FOIA Number: 2019-0203-F

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Women's Init. & Outreach

Series/Staff Member: General Files

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24052

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Digital Divide

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	51	2	11	1

Stephen N. Boyd 07/22/2000 07:30:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:

Subject: FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY: A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY:
A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION
July 22, 2000

Today, the world has an historic opportunity to promote global participation in the network economy and society. New information and communication technologies like the Internet are transforming the way we live, learn and work. Nations that succeed in harnessing its potential can look forward to greatly expanded economic growth, dramatically improved human welfare, and stronger forms of democratic government. Developing nations have an unprecedented opportunity to meet vital development goals such as poverty reduction, basic healthcare, and education far more effectively than before.

The challenge to bridge the global digital divide cannot be underestimated. But it is essential that developing nations become full participants in the network economy and society. Technology is no "silver bullet" for the problems of the developing world. Yet if we fail to ensure that all nations have the opportunity to participate fully in the network economy and society, we run the risk that the divide between nations will grow. It is against this background that we issue A Global Call to Action with the stated goal of achieving digital access and education for all before this decade is out.

We recognize that to be successful in turning the digital divide into the digital opportunity a concrete and coordinated effort must be undertaken with the participation of all partners and stakeholders, including companies, foundations, non-governmental organizations, governments and multilateral organizations. The G-8, developing nation, multilateral institution, private sector, and foundation commitment to the creation of a Digital Opportunity Task Force (the dot force) is a vital and unprecedented first step toward the goal of achieving digital access and education for all by the year 2010.

We also recognize that the diverse conditions and needs of the developing nations should be taken into account, and that local cultures be preserved and promoted. There is no "one size fits all" solution. The critical success factor will be developing nations' ownership through the adoption of coherent strategies to build national information infrastructure in pursuit of core development goals, expanded human capacity,

community initiatives and indigenous entrepreneurship, and a pro-competitive policy and regulatory environment.

There has never been a better time to take action. An unprecedented willingness exists in industrialized nations, developing countries, the private sector, and civil society to work together and offer their efforts to eradicate digital inequity among rich and poor, young and old. The developed nations offer their efforts to create the policy framework and enabling conditions that can allow nations and their citizens to benefit from the digital opportunity. And multilateral institutions and global networks of non-governmental organizations offer their efforts as catalysts and guarantors in this process.

As companies, foundations, and non-governmental organizations we are committed to help create digital opportunity for the people of the developing nations, and to take concrete steps in the following five key strategic areas:

1. Fostering Policy, Regulatory and Network Readiness: Help developing countries adopt the policies, practices, and regulatory frameworks that will encourage private sector investment but also reap the full economic, social and cultural benefits of the widespread diffusion of the Internet, e-commerce and other information and communications technologies.

2. Expanding Basic Connectivity to People Everywhere: Support the expansion of community access points or other forms of shared connectivity so that the Internet and telecommunications services are within walking distance for everyone on the planet. Invest in R&D that will lead to products and services tailored to the needs of developing countries and poor communities everywhere, such as low-cost, low-power, wireless devices.

3. Building Human Capacity in Education and Training: Increase significantly the number of people in developing nations with the technology skills and know-how needed to build, manage, and effectively use the information infrastructure of the 21st century. Equip more people in developing nations become "technologically literate" through the appropriate use of educational technology in schools, universities, communities, and the workplace.

4. Enhance Healthcare and Quality of Life Using Information Technology: Promote applications of the Internet and information technology -- such as e-health, distance learning, natural resource management, and preservation of cultural heritage - that have particular relevance to improving the quality of life for the people of the developing world.

5. Create New Opportunities for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Through E-commerce and E-business: Encourage the development of micro-enterprises and small businesses that harness the power of new information and communications technologies. In all societies, develop venture financing sources that can drive innovation.

COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S

GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION FOR DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

3Com
Agilent Technologies
Andersen Consulting
AOL
AT&T
Carnegie Corporation
Center for Democracy and Technology
Center for International Development, Harvard University
Cisco Systems
Citigroup
Communities in Schools
Compaq
Corning Incorporated
Discovery Communications
Eastman Kodak
EBay
EDS
Cap Gemini Ernst & Young
Gates Foundation
Global Information Infrastructure Commission
IBM
Information Technology Association of America
Information Technology Industry Council
Intel
Internet Policy Institute
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Lucent Technologies
Lyceum Network Integration
Markle Foundation
Motorola
NCR
New York Life International, Inc.
Nortel
Novell
Open Society Institute
PeopleGive
PeoplePC
People Technology Foundation
Rubin Systems
SGI
Solar Electric Light Fund
StarMedia Foundation
Sun Microsystems
The Chubb Corporation
Time Warner
Verizon Foundation
Vertex
World Links Organization
World Resources Institute
WorldCom Inc.

Sondra L. Seba 07/14/2000 03:40:38 PM

Record Type: Record

To: arosewater@osophs.dhhs.gov @ inet

cc:

Subject: VAWA II

Still waiting for H.R. 1248 and S. 2787 to be brought to the floor for votes -- obviously before VAWA expires Oct. 1. No date has been set -- but it doesn't look like it will happen in the next few weeks. Sorry I couldn't give you a clearer idea of when the votes will be, but I'll try to let you know when I hear. Good to talke with you today -- and I'll be looking for your request and draft VPOTUS letter for your Tenn. conference next month. Take care.

PRESIDENT CLINTON:
ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO ELECTRONIC COMMERCE WHILE PROTECTING CONSUMERS
June 30, 2000

"The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act will open up new frontiers of economic opportunity while protecting the rights of American consumers."

President Bill Clinton
June 30, 2000

Today, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, President Clinton signed S. 761, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. This legislation will eliminate legal barriers to using electronic technology to sign contracts; give consumers the same protections while doing business on-line as they have on paper; and ensure that government agencies have authority to enforce the law. After the bill signing ceremony, the President demonstrated the new electronic signature technology that Americans will be able to use to sign legally binding contracts on-line.

THE BENEFITS OF E-COMMERCE. The U.S. has benefited dramatically from the onset of the digital age. But there are still barriers – especially legal uncertainty – to the use of technology for business-to-business and business-to-consumer commerce. Under the legislation President Clinton signed today:

- Companies will be able to contract on-line to buy and sell products;
- Businesses will be able to collect and store transaction records electronically;
- Consumers will have the option of transacting business on-line, without waiting for paperwork to be completed.

ELIMINATING LEGAL BARRIERS TO ELECTRONIC COMMERCE. Companies may be deterred from doing business on-line because of uncertainty about whether their on-line contracts will be legally enforceable. The law sometimes requires that contracts documents be written on paper and signed with pen-and-ink signatures, which can slow down the pace of business. The new law signed by President Clinton will overcome these barriers by:

- **Preempting paper requirements.** On-line contracts, signatures, and records will now have the same legal force as their paper equivalents;
- **Establishing technology neutrality.** In most cases, requirements that one technology be used over another have been eliminated;
- **Ensuring accuracy of electronic records.** Most electronic contracts and records will be legally enforceable only if they are in a form that is capable of being stored and reproduced for later reference.

PROVIDING CHOICE AND PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS. In order to achieve the full potential of electronic commerce, consumers must have confidence that they have the same protections on-line as they have in the paper world. Today's law:

- Gives consumers who do business on-line the same protections they currently have with paper contracts;
- Protects the consumer's right to choose whether or not to use or accept electronic records, signatures, or contracts;
- Requires that consumers affirmatively consent to the use of electronic notices, records, and contracts; that they be given notice of their rights; and that the firm verify that the consumer can access electronically the information to be provided.

PROTECTING TAXPAYERS AND ENFORCING THE LAW. The government sometimes requires that companies keep or generate voluminous paper records documenting their transactions. Record retention serves an important public purpose by allowing agencies to monitor for compliance, protect taxpayers from fraud and abuse, and enforce the law. In many cases, these same goals can be met using digital technologies through:

- **Electronic Record Retention.** The Act requires that agencies allow most records to be retained electronically, but government may establish standards for electronic records to ensure that compliance with laws can be determined, taxpayers can be protected, and agency mission can be accomplished;
- **Electronic Filing:** The Act allows the government to establish standards and formats for government filings.

