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TAP

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TAP
ROOM 603
147 W. 42 ST.
NEW YORK 10036

MA BELL IS A CHEAP MOTHER

THE GREAT FIRE OF '83

by Cheshire Catalyst

The summer of 1983 will go down in the annals of TAP as one of those great watershed times of its existance. TAP almost died during July, when Tom Edison got burned out and decided not to publish TAP anymore. No one could blame him, after all. 8 years is a long time, and TAP had become more of a burden to him, with the time it requires taking up alot of time he'd rather have spent on the Jersey Shore (if you'd seen some of the great women running around at that shore, you'd be out there too).

It isn't chasing tail that brought him to this decision though. Tom is literally burned out. That is to say, his apartment was burned out in the middle of July. His insurance covers most of his personal stuff, but the bastards who broke in (quite professionaly, according to the local cops) stole the TAP computer, disks, disk drives, printouts, backup disks, backup printouts, reciepts of TAP expenditures (only this year's, they left the reciepts of past years), and Tom's stereo. Once they had enough to put a real crime in TAP, they tried to burn the place down (in a very amateur manner, according to the local fire marshal).

One result of the burglary, is that we haven't a current copy of the mailing list. OK, I don't want to hear about how we should have had an off-site backup of disks and print out. I told Tom he should, and he didn't, and we now have to live with those facts, not more recriminations. What it means is, if you know someone who had a subscription to TAP, ask hir if they got this issue. If not, they should send a photo copy of their last mailing label to us, and we'll put them back on the subscription list. In return for the postage it causes them to spend, we'll add an extra issue their subscription. Yes, this may mean that the mailing list was "compromised". In our personal "paranoid fantasy speculations" (which I refuse to put fully into print) this list could have found it's way from the burgelers, to various agencies. Therefore, if you recieve any mail (or visits in the night from "Various Agencies") please drop us a line, and let us know if the spelling of your name was the way that you were listed on our mailing list. Also let us know which agency/utility did the calling, and what they did and/or said when they called/visited.

So what about TAP? What's it doing here in my hands if it's dead? TAP is not dead, and it's because of the dedication of a few of the New York Irregulars. Mostly myself and JP McClimans. Screw modesty, if I hadn't gotten off my ass, TAP would be dead by now. I don't want pats on the back, I want some support from out there. I don't know how Tom put up with the abuse he's gotten in some of the letters that have been addressed to him. I've handled some of it with some flippant replies. Some I haven't been as flippant as I'd like to be, since it would mean writing a whole letter. Mostly, I've just been scrawling notes in the margin of the "What The Hell Is TAP" sheet that gets sent out to information requests. It was heartbreaking to tell the poor kid from the Midwest that TAP already had a correspondent calling himself The Stainless Steel Rat.

We've also had a sheet called "Field Report" which was sent to people that wrote during the two month period when the mail wasn't picked up. We sent out this report as explanation as to why their letter was answered so late. We also handed the Field Report out to people who recognized my "Ma Bell Is A Cheap Mother" T-shirt at computer hobbyist shows, and the Meadowlands Computer Flea Market in October.

Some orders haven't gone out because we can't find the Fact Sheets that we used to publish. We're in the process of getting copies from one of The Friday Night Irregulars, so we'll be getting them out shortly.

As to how the jiob of running TAP fell on me, here's the story. The last week of August I missed the first TAP meeting I hadn't attended in a couple months. My parents were changing planes at JFK Airport, and wanted to meet me for dinner. That night, Tom made the first Friday night meeting he'd made in a number of months. We missed each other. After I talked to Vax Man, who was at the meeting, I immediately got in touch with Tom, and started scrambling the logistics of moving the remains of TAP out of Tom's place. Tom's words went something like "The insurance adjuster is coming next Thursday. If the stuff isn't out of my apartment, it's going in the dumpster."

If Someone told you in the mid seventies that The Beatles would get back together and go on the road, but only if you got off your fat ass, and helped them get their shit together, what would you have done? TAP isn't anywhere the near the international importance of The Beatles, but after I heard the story of The Big Burn Out, I certainly wasn't going to allow TAP to die this way.

