

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National Economic Council

Series/Staff Member: Thomas Kalil

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24550

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Digital Divide

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Section:

5

Shelf:

9

Position:

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 4, 1997

Congratulations on the launch of the Web Accessibility Initiative -- an effort to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the Internet's World Wide Web.

New information and communications technologies can improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, but only if such technologies are designed from the beginning so that everyone can use them. Given the explosive growth in the use of the World Wide Web for publishing, electronic commerce, lifelong learning and the delivery of government services, it is vital that the Web be accessible to everyone. The Web Accessibility Initiative will develop the tools, technology, and guidelines to make it possible to display information in ways that are available to all users.

I commend the World Wide Web Consortium, industry sponsors, and the Yuri Rubinski Foundation for launching this important project. I am pleased that the Department of Education will provide funding for the Web Accessibility Initiative, and that the National Science Foundation is considering expanding its support for research and development in this area. My Administration is committed to working with these and other organizations to ensure that this innovative project is a success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

July 28, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

FROM: TOM KALIL

CC: CECILLIA ROUSE, JEANNE LAMBREW, JON KAPLAN

RE: "Curbcuts on the Information Superhighway"

Summary: This memo proposes a Presidential initiative/event to accelerate the development and adoption of information and communications technologies that can be easily used by the 55 million Americans with disabilities. The key idea is that technology should be designed from the beginning to be accessible to people with disabilities, which is referred to as "universal design." If technology is accessible, this will significantly improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, enhance their ability to participate in the workplace, and make them full participants in the Information Society. However, if information technology is not accessible, Americans with disabilities could be even more isolated. Presidential leadership is needed to make information technology accessible to all Americans.

Event:

- President sees demonstrations of accessible technology.
- Speaking program:
 - Person from disabilities community discusses importance of accessibility.
 - Industry leader discusses commitment of private sector to make progress in this area (e.g. member of Task Force)
 - President makes policy announcement.

Next steps

- If you are comfortable with the outlines of the proposal, I will work to coordinate this on an inter-agency basis. It will have FY2000 budget implications, however.

ALL:
Yes, Yes, Yes.
Let's keep pushing on this
2 cells and to do
this + am willing to
spend my time
pushing it.
Keep going
+ keep me
up to
date
GS
8/25/98

Possible elements of the initiative

1. Leveraging the government's procurement power to promote accessible technologies

- The Administration has been supporting amendments that would strengthen Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act as part of the "GI Bill." The new Section 508 would require federal agencies to ensure that both employees and members of the public seeking government services "have access to and use of information and data" that is equivalent to people without disabilities. The Access Board would be charged with developing the standards for accessible technology, and these standards would be incorporated into federal procurement regulations. near existing
- Strengthening Section 508 would encourage private sector companies that want to sell to the government to make their products more accessible to people with disabilities.

2. Investing in R&D and testbeds for accessible technologies

- The Administration could expand its investment in R&D that would improve the accessibility of information technology. Currently, the National Science Foundation and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) collectively invest several millions of dollars per year [check] in this area.
- The primary goal would be to develop technology that allows people with disabilities to interact with computers, telecommunications equipment, and information services in a way that is convenient for them. This might mean supporting R&D for:
 - Improved speech recognition technology or "eye-tracking" technology for people who can't use a keyboard;
 - "Text-to-speech" or "dynamic braille" for people who are blind;
 - Automatic captioning of multimedia or audio for people who are deaf;
 - A device that recognizes American Sign Language and translates it to speech or text in real-time;
 - Graphical user interfaces or operating systems that are usable by people who are blind or low-vision; and
 - Storing information so that it can be displayed in multiple formats, depending on the needs of the user.

3. Developing an "Underwriters Laboratory" for accessible technologies

- The government could provide start-up funding to a private sector organization -- analogous to the Underwriters' Laboratory -- that would test information & communications technologies to see if they are accessible. Again, this would improve the market for accessible technology.
- Eventually, this would be self-supporting from user fees.

4. Education and training for universal design

- The government could provide grants to universities that develop curriculum on universal design. These courses, which would be offered in traditional classroom settings and using distance learning technologies -- would train hardware and software engineers to develop products that are accessible.

5. Industry consortia for accessibility

- Last year, President Clinton endorsed the Web Accessibility Initiative, which was funded by industry, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the European Community. The Web Accessibility Initiative is working to make the Web accessible for people with disabilities by:
 - Making sure that the evolving Web standards are developed with accessibility concerns in mind;
 - Developing guidelines for accessible Web sites and Web browsers;
 - Raising awareness among people who develop Web sites and Web software about the importance of the accessibility issue.
- The Web Accessibility Initiative was regarded as a significant step forward by the disabilities community because it gave them an opportunity to work cooperatively with industry, and to address accessibility concerns from the very beginning.
- The government could provide matching funds for industry consortia that would work to make other technologies accessible, such as interactive television, small, hand-held computers, and cellular phones.

6. Tax incentives

- The Treasury Department is examining the proposal to allow a credit of 50 percent of the first \$10,000 of impairment-related work expenses for people with disabilities. These expenses, in general, are for attendant care services at work and other expenses necessary to be able to work, but should include assistive technology. This credit would help expand the market for accessible technology.



Michale B.
Tom Kalil ✓

17 December 1999

Mr. John D. Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear John,

Thank you again for taking the time to discuss in detail the possibility of a landmark effort to close the emerging Digital Divide.

More than ever, we believe that it is critical for the Administration to put a specific placeholder item in the upcoming budget to subsidize up to 1 million low-income households in America's poorest communities. We believe that the program is feasible at a \$10 per household per month level, or \$120 million next year plus a nominal amount for the level of oversight the Administration and Congress feel is appropriate.

During our several meetings with White House staff, a few key issues were raised which we promised to address as our follow up. Those are:

Standards for hardware & internet service

We propose that a public-private partnership either form a new or charter an existing not-for-profit corporation (e.g., a "Digital Opportunity Corporation"). The Digital Opportunity Corp. (DOC) would be charged with periodically setting technically neutral standards for minimum acceptable hardware, software, and ISP services sufficient to provide a base level of home computing and internet access. As of today, these standards would be, roughly:

1. A 333 Mhz processor
2. Sufficient memory to support multimedia functions (probably 32 MB of RAM)
3. Sufficient hard drive storage for family use (probably 3 GB)
4. A full-featured web browser
5. Free e-mail
6. A Standard software suite including word processing, spreadsheets

Eligibility

Eligibility would be determined by the U.S. Government in its subsidy allocation. Confirmation of eligibility would be verified by the DOC. The working goal is to provide a subsidy for the nine million poorest households, or those families with incomes up to 130% of the federal poverty level.

Fraud

Each machine would carry a serial number. If a participant failed to pay monthly charges, or illegally sold the machine to someone else, the machine would not be able to gain internet access.

One Embarcadero Center
Suite 4050
San Francisco, CA 94111

(415) 362-4022
fax (415) 362-6178
alta@altapartners.com

Fraudulent sale of the equipment or corporate abuse of the program should carry an appropriate criminal penalty.

Vendor-neutrality

The proposed voucher scheme would not advantage any vendor or service provider. The technical standards would not favor or require any particular hardware, software, or architecture. The proposed standards can be met by virtually all configurations currently in the market. More cost-efficient vendors would benefit by reducing costs and/or increasing the range of features.

Marketing

We believe that the Administration must take the lead on stimulating the market for this new class of service. In addition, we expect to secure donations to help market the program.

Privacy

We believe that users of the Universal Access program must be assured of a high level of privacy. No party will be permitted to monitor usage of the device. The individuals involved may choose to release some demographic information in exchange for reduced charges or other benefits, but this cannot be a requirement as part of the Universal Access package. While we believe that there is a legitimate use for *aggregate* demographic information about web-users, no personally identifiable information would be sold to any third party under any circumstances.

Payment mechanism

Payments will be made either through the standard billing system currently employed by the ISP, or via the phone bill. We realize that many ISPs currently require a credit card to establish an account. We will work with these providers to help finance these new classes of accounts.

Negative impact on Universal Service

The program will not have any impact on Universal Telephone Service. While standard POP-server internet access is available via local phone call to 98% of Americans, there may be the need to explore availability of ISP services in a few of the most rural areas.

Adult content and inappropriate advertising

We do not believe that any censorship standard is appropriate for a governmental program. The service providers will be required to provide screening software to limit objectionable material as desired by the users. In order to keep the users co-payment level as low as possible, some advertising via standard "banner ads" will occur. However, the DOC will be able to create a reasonable "no" list of advertising that could include items like tobacco, alcohol, adult content, etc.

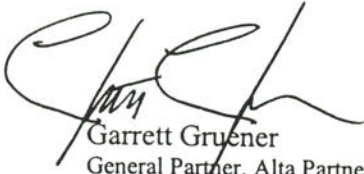
Accountability

While we are confident that there is wide industry support for each of these terms, U.S. Government oversight and resultant accountability is appropriate. We believe that the Board

members of the DOC should be selected by the Administration and Congress, and should be removed at will should an inappropriate policy or allocation of resources be made.

We are all mindful of Gene Sperling's admonition that no good deed goes unpunished in Washington, DC. Each of the above issues is serious and substantive. Each will give opponents an opportunity to criticize and demagogue, perhaps both from left and the right. But we know that no one else has a plan to bring the opportunity of the New Economy into the family room of America's poorest households, and as ardent supporters of the Administration, we have faith in your ability to help us navigate this difficult but extraordinarily important process.

Sincerely,



Garrett Gruener
General Partner, Alta Partners



Wade Randlett
Vice President, Red Gorilla



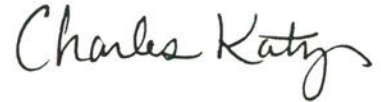
Eric Schmidt
CEO, Novell



John Luongo
Former CEO, Vantive



Nick Grouf
Chairman & CEO, PeoplePC



Charles Katz
President & CEO, 1stUp.com



Danny Rimer
Partner, The Barksdale Group



J. Neil Weintraut
Partner, 21st Century Internet Venture Partners



17 December 1999

Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

Under separate cover we have sent to John Podesta the latest details of our proposal for Universal Access to the Internet for lower-income American families.

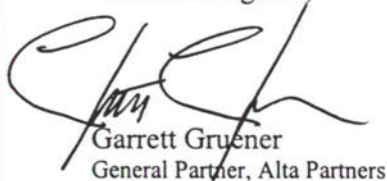
In short, we believe that it is economically and logistically feasible to give up to 1 million families unlimited internet access for only a \$120 million per year federal government subsidy. Our goal is to extend internet access to all Americans who are interested within 5 years. We urge you in the strongest possible way to include a placeholder in your upcoming budget for this important national priority.

As a proof-of-concept, we are currently exploring a "jump-start" program for approximately 500 poor families in the Bay Area, for which we would raise privately the funds necessary for the subsidy that would ultimately be provided by the federal government.

The Digital Divide today is a real problem that will only get worse unless we address it now. As ardent and longtime supporters of your Administration, we believe that this initiative would be an excellent complement to your life-long commitment to bring full educational and economic opportunity to every American.

We each stand ready to help make this idea a reality.

Warmest Regards,



Garrett Gruener
General Partner, Alta Partners



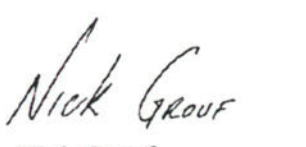
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Proposal for the Digital Opportunity Act

No American shall be denied the treasures of the world wide web for want of family resources

Widespread internet access is rapidly becoming a integral part of sustaining our democracy. By acting aggressively now, we can pre-empt a future with a "digital divide" between information have's and have-not's. Further we can use the internet to enhance opportunity for lower-income Americans. We can help people help themselves overcome inadequate education, lack of health and wellness information, and limited job and career prospects. Moreover, the Internet can help accelerate the process of re-inventing government, and thereby promote cost savings and increased efficiency to governments and taxpayers alike. To accomplish this, we must include every interested American in the Internet revolution.

Background

Since 1934 in the name of Universal Service, the Federal Government has acted to ensure that all Americans have affordable access to telecommunications services. When the 1996 Telecommunications act was passed, the FCC established the first specific definition of the "basic package" of essential services that Universal Service encompasses. This currently includes;

- 1) Voice grade access to the public telephone network, with the ability to place and receive calls; 2) touch-tone service; 3) single-party service; 4) access to emergency services, including 911 and Enhanced 911 (which identifies a caller's location); 5) access to operator services; 6) access to interexchange services; 7) access to directory assistance; and 8) Lifeline and Link Up services for qualifying low-income consumers¹

We propose that the federal government has a legitimate interest in expanding "communications access" to include computing and internet access for low-income Americans, with an income ceiling at either at 130% of poverty level, or as much as \$25,000 for a family of four. In exchange for a co-payment between \$5.00 and \$10.00 per month, qualifying citizens would receive:

- 1) A new computer, replaced every 36 months, capable of surfing the Web, sending email, storing ample data, and performing common software tasks (word processing, spreadsheets, money management, etc.).
- 2) Dial-up Internet access.

We believe that in the 21st century, home Internet service will be critical for any citizen to be a productive part of American society. Internet tools like e-mail are becoming integral parts of our communication system. Job searches and online educational courses are

¹ The new definition of Universal Service, Benton Foundation, June 10, 1997
<http://www.benton.org/Updates/summary.html>

becoming popular Internet activities. When every American becomes connected to the Internet at home there will also be a number of benefits for local, state, and federal Governments. Government services could use this public-private partnership as an effective means of communicating with low-income citizens regarding, among others,

- Health care information
- Tax and Social Security information
- Child welfare information
- Unlimited educational material for children.

The 1998 Department of Commerce report, Falling Through The Net, sums up these benefits quite well.

