

Make Your Vote Count

Leslie Miller

Throughout the United States, the race for the White House is heating up. Can you truly believe what the U.S. presidential candidates are saying, or is it all just hype? Luckily, finding out information about the candidates is easier than ever before: You can simply browse through the myriad web sites devoted to the U.S. presidential campaign. The web sites featured in this article are just a few of the many web sites devoted to current campaigns. After you have decided which candidate will capture your vote, be sure to check out this month's network resources and game of the month.

WEB SITES

You can visit the official web sites for the U.S. presidential candidates to find out what they are saying about the campaign and the issues. Listed below are the web sites for the major presidential candidates, as well as the web sites of the political parties sponsoring those candidates listed in alphabetical order.

Candidates

- www.algore2000.com
- www.buchananreform.com
- www.georgewbush.com
- www.hagelin.org
- www.harrybrowne2000.org
- www.votener.com

Political Parties

- www.democrats.org
- www.greenparty.org
- www.lp.org
- www.reformparty.org
- www.rnc.org

However, if you want a nonpartisan view on the campaign, be sure to check out the following web sites.

At **Project Vote Smart** (www.vote-smart.org), you can do your own research on candidates. For example, you can browse through candidate speeches, voting records, campaign finances, position statements, and backgrounds. You will also find evaluations of candidates from more than 100 competing special-interest groups.

Project Vote Smart features more than presidential candidates. You can also find information about Congressional candidates from all over the United States. One of my favorite features of Project Vote Smart is the National Political Awareness Test. By taking the test, you can determine which presi-

dential and Congressional candidates most closely match your own views and priorities.

You can also order the free *Voter's Self-Defense Manual*. This 78-page book is loaded with facts on the candidates, including a compact sampling of voting records, campaign finance data, competing special-interest groups' performance evaluations, and contact information.

At **SpeakOut.com** (www.speakout.com), you can learn about issues and make your opinions about those issues known. SpeakOut.com is divided into five sections—news, issues, election 2000, take action, and forums.

In the news section, you can follow the latest developments in campaigning, legislation, and politics. The issues section enables you to choose the issues that you feel most strongly about and follow the national and local developments that affect those issues. In the election 2000 section, you can learn more about the candidates for next month's elections, including their stance on specific issues and their latest campaign activities. The take-action and forums sections feature tools you can use to make your views known to both politicians and other concerned citizens.

In addition to being a fun and informative destination web site, SpeakOut.com is an online opinion research company. For example, SpeakOut.com takes the traditional market research focus group and political polls and puts them online where you can make your voice heard. You can participate in chats, debates, and online surveys, and you can sign petitions.

SpeakOut.com features several tools you can use to become more active in the political process. For example, you can send a letter to your congressional representative directly from SpeakOut.com. In addition, you can use the Vote Match Presidential Selector to find out how your opinions match with the opinions of the candidates.

The Center for Responsive Politics sponsors **OpenSecrets.org** (www.opensecrets.org). The mission of OpenSecrets.org is to make federally mandated campaign finance information easily available. At OpenSecrets.org, you can find out how much funding each candidate has raised. In addition, you can learn who made the biggest contributions to the campaigns: Contributors are listed by name and by category.

OpenSecrets.org provides financial information for both national campaigns and local Congressional campaigns. In the local section of OpenSecrets.org, you can look at the disbursement of money in a wide range of categories. For example, you can identify the geographic origin of money given to candidates for local campaigns. You can also enter a zip code to find out who is making political donations in your area, which

candidates your neighbors are supporting, and more.

NETWORK RESOURCES

According to *NetWare Connection* reader Theodore Pierson, **NetworkingNews.org** (www.networkingnews.org) offers everything a network pro craves. For example, on the NetworkingNews.org home page, you will find breaking headline news and links to sections featuring additional news stories. To make it easier to find the news that relates to your job, NetworkingNews.org divides news into categories, such as network security, web applications, and operating systems. Each day, NetworkingNews.org monitors news reports and posts the most important and interesting news stories in the appropriate category.

NetworkingNews.org also features several sections devoted to fun and games. For example, you can visit the Server Names section to share your favorite names for your servers or to get ideas from other networking professionals. You can also visit the networking games section to find information about the latest networking games and online gaming communities.

At **Novell Developer Labs** (<http://developer.com/devlabs>), you can gain knowledge of and expertise with Novell products and application programming interfaces (APIs), enabling you to develop products that integrate with Novell's products. For example, you can learn about integrating your company's products such as NDS eDirectory, DirXML, Novell Modular Authentication Services (NMAS), DirXML, ConsoleOne snap-in modules, and Novell Single Sign-on.

If you think that your company can benefit from a visit to Novell Developer Labs, you should enter the Novell Developer Labs Contest. One lucky *NetWare Connection* reader will win a free two-day visit to Novell Developer Labs. To enter the contest, you must submit a business case for a new solution that your company wants to implement using Novell technologies and products. Your company can either be currently working on this solution, or you can submit a new idea that your company wants to pursue. Novell Developer Labs will judge the entries based on the following criteria: innovation, feasibility, and marketability. You can find a template for the business case at <http://developer.novell.com/devlabs/contest>. You

can then submit your entry in one of the following ways:

- Send your business case as an attachment to an e-mail message that is addressed to devlab@novell.com. (The subject of the e-mail message should be "Novell Developer Labs Contest.")
- Send your business case via fax to 1-801-861-5224. Address the fax to DeAnn Lamph. (The subject of the fax should be "Novell Developer Labs Contest.")

Entries must be submitted before October 16, 2000. Entries received after this date will not be accepted.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Homeworld: Cataclysm from Sierra Studios is the first official "episode" within the Homeworld universe, taking you back to the setting of Homeworld roughly 15 years after the events of the original game ended. Homeworld: Cataclysm features a new interface, as well as new features such as gateways and sensor-manager attack commands.

In the Homeworld: Cataclysm campaign, you begin by commanding a sect—or kiith—that has been marginalized after your people's victorious return to their homeworld of Hiigara. You represent one of the lesser kiithid, a group of miners called the *Somtaaw*. Most of your people were killed in the Imperial attack on Kharak, and the majority of the remainder were in cryogenic suspension during the subsequent migration and conflict.

Because your kiith has greatly shrunk and did not play a major role in the homecoming, it has lost a good deal of prestige and now struggles for land rights and political influence on the homeworld. When a fleet owned by one of the more powerful kiithid is beset by a remnant of the old Empire, your mining operation answers the distress call.

What starts as a bid to win respect becomes an ordeal of ultimate consequence as the battle takes you into a path of a seemingly invincible alien terror. Traveling into uncharted space to repel an attack against another kiith, your fleet meets an alien probe that harbors an ancient evil. As events unravel, you must survive the onslaught of an enemy with terrifying abilities you can't match, fight off opportunistic Turanic Raiders, and deflect the firepower of Imperial loyalists who are intent on destroying you and reclaiming Hiigara.

Just as in the original Homeworld, Homeworld: Cataclysm revolves around a central command ship. However, this ship features an entirely new class of fighting. In addition, Homeworld: Cataclysm includes new methods to gain the resources you need to wage a successful battle and obtain support craft with new technologies and weapons.

In multiplayer mode, Homeworld: Cataclysm supports up to eight players, each playing on one of two different sides. You can play in multiplayer mode over a modem connection, LAN, or via the WON.net online gaming community.

Homeworld: Cataclysm supports Windows NT, 98, and 95. You can purchase Homeworld: Cataclysm through retail channels for the suggested price of U.S. \$39.95. For more information, visit <http://homeworld.sierra.com/cataclysm>. You can also call 1-425-746-5771.

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