the purposes of this paper, it is assumed that one has a World-Wide Web browsing software already on the Windows microcomputer; typically this would be Netscape or Mosaic. In addition, to make a World-Wide Web browsing software function, one would need an underlying Winsock software. The underlying Winsock (winsock.dll file) enables Windows application software to communicate with TCP/IP, the language spoken by computers on the Internet. The underlying Winsock provides a standard networking layer for the application software to use while engaging in Internet activities; it is the glue connecting World-Wide Web servers and browsers, telnet connections, e-mail servers and readers etc. in the Windows environment. A widely used Winsock is Trumpet though there are many others including Microsoft, Novell, etc.

Winsock application software are Windows software for the Internet providing capabilities such as telnet, e-mail, World-Wide Web, FTP, etc. Many sites for locating Winsock software are listed in the Yahoo! World-Wide Web Directory [http://www.yahoo.com/] menu hierarchy under "Computers and Internet"/"Software"/"Protocols"/"Winsock" & also one step further down under "Applications". An essential site for obtaining Winsock application software is Stroud's Consummate Winsock Apps List [http://cwsapps.texas.net/cwsapps.html] also known as CWSApps List. The CWSApps List provides ratings and reviews of Winsock application software as well as the ability to pick up the software itself. It also provides the same for Internet-related software like HTML editing software, file decompression software, etc. Therefore CWSApps List functions as a one-stop shopping place. Software is grouped by functional categories like Terminal Applications, News Readers, FTP/Archie/Finger, Mail Clients, HTML Editors, etc.

A wide variety of software tools are available for Internet work. Some are briefly mentioned to illustrate the range of functionality; the author uses many of these regularly. WinZIP, while not a Winsock application, is used to uncompress compressed ZIP files obtained from Internet so that the software can be used. Software is typically passed around in a compressed format to save

transmission time and any software arriving with a file extension of ZIP needs to be uncompressed with a software like WinZIP. EWAN is used to telnet to library databases. It supports copy-and-paste and file capture. Eudora is used for e-mail in conjunction with your Unix e-mail account. It handles much of your e-mail work locally on your hard disk; your Unix e-mail account becomes a conduit to send and receive your e-mail. Eudora supports mailing lists, short nicknames for longer e-mail addresses, folders for storing related e-mail messages, and many other advanced e-mail features. WinVN is used to read and participate in discussions in USENET newsgroups. Though World-Wide Web browsing software will read USENET newsgroups, WinVN provides some advanced capability particularly the ability to decode image-oriented e-mails like the weekly earthquake maps in SCI.GEO.GEOLOGY.

WebEdit, though not a Winsock application, is used to word process World-Wide Web HTML files. LViewPro, though not a Winsock application, is an essential tool for editing images used in World-Wide Web pages. Among many features, it can create images with transparent backgrounds that appear to float on a World-Wide Web page. WS-FTP is used for file transfers via FTP; WS-FTP can be used to transfer your HTML files to a Unix World-Wide Web server. WinSock Archie is used to find location of known files by name on FTP servers; it can link to WS-FTP for transferring files. Windows Sockets Host is used to find a numeric IP address if one knows its machine name and to find a machine name if one knows its numeric IP address. Winsock Finger is used to examine someone's login file on their UNIX system in order to obtain address or phone number information. ZBServer is used to run your own World-Wide Web server. This is only practical for low usage sites. If you expect a high amount of visits to your World-Wide Web pages, get them on a Unix World-Wide Web server. However even if your primary World-Wide Web pages are on a Unix World-Wide Web server, using a Windows World-Wide Web server for a few low-use pages helps to demystify the World-Wide Web and accelerate one's learning process.