Traditionally, our notion of being connected to the nation's communications networks has meant having a telephone. Today, Americans' increased use of computers and the Internet has changed that notion. To be connected today increasingly means to have access to telephones, computers, and the Internet. While these items may not be necessary for survival, arguably in today's emerging digital economy they are necessary for success. As the Department of Commerce has found in its *Emerging Digital Economy reports*, the dramatic growth of electronic commerce and the development of information technology (IT) industries are changing the way Americans work, communicate, purchase goods, and obtain information. Jobs in the new economy now increasingly require technical skills and familiarity with new technologies. Additionally, obtaining services and information increasingly requires access to the Internet.²

The 1996 Telecommunications Act describes Universal Service as an "evolving level of telecommunications services" and suggests that any changes should consider;

The extent to which such telecommunications services-- (A) are essential to education, public health, or public safety; (B) have, through the operation of market choices by customers, been subscribed to by a substantial majority of residential customers; (C) are being deployed in public telecommunications networks by telecommunications carriers; and (D) are consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.³

We believe that home Internet service satisfies conditions A, C and D and that soon it will satisfy condition B.

Internet Lifeline Service For Qualifying Low Income Consumers

Currently less than 6% of households whose income is under \$15,000 are connected to the Internet at home⁴. The monthly cost of an ISP and the cost of computer hardware are the two most significant impediments to home Internet access for low-income Americans.

² Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide, US Department of Commerce, July 1999, Page 77
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/ftn99/contents.html>

³ 1996 Telecommunications Act, US Government, Section 254 part (c)
<http://www.technologylaw.com/techlaw/act.html>

⁴ Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide, Chart II-2

The most important reasons why certain households have never used the Internet is that they “don’t want it” or it is too expensive. Although the former is the more important reason overall, the cost factor dominates among low-income groups, Hispanics, single-parent families, the youngest householders, and the unemployed. Policymakers should therefore consider the role of cost as a deterrent to expanding online access.⁵

To make home Internet access affordable for all Americans we propose subsidizing monthly Internet service for low-income consumers. We envision two possible uses for these subsidies. The few low-income consumers who already own a PC or Internet capable device can use their subsidies for free Internet access. Those who do not own their own hardware can use their subsidy to help pay for a combination package of Internet service and hardware if they make a modest monthly “co-payment.”

We propose distributing the subsidy in the form of vouchers, allowing qualified households to purchase Internet service from any ISP, or ISP/Hardware provider they desire. Eligibility for this program would be determined in a manner similar to the Federal food stamp program. Eligibility for food stamps is based on citizenship, income and asset ownership. Gross monthly income cannot exceed 130% of Federal Poverty guidelines. Approximately nine million American households are currently eligible for this program.

There are two places that the federal government needs to supply a subsidy to make this service affordable to low-income Americans. Internet service providers and hardware manufacturers. The federal Government need not decide how much should go to each provider, but rather would issue a voucher in the range of \$10 per household per month to private-sector partners who meet the minimum criteria spelled out by a supervising body. Hardware manufacturers and internet service providers would work together to create, market, distribute, and service those customers who signed up for their particular package.

Cost Estimates

The Universal Access proposal is built on the following assumptions:

- Internet appliances are becoming extremely affordable.
- There is a strong public policy argument for subsidizing Internet access for underprivileged Americans
- The screen real estate is valuable, and can be sold (with appropriate restrictions) to advertisers
- The cost of bulk ISP services will remain constant (a very conservative assumption)

⁵ Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide, Page 39

For the purposes of this analysis, we have assumed that the hardware and software can be purchased for \$360, including a monitor, in quantities exceeding 500,000 units. This assumption is based upon quotes we have seen for similar devices within the last 90 days. We also assume that the co-payment would be \$5 per month, and that the net subsidy would be \$10 per month. Bulk ISP services are included at a rate of eight dollars per month. We further assume that the screen real estate would be sold by the vendor for five dollars per month (net) in year one, rising to ten dollars per month by year three. The hardware is assumed to have zero value by the end of three years. The result is a net present value of approx. \$440, which should provide adequate incentive for multiple vendors to offer a competitive hardware/connectivity package.

The hardware could be either a specially designed consumer device optimized for ease of use, or a full PC. It would include at least a 333 Mhz processor, 32 Mbytes of RAM, built-in speakers, and a monitor. The software would include a fully capable internet browser and an office suite, including word processor and spreadsheet.

We expect that we could distribute up to one million units in the first year of the program, up to four million in year two, and up to nine million in year three.

Timeline

We envision this as a five year program. Within this timeframe we want all low-income consumers who desire home Internet service to have it. This is an ambitious goal, but an attainable one. To accomplish this, the program must be well advertised and designed. Fortunately the Government is not the only organization that will have an incentive to advertise this service. If the voucher system is used, ISP's and computer manufacturers will also have an incentive to advertise the availability of them.

Proposed Program Structure

We propose that a public-private partnership either form a new or charter an existing not-for-profit corporation (e.g., a "Digital Opportunity Corporation"). The Digital Opportunity Corp. (DOC) would be charged with periodically setting technically neutral standards for minimum acceptable hardware, software, and ISP services sufficient to provide a base level of home computing and internet access. In addition, the DOC would have responsibilities for determining eligibility requirements, appropriate advertising policies and managing the overall program. See exhibit 1.

Future

We do not expect that we will have to maintain these subsidies in the future. As more Americans become connected to the Internet, prices for hardware and connectivity will continue to drop. Advertising revenue on the Internet is likely to increase to the point where internet capable devices and their corresponding ISP's are given away for free. Nonetheless we believe that the Government must make the initial push to get these families connected to the Internet today, otherwise they may never get connected. With a subsidy model, rather

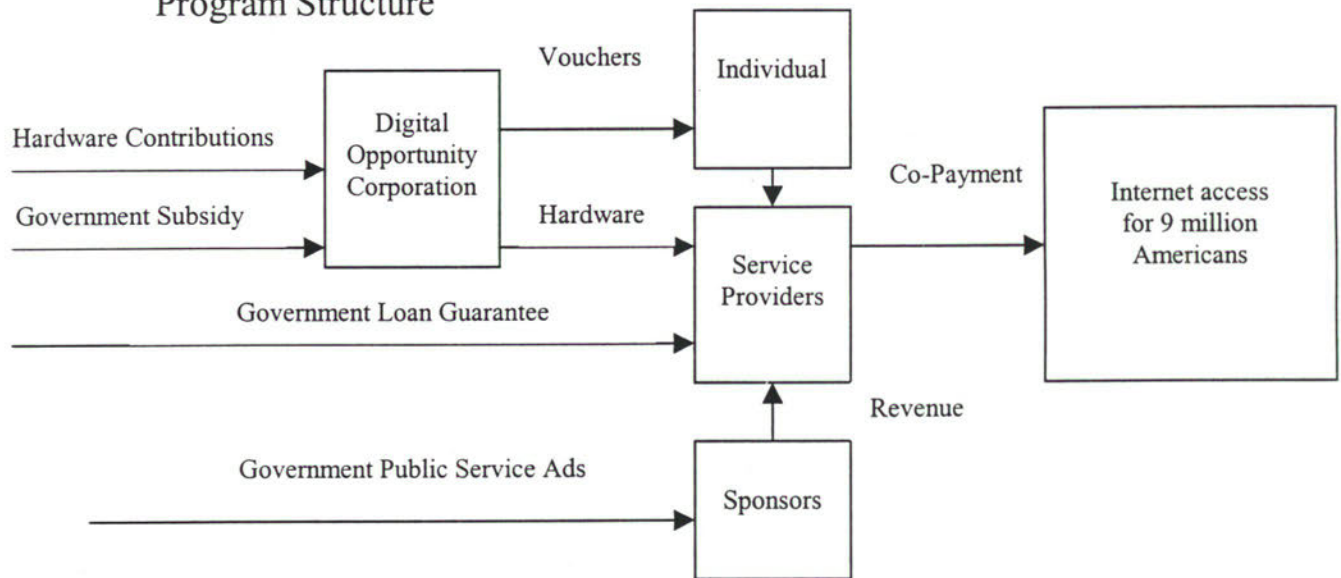
than a taxation model, the government may simply phase out its payments as the private market renders the subsidy unnecessary.

Conclusion

The next five years are important ones in the development of the online community in the United States. Competition has done a wonderful job in creating thousands of dial-up ISP's around the nation and the drop in computer prices the past few years has been dramatic. Nonetheless there is an opportunity today for the Government to improve the equitable distribution of this important social good. The low-income consumer could be left behind in today's digital revolution, and it is imperative that they be given effective, high-quality access to computing and communication over the Internet and Web.

Exhibit 1

Universal Access Program Structure



**THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION:
A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

April 4, 2000

President Clinton Will Announce Today That Over 400 Companies And Non-Profit Organizations Have Signed A "National Call To Action" To Bring Digital Opportunity To Youth, Families And Communities. The President will be joined by the Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Senator Barbara Mikulski and Julian Lacey, a longtime volunteer at Plugged In, a Community Technology Center in East Palo Alto, California. He will announce his "National Call to Action" to help bring digital opportunity to youth, families and communities around the country. Over 400 companies and non-profit organizations have agreed to sign this Call to Action.

President Clinton's "National Call To Action." President Clinton has issued a "National Call to Action" to challenge corporations and non-profit organizations to take concrete steps to meet two critical goals:

- **Provide 21st Century Learning Tools For Every Child In Every School.** For children to succeed, they need to master basic skills at an early age. The ability to use technology to learn and succeed in the workplace of the 21st century has become a "new basic" -- creating a national imperative to ensure that every child is technologically literate. To reach this goal, America needs a comprehensive approach to connect every classroom, provide all students with access to multimedia computers, train teachers to use and integrate technology into the curriculum, and to provide high quality online content and educational software.
- **Create Digital Opportunity For Every American Family And Community.** For all families and communities to benefit from the New Economy, we must ensure that all Americans have access to technology and the skills needed to use it. We must work to meet the long-term goal of making home access to the Internet universal, bring technology to every neighborhood through community technology centers, empower all citizens with IT skills, and motivate more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected."

The President Will Announce Several Initiatives To Help Bring Digital Opportunity To All Americans. The President will announce the following initiatives that demonstrate a real commitment by the public and private sectors to work together to bridge the digital divide:

- **\$12.5 Million For An "E-Corps."** The Corporation for National Service will commit \$10 million to recruit 750 qualified AmeriCorps members for projects aimed at bringing digital opportunity to youth, families and communities. These volunteers will provide technical support to school computer systems, tutor at Community Technology Centers, and offer IT training for high-tech careers. The Corporation for National Service will also commit \$2.5 million for digital divide projects under the Learn and Serve program, which allows young people to make a difference in their communities while going to school.
- **Yahoo! Will Invest \$1 Million in Digital Opportunity.** Yahoo! will provide an Internet advertising campaign worth \$1 million to enlist volunteers with high-tech skills for AmeriCorps' digital divide initiative. The Yahoo! banner ads will help AmeriCorps meet the challenge of recruiting volunteers with high-tech skills to work on technology-related projects.
- **3Com Launches NetPrep GYRLS.** In partnership with the YWCA's TechGYRLS program, 3Com will announce NetPrep GYRLS, a \$330,000 program that will offer girls aged 14-16 training in computer networking. Currently, women represent less than 30 percent of U.S. computer scientists and computer programmers. The 3Com NetPrep curriculum will allow high school girls to focus their technical education on computer networking, leading to an industry-standard certification. 3Com expects to reach 600 girls in 30 NetPrep GYRLS locations across the country.
- **American Library Association.** The American Library Association will pledge to help bridge the digital divide by working with its members to create or expand "information literacy" programs in at least 250 communities around the country. People with information literacy skills are able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively.

President Clinton Will Also Announce His Third New Markets Tour – From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity. On April 17-18, President Clinton, accompanied by CEOs, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and community leaders will focus national attention on initiatives aimed at overcoming the digital divide and creating opportunities for youth, families and communities. The President will travel to East Palo Alto, California; the Navajo Nation in Shiprock, New Mexico; and Chicago, Illinois to highlight private and public-sector initiatives to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans. Later this month, the President will travel to rural North Carolina to stress the importance of expanding rural access to the emerging broadband Internet.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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. 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%. Urban households with incomes of \$75,000 or higher are more than *twenty times* more likely to have access to the Internet than rural households 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 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. 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 74 percent in wealthier schools.

EQUITY IN AN INFORMATION SOCIETY

Thomas A. Kalil
kalil_t@a1.eop.gov
White House National Economic Council
Conference Board
December 8, 1997

QUESTIONS

- How can IT (computers, networks, new media) bring Americans together, as opposed to further polarizing American society?
- What applications of IT can empower low-income Americans and distressed communities?
- What policies is the Administration currently pursuing in this area?
- How does any of this relate to the interests of major IT companies?

