

Concepts of Community

Assignment 1, a visit to the WELL

Prepared by Ari Davidow

for Professor Marie Kennedy

for Concepts of Community

10 March, 2000

A visit to the WELL

There are so many types of online community, and at the same time, the concept of community as something that can have online dimensions is so new, that I thought that I would formally write this assignment and turn it into a short, formal tour of the WELL. Rather like the narrator in Dylan Thomas' "Under Milkwood," let us pay a visit to the neighborhood and see who is about and what it is like. Hopefully, this visit will at least provide some context for considering the last assignments of the course.

There are two ways to visit the WELL. It was originally designed to work in a text-only mode, where one would dial up one's computer and connect directly to the WELL's computer via modem. Today, this same mode of visit is still available, although now we connect to the Internet via any usual method, and use software called "telnet" to provide that vital "text only" experience. There is a second way of visiting the WELL, using a web browser, and seeing a whole page's worth of information and graphics at once. This is slower, and lacks some of the complexity of the original WELL, leading to some ongoing discussion as to which mode is better/worse, and how that darn browser interface means the end of the WELL as we know it. This latter statement, of course, is true. Like a shiny new boulevard through town, the web interface does make it easier for people to come to the WELL, but at the expense of some of the closeness and sense of "presence" that many people, myself included, find in the older interface. In this, I find the parallels between what happens on the WELL as a community, and the neighborhoods described by Jane Jacobs in her *Live and Death of Great American Cities* intensely close.

But, here we are. I am on the internet, I have activated my telnet application, asked to

connect to the WELL, and am logged in.

Last login: Sat Mar 11 08:47:03 2000 from h0800075e7002.ne

Welcome to The WELL

You own your own words. This means that you are responsible for the words that you post on the WELL and that reproduction of those words without your permission in any medium outside of the WELL's conferencing system may be challenged by you, the author.

*** Support is in the welcome conference or (415) 645-9300;
at www.well.com/tools.html or mail helpdesk@well.com ***

The WELL's main office has moved to San Francisco. Our new phone number is (415) 645-9300.

DOWNTIME NOTICE: The mail server, mail.well.com, will be down for maintenance on Sunday, Mar 12, from about 3-7pm. Mail will not be available during this downtime. Incoming mail will be spooled for later retrieval.

Checking mail: No new mail for ari@well.com
You have 0 messages left in your .inbox from the last session.

aleonard amicus andrewb ari arturner badri beth brady brucet btanaka
btanaka carapace davi du digaman drew dstoller duck ernie foggy gjk
heyjude hknape hrh janey jef katecat katecat kayo lava leo1 lolly lynette
mal exand mcarp mgouker mike mike minimo mnemonic mtd nharkins nharkins
nharkins nharkins nharkins nharkins nharkins obsolete oh oh oz peoples pk
plum polito proctor rik satyr scott scraps solovay strega swami swoopcat
wendyg wi ggly zol tan zuni

I think every good Christian ought to kick Falwell right in the ass.

-- Barry Goldwater

well 17:

So, what am I seeing? I can tell when I was last online (a few minutes ago, in this case), and where I was when I logged in (this is useful as a quick check—did someone steal my password?). There is the “motd”—the “message of the day,” which has been up for several weeks letting me know that the physical offices have moved. There is, fortunately, no mail for me. (I have my mail automatically sent elsewhere—were there mail, something would be

broken.) Then there is that list of logins—that's who else is online, using telnet, at this time. If I want, I can send an instant message to anyone on the list, just as people today use AIM or ICQ. In this case, however, I can only message or be messaged by people in the neighborhood. The penultimate paragraph, the Barry Goldwater quote, is something I set up for myself: On each login, the computer looks through its file of mean quotes and gives me one at random. Then the computer gives me a prompt, in this case, "well17:" to let me know that it is ready for me to visit the neighborhood.

I don't need to immediately see what's up. I can hang around the house for a while and compose e-mail (I could check it, as well, if I got mail here). Maybe I want to send an instant message, or use the WELL's editor to write something, or to work on some computer tools. I maintain some web pages on the WELL, and from this interface, I might choose to work on them and update them. In the early days of the WELL, public access to a Unix computer system was rare—some people would log on and do their programming here, or have access to Unix tools that weren't available on their Mac's or Amigas or PCs. The WELL also provided a gateway to the Internet's first general public discussion forums, Usenet (aka, "news groups"). These uses are less important today, although it turns out that access to usenet is less and less common, so the WELL is once again significant for those who desire that gateway. It is important to realize, too, that people using the browser interface to the WELL have access *only* to the discussion forums. It's as though those of us who use the text interface can wander anywhere in the neighborhood, but browser-only users have other neighborhoods online, in which the one unique piece, the WELL's discussion forums, are the part that matters; the rest is unnecessary or irrelevant. But, I promised a visit to the neighborhood, so let me grab some non-virtual coffee and start typing.