WOMEN'S OFFICE
06/05/2000 10:19:42 AM

Record Type: Record

To: LaJaycee Brown/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:
Subject:

Do you want to send this out? Or if you need extra time to get organized I'm happy to send it. AB

1. Vice President Gore Releases Report on the Digital Economy of the 21st Century
2. Fact Sheet: Background for Digital Economy

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

For

Immediate Release
June 5, 2000

Contact:
(202) 456-7035

VICE PRESIDENT GORE RELEASES REPORT ON THE DIGITAL ECONOMY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

WASHINGTON,DC -- Vice President Gore and U.S. Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley today released *Digital Economy 2000*, the Commerce Department's third annual report on the information-technology revolution and its impact on the economy. Electronic commerce and the information technology (IT) industries that make e-commerce possible are growing and changing at breathtaking speed, fundamentally altering the way Americans produce, consume, communicate, and play.

"We are indeed in a new economy--an economy driven by information, research, knowledge, and technology. The report released today underscores an economy that values the productive capacity of people above all else," Vice President Gore said. " I want to ensure that we can sustain the innovation that is now driving the economy and bring the promise of a better life to all Americans."

"This report, Commerce's third, shows us that the benefits of IT are quickly spreading across the board, and eventually will touch every business, from the smallest mom and pop shop, to

the biggest Fortune 100," Daley said. "The first two reports were called 'The Emerging Digital Economy.' Today, after just 26 months, we dropped the "Emerging," because it's here, in fact, it has become the driving force of the American Economy."

Report Highlights:

IT industries are the number one driver of our economy. Over the last five years IT industries accounted for a third of U.S. growth despite the fact that their share of the economy is just 8 percent.

Technological changes have dramatically lowered the costs of computers and communications, and spurred business investment in IT hardware and software. Computer prices declined by 12 percent a year from 1987 to 1994, but plummeted 26 percent per year from 1995 to 1999.

Real IT investment doubled from 1995 to 1999, from $243 billion to $510 billion. IT investment represented two thirds of the growth in total investment during those years.

IT industries have also been a major source of new R&D investment. In 1998, IT industries invested $45 billion in R&D, or nearly one-third of all company-funded R&D. IT industries accounted for 37 percent of the growth in total R&D between 1995 and 1998.

IT is making the U.S. substantially more productive. With 2.8 percent productivity growth from 1995 to 1999 -- double the 1.4 percent rate from 1973 to 1995-- the U.S. has a new economy. Improved productivity has lowered inflation and raised real wages.

IT is lowering inflation. Falling IT prices have directly pulled down average inflation by 0.5 percentage points a year. In addition, by raising their productivity, IT is lowering inflation of other industries.

The IT sector is rapidly creating jobs at dramatically high wages. IT jobs average $58,000 a year, 85 percent higher than the average for the private sector. Between 1994 and 1998, employment in IT industries expanded by 30 percent, from 4.0 million to 5.2 million jobs. IT occupations that pay the best and require the most education have been growing most rapidly.

Internet access around the globe soared 78 percent in the last year to 304 million people. That represents a hundred-fold increase as compared to 3 million people online in 1994. Today there are over a billion web pages, and 3 million new pages are added every single day.

Businesses are increasingly using the Internet to improve efficiency. Firms are moving their supply networks and sales channels online, and participating in new online marketplaces. Firms are also expanding their use of networked systems to improve internal business processes--to coordinate product design, manage inventory, improve customer service, and reduce administrative and managerial costs. Nonetheless, the evolution of digital business is still in an early stage.

Economists have substantially raised their forecast for long-term growth. Their 10-year forecasts now call for 3.1 percent growth, up from 2-1/2 percent little more than a year ago. The report's analysis supports this view of a new economy.

The report for the first time concludes that the Digital Economy is here to stay.

To download the report and for more information on the Department of Commerce, visit www.doc.gov.

###

Background for Digital Economy 2000 Report

This year's "Digital Economy 2000" report was preceded by reports in both 1998 and 1999 that were called "The Emerging Digital Economy." The term "Emerging" has been dropped because the digital economy has now emerged. While the report updates last year's report, it also covers significant new ground. Highlights include:

- IT industries share of the economy has now climbed to an estimated 8.3 percent in 2000. Despite this relatively modest share, IT industries have contributed about 30 percent of U.S. economic growth since 1995. (That is lower than last year's 35 percent estimate, even though IT growth remains as strong as ever. The IT share is lower than last year's estimate because BEA has raised its estimate for growth in the non-IT part of the economy.)

- Technological advances have dramatically lowered the costs of computers and communications Declines in computer prices, which were already rapid—roughly 12 percent per year on average between 1987 and 1994—accelerated to 26 percent per year during 1995-1999.

- Falling IT prices and a healthy economy have spurred dramatic growth in business investment. Real business investment in IT equipment and software more than doubled between 1995 and 1999, from $243 billion to $510 billion. Complementing investment in hardware, the software component of these totals increased over the period from $82 billion to $149 billion. (IT accounts for two thirds of the growth in overall business investment in recent years. This is up from last year's estimate of three fifths largely because of the new treatment of software as investment.)

- IT industries have also been a major source of new R&D investment. Between 1994 and 1999, total U.S. R&D investment increased at an average annual (inflation adjusted) rate of about 6 percent—up from roughly 0.3 percent during the previous five-year period. The lion's share of this growth—37 percent between 1995 and 1998—occurred in IT industries. In

1998, IT industries invested $44.8 billion in R&D, or nearly one-third of all company-funded R&D.

- IT has been at the center of the improved performance of the economy. Research by the CEA, CBO, the Federal Reserve, and prominent outside economists has consistently found that IT accounts for half or more of the recent acceleration in U.S. productivity growth—from 1.4 percent per year during 1973-1995, to 2.8 percent since 1995.

- The Internet has been both cause and effect of the economy's renaissance. Like the rest of the economy, the Internet has flourished as technology has dramatically lowered the costs of computer power, data storage, and connectivity. At the same time, since 1993, commercialization of the Internet has made the advantages of electronic commerce and electronic business practices—once available to only of the largest companies—more affordable to small and medium sized firms.

- The decline in IT prices has *directly* lowered inflation by an average 0.5 percentage points. By raising overall productivity growth, IT has also contributed *indirectly* to reduced inflation in the rest of the economy. Contrary to all recent expansions, inflation has been falling throughout this expansion. Even excluding the falling prices in IT, inflation in the rest of the economy has been falling.

- In 1998, the number of workers in IT-producing industries, together with workers in IT occupations in other industries, totaled 7.4 million or 6.1 percent of all American workers. Growth in the IT workforce accelerated in the mid-1990s, with the most rapid increases coming in industries and job categories associated with the development and use of IT applications.

- Employment in the software and computer services industries nearly doubled, from 850,000 in 1992 to 1.6 million in 1998. Over the same period, employment in those IT job categories that require the most education and offer the highest compensation, such as systems analysts and computer scientists, engineers and programmers, increased by nearly 1 million positions or almost 80 percent.

- In 2000, the number of people with Internet access will reach an estimated 304 million people world-wide, up almost 80 percent from 1999. In the past year, the number of Americans online rose by 40 percent. In the rest of the world, however, Internet access grew even more quickly. For the first time, the United States and Canada now account for less than 50 percent of the global online population.

- There is growing evidence that firms are moving their supply networks and sales channels online, and participating in new online marketplaces. Firms are also expanding their use of networked systems to improve internal business processes—to coordinate product design, manage inventory, improve customer service, and reduce administrative and managerial costs. Nonetheless, evolution of digital business is still in an early stage.

- U.S. economic performance in recent years contrasts sharply with our own recent history and with other industrial countries that may readily purchase IT on world markets. The strength of U.S. investment in IT has been spurred in part by sound budget policies, cooperative monetary policy, a pro-competitive regulatory environment, and a financial system and business culture prepared to take risks.