Tom said he'd submit an article of goodbye, and thanks, but that he was Getting Away From It All. I can't much blame him, and I didn't relish having TAP boxed up in my living room halls and foyer for the couple of weeks it took untill we found an office to put TAP in. The office is strictly a production center, and is not staffed full time. We may to decide to have office hours, as we did in the past. In the mean time, the informal gatherings at Eddie's Restaurant in Greenwhich Village will be our gathering point for people who want to find us.

Let's talk for a moment about what changes in policies the "new management" will bring about. Most of our readers want TAP sent to them in a plain envelope. That's fine, and in fact, we are going to make our life easier by making all subscriptions in a plain envelope. The question now is, how plain is the envelope going to be? They will be shipped in an envelope with only the street address of our maildrop, and the International Standard Serial Number of our newsletter. The ISSN is something that libraries and bibliographers like to play with. It means that the enclosed is a publication, and many of our prisoners need to have newsletters, newspapers, and magazines sent directly from a publisher. It saves their censor's a job of looking through magazines for messages written in by accomplices friends on the outside. I want to print TAP's street address on the envelope. Also, I want a return address on the envelope, because many of you move, don't bother to tell us, and then write and ask where their issues are. If a return address is put on the envelope, we'd at least know who to take off the list, and save some postage. This is what we're going to do. If it is particularly offensive to you, write. If enough people write, we'll think about changing the policy. Right now, life is tough enough around here to worry about who gets what envelope.

Subscriptions will cost $10 for 12 issues. Single issues will cost $1.-.

A common request we get is for "membership information". I should state flat out, that TAP is not a club. This does not, however, mean that you cannot "join" TAP. You can become one of our Correspondents. All you have to do is write. Before the fire, I recieved one or two letters that I wanted to dump into the Word Processor, and share with you folks. I'll probably find the time for that sort of thing in January (if I'm luckey). All it takes to become a correspondent, is to sit down and write to us as if we were someone you were trying to explain your topic to. Please set your typewriters, or word processing output to 50 characters on a line. This line width of 5 inches is what we use to lay out the issues. TAP has been, and will continue to be, All The News That Fits. If we have room for it, it will probably go in.

For those of you who noticed the song that Newsweek carried in their September 5 issue, here's the whole thing. If you want to see more of this kind of thing, let me know.

The Hackers Anthem

by Cheshire Catalyst

(Tune: Put Another Nickel In)

Put another password in,
Bomb it out and try again,
Try to get past logging in,
We're hacking, hacking, hacking.

Try his first wife's maiden name,
This is more than just a game,
It's real fun, but just the same,
It's hacking, hacking, hacking.

Sys-call, let's try a sys-call.
Remember that great bug from Version 3,
Of R S X, It's here! Whoppee!

Put another sys-call in,
Run those passwords out and then,
Dial back up, we're logging in,
We're hacking, hacking, hacking.

Publicity - What's Going On Around Here?
or
The Philosophy of a Phone Phreak

by Cheshire Catalyst

My latest article on how to find TAP seems to have caused quite a stir. Also, I've been getting alot of publicity myself, as I have recently been quoted in Infosystems magazine, a computer trade journal, and in the well respected (by the Real World, anyway) Wall Street Journal (Wednesday, April 13). Business Communications Review, a scholarly journal for telecommunications consultants, called me "one of the nation's best known phone phreaks." As I prepared this article I was contacted by National Public Radio, and their piece ran on the program "All Things Concidered" on May 8 (transcripts available at your local Telco Security office, or copies of the tape from me (for $5) care of TAP). Journalists from around the country, and literally around the world are trying to reach me. VSD out of Paris ran an article for the February 8, 1983 edition. (That's me in the Ronald Raygun mask working on CHI/P (Computer Hijinks Interface / Programmable), my Apple computer). The article from Technology Illustrated that started the latest publicity storm, was recently translated into German and ran in Der Speigle. That brought a Swiss TV crew from Zurich to New York, which I entertained just after a quick interview with a BBC film crew.

Why me? It's simple. We publish that Big Bad Newsletter. We are considered experts in the Computer Crime field from the standpoint of the person committing "unnatural acts" with computers. Quite frankly, if anyone is actually committing computer crime out there, they are not likely to be talking about it to the press.