MARKET TRENDS

- Moore's Law
- Low cost information appliances
- Metcalfe's Law (value of network increases with the square of people connected to it)
- Free (advertiser-supported) services such as e-mail
- Very low unemployment
- IT worker shortage

PRESIDENT'S ED. TECH INITIATIVE

- Goals are:
 - Increase access to multimedia computers
 - Connect every classroom to the Internet by 2000
 - Encourage development of high-quality content related to curriculum
 - Ensure that teachers can use technology effectively
- Special emphasis on poor schools
 - Up to 90 percent discounts for Internet access to poorest schools through Universal Service
 - Special effort to target Empowerment Zones schools
- Significant private sector involvement

INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS

NTIA's TIIAP program

- Community Voice Mail
- Community Technology Centers (e.g. "Plugged In")
- Public health (Michigan childhood immunization networks)
- Community networks
- Neighborhood Early Warning System
- Delivery of social services

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Computer learning centers in HUD-insured and assisted properties. Applications include

- Early childhood education programs
- Typing, word processing and computer skills
- Adult educational opportunities
- Job/labor market information
- Micro-enterprise development

LEARNING ON DEMAND

Policy still under development, but vision includes

- “Anytime, anywhere” learning opportunities for adults
- Adult learners can use grants, credits and loans for distance learning
- New forms of assessment (e.g. competency-based, not seat-time)
- High-quality courseware & instructional material
 - For low-income Americans this might include adult literacy, English as Second Language, GED, basic and remedial skills

OTHER POSSIBILITIES

- Tele-mentoring
- Support for “communities of interest” focused on low-income Americans (e.g. community development, welfare-to-work, community policing)

Creative uses of IT by non-profit sector

- e.g. - Impact Online - which matches volunteers with non-profits

Accessibility for people with disabilities

- Large, public domain, digital library

School-to-work (e.g. Novell CNE program)

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

1. Market research on:
 - Cultural/social barriers to adoption
 - Applications needed by low-income Americans and communities
2. More in-depth discussions around
 - Business case for private sector involvement
 - One or more specific issues or initiatives
3. Form gov't-industry-non-profit partnerships to “scale” one or more pilots

Equity in an Information Society: pointers to additional information (12/8/97)

1. **President's Educational Technology Initiative**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/edtech.html>

<http://www.ed.gov/Technology/>

2. **NTIA TIIAP program**

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/tiiap/index.html>

3. **Neighborhood Networks**

<http://www.hud.gov/nnw/nnwindex.html>

4. **Non-profit links**

■ Impact Online: <http://www.impactonline.org>

■ Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet): <http://www.ctcnet.org/>

5. **Tele-mentoring**

■ Background on tele-mentoring: <http://www.ctcnet.org/telement.html>

■ HP tele-mentoring program: <http://mentor.external.hp.com/index.html>

AN OPEN LETTER ON ACCESSIBILITY FROM TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVES

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

September 21, 2000

Dear Mr. President:

As the CEOs of a number of America's leading high-tech companies, we strongly support your efforts to promote the accessibility of information and communications products and services for people with disabilities.

We believe that there are two compelling reasons to do so. First, accessible information technology can be a powerful tool for expanding opportunity in the emerging information society. If our products and services are designed to be accessible, people with disabilities will find it easier to work, access a growing universe of electronic information and services, and lead more independent lives. If we fail to do this, people with disabilities could be further isolated from the mainstream of our economy and our society. Second, there are sound economic and commercial incentives to make our products more accessible. Globally, there are over 750 million people with disabilities, and there are 54 million in the United States alone. Making our products accessible will also make it easier for us to serve the rapidly growing population of seniors. Moreover, increasing the accessibility of our products can often improve their functionality for everyone, not just for people with disabilities. Designing products and services that can give customers a choice of input and output mechanisms will help people with disabilities, but it will also help the mobile professional trying to access the Web on a handheld wireless device.

This issue requires private sector leadership. The federal government can help create the right policy environment, but it is ultimately companies that must design, develop and market accessible products and services. To make concrete progress on this issue, and to elevate its importance within our companies, all of us are committed to developing a corporate-wide policy on accessibility within the next six months. The specifics of our policies will vary because of the different markets that we serve, but all of us will seek to include the following private sector "best practices" as appropriate:

- Raise the level of awareness of accessibility issues within our company, and provide our employees with the training they need to design accessible products and services;
- Develop accessibility guidelines for products and services, and hold product development groups accountable for implementing these guidelines where technically and economically feasible;

- Involve people with disabilities in the development of our accessibility guidelines, or in the design and testing of our products and services;
- Devote sufficient product development and engineering resources to identify and rapidly address known accessibility problems, in future products and upgrades;
- Make it easier for our developer community to create accessible products and services by making available training, guidelines, and technology solutions;
- Document the accessibility features of our products and publicly-available services;
- Support internal and external (e.g. university-based) research and development that will improve the state-of-the-art of accessible technology that is relevant to our products and services; and
- Support implementation of standards that advance accessibility, such as the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) guidelines on accessible browsers, Web content and authoring tools.

As an industry, we will also commit to establishing a Web site that will collect private sector policies on accessibility as a way of encouraging the rapid dissemination and adoption of best practices. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Warnock
CEO
Adobe Systems, Inc.

Meg Whitman
President & CEO
eBay, Inc.

Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs
Chairman of the Board
Qualcomm

Stephen M. Case
Chairman & CEO
America Online, Inc.

Leo J. Hindery, Jr.
CEO
Global Crossing

Scott A. McNealy
Chairman & CEO
Sun Microsystems, Inc.

C. Michael Armstrong
Chairman & CEO
AT&T

Carly S. Fiorina
President & CEO
Hewlett-Packard Company

Eric A. Benhamou
Chairman & CEO
3Com Corporation

Duane Ackerman
Chairman & CEO
BellSouth

Rob Burgess
Chairman & CEO
Macromedia, Inc.

James C. Morgan
Chairman & CEO
Applied Materials, Inc.

Michael D. Capellas
President & CEO
Compaq Computer Corp.

Steve Ballmer
CEO
Microsoft Corporation

Donna Dubinsky
CEO
Handspring

John Keane
Chairman & CEO
Keane, Inc.

Peter Hering
President
PST, Inc.

Amardeep Lamba
President
Absolute Solutions, Inc.

Larry L. Petersen
President
Advanced Network
Technologies, Inc.

David Lane
General Partner
Alpine Technology
Ventures

Mark Hill
President
Baker Hill Corp.

David Westin
President & CEO
Channel Automation, Inc.

Hani MN Alaouie
President
Dearborn Technical
Institute

Scott A. Martin
President
diCarta, Corp.

Paul Lippe
CEO
e-SKOLAR

Brad Beckman
CEO
JTBS, Inc

Nick Grouf
CEO & Founder
PeoplePC, Inc.

Elaine M. Verna
President/Acting CEO
IsSound Corporation

Curt M. Vinson
President
Lyme Computer Systems

Lalit J. Chabria
President
Micropower Business
Solutions

Marc Ostrofsky
President
Multimedia Venture
Partners

Lars Nyberg
Chairman & CEO
NCR Corporation

George F. Adam, Jr.
Chairman & CEO
NEON New Era Networks

Rick Dutta
CEO
Nexgenix

Tim O'Reilley
Founder
O'Reilley & Associates

Jimmy Edwards
President & CEO
Premier Computing
Training

Bob Young
Chairman
Red Hat, Inc.

Lucia Klebar
President
ProMentor

LaWanda Armstrong
President & CEO
QuesTech
Communications

Ariel Kleckner
President & Founder
Red Gorilla

Sterling Ledet
President
Sterling Ledet &
Associates, Inc.

Gregory M. Avis
Managing Partner
Summit Partners

Frank J. Ponzio, Jr.
President & Founder
Symbolic Systems, Inc.

Paul Okoye Chukwudi
President & CEO
Synergistic Software
Solutions

William M. Nelson
CEO
Will Nelson Computer
Services, Inc.

Arthur R. Rippey
President
World Technology
Computer Learning
Center, Inc.

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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"

FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY THE NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

APRIL 4, 2000

- ✓ 2030 Center
- ✓ 3Com
- ✓ 9 to 5 National Organization for Working Women
- ✓ ABLE-NET Internet Services
- ✓ Abyssinian Development Corporation
- ✓ Adaptive Computer Empowerment Services
- ✓ AFL-CIO
- ✓ Afronet
- ✓ Altum
- ✓ America Online
- ✓ American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- ✓ American Association on Mental Retardation
- ✓ American Association of People with Disabilities
- ✓ American Council of the Blind
- ✓ American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC)
- ✓ American Federation of Teachers
- ✓ American Indian College Fund
- ✓ American Indian Higher Education Consortium
- ✓ American Indian Higher Education Consortium Student Congress
- ✓ American Indian Rehabilitation Rights Organization of Warriors
- ✓ American Indian Science and Engineering Society
- ✓ American Library Association
- ✓ American Medical Women's Association
- ✓ American Statistical Association
- ✓ Americans for Democratic Action
- ✓ Americans for Indian Opportunity
- ✓ anybill.com
- ✓ Asian American Drug Abuse Program
- ✓ Asian Community Mental Health Services
- ✓ Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
- ✓ Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
- ✓ Association of Rehabilitation Programs in Computer Technology (ARPCT)
- ✓ Associations of Tech Act Projects
- ✓ Baltimore Urban Technology Network
- ✓ Baptist Health System
- ✓ Bay Mills Community College
- ✓ BellSouth
- ✓ Biltmore Properties
- ✓ Blackboard, Inc.
- ✓ Black Cyberspace Online
- ✓ Black Data Processing Association Cleveland Chapter
- ✓ Black Data Processing Association Bay Area Chapter
- ✓ Black Data Processing Association Cincinnati Chapter
- ✓ Black Data Processing Association Foundation
- ✓ Blackfeet Community College
- ✓ Black Geeks Online
- ✓ Blackfeet Tribal Business Information Center
- ✓ Blackfilm.com
- ✓ Bloodworth Integrated Technology
- ✓ Bloomfield Learning Center
- ✓ Boardroom Presentations
- ✓ Boomer Agenda
- ✓ Boston Photo Collaborative
- ✓ Buffalo State College Leadership Volunteer Center

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- ✓ Byte Back
- ✓ C. B. Williams & Associates
- ✓ Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- ✓ Cable & Wireless
- ✓ California Breast Cancer Organizations
- ✓ California Council of the Blind
- ✓ California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy
- ✓ California Indian Education Association
- ✓ Campus Outreach Opportunity League
- ✓ Cankdeska Cikana Community College
- ✓ Career Communications Group
- ✓ Center for Academic and Social Advancement/Centro de Avanza Social y Academico (CASA)
- ✓ Center for Management Assistance
- ✓ Center for Parent Investment in Education (CPIE)
- ✓ Center for Public Outreach
- ✓ Center for Universal Design
- ✓ Center for Urban Youth and Technology, University of Albany, SUNY
- ✓ Central Dallas Ministries
- ✓ Children's Developmental Center
- ✓ Chinatown Service Center
- ✓ Cincinnati Business Incubator
- ✓ Circle Solutions
- ✓ Cisco Systems
- ✓ Civic Association Serving Harlem (CASH-Tech)
- ✓ CivicZone.com
- ✓ Closing the Gap Program/ Black Child and Family Institute
- ✓ Coalition for Fair Employment in Silicon Valley
- ✓ College Board
- ✓ College of Menominee Nation
- ✓ Communications Workers of America
- ✓ Communities in School
- ✓ Community Housing and Supportive Services (CHASS)
- ✓ Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet)
- ✓ Compaq
- ✓ Comprehensive Action Network
- ✓ Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
- ✓ Computerworks
- ✓ Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
- ✓ Consortium for School Networking
- ✓ Construction Management Association of America
- ✓ Conwal/CESSI
- ✓ Council of Chief State School Officers
- ✓ Covad
- ✓ Crownpoint Institute of Technology
- ✓ Curriculum Resource Solutions
- ✓ CyberYouth Networks
- ✓ D-Q University
- ✓ DataSource
- ✓ Democratic Leadership Conference
- ✓ Destiny Communications Institute
- ✓ Dimensions International
- ✓ Diné College
- ✓ Disability Rights Education Defense Fund
- ✓ DISKovery Computer Learning Center
- ✓ DJM Internet Marketing
- ✓ Downtown Jackson Community Development Corporation
- ✓ Dull Knife Memorial College
- ✓ East River Electric Power Cooperative
- ✓ Easter Seals
- ✓ Easy Access
- ✓ eBay
- ✓ EcomForum

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- ✓ ECOOutlook.com
- ✓ Edgewood Management Corporation
- ✓ Education Technology Think Tank (ET3)
- ✓ Education Turnkey Systems, Inc.
- ✓ Educational Systems Consulting
- ✓ Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- ✓ Edventions
- ✓ Electronic Data Systems (EDS)
- ✓ Enron, Inc.
- ✓ Enterprise Computer Services
- ✓ Enterprise Integration Corporation
- ✓ Expedia, Inc.
- ✓ ExplorNet
- ✓ Faith Incorporated
- ✓ Falu Foundation
- ✓ Family Solutions
- ✓ FIBRE Internationale
- ✓ Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- ✓ Foothill Indian Education Alliance
- ✓ Fort Belknap College
- ✓ Fort Berthold Community College
- ✓ Fort Peck Community College
- ✓ Foundation for Successful Solutions Project T.E.C.H
- ✓ Foundation for the Future of Youth
- ✓ Friends of the Alexandria Talking Book Service
- ✓ Gateway
- ✓ GetThere.com
- ✓ GlobalCom Internetworks, Inc.
- ✓ govWorks.com
- ✓ Green Thumb, Inc.
- ✓ Harlem Center for Education
- ✓ Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.
- ✓ Haskell Indian Nations University
- ✓ Havre Eagles Manor
- ✓ Healtheon/WebMD
- ✓ Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries
- ✓ Hewlett-Packard
- ✓ High School/High Tech
- ✓ HKC Communications, Inc.
- ✓ Hope for Kids
- ✓ Houston Area Physics Teachers Group (HAPTG)
- ✓ Human Capital Investment Associates, Inc.
- ✓ Hunexus
- ✓ IBM Corporation
- ✓ Imaginuity Interactive
- ✓ Individuals with Disabilities Enabling Advocacy Link (IDEAL)
- ✓ Information Brokers, Inc.
- ✓ Institute of American Indian Arts
- ✓ Institute for Learning Technologies, Teachers College, Columbia University
- ✓ Intel Corporation
- ✓ Interactive Media Management
- ✓ International Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation
- ✓ International Child Art Foundation
- ✓ International Society for Technology in Education
- ✓ International Telework Association and Council (ITAC)
- ✓ Internet Without Borders
- ✓ I-SAFE America
- ✓ Jewish Vocational Service
- ✓ Joint Policy Board for Mathematics
- ✓ Joint Venture and Silicon Valley Network
- ✓ K12nation.net
- ✓ Kaplan Educational Centers
- ✓ KDS Internet
- ✓ Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
- ✓ KnowledgeBase

