Editor’s Note

Over the past 10 years, I have interviewed a lot of Novell executives. Sometimes I had an inside perspective as a Novell employee, but more recently, I’ve interviewed executives as an interested third-party. When I had the opportunity to interview Chris Stone, Novell vice chairman, office of the CEO, I was curious and, I have to admit, a little skeptical. Being skeptical is, after all, a requirement of being a journalist. I, like many of you, have watched a number of executives come and go at Novell, and I wondered what would make Chris different from those who had preceded him.

I knew Chris had worked for Novell before, although I had never met him or even heard him speak. Interestingly, I found that one of our writers had interviewed Chris four years ago. (See “Chris Stone: Novell’s Senior Vice President Explains the OSA Initiative,” Novell Connection, May 1998, pp. 22–23.) As I read through that old interview and then read what Chris was saying now, I discovered something rather surprising: Chris was saying many of the same things today that he said four years ago. Specifically, four years ago, he was pushing Novell toward open standards and open protocols. Today, he is mandating that Novell completely embrace those standards and open protocols.

During the interview, I was more surprised by how open and straightforward Chris was. He didn’t avoid questions; he didn’t give pat answers. He did, however, reveal that he has a vision of what the company can be and promises that he will be “relentless” in pursuing that vision. I was impressed, and I think you will be, too. This interview is a must-read, for both you and your boss. (See “Chris Stone: Stitching Together a Winning Company” on p. 6.)

As the cover shows, this issue also contains an article about Novell BorderManager, which Novell is updating to version 3.7. Novell Connection has followed this product since it was first released and, in this article, author Cheryl Walton gives you an update on new features and functionality. (See “Novell BorderManager 3.7: Controlling Access Inside and Out” on p. 12.)

Because of the disaster of September 11, we thought it would be a good idea to look at disaster recovery again. Alan Mark brings a unique perspective to this issue. Part of his job is helping companies set up their security and plan for disaster recovery. In other words, he has “real world” experience in disaster recovery. As Alan points out in his article, one thing is certain: The risks your company faces will continue to increase, rather than to decrease. (See “Disaster Recovery in the 21st Century” on p. 26.)

Of course, one of those risks is hackers, which you may be able to detect or block by monitoring the traffic on your company’s network. Although you may not live at the packet level, as Laura Chappell does, you can learn to build filters that will help you monitor the packets sent across the wire. You can use these filters to troubleshoot network problems as well as to identify hackers. Laura makes it easy. (See “Protocol Filtering: Catching the Cool Packets” on p. 37.)

Incidentally, you may be able to attend one of Laura’s lectures or two-day hands-on labs. Laura is “touring” the United States; if you are interested in attending one of her classes, see the ad on page 41.

Finally, in this issue, we welcome back “Online Connection.” Find out how to use your GPS device for fun—and I don’t mean using the GPS to find your car in the parking lot. (Yes, I do know someone who does that—just for fun.)

Debi Pearson
PICKUP CaminoSoft Ad from March Issue; Make sure that updated text is in place.