

Sprint codes are hard to get and when they are obtained, they tend to die rather quickly. Phreakers have been saying that the 950-0777 port is dead, but on the contrary, it is still available in states that are not highly abused by phreaks. Here again, rumors are being spread.

The Best BBS of the Month

Starting from now on, we will have a BBS of the month. We will choose a BBS, regardless of computer type, and look at the user participation in phreak related matters, as well as quality discussions on the various illegal topics. A BBS can remain the BBS of the month as long as they reside above the rest of the BBS systems. Even though we will sometimes bring out more than one issue in a month, the board will remain BBS of the month until the first issue in the next month comes out.

This month's BBS of the month is FBI PirateNet. We chose this board because of the large numbers of posts in the bases, and not only information, but discussions as well, with a minimum number of posts from ragers and braggers. The number for it is 516-661-7360. The Sysop of FBI PirateNet is The Phantom, not to be confused with an earlier NARC.

US Sprint Expected to Trim Staff, Consolidate Divisions

New York -- US Sprint Communications Corp., the troubled long distance carrier, is expected to announce soon that it will cut its work force by several hundred people and reduce its seven regional divisions to 3 operating groups, sources familiar with the company said.

The company's Pacific division is based in Burlingame, CA. The layoffs and reorganization are part of a plan by US Sprint's new president, Robert H. Snedaker, to reduce heavy operating losses, which analysts expect to reach more than \$800 million this year.

Snedaker replaced Charles M. Slibo, who was forced to resign in July because losses were running much higher than the parent companies had expected. Problems with the company's computerized billing system also contributed to Skibo's ouster. US Sprint is owned and operated by the GTE Corp. and United TeleCom.

According to sources close to Snedaker, who was vice chairman and chief operating officer of United TeleCom, he is planning to consolidate the company's 7 divisions, which operate in the same geographical regions as the seven regional Bell operating companies, into 3 divisions.

The rationale for the move, according to industry analysts, is that the company will need a much smaller work force once it begins handling all its phone traffic on its new fiber optic network, which can carry a greater number of telephone calls at less cost. Company officials have said that they expect to have most of the traffic on the network by early next year. One source said that there would be more than one round of layoffs in the coming months and that the company ultimately plans to reduce its 14,000 member work force by 15 percent.

Several top managers are expected to resign as soon as US Sprint centralizes its marketing and support operations as its headquarters in Kansas City, MO., according to a report in the latest issue of Business Week magazine.

A spokesman for US Sprint said on Friday that the company would not comment on the rumors. The company is the nation's third largest long distance company, after the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T) and MCI Communications Co.

Last year, Washington based MCI undertook a similar reorganization in which it posted a \$502« million loss to write down old inventory and restructure operations.

Analysts said that is US Sprint is to turn a profit, the company must increase its market share. "To do this, US Sprint must gain more large business customers, which account for about 80 percent of industry revenues," said Robert B. Morris III, Securities in San Francisco.

Morris said that by using a slick marketing campaign to differentiate its all-fiber telephone network from those of competitors, US Sprint more than doubled its customer base last year. But "most of these customers were residential and small business users that added little to Sprint's bottom line," he added. "If the company expects to be profitable, it will have to concentrate on providing the best service to volume users."

Secret Service Cracks Down on Teen Hackers

Mount Lebanon, PA -- The US Secret Service and local police departments have put a scare into the hacker community with a nationwide crackdown on computer crime that has resulted in the arrests of teenage hackers in at least three cities.

"People who monitor the bulletin boards say there are a lot of nervous hackers out there, wondering who will be arrested next," says Ronald E. Freedman, vice-president of Advanced Information Management, a Woodbridge, VA base computer security firm.

Nine teenagers from Mount Lebanon Junior-Senior High School near Pittsburg, PA, were arrested recently and charged with computer fraud. The juveniles allegedly used home computers to gain illegal access to a credit card authorization center. They obtained valid credit card numbers and used them to purchase thousands of dollars worth of mail order merchandise, the police said.

Freedman says it appears the hackers used some relatively sophisticated techniques in the scheme, including specially written software that enabled them to bypass security controls and navigate through credit records to obtain key information.

Police officials say that the hackers also obtained access codes from pirate bulletin board systems to make free long distance calls and gain access to various business and government computers.