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- ✓ Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
- ✓ La Plaza Telecommunity
- ✓ LatinNetShopper.com and Latin Online Services
- ✓ Latino Civil Rights Center
- ✓ Leadership Conference Education Fund
- ✓ Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
- ✓ LEADS Corporation
- ✓ League of United Latin American Citizens
- ✓ Leech Lake Tribal College
- ✓ Libraries for the Future
- ✓ LINCT Coalition
- ✓ Little Big Horn College
- ✓ Little Priest Tribal College
- ✓ Little Tokyo Service Center
- ✓ Lockheed Martin Missiles Fire Control, Dallas
- ✓ Lockman Publishing
- ✓ Los Angeles Eye Institute
- ✓ Lowestfare.com
- ✓ Lucent Technologies
- ✓ Lumbee Tribe
- ✓ Magner Interactive Group, Inc.
- ✓ Marymount University
- ✓ Matz, Blancato & Associates, Inc.
- ✓ MCI Worldcom
- ✓ McMahon Associates
- ✓ McMath-Hulbert Observatory
- ✓ M-E-A.com
- ✓ Media Exchange International
- ✓ Mentoring Partnerships
- ✓ Mercer & Associates
- ✓ Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty, San Diego County
- ✓ Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- ✓ Mexican Heritage Corporation
- ✓ Microsoft Corporation
- ✓ Milestone Communications
- ✓ Millennium 2000 Training Group
- ✓ Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association
- ✓ Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense/Education Fund
- ✓ Mirage Information and Research Services
- ✓ Mississippi State University
- ✓ Mobile Housing Board
- ✓ Mogeian Tribe of Indians of Connecticut
- ✓ Morino Institute
- ✓ Motorola, Inc.
- ✓ Multi-CAP
- ✓ National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium, Inc.
- ✓ National Alliance of Black Student Educators
- ✓ Native American Systems, Inc.
- ✓ National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA)
- ✓ National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)
- ✓ National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
- ✓ National Association of Latino College Students
- ✓ National Association of Nutrition And Aging Services Program
- ✓ National Association of Secondary School Principals
- ✓ National Bandwith, Inc.
- ✓ National Black Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ National Black MBA Association, San Francisco Chapter

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- ✓ National Caucus and Center on Black Aged
- ✓ National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development - AZ
- ✓ National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development - CA
- ✓ National Center of Accessible Media
- ✓ National Coalition of the Churches of Christ in the USA
- ✓ National Congress of American Indians
- ✓ National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- ✓ National Education Association
- ✓ National Federation of the Blind
- ✓ National Haitian American Foundation
- ✓ National Housing Conference
- ✓ National Indian Business Association
- ✓ National Indian Telecommunications Institute
- ✓ National Latino Children's Institute
- ✓ National PTA
- ✓ National Puerto Rico Coalition
- ✓ National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- ✓ National Rural Transportation Cooperative
- ✓ National School & Community Corps
- ✓ National Silver Haired Congress
- ✓ National Telecommuting Institute, Inc.
- ✓ National Urban League, Inc.
- ✓ National Women's Law Center
- ✓ Native American Public Telecommunications
- ✓ Nebraska Indian Community College
- ✓ Neighborhood Network Center at Durango Housing
- ✓ Neighborhood Networks Training Center at Pedestal Gardens Apartment
- ✓ NetDay
- ✓ NetSchools Corporation
- ✓ NetVDV
- ✓ Networking for Democracy
- ✓ NewDeal, Inc.
- ✓ New Markets Equity Fund
- ✓ New York Public Library
- ✓ Newark Enterprise Community Resource Development Center
- ✓ Newtek International
- ✓ Nexus Forums
- ✓ North Carolina Center for International Understanding
- ✓ North Carolina State University
- ✓ Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- ✓ Northern Virginia Technology Council
- ✓ Northwest Indian College
- ✓ Nova Management Services
- ✓ Novanetwork
- ✓ Novell, Inc.
- ✓ Ntegrity Telecontent Services, Inc.
- ✓ Oglala Lakota College
- ✓ Ohio Community Computing Centers Network
- ✓ One Net Now
- ✓ One World Media Center
- ✓ On-Line Educators
- ✓ Online Internet Institute
- ✓ OpenVoice
- ✓ Operation Hope, Inc.
- ✓ Oracle Corporation
- ✓ Organization Concerned About Rural Education (OCRE)
- ✓ Organization of Chinese Americans
- ✓ Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
- ✓ Pelham Computer Center
- ✓ People Without Borders
- ✓ PeoplePC
- ✓ Phelps-Stoke Fund
- ✓ Philadelphians Concerned About Housing

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- ✓ Pierce Mix Associates
- ✓ PowerUP
- ✓ Progressive Life Center
- ✓ Progressive Policy Institute
- ✓ Public Education Network
- ✓ Pueblo of Isleta
- ✓ Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Project
- ✓ QUALCOMM
- ✓ Quality Education Data
- ✓ Qwest Communications
- ✓ Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
- ✓ Red Hat, Inc.
- ✓ Refugee Women's Network, Inc.
- ✓ Renaissance Neighborhood Opportunity Center
- ✓ Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)
- ✓ Retsel Media
- ✓ RhythmNetworks
- ✓ Rhythms Netconnections, Inc.
- ✓ RMCI
- ✓ Salish Kootenai College
- ✓ San Diego Regional Technology Alliance
- ✓ San Diego Urban League
- ✓ San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium
- ✓ Santa Clara University School of Law
- ✓ Saragrams
- ✓ Save Our Seed
- ✓ SBC Foundation
- ✓ SciCentral.com
- ✓ Seattle Community Networks Association
- ✓ Seek Ye First Associates & Ministry
- ✓ Seldin Company
- ✓ Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)
- ✓ SeniorNet
- ✓ Share the Technology
- ✓ ShopNow.com
- ✓ Sierra Baca Services
- ✓ Silicon Graphics, Inc.
- ✓ Silicon Spice, Inc.
- ✓ Sinte Gleska University
- ✓ Sisseton Wahpeton Community College
- ✓ Si Tanka College
- ✓ Sitting Bull College
- ✓ SkyBridge LP
- ✓ Software And Information Industry Association
- ✓ Southeast Asian Community Center
- ✓ Southeast Community Cultural Center, Inc.
- ✓ Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market
- ✓ Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
- ✓ SpeakOut.com
- ✓ St. John Learning Center
- ✓ Stone Child College
- ✓ Stout Solutions
- ✓ Street Tech
- ✓ Sun Microsystems
- ✓ Systemic Research
- ✓ Tacoma Neighborhood Networks Center
- ✓ Tate Center for Technology and School Reform
- ✓ TechCorps
- ✓ TechCorps Wisconsin
- ✓ Technology Access Foundation
- ✓ Technology Integration Solutions (TIS)
- ✓ Tequity
- ✓ Terra-Genesis Housing
- ✓ Texas Instruments Corporation
- ✓ Theodore Myles Publishing, Inc.
- ✓ ThreeDimensions.Net

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- ✓ Tido Tech International
- ✓ Tomas Rivera Policy Institute
- ✓ Trace R&D Center
- ✓ Training Solutions, Inc.
- ✓ Troy Gruppe
- ✓ Turtle Mountain Community College
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy Associations
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of East Central Illinois
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Eastern Connecticut
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Northern Maine
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Pennsylvania
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of the Capital Area
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of the Golden Gate
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of the Mid-South
- ✓ United Cerebral Palsy of Western NY
- ✓ United Methodist Church, Washington
- ✓ United Negro College Fund
- ✓ United South End Settlements
- ✓ United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ United States Internet Industry Association
- ✓ United Tribes Technical College
- ✓ United Way of America
- ✓ University of Maryland
- ✓ University of Missouri, St. Louis
- ✓ University of North Carolina
- ✓ University of Washington
- ✓ University Systems of Maryland
- ✓ Urban Cyberspace Company
- ✓ Urban League of Greater Cincinnati
- ✓ US Internet Industry Association
- ✓ VG Enterprises
- ✓ Virginia High-Tech Partnership
- ✓ Washington State Neighborhood Networks Consortium
- ✓ Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- ✓ Westchester Bay Consulting
- ✓ White Earth Tribal and Community College
- ✓ Whitman Center for Public Service/ University of West Florida
- ✓ Windsor Court Apartments
- ✓ Women In New Recovery (WINR)
- ✓ Worldgate Communications, Inc.
- ✓ Y2K Computer Solutions
- ✓ Yahoo!
- ✓ Youth Service America
- ✓ Youth Vote 2000
- ✓ ZapMe!

Creation of a New Program for Increasing Home Access to the Internet

Introduction

The extraordinary growth of the Internet is rapidly changing the way Americans live, work, and communicate. These networks are swiftly making the dream of having "information at your fingertips" a reality. Those Americans with access to the Internet have an advantage in today's information-based economy than those without. The Internet is rich with educational content, with health information, and with news, government and community information. In addition, many Americans now take advantage of the many transactional services now available on the Net, including online shopping and banking, travel reservations, and license renewals. The growth of the Internet has proven to be the engines of the 21st century economy:

While the Internet is bringing benefits to an increasing number of Americans, research shows that many are being left behind. NTIA's series of *Falling Through the Net* reports have documented a significant and persisting gap in access to the Internet along the lines of income, education level, and geography. The most recent report in this series, *Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide*, published in July, 1999, showed that:

- 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; and
- 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.

The report also showed that for many groups, the digital divide has widened as the information "haves" outpace the "have nots" in gaining access to electronic resources. The following gaps with regard to home Internet access are representative:

- the gaps between White and Hispanic households, and between White and Black households, are now more than six percentage points larger than they were in 1994; and
- the digital divides based on education and income level have also increased in the last year alone. Between 1997 and 1998, the divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25 percent, and the divide between those at the highest and lowest income levels grew 29 percent.

Kids and Media at the New Millennium, a recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, showed that for children, the digital divide is not in the schools, but in homes. Their study revealed that:

- while the percentage of schoolchildren that had access to computers at school was comparable for children from both low-, middle-, and high-income families, schoolchildren from high-income families were twice as likely as children from low-income families to have access to computers in their homes; and
- white children were roughly twice as likely to live in homes with Internet access than were Black or Hispanic children.

The goal of the Home Access to the Internet program would be to help close the digital divide by providing targeted investments to bring these at-risk populations online. NTIA would build on its experience in supporting information infrastructure in low-income communities (through the Technology Opportunities Program, formerly known as the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program) and in documenting and analyzing the digital divide (through the *Falling Through the Net* series).

Funding Vehicle

There are two approaches to implement this program. The first approach is to set up a not-for-profit corporation supported by private sector and other stakeholders. NTIA could oversee this corporation, which would be responsible for defining minimum technical standards for participation in the program, recruiting corporate sponsors and content partners, raising awareness, collecting and disseminating "best practices" that emerge, and sponsoring research.

A concern with this approach is the legality of creating a new corporation. The FCC's creation of the Schools and Libraries Corporation and the Rural Health Care Corporation raised this legal issue. The General Accounting Office (GAO) testified before Congress that the FCC did not

have the statutory authority to create the corporations.¹ The GAO cited the Government Corporation Control Act, which requires that agencies have specific legislative authority in order to "establish or acquire" a corporation to act as a government agency. Unless specifically authorized legislatively by Congress, NTIA would not have the authority to create a new corporation. The creation of a not-for-profit corporation to administer the E-rate program also encountered political difficulties, as the program was attacked by members of Congress for a variety of reasons, including the salaries of the corporations' top officers and alleged inefficiencies. Seeking the authority from Congress to create a new corporation for home access may prove problematic and may open to the door to legislative attempts to attack the schools and libraries program.

A second approach is to create a matching grant program within NTIA that would fund locally-driven solutions. NTIA currently operates two competitive grant programs, the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) and the Technology Opportunities Program (TOP, formerly the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, or TIIAP). PTFP is authorized by Section 392 of the Communications Act. TIIAP was created in fiscal year 1994 by Congressional appropriation based upon the authority in Section 392. In fact, each annual appropriation for TOP cites Section 392 as the authorization for TOP. The grant making authority given NTIA by Section 392 is sufficiently broad that it could be used to authorize new grants to increase home access to the Internet. This approach would obviate the need for Congressional authority beyond the requirement for appropriated funds and attendant appropriations language and thus offer greater potential for starting the program in fiscal year 2001.

