

Electronic Bulletin Boards

If you need quick information on microcomputers, highway construction, or even national weather trends, electronic bulletin boards may have the answers. Electronic bulletin boards can offer you low-cost, online access to unique information and resources not normally available through commercial database vendors. And what is more important, the information on electronic bulletin boards is often updated daily, providing you with the newest information not yet available in larger, conventional databases. Another advantage to electronic bulletin boards is their relative easy access. Where accessing conventional online databases may require special knowledge of computer languages, bulletin boards are frequently driven by simple, user-friendly menus.

One of the nicer features of these bulletin boards which most online databases lack is that they often allow dialogue to take place between the user and the system operator (sysop), and even between different users. The Air Force's Small Computer Technical Center, for example, allows you to leave a message on the bulletin board outlining, say, a computer software problem you are having, and if the system operator or one of the other users can help, they can leave you a message, sometimes on the same day. While some bulletin boards require a subscription fee, many do not, which means you pay only for any long distance telephone charges.

Listed below are a sampling of the principal bulletin boards available. Additional online systems are identified in the preceding section on federal government databases.

* Agricultural Library Forum (ALF)

National Agricultural Library (NAL)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
10301 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, MD 20705

Data: 301-344-8510
Data: 301-344-8511
Voice: 301-344-1204

ALF provides a convenient, low-cost tool for electronically accessing information about NAL products and services and for exchanging agricultural information and resources. ALF supports three types of communications: NAL bulletins, messaging and conferencing between users, and file transfers. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week.

* Automated Data Service

U.S. Naval Observatory
Time Services Department
Department of the Navy
34th & Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20392-5100

Data: 202-653-1079
Voice: 202-653-1522

ADS is designed to provide a means for the exchange of information among members of the precise time community. The data available on ADS provide

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measurements of the offsets of various systems of precise time transfer from the U.S. Naval Observatory Master Clock and information about the operational status of these systems.

* BXR Information Corner

Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Systems Services Branch
Washington, D.C. 20224

Data: 703-756-6109
Voice: 703-756-6280

The main message base for this bulletin board concerns technical computer-related topics such as hardware, software, graphics, word-processing and computer security. There are 11 areas for users to discuss ways to enhance productivity. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Marianne Crockford.

* Climate Analysis Center Bulletin Board

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Weather Service
5200 Auth Road, Room 805
Washington, D.C. 20233

Data: Fee-based, call for details
Voice: 301-763-4670

This bulletin board provides weekly and monthly summaries of temperatures, precipitation, and other climatic conditions, primarily for agricultural and energy applications. Sysop: Vernon Patterson.

* Detroit-Area Office of the Office of Personnel Management Bulletin Board Service

Detroit Area Office
Office of Personnel Management
477 Michigan Ave., Room 565
Detroit, MI 48226

Data: 313-226-4423
Voice: 313-226-7520

Federal job information for the 14 states in the Chicago region is available via this board. Listings include some qualifications and pay scale information, job applications, opportunities for college graduates, and other specialized topics. The board is used by libraries, college placement offices and other schools as well as by individuals. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Sysop: Dave Nason.

* Eximbank Bulletin Board Service

Export-Import Bank of the United States
811 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20571

Data: 202-566-4699
Voice: 202-566-4490

The bulletin board offers descriptions of some of the bank's lending programs and the Foreign Credit Insurance Association's policies. It includes application forms, press releases, seminar schedules, a referral list of banks in the EIB programs and a EIB staff directory.

* Fannie Mae Information Service

Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)

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3900 Wisconsin Ave., NW

Washington, D.C. 20016-2899

800-752-6440 (fee-based)

The quasi-government agency Fannie Mae utilizes MORNET electronic bulletin boards to broadcast information and provide a message exchange network to meet the needs of the mortgage industry. Topics include pricing, regional office contact lists, news, analysis, legislative reports, debt information and updates to Fannie Mae guides. 7 days/week; 24 hours/day.

* FCC Public Access Link (PAL Online)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

1919 M. St., NW

Washington, D.C. 20554

202-632-7581

Manufacturers and importers who submit applications for equipment approval by the FCC can track the status of their applications with this bulletin board. Confidentially assigned code numbers limit access of each user to information on its own application. Limited Access.