TAP had been in the news before the Technology Illustrated article of last Fall. In 12 years of publishing, you gain a small reputation that does reach the outside world occasionally. We had been covered a number of times in The Village Voice of New York City. We've also gotten brief mention's in various underground newspapers over the years, and in numerous hobbyist publications. TAP is even listed in one of those academic publications that list periodical publications (if I could remember which one, I'd say so).

I didn't realize the circulation base of Technology Illustrated was so large for a 6 month old publication, or I'd have had second thoughts about doing the whole thing at all. The resultant publicity has been an interesting ego trip, but it hasn't put much in the way of chocolate chip cookies near the TV set since losing my job because of it last Fall.

The thing is, computer hacking is getting to be a subject that the straight press is catching up on, and let's face it. TAP has the expertise. I'm attracting them, and from most I can extract the promise of putting our address into the articles. TAP may be your favorite underground reading, but someone has to pay the printer, and the post office.

Producing TAP is no picnic, and getting and keeping enough subscribers so we don't lose our shirts is one of our biggest problems. My "job" at TAP is to get the publicity we need to catch the attention of possible subscribers.

There are some publications I don't want our address in, though. The Wall Street Journal is read by enough Bull System Managers, that my feeling is that if we were getting cocky enough to start puffing up our feathers in their world, they might think it was time they sent their people out to clip those feathers.

But what am I supposed to do when The Journal calls me up and asks for information? The principle that TAP operates under is in getting our information to The People. A noble concept, that, but it means getting the publicity to attract a crowd so we'll be heard. We occasionally (for the phone phreak conferences we've put on) sent press releases to the straight press, and let them know what was going on. Hardly anyone showed up. The Journal, The New York Times, AP, and UPI, are on that press list, but no one was interested in us then.

I have kept in touch with reporters from The Village Voice, and Rolling Stone, since they share some of our philosophy, or have roots that do. While I had said in the past that I wouldn't want to talk to people from Time or Newsweek, it was because we would be afraid of sticking our nose too far above ground, for fear of getting it cut off by Bull System Security, or somebody.

All of this used to be just wild speculation. I mean, would Time Magazine ever want to publicize a bunch of Phone Phreaks? Now that Computer Hackers and Computer Crime are BIG BIGINESS, we're considered the experts, only because we'll talk about it from the standpoint of "The Other Side". Time magazine is thinking of doing an article, but wants a timing hook for when to run it. But Time Magazine is too "real world" for me and I'm scared shitless of the repercussions if we get written up there.

I'm very afraid of doing television, because too many people believe in television. I've had a Chicago TV station in to my apartment to do a shoot for a series on computer crime on their local news, but I don't want the networks involved (My thanks to Illinois Bell for the transcripts, by the way. I couldn't even get a copy of the tape from WLS). NBC Monitor may do a thing with me on computer hackers, but I'm not going to mention TAP at all, because we don't need that much heat coming down on us.

Once, though, I was really stupid. I recieved a letter from a guy at a telephone company training dept who was asked by his security department to make a video about toll fraud to show to police and campus security types. He had been taping interviews with real FBI guys, real Telco Security types, and real plant maintenance people. Nobody told him he shouldn't interview a real Phone Phreak. He noticed the Technology Illustrated article, and got in touch. It was an interesting shoot.

Since he wasn't from my Telco's operating area, I figured "why not?". After all, they weren't from my jurisdiction, and who was I to say he and his crew shouldn't have their junket to The Big City? I realized the tape would get edited to make me out to be the bad guy, but maybe I could get the message of what "real" phone phreaks are interested in, across to these people. That is, that we, the true phone phreaks, are interested in the Network, and not just ripping off calls. Some are, we're not.

I've never seen the final result, and probably never will. I understand the Security department was very embarassed about the incident, but realize that the segment makes for a better "ballanced looking" presentation even with the editing. I'm certain my comments when the "talent" asked me "Why are YOU raising phone rates for consumers" were cut from the final version when I lit into Telco rate structures. (remind me to do an article on telephone rate structures some time).

I feel my job in TAP is to try to get our viewpoint out, whether the person asking the questions really wants to hear my side or not. Free speech is what we live in this country for, and what many people try to reach this country to be able to have.