In addition to the legal authority to create a new grant program, NTIA has the infrastructure and the institutional knowledge to start up a program designed to create increased home access to the Internet. As manager of two competitive grant programs, NTIA currently awards and monitors hundreds of millions of dollars in federal investments. Moreover, NTIA's TOP program has significant experience with the very topic that would be the subject of the new program. In 1994, for example, TOP (then TIIAP) funded the Making Healthy MUSIC project in Newark, New Jersey. This project created a community network with access points in a public school and in the homes of 30 community "captains." The project demonstrated the value of home access and led to a number of positive outcomes, including increased school attendance. The project also demonstrated the importance of intensive training and local content in encouraging and

¹ "FCC Lacked Authority to Create Corporations to Administer Universal Service Programs," testimony of Robert P. Murphy, General Counsel of the General Accounting Office, before the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, Committee on Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, March 31, 1998.

sustaining the use of computers in the home.² TOP also funded a project in School District 196 in Rosemount, Minnesota, which provided low-income 4th graders with laptops. Like the Making Healthy MUSIC project, this project emphasized training and community connections. Preliminary evaluations of this project showed that students reported increased self-esteem and motivation and improved academic performance.³ TOP continues to explore the issues surrounding home access for underserved populations with new grants announced in October, 1999:

- The City of Oakland, California, in partnership with IBM, will install thin client terminals in the homes of public housing residents, who will work to meet educational challenges and learn specific computer skills to improve their employability;
- Community Preservation and Development Corporation, in Washington, D.C., in partnership with Microsoft Corp., will be providing a low-income community housing project with networked computers to deliver broadband Internet connectivity and affect employability and educational performance; and
- The Shepherd Center, in Atlanta, Georgia, in partnership with Mindspring Enterprises, will be using a high-speed Internet testbed to provide rehabilitation services to patients and support for their family members and caregivers in their homes.

On one level, TOP's experience has provided valuable lessons — what works — in how to implement these projects in local communities. On another level, TOP has learned about the many grant making issues (such as equipment ownership and privacy, security, and acceptable use policies) associated with support for individual homes.

For the reasons above, we recommend that the program be designed as a grants program that would be managed directly by NTIA. The rest of this paper will outline the details of the program.

² For more information on the Making Healthy MUSIC project, see *Networks for People: TIIAP at Work*, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1997.

³ For more information on Independent School District 196's project, see *How Access Benefits Children: Connecting Our Kids to a World of Information*, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 1999.

Overall Approach

The new program would build on the lessons of NTIA's highly successful Technology Opportunities Program (TOP). Through six years of supporting and evaluating projects that demonstrate innovative information technology applications in low-income communities, TOP has built an extensive base of knowledge on issues, challenges, and effective solutions. In particular, the Home Access to the Internet program would be designed around two of the hallmarks of the TOP program: 1) locally-driven solutions; and 2) public-private partnerships. NTIA's experience has shown that the most creative, innovative, and effective solutions come not from the federal government, but from local communities. Therefore, NTIA would not dictate acceptable solutions for providing Home Access to the Internet. Instead, NTIA would challenge low-income communities to devise solutions that best reflect their circumstances and best meet their needs. NTIA's experience has also shown that strong partnerships and broad community support are key ingredients in sustaining information technology projects. The Home Access to the Internet program would encourage community-based partnerships and partnerships among local organizations, academia, and private industry. In order to demonstrate the local and private sector commitments, applicants would be required to provide matching funds.

NTIA's experience in managing TOP and in analyzing digital divide data has show that bridging the digital divide requires solutions for providing Internet access, for giving people the skills to use the Internet, and by providing meaningful, relevant applications for people to use. The Home Access to the Internet program would provide three types of grants.

- 1) Planning grants, which would give targeted communities the opportunity to explore different options for bringing low-cost Internet access to low-income individuals and families.
- 2) Access grants, which support communities' efforts to provide both low-cost Internet access and training on computer, Internet, and information literacy skills to low-income individuals and families.
- 3) Sustainable Applications grants, which would give communities the resources to deploy proven models of valuable web-based applications. These applications would provide low-income individuals and families access in their homes to Web-based services such as education, job training and job placement, telehealth, community networking and government services.

NTIA would use the data from the *Falling Through the Net* survey to target the program's resources and as an ongoing performance measurement tool. First, survey data would identify the communities and populations most in need of assistance, initially and on an ongoing basis. Second, NTIA would monitor annual survey data to gauge the effectiveness of the program in improving home access in targeted communities and populations.

Program Eligibility

The program would provide grants to eligible organizations that would be serving eligible individuals, families, and communities. Eligible organizations would include state, local, and tribal governments, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations. NTIA's experience has shown that the roles of these organizations varies from community to community. For example, in some communities, local governments are most effective in meeting technology needs, whereas in others, local community colleges play leadership roles. Opening eligibility to this range of organizations would give communities the necessary flexibility to devise the solutions that best suit them.

For planning and sustainable applications grants, the unit of eligibility would have to be determined by the geographic area served. In some rural areas, a project may span several counties, whereas in a city, a project may focus on a single neighborhood. One approach would be to have the program define eligibility in terms of overall community demographics in terms of poverty (e.g. percentage of households with incomes below the poverty level), geography (e.g. population per square mile), education level (e.g. percentage of adults that have completed high school), and race (e.g. percentage of residents who are Black, Hispanic, or Native American⁴).

For access grants, the unit of eligibility would be the household. NTIA would use standard government indicators of poverty, which may vary depending on the availability of funds. One approach would be to set the mark based on income level in terms of percentage of the poverty level and the percentage would slide up or down based on the total amount of funds available to award. This percentage could also be varied according to the population, since *Falling Through the Net* has shown that income alone does not account for the disparities in access. For example, the percentage could be set higher for rural populations or minority populations, although such variations would not be without controversy. Practical considerations may also necessitate a simpler approach, such as tying household eligibility for this program to eligibility for certain federal entitlement programs.

One of the trade-offs in allowing for significant local flexibility is the concern that some local solutions may involve unacceptable elements. Therefore, NTIA would have to impose some requirements related to acceptable use of the Internet. Award conditions could require that grantees develop and enforce acceptable use agreements with all individuals receiving support under the program. The use agreements would be developed locally (although NTIA could provide sample agreements) and would address issues such as access to inappropriate materials,

⁴ The 1999 *Falling Through the Net* report showed that Blacks and Hispanics have less Internet access than Whites, even when controlling for income. Although the study did address Native American access, it is widely understood that Native Americans have significantly less access to the Internet than Whites.

inappropriate conduct, and continued use of any equipment or services.⁵ In addition to acceptable use, NTIA would also have to develop policies that would place limits on the types of advertising that could be used to reflect corporate sponsorship (e.g. limiting ads that promoted alcohol or tobacco use). As is the case with TOP grants, Home Access grantees would also have to develop policies that safeguard the privacy of the individuals involved in the program.

In the initial year of the program, NTIA could develop these policies and issue them through a notice in the Federal Register. After the first year, these policies could be vetted through a formal rulemaking process that would result in formal program regulations.⁶

Criteria for Support

NTIA would base its awards on the eligibility of the organization, the eligibility of the targeted individuals, families, and communities, the availability of funds, and published criteria. The primary criteria for award could include:

- *Need.* In addition to the question of eligibility, the limit on funds available would dictate the need to set priorities based on need. These priorities would be dictated by relative levels of poverty, minority representation, and education level of the targeted populations.
- *Community Involvement.* NTIA would require partnerships of community-based organizations. In addition, this criterion would examine the degree to which a grant applicant has involved community stakeholders (including potential end users) in a needs assessment and planning process.
- *Private Sector Involvement.* NTIA would require involvement and support of private sector corporations. In particular, NTIA would require hard commitments of matching funds or in-kind contributions such as equipment, training, or communications services. NTIA could also explore ways to hold private sector companies accountable to their commitments.
- *Feasibility.* NTIA would examine the soundness of the technical plans and the likely effectiveness of the approach. Of particular importance would be the comprehensiveness of the approach — whether the applicant has provided the access, training, end user

⁵ NTIA currently requires all TOP grant recipients to provide acceptable use plans.

⁶ NTIA's TOP program does not have formal regulations. Its rules are issued annually through a Notice of Availability of Funds.

support, and other services necessary to make Internet use a meaningful experience to the targeted end users.

Performance Measures

NTIA would measure the effectiveness of the program on two levels — in the community and at the national level. First, NTIA would develop standard metrics for each access grant. Grant recipients would be required to report regularly on such items as the number of households connected to the Internet (and the demographics of those households), the number of those households that have remained connected and active, and the number of people trained. In addition, NTIA could require surveys that profile how individuals and families receiving assistance are using the Internet (e.g. for education, home banking, health information). These data would be aggregated at the program level and would give NTIA information on the degree to which the program is reaching the targeted populations for the purposes intended.

At the national level, NTIA would use the annual *Falling Through the Net* survey to examine the digital divide as a whole. The survey data would indicate the extent to which the program is helping to close the gaps based on income, education level, race, and geography. In particular, NTIA could examine the growth rates among targeted populations and look for accelerations in those rates. In addition to providing NTIA with a yardstick for measuring the program's overall effectiveness, the data would assist NTIA in identifying the communities to be targeted.

The President's New Markets Trip: From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

April 17 - 18, 2000

THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Press Secretary
(East Palo Alto, California)**

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2000

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS April 17, 2000

- 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. In recent years, access to computers and the Internet has exploded. Unfortunately, there is strong evidence of a "digital divide" -- a gap between those individual and communities that have access to these Information Age tools and those who don't.

Better-educated Americans are more likely to be connected.

- 69 percent of households with a bachelor's degree or higher have computers, compared to 16 percent of those households that have not completed high school (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).
- 45 percent of households with a bachelor's degree or more have Internet access in the home, compared to 14 percent with no only a high school diploma or GED (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).

The divide between high and low-income Americans is significant.

- 80 percent of households with an income of \$75,000 or above have computers, compared to 16 percent of households earning \$10,000 - \$15,000 (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).
- 60 percent of households with incomes of \$75,000 or above have Internet access, compared to 12 percent earning \$20,000 - \$25,000 (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).

Whites are more likely to be connected than African-Americans and Hispanics.

- 47 percent of white households have computers, compared to 23 percent of African-American and 26 percent of Hispanic households (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).
- 53 percent of white, two-parent households with children earning more than \$35,000 have Internet access in the home, compared to 31 percent of African-American and Hispanic households (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).
- However, there is virtually no gap in computer ownership between white and African-American households earning more than \$75,000. (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).

Wealthier schools are more likely to be connected to the Internet than poorer schools

- In wealthy schools (less than 11 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch), 74 percent of classrooms are connected to the Internet, compared to 39 percent for the

poorest schools (71 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch) (Fall 1999 data, Dept of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Internet Access in U.S. Public Schools and Classrooms," February 2000).

People with disabilities are less likely to have access to technology.

- 11 percent of people aged 15 and above with a disability have access to the Internet at home, compared to 31 percent of people without disabilities (Current Population Survey, 1998 Computer and Internet Use Supplement, as cited in H. Stephen Kaye, Computer and Internet Use Among People with Disabilities, Disability Statistics Center, March 2000).

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For Immediate Release

April 18, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL CONTINUE HIS DIGITAL DIVIDE NEW MARKETS TRIP AT THE COMDEX CONFERENCE BY CHALLENGING THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY TO BRING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY TO ALL COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES AND YOUTH. President Clinton will address the technology industry's influential COMDEX Conference, to personally challenge high-tech companies to take a leadership role in bridging the digital divide. The President will be joined by students and mentors from Street-Level Youth Media, a community technology center that serves urban youth in Chicago. In addition, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky from Illinois, Fredric Rosen, and Chairman of ZD Events and Jason Chudnofsky, CEO of ZD events will accompany the President. The President and students from Street-Level Youth Media will also tour the Wireless Pavilion on the floor of Comdex, where the President will see a demonstration of cutting-edge "wireless Web" technology. The educational applications of this technology will allow parents and students to access Web-based information on their school anytime, anywhere, using only a phone.

President Clinton Will Call for Specific Actions by Industry Leaders. In his remarks to COMDEX attendees, the President will challenge the leaders of the high-tech industry to redouble their efforts to bridge the digital divide. The President will ask industry leaders to:

- **Endorse His National Call To Action To Create Digital Opportunity:** Two weeks ago, President Clinton issued a National Call To Action at an event at the White House. Already, over 400 leading high-tech companies and community organizations have endorsed this pledge.
- **Work With Local Schools To Ensure That All Children Are Technologically Literate:** Companies can help reach this goal by donating computers, providing training to teachers so that they are as comfortable with a computers as they are with a chalkboard, supporting the development of high-quality educational software and online resources, and encouraging their employees to provide the technical assistance that schools need.
- **Expand Internships To Expand High-Tech Career Opportunities for Underserved Youth:** The President will urge companies to expand internships, especially for young women, minorities, people with disabilities and young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Lead Grassroots Efforts In Local Communities to Bridge the Digital Divide:** The President will challenge companies to forge partnerships between business, government and community groups to create comprehensive strategies for bridging the digital divide in schools, community centers and homes.

President Clinton Will Announce New Public and Private Sector Commitments to Bridge the Digital Divide:

- **Over 200 new Community Technology Centers:** The Department of Education will announce a combined public and private investment of \$86 million over 3 years (\$44 million in federal funding and \$42 million in state, local, and corporate investments) to create 214 new community technology centers and expand 136 centers. President Clinton is proposing to

increase funding for Community Technology Centers to \$100 million in the FY2001 budget.

- Doubling of Neighborhood Network Centers to 1,000 Across the Country. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will announce today that it will expand the number of Neighborhood Network Centers to 1,000 over the next two years. These centers are computer-training facilities located in or near HUD-assisted housing developments that offer computer access, staff assistance and a range of training resources to housing residents.
- Preparing Every New Teacher to Use Technology in the Classroom: The deans of over 200 colleges of education will make a commitment to President Clinton to ensure that new teachers are prepared to use technology in the classroom. Currently, many schools of education do not prepare their graduates to integrate technology into the curriculum. The President's FY2001 budget proposes \$150 million to work with schools of education to help them reach this goal - up from \$75 million in FY2000.

