

chipchat

No-one... nowhere... wants an email from you

HATE EMAIL JOKES. In fact, hate is perhaps not a strong enough emotion to describe the feeling you get when you receive the same Clinton/Lewinsky joke *for the fourteenth time!* The intense fury and frustration you feel cannot be a good thing when you consider the original intention was, presumably, to make you laugh. Have you noticed, too, that the source of this so-called humour is very often the US? Don't get me wrong, I put Frasier and Larry Sanders at the top of my favourite TV comedies, but sadly their script writers don't seem to have anything to do with those hilarious lists which are emailed (27 times) concerning the differences between men and women, office politics and such like. I blame a lack of email etiquette. You know what I'm talking about: those thousands of office workers who've just been given access to the net without any training. I'm not saying the so-called technophiles are any better, always complaining about wasted bandwidth and using impenetrable acronyms, but at least they tend to leave the jokes alone.

Those who insist on mindlessly forwarding email humour may want to at least delete the often enormous headers that precede them. You know, the ones which contain megabytes-worth of addresses and the occasional throw-away remark about how this really reminded them of someone called Brad. In fact, rather than delete the headers, the jokesters have discovered...



ATTACHMENTS. Why send a mere text joke when you could distribute the security-video'd bloke who punches his monitor (*pictured, above*) or the poorly Photoshop'd screen-grab of Carol Vorderman next to the Countdown vowels and consonants which — wait for it — now read as something slightly naughty? I received that one no less than 12 times, each accompanied by longer and longer headers which also included my name from when I had *originally* received it several months earlier.

There is one thing more annoying than a poor American joke, and that's the fake virus warning. You know, the one which threatens to "erase your hard disk, and all your colleagues' hard disks, and your mother's hard disk, too". Wow! Glad I got that warning before my entire business and family got wiped out.

Was I the only one who was told at school that chain letters were an evil thing? At least my company bears the financial brunt of downloading all this rubbish. Attachments are bound to be

banned soon, though, which will really affect anyone trying to send genuine work. I guess our carefree buddies across the Atlantic don't see it as a problem, since they get free local calls and hence internet access at no charge. *No wonder they're laughing!*

IVOR BUGBEAR

▲ THIS MAN HAS JUST RECEIVED HIS 156TH MONICA LEWINSKY EMAIL JOKE — BE WARNED!

Oops!



■ In *Letters*, PCW December [p64] the winner of the star prize was robbed of his fame when his name went walkies. Congratulations to B. Cooke, of Loughborough, who walks away with a 