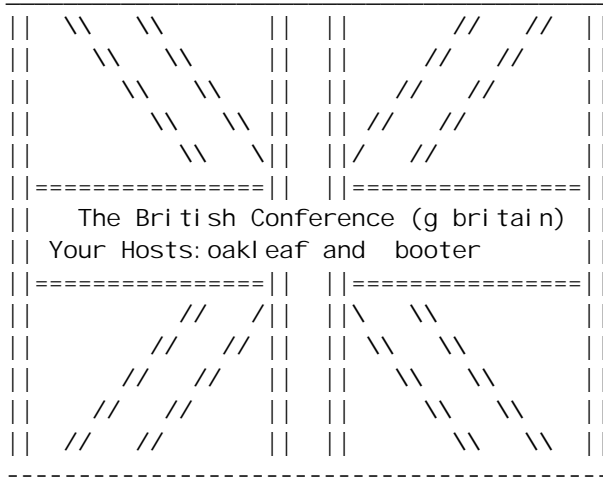
As is the case with a physical neighborhood, I can walk anywhere I choose, but I have long ago set up a list of discussion areas that I regularly visit. The WELL's neighborhood is divided up into dozens of such areas. There are "official" areas—what are called, "featured conferences," popular discussion areas ranging from "gardening" to "politics" to "sex" and "news" and "unclear." Then there are the independent offerings—any member can open one or two independent discussion areas at will. Usually, these are places to discuss special subjects with friends, but sometimes they take on a life of their own. Most programmers regular visit specialized discussion areas such as "perl.ind" or "databases.ind;" those who enjoy the macho gladiator mode, might visit "flames.ind" where participants are encouraged to be rude to each other (to "flame" each other, in online parlance). Finally, there are the private conferences. These, too, can be set up by anyone at any time, but there is no way to tell how many there are, beyond a few "featured" private conferences, such as the backstage area where conference moderators, ("hosts", in WELL parlance) discuss their work, or "women on the WELL," a women-only discussion area.

So, what I tend to do, unless I am checking up on something special, it to take my usual walk through the neighborhood to see what's new. I let the software take me through all of my usual stops, looking to see if there is anything new on the way. Every so often, if I wanted, I could use various search tools to see if a subject I am newly interesting in is being discussed somewhere. If it is, I might add my own new questions (or might have them answered) or comments. If not, I'll start a new discussion.

As it happens, this morning, I am going to first direct my steps to "british", (go british, in WELL parlance). We're going to London at the end of June and I am rummaging about for good

restaurants, upcoming events, internet questions, and the like. Yesterday, I searched through the conference and posted questions in a couple of likely areas. Let's see what is happening today:

well 17: go british
Pi coSpan. WELL versi on W2.05f (1999/12/31).
Copyright (c) 1984 (versi on T3.2), NETI.



3 newresponse topics
First topic 1, last 132

Topic 9 [british]: Politics British style
Started by: John Pettitt (jpettit) on Wed, Jul 6, '94
406 responses so far

<linked topic>

2 new of 406 responses total.

Topic 9 [british]: Politics British style
#405 of 406: Kill a tree for Jesus (andrewb) Fri Mar 10 '00 (02:59) 6 lines

that's the fifth copy of this I've seen today. Couldn't it be encrypted or something?

Thanks for the info on the politics. I found the international chairman of democrats abroad. I will now attempt to make him interesting.

Topic 9 [british]: Politics British style
#406 of 406: IHTFC (wendyg) Fri Mar 10 '00 (04:35) 10 lines

No, but it can be hidden (now that you've already seen it).

Response 404 is an announcement of Scrambling for Safety 2000, public meeting on the RIP bill, to be held March 22 at the LSE.

(I mean, now that it's too late for it not to annoy you.)

404: the Bermuda Triangle of Internet numbers.

wg

Respond (r), pass (Return) or help (?):

I have set myself up so that I see the conference banner—note the Union Jack “ASCII art,” then the computer tells me how many topics (the actual threads of discussion) have new postings, how many topics there are in all, and immediately jumps me into the first topic with new postings. In this case, I am obviously coming late to an exchange, and as it happens, not an exchange about which I am curious. I could go back a few messages and see what they're talking about, but don't feel particularly interested this morning. <wendyg> is usually a reasonable person, someone I've seen around for many years (and perhaps will meet while I'm in London), and likewise for <andrewb>.

