

MTA Spins Bigger Web

by Kathy Malin

The world is changing, and the way we receive information is increasingly linked to the Internet. Recently the M Technology Association Board of Directors addressed this issue when they decided to expand the MTA presence on the Web. To accomplish this project, the Board established an Internet Service Committee (ISC). Comprised of volunteers, our group is endeavoring to update MTA Internet services. Committee members are EuJin Ch'ng (currently earning MTA's grateful appreciation as the MTA site webmaster) of Oleen Healthcare Information, Greg Kreis of Pioneer Data Systems, Inc., Bob Miller of Johns Hopkins, and Kate Schell of Jacquard Systems Research.

Maureen Lilly of the MTA explained the Board's intentions to the committee, "The project promises to be an exciting step forward for the MTA. It's an opportunity to employ cutting edge M Technology, to inform the global Web audience of the power of M Technology, and to offer services to M users that evolve in accordance with their professional needs."

As chairperson, I feel the ISC's first goal is a very exciting and challenging project. We are attempting to set up a web broadcast of meeting presentations after the June 1998 Annual Conference in Boston. There are many issues to address for this undertaking and the committee has already begun to work on the technical challenges of this plan. In addition we hope to update the www.mtechnology.org web site daily during the meeting. With this, and all future projects of the ISC, the end result should be a more lively and informative site for all users of M Technology.

Another prominent goal of the ISC is to establish an on-line job referral service. The MTA has always been a clearinghouse for employment information. Currently done in-house at the MTA, this is a service that lends itself nicely to the immediacy of the net. The Internet Service Committee feels there is a pressing need for qual-

ified M programmers and the worldwide audience of the net makes our web site a natural place to emphasize training. The ISC also sees the need for a more centralized source for M educational information. Our hopes for the job referral service include incorporating training to encourage more people to become M programmers.

The MTA Board has also directed the ISC to investigate ways to upgrade the content of the site. The Board has suggested a "Stump the Experts" technical page. We are looking at more links to M-related sites and more frequent updating of content to make www.mtechnology.org a vital resource for the M community.

A long range goal of the Board is to offer printed information on the web as an on-line subscription service. Moving print articles to the web has several purposes: to update information quickly, to expand the content of *M Computing*, and to broaden the audience for the M message.

The ISC welcomes your help, comments or suggestions to enliven the official M Technology web site. Using the power of the Internet is the best way for the MTA to continue to be responsive to its members. As the technology evolves, the MTA will be able to adapt quickly to a changing climate and provide needed services to the M community. We are poised on the brink of a new era; the MTA wants to use the resources of the Internet to lead the way. **M**

Kathy Malin, chairperson of the MTA Internet Service Committee, is a consultant and the former editor of \$H The MUMPS Times. Please send your suggestions for the M Technology web site to her at Kmalin2000@aol.com.