Digital Economy 2000 arrays compelling evidence that the U.S. economy has crossed into a new era of greater economic prosperity and possibility, much as it did it did after the development and spread of the electric dynamo and the internal combustion engine. That doesn't mean that the business cycle is a thing of the past or that we will never face another economic slowdown. What it means is that in the era of the Internet and other information technologies, the American economy may be able to achieve rates of economic growth that are higher and more sustained than in the past, with stronger income gains and lower inflation and unemployment than we have seen for a generation.

Please visit the Women's Office Web Site at http://www.whitehouse.gov/women
Or e-mail us at Women's_Office@who.eop.gov to request additional materials.

Digital Divide
New Markets
Trip
April/May

Jackson T. Dunn
04/24/2000 02:24:36 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Stephanie A. Cutter/WHO/EOP@EOP, Sondra L. Seba/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:
Subject:

---------- Forwarded by Jackson T. Dunn/WHO/EOP on 04/24/2000 02:24 PM ----------

Jackson T. Dunn
04/24/2000 02:24:14 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc:
Subject:

This list does not include elected officials (including the Governor & congressional members).

Irwin Jacobs
CEO & Chairman, Qualcomm
contact: Jonas Niehardt 202-263-0000

Robert Young
Chairman, Red Hat
contact: Jennifer Horton 919-549-8788

Bill Applewhite
Remote Data Systems
contact: 910-640-3349

Erskine Bowles
contact directly: 212-355-5656

John Stupka
MCI Worldcom Wireless
contact: Maura Colleton 202-887-3231

Possible additional validators from small business:

Buddy Lemmons, Presidnet, Baker Limestone
919-742-4881

Don Watson, President, House Autry Mills
910-594-0802

INVITED
Irwin Jacobs, Qualcomm
John Stupka, MCI Worldcom Wireless
Erskine Bowles
Robert Young, Red Hat
Buddy Lemmons, Baker Limestone
Clark Plexico, AT&T
Don Watson, House Autry Mills
Rex Adams, Dean, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University
Robert Sullivan, Dean, Flagler School of Business, UNC-Chapel Hill
TBD, Remote Data Systems
Bill Friday

Pending Private Sector Participation
WH Cole, Image Designs
Steve Runyon, Manager, Clifton Precisions
TBD, Bell South
TBD, Carolina Home Healthcare
TBD, Calibration

Additionally we expect: Governor Hunt, Reps. Etheridge, Price, McIntyre & Clayton.

FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

April 4, 2000

Access to information technology and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important to full participation in America's economic, political and social life. While computer and Internet access has exploded in recent years, America faces a "digital divide"— a gap between those who have access to Information Age tools and the skills to use them and those who don't.

America has an important choice to make: we can allow unequal access to deepen existing divisions along the lines of race, income, education level, geography, and disability -- or we can use technology as a powerful tool to help make the American dream a reality for more people. To help create digital opportunity for more Americans, we must create strong partnerships between government, industry, and the rich mosaic of America's civil society -- including educators, labor unions, librarians, civil rights leaders, faith-based organizations, foundations, volunteers, and community-based organizations.

As companies, non-profit organizations and individuals, we are committed to taking concrete steps to meet two critical national goals: (1) Ensuring Access To 21st Century Learning Tools For Every Child In Every School; and (2) Expanding Digital Opportunity For Every American Family And Community. We pledge to support these two goals.

GOAL ONE: 21st Century Learning Tools for Every Child in Every School
For children to succeed, they need to master basic skills at an early age. A critical element of this is the need for information and technological literacy. To help achieve these aims, we must focus on a comprehensive approach to integrating technology into teaching and learning while recognizing that -- as powerful as technology is -- it is no substitute for an inspiring teacher or a loving parent. Together, we must:

1. Connect every classroom to the Internet

2. Ensure that all students have modern multi-media computer access, ideally at a ratio of 1 computer for every 4-5 students

3. Ensure that teachers are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum

4. Make available high quality educational software and online learning resources

GOAL TWO: Digital Opportunity for Every American Family and Community
To ensure that no family or community is left behind, we must:

1. Set the long-term goal of making home access to the Internet universal

2. Bring technology to every community -- urban, rural, and Native American -- through Community Technology Centers and high-speed networks

3. Give adults the skills they need to use information technology and compete for jobs in the IT sector

4. Motivate and inspire more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected."

Women's Office

03/13/2000 02:47:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To:

cc: Sondra L. Seba/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: White House Women's Office Update 3/13/00

Please find an Attachment of the President's Call to Action for Digital Opportunity.

Over the last year, President Clinton has placed a major focus on America's under-served rural and urban area The President believes that, given the unprecedented expansion and performance of the US. economy, we now have a unique opportunity to bring these areas into our country's economic mainstream.

An important part of this endeavor is the need to bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity for all Americans. As President Clinton said in his State of the Union, America has an important choice to make. W can allow unequal access to technology and the skills need to use it effectively to deepen divisions along the lin of race, income, education level, geography, and disability, or we can use these new technologies to help make the American dream a reality for more of our citizens.

To make the most of these opportunities, the President is issuing a **National Call To Action**. We would greatl appreciate your participation in this important initiative. We are asking leaders such as you to consider endorsing the goals of the President's Call to Action, which is issued to corporations, non-profits, educators an others to work together to meet two broad goals:

1. **Ensure that every child in every school has access to 21st Century Learning Tools**: To prepare children for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century, and to help improve their academic performa in all subjects -- we must have a comprehensive strategy to connect every classroom to the Internet, ensure that students have access to modern computers, train teachers to use technology, and expand access to high quality educational software and resources.

2. **Help create digital opportunity for every American family and community**:
Our long-term goal should be to make home access to the Internet universal. We also need to bring technology to every community -- urban, rural and Native American -- though Community Technolog Centers and high-speed networks. Finally, we need to give adults and young adults the IT skills they need to compete for high-wage jobs, and to motivate and inspire more people to appreciate the value o "getting connected."

If your organization can endorse the goals of the President's Call to Action, we would ask that you complete th attached form and return to the White House by March 24th by either faxing your response to (202) 456-6218 by e-mailing to jackson_dunn@who.eop.gov

Thank you.

President's Call to Action.D

Digital Divide Talking Points

General Info

• The Digital divide is the growing division in the United States between information "haves" and "have-nots." As concluded in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's July 1999 report, "Falling through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide" this gap between those individuals and communities that have access to Information Age tools such as computers and the Internet and those lacking it is often determined by income, education level, race, geography and gender.

•Households with incomes of $75,000 and higher are more than twenty times more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home.

•Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than Blacks or Hispanics have from any location. Black and Hispanic households are approximately one-third as likely to have home Internet access as households of Asian/Pacific Islander descent, and roughly two-fifths as likely as White households.

• Regardless of income level, Americans living in rural areas are lagging behind in Internet access. Indeed, at the lowest income levels, those in urban areas are more than twice as likely to have Internet access than those earning the same income in rural areas.

Gender and the Digital Divide

• Gender is a determining factor in several aspects of the Digital Divide:
  - Men are 5% more likely than women to access the Internet at work.
  - Job-related use of the Internet are also higher 12% for men than for women.
  - While 61.8% of households composed of married couples with children own computers, only 31.7% of female-headed households have a computer.

•While access to tools of Technology is less influenced by gender than other facts women tend to use computers and the Internet primarily for e-mail, in particular with friends or family and use it significantly less than men at work or for work-related function. Thus, in terms of the digital divide, the focus of the women's community primarily needs to be on learning how to effectively use the tools of the Technology Age.

Importance of Bridging the Digital Divide

• Information tools, such as the personal computer and the Internet are increasingly important to economic success and full participation in America's economic, political and social life. Access to these tools and the ability to effectively use this technology plays a vital role in determining whether or not an individual will succeed in today's job market or whether a disadvantaged community will be able to thrive. As information technology plays an ever-increasing role, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

• As President Clinton stated in December 9, 1999 speech at the first national "Digital Divide Summit" -- "Together we have the power to determine exactly what we want the Internet to become." Our goal should to be mold it into "an instrument of empowerment, education, enlightenment, economic advance and community building across America, regardless of the race, the income, the geography of our citizens."