Some journalists have been asking me where they can get in touch with phreaks & hackers in their areas. I've gotten a couple of journalists in Texas in touch with some Freaks down there, but one of the journalists was personally known to me, and would respect any requests for anonymity asked for by the phreaks who were also buddies of mine. I didn't intend to get people upset in Texas, but if the one reporter wasn't already known to me personnally, I wouldn't have gotten them in touch with the Texas Phreaks (who have since graduated, and are now loose upon the world).

These journalists, you have to realize, have a real tough job. They have to come up with a story, make sure it's factual, and bring it back to an editor who has no idea what the subject is. The editor then mangles the hell out of the content of the article. The journalist catches flack on both sides. These guys don't know stuff about computers themselves, in most cases, and no one who is doing anything worth reporting on in the area of computer crime (that is, real Computer Criminals) is talking about it.

I take pity on the journalists and reporters, and discuss some of the problems of computer security, and basically, set myself up as "The Boogey Man". After all, I'm the big bad Phone Phreak/Computer Hacker from that Nasty TAP newsletter.

Mostly, when the press writes and askes to get in touch with our subscribers on their behalf, we have them send in stamped unsealed envelopes with their letter in it, and we put our own cover letter in explaining that we mailed the envelope, and if they want to get in touch with the reporter, it's up to them.

I just try to get across to the press that Phreaking and Hacking have one thing in common. Getting into the network/computer that you're not supposed to be able to crack is an intellectual challenge. That challenge is the driving force behind the True Hacker.

I'm sometimes asked where the term "hacker" comes from. I think it comes from hacking away at the keyboard untill the program works. It's alot like the definition of a hack writer, who keeps hacking at the keyboard untill his story is finished. When asked for a definition of "hacker", I reply: A hacker is someone who discovers the rules of a computer system or language, and abuses the hell out of those rules.

Bugs, (programming bugs, not listening devices) are part of the rules. They are the hidden rules that the provider of the system or software didn't realize were there, but are discovered by the hacker. They get abused most of all.

I find myself taking on consulting work for some large (and not so large) corporations now, teaching them how to not be stupid. Sorry, gang, but It's tough out here without regular work since the Technology Illustrated article came out. This consulting shingle is being hung out in the marketplace.

As for the article on how to find our Friday nite hangout in Greenwich Village, it's simple. TAP needs some new blood. And if you're going to bitch that you don't like what we're doing and how we're doing it, then come on down & volunteer. It's as democratic as that. Actually, it is as anarchistic as that. Them's what does the work, gets to do it the way they want to.

Writing takes more work than you'd know, unless you've done it. The joy comes from being greeted at The West Coast Computer Faire each year by the people who think you are a minor hero for passing the torch of Forbidden Knowledge. OK, so I have to put up with Chips Ahoy, instead of David's Cookie's, but the freedom is worth it. Keep the torch high, friends. It lights the darkness of oppression.

This article was completed before The Great Fire.

Gibberish V

by Fred Steinbeck

Error Dep't:

Ahem, yes, so there are a few mistakes in some of my columns. To begin with, "Modifying Your Phone For 1633 Hz" in #84 has a small problem. When it talks about the traces going to the I.C., trace #8 from the left should be row #2, not #1.

"Blue Box Equipment and Usage" in #79 mentions part sources for the Green Box in #68. Well, I'm happy to say that **Advanced Computer Products** now offers 27C16's (they don't tell what access time) for $8.95, and 40103's for $1.89 each, a good savings over their old price of $4.25.

Dr. Magic Fingers is correct, when he reported in #85 that (415) 832-5015 is no longer a working SPC dialup. However, 832-5016 and 7 are...

Project Verify

I did some more research, and found that RING FWD doesn't send 90V out on the forward part of the loop. Instead, it disconnects the forward part of the loop from the position for a short period of time (less than 0.5 seconds). On an overseas call, this would make the inward operator's CLG light flash on and off, signalling her to stop doing her nails and get on with the call.

What this does to verify circuitry is anyone's guess. If the connection is long distance, the winking of the TSPS console would send 2600 Hz momentarily at the verify circuitry, which might be a possibility...

