

***Internet: Getting Started***, Edited by April Marine, Susan Kirkpatrick, Vivian Neou and Carol Ward. New Jersey: PTR Prentice Hall, 1994. ISBN 0-13-289596-X (\$28.00)

*Reviewed by Diane P. Janes*

Over the last year or so an increasing number of the students I work with, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, and many of the faculty I work with have come to me with Internet questions. Many are very basic, queries on "how do I log on?" or "what is the internet?". Some questions are from more experienced users regarding telnet or FTP. These questions led me to investigate the Internet, which is where I discovered an earlier version of *Internet: Getting Started*.

With its publication by Prentice Hall as part of their Internet Information Series, *Internet: Getting Started* joins what appears to be a proliferation of books and journals on the issues that make up the Internet. Prentice Hall notes that the Series, made up of books by SRI International (the original sponsor of *Internet: Getting Started*) "...are intended as reference sources for users, implementors, designers, and students of the Internet and the protocols it uses. The Internet Information Series is meant to be a guide both to understanding how to use certain networks for particular purposes and to understanding what our world will be like when these new resources have become as commonplace as the telephone is now".

*Internet: Getting Started* is loosely divided into two parts with twelve chapters and nine appendices. The first half of the book is comprised of Chapters One through Six. Content covered includes definition of the internet, discussion of the types of network access, overview of the steps to begin network access, discussion of the costs of connecting, an extensive list of service providers, both commercial and research-based, within and outside of the United States and finally, present NSFNET backbone Acceptable Use Policy.

The second half of the book, Chapters Seven through Twelve, cover the Internet itself. Discussed are Internet "concepts" such as RFC's, Protocols, Internet Protocol (IP) Addressing, the Domain Name System and network security; Internet applications, such as electronic mail, file transfer, and remote login; Internet organizations, both national and international; and resources available on the Internet.

The book comes with a very comprehensive set of appendices including an Acronym List in Appendix I and a list of international Internet connections in Appendix VIII.

Overall, *Internet: Getting Started* is a very readable book for both the experienced user as well as the novice. Using relatively plain language, it moves through the concepts of the Internet with little difficulty. The pages are well laid out and the index reasonable to use. One of my favourite features in the book is that it is littered with electronic addresses so that readers may contact individuals, companies or countries personally if they need to. I also like its international approach. You never seem to say to yourself "...but I live in Canada...how does this apply to me?".

The bibliography and references are practical, listing, when available, the directions a user would need to retrieve the document from the Internet.

I have only one caution. The Internet is growing at such a rate that information through traditional published sources may be convenient, but can be dated quickly. The editors recognise this reality and leave their email address for readers to send any corrections or additions to the book. For those of you still not explorers of the Internet, they do leave their traditional mail address, voice mail telephone numbers and fax numbers.

#### REVIEWER

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