The President and the Digital Divide

• For the last several years the Clinton-Gore Administration has worked hard to close the digital divide. As part of the President's goal to turn the Digital Divide into Digital Opportunity the Administration has:

- Launched the Digital Divide Network, an Internet-based clearinghouse of information on public and private efforts to bring technology to underserved communities.
- Made the Digital Divide one of its top priorities by helping to pass the Telecommunications Act and supporting the e-rate set up by the FCC to ensure that even the poorest schools can be connected to the Internets.

• These efforts have reaped positive results, such as a 66% increase in the number of schools wired for Internet access. Yet, technological disparity continues to exist and thus broadening access to technology and providing training remain priorities on the President's Agenda. In order to accomplish these goals the President has:

- Included in the Fiscal Year Budget for 2001 $2 Billion in tax incentives to encourage private sector activities such as computer donations and $380 million in new expanded initiatives to serve as a catalyst for public-private partnerships.
- Scheduled to lead a New Markets trip during the week of April 0th designed to mobilize a significant private and public effort to close the digital divide. This trip, which will include leading high-tech CEOs, will highlight communities that are using information technology to enhance children's education, expand access to life-long learning, and create economic growth.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 29, 2000

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2000

- - - - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Last spring, three women astronauts paused during a shuttle mission to pay homage to the past. Thousands of miles into space, floating above the floor of the shuttle, they raised a women's suffrage banner and posed for a picture. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, a participant in this special tribute and a member of the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, said, "We wanted to show how far women have come in this century and to honor the people who fought for our rights." Each year during the month of March, citizens across our country pause to honor the many heroes whose diligence and determination have helped to forge our Nation and enable people like Ellen Ochoa and her colleagues to soar so high.

Women's History Month is about highlighting the extraordinary achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing the equally significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success. It is about the women who bravely donned uniforms and fought for our country. It is about the passion and vision of women educators like Mary McLeod Bethune, who, with only $1.50 in her pocket, founded a school for young black women. It is about the perseverance and pion-eering spirit of women like Margaret Chung, the first Chinese American woman physician, who supported herself through medical school by washing dishes and lecturing on China. It is about Alice Paul's fight for the vote and Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich's campaign to end discrimination against Alaska Natives. It is about the writings of Zora Neale Hurston, the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, the leadership of labor organizer Dolores Huerta, and the trailblazing artistry of photographer
Margaret Bourke-White. It is also about the millions of unsung women whose contributions have made life better for their families and their communities.

Inspired by the courageous pioneers who came before them, women today continue to shape our Nation's destiny. Last year, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins became the first

woman commander of a space shuttle mission. American violinists Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg were the first women to take home the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize in its 25-year history. And, in a game attended by the largest crowd of all time for a women's sporting event, the U.S. women's soccer team captured the World Cup. Today, 58 women hold seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 9 women are United States Senators. More women hold high-level positions in my Administration than in any other in history. And in the private sector, women own nearly 9 million small businesses, employing millions of Americans and contributing significantly to the strength of our economy.

As we honor the past and celebrate the present, we must also focus on the future. Our choices today will have an enormous impact on the destiny of our daughters and grand-daughters, our sons and grandsons. We must rededicate ourselves to forging a society in which gender no longer predetermines a person's opportunities or station in life. We must shatter the glass ceiling; eradicate wage discrimination; and ensure that every American has the tools to meet both family and work responsibilities and to retire in security. By breaking down the remaining barriers and opening wide the doors of opportunity, we can make the future brighter for women and for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2000 as Women's History Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to remember throughout the year the many contributions of courageous women who have made our Nation strong.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

# # #

February 2, 2000

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION: FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY February 2, 2000

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 2, 2000

THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION:
FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
February 2, 2000

Today, President Clinton will unveil a comprehensive proposal to help bridge the digital divide and create new opportunity for all Americans. This issue has been a top priority for Vice President Gore, who has worked to bridge the Digital Divide by ensuring that all children have access to educational technology. Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to use this technology effectively are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America?s economic, political and social life. Unfortunately, unequal access to technology and high-tech skills by income, educational level, race, and geography could deepen and reinforce the divisions that exist within American society. President Clinton believes that we must make access to computers and the Internet as universal as the telephone is today -- in our schools, libraries, communities, and homes.

To make the most of these new opportunities, the President believes we must:

? Broaden access to technologies such as computers, the Internet, and high-speed networks;
? Provide people the skilled teachers and the training they need to master the information economy;
? Promote online content and applications that will help empower all Americans to use new technologies to their fullest potential.

President Clinton will announce specific proposals in his new budget to help accomplish these goals and help create digital opportunity for more Americans -- including $2 billion in tax incentives to encourage private sector activities such as computer donations, and $380 million in new and expanded initiatives to serve as a catalyst for public-private partnerships.

PRESIDENT CLINTON?S NEW BUDGET INITIATIVES

1. $2 billion in tax incentives over 10 years to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers.

2. $150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.

3. $100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.

4. $50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.

5. $45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for under-served communities.

6. $25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities.

7. $10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

To Help Mobilize Public/PrivatePartnerships To Close the Digital Divide, President Clinton Will Lead A New Markets Trip during the week of April 9th: Closing the Digital Divide requires creative partnerships between industry, non-profit organizations and government. That's why President Clinton will lead a New Markets trip during the week of April 9th designed to mobilize a significant private and public effort to close the digital divide. This trip, which will include leading high-tech CEOs, will highlight communities that are using information technology to enhance our children's education, expand access to life-long learning, and create economic growth and high-tech, high-wage jobs.

THE CLINTON-GORE AGENDA FOR
CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
February 2, 2000

Private sector competition and rapid technological progress are powerful forces to bridgethe digital divide and make Information Age tools available for more and more Americans. The information technology industry is able to double the amount of computing power available at a given price every 12-18 months, and is now selling low-cost computers and "information appliances" -- such as specialized Internet access devices. Some companies are even offering free, advertiser-supported Internet access. By working with the private sector and community-based organizations, the Administration can accelerate the trend toward expanded access.

But access to technology is only the first step. We also need to give people the skills they need to use technology, to promote content and applications of technology that will help empower under-served communities, and to ensure that teachers can use technology effectively in the classroom. Below is a brief description of the initiatives that President Clinton and Vice President Gore are proposing to help accomplish these goals:

1. $2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers, and technology training for workers: President Clinton's budget includes $2 billion in new tax incentives to encourage companies to donate computers to schools, libraries and community technology centers, to sponsor schools, libraries, and community technology centers in designated Empowerment Zones, and to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for their employees.
? Encouraging companies to donate computers. The President proposes to extend and expand tax deduction that gives companies an incentive to donate computers to schools, libraries and computer technology centers.

This enhanced deduction allows companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation. Under current law, this deduction applies to donations of computers to schools only and expires after the year 2000. The President?s proposal would extend this provision through June 30, 2004 and would expand it to donations to public libraries or community technology centers in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and high-poverty areas.

? Promoting corporate sponsorship of schools, libraries and community technology centers. The President proposes tax relief to encourage companies to sponsor schools and community technology centers in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. The President?s proposal would allocate credits for $16 million in corporate sponsorship to each of the 31 existing Empowerment Zones and 10 proposed new Empowerment Zones and $4 million in corporate sponsorship for each of the more than 80 Enterprise Communities. In total, the President?s proposal would help support up to nearly $1 billion in annual sponsorships to help improve schools and community technology centers.

? Supporting technology training for workers. The President?s proposal would provide targeted tax relief to encourage companies to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for employees that lack the basic skills to succeed in the modern workplace. Companies would be allowed to take a 20 percent tax credit for up to $5,250 in annual expenses per employee. Eligible employees generally would not have received a high school degree or its equivalent.

2. $150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce use technology effectively in the classroom: Under the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the United States has made enormous progress in connecting schools to the Internet, and increasing the number of modern computers in the classroom. However, access to computers and the Internet will not help students achieve high academic standards unless teachers are as comfortable with a computer as they are with a chalkboard. President Clinton's budget calls for $150 million in Department of Education grants -- double the last year?s investment of $75 million -- to ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum. The need for this investment is clear. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 20 percent of teachers report that they are "very well prepared" to integrate technology into classroom. And over the next 10 years, K-12 schools will need to hire 2 million new teachers to fill the vacancies left by retiring teachers and to accommodate increasing student populations.