I decline to add to this conversation, and likewise, have nothing to say to the discussion of British desserts and the gloomy news that online access is going to be expensive, regardless of what I do. There, since I asked the original question, I do type out a “sheesh, maybe I'll spend the week offline and too darn bad” before proceeding to the next stop.

In the Jewish discussion area that I co-host, there are some Sabbath greetings (something unique and neutral to this discussion area—a nice way to check in just to say, “hi,”) and a discussion about someone's experience with a synagogue that separates men and women and how weird it felt. I add my two cents, knowing that this will probably be the latest in the usual

difficult discussions between those who, otherwise seem almost modern, but who accept religious patriarchy, and those who don't. This might seem minor, but this is also the type of discussion that will not naturally happen elsewhere—the two types of people don't mix face-to-face in circumstances that facilitate talking. For this—for the discussions about circumcision and the intifada, and for the explorations of history and family, I feel that the discussion area has contributed to something new that matters.

The next area on my list with a new posting is “words,” where someone is asking about the word that describes words such as “higgeldy piggeldy” or “topsy turvy”. There are numerous word games and discussions about every facet of “word” that can be imagined here, although I steer clear of most of them. Time! Who has enough time?

Nothing new in the first wave of technical areas I monitor for professional reasons, although there is a discussion about “polymorphism” in the “software” discussion area that makes me very, very aware of what a poser I am among those people who really care about programming. Nothing new in “non-profits,” which is generally quite sleepy.

Over in “work” there is a discussion of employee benefits—what someone's rights are vis a vis COBRA if she is leaving the state that I likewise note, but am have nothing to say about today. On the other hand, in that “backstage” conference I mentioned earlier, a discussion about holding a writing contest in “eros” has drifted into a discussion of bookstores and how one of the owners of McIntyre and Moore once worked at Powells, in Oregon. There is general agreement that Powells is the world's most wonderful bookstore. I am pleased to add my own two cents. The WELL is a good place to discuss bookstores. Nothing interested in the classified ad section. Sometimes, this section is worth reading just for the comments and questions about the ads. It's

too bad other online systems don't have a similar way of treating advertisements.

Moving on, I find a lively renewed discussion of "toast" in the "unclear" conference. <kd>, my friend Kathy Dalton, has been exploring English muffins lately. We all chime in. Then it's on to a discussion of polling places. A friend from Seattle mentions that the nicest polling place he ever had was in a greenhouse.

I should explain that the WELL views conferences as very broad categories, and has been willing to open a discussion area on any topic, so long as people are interested and the hosts are having fun. It has also encouraged as broad a discussion of what might be appropriate discussions in a given conference as possible, and when something seems particularly juicy, it can be shared, or "linked" between two or more conferences, so that people visiting different conferences participate in the same discussion string. So, several years ago, a place to push the edges, "weird" was formed. But, to be truthful, "weird" was often cruel, and often not amusing. So a lighter version of "weird" was begun, called "misc." Then "misc" got raided by "weird" and the host of "misc" got mean, so a group of folks broke off and set up the similarly amorphous "unclear." Since friends of mine co-host "unclear," I tend to stop by frequently and say a few words.

Over in "music" there are some tickets to concerts available, a discussion of Lou Harrison, and I can contribute a bit to the spelling of the bazouki player in the band, "Kaleidoscope," having listened to one of their early albums just this morning. (They were on my mind from earlier postings in the topic.). Nothing particularly interesting in "new music," the breakaway conference that was formed for people who didn't (in the opinion of "new music"'s founders) find the Grateful Dead seminal. But often the reverse is true.

Holy digression! The wonderful topic about the New York Review of Books, which I

read regularly for note of both interesting books, and must-read articles in the NYRB, has been hijacked by the question of who wrote the gospels, which has degenerated in to a discussion of whether Jack Benny would be better cast as Pilate or as Jesus. In between are references to lots of books on the subject, in which I happen to have no immediate interest. Sigh. Will this topic ever get back to the NYRB? Why are we digressing to the source of the joke about Dan Quayle wishing he had studied Latin in school so he could understand people in Latin America? Elsewhere in “books,” lots of discussion about great cookbooks and plenty of people mad at amazon.com over recent patent claims. In “The Book I am Reading,” some not-so-interesting-sounding books and some interesting talk about which Feynman book to read and in what ways he was sexist, or objectified women, or both.

Back in the news topic, no one is very sick at the moment, but a couple of scary operations are coming up. In the “experts” topic, there seems to be general agreement that cleaning out one’s central heating ducts can be a good thing, especially if one lives with pets. Elsewhere, William Colvig, longtime partner of composer Lou Harrison, has passed away. Turns out, people knew him, his brother, the brother’s son or grandson.