* FEBBS (Federal Highway Administration Remote Bulletin Board System)

Federal Highway Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation

400 7th St., SW

Washington, DC 20590

Data: 202-366-3764

Voice: 202-366-9022

FEBBS provides information on FHWA topics including traffic, highways, construction, paving and other related subjects. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Sysop: Carl Shea.

* Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Electronic Bulletin Board

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

Washington, D.C. 20429

Data: 202-371-9578

Voice: 202-898-8966

The FDIC Bulletin Board was established to provide a means for FDIC personnel to practice transferring files. The Board can be accessed by the general public and does not contain bank information. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Sysop: Richard Campbell.

* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Issuance Posting System(CIPS)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20426

Data: 202-357-8997

Voice: 202-357-5570

CIPS provides the full text of the FERC daily issuances, press releases, the Commission agenda, and a daily listing of all filings made to the Commission. 23 hours/day (down 8 AM - 9 AM) Monday - Friday. Sysop: Sid Barinder.

* FE TELENEWS

Office of Fossil Energy

U.S. Department of Energy

Washington, D.C. 20585

Data: 202-586-6496

Voice: 202-586-6503

FE TELENEWS is a free online service for coal, oil, gas and petroleum reserves information, including news announcements, congressional

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testimony, fact sheets, speeches, federal research and development programs facts. A free user guide is available from TELENEWS Staff, FE-10, Room 4G-085 at the above address. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

* Hay Locator Bulletin Board

Rick Westerman

Operations Manager AG Communication Network

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

Smith Hall, Room 105

West Lafayette, IN 47907

317-494-8333

This up-to-date, computerized listing of hay and straw for buyers and sellers across the nation can be searched by hay types, location, sellers, and buyers. Available free with 500, 1200, or 2400 baud connection. The system operates on a single user dial-up computer that provides access to the information and some of the programs available in the Indiana FACTS network. Extension newsletters, news stories from Purdue's Agricultural Communications Service and other sources are put on the system daily in preassigned groupings called "topics." Users can search for items of interest and then globally or selectively display items on their terminal screen or to a printing terminal. Subject areas include agricultural, agribusiness and home management. Intended users are any private citizens normally served by the extension. Users pay only for the phone call.

* Information Resource Management Electronic Bulletin Board

Information Resources Management Office

General Accounting Office

Washington, D.C.

Data: 202-275-1050

Voice: 202-275-5327

This is a newsletter and message center bulletin board directed toward users of various information management programs, including word processing, spreadsheets, databases and communications. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Sheryl Gee.

* Information Resources Service Center

Information Resources Services Office

General Services Administration

Washington, D.C. 20405

Data: 202-535-7661 (1200 baud)

Data: 202-786-9014 (2400 baud)

Voice: 202-566-1683

Nationwide users can access information on contracts awarded by General Services Administration -- Information Resources Management Service by accessing this bulletin board. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Chuck Massey.

* Information Systems Engineering Bulletin Board Systems (ISE BBs)

National Institute of Standards and Technology

A257 Technology Building

Gaithersburg, MD 20899

Data: 301-948-2048

Data: 301-948-2059

Voice: 301-975-3272

The ISE BBS provides access to information on NIST National Computer Systems Laboratory and ISE program activities; summaries of standards reports; publications lists; and a listing of other bulletin board systems.

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Users can leave messages for each other and questions for the sysop. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

* National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Bulletin Board System

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Information Technology Center
Washington, D.C. 20546

Data: 202-453-9008
Voice: 202-453-9009

NASA's wildcat bulletin board system was established to provide an information service for messaging and filing, to be used by both NASA employees and the general public. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Nader Ghabadi, John Walker.

* Naval Aviation News Computer Information (NANci)

Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350

Data: 202-475-1173
Voice: 202-433-4407

NANci provides a source of aviation news and historical facts for naval buffs. Messaging is available. Access is sometimes limited during working hours. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Commander John A. Norton.