3. $100 million to create up to 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural communities: The President's budget more than triples the Department of Education?s support for Community Technology Centers - from $32.5 million in FY2000 to $100 million in FY2001. This initiative, championed by Congresswoman Maxine Waters was initially funded at $10 million in fiscal year 1999. The goal of the initiative is to help close the ?digital divide? by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults that are not able to afford them at home. These community technology centers will help empower hundreds of thousands of low-income children and adults in a variety of ways. Children will be able to improve their performance in school by having access to high-quality educational software after school and prepare for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century by getting certified with an information technology skill. Adults will be able to use computers and the Internet to take a self-paced adult literacy course; get access to America?s Job Bank to see what jobs are available; learn to type up a resume and cover letter using word processing software; learn to start up their own "micro-enterprise" or Web-based business, or acquire new training. A study sponsored by the National Science Foundation confirms that Community Technology Centers are helping to bridge the digital divide. Of the users surveyed: 62 percent had incomes of less than $15,000; 65 percent took computer classes to improve their job skills; and 41 percent got homework help or tutoring at

the center.

4. $50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families: The President's budget includes a new $50 million Department of Commerce pilot program to expand access to computers and the Internet for low-income families, and to give these families the skills they need to use these new Information Age tools effectively. This new program will provide competitive grants to public-private partnerships at the local level. Potential partners might include: local school districts seeking to expand parental involvement in education; high-tech companies willing to provide discounts on computers and access; libraries offering training on "information literacy"; employers seeking to upgrade the skills of their workforce using distance learning, and government agencies at all levels seeking to save taxpayer dollars through the electronic delivery of government services. The Administration will continue to work with the private sector and non-profit organizations on the most effective way to design this program.

5. $45 million to promote innovative applications of information technology for under-served communities: President Clinton's budget will increase the investment in the Department of Commerce?s highly-successful Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) to $45 million -- triple the current level of $15 million. This program encourages innovative applications of information technology that help empower low-income communities -- public health information systems that raise childhood immunization rates in inner-cities, tele-mentoring for at-risk youth, and electronic networks that strengthen local communities by fostering communication and collaboration.

6. $25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of high-speed networks in under-served urban and rural communities: High-speed Internet access is becoming as important to the economic vitality of a community as roads and bridges are today. The President will propose a new $25 million program at the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities -- using grants and loan guarantees. The potential payoff from these kinds of investments is enormous. One company, for example, has helped people move from "welfare-to-work" by connecting their community with the high-speed networks needed to support telecommuting. This solves some of the biggest barriers associated with welfare-to-work -- lack of childcare and transportation.

7. $10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in information technology and other technical fields: The National Science Foundation will support efforts by tribal colleges to increase the number of Native Americans who are prepared to pursue careers in information technology and other technical fields.

The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America?s economic, political and social life. People are using the Internet to find lower prices for goods and services, work from home or start their own business, acquire new skills using distance learning, and make better informed decisions about their healthcare needs. The ability to use technology is becoming increasingly important in the workplace, and jobs in the rapidly growing information technology sector pay almost 80 percent more than the average private sector wage.

Technology, used creatively, can also make a big difference in the way

teachers teach and students learn. In some classrooms, teachers are using the Internet to keep up with the latest developments in their field, exchange lesson plans with their colleagues, and communicate more frequently with parents. Students are able to log on to the Library of Congress to download primary documents for a history paper, explore the universe with an Internet-connected telescope used by professional astronomers, and engage in more active "learning by doing." Students are also creating powerful Internet-based learning resources that can be used by other students -- such as award-winning Web sites on endangered species, the biology of sleep, human perception of sound, and an exploration of the American judicial system.

Access to computers and the Internet has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" -- a gap between those individuals and communities that have access to these Information Age tools and those who don?t. In some instances, this divide is actually widening. A July 1999 report from the Department of Commerce, based on December 1998 Census Department data, revealed that:

? Better educated Americans more likely to be connected. Between 1997 and 1998, the technology divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25%. In 1998, those with a college degree are more than eight times likely to have a computer at home and nearly sixteen times as likely to have home Internet access as those with an elementary school education.

? The gap between high- and low-income Americans is increasing. In the last year, the divide between those at the highest and lowest income levels grew 29%. Households with incomes of $75,000 or higher are more than twenty times more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home.

? Whites more likely to be connected than African-Americans or Hispanics. The digital divide is also persistent and growing along racial and ethnic lines. Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than African-Americans or Hispanics have from any location. African-American and Hispanic households are roughly two-fifths as likely to have home Internet access as white households. The gaps between white and Hispanic households, and between white and African-American households, are now more than six percentage points larger than they were in 1994. However, for incomes of $75,000 and higher, the divide between whites and African-Americans has narrowed considerably in the last year.

? Rural areas less likely to be connected than urban users. Regardless of income level, those living in rural areas are lagging behind in computer ownership and Internet access. At some income levels, those in urban areas are 50% more likely to have Internet access than those earning the same income in rural areas. Low income households in rural areas are the least connected, with connectivity rates in the singles digits for both computers and Internet access.

In addition, data from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals a ?digital divide? in our nation?s schools. As of the fall of 1998, 39 percent of classrooms of poor schools were connected to the Internet, as compared to 62 percent for wealthier schools.

A STRONG RECORD OF WORKING TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to close the digital divide, and to help create opportunity for more Americans in the Information Age.

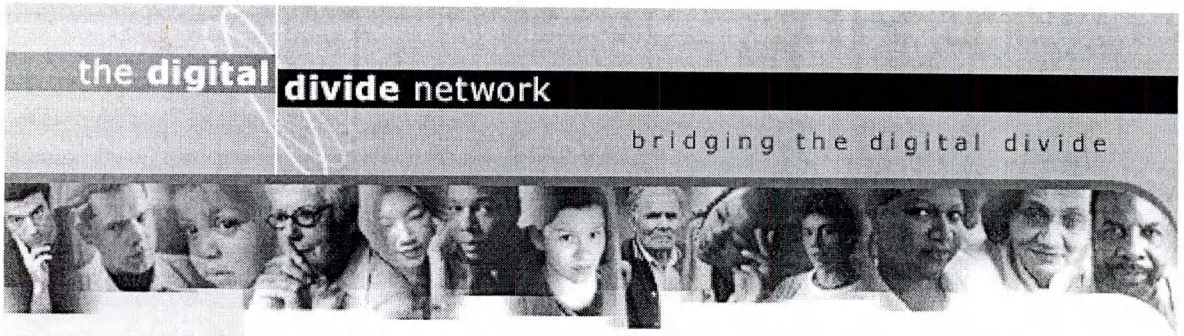
? President Clinton and Vice President Gore have set a national goal of

ensuring that every child is technologically literate. In addition to preparing children for the high-tech workplace of the 21st century, technology can help change the way teachers teach and students learn. Teachers can communicate more frequently with parents, keep up with the latest developments in their field, and exchange lesson plans with their colleagues. Students can conduct research using primary source material, learn the principles of genetics by breeding virtual fruit flies, and learn astronomy by using a professional telescope located 3,000 miles from their classroom.

? As a result of the Clinton-Gore educational technology initiative:
? The number of classrooms connected to the Internet has increased from 3% in 1994 to 51% in 1998.
? The number of schools connected to the Internet has increased from 35% in 1994 to 89% in 1998.
? The "e-rate", part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is providing $2.25 billion in 20% - 90% discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, with the deepest discounts going to the poorest schools that need it most. The e-rate alone has provided Internet access for children in more than 1 million classrooms.
? Our total investment in educational technology at the federal level (including the e-rate) has increased from $23 million in 1993 to over $3 billion today.
? Grants supported by the Department of Education are training 400,000 new teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom.

