



## WE'VE MOVED!!!

Nautalex has moved to more spacious quarters as of January 15, 1999. Our address is now:

Nautalex Business Services Inc.  
200 Avenue Road  
Cambridge, Ontario  
N1R 8H5

Our phone and fax numbers have remained the same. ☺

## ... And Celebrating our 5th Anniversary

In March, Nautalex will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. By that time, we should be settled into our new offices and ready to host an open house for our clients and associates. Watch your mail for an invitation! ☺



## Dedicated vs. Non-Dedicated Internet Connections

Both Netware for Small Business and Microsoft Small Business Server include software that provides access to the Internet. All network users can share one Internet connection, enabling them to simultaneously browse the World Wide Web from each desktop. In addition, if a dedicated Internet connection is set up (rather than dial-on-demand), the internal E-mail system can automatically transfer E-mail to and from the Internet.

A dedicated Internet connection typically costs between two and three hundred dollars per month. Since limited-time dial-up connections are far less expensive, there is a strong temptation to use one of these instead. That is fine, but be aware of the following issues:

E-mail transfer is not automatic. Direct e-mail transfer requires a dedicated connection, as it uses SMTP (push driven) transfer methods. When using a non-permanent connection, e-mail must rely on POP3 (pull driven) transfer. Normally that means that each user must configure their e-mail program to check for mail on a scheduled basis, thereby triggering the Internet dial-up and pulling mail from the ISP's Internet mail server. There are, however, third party gateways available for Groupwise and Exchange that will perform this scheduled check and distribute mail appropriately. They usually require a non-dedicated Windows PC on which to run.

It is easy to use too much time. Dial-on-demand routers dial the Internet whenever a user or process requests an Internet service. Once connected, the router waits for a selectable amount of idle time before it hangs up. A typical idle timeout is five minutes. (If it is less, browsing suffers when the connection is frequently broken while users read web pages.) If ten people each check their e-mail every thirty minutes, and they don't all do it at the same time, it is quite possible that, with the idle timeout taken into account, the router is always connected to the Internet. An account with 150 hours per month allowed connection time would exceed its limit in only half a month if the router were connected for ten hours a day in this way. At a dollar per hour surcharge, the ensuing bill can actually exceed the cost for a dedicated connection.

Like most things, cheaper on the surface does not always mean less expensive in the long run. Call us if you would like to know more. ☺

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## Meet Mary Kong

We would like to introduce our newest sales and marketing rep, Mary Kong. She's from western New York and has been residing in Kitchener-Waterloo since 1986.

Previously, Mary has been in the retail sales business, selling cell and electronic devices. During her spare time, she enjoys traveling, mantic science and working with charitable organizations. We hope you enjoy and find her services most helpful. ☺

## "Cool" Web Sites

*A number of our clients are in the transportation industry, and local climate plays a crucial role in their day-to-day business. Here are some popular weather web sites:*

[www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com) offers five-day weather forecasts in the U.S. by Zip code, city, and state, or you can view local, regional, national and world maps that display five-day weather forecasts, precipitation forecasts, satellite images, and Doppler radar images.

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) also offers five-day forecasts and maps. In addition, this site offers specialized maps such as allergy maps that display the levels of mold spores and ragweed pollen, gardening maps that display frost and freeze advisories, and beach maps that display coastal wind speeds and water temperatures.

[www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com) takes a more basic approach, with a simple interface that allows you to view daily weather forecasts. You can also view maps displaying current temperatures, wind chill and heat indexes, humidity, current satellite images, and Doppler radar images.

Okay, this isn't exactly computer networking news, but we liked it! ☺

## Windows NT Service Pack 4

Long-awaited Service-Pack 4 has finally been released. Service Pack 4 provides:

- A collection of all Windows NT 4.0 updates
- New enhancements to management, and security ☺

## Line Conditioner Needed!

We have often advocated line conditioners to clean up power. Although it's not easy to demonstrate their need, here's a case in point: One of our clients in Cambridge, wondering if electrical quality could be causing problems, had monitoring devices placed at their site. They recorded over 4,000 spikes in a 5-day period! ☺

### **Backup Tips:**

"Retire" one tape from your set of backup tapes each month. A good time to do this is right after your accounting month end.

Why? This gives you a "snap shot" of your server each month. This comes in handy if, for example, an infrequently used but important file is deleted from a network drive. It could take more than two weeks for the deletion to be noticed, and by that time your regular 2-week cycle of tapes will no longer contain the needed file.

Also, retiring a tape each month lets you replace your entire set of backup tapes over 13 months. Like audiocassette tapes, data tapes have a limited lifespan and need to be replaced on a regular basis. ☺

## Year-2000 Write-Offs

Do you need to purchase computer hardware and software to replace systems purchased before 1998 that are not Y2K compliant? Unincorporated businesses and some small and medium-sized corporations can write off 100% of these costs in the year of acquisition, up to a maximum of \$50,000. This special measure is time-sensitive. Only acquisitions during the period Jan 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999 will be eligible for the special capital cost allowance write-off. Talk to your accountant! ☺

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Nautalex designs and implements fully-integrated computer network systems for businesses. Providing consulting, software, hardware and peripherals, we offer complete, cost-effective network solutions. ☺