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THE PRESIDENT'S NEW MARKETS TRIP: FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY Motivating Young People to "Get Connected" in East Palo Alto April 17, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL KICKOFF HIS DIGITAL DIVIDE NEW MARKETS TRIP IN EAST PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE MOTIVATION TO "GET CONNECTED." President Clinton will kick off his third New Markets trip in East Palo Alto, CA, where he will hold a discussion with Reverend Jesse Jackson, New York Liberty star Rebecca Lobo, high-tech CEOs, community leaders and young people from East Palo Alto. His discussion will center on motivating and inspiring all young people to "get connected" and become technologically literate as a means to increasing their future economic potential. The President will emphasize how critical information technology skills are to competing for the high-tech, high-wage jobs of the 21st century. The discussion will be webcast on the Internet, giving young people across the country an opportunity to email questions to the President.

President Clinton will announce several private and public sector commitments that expand "digital opportunity" for underserved communities, families and youth. He will then participate in a roundtable with corporate and community leaders, focusing on the importance of closing the digital divide.

Today's visit comes two weeks after the President issued his "National Call to Action" with two major national goals:

- Provide 21st Century Learning Tools for Every Child in Every School. To reach this goal, America needs to connect every classroom to the Internet, provide all students with access to computers, train teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum, and provide high quality educational content and software.
- Create Digital Opportunity for Every American Family and Community. For all families and communities to benefit from the New Economy, we must ensure that all Americans have access to technology and the skills needed to use it. We must work to make home access to the Internet universal, bring technology to every neighborhood, empower all citizens with IT skills, and motivate young people to "get connected."

EAST PALO ALTO HAS NOT FULLY SHARED IN THE NATION'S DIGITAL REVOLUTION Although it is in the heart of Silicon Valley, East Palo Alto has not shared equally in the region's phenomenal economic expansion. While progress has been made, the city still faces significant economic challenges.

- High Poverty Over 80 percent of local K-8 students are eligible for the free lunch program (CA Dept. of Finance, 2000).
- Lack of Education Technology East Palo Alto schools have a 28 to 1 student/ computer ratio, limiting the ability of teachers to use technology in the classroom. (CA Dept. of Ed., 1999).

PRESIDENT CLINTON, AND CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL ANNOUNCE OVER \$100 MILLION IN COMMITMENTS TO BRING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY TO YOUTH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES:

- The Kaiser Family Foundation Commits to a Media Campaign to Motivate Young People to "Get Connected." Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo Will Star in the Public Service Announcements that Will Air on 13 Major Networks. BET Will Also Produce and Air PSAs to Encourage African-Americans to Participate in Digital Economy.
- HP Announces \$15 Million Partnership to Expand Digital Opportunity in 3 Communities, Including East Palo Alto
- Gateway Launches Program for Technology Training for 75,000 Teachers -- Including All East Palo Alto Teachers
- QUALCOMM Commits \$25 Million to Bridge the Digital Divide in San Diego -- Including \$7 Million for Math and Science Education
- PowerUP Commits to Expanding to 250 Technology Centers for Underserved Youth Across the Country - With Major Support from AOL (100,000 Free Accounts Valued at \$26 Million Annually)
- Novell Will Donate \$20 Million in Software to Non-Profits Devoted to Underserved Hispanic Populations
- Cisco Systems Pledges \$1.4 Million to Develop 10 Pilot Networking Academies
- Applied Materials Pledges \$1 Million for Digital Divide Projects - Including a Partnership with the Rainbow/ PUSH Coalition to Create a High-Tech Job Training Center in East Palo Alto
- AT&T Pledges \$1.2 Million to The Academy Of Information Technology
- PeoplePC Will Provide 300 Computers and Internet Access to Schools in the East Palo Alto Community
- govWorks's Community Commitment Program Will Donate Computer Equipment to Communities it Serves

A COMPLETE LIST OF PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S INITIATIVES TO BRING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY TO YOUTH, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Kaiser Family Foundation And Black Entertainment Television Announce Public Service Campaigns to Motivate Young People to Participate in Technology. President Clinton will highlight the efforts of the Kaiser Family Foundation and Black Entertainment Television (BET) to help motivate young people to "get connected" and raise public awareness about the digital divide. The Kaiser Family Foundation will produce public service announcements (PSA) featuring celebrities and role models who will highlight their connections to technology and encourage young people to recognize ways that becoming technologically literate can open doors to them. Magic Johnson and Rebecca Lobo are the first celebrities to agree to appear in the PSA campaign. NBC, ABC, CBS, BET, MTV, Fox, TBS, TNT, UPN, The Cartoon Network, Odyssey, The Disney Channel, Univision and the WB will all air the PSAs. The National Association of Broadcasters will distribute the PSAs to their 1,000 members. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the American Library Association and the Digital Divide Network have also agreed to support this effort.

BET will produce and air the PSAs on the BET Cable Network, encouraging African-Americans to use the Internet and to participate in the digital economy. The PSA's will feature major African-American celebrities from the music, sports and film industries explaining the importance of African-American participation in the digital economy, as consumers, employees and entrepreneurs. In addition, BET.com and BET Holdings will sponsor an online celebrity auction to benefit efforts to address the digital divide.

- Hewlett-Packard Announces a \$15 Million Digital Village Initiative -- New Program To Start in East Palo Alto. HP will invest up to \$15 million in products, partnerships and people in 3 underserved communities -- starting in East Palo Alto. HP's comprehensive approach will focus on programs that serve adults and kids at home, in school, and through community centers:
 - HP @ Home will help families learn and grow together;
 - HP @ School will emphasize enhancing K-12 education through the use of technology; and
 - HP @ Neighborhood Community Centers will help adults and kids to learn, communicate and explore using the Internet, both before and after school.
- Gateway Launches Teach America! and Commits to Training 75,000 Teachers -- Including All East Palo Alto Teachers. Gateway has pledged to provide 75,000 teachers with technology literacy training under the Teach America! program. This effort will provide teachers with hundreds of courses to increase their use of the Internet and multimedia applications. All East Palo Alto's teachers will be trained in the Teach America! program on ways to effectively utilize technology in the classroom. The Waitt Family Foundation has previously made a major donation of 50,000 Gateway computers for use at PowerUP sites across the country.
- QUALCOMM Commits \$25 Million to Bridge the Digital Divide in San Diego -- Including \$7 Million for K-12 Math and Science Education. QUALCOMM will help to close the digital divide with a \$25 million commitment -- including \$7 million to improve math and science education in San Diego schools through investments in educational technology and enhancing the math and science instructional skills of K-12 teachers.
- PowerUP Unveils 250 New Sites in 43 States Across the Country. The PowerUP program will announce a major expansion of its successful program to give underserved youth access to technology and guidance on how to use it. PowerUP will have 250 - up from 19 -- new, fully-equipped and staffed sites by the end of 2000. PowerUP is comprised of more than a dozen non-profit organizations, major corporations and federal agencies. The federal AmeriCorps program is a strong supporter of the PowerUP effort and has assigned 400 members to work in PowerUP sites. Partners that have contributed to the launch of the first 250 sites include America Online, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, America's Promise, the Steve Case Foundation, the Waitt Family Foundation, Americorps*Vista, Boys & Girls Clubs, Communities in Schools, National Urban League, Save the Children, YMCA and the Department of Education.
- American Online Pledges 100,000 Free AOL Accounts Valued at \$26 Million Annually. The expansion of the PowerUP is made possible because of commitments from a number of organizations -- including a pledge by AOL to provide 100,000 AOL accounts to PowerUP sites, valued at \$26 million annually.
- Novell Will Donate \$20 Million in Software to Non-Profits Devoted to Helping Underserved Hispanic Populations. Novell is expanding its software donation program to include non-profits that help underserved Hispanic populations. The donated software has a retail value of \$20 million. Currently, many non-profits are lagging behind the private sector in their use of the Internet and information technology.
- Cisco Systems, HUD and Communities In Schools Announce 10 Pilot Networking Academies. Cisco Systems, Inc., the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Communities In Schools will announce a program valued at \$1.4 million to establish 10 Cisco Networking Academies in underserved communities. The Cisco Networking Academy Program teaches students to design, build, and maintain computer networks through a 280-hour web-based curriculum and hands-on laboratory exercises on real networks. HUD, Cisco and Communities In Schools are also establishing internship opportunities so that Academy students graduate not only with a marketable skill, but also with on-the-job experience. Academy graduates who pass the industry standard Cisco Certified Network Associate exam are immediately eligible for information technology jobs with high starting salaries.
- Applied Materials Pledges \$1 Million and Partners with the Rainbow/ PUSH Coalition to Create a High-Tech Job Training Center. Applied Materials has pledged \$1 million to help provide "information for everyone," starting with the development of a high-tech job training center for the people of East Palo Alto, in partnership with local government and Reverend

Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

- Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI) Will Pledge \$1 Million to Reduce the Digital Divide in Silicon Valley. SEMI, the global trade association for the semiconductor equipment and materials industry, is pledging \$1 million dollars to five workforce development programs focused on reducing the digital divide. The organizations that will receive \$200,000 each are: Workforce Silicon Valley; Industry and Technology Outreach Foundation; Jose A. Valdez Math Institute; and the Charitech Civic Venture Fund.
- AT&T Announces a \$1.2 Million Commitment to the Academy of Information Technology. AT&T will support the Academy of Information Technology with \$1.2 million to develop a high school curriculum that will prepare students for jobs in the IT industry. In addition, AT&T will commit \$250,000 to develop a national forum series for underserved communities to engage high school students and policymakers in a dialogue about economic opportunities, education, job skills, and leadership for the 21st century.
- PeoplePC Commits to Providing Multimedia Computers to the East Palo Alto Community. The President will announce a pledge by PeoplePC to provide the schools of East Palo Alto with 300 new brand name computer systems and unlimited Internet access. Currently, the elementary schools in East Palo Alto have a student-to-computer ratio of 28-to-1, making it difficult for computers and the Internet to be used as powerful tools for learning in the classroom.
- govWorks, Inc., Announces the Community Commitment Program to Reinvest in Communities Around the Country. govWorks, Inc. will announce the launch of its Community Commitment program to help communities across the country address the digital divide. govWorks will reinvest a portion of its revenue in local communities to purchase computers, high-speed Internet access and technology training, which will be donated to libraries, public schools, and community centers. It will launch a pilot of its Community Commitment program this week by donating computers and a year's supply of high speed Internet access to the Thomas Creighton Elementary School in Philadelphia, PA and to Nora Navara Public Library in New Orleans, LA. Additionally, govWorks plans to provide the school and library staff with computer and Internet training. govWorks expects to roll out its Community Commitment program in 50 cities by the end of the year.
- NetDay and TechNet "One-Stop-Shop" for Educational Technology. The President will announce a commitment from NetDay and TechNet to develop an Internet-based "one-stop-shop" of information on educational technology, including technology planning, hardware, educational software, professional development, and sources of financial support. The database will be designed for principals, teachers, parent support groups, and community members.
- The ThinkQuest? Program Bridges the Digital Divide by Reaching Out to Underserved Students. ThinkQuest, a non-profit Internet-based education initiative, will announce a partnership with the Department of Education's TRIO and Community Technology Center programs, HUD's Neighborhood Network centers and ABILITY Awareness to bring ThinkQuest's award-winning program to the large number of students in underserved schools and communities as well as to students with disabilities. The ThinkQuest program guidelines promote teams that include members from diverse levels of computer competency who come from various cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. To date more than 50,000 students and educators from 100 countries have participated in ThinkQuest.
- The Department of Education Announces Technology Innovation Challenge Grants. The Department of Education will announce three new Technology Innovation Challenge Grants (TICG) totaling \$24 million over 5 years. In-kind contributions to these Technology Innovation projects will total more than \$67 million. This program serves as a catalyst for positive change for schools. It supports educators, industry partners, communities, parents, and others who are using new technologies to help bring high quality education to every classroom and neighborhood. Effective use of new technologies in these communities will contribute to improved student achievement in reading, writing, science, mathematics, history, the arts and other disciplines. Each project will support training for teachers and promote greater parent and community involvement in education.

- The National Endowment for the Humanities Announces \$1.45 Million In Schools for a New Millennium Projects. The National Endowment for the Humanities announces \$1.45 million in Schools for a New Millennium projects designed to train humanities teachers to integrate technology tools into their classroom teaching. Schools for a New Millennium projects include teachers, university scholars, technology experts, local museums and libraries, parents and school administrators committed to bringing digital opportunity into the classroom.

IN EAST PALO ALTO PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL BE JOINED BY HIGH-TECH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The President will participate in a roundtable discussion with CEOs from the technology industry and leaders of the civil rights community and non-profit organizations. The President will lead a discussion on concrete steps that industry, community organizations and government can take to bridge the digital divide. Participants in the roundtable will include:

- Dr. Drew Altman, President & CEO, The Henry J. Kaiser Foundation
- Henry Cisneros, President & COO, Univision Communications
- Darien Dash, Chairman & CEO, DME Interactive Holdings, Inc.
- John Doerr, Kleiner Perkins
- Magda Escobar, Executive Director, Plugged In
- Carly Fiorina, CEO, Hewlett Packard
- Rae Grad, CEO, Power Up
- Nick Grouf, CEO, People PC
- Rosalind Hudnell, Vice President, Intel Corporation
- Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rainbow PUSH
- Yusef Jackson, Chairman, One Net Now
- Irwin Jacobs, Chairman & CEO, QUALCOMM
- Carlton Jenkins, CEO, One Net Now
- Robert Johnson, Chairman & CEO, Black Entertainment Television
- Roberta Katz, President & CEO, TechNet
- Robert Knowling, CEO, Covad Communications
- Jim Martin, Senior Vice President, America Online
- Kenneth McNeely, Vice President, AT&T
- James Morgan, Chairman & CEO, Applied Materials
- John Morgridge, Chairman of the Board, Cisco Systems
- David Robino, Vice Chairman, Gateway
- Eric Schmidt, Chairman & CEO, Novell
- Srinija Srinivasan, Vice President & Editor-in-Chief, Yahoo!
- Kaleil Tuzman, CEO, GovWorks
- Raul Yzaguirre, President, National Council of La Raza

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The President's New Markets Trip: From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

April 17 - 18, 2000

THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Press Secretary
(East Palo Alto, California)**

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2000

BACKGROUND ON THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND EAST PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA APRIL 17, 2000

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: 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.