In addition, President Clinton and Vice-President Gore have worked to:

? Expand access to technology for people with disabilities: President Clinton and Vice President Gore have been strong supporters of efforts to make technology more accessible for people with disabilities. Recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission will help ensure that telecommunications equipment, such as cellular phones, is designed to be accessible for people with disabilities.
? Expand access to technology in under-served communities: In addition to the Community Technology Center program, HUD Sec. Andrew Cuomo has created approximately 500 Neighborhood Network learning centers that bring state of the art technology to publicly-assisted housing across America. HUD's Neighborhood Networks are innovative private/public partnerships that establish computer-based multi-service centers to help people in publicly-assisted housing learn critical computer skills and prepare for 21(superscript: st) century jobs.
? Ensure that the Administration makes closing the Digital Divide a top priority. In December, 1999, President Clinton directed members of the Cabinet to take specific actions to address the digital divide: President Clinton is directing members of his Cabinet (Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor) to take specific steps to close the Digital Divide, including:
? Continuing to measure the nature and extent of the digital divide by examining the importance of income, education, race, gender, geography and age to Americans' access to Information Age tools;
? Expanding the network of Community Technology Centers to provide access to technology for those American who can't afford it;
? Promoting applications of the Internet that will empower low-income families, such as the ability to start their own business; and
? Upgrading the IT skills of workers in low-income communities.



Digital Divide Overview

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Follow this link to learn About the Digital Divide Network

Overview of the Digital Divide

As computer networking becomes increasingly important to economic and social success, many people in inner cities and isolated rural areas are failing to acquire the new technology as rapidly as their more affluent neighbors. Strong government policies and private initiatives are needed to ensure that the new information tools do not widen social divisions based on socioeconomic status and geography. Much is at stake, including:

- whether individuals acquire the essential skills needed for success in today's job market;
- whether disadvantaged communities obtain the tools that will enable them to thrive; and
- ensuring that society benefits from the substantial contributions that diverse communities can make to our economy and culture.

What's Going On

- **Commerce Department Digital Divide Summit** (*Headlines Extra*) "Closing the Digital Divide," the first national summit on digital divide issues was held on Thursday, December 9, 1999 at the US Department of Commerce. The summit provided a venue for a dialogue among some 800 representatives from the Federal Government, the technology industry, civil rights and non-profit communities, grassroots community organizations, and the general public.
- **Digital Divide Network and Mailing List** The Benton Foundation along with the National Urban League and companies from the Internet, computing, telecommunications, and software industries launched the Digital Divide Network (www.DigitalDivideNetwork.org) on Thursday, December 9. The partners will coordinate information, strategies & efforts targeting solutions to the Digital Divide. As part of the process of building open, cross-industry discussion on the digital divide, the Communications Policy & Practice program established the moderated email list, DIGITALDIVIDE. To subscribe to DIGITALDIVIDE send an email message to digitaldivide-request@list.benton.org. In the *first line* of the body of the message, include the following line:
  subscribe digitaldivide youremailaddress
  'Youremailaddress' should be the email address you wish to be subscribed to the list. Forward questions about subscribing to Andy@benton.org.
- **Benton, AOL Team To Bridge The Digital Divide**(8 July 1999)
- NTIA releases **Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide** (8 July 1999), the third in a series of studies on the telecommunications and information technology gap in America.

Benton Digital Divide Digital Beat Series

- **The Digital Divide: Evolving Awareness and Evolving Solutions**
  (Digital Beat vol. 2, no. 23 1/31/00)
  The new year allows for a revisiting of the term "digital divide" and the themes that have defined the popular name for the information technology gap.
- **Demand Aggregation and the Digital Divide**
  (Digital Beat vol. 1, no. 20 12/09/99)
  Communities have the opportunity to shape an economic relationship that improves the fortunes of low-income homes and communities by directly

influencing in-home computer ownership.

- **Resolving the Digital Divide** *(Digital Beat vol. 1, no. 19 11/12/99)* Policymakers and practitioners convened at "Resolving the Digital Divide: Information, Access, and Opportunity," -- an event co-sponsored by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies with the President's Information Technology Advisory Council and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The day's discussions underscored the need to view and approach the digital divide, and its solutions, as more comprehensive than just providing access to technology.
- **Native Americans and the Digital Divide** *(Digital Beat vol. 1, no. 17 10/14/99)* As other communities begin to focus on bringing all their members onto the Internet, many Native Americans still have yet to be connected to a basic telephone network. Statistics point to a dramatic gap between phone penetration rates on Indian reservations and other parts of both urban and rural America.
- **Education Technology: Beyond the E-Rate** (*Digital Beat*, vol. 1, no. 9, 10 June 1999). The E-rate debate -- with its arguments over dollars and cents and its tax rhetoric -- nearly obscured the real decisions we face: What should education look like and what skills will citizens need in the 21st century?
  - Follow the E-Rate Debate
- **The Digital Divide and the US Hispanic Population** *(vol. 1, no. 13 8/06/99)* Defining the digital divide as an important civil rights issue goes beyond social science to make a political and moral statement about the role communications technology plays in fostering a more inclusive and egalitarian America. This Beat focuses on one underserved minority group and responses to the digital divide.
- **The Digital Divide** (*Digital Beat*, vol. 1, no. 11, 8 July 1999) This Digital Beat is the first installment in the series relating to the "Digital Divide" and marks the beginning of a collaboration between Benton and the America Online Foundation -- the Digital Divide Clearinghouse.

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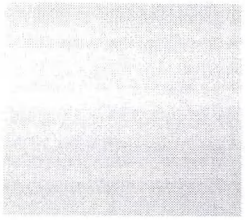
Putting It in Perspective

- **Losing Ground Bit by Bit: Low-Income Communities in the Information Age** looks at the barriers (beyond just income) that are slowing the spread of new technology in low-income communities. (1998)
- **Access Denied**, by Austin Long-Scott, *Outlook*, vol. 8, no. 1, Summer 1995
- **Maynard Institute**, explores the implications if low-income communities and communities of color do not have access to community technologies that are becoming increasingly important for democratic participation.
- **The Digital Divide Confronts The Telecommunications Act Of 1996**, (February 1999) A study conducted by the Consumers Union and Consumer Federation of America conducted a discovered that less than one in four Americans is positioned to receive the lower prices or expanded choice in telecommunications and TV services that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 framers promised from "increased competition".
- **Focus on Generic Skills for Information Technology Literacy**, by Robert H. Anderson and Tora K. Bikson, Rand Corporation (January 1998), who argue that generic, rather than application-specific, knowledge and skills should be the focus of computer literacy efforts, both for citizen participation as well as for job-related skills.
- **The New Definition of Universal Service**, Benton Foundation (June 1997), summarizes Federal Communications Commission's decisions concerning the principles on which universal service policy will be based, what package of services will constitute basic service, and support for low-income consumers.
- **Rural America at the Crossroads: Networking for the Future,** Office of Technology Assessment (1991), Government Printing Office. In-depth analysis of rural communities, the potential role for telecommunications in these communities, and the stakes if these areas are not able to adapt to changing global economies. While not a source of the most recent data, the report's coverage of the long-term trends that will be affecting rural communities in the coming year is helpful.
- **"Society's Digital Divide,"** by Janet Kornblum, *C|Net* (March 14, 1997). An interview with James Katz, who argues that the "digital divide" for the economically impoverished, ethnic minorities, and women is cause for serious concern and will get worse instead of better in the future.
- **Universal Access to Email: Feasibility and Societal Implication**, by Robert H. Anderson, Tora K. Bikson, Sally Ann Law, and Bridger M. Mitchell Center for Information Revolution Analyses, RAND Corporation (1995).



Explores the value of universal email and recommends all citizens have access to technology, focusing on fundamental social, economic, international, and technical issues related to providing universal access to email within the United States.

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FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY

WASHINGTON DC (February 2, 2000) According to a White House press release and subsequent wire coverage, President Clinton unveiled today elements of his FY2001 budget dealing with the digital divide. President Clinton, speaking from Ballou High School in Southeast Washington, DC., details elements of the budget ranging from public access opportunities to home access. The proposals include $2 billion in tax incentives to encourage private sector activities such as computer donations, and $380 million in new and expanded initiatives to spur public-private partnerships. The budget proposal increases the funding of existing programs while introducing new initiatives targeted toward home access and Native American technology development.

