

The Taming of the Web

Matthew Jones

In the early days of the Internet, creating a web site was as simple as posting text and a few graphics. But the Internet has become far more sophisticated over the years. Your company's web site is now in danger of being overlooked if you do not use the latest Internet technology, such as Java applets, frames, and tables.

The web sites featured in this article can help you update your company's web site. After you have done your part to spice up the Internet, you can check out this month's network resources. You can also take a look at this month's new products. (See "Product Snapshots.")

WEB SITES

If you are planning to visit Internet.com (<http://www.internet.com>), you should probably give yourself a few hours. Internet.com contains so much information and so many resources that you just may stumble across a new area of interest with every click of the mouse. Among other subjects, Internet.com covers both existing and emerging Internet technology. For example, Internet.com offers the latest information about web design, electronic commerce, and Internet hardware and software. In addition, Internet.com covers web development. You can read about programming issues, browse an online reference guide, and download development tools that allow you to improve your company's web site.

But Internet.com does not stop there. You can also find out how to market your company's web site and how to solicit and post advertisements. In addition, you can access Internet-related news stories, and you can view stock tips for Internet-related companies.

WebResource.net (<http://www.webresource.net>) is another useful web site that focuses specifically on Internet technology and web design. At WebResource.net, you can read articles about Java, Perl, Common Gateway Interface (CGI), and other programming languages. You can also find out how to use multimedia elements, such as graphics and audio and video clips, effectively. In addition, you can also take advantage of programming tutorials and tips. You can even download web development tools.

If you need help with the HTML on your company's web site, Quadzilla (<http://www.quadzilla.com>) can come to your rescue. You can browse a complete index of standard HTML 3.2 tags, and you can view tutorials about creating HTML frames, tables, and style sheets. You can also get HTML tips, and you can access an HTML FAQ list. You can even learn how to use dynamic HTML, which allows you to create interactive web pages.

NETWORK RESOURCES

The Internet provides a convenient way for you to establish your company's global presence. Unfortunately, the Internet also provides a convenient way for hackers to attack your company's network. It is important that you protect your company's critical data from would-be intruders by implementing adequate security measures. To find out how you can protect your company's network from unauthorized Internet users, you should check out the International Computer Security Association, or ICSA (<http://www.icsa.net>). ICSA offers in-depth information about security products, such as firewalls and cryptography software. For example, you can read security reports, view a security FAQ list, and browse a list of security products that have been certified by the ICSA.

Novell's BorderManager Firewall Services 3 (<http://www.novell.com/bordermanager>) is one of the security products that has received ICSA certification. BorderManager Firewall Services 3 is available as a standalone product or as part of BorderManager Enterprise Edition 3, which also includes authentication, proxy cache, and virtual private network (VPN) components. All of these components are fully integrated with Novell Directory Services (NDS), enabling you to manage them from a central location (For more information about firewalls, see "Great Walls of Fire," *NetWare Connection*, Jan. 1997, pp. 6–28. For more information about BorderManager Enterprise Edition 3, see "BorderManager 3.0: Patrolling the Borders of Your Network," *NetWare Connection*, Oct. 1998, pp. 6–21. You can download these articles from <http://www.nwconnection.com/past>.)

STANDALONE GAME OF THE MONTH

High Heat Baseball 2000 from The 3DO Co. is a baseball simulation game that is based on the Sony Playstation game of the same name. High Heat Baseball 2000 successfully recreates the look and feel of an actual baseball game, with 3D graphics, real-time lighting effects, and motion-captured polygonal players. High Heat Baseball 2000 also provides other realistic features, including extended box scores, instant replays with dynamic camera views, and multiple batting swings and pitching types.

High Heat Baseball 2000 allows you to take control of every aspect of the baseball game. You not only hit, run, pitch, and field, but you also create and manage a major-league baseball team. For example, you can recruit actual major-league baseball players from the 1999 season. You can even develop three levels of minor-league baseball. You can then recruit minor-league players to play on your major-league baseball team.