* Navy Regional Data Automation Center Remote Bulletin Board System (NARDAC RBBS)

Navy Regional Data Automation Center
Department of the Navy, VA 23511-6497

804-445-1121

Voice: 804-445-4157, (804)

445-1627

NARDAC RBBS is designed to promote the dissemination and exchange of microcomputer-based public domain software for the Department of the Navy. Included are Navy applications, database management systems, word processing, communications, electronic spreadsheets, barcoding and system utilities. The latest information on the microcomputer contracts and conferences can be accessed.

* NOAA FIDO (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Information Technology Center
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Data: 301-770-0069
Voice: 301-443-8225

Designed for non-technical purposes, NOAA FIDO provides for the exchange of information about office automation. NOAA employees and other users interested in PC's usually discuss ways to get the most out of their machines. The public will find NOAA FIDO helpful in that scientists use the board and will often answer questions. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Tom Murphy.

* Office Automation Bulletin Board (OMSD Bulletin Board)

Bureau of the Census
U.S. Department of Commerce

Data: 301-763-4576

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Washington, D.C. 20233

Voice: 301-763-4950

This system was designed to provide for an exchange of information between Bureau employees and other users of office automation. Members share ideas and experience about word processing, graphics, electronics and other utilities. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Sysop: Nevins Frankel.

* Office of Program Planning and Evaluation Bulletin Board

Office of Program Planning and Evaluation

U.S. Department of Commerce

Data: 202-377-1423

Washington, D.C. 20230

Voice: 202-377-2949

Designed as an internal communications mechanism for Commerce Department budget and planning officers, bulletins contain information on schedules, staff assignments, and related information. It is also used to transmit documents and spreadsheets to and from Bureaus outside the H.C. Hoover Building. The board is open and users may leave messages requesting help in identifying appropriate contact persons for Commerce Department matters. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Sysop: Patricia Spencer.

* OPENet

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Postsecondary Education

OPENet Coordinator

c/o Dialcom Services

6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 150

Rockville, MD 20852

301-770-4280

The Office of Postsecondary Education network provides information exchange with financial aid services and administrators, institutions, and the U.S. Department of Education. Included are regulations, notices of proposed rulemaking, news bulletins, calendars, workshop and meeting notices, press releases, and messaging. Subscription required.

* Personnel

Bureau of the Census

U.S. Department of Commerce

Data: 301-763-4574

Washington, D.C. 20233

Voice: 301-763-7448

This service lists Bureau vacancies and describes the positions giving pay plan and other information. Users may leave a message with their name and phone number. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Sysop: Nevins Frankel.

* Remote Bulletin Board System

U.S. Department of Energy-Germantown

Data: 301-353-4892

Washington, D.C. 20545

Voice: 301-353-2500

DOE RBBS offers information and public domain utility software for microcomputer users. RBBS allows users to look at bulletins and listings, download information, and post or read messages. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

* Science Resources Studies Electronic Bulletin Board System

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National Science Foundation

Division of Science Resources Studies

Data: 202-634-1764

Washington, D.C. 20550

Voice: 202-634-4250 (SRS Technical Service)

The SRS Electronic Bulletin Board provides up-to-date statistical data and other information on financial and human resources related to science, engineering and technology. The board contains brief narrative reports on current studies and announcements. 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Sysop: Jean Deans.

* Small Computer Technical Center

Department of the Air Force

Data: 618-256-6510

Scott Air Force Base, IL 62225

Voice: 618-256-4206

This board provides an information exchange network for users of small computers. Discussions usually focus on how to enhance the productivity of computer hardware and software. There is no military information exchanged on the board. 24 hours/day; 7 days/week.

* The Economic Bulletin Board

U.S. Department of Commerce

Office of Business Analysis and Economic Affairs

Data: 202-377-3870

Washington, D.C. 20230

Voice: 202-377-1986

Users may tap in to the latest releases from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics and other federal agencies. Included are GNP, CPI, employment, income, foreign trade data, studies and reports, listings of publications and data bases. Subscriptions and a limited free try-out service are both available. 24 hours/day.

* United States Information Agency Bulletin Service (USIA BBS)

U.S. Information Agency

Data: 202-376-2901

Washington, D.C. 20547

Voice: 202-376-7778

This is a specialized bulletin board service established to facilitate message traffic between USIA and its overseas posts, contractors and clients, and also for the exchange of information between broadcasters. The service is open to USIA employees, clients and contractors; the media; and other BBS operators. Sysop: Pat Pasco.

