



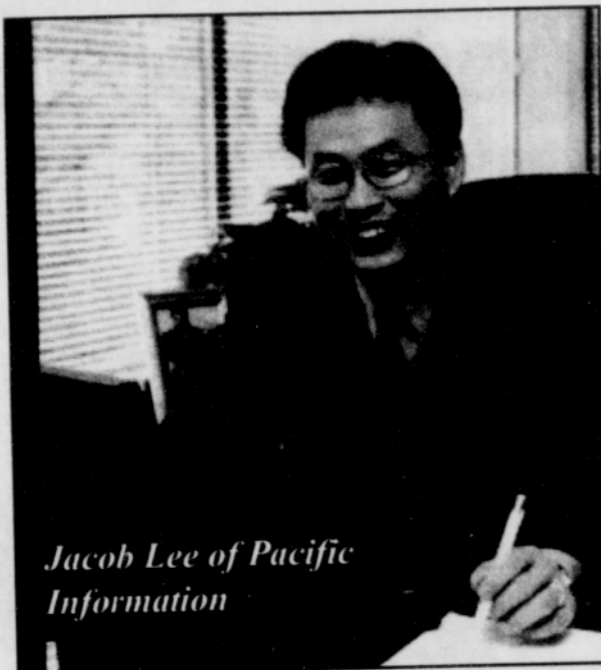
# Intranet on the Internet

Move over Internet. The hot new sector using "internet-based" technology is the Intranet—a kind of Local Area Network (LAN) based on Internet technology. NO, that's not an oxymoron. Think of an Intranet as a micro version of the Internet and World Wide Web in your office.

## WHAT IS AN INTRANET?

If you have a handle on the Internet, you've got a jump-start on understanding Intranets. An Intranet is simply a set of web-based services on your LAN that rely on the same protocols used by computers on the Internet to talk to each other.

The difference is that instead of putting up Web pages advertising your products or services for all the world to see, an intranet's Web pages might distribute project information to team members, use forms to collect progress reports from different departments, or sponsor online company meetings via chat sessions. And while many World Wide Web sites use multimedia gimmicks to grab your attention (or drive you nuts), businesses typically use an Intranet to create distribution points for centralized presentations, train employees at remote offices, and so on.



Jacob Lee of Pacific Information

sharing information, even in a small company, Intranets can also become the place to track the progress of projects, book meetings, reserve meeting rooms, look up schedules of coming company events and carry out collaborative work. With the right software, you can also publish customer contact information and customer records to the Intranet so they are easily available to everybody that needs them.

the needs of an organization, it's fairly easy to connect it to the outside world and customers to have selective access to your company data, this is called an Extranet.

One reason Management Information Systems professionals love Intranets is because the underlying Internet technology and key programs (such as web servers, browsers and email) are available for all desktop and server platforms. Web pages can be created for your Intranet on any computer. Thus you could have Windows 3.1/95/98, OS/2, DOS, and Unix users connected to an Intranet run off Windows NT servers holding Web pages created by designers using Macs. Being on an Intranet means never having to ask where that data came from — or even what format it's in.

Since Intranets use the same technology as the Internet, you don't need complicated and expensive gateways to give office users Internet access. And when it's time to go public with your company's internal information, it's easy to open an internal Web server up to customers via the

In short, an Intranet can be as much a useful information tool inside a company to give an overall perspective on the company's business as the Internet has become for getting a better view of the world.

The important difference here is that unlike the Internet, your company has complete control over what is hosted on its internal Intranet. That means that you need not be distracted by information that is not relevant, while being able to reach the information that is relevant much more quickly.

Intranets in fact require much of the same infrastructure that LAN's do, Network Interface Protocol cards, TCP/IP Drivers for those cards and Printing Services. Where Intranets become the most valuable is providing user friendly Interfaces for people to find information and information of their own to the firms knowledgebase. Small businesses and Fortune 500 giants alike are installing Intranets to allow employees to collaborate at the departmental, corporate, and even global level.