Specifically, the administration's announcement goes toward the following goals:

Broaden access to technologies such as computers, the Internet and high-speed networks;
Provide people the skilled teachers and the training they need to master the information economy;
Promote online content and applications that will help empower all Americans to use new technologies to their fullest potential.

The points of President Clinton's 2001 budget initiatives are as follows:

1. $2 billion over 10 years in tax incentives to encourage private sector donation of computers, sponsorship of community technology centers and technology training for workers.

   The tax incentive proposal is three-fold: 1) The extension and expansion of an enhanced tax deduction that allows companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation to schools libraries and technology centers. 2) Encouraging companies to sponsor schools and community technology centers in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. The proposal would allocate credits for $16 million in corporate sponsorship to each of the existing Empowerment Zones and 10 proposed new Empowerment Zones and $4 million in corporate sponsorship for each of the more than 80 Enterprise Communities. 3) Supporting technology training for workers. The proposal would provide targeted tax relief to encourage companies to provide basic computer training, workplace literacy, or other basic education for employees that lack the basic skills to succeed in the modern workplace. Generally, the eligible employees generally would not have received a high school degree or its equivalent.

2.$150 million to help train all new teachers entering the workforce to use technology effectively.

The budget proposal calls for calls for $150 million in Department of Education grants to ensure that all new teachers entering the workforce are technologically literate and can integrate technology into the curriculum. This point would effectively double the amount of funding in this area from last year.

3.$100 million to create 1,000 Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods.

The budget proposal triples the Department of Education's support for Community Technology Centers - from $32.5 million in FY2000 to $100 million in FY2001. Initially, the initiative was funded at $10 million in fiscal year 1999. The goal of the initiative is to help close the "digital divide" by providing computers and Information Age tools to children and adults that are not able to afford them at home.

4.$50 million for a public/private partnership to expand home access to computers and the Internet for low-income families.

The President's budget includes a new $50 million Department of Commerce pilot program to expand access to computers and the Internet for low-income families, and to give these families the skills they need to use these new Information Age tools effectively. This program will provide competitive grants to public-private partnerships at the local level. Potential partners might include: local school districts seeking to expand parental involvement in education; high-tech companies willing to provide discounts on computers and access; libraries offering training on "information literacy"; employers seeking to upgrade the skills of their workforce using distance learning, and government agencies at all levels seeking to save taxpayer dollars through the electronic delivery of government services. The Administration will continue to work with the private sector and non-profit organizations on the most effective way to design this program.

5.$45 million to promote innovative applications of information and communications technology for under-served communities.

The budget proposal will increase the funding of the Department of Commerce's highly-successful Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) to $45 million -- triple the current level of $15

million. TOP, formerly known as TIIAP, encourages innovative applications of information technology that help empower low-income communities -- public health information systems that raise childhood immunization rates in inner-cities, tele-mentoring for at-risk youth, and electronic networks that strengthen local communities by fostering communication and collaboration.

6. $25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities. High-speed Internet access, or "broadband access", is becoming as important to the economic vitality of a community as roads and bridges are today. The President will propose a new $25 million program at the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in under-served urban and rural communities -- using grants and loan guarantees.

7. $10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.

The National Science Foundation will support efforts by tribal colleges to increase the number of Native Americans who are prepared to pursue careers in information technology and other technical fields.

Produced in partnership with:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 9, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The Rose Garden

8:12 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I just thought we ought to come out here in the brisk morning sunshine and wake up together. (Laughter.) I want to thank the representatives here from all parts of the communication industry, from the foundation world, from various civil rights and other civic groups for being here, and coming in and giving me a chance to make this statement, because I had intended to go to Secretary Daley's conference today on bridging the digital divide, and because I'm going to Worcester, I couldn't do that. So they came in this morning and we had a visit. I want to thank them for being here and for their commitment, and for all those who aren't here, but are at the conference.

This conference is about closing the digital divide. And we have worked hard on that for the last several years in very specific contexts. Under the Vice President's leadership, we have worked to make sure that eventually a digital divide will not deprive business of the technology-savvy workers they need, and will not hurt our educational systems today.

We started with the first NetDay in California, back in 1994, when only 3 percent of our classrooms were wired and only 14 percent of our schools were. And we've been working ever since. Now we know that, through the public-private partnership that have been established all over America, through the Telecommunications Act and the e-rate, which the FCC set to make sure our poorest schools could afford to be connected, we're now up over 50 percent of the schools, from 3 percent, and over 80 percent of the classrooms, from 14 percent, since 1994. And I think that's pretty good.

I'm very pleased by that, and we're on our way to meeting our goal sometime next year of having all of our schools wired, and soon after that, all of our classrooms wired. I want to thank the Vice President and all the people in various industries who have supported us and helped us in this regard.

But as Secretary Daley's most recent Falling Through The Net report shows, there is still a lot more to do. We must connect all of our citizens to the Internet not just in schools and libraries, but in homes, small businesses, and community centers. And we must help all Americans gain the skills they need to make the most of the connection. So this morning, as they go back to their meeting, I want to announce a series of new plans and partnership that will expand on both these efforts, to use the combined forces of public, private, and non-profit sectors, finally to slam shut the digital divide.

First, I have decided to lead a prominent delegation, including top CEOs, on a New Markets tour this spring to focus specifically on the digital divide out in America. As we've done on our previous tours, we will visit communities that have not fully participated in our nation's

economic growth. And yet, in the communities we'll also see how partnership between the public and private sectors can unleash the power of the Internet to link children and adults to a lifetime of learning, to provide access to distant medical care, to empower parents, to assist job seekers, to enhance safety and foster economic development.

Second, I am signing an executive memorandum to ensure that closing the digital divide will be a vital goal not just for Secretary Daley and for us here in the White House, but throughout the federal government. For example, I'm directing Secretary Daley to work with the private sector to develop a national strategy for connecting all Americans to the Internet; and directing Secretaries Daley, Riley, Herman, Cuomo and Shalala to expand our growing network of community technology centers.

I just ask you all to think about this one thing: What do you believe the economic impact would be if Internet access and usage were as dense in America as telephone access and usage. I think it's clear that we need to keep working until we achieve this goal.

Third, with the help of many other groups, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is launching an initiative to empower the entire civil rights community through an expanding civil rights.org website, through leadership forums and even modern-day freedom riders who will bring high-tech training to the door-steps of non-profit organizations.

As the Congress of National Black Churches has said, the digital divide is a key civil rights issue of the 21st century. That's why our civil rights organizations must be ready, wired, and able to lead the change.

Fourth, the Benton Foundation is bringing together companies from across the computing, telecommunications, software and Internet industries, as well as the Urban League and several other large private foundations, to create the Digital Divide Network, an enormous clearinghouse of information for information on public and private efforts to bring technology to underserved communities. For the first time, we'll have one-stop shop for tracking our progress in every community, and for learning exactly what's worked and what hasn't.

Now, these are the steps we'll take immediately. I want to thank all the leaders who are here today who are making these initiatives possible, and all of those who are going to announce specific things that they and their companies and organizations are doing at the conference. I thank them for the other major commitments they will make, because there is no single big silver bullet here, but we know we have to have a national commitment to closing the digital divide.

I also want to send out an invitation to all of your counterparts around the country who are not able to be with us today, but who should join with us in this great national endeavor. Together we have the power to determine exactly what we want the Internet to become, and what we want it to do is to be an instrument of empowerment, education, enlightenment, and economic advance and community building all across America, regardless of the race, the income, the geography of our citizens. And thanks to these people, we're going to be closer to achieving that goal.

Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President, there seems to be a divide with President Yeltsin this morning. He has given you something of a long-distance tongue-lashing, saying that you've forgotten that Russia is a great power and has a nuclear arsenal. And he accuses you of taking an anti-Russian position on Chechnya.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll say again what I said yesterday. I don't think what they're doing will help them to achieve their goal. Their goal, their legitimate goal, is to defeat the

Chechen rebels, and to stop their terrorism within Russia, to stop their invasion of neighboring provinces like Dagestan. And I don't think displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians will achieve that goal. I don't know what else to say.

