

Felt Tips

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CHAPTER BBS STATUS and other Electronic Communication Topics

During the past year, Baltimore Chapter CSI has made an electronic bulletin board system (BBS) available for use by Chapter members. Responses to a questionnaire distributed last year to Chapter members indicated that the majority do not presently utilize electronic communication. The primary reasons were a lack of computer experience or concern about security problems. A few responses were received from our member's with input on requested BBS content, including *Felt Tips* topics and meeting schedules with program topics.

Our BBS is called *Trestleboard* and it is available 24 hours a day to members who request entry and have been assigned access codes. If you would like to participate, all you have to do is:

1. Using your modem, dial 363-3532. This is a local call from most Baltimore extensions.
2. When you join *Trestleboard*, you enter log-in and password information for yourself. You may then enter information about yourself in a registry. You are then placed at the main menu. Select <F>orums, and then select BaltoCSI from the Forums menu. While you are there, you can see who else is using the board, and read messages from other board users. Presently, listings of future Technical Committee and Chapter meetings are posted. Feel free to post any articles you feel would be of interest to other CSI members.

Modem communication allows interchange of information in electronic form without the delay and expense of sending disks back and forth. It has been exceptionally useful in development of the newsletter as data entry duplication can be avoided. Contributors can provide files to the newsletter editor by noon on the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the following month's **Constellation**. The newsletter editor must be notified in advance that these articles have been posted so that the newsletter editor can pick them up.

Some ideas, presently being considered, about information to be offered on the BBS include other newsletters; *Felt Tips*; schedules of local, regional, and national CSI activities; information resources for products and technical information; a forum for discussion on topics of current interest; how to join CSI's Baltimore Chapter; and committee activities. We continue to seek our member's ideas on other topics for consideration.

Other CSI Chapters have electronic communication sites available for use. Currently a CompuServe E-mail site is available for the Institute Staff at 72113,1665.

Several members have expressed an interest in having a presentation about how to use electronic communications at a future chapter meeting. Let Chapter program chair, Mitch Kearney, know if you would be interested in such a program or other topic.

Thanks in advance for your participation in the improvement of our Chapter. Look for further information in

upcoming editions of **The Constellation**.

Construction Related Electronic Communication Sites

Following is a partial list of construction related contacts currently available via the Internet. Inclusion of a listing does not sanction its use, content, or accuracy:

<u>Organization / Topic</u>	<u>Electronic Address (sometimes called its URL or Uniform resource Locator)</u>
American Institute of Architects, "AIA.Homepage".....	http://199.170.0.130/
AIA Online Intelligent Search, Research Tool [a fee is charged].....	http://199.18.252.33:8080/
American Society of Civil Engineers, "Conference Schedule".....	conferences@ny.asce.org
American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).....	service@local.astm.org
Engineering Information Guide - Resource Library.	http://www.cad.strath.ac.uk/EngInfoguide.html
International Organization for Standards - International CAD/Architecture Standards for the Exchange of Product Model Data (STEP).....	http://www.fagg.uni-ij.si/ICARIS/index.html
World Wide Web Virtual Library - Architecture.	http://www.cir.Toronto.edu/virtuallib/arch.html

Many universities throughout the world have made their architectural and engineering resources available to the cyberpublic. A few of the U.S. institutions include Bradley University, Brigham Young, Bucknell, Clemson, University of Florida, Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins, University of Kansas, Lehigh, MIT, Notre Dame, Penn State, Stanford, and the University of Wisconsin. Absence of your alma mater's online presence was not intentional, parameters used for data search just didn't come up with it.

Government organizations such as the EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and the U.S. Geological Survey are also active contributors to the voluminous information base available on the Internet.

As you probably guessed, this list is just the tip of a very large iceberg. The best advice we can give you is to get on the Internet and explore what is unarguably the most efficient method of perusing and obtaining information available on electronic media.

CSI is developing an Online Service as well. There are some constraints which exist. Internet sites are added and deleted without notice. Some Internet sites still under construction (they aren't fully functional or easy to use). Others may charge a fee for access to them. Electronic catalogs of manufactured products are also available, which could mean the end of outdated catalogs cluttering shelf space.

Try some of these sites and discover the wealth of information that is yours for the asking. Once you get involved, you will see how convenient and inexpensive research and data transfer can be.

Look forward to seeing you on Trestleboard and elsewhere in cyberspace. BYE. ;-)

[Turn the page with the right margin facing down. You'll notice that the ;-) looks like a winking face with a smile. This one of many symbols and abbreviations used on BBS's.—The Editor]

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