A few minutes later, I am done. Somewhere in there I exchanged instant messages with a friend from Toronto, and with another friend in Maine. Now I will type “bye” and end the session. “Logout” also works.

I hope that this brief tour (albeit far longer than the assignment expected) helps create a sense of what it feels like to “walk” this type of neighborhood, and what the various streets and sidewalks look like.

Appendix A: Featured Conferences on the WELL

ART AND LITERATURE

| Subject | Conference | Subject | Conference |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Arts | arts | Mysteri es | noi r |
| Books | books | Photography | pho |
| Byl i ne: Freel anc ers | byl i ne | Poetry | poetry |
| Comi cs | comi cs | Sci ence Fi cti on | sf |
| Desi gn | desi gn | Screenwri ti ng | screen |
| Fi lmmaki ng | fi l m | Theater | theat |
| Li brary Users | luc | Words | words |
| Mi rrorshades: Cyberpunk | mi rror | Wri ters | wri |
| % | | | |

BODY, MI ND AND HEALTH

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bi ol ogy | bi ol ogy | Hol i sti cs | hol i |
| Brai nstorm | brai n | Hospi ce | hospi ce |
| Cooki ng | cook | Phi l osophy | phi |
| Dreams | dream | Psychol ogy | psy |
| Drugs | drugs | Recovery (l i mi ted) | recovery. pri |
| Eros | eros | Rel i gi on | rel i gi on |
| Ethi cs | ethi cs | Sexual i ty | sex |
| Fi tness | fi tness | Statements | statements |
| Heal th | heal | Spi ri tual i ty | spi ri t |
| % | | | |

BUSI NESS AND LI VELI HOOD

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------|------------|
| Adverti si ng | ads | Legal | l egal |
| Agri cul ture | agri | Nonprofi ts | non |
| Busi ness | bi z | Pal mtop Computers | pal m |
| Busi ness and Technol ogy | bi ztech | Techni cal Wri ti ng | techwri te |
| Byl i ne: Freel anc ers | byl i ne | Tel ecommuni cati ng | tel ecom |
| Cl assi fi eds | cl a | Thri ft | thri ft |
| Consul tants | consul t | Screenwri ters | screen |
| Edi tors | edi t | Sustai nabl i ty | sust |
| Fi lmmaki ng | fi l m | World Wi de Web | web |
| Futures | fut | Work and Workpl ace | work |
| Investments | i nvest | Wri ters | wri |
| % | | | |

COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
| Business and Technology | bi ztech | MI DI | mi di |
| Computers | compu | Mi l lenni um | y2k |
| Hacki ng/Cracki ng | hack | Pal mtop Computers | pal m |
| IBM PC | i bm | Software Devel opment | software |
| Internet | i nternet | Techni cal Wri ti ng | techwri te |
| Java | j ava | Tel ecommuni cati ng | tel ecom |
| Li nux | l i nux | Uni x | uni x |
| Maci ntosh | mac | Wi ndows | wi ndows |
| Mactech | mactech | Worl d Wi de Web | web |
| % | | | |

EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Brai nstorm | brai n | Homeowners | home |
| Cul tures | cul tures | Languages | l anguage |
| Desi gn | desi gn | Li brary Users | l uc |
| Drugs | drugs | Nonprofi ts | non |
| Earthquakes & Di sasters | quake | Phi losophy | phi l |
| Educati on | ed | Recovery (l i mi ted) | recovery. pri |
| Energy | power | Sexual i ty | sex |
| Experts (Q&A) | experts | Transportati on | transport |
| Futures | future | Travel | travel |
| % | | | |

ETC, ETC, ETC....

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Boomers | boom | Mi scel l aneous | mi sc |
| Brai nstorm | brai n | Ni ghtowl s (12am-6am PT) | owl |
| Cl assi fi eds | cl ass | Scams | scams |
| Experts (Q&A) | experts | Ti ps | ti ps |
| Fri nges of Reason | fri nges | Uncl ear | uncl ear |
| Generati on X | genx | Veterans | vets |
| Li es | l i es | Wei rd | wei rd |
| Li fe Stori es | l i fe | | |
| % | | | |

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------|
| Bay Area Toni ght | bat | New York Food | nyfood |
| Comi cs | comi cs | Parti es: Onl i ne & Off | party |
| Crafts | crafts | Popul ar Cul ture | popcul t |
| Dri nks | dri nks | Restaurants | rest |
| Fi l mmaki ng | fi l m | Sci ence Fi cti on TV | sftv |
| Jokes | j okes | Screenwri ti ng | screen |
| Mi l lenni um | 2000 | Star Trek | trek |
| Movi es | movi es | Tel evi si on | tv |
| Movi es on Vi deo | vi deo | Theater | theater |
| % | | | |

