

The Internet offers PC users a range of useful not-for-profit information sites and research projects. **PCW continues its coverage dedicated to spreading the news on these good works and whacky ideas.**

## RESOURCES

### Graphics gratis

<http://www.clipart.com/>

This site refers you to hundreds of other sites where you can get free clip art, icons, web graphics and screensavers.

One such website full of free goodies for site designers is

<http://www.co3graphics.com>. Here you get everything from animated gifs and clip art to fully



pre-designed navigation bars, although the horrendous 'background' gifs on offer are probably responsible for producing garish and illegible sites. Choose carefully!

### Action 2000

<http://www.bug2000.co.uk/>

With the Millennium Bug on the horizon, this top-notch site sponsored by the UK Government gives you a lot of free advice on how it might affect you. No matter what your level of technical expertise, it's easy to find information on how to give your PC a clean bill of health. For small businesses and home users, the Software Status Database ([http://business.bug-2000.co.uk/get\\_help/software\\_index.shtml](http://business.bug-2000.co.uk/get_help/software_index.shtml)) is a must.

### Web Hoaxes

<http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>

How can you be sure that the email you received this morning warning you about a virus or Trojan Horse is the real thing? The recent panic over ExploreZip proved well-founded, but the net is also full of hoax warnings. This site has details of a range of spoofs – like the Good Times virus and the NaughtyRobot email hoax.

### A House without Windows?

<http://zork.net/refund/>

The Microsoft Refund Newsletter site is a cornucopia of riches put together by

## SITE FOCUS

### PC Lube and Tune

<http://pclt.cis.yale.edu/pclt/>

This site announces itself thus: 'PC Lube and Tune is a Service Station and convenience store at Exit 130.132 on the National

Information Highway.' Exit 130.132 refers to the TCP/IP address for the server at Yale University which hosts this site, a project of an enterprising chap called Howard Gilbert who decided in 1994 to provide a series of articles to explain a range of computer technology concepts. These range from 'An Introduction to PC Hardware', through to an explanation of how to partition a drive for dual booting different operating systems. There's information on a selected list of topics (this is not an exhaustive list of all computer technologies), including SNA, OS/2, Windows, distributed applications on the web, Ethernet and Linux. All of them written in no-nonsense, layman's language that is easily digestible.

### Exit 130.132

Fuel	Service
Advice	Education
Honesty	Directions

### PC Lube & Tune

Linux enthusiasts from all over the globe. There's practical advice on how to buy a PC without paying Microsoft a Windows licence fee.

## PROJECTS

### The Cat in the Scanner

<http://www.cat-scan.com/>

CliffyB's excellent tongue-in-cheek site collects together scanned images of cats – pics assembled by netizens around the world by putting their beloved puss on a flatbed scanner and clicking the Acquire Image button. As you'd expect the site has attracted the wrath of outraged animal activists, but also a lot of whole-hearted support from cat lovers as well. Have a look and judge for yourself, and if you've got a moment maybe scan your own pussy and enter it.



### The Power of Images

[http://www.cast.org/strategies/image\\_barrier.html#Power](http://www.cast.org/strategies/image_barrier.html#Power)

CAST is an educational, not-for-profit organisation that aims to enable the use of technology to expand opportunities for those with disabilities. However, new technology can not only liberate the disabled, it can also work against them. One of the projects that CAST is promoting aims to help the visually impaired get more out of the web, by helping web designers make

their sites more accessible to those who have poor sight.

### Open Directory Project

<http://www.dmoz.org/about.html>

This site is based on the idea that the best way to assemble a wide ranging 'index of the Internet' is by calling on the (unpaid) services of netizens everywhere. You can apply to be an 'editor' if you have an area of interest and a burgeoning Bookmarks list assembled from hours of web surfing. The 12,508 editors that dmoz has already recruited are expected to ensure that its 670,898 referenced sites are more accurate than others.

### Search the Stars

<http://www.setiathome.ssl-berkeley.edu/>

Yes, the search for extra-terrestrial intelligent life is gathering pace with this project to analyse radio signals from across the Universe. All you need do is download a piece of software

from this US university site and then use the idle processing time, when your PC normally displays a screensaver, to 'analyse' lengthy periods of radio signals to see if any pattern emerges. At the very least, seti@home is becoming the 'coolest' screensaver to use.

**If you've come across any not-for-profit web-based projects and resources that you'd like to share with other readers, let us know by emailing details to: [readerweb@pcw.co.uk](mailto:readerweb@pcw.co.uk)**