Anyway, operators generally don't use routing codes anymore, except in a few areas (I wish I knew of a few of them). Now what an operator does to verify or interrupt is the following:

Assume you have dialed 0+7D, and the 7D is the number you want verified. The operator then classes charge as "station paid" and hits VFY. If VFY lights, it means the number can be verified. She then presses HOLD on loop 1, and ACS (access) on loop 2. She then presses ST, which completes the verify call. If there is speech on the line, she will hear encrypted speech. Assuming so, she then hits EMER INT (emergency interrupt), tells them what's going on, and then hits REL FWD (release forward, which drops the call on loop 2). She then hits POS REL on loop 2, and ACS on loop 1, bringing her back to you. She then reports, hits REC MSG (record message, which charges you) and then POS REL, position release.

Most areas no longer have "TSPS Maintenance Engineers" or frame calling the operator. However, if you do, you might want to try this. "Operator, class charge as station paid, and hit verify plus start. Now hit emergency interrupt, no AMA, and position release." This should have the effect of throwing you into the call as a 3rd party, for free. I wouldn't do this from home, however, because when you call the operator, you are not free of her until she position releases. Therefore, if she gets suspicious, you can hang up, but it won't do you any good...

Paraphernalia

B & F Enterprises (P.O. box 3357, Peabody, MA 01960), says Agent NDS, sells a "telephone loop pickup coil", for $4.88. I would assume it is much like the Trinetics PC-48 inductive coupler. I have not checked this place out, but it would seem to be a good deal.

Bay Technologies (408) 737-8180 sells the NSC 800 series of microprocessors and support devices. To find a supplier closer to you, try calling National Semiconductor at (408) 737-5000, and asking for your local distributor.

American Microsystems, Inc. (AMI) produces what they call the "Telecommunications Design Manual". This fine book, which is actually a combination catalog of AMI semiconductors, circuit layouts, schematics, articles, and an informative glossary, can be had for the price of a call (free) to (408) 246-0330.

Bell System locks are a special brand: BEST. They are what they claim to be. I have never met a person who could pick 'em. What to do? Take a hacksaw to the lock from the top and cut the doorknob off. Then throw the bolt with a screwdriver. It takes about 20 minutes, but it can be worth it.

The Telephone Pioneers of America
A Navy Plot?

by Cheshire Catalyst

The Telephone Pioneers of America is a service organization made up of retirees of the Bell System. They provide many good works of which they, and the Bell System can be proud. They actually carry on much of the work of Alexander Graham Bell, himself. That is, by inventing, building, tinkering with and providing products that can allow blind people to live more normal lives.

For example, what can be more normal than for a kid to want to play The National Pastime, Baseball. The pioneers provide "Beeping Baseballs" to local pioneer groups that get them to the sandlots, and get the kids out there to the plate. This also provides lively invigourating work for the pioneers themselves to perform. This once again fosters the old adage that once one becomes a member of The Bell Family, one will be "taken care of" for life. This was true up to a very few years ago, when the Bull System noticed that competitors were eating into their markets, and thereby, their revenues. Bell had to get Lean and Mean, or die. Getting lean meant that the deadwood in the System had to be set adrift. This is a topic for more scholarly disertaions, and not what I want to cover now. Pick up a copy of The Phone Book by Edward Hyde for the corruption of the Bell System.

But The Pioneers are people who have made it to retirement, and is more or less a social club for social action in non controvertial areas. Helping the handicapped is something that everyone can agree is a "good thing." In order to raise money for the Pioneers, they sell various goodies such as model vintage phone trucks, and Bell System Jackets.

These jackets are usually blue or white, but each has some distinctive markings. First is the pair of stipes, Bell Blue & Gold, down the left front of the jacket, a pocket on the left sleeve, and an American Flag shoulder patch on the right shoulder. Sometimes, there is a Bell System Logo patch on the right front of the jacket, but I think that depends on which Pioneer chapter ordered the jackets.

As a Phone Phreak, I and others envy these jackets as being worn by members of The Telecommunications Elite, and when a friend offered to get me one, I jumped at the chance. There was only one thing that has bothered me about the jackets over the years, and as a point of sour grapes for not having a jacket, I just chuckled to myself over the problem. Now that I have a jacket, it is a problem I have to deal with myself.