I haven't forgotten that. You know, I didn't think he'd forgotten that America was a great power when he disagreed with what I did in Kosovo. I mean, we can't get too serious about all the -- let's not talk about what the leaders are saying and all these words of criticism. Let's focus on what the country is doing. Is it right or wrong? Will it work or not? What are the consequences?

I think -- I don't agree with what's going on there. And I think I have an obligation to say so.

Thank you. I've got to go.

END 8:20 A.M. EST

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS
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National
Telecommunications
Information
Administration

For Immediate Release
Monday, February 7, 2000
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NTIA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS AGENCY EFFORTS TO HELP CLOSE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Washington-Assistant Commerce Secretary for Communications and Information and head of NTIA, Gregory L. Rohde, today unveiled a $225.5 million NTIA budget request for FY 2001, that highlights the agency's commitment to help close the gap between Americans with access and those without access to information technologies, tools critical to advancement and economic success.

Last July, NTIA released a study that showed that while more Americans than ever had access to telephones, computers and the Internet, the gap between those with access to these information technologies persists and has widened within the past several years.

"Access to computers and the Internet and other tools of the information age is increasingly critical to successful participation in our digital economy and our society and we need to ensure that everyone has access to these technologies," Rohde said.

The budget request included $97.5 million for programs aimed at closing the digital divide, a top priority for the Clinton-Gore Administration. A major component in the agency's digital divide initiatives is a $45.1 million funding request for the Technology Opportunities Program (TOP), a competitive, merit-based program that provides start up money for innovative projects using advanced telecommunications and information technology. The budget request represents a tripling of the funding request from last year.

Another major component is the creation of a new $50 million program to ensure Internet access to all Americans. The purpose of the program is to enable low-income individuals and families, minorities and residents in rural areas who are also falling on the wrong side of the digital divide to acquire connections, training and support needed for full participation in the information economy.

"TOP programs show how advanced telecommunications and information technologies stimulate economic growth, improve the nation's health and education and public safety," Assistant Secretary Rohde said. "The new computer access program will build upon the successful principles of the TOP program to support public/private partnerships designed to connect people to information highway," he said.

And $2 million is also requested for enhancing the environment of broadband (wireless and wire line) communications technology through research and standard development.

The budget also includes a $400,000 request for the "Falling through the Net" study, a statistical survey that measures access to computers, Internet and telecommunications services among different parts of

society and in all areas of the country.

The NTIA budget request also includes $110.1 million, a $83.6 million funding increase for its Public Telecommunications Facilities, Planning and Construction program. The program consists of helping communities with digital equipment needed by local public broadcasting organizations to meet the Federal requirement to convert to digital transmission.

It also requested $6.3 million to fulfill its responsibilities as the lead government agency in the Administration's initiative to protect, in partnership with the private sector, the nation's critical infrastructure from deliberate attacks.

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REVISED: Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 9, 1999

December 9, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Narrowing the "Digital Divide:" Creating Opportunities for All Americans in the Information Age

Information tools, such as the personal computer and the Internet, are increasingly important to economic success and full participation in all aspects of American society. People with computers and Internet access can use these tools to find a job, acquire new skills, start a small business, get lower prices for goods and services, and become more informed citizens.

Currently, not all Americans are enjoying the benefits of the Information Age tools. In July 1999, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration issued a report, *Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide*, which found a growing gap between those with access to these tools and those without. Black and Hispanic households are only two-fifths as likely to have Internet access as white households. Households with incomes of $75,000 and higher, in urban areas, are more than twenty times as likely to have access to the Internet as households at the lowest income levels, and more than nine times as likely to have a computer at home. As information technology plays an ever-increasing role in Americans' economic and social lives, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

Fortunately, competition and advances in technology are driving down the cost of computers and Internet access, which will make these new Information Age tools affordable for more Americans. I believe that we should set a national goal of making computers and Internet access available for every American. Furthermore, we should explore ways of using technology to expand the economic opportunities for those Americans who have not yet enjoyed the benefits of our prosperity.

Accordingly, I am directing executive departments and agencies ("agencies") to take the following specific actions to help Americans benefit from advances in information technology:

1. The Secretary of Commerce shall work with the private sector and others to develop a national strategy for making computers and the Internet accessible to all Americans, with the goal of significantly narrowing the "digital divide."

2. The Secretary of Commerce shall continue to measure the level of connectivity of Americans to telecommunications and information tools, and report periodically on the relationship of income, education, race, gender, geography, and age to Americans' access to these tools.

3. The Secretaries of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Labor, and Commerce shall:

   (a) expand our growing network of Community Technology Centers to provide access to technology for low-income Americans; and

   (b) encourage the development of information technology applications that would help enable low-income Americans to start and manage their own small businesses.

4. The Secretaries of Education, Labor, and Commerce shall work with the private sector to upgrade the information technology skills of America's workforce, particularly workers living in disadvantaged urban and rural communities.

5. The Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall highlight and disseminate the lessons learned from their grant programs and educational technology initiatives, with an emphasis on underserved citizens, to increase the number of communities across the Nation that could reap the benefits of information technologies for their residents.

6. Items 1-5 of this memorandum and my July 1, 1997, and November 30, 1998, memoranda shall be conducted subject to the availability of appropriations and consistent with agencies' priorities and my budget, and to the extent permitted by law.

7. The Vice President shall continue his leadership in coordinating the United States Government's electronic commerce strategy. Further, I direct that the heads of executive departments and agencies report to the Vice President and to me on their progress in meeting the terms of this memorandum, through the Electronic Commerce Working Group (ECWG) in its annual report. To the extent that

substantial new policy issues emerge, the analysis and action on those policies will be coordinated in a manner consistent with the responsibilities of the ECWG, the National Economic Council, and the Domestic Policy Council, as appropriate.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE AT WORK

Thursday, December 9, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE: WORKING TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

"Together we have the power to determine exactly what we want the Internet to become... to be an instrument of empowerment, education, enlightenment, economic advance and community-building all across America, regardless of the race, the income, the geography of our citizens."

President Bill Clinton
Thursday, December 9, 1999

Today, at the White House, President Clinton addressed high-tech CEOs and civil rights, education, and non-profit leaders on the digital divide - the growing division in the U.S.between information "haves" and "have-nots." The President announced that he will lead a trip next spring to focus attention on the digital divide, and will issue a directive to his Cabinet to take specific actions to address this challenge. He also announced several commitments from non-profit organizations and the private sector to help close the divide.

The Importance of Bridging the Digital Divide. Access to computers and the Internet and the ability to effectively use this technology are becoming increasingly important for full participation in America's economic, political and social life. Access to computers and the Internet has exploded during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" – a gap between those individuals and communities that have access to these Information Age tools and those who do not.

From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity. Today, Secretary of Commerce William Daley convened the first Digital Divide Summit, a roundtable with high-technology CEOs and civil rights, education, and non-profit leaders on ways to bridge the divide. In remarks to summit participants, President Clinton announced actions that will help create digital opportunity for more Americans:

- A trip next spring by the President and top CEOs to disadvantaged urban and rural communities to focus national attention on the digital divide and help mobilize private and public efforts;
- A directive to members of the Cabinet to take specific actions to close the digital divide, such as expanding Community Technology Centers in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods, continuing to measure the extent of the digital divide, and helping low-income workers gain the skills they need to compete for high-paying information technology jobs;
- The launch of the Digital Divide Network, an Internet-based clearinghouse of information on public and private efforts to bring technology to underserved communities;
- The formation of the Digital Opportunity Partnership, an alliance between the private sector and civil and human rights organizations to

bring high technology to the doorstep of nonprofit organizations; and

- A commitment by the Congress of National Black Churches to make the digital divide a top civil rights priority.

A Strong Record on Closing the Digital Divide. President Clinton and Vice President Gore have worked hard to close the digital divide, including:

- Working to connect every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000;
- Providing discounted Internet access to libraries and classrooms through the e-rate program;
- Expanding the network of Community Technology Centers to provide access to those who can't afford it;
- Improving access to technology for people with disabilities; and
- Encouraging the development of information technology applications for low-income Americans.

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