HANGOUTS AND SOCIAL SCENES

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Boomers | boom | Men on the WELL (lim) | mow.pri |
| Couples | love | MUDs and MUSEs | mu |
| FemX (limited) | femx.pri | Nightowls (12am-6am PT) | owl |
| Gay and Lesbian | gay | Image: Fashion | pl image |
| Generation X | genx | Singles | si ngl es |
| Grateful Dead | gd | Unclear | uncl ear |
| Lies | lies | Weird | wei rd |
| Miscellaneous | mi sc | Women on the WELL (lim) | wow.pri |
| % | | | |

HOME AND FAMILY

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Classifieds | cl ass | Hospice | hospi ce |
| Cooking | cook | Life Stories | li fe |
| Couples | coupl es | Parenting | parent |
| Cultures | cul tures | Pets | pets |
| Fitness | fi t | Statements | statements |
| Gardening | garden | Thrift | thri ft |
| Homeowners | home | Travel | travel |
| % | | | |

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| Advertising | ad | Popular Culture | popcul t |
| BOING BOING | bb | Radio | rad |
| Byline: Freelancers | byl ine | Screenwriting | screen |
| Editors | edi t | Technical Writing | techwri te |
| Filmaking | fi lm | Tel ecommuni cati ng | tel ecom |
| FrigeWare | fw | Television | tv |
| Languages | l anguage | Whole Earth Review | wer |
| Media | medi a | WIRED | wi red |
| Muchomedia: Multimedia | mucho | World Wide Web | web |
| Photography | pho | Writers | wri ters |
| % | | | |

MUSIC

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Audio | audi o | Grateful Dead Peak | gdpeak |
| Band (limited) | band.pri | Grateful Dead Tapes | tapes |
| Beatles | beat | H. O. R. D. E. | horde |
| Classical Music | cl assi c | Jazz | jazz |
| Digital Media | di gi tal | MIDI | mi di |
| Bob Dylan | dyl an | Music | musi c |
| Grateful Dead | gd | New Music | newmusi c |
| Grateful Dead Hour | gdh | Tickets | ti ckets |
| Grateful Dead Lit. | deadli t | Tours | tours |
| % | | | |

RECREATION AND ADVENTURE

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Bicycling | bi ke | Games | games |
| Boating | boat | Gardening | garden |
| Cars | cars | Golf | gol f |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Chess | chess | Motorcycl ing | ri de |
| Collect. and Antiques | collect | Outdoors | out |
| Cooking | cook | Pets | pets |
| Crafts | crafts | Photography | photo |
| Drinks | dri nks | Pl umage: Fashi on | pl umage |
| Fi rearms | guns | Sports | sports |
| Fi tness | fi tness | Travel | travel |
| Fl yi ng | fl yi ng | Wi ldl i fe | wi ld |
| % | | | |

REGIONAL COMMUNI TIES

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------|
| Berkel ey | berk | Oakl and | oak |
| Bri tai n | bri tai n | Paci fi c Northwest | nw |
| Canada | canada | Paci fi c Ri m | pacri m |
| East Coast | east | Peni nsul a, South Bay | pen |
| France | france | Phi l adel phi a | phi lly |
| Hawai i | aloha | Rocky Mountai ns | rocky |
| Mi dwest | mi dwest | San Franci sco | sanfran |
| New York | ny | Southern Cal i forni a | socal |
| North Bay | north | South | south |
| % | | | |

SCI ENCE, NATURE AND ENVI RONMENT

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------|
| Agri cul ture | agri | Sci ence | sci ence |
| Bi ol ogy | bi o | Space | space |
| Earthquakes & Di sasters | quake | Sustai nabi l i ty | sust |
| Energy | energy | Wi ldl i fe | wi ldl i fe |
| Outdoors | out | | |
| % | | | |

SOCI AL SCI ENCES, CULTURES AND RELI GI ON

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Boomers | boom | Hi story | hi story |
| Bri tai n | bri tai n | Jewi sh | jew |
| Buddhi sm | buddhi sm | Languages | l anguages |
| Chri sti ani ty | cross | Mi rrorshades: Cyberpunk | mi rror |
| Cul tures | cul tures | Phi losophy | phi l |
| Eros | eros | Psychol ogy | psych |
| Eti quette | eti quette | Rel i gi on | rel i gi on |
| Ethi cs | ethi cs | Sexual i ty | sex |
| France | france | Spi ri tual i ty | spi ri t |
| Futures | future | Vi rtual Communi ti es | vc |
| Gay and Lesbi an | gay | Vi ol ence | vi ol ence |
| Generati on X | genx | | |
| % | | | |