The Gap Between High and Low Income Americans is Increasing. 80 percent of households with an income of \$75,000 or above have computers, compared to 16 percent of households earning \$10,000 - \$15,000 (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).

Better Educated Americans More Likely to Be Connected. 69 percent of households with a bachelor's degree or higher have computers, compared to 16 percent of those households that have not completed high (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999). Whites More Likely to be Connected than African-Americans and Hispanics. 47 percent of white households have computers, compared to 23 percent of African-American households and 26 percent of Hispanic households (Dept. of Commerce, "Falling Through The Net," July 1999).

SILICON VALLEY: In the past 20 years, Silicon Valley has played a leading role in fostering the digital revolution that is sweeping the globe. This revolution has led to the productivity gains that have helped create the longest economic expansion in U.S. history. The Silicon Valley has profited handsomely from the innovation of its residents; the region has become one of the most prosperous communities in our nation.

- Silicon Valley has created more than 275,000 new jobs since 1992 (CA Employment Development Dept, 1999).
- Median family income has soared to \$87,000 per year - the third highest in the country (Dept of HUD, 2000).
- The median price of a house in the Silicon Valley is \$410,000, more than twice the median price in rest of the country (California Real Estate Association, 1999).

EAST PALO ALTO: East Palo Alto has missed out on much of this prosperity. While there has been progress and the city is working to attract employers, East Palo Alto continues to struggle with a relatively high poverty rate, the largest high school dropout rate in the Bay Area, and the lowest property values in San Mateo county (Association of Bay Area Governments, Projections, 1998).

- **Demographics:** With a population that is 53 percent Hispanic, 36 percent African-American, 12 percent white, and 8 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, East Palo Alto celebrates its diversity (Claritas, 1999). The Hispanic population has grown rapidly in the last 10 years with Latinos comprising 64 percent of the school-age children (California Dept. of Education, 1999).

- **Economic Vitality:** The City is engaged in an ambitious redevelopment initiative. Nevertheless, there is only one large employer in the community, a situation that narrows the tax base and obliges many residents to make long commutes to work each day. There is no bank, major supermarket, and other key service-oriented businesses in the city (City of East Palo Alto, 1999).
- **Poverty:** Over 80 percent of K-8 students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches (California Dept. of Education, 1999).
- **Education:** There is only one computer for every 28 students in East Palo Alto schools, as compared to the 1-to-9 ratio for the entire state. Only 60 percent of residents have a high school diploma or its equivalent (California Dept. of Education, 1999; City of East Palo Alto, 1999).

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The President's New Markets Trip: From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity

April 17 - 18, 2000

THE WHITE HOUSE

**Office of the Press Secretary
(Shiprock, New Mexico)**

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2000

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW MARKETS TRIP: FROM DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY Highlighting Technology's Economic Opportunity in Shiprock April 17, 2000

TODAY, PRESIDENT CLINTON WILL VISIT SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO TO HIGHLIGHT HOW ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY CAN LEAD TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. President Clinton will visit Shiprock, NM where he will speak to the Navajo Nation at the local Boys and Girls Club, which is also a PowerUP site. The President will focus on access to technology as a vehicle for education and economic development to bring employment opportunities to Native Americans. He will also emphasize how public and private sector investments can create digital opportunity in isolated communities. The President will then participate in an Internet video conference at the Diné Tribal College with students from remote schools within the Navajo Nation. Building on his successful New Markets trips of 1999, the President will highlight the importance of mobilizing the high-tech industry to encourage the participation of all Americans in the digital economy.

NATIVE AMERICANS HAVE NOT SHARED IN THE NATION'S DIGITAL REVOLUTION.

While the number of Americans accessing the Internet has grown rapidly in recent years, there remains a digital divide between information "haves" and "have nots." Native Americans rank far below the national average in their access to telephones, computers, and the Internet, and thus unable to access the full range of information resources that are quickly becoming essential for success in the new economy. For example:

- **Lack of Telephone Service** Only 22.5 percent of Navajo Nation households have home telephone service as compared to the national average of 94 percent (American Indian Report, March 2000).
- **Lack of Education** The Navajo Nation high school drop-out rate averages at 20 percent for 9th graders. Only one quarter of the Navajo adult population has graduated from high school (Navajo Nation, 1999).

THE PRESIDENT WILL BE JOINED BY HIGH-TECH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS. The President will be joined by Jeff Arnold, CEO, Healthcon/ WebMD Corporation; Bruce Brooks, Director of Community Affairs, Microsoft; Michael Chasen, President and Co-Founder, Blackboard, Inc.; Rev. Jesse Jackson, CEO and Founder, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; Yusef Jackson, Co-Chairman, One Net Now; Yvonne Jackson, Senior Vice President, Compaq Computer Corporation; Robert Johnson, CEO, BET Holdings, Inc.; Dr. John Koehler, President and CEO, Tachyon, Inc.; Susan Masten, Chairman and President of the National Congress of American Indians; Steven Rohleder, Managing Partner, Andersen Consulting; Robert Rutherford, President, Native American Systems; Karen Smith, Executive Director, TechCorps; Raul Yzaguirre, President, National Council of La Raza; and Rae Grad, CEO of PowerUP.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND HIGH-TECH LEADERS WILL ANNOUNCE KEY TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES TO BRING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TO NATIVE AMERICANS:

- FCC Chairman William Kennard Will Announce Proposals to Increase Telephone Access for Native American Communities for \$1 Per Month Through the Lifeline Program
- Microsoft Will Announces a \$2.75 Million in New Grants to the American Indian Tribal College Program
- IBM, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the University of Michigan Will Invest \$1 Million in Partnership with Tribal Colleges to Develop a Virtual Library for Tribal Colleges
- Compaq, in Partnership with TechCorps, Will Announce a \$500,000 Commitment to Serve Native American and Other Schools Through Online Mentoring
- The Corporation For National Service Will Announce \$1 Million for the Navajo Leader Corps
- Andersen Consulting Will Help Native American Small Business to Use E-Commerce
- Tachyon, Inc. Will Provide 500 Navajo Nation Students with Satellite Internet Access
- An Over \$100,000 Commitment by Native American Systems to Increase Internet Access in Indian Country
- The Native American Digital Divide Taskforce Will Launch with \$100,000 From America Online
- Blackboard Inc., Will Commit to Providing Enhanced Educational Tools to Native American Tribal Colleges
- Healtheon/WebMD Will Announce Internet Access to Healthcare Information for Indian Country

A COMPLETE LIST OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ANNOUCEMENTS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS COMMITMENTS TO BRING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY NATIVE AMERICANS

- FCC Chairman William Kennard Will Announce Proposals to Provide Phone Service for \$1 Through the Lifeline Program. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman, William Kennard, has proposed increasing funding under the Lifeline program so that every member of a federally recognized Indian tribe who is income eligible can have basic phone service for as little as \$1 per month. The FCC has also proposed an increase in federal universal service funding to companies willing to serve Native American reservations by removing the cap on the funding available to carriers that purchase exchanges on reservations and changing the practice of averaging the cost of serving high-cost reservations with low-cost areas when calculating support amounts. These critical steps to expand the Lifeline program will greatly improve Native American communities' access to information and technology resources.
- Microsoft Will Announce \$2.75 Million in New Grants to the American Indian Tribal College Program, Including Diné College. Microsoft will provide eight American Indian Tribal Colleges with technology and training through its American Indian Tribal College Program, part of a continuing relationship with the American Indian Science and Technology Education Consortium. Microsoft will provide these tribal colleges with \$2.5 million in software and \$250,000 in technical assistance to ensure an increase in technical skills among students at tribal colleges. In addition, the program will include the tools necessary for the institutions to achieve Microsoft Certified Training Facility status.
- IBM, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the University of Michigan Will Invest \$1 Million in Partnership Tribal Colleges to Develop a Virtual Library For Tribal Colleges. The President will announce a unique \$1 million partnership between IBM, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the University of Michigan and several tribal colleges to create a "virtual library." The virtual library homepage will link into a major national database that will catalog electronic books, magazines, journals and Internet documents from around the world. The virtual library will have a reference section, a database section, and local exhibitions for the 32 tribal colleges across the country. There will also be a technical support system which will answer student, faculty and community members' questions interactively.
- Compaq, in Partnership with TechCorps, Will Announce a \$500,000 Commitment to Serve Native American and Other Schools Through Online Mentoring. The President will announce a \$500,000 commitment by Compaq Computer Corporation to partner with TechCorps to develop, pilot and support the nationwide launch of Techs4Schools, an online mentoring program that uses the Internet to join teachers with volunteer high-tech experts to advance the level of technological knowledge and support in our schools. Four Navajo Nation schools participated in the pilot of Techs4Schools, and following today's launch, Techs4Schools will

be available to all Navajo Nation Schools and other K-12 schools nationwide.

- The Corporation for National Service Will Announce A \$1 Million AmeriCorps Grant For the Navajo Leader Corps. The President will announce a \$1 million AmeriCorps grant for the Navajo Leader Corps. The grant will support 50 Navajo AmeriCorps members in renovating 165 Head Start Centers and BIA schools across the Navajo Nation. The renovations will include wiring the facilities for Internet access.
- A \$100,000 Commitment from Andersen Consulting to Support Small Business In Indian Country. The President will announce that Andersen Consulting will pledge \$100,000 to mentor and provide technical assistance to Native American tribes, tribal businesses, and other Native-owned businesses. This assistance will support their efforts to expand e-commerce. Andersen and the Department of Housing and Urban Development will coordinate this effort. This support will be in the form of professional mentoring, technical advising, computer equipment, and other services.
- Tachyon, Inc. Will Provide Tribal Colleges with Satellite Internet Access. President Clinton will announce a major commitment by Tachyon, Inc. to assist 500 students by bringing Internet access to Diné Tribal College and a remote school. The Tachyon Corporation will provide high-speed, two-way, satellite-delivered Internet access to link two sites of Diné Tribal College and the Lake Valley School, a Bureau of Indian Affairs school. This assistance from Tachyon will build upon a \$10.3 million Department of Labor Youth Opportunity Grant received by the Navajo Nation and Diné College to help fund eight technology centers in each of Diné College's locations.
- An Over \$100,000 Commitment by Native American Systems to Increase Internet Access in Indian Country. The President will announce a more than \$100,000 commitment by Native American Systems (NAS) to provide satellite connections to the Red Rock Day School, a Bureau of Indian Affairs school on the Navajo Nation in Red Valley, AZ. NAS will donate and install a satellite dish, a network router, and 12 complete computer workstations, including Compaq iPAQ computers and monitors for the 244 children attend the Red Rock Day School. NAS is also contributing an additional 30 network routers which will be distributed to similarly isolated Bureau of Indian Affairs schools on reservations across the country. The President and CEO of NAS is Robert P. Rutherford, a member of the Choctaw Tribe.
- The Native American Digital Divide Taskforce Will Launch with \$100,000 from America Online. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will announce the creation of the Native American Digital Divide Taskforce. This Taskforce, with the support and cooperation of the Department of Commerce, bring together a core group of tribal leaders, tribal businesses, academics, government officials, and private businesses to examine issues of access to technology; economic development and workforce training; education; and the creation of culturally and socially relevant Internet resources. empower Native communities through increased information and access to advanced telecommunications and information technologies.
- Blackboard Inc., Commits to Providing Enhanced Educational Tools to Native American Tribal Colleges. The President will announce a pledge of software, training and educational content to Native American Tribal Colleges. Blackboard, Inc., is Internet education company that powers online teaching and learning platforms, servicing more than 2.1 million people worldwide. Through this pledge, tribal colleges will be able to develop courses for students in remote areas in need of distance learning opportunities. It will also ensure access for tribal college students and faculty to millions of online course currently available through the Blackboard platform.
- Healtheon/WebMD Announces Internet Access to Healthcare Information for Indian Country. Healtheon/WebMD has agreed to provide free subscriptions for WebMD Practice to the doctors at the Indian Health Services facility in Shiprock, NM. WebMD Practice is an Internet portal that provides doctors and other healthcare providers with a full spectrum of services and information to help them provide quality healthcare more effectively and efficiently. In addition, Healtheon/WebMD will install an Internet-connected kiosk equipped with printers in the waiting room of the Indian Health Services facility. This kiosk will allow visitors to search for and print out healthcare information from the WebMD portal.