Flag Etiquite

When a flag is displayed or worn on an article of clothing, it should be worn as if it were being carried in a forward direction. That is, with the flag pole to the front, with the flag trailing from the staff as the breeze carries it. That is why on the right side of airliners of American registry, and the right sides of Greyhound & Trailways busses, the flag looks "backwards" from the way it is ordinarily displayed.

The Navy is the one exception to "Flag to the front" rule. On the old Navy sailing ships, the flag flown from the stern of the ship would be whipped towards the front of the ship as the wind filled the sails. This is why the flag painted on the tail of the Blue Angels, the Navy stunt flying team, is backwards from the standard.

Flags which depict animals, such as the Bear on California's state flag should be worn as if the animal is facing forward. The US Postal Service occassionally sends out memos to it's people reminding them that when the Eagle is put on the side of a postal truck, it should always face the front.

For some reason, people think the flag should always be seen with the blue field of stars on the left hand side of the flag, as it gets depicted on postage stamps. Bus and airline companies know that this is wrong, airlines knowing it from the military (Air Force) backgrounds of it's pilot's and management (how else do you suppose pilots get the flying hours required to become a commercial pilot?).

This is why I'm wondering what to do with my Bell Jacket. I've combed the army surplus shops and uniform stores in the New York City area, but I can't find a flag patch to put on the right shoulder of the jacket. That's where the flag patch belongs, because that's how the Pioneers specified the jackets. I just want the flag there to be in the right direction. I realize that The Bell System gets alot of Navy contracts, but I used to be in the Army myself, and I want my flag patch on my jacket in the proper direction. If any of our readers know where I can find a proper flag patch for the right shoulder, please write to me at TAP. I'd love to know where to mail order it.

Miscellaneous Information

By: THE MAGICIAN.....

The following are miscellaneous bits of information, reviews and trivia which are of interest to our readers:

BOOKS

Abbie Hoffmans infamous "Steal This Book" is now back in publication ! Though some of the material is dated, the ideas are still there and worth considering. The book even contains a schematic for one of the first black box's designed by TAP's own Al Bell.

The book is being republished by Abbie Hoffmans brother Jack. You can get a copy by sending $5.95, (A bit of an increase since the old $1.95, but thats inflation), plus $2.00 shipping to:

Jack Hoffman Presents
Box 15
Worcester, MA 01613

Or the book can be ordered (perhaps a bit more safely ?) from Michael Hoy's Loompanics. Write them at:

Loompanics Unlimited
P.O. Box 1197
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Speaking of Loompanics, they have a new book out entitled: "The Code Book, All about unbreakable codes and how to use them" by Michael E. Marotta. The book provides an excellent overview of most ciphering and coding techniques. Strengths and weakness's of various techniques are given along with several computer programs (most in BASIC) to make use of the techniques (The programs have a few typo's though...) ($7.95 + $2.00 shipping)

Last, but not least, a book that is amazing in that it was published by a major publisher and was somehow not suppressed ! The book is called "The Puzzle Palace" by James Bamford, and published by Houghton Mifflin Company. It deals with Americas MOST secret agency, The National Security Agency. For you NSA buffs, you will find a wealth of information. You will know your way around NSA headquarters, (for the next time you visit, I guess), you will learn all about "Carillon" and "Loadstone" (Computer centers in the basement of NSA). It will tell you about internal Telephone systems that are truly secret, unlike AUTOVON which is not really secret at all. You will even learn the name of NSA's official Barber.

For those of you who don't know about NSA, I suggest you read the book to learn about an agency who makes the CIA look like a bunch of rookies. Learn how NSA intercepts ALL of your overseas data traffic, and a good portion of your overseas voice traffic.

At the time of writing, The Puzzle Palace is available at all bookstores for $16.95 or write the publishers directly.

Next time your talking overseas, says a few 'Target Words' and tell the guys down in 'SIGINT CITY' hello !!!

TELEPHONES

First off, I commend Fred Steinback for writing (in issue 84), a VERY good follow-up to my original "Modifying your TT phone for 1633 hz" article (issue 63). I have not yet had a chance to experiment with the new style TT phones (which apparently have tactile response keys instead of just push down like the old style !). I am glad to see that there are still some good techno phreaks out there to continue the art.

