Sure, seeing movies is fun, but sometimes you also want to know what is going on behind the scenes. The web sites featured in this article can provide you with the details you crave, such as why that sequel you have been anticipating is held up in production or what movie your favorite actor is currently working on. In addition, you can find out about upcoming projects, Hollywood gossip, and what the critics think of current releases. Be sure to also check out this month's network resource, games of the month, and “Product Snapshots.”

WEB SITES
Cinema Confidential (http://www.cinecon.com) gives you an inside look at the movie world. At Cinema Confidential, you can read about rumored projects in Hollywood, such as films that have been talked about but no formal action has been taken to start these films. If these projects move into production, you can check out the news section for updates. Cinema Confidential also gives you a glimpse into what is coming up in the near future. You can find previews, spoilers, and trailers of current and soon-to-be-released movies.

Cinema Confidential also includes a message board where you can post questions and answers about your favorite movie topics. At Cinema Confidential, you'll also find links to additional sites where you can find out more about your favorite movies.

Dark Horizons (http://www.darkhorizons.com) features news, images, clips, and reviews of current and upcoming blockbuster films. Dark Horizons also includes rumors, gossip, and reviews from locations throughout the world. You can also find out which movies are being released this weekend. In addition, you can find information about upcoming release dates and weekend box office results for the past year.

Dark Horizons also includes an index of separate pages dedicated to movies from the past several years. Each page features a specific film and provides cast and crew information, publicity photographs, plot synopses, release dates, trailers, commercial reviews, and links. Pages for some films even include archives of all news and rumors that were posted on the Dark Horizons news page.

The first thing that you'll notice at Rotten Tomatoes (http://www.rottentomatoes.com) is the easy-to-read evaluation of current releases. A red dot next to the title means that Rotten Tomatoes ranks the film as “good.” A dark circle next to the title means that Rotten Tomatoes ranks the film as “bad.” Granted, ranking a movie as only good or bad may be a bit simplistic and subjective, but these ratings give you somewhere to start. If you click on the title, you will be taken to a page where you can read a variety of reviews about the movie, and you can find information about the lead actors, links to the movie's official web site, production notes about the movie, and a list of upcoming talk show appearances by the movie's actors.

Rotten Tomatoes also features a news section and section for upcoming releases. If nothing looks good there, you can check out the video section where you can access reviews and recommendations for video selections. You'll also find a message board on which you can communicate your opinions to other movie fans.

If the previous sites have gotten you ready to head to the theater to see a movie, check out MovieFone (http://www.moviefone.com). At MovieFone.com, you can search for the time and place a particular movie is showing in your area. You can search by time, title, star, or genre to find a movie that meets your schedule and mood.

NETWORK RESOURCE
Brainbuzz.com (http://www.brainbuzz.com) provides a variety of information for the IT professional: Brainbuzz.com has areas for both networking experts and developers. For example, as a networking expert, you may be interested in Brainbuzz.com's tech support, how-to articles, certification practice exam questions, study guides, job database, and resume help—all available free.

Brainbuzz.com also features articles and commentary about the latest developments in the IT world. You can add your own opinions about these developments in the online communities. In these online communities, you can post questions and answers about networking challenges, and you can meet other IT professionals with similar interests. At Brainbuzz.com, you can also sign up to receive e-mail updates about your favorite Brainbuzz.com forums, and you can participate in the surveys and contests.

If you are looking for a new job, you should check out Brainbuzz.com's job sections. You can find out which companies are currently hiring and read feature articles about getting a job in today's IT market. You can also research potential companies and get tips for building a resume that will give you the edge for the job you want.

STANDALONE GAME OF THE MONTH
Have you ever wondered how pathetic your life looks to an outsider? Well, now you can find out. The Sims from Maxis enables you to create characters and have them live your virtual life—either real or imagined.