- **USDA-Rural Development Announces Safe and Clean Water Funds for Indian Country.** The Department of Agriculture will announce \$3 million in grants from its American Indian Safe and Clean Water Set-Aside fund to serve six tribal communities in five states (AZ, ME, MN, OR, SD). Additionally, USDA is committing \$2.2 million in low interest loans and \$300,000 in grants to the projects. Five tribes and one non-profit utility district have developed these projects to provide good quality drinking water or improved wastewater disposal.
- **HUD Announces 10 Neighborhood Network Centers Targeted in Indian Country.** As part of its overall expansion of Neighborhood Network Centers, HUD commits to helping 10 Indian Housing Authorities to create Neighborhood Network Community Learning Centers, and to locating donations or other sources of funding for equipment and networking.
- **HUD Launches Native eDGE - the Native American Economic Development Access Center.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development and its Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) will announce the creation of a Native American Economic Development Access Center, accessible via website and toll-free number. This Access Center, called Native eDGE (economic Development Guidance and Empowerment) will, for the first time, electronically link resources from over 12 Federal agencies with Native Americans, lending institutions, non-profits, foundations, and private businesses so they can collaborate to achieve sustainable economic development in Indian Country. The Access Center will include a publications clearinghouse to distribute printed materials on demand, and will provide technical assistance by economic development specialists.
- **The Department of Education Proposes the Challenging Online Coursework Initiative.** The President will announce that his FY2001 budget includes \$10 million to fund the Challenging Online Coursework Initiative for competitive grants to spur innovative research and development efforts focused on web-based Advance Placement (AP), second language, and other challenging coursework. Grants of up to three years would be provided to partnerships for research, development and evaluation of technologies such as online simulations and other web-based instruction that can help provide high-quality learning experiences for all students no matter where their school is located. This initiative will be particularly valuable for remote Native American schools.
- **The Small Business Administration and Treasury Propose BusinessLINC in Indian Country.** Under Vice President Gore's leadership, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Treasury have launched a national initiative called BusinessLINC. As part of his FY2001 budget, the President has proposed \$1.25 million to expand BusinessLINC to Indian Country. During the remainder of this year, Treasury and SBA will hold at least two working sessions that will help explore how BusinessLINC in Indian Country might best proceed with particular attention to high-tech opportunities. These sessions will bring together tribal leaders, high-technology firms. These working sessions would explore how the high-tech industry could expand its activities into Indian Country.

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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 underserved communities.**
6. **\$25 million to accelerate private sector deployment of broadband networks in underserved urban and rural communities.**
7. **\$10 million to prepare Native Americans for careers in Information Technology and other technical fields.**

To Help Mobilize Public/Private Partnerships 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 bridge the 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, Enterprise Communities, and targeted low income areas. 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 21st 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.

**THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION:
A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

April 4, 2000

President Clinton Will Announce Today That Over 400 Companies And Non-Profit Organizations Have Signed A "National Call To Action" To Bring Digital Opportunity To Youth, Families And Communities. The President will be joined by the Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Senator Barbara Mikulski and Julian Lacey, a longtime volunteer at Plugged In, a Community Technology Center in East Palo Alto, California. He will announce his "National Call to Action" to help bring digital opportunity to youth, families and communities around the country. Over 400 companies and non-profit organizations have agreed to sign this Call to Action.

President Clinton's "National Call To Action." President Clinton has issued a "National Call to Action" to challenge corporations and non-profit organizations to take concrete steps to meet two critical goals:

- **Provide 21st Century Learning Tools For Every Child In Every School.** For children to succeed, they need to master basic skills at an early age. The ability to use technology to learn and succeed in the workplace of the 21st century has become a "new basic" -- creating a national imperative to ensure that every child is technologically literate. To reach this goal, America needs a comprehensive approach to connect every classroom, provide all students with access to multimedia computers, train teachers to use and integrate technology into the curriculum, and to provide high quality online content and educational software.
- **Create Digital Opportunity For Every American Family And Community.** For all families and communities to benefit from the New Economy, we must ensure that all Americans have access to technology and the skills needed to use it. We must work to meet the long-term goal of making home access to the Internet universal, bring technology to every neighborhood through community technology centers, empower all citizens with IT skills, and motivate more people to appreciate the value of "getting connected."

The President Will Announce Several Initiatives To Help Bring Digital Opportunity To All Americans. The President will announce the following initiatives that demonstrate a real commitment by the public and private sectors to work together to bridge the digital divide:

- **\$12.5 Million For An "E-Corps."** The Corporation for National Service will commit \$10 million to recruit 750 qualified AmeriCorps members for projects aimed at bringing digital opportunity to youth, families and communities. These volunteers will provide technical support to school computer systems, tutor at Community Technology Centers, and offer IT training for high-tech careers. The Corporation for National Service will also commit \$2.5 million for digital divide projects under the Learn and Serve program, which allows young people to make a difference in their communities while going to school.
- **Yahoo! Will Invest \$1 Million in Digital Opportunity.** Yahoo! will provide an Internet advertising campaign worth \$1 million to enlist volunteers with high-tech skills for AmeriCorps' digital divide initiative. The Yahoo! banner ads will help AmeriCorps meet the challenge of recruiting volunteers with high-tech skills to work on technology-related projects.
- **3Com Launches NetPrep GYRLS.** In partnership with the YWCA's TechGYRLS program, 3Com will announce NetPrep GYRLS, a \$330,000 program that will offer girls aged 14-16 training in computer networking. Currently, women represent less than 30 percent of U.S. computer scientists and computer programmers. The 3Com NetPrep curriculum will allow high school girls to focus their technical education on computer networking, leading to an industry-standard certification. 3Com expects to reach 600 girls in 30 NetPrep GYRLS locations across the country.
- **American Library Association.** The American Library Association will pledge to help bridge the digital divide by working with its members to create or expand "information literacy" programs in at least 250 communities around the country. People with information literacy skills are able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively.

President Clinton Will Also Announce His Third New Markets Tour – From Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity. On April 17-18, President Clinton, accompanied by CEOs, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and community leaders will focus national attention on initiatives aimed at overcoming the digital divide and creating opportunities for youth, families and communities. The President will travel to East Palo Alto, California; the Navajo Nation in Shiprock, New Mexico; and Chicago, Illinois to highlight private and public-sector initiatives to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans. Later this month, the President will travel to rural North Carolina to stress the importance of expanding rural access to the emerging broadband Internet.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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. 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%. Urban households with incomes of \$75,000 or higher are more than *twenty times* more likely to have access to the Internet than rural households 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 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. 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 74 percent in wealthier schools.

ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

We can only reach our goals by developing strong partnerships between government, industry, and the rich mosaic of America's civil society -- educators, labor unions, librarians, civil rights leaders, faith-based organizations, foundations, and volunteers, and community-based organizations. We must also recognize that while competition, market forces, technological progress and new business models will help expand access by lowering the price of Internet access, computers, and "information appliances," access to technology is only one piece of the puzzle.

That is why we are urging that we agree to take a comprehensive approach: addressing not only Internet access and hardware, but the creation of quality content and applications, effective training, the development of information literacy, and intensive support and guidance from teachers and mentors. We must also make a special effort to find ways to motivate and inspire those who are not connected to see the value of participating in the Information Revolution.

By pledging to take on specific challenges in the overall effort -- beginning with some of the items outlined below -- you can make a tremendous difference in the lives of millions of American children and families.* We also encourage other ideas and commitments to help bring digital opportunity to all Americans in a sustained and thorough way.

GOAL 1: 21ST CENTURY LEARNING TOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN EVERY SCHOOL

Taking Action to Meet All Aspects of the Goal

- Make every school a model school by providing a comprehensive approach to education technology.
 - ✓ Examples of partnerships that have taken this comprehensive approach include the Joint Venture Silicon Valley "21st Century Education Initiative," and the "NextDay" project of NetDay.
- Match the Administration's Investment in the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing an increase from \$425 million to \$450 million to help states and local communities meet all four components of the goal.
- Work with local parents' groups to develop and complete school-wide surveys to determine which of the goal's four components are being met.
- Offer experts from universities and corporations to work full or part-time in schools -- devoting their knowledge and energy to helping schools achieve all four parts of the goal.

Connecting Every Classroom and Library to the Internet

- Continue support for the E-rate
 - ✓ E-Rate has provided \$3.65 billion in support Internet connections in schools and libraries over the last two

* : Examples are for illustrative purposes only -- there are many other companies and non-profits that are working to bridge the digital divide.

years -- with the deepest discounts to the poorest schools that need it most.

- Continue volunteer efforts such as NetDay, TechCorps, and the “High Speed Education Connection” of the cable TV industry.

Providing Schools with the Computers they Require

- Donate computers to schools and libraries to bring greater access to technology to children and families
 - ✓ The Administration is extending and expanding an enhanced tax deduction to allow companies to deduct more than the cost of their donation.

Training Teachers to Use Technology Effectively in the Classroom

- Develop partnerships to provide technology training to all new and existing teachers.
 - ✓ The Administration has set a goal of training all new teachers to use technology, and has proposed \$150 million to help meet this goal, which companies can support by partnering with schools of education.
 - ✓ The CEO Forum has developed a detailed set of goals for how schools of education and states can work to ensure that all teachers are prepared to teach using technology.
 - ✓ Several companies (e.g. Intel, Microsoft, AT&T) are also devoting significant resources to training existing teachers with summer academies, and follow-up support during the course of the school year.

Providing Compelling Content

- Create a Digital Library for Education to help students and teachers find quality content on the Internet.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing \$41 million for an initiative to expand access to high-quality Internet-based educational resources, and to make it easier for parents, teachers and students to find compelling content by grade level and subject area.
 - ✓ Several companies (e.g. Ameritech, MCI WorldCom) have partnered with government agencies to offer intensive training to teachers so they can develop content, and have provided grants to institutions to digitize special collections (such as the Library of Congress “American Memory” project).

Motivating Young People to Learn and Use Technology to its Fullest Potential.

- Motivate and train youth for careers in information technology
 - ✓ Companies such as Cisco, 3Com and Novell have launched programs which help prepare students for high-paying jobs in the IT sector.
- Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities
 - ✓ Sports and entertainment stars can agree to do PSAs showing them using the computers and explaining why they are excited about the Internet, and why mastering these new tools is so important.

- ✓ Develop Public Service Announcements with celebrities to motivate young people and adults to use computers and explore the Internet -- including a "no fear, no shame" campaign for those adults who may be reluctant to admit that they don't know how to use technology.
- ✓ This kind of campaign would also be important for adults -- many of whom might be afraid to admit that they don't know how to use technology.

GOAL 2: DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Expanding Home Access

- Provide computers and Internet services to your employees and their families.
- ✓ Leading U.S. companies such as Ford and Delta have determined that providing their employees with computers and Internet access at reduced rates is critical to upgrading the skills of their employees.
- ✓ The Administration has proposed \$50 million for a pilot project to expand home access for low-income families. Companies can support local projects through free or discounted hardware, software, Internet access and training. Pilots are being supported by Computers For Youth, Microsoft, Bell Atlantic, IBM, and "Clickstart."

Creating more Community Technology Centers

- Donate all aspects of technology to help provide national coverage through Community Technology Centers (CTCs). CTCs provide children and adults a place to go where technology and assistance is available to them—including everything from conducting job searches to finding child care to providing children with structured after-school programs.
- ✓ The Administration is proposing to expand its investment in CTCs from \$32.5 million to \$100 million—to create up to 1,000 new centers.
- ✓ By extending and expanding an enhanced tax deduction, the Administration encourages companies to donate equipment, software, Internet access, support and instructors to expand the number of CTCs.
- ✓ PowerUP (with support from AOL, Case Foundation, Gateway, HP, Sun, and Americorps) is working to give underserved youth access to technology and guidance on how to use it.

Providing Greater Training to Allow all Individuals to Fully Participate in the Digital Economy

- Offer training and internships to prepare more minorities and low-income workers for IT sector jobs
- ✓ Information Technology Association of America is leading efforts to expand the number of minority internships in IT companies. Other companies and non-profits are getting positive results by providing IT training to people who are unemployed, on welfare, or holding minimum-wage jobs.

- ✓ One California-based non-profit (OpNet) has been able to help people who were unemployed or making an average of \$6 per hour compete successfully for jobs paying up to \$45,000 year. Another consortium of Northern California companies has launched a project called "Welfare-to-Web" to provide the training people need to make the transition from welfare to high-tech jobs.
- Provide Basic Technology Training to Workers
 - ✓ Companies can take advantage of the President's tax credit and provide their employees with basic computer training, workplace literacy or other basic education.
- Increase access to "information literacy" skills
 - ✓ According to the American Library Association, an information literate person is "able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively." Companies can donate the computers and Internet access that librarians need to provide people with these skills.

Providing Content and Applications that will Help Empower Low-Income Communities

- Develop content to help families access quality information and resources to meet their everyday needs
 - ✓ Examples might include compelling courseware for adult literacy, adult basic education, English as a Second Language, or the skills needed to start a "micro-enterprise."
 - ✓ Companies, state and local government agencies and non-profits can also collaborate to develop "portals" that would provide one-stop access to content particularly relevant to the needs of low-income families — such as child care, transportation, employment opportunities, and social services.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing to triple its investment in the Technology Opportunities Program (to \$45 million), which has supported many innovative applications of information technology.

Bringing Advanced Technology to Isolated Rural Communities and to Indian Country

- Ensure that Native Americans participate in the New Economy. The Native American community can benefit from training for IT jobs, access to broadband networks that can help bring technology-related employment, e-commerce solutions for Native American small businesses, and the use of technology to preserve and share Native American culture.
 - ✓ The Administration proposes \$10 million for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.
- Develop innovative business models and new technologies to deploy advanced services to rural America.
 - ✓ The Administration has proposed several hundred million in loan guarantees to accelerate the deployment of broadband wireline and wireless networks to rural America.
 - ✓ Companies are developing broadband technologies that can be cost-effectively deployed.
 - ✓ Companies are exploring ways to bring fiber optic networks to rural states if users can pool their

purchasing power.

Ensuring that Information Technologies and the Internet are Accessible to People with Disabilities

- Make the Web and information technology accessible for people with disabilities.
 - ✓ The Administration and Internet companies are co-funding the “Web Accessibility Initiative” through the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Internet and e-commerce companies can move to adopt Web accessibility standards being developed by the W3C for Web content, browsers and authoring tools.
 - ✓ Many telecommunications companies are working to enhance the accessibility of their products to meet the requirements of Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
 - ✓ The Administration is proposing increased funding to improve the state-of-the-art of assistive technology, and to make it more affordable for people with disabilities.