The PIN (Personal Identification Number) credit card system long expected by phreaks has been implemented by Bell. This system will effectively end 99 percent of credit card fraud within the U.S. (They are still using a standard check digit code for international.) Each fone number is issued a 4 digit PIN which has no relation to the associated fone number. When the operator (or now sometimes directly a computer, where you are able to TT enter your CC directly on the pay fone) checks your card, she keys it in on her TSPS console. SPCM then uses the CCIS datalinks to check the computer at your local C.O. for validity. Thus the operator knows very quickly if the card is valid or not. Attempts to scan for valid PINs from pay fones equipped for automatic CC entry from TT, apparently will stop accepting trys after about a dozen or so attempts, and presumably print a warning at the Central Office for Bell Security.

An interesting (and overlooked) point of all this is that since Bell has now implemented this new CC system nationwide, This means that EVERY C.O. in the country must now be equipped with at least 1 CCIS datalink. The network is going CCIS extremely rapidly and the day of the Blue Box (Within the U.S. anyway) is quickly drawing to a close.

Also, CCIS could (and probably does) send the CALLING fone number over the initial datalink, thuis making instant fone call traces from anywhere in the country to anywhere, very feasible. This will thus make "anonymous" calls a thing of the past. Bell could even offer this service to customers. You could know who was calling you before you ever answered the fone !

On another subject, a word of WARNING! I have stated this before, but will repeat it to all newcomers and forgetful old-timers alike. Recently TAP has printed information on hacking with SPRINT, MCI etc. This is good, in that TAP is the proper (only) forum for free open discussion of such topics.. But Beware ! It is absolute gospel FACT that calls to the local access ports of these networks, drop a card (print a record in ESS) containing the calling number. While these cards (records) are usually ignored, they could mean trouble. The original purpose of this was because some phreaks were dialing into SPRINT, MCI etc. and then whipping to another location, and dialing into Bell ESS computers, attempting to change the clocks etc. It was extremely difficult for Bell to nail them because they could only trace back to the local MCI or SPRINT office. Thus, a two way "informal Deal" was made. If Bell had trouble, SPC or MCI would tell Bell what local access number was used to dial the carrier. Bell could then go back, pull the "card" and find out the fone number of the caller. The deal works the other way also: If MCI of SPC detect a fraudulent call (Customer complains he didn't call Oshokosh WI 37 times). They will first try to resolve it by checking with the "called" number. If that doesn't pan out, then they will request Bell to tell them the number that called the originating port. With Crossbar 5 systems etc. The card could only "TRAP" the calling number if is called from within the same C.O. (If from the outside, it only pointed to the next C.O. in the chain). But now with ESS running with CCIS they will be able to trace the originating number anywhere. Thus if you MUST play with SPC, MCI or any of the others, be VERY VERY careful and do so only from discreet pay fones.

On other Telephone topics, many electronics stores are now selling wireless remote control telephones, and have demo's hooked up in the stores for salesmen use and demonstrations. Most of these phones operate at on or near the same frequencies (usually around 49 mhz.) If you buy one of these, try to get one the same Freq. as the stores. Then it is a simple matter to pull your car in their parking lot after they close, and to pick up your handy "car phone" triggering their base unit. You can then make all the Long Distance calls you want courtesy of the store (Till they figure out whats going on, which could be a LONG time). Please note however, that in this day and age, most small stores are barely making it along. So PLEASE don't rip them off like this, UNLESS they have ripped you off first.. then HAPPY DIALING !!!!

A mass calling number that a lot of our more "perverted" readers might like to call, features recordings of young ladies from porno magazines talking about themselves etc. The recordings change a couple of times a day.
DIAL: 212+976+2727

Also, Jackie Martlings infamous x-rated dial a joke has been running for about 3 years now ! (Changes daily):
DIAL: 516+922+9463

DESIGN TAP'S NEW LOGO

With the changes overcoming TAP, as well as the entire telecommunications industry, we at TAP have decided that TAP needs a new logo. Submit a design, and see how you do. It doesn't have to be "camera-ready". We'll get an artist to do up the final draft. We want ideas. Strange ideas. YOUR ideas!

There will be a prize involved, but we don't know what yet. send in your idea's, and we'll see what you deserve. Help prepare TAP for it's new direction in the Computer Age!

1983

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