

# TECHNOLOGY

## The filthy world called Cyberspace

Every few days, it seems, television newscasts and newspapers carry reports of unspeakable acts conducted over the Internet. Pedophiles and maybe even prisoners trade pornography and tips on kidnapping, while trying to seduce children in electronic chat-rooms. Right-wing lunatics post recipes for explosives and rouse their members with paranoid visions of immense conspiracies that only they can overthrow.

Earlier this year, the United States Parole Commission, alarmed at the flotsam sifted from the data gurgling through the fiber optical pipes, added a new item to the list of things federal parolees can be kept from doing: owning firearms, drinking to excess, consorting with criminals, and now, using a computer to access the Internet.

The horror stories about the crimes made possible by this powerfully anarchic technology pale against the news last week that a cult of Southern California computer enthusiasts, who supported themselves making Web pages for businesses, committed mass suicide in preparation for a science-fiction version of the Rapture, in which they would be beamed aboard a UFO hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet.

Taking phenobarbital like Communion wafers, and following the drug with vodka chasers, they rested, shrouded in purple, and quietly awaited the ultimate trip.

Anyone who spends much time randomly wandering the Web may have found their delusion eerily familiar. For months rumors about the UFO and the comet have festered in

discussion groups and on Web pages all over the Net, sharing space with speculation about military plots to blow up TWA Flight 800 and the federal building in Oklahoma City, or to destroy Zairians with Ebola virus engineered in government labs.

The computer cult, with the sappy name Heaven's Gate, added to the group hallucination, using its own Web site to spread an ideology that combined Christianity and gnosticism with scenarios that could have come from watching too many X-Files reruns while reading the Weekly World News.

But the weirdest thing about their cut-and-paste religion was that it wasn't really so weird at all—at least not on the Internet, where one can leaf through digitally "enhanced" photos showing pyramids on Mars and a second Sphinx linked, through some ethereal connection probably involving resonating crystals, with the monuments of Egypt (which may have been built with the help of enlightened extraterrestrials).

Never mind that most of the Internet's acreage has been staked and furrowed for such respectable activities as collaborating on the Human Genome Project or trading recipes for German chocolate cake.

Real or imagined, such feelings are ripe for political exploitation. This became clear when Congress debated and hastily passed the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which makes it a crime to leave indecent material out on the Net where children can find it.

Earlier this month, the Clinton Administration — the very same

Administration that promised to put every child on line — went before the Supreme Court to defend the act, which was held unconstitutional by lower courts.

A lawyer for the administration described the Internet as "a revolutionary means for displaying sexually explicit, patently offensive ma-

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terial to children in the privacy of their own homes," of giving "every child a free pass to every adult bookstore and video store."

In the meantime, the Heaven's Gate suicides can only amplify fears that, in some quarters, may be already bordering on hysteria. The Internet, it seems, might be used to lure children not only to shopping malls, where some sicko awaits, but into joining UFO cults.

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A country where murder is frighteningly common naturally gives rise to TV dramas about violence. And exposing millions of minds to fic-

tional killing night after night might help create a climate in which violence is more likely to occur. The effect is nonlinear, like the reverberative howl arising from a microphone held too close to a loudspeaker.

Somehow the slick design of Web pages—so easily accomplished with a few dabs of Java and a cursory

Carleton Gajdusek, pleaded guilty to a charge of child molestation, news accounts zeroed in on the fact that he was snared in a federal investigation of child pornography on the Internet.

Gajdusek didn't meet the boy he admitted molesting in a cyberspace chat-room. But investigators apparently became suspicious of the scientist after they noticed Internet pedophiles discussing journals—published by the National Institutes of Health—in which he mentioned his sexual encounters with boys in Micronesia.

Slight as the Internet connection really was, it seemed to add to the seediness of the situation one more shred in an accumulating pile of evidence that there are networks of people lurking out there with alien values, and that anyone, any age, might stumble onto them with a mouse click.

As early as 1975, the leaders of Heaven's Gate, Bo and Peep, were recruiting lost souls. And back then,

then most powerful personal computers available were Texas Instrument pocket calculators.

"The Two," as they also called themselves, drew the curious to meetings by posting notices with thumbtacks on bulletin boards made the old-fashioned way, with cork and wood.

Maybe the Internet, with its ability to rapidly and efficiently bring together a hodgepodge of miscreants, was an important part of the group's later devolution. But it may be just as reasonable to blame the phenobarb and vodka cocktails they sipped like wine from the chalice of their strange religion.

In the end, maybe the uneasy feelings about the Internet come from seeing all the old plagues and sins recast in an unfamiliar new form. An ancient accumulation of inchoate fears has become focused inside this high-profile medium, made more easily touchable—and, it's tempting to believe, easier to control.

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**Sr. Electrical Engineer**  
**Analog and Interconnects**  
Apply analog circuits used in IR detector subsystems from the layout, manufacturability, noise, EMI and agency approval perspective while providing knowledge in all aspects of battery technology.

**Sr. Electrical Engineer(s) 2 Digital**  
Supporting conceptual design of visual and IR imaging systems through design specifications, system build and integration, test HW and requirements for test SW.

**Product Architect - Embedded**  
System level design of embedded microprocessor imaging systems including functional and design specifications, trade off analysis, definition of product architecture and interface control.

**Sr. Embedded SW Engineer - DSP**  
Work with IR detector prototype team to adapt DSP software prototypes to specific applications.

**Embedded SW Engineer**  
Developing embedded software for IR imaging systems in new product team.

**Software Engineer(s) 2 - Windows**  
Design and implementation of hardware test and evaluation software for internal use and software written for PC platforms.

**Software Architect - Windows**  
Product research, planning, architecture and design of PC based machine vision systems.

**Systems Analysis Engineer - SW**  
Acting as part of cross functional team to write functional specifications/perform system performance trade off analysis.

**Product Validation Engineer**  
Working with project engineering personnel to develop system validation plans with an emphasis on mechanical and electrical designs.

Experience with any of the following: Focal Plane Array/Infrared Technology, Veribest for schematic capture and simulation, Veribest Verilog, Veribest layout for ECB design, FPGA's in Xilinx Exact Step and Altera MAX+PlusII, DSP's, PSPICE, Able, C/C++ VxWorks real-time OS, Assembly, SDRC, Z-Max for optical design.

#### Operations

**Technicians**  
Test and calibrate analog and digital electronic systems to component level.

**Sr. Supplier Business Manager**  
Procurement for majority of capital and major service items for FSI.

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Fabrication, assembly and inspection of precision optics by performing grinding, blocking and polishing operations.

**Optics Engineer**  
Design of mid-wave and long-wave IR lens systems and assessment of lens-detector suitability.

**Manufacturing Engineer**  
Determination and specification of test equipment, operation methods, process sequences and tooling requirements, working with new product design teams in optimizing of new product designs for manufacturability.

**Supplier Quality Engineer**  
Qualification and maintenance of materials suppliers based upon process controls and capabilities of vendor bare board processes and fabrication.

**Production Planner**  
Respond to forecasts, sales order and service demand by interpreting master schedule and converting into demand for production and materials requirements.

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**Technical Marketing Engineer**  
Pre and Post sales support through technical application information, guidance and solution evaluation. Promoting the company and its product technology through published articles, presentations, multimedia materials.

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