WELL CUSTOMS, POLI CI ES AND HELP

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------|
| Archi ves | archi ves | Parti es: Onl i ne and Off | party |
| Best of the WELL | best | Test | test |
| Di gest of WELL News | di gest | Ti ps | ti ps |
| Engaged | engaged | WELL News/Announcements | news |
| Hosts | host | WELL Pol i cy | pol i cy |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------------|
| MetaWELL | meta | WELLcome and Help | wel l come |
| New Topics on the WELL | newtops | WELL Technical Issues | wel l tech |
| % | | | |

WOMEN AND MEN

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| Couples | couples | Men on the WELL (lim) | mow.pri |
| Eros | eros | Plumage: Fashion | plumage |
| FemX (limited) | femx | Sexuality | sex |
| Gay and Lesbian | gay | Singles | singles |
| Gay and Lesbian (lim) | gay.pri | Women on the WELL (lim) | wow.pri |
| % | | | |

WORLD AFFAIRS, POLITICS AND LAW

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Computers, Freedom and Privacy | cfp | Legal | legal |
| Current Events | current | Pacific Rim | pacrim |
| Electronic Frontier Foundation | eff | Politics | pol |
| Energy | energy | Transportation | transport |
| Fi rearms | fi rearms | Unity | uni ty |
| % | | Violence | vi ol ence |
| | | War | war |

FEATURED LIMITED ACCESS CONFERENCES ON THE WELL

The following conferences are open to interested WELL members who meet the admission criteria established by the individual hosts. Mail the host(s) listed for information.

Alternatively, you may also establish your own limited access Independent conference and hang out a shingle in the Independent Zone, or make a Private (unlisted) conference and invite your own associates or friends.

| Subject | Conference | For admission |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Band (working musicians) | band.pri | mail tnf or rik |
| Gay and Lesbian (limited) | gay.pri | mail judge |
| Grateful Dead Rumors | grapevine.pri | mail rebop or phred |
| Men on the WELL (MOW) | mow.pri | mail flash |
| Recovery | recovery.pri | mail dhawk or jrc |
| Women on the WELL (WOW) | wow.pri | mail barbg or kd |
| % | | |

VUE CONFERENCES

| Subject | Conference | Subject | Conference |
|---------|-------------|---------|------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Inkwell | inkwell.vue | | |
| % | | | |

THE INDEPENDENT ZONE

Independent conferences are run by individuals as they see fit. Some have admission criteria, others are open to anyone. For information on starting your own independent conference, or a totally unlisted private conference,

type hosts at an OK prompt.

There will be a 24 hour + delay before Independent Zone listings appear.
Check back soon!

| Name: | Description: | Access: |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| 4track.ind | Home recording | (open) |
| abylampoon.ind | The WELL place to lampoon good | (open) |
| acen.ind | dedicated to contemporary art and communication technology | (open) |
| add.ind | Attention Deficit Disorder | (open) |
| ai zudai .ind | University of Aizu - A Cross-Cultural Experiment in Japan | (open) |
| aldena.ind | Autocrat of the Periodic Table | (open) |
| altnetwork.ind | FidoNet and other alternative computer networks. | (open) |
| amnesty.ind | Amnesty International bulletins | (open) |
| animation.ind | Animation Lovers, this is the place to talk about it! | (open) |
| arch.ind | Architecture, Landscape architecture, and urban design. | (open) |
| armoivre.ind | Cabinetry of Lust | (open) |
| barefoot.ind | Take off your shoes and come on in. | (open) |
| bass.ind | Bass players, acoustic and electric | (open) |
| be.ind | The new computer operating system from Be | (open) |
| belgium.ind | Let's parler about this tiny country, or drift about the BENELUX and other countries | (open) |
| belltower.ind | Ever wanted to climb into the bell tower with a rifle? Discuss. | email isaac |
| bigballs.ind | Honky-tonk, western swing, vintage country, roots music | (open) |
| bitch.ind | If it's bugging you, bitch about it here | (open) |

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| blair.ind | A repository for data about The WELL | (open) |
| bl.ind | Sightings from parallel universes | (open) |
| blither.ind | Musings | email wrk |
| bmugsig.ind | The BMUG (Berkeley Mac Users Group) conference | (open) |
| bodymod.ind | Tattooing, piercing, other modifications and their surrounding culture. | email jet |
| bondage.ind | SM, BD and related topics. | email jet |
| booksell.ind | Booksellers and related professionals, online or otherwise. | email gary |
| bsd.ind | *BSD* *nix | (open) |
| california.ind | Whatever involves the whole state gets special attention here. | (open) |
| camp.ind | Where summer camp and camping in general are discussed... | (open) |
| cartoon.ind | A Discussion of Television Cartoons, both daytime and primetime | (open) |
| cats.ind | Meow! | (open) |
| cd.ind | The modern music review of digital audio software | (open) |
| century.ind | About the century that is about to end | (open) |
| chiclit.ind | Lit for chics | email plum |
| chow.ind | Food -- you gotta love it! | (open) |
| cigar.ind | Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.... | (open) |
| class.ind | Independent Well Classifieds | (open) |
| cohousing.ind | Cohousing | (open) |
| comedy.ind | a place to discuss all types of comedic performance | (open) |
| commonloon.ind | Discussion of the state bird of Minnesota | email esoft |
| community.ind | Virtual Community Leaders | email carolen |