Product Snapshots

This month's "Product Snapshots" features two of the most interesting products I saw at Internet World '99 in Los Angeles, California. (Please note that these are first-look reviews.)

WEBLOAD 3.0

WebLoad 3.0 from RadView Software Inc. is a software tool that allows you to test your company's web site. With WebLoad 3.0, you can simulate user activity to ensure that your company's web site functions normally under high-traffic conditions. WebLoad 3.0 generates an unlimited number of virtual clients that create web traffic and provide performance statistics. WebLoad 3.0 also generates probing clients that test the specific web applications. WebLoad 3.0 then provides individual performance statistics.

You can easily manage this testing through a central console, which provides a single point of management for all testing functions. For example, you can use the central console to define and schedule test sessions, develop test scripts, and monitor test results in real time.

In addition, you can configure the central console to gather more than 25 performance statistics, such as throughput, response time, and transactions per second. The central console then generates a graphical report of all performance statistics that are monitored during each test session.

High Heat Baseball 2000 supports single-player mode and head-to-head mode over a modem, a network, or an Internet connection. In addition, High Heat Baseball 2000 supports Windows 98 and 95.

You can purchase High Heat Baseball 2000 through retail channels at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$29.95, and you can download a demo version of the game from <http://www.3do.com/products/pc/hh2000>. For more information about High Heat Baseball 2000, visit 3DO's web site (<http://www.3do.com>). You can also call 1-650-261-3454.

NETWORK GAME OF THE MONTH

Malkari from Interactive Magic Inc. is a turn-based strategy game that is set in a 3-D space environment. As the game begins, you join a chapter in one of five guilds. All of these guilds are vying for control of the solar system's 150 asteroids. These asteroids are the only resources left in the galaxy which has been ravaged by an age-old war between the guilds. Within each guild, individual chapters are divided—sometimes cooperating for the good of the guild and sometimes feuding among themselves.

Your mission is to unite your guild's chapters and to obtain the surrender of the opposing guilds. After you have

completed these tasks, you must then end the war once and for all by uniting the guilds into a single empire called Malkari. To meet these goals, you must amass significant political and military power. For example, you must build warships to fight the opposing guilds for control of the asteroids, and you must build starships to mine valuable minerals on these asteroids. The more asteroids your guild controls, the more political and military power you amass.

Malkari supports up to 40 players over a network or an Internet connection. In addition, Malkari supports Windows NT, 98, and 95.

You can purchase Malkari through retail channels at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$39.99. In addition, you can download an interactive preview of the game from http://www.imagicgames.com/demo_download.html. For more information about Malkari, visit Interactive Magic's web site (<http://www.imagicgames.com>). You can also call 1-919-461-0722.

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WebLoad 3.0 supports Windows NT, 98, 95, and Solaris. You can purchase WebLoad 3.0 through retail channels beginning at the suggested retail price of U.S. \$5,000. You can download a demo version from <http://www.radview.com/download>. For more information, visit RadView's web site (<http://www.radview.com>). You can also call 1-888-RADVIEW or 1-781-860-7570.

BLEEM!

Bleem! from bleem! LLC is a software emulator that allows you to play Sony Playstation games on any computer running Windows 98 or 95. Bleem! offers full-motion video and support for all Sony Playstation graphics modes and resolutions. For example, you can play Sony Playstation games that use 24-bit graphics, even if your graphics card supports only 16-bit graphics. You can also define a particular graphics resolution for all operations, specifying a high resolution if you prefer superior quality graphics or a lower resolution if you prefer faster game emulation. In addition, you can specify a high output rate for superior sound or a lower output rate for faster game emulation. Bleem! supports both mono and stereo output and both 8- and 18-bit output.

You can purchase bleem! for U.S. \$24.95 at <https://secure.cnchost.com/bleem.com/order2.html>. You can download a demo version from <http://www.bleem.com/lang/en/download.html>. For more information, visit bleem!'s web site (<http://www.bleem.com>). You can also send an e-mail message to sales@bleem.com.

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2 3/8" x 4 7/8"
(2.375" x 4.875")