* Veterans Administration Foreclosed Property Listing Remote Bulletin Board

Veterans Administration

Washington, D.C. 20420

Regional Veterans Administration offices provide online listings of local property foreclosures via remote bulletin board systems. The participating regional offices are listed below. Except where specified, the bulletin boards operate evenings and weekends. The following number for each office is the remote computer bulletin board for property listings. LGO = Loan Guaranty Officer; PMC = Property Management Chief.

Montgomery, AL

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Voice: 204-832-7193
Data: 205-832-7202

Anchorage, AK
Voice: 907-271-4562
Data: 907-271-2249

Phoenix, AZ
Voice: 602-241-2748
Data: 602-241-2371

N. Little Rock, AR
Voice: 501-370-3758
Data: 501-370-3881

Denver, CO
Voice: 303-980-2847
Data: 303-980-2984

Hartford, CT
Voice: 203-244-2897
Data: 203-240-3021

St. Louis, MO
Voice: 314-425-5144
Data: 314-539-3145

Fort Harrison, MT
Voice: 406-442-6410
Data: 406-442-7024

Waco, TX
Voice: 817-757-6869
Data: 817-757-6308

Salt Lake City, UT
Voice: 801-588-598
Data: 801-524-3550

Manchester, NH
Voice: 603-666-7656
Data: 603-240-3021

Newark, NJ
Voice: 201-645-3607
Data: 201-645-3953

Los Angeles, CA

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Voice: 213-209-7838
Data: 213-209-7920

Washington, D.C.
Voice: 202-275-0611
Data: 202-275-5622

St. Petersburg, FL
Voice: 813-893-3404
Data: 813-822-3821

Atlanta, GA
Voice: 404-881-3474
Data: 404-347-7768

Boise, ID
Voice: 208-334-1910
Data: 208-334-9696

Chicago, IL
Voice: 312-353-4068
Data: 312-353-2382

Louisville, KY
Voice: 502-582-5866
Data: 502-582-5134

New Orleans, LA
Voice: 504-589-6459
Data: 504-589-3871

Togue, ME
Voice: 207-623-5434
Data: 207-240-3021

Baltimore, MD
Voice: 301-962-4467
Data: 301-962-7876

Boston, MA
Voice: 617-223-3052
Data: 203-240-3021

San Francisco, CA
Voice: 415-974-0204
Data: 415-974-9510

Lincoln, NE

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Voice: 402-471-5031
Data: 402-471-5034

Indianapolis, IN
Voice: 317-269-7827
Data: 317-269-7527

Des Moines, IA
Voice: 515-284-4657
Data: 515-284-4869

Wichita, KS
Voice: 316-269-6311
Data: 316-269-6739

Winston-Salem, NC
Voice: 919-761-3494
Data: 919-761-3585

Cleveland, OH
Voice: 216-522-3583
Data: 216-522-7664

Muskogee, OK
Voice: 918-687-2161
Data: 918-687-2556

Detroit, MI
Voice: 313-226-7561
Data: 313-226-4227

St. Paul, MN
Voice: 612-725-4054
Data: 612-725-3050

Jackson, MS
Voice: 601-965-4826
Data: 601-965-4825

Houston, TX
Voice: 713-660-4154
Data: 713-660-4140

Albuquerque, NM
Voice: 505-766-2214
Data: 505-766-8335

Buffalo, NY

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Voice: 716-846-5295
Data: 716-846-4702

New York, NY
Voice: 212-620-6424
Data: 203-240-3021

Portland, OR
Voice: 503-221-2481
Data: 503-221-6884

Philadelphia, PA
Voice: 215-951-5509
Data: 215-951-5514

Pittsburgh, PA
Voice: 412-644-6979
Data: 412-644-4755

Columbia, SC
Voice: 803-765-5154
Data: 803-765-5407

Nashville, TN
Voice: 615-251-5241
Data: 615-736-2100

San Juan, PR
Voice: 809-766-5216
Data: 809-766-3000

Huntington, WV
Voice: 304-529-5047
Data: 304-529-5434

Honolulu, HI
Voice: 808-546-2160
Data: 808-541-1476

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