## COSTS

Intranets are cheaper than traditional LAN's for organizing institutional knowledge. Traditional LAN's are very good at file storage, but they are terrible at making information about files easily available. Intranets are far easier to customize, and maintain. Users can run it on just about any computer and operating system. That means users can pick the productivity tools they like, and network administrators can choose the tools they need and have far fewer headaches mixing PCs, Macs, and other companies.

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Internet.

Intranets are also a boon to telecommuters and employees on the road, because remote access is built in. You can dial directly into the company intranet or access it via your Internet service provider (ISP) using the same software you use in the office.

If you already have a network in place, chances are you won't need to upgrade any hardware, since Internet software will run on most any network "plumbing" you already have. (one exception are Macintosh LocalTalk networks, which must be upgraded to Ethernet). If you don't have a LAN already in place, an Intranet won't require any more hardware than other LANs. Your PCs will need a NIC (typically an Ethernet card), and you'll need the standard cables and hubs. It's also a good idea to dedicate a computer (PC, Unix workstation, or Mac) to act as a server.

## DO IT NOW!

How hot are Intranets? Most of the companies that make Internet software — such as Microsoft and Novell — are already selling more products for Intranets than the Internet. Some experts expect Intranet sales to climb as high as \$40 billion by the new millennium.

The results to date clearly show that for any company, not just those already contemplating an Intranet, the best strategy is to begin an Intranet deployment today. The sooner an Intranet becomes a core component of your technology infrastructure, the sooner your company can reap the benefits.

For more on the Intranet, go to [www.Mindbridge.com](http://www.Mindbridge.com)

# Opportunity Abounds

The City of Portland is committed to building the economic strength of the Portland region's diverse Businesses by following fair contracting and employment

Practices to ensure equal opportunity for all citizens.

October 4-10 has been proclaimed "Minority Enterprise Development Week."

We appreciate this special opportunity to recognize the many valuable contributions made by minority businesses in the metropolitan area.

For information on contracting and programs for Minority-owned firms, call the city of Portland Bureau of Purchases BuyLine:

(503) 823-5513 or Loretta Young at (503) 823-6850. Bureau of Purchases Internet access is at [www.ci.portland.or.us/purchase/purchase.htm](http://www.ci.portland.or.us/purchase/purchase.htm)

# Minority Business Week

A time to reflect on our achievements of the past and commit to our progress in the future, as a community.

Little Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Home had already been supporting the families of Portland. After 85 years, our commitment to the families of our community continues. We are here in times of need, just as we always have been. It is a responsibility that we honor. It is our reason for being.

A HISTORY of SERVICE.

A tradition that continues.

The Little Chapel of the Chimes

430 N. Killingsworth Street  
Portland, Oregon 97217-2499  
Tel.: 503.283.1976 Fax: 503.283.1979

A PROUD HERITAGE OF SERVICE SINCE 1912

# Have "YOU" Registered in PHOENIX?

OK, so you don't know what the PHOENIX is. Take a few moments to ensure you take advantage of this FREE business expanding opportunity!

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) now has a database that you can register your business for FREE! The PHOENIX Database can be located on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.mbd.gov>

The PHOENIX database is the only online database that allows eligible Minority Business Enterprises (MBE's) to register for current Federal, State, City and Private contract opportunities as they are solicited. Once registering your business into the PHOENIX database, your specific business is compared with current contract opportunities from the MBDA opportunity database.

The MBDA is the only federally chartered agency to assist and inform minority and disadvantaged businesses of opportunities available to

expand and develop MBE growth. The opportunity is yours and the service is FREE! Just enter the webpage, register your business and allow the system to work for you.

The way it works is simple. Opportunities in the form of contracts, proposals, solicitations for bid or just plain set aside contracts, are entered into the OPPORTUNITY database. The means of connecting an opportunity to a business is by the SIC code or NAIC's code. (The website explains these if you are not familiar with them). Once an opportunity is matched with a business profile, the submitting contract provider is notified, who in turn notifies the business — and a new working relation is enjoined!



So, if this service is worth the 10 minutes it takes to register, join the businesses that are enjoying the FREE marketing the MBDA is offering. And, if you want to talk about this service or need further information, email [Wdobson@MBDA.gov](mailto:Wdobson@MBDA.gov).