When you begin playing The Sims, you can choose between using existing characters, or you can create your own characters. If you create characters, you can choose what clothes the characters will wear and what personality traits the characters will have. You
Product Snapshots

Advancements in technology always bring new products. Product Snapshots gives you a quick look at some of the new products that we find particularly interesting. (Please note these are first-look reviews; we have not conducted exhaustive testing.)

GSP-1600 TRI-MODE SATELLITE PHONE

Using the GSP-1600 Tri-Mode Satellite Phone from Qualcomm, you can keep in touch with anywhere, from anywhere you go—even in areas with no cellular coverage. The GSP-1600 Tri-Mode phone works on Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) digital systems, Advanced Mobile Phone Systems (AMPS) analog systems, and with the Globalstar satellite system.

The Globalstar satellite system includes low-Earth-orbiting satellites and is designed to provide low-cost communications throughout the world. The GSP-1600 Tri-Mode Satellite Phone includes voice calling, short message service (SMS), a programmable service provider display message, caller ID, voice mail, data transmission, global positioning, and fax capabilities.

The GSP-1600 Tri-Mode Satellite Phone is lighter than you would expect for a satellite phone, weighing in at 13.1 ounces. It is 7 inches by 2.2 inches and 1.9 inches wide. The Globalstar antenna, when held in a vertical position, communicates with Globalstar satellites at elevations more than 10° above the horizon.

The GSP-1600 Tri-Mode Satellite Phone retail price is approximately U.S. $1,150. For more information, visit http://www.qualcomm.com/ProdTech/globalstar/products-trimode.html. You can also call 1-877-SAT PHONE. Outside of the United States, visit http://www.qualcomm.com/ProdTech/globalstar/contact.html, and choose the appropriate country.

HP PHOTOSMART P1000 COLOR INKJET PRINTER

The HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer was developed for the owners of digital cameras who want an easy way to develop photos. The HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer produces pictures that look as if they were developed conventionally, without all the hassle of dropping off your film and waiting for the results.

The HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer prints photos instantly from your digital camera—it doesn’t even need to be connected to your computer. Everything you need to select photos and print size is conveniently located on the front of the printer. The HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer supports direct printing from digital cameras using Compact Flash cards or SmartMedia cards.

HP’s enhanced color layering technology layers ultra-small ink drops to provide photo-realistic color. When using photo paper, the HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer prints with a resolution of 2400 x 1200 dots per inch (dpi). You can also attach the HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer to your computer for everyday printing. The HP PhotoSmart P1000 Color Inkjet Printer prints up to 11 pages per minute in black and white and 8.5 pages in color at 600 dpi.


NETWORK GAME OF THE MONTH

Nox from Westwood Studios is a role-playing game (RPG) that is similar to the wildly popular Diablo. A Nox begins, you take the role of Jack, an auto mechanic who has been accidentally sucked through a portal into the world of Nox. Your mission is to conquer Hecubah, the evil queen of the undead, and to restore the land to its rightful owners—a task easier said than done. A accomplishing this mission is the only way that you can return to your life back on Earth.

At the beginning of the quest, you can choose between three different careers. Each of these careers has its pros and cons. For example, you can choose to be a tough warrior who has no magic capabilities, you can choose to be a wizard who is physically weak but has access to many spells, or you can choose to be a conjuror who has average strength but can use certain spells.

A long your quest, you’ll have to collect tools to help you in your quest, kill your enemies, save villages from monsters, and rescue damsels in distress.

To conquer Hecubah, you must find the Or (the source of power and authority) and harness its power to create the Staff of Oblivion. This Staff will enable you to fight Hecubah and win.

You can play Nox in standalone mode or with up to 16 other people over the Internet or a LAN connection. Nox supports Windows NT, 98, and 95 and is available through retail channels for the suggested price of U.S. $39.95. For more information about Nox, visit http://www.westwood.com/games/nox. You can also call 1-888-212-1702 or 1-650-628-7555.

To send your review of a great web site, network resource, game, or new product to editors@nwconnection.com. If we print your review, we’ll send you a free NetWare Connection T-shirt.