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| conspiracy.ind | To find out what they don't want you to know! | (open) |
| cpj.ind | Discussion on how computers are covered by print and broadcast media | (open) |
| dance.ind | DANCE - for the art, ritual, and fun of it | (open) |
| dancing.ind | Dancing, all kinds: for beginners or pros or spectators | (open) |
| db.ind | Conference for the discussion of relational databases (RDBMS) | (open) |
| debenham.ind | For endless cheese pants discussions on a variety of topics. | (open) |
| desire.ind | Freewheeling, friendly zone for discussion of sexuality, eroticism, and kink | (open) |
| diablo.ind | Contra Costa/Diablo Valley regional conference | (open) |
| digtart.ind | Artists, musicians and writers working in digital arts media | (open) |
| discuss.ind | The idea behind the event, the philosophy of the personal | (open) |
| eco.ind | economy & ecology. money theory & history. alternates. | (open) |
| electronic.ind | New indie from parts of the original house music conference. | (open) |
| everquest.ind | For players of Everquest | (open) |
| expat.ind | Expatriates - strangers in a strange land. | (open) |
| fetish.ind | Clothing, music, sex, food | email jet |
| flame.ind | Two men enter, one man leaves. | (open) |
| freestuff.ind | Where we give away the detritus we've accumulated | (open) |
| friction.ind | The frictionless workspace | (open) |
| fun.ind | Kellie's fun stuff, come visit! | (open) |
| geekforce.ind | Global Effort to Eradicate Know-nothings | email bix |

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| genealogy.ind | To share experiences about researching "family trees." | (open) |
| geo.ind | Under construction | email mc |
| geography.ind | Land, sea, air, and distribution of life on the planet | (open) |
| german.ind | A discussion of all things German | (open) |
| hell.ind | Everyone has one. This is mine | email craig1st |
| hicg.ind | The Human Interface Consultants Guild (www.hicg.org) | (email jleft) |
| hooked.ind | Lets talk with, and about 'hookers'.... | (open) |
| hypercard.ind | A place for stack developers, users, and other things Hypercardesque. | (open) |
| imo.ind | The opinion conference | (open) |
| in.ind | Understanding interactions: communication, conflict, and balance | (open) |
| irish.ind | Of things Irish/Celtic. | (open) |
| joeycat.ind | A place to talk about the wonder that WAS joeycat! | email marybeth |
| leftout.ind | Say it loud! I'm left-handed and proud! | (open) |
| liberty.ind | Discussions of libertarian ideas and solutions | (open) |
| lists.ind | Lists, catalogues, schedules, directories, indices, inventories, and rosters. | (open) |
| lost.ind | The lost generation | (open) |
| magazines.ind | Pamphlets, periodicals, and publications | (open) |
| math.ind | Hey you Einsteins! Let's talk about math. | (open) |
| mbti.ind | The Myers/Briggs Type Indicator | (open) |
| mexico.ind | There's a man at the door. Says his name is Tepoztecatl. | (open) |

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| midcoast.ind | Central Coast (Monterey, Seaside, Salinas- bashing at its best) | (open) |
| mildew.ind | A little damp spot in the back of the closet. Come closer. | (open) |
| mindgarden.ind | Where VR merges with brainwaves for education and therapy | (open) |
| mngvrtcomm.ind | To discuss Methods of Management in Virtual Communities | (open) |
| moe.ind | Distributing tapes and discussion of the band moe. | (open) |
| money.ind | Money. What *is* it about money? | (open) |
| monkey.ind | Monkey business, etc. | (open) |
| mp3.ind | MP3: What's New, What's Hot, What's Not | (open) |
| mumia.ind | Discussion of the Mumi a Abu-Jamal case | (open) |
| netlife.ind | Living the On-Line Life: A Book in Progress | email americ |
| networking.ind | Everything about networking you never wanted to know | (open) |
| news.ind | News Around the Nation and Around the World | (open) |
| nihil.ind | This is the most pointless conference on the WELL. | (open) |
| object.ind | Exploring the notion that living systems are 'Object-Oriented' | (open) |
| obsess.ind | Blither endlessly about your obsessions of any kind here. | (open) |
| oop.ind | Object Oriented Programmi ng Di scussi on | (open) |
| optical.ind | A place to discuss the optical field. | (open) |
| os2.ind | A conference for user and technical information about OS/2 | (open) |
| oz.ind | A place to talk about that magical land called Oz | (open) |

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| pagan.ind | Conference for Pagan and Neo-Pagan chatter and discussion. | (open) |
| parker.ind | Free-falling women | email carbary |
| perl.ind | All about the perl programming language. | (open) |
| phat.ind | Discussion of rap music and hip-hop culture. | (open) |
| polyamory.ind | Discussion of non-monogamous sexual and personal relationships | email mi cl an |
| polysex.ind | This conference is the place to discuss the uses of sexuality | (open) |
| pond.ind | For pond owners and lovers to compare notes and share information | (open) |
| pota.ind | Planet of . . . THE APES! on the WELL | (open) |
| public.ind | Public software written by WELL members | (open) |
| punk.ind | Discussion of Punk music and culture | email isaac |
| quotes.ind | Quotes! Of all kinds... | (open) |
| rab.ind | rab's semi-public Club Shack | email rab |
| readers.ind | The Readers Circle | email gaboy |
| realtime.ind | A place to talk about things as they happen. a speedy conf! | (open) |
| rosehips.ind | Pleasant. Tea, roses, mystery. | (open) |
| run.ind | All about running for physical/mental health, or just for fun! | (open) |
| sacto.ind | Sacramento and the surrounding valley | (open) |
| sarah.ind | A place for people named SARAH and it's cognates | email goodston |
| scorpio.ind | A home for those born from 10/23 - 11/23 | (open) |
| scrivener.ind | Try not to be so shy. | email viv |
| silly.ind | Samples of my SF writing, Harry Claude Cat's Toon Show, etc. | email silly |

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| ska.ind | Discussion of ska music | (open) |
| slicker.ind | Life in the Big City | (open) |
| sonoran.ind | A whole lot that's red hot | email bratwood |
| spanish.ind | A place to discuss anything in Spanish, or anything about the language and the people who speak it. | (open) |
| spiderwomn.ind | Spiderwoman: A community of women web designers | (open) |
| spring.ind | Austin virtual community via telnet & www.spring.com | (open) |
| spot.ind | g spot: its not hard to find if you know what you're looking f | email doxy |
| startup.ind | The world of startup companies | (open) |
| ssi.ind | To support and experience the online activities of Sacred Sites International | email rebop or mandala |
| swank.ind | The joint for swaggerin', swingin', and stylin', my friend. | (open) |
| sweeper.ind | SWEEPER testing and support Conference | (open) |
| techweb.ind | Technical Issues of web design | (open) |
| texas.ind | Texas related topics! | (open) |
| thrash.ind | all thrash, all the time | (open) |
| time.ind | A discussion of time management and other time issues | (open) |
| tibet.ind | Discussions of Tibet's culture, people, religions, and political struggle. | (open) |
| tinfoil.ind | what if i placed the call from a payphone? | (open) |
| tool.ind | Tools! Noissy software or coping tools! Just tools! | (open) |
| topicsoup.ind | A collection of links to current topics of interest | (open) |
| toys.ind | Toys for kids of all ages | (open) |

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| uforum.ind | UFORUM - A conference devoted UFOlogy, and related topics | (open) |
| ulysses.ind | You are reading (or have read) Joyce's Ulysses | (open) |
| unw.ind | The Unwind place where the unwind blows | (open) |
| vb.ind | All about Visual Basic programming | (open) |
| veggie.ind | Discussions and support of vegetarian living. | (open) |
| vestal.ind | A conference for single women | email goodston |
| wdl.ind | The Well Data Link: A Well batch access program for Windows | (open) |
| webservers.ind | Technical discussions of WWW servers | (open) |
| weecottage.ind | Goodston's Very Own Conference | (open) |
| weird.ind | | email ernie |
| wellheads.ind | Wellhead Central | (open) |
| wellhell.ind | Our own private corner of Hell | (open) |
| wine.ind | A conference to talk about, learn and love WINE! | (open) |
| woosworld.ind | For those in the know | email itilbury |
| writersmkt.ind | Discussion of successful ways writers have landed assignments | (open) |
| xml.ind | XML - eXtensible Markup Language | (open) |
| year.ind | A conference that will last for _exactly_ one year | (open) |
| zipper.ind | Adventures of the Clinton Presidency | (open) |
| zone.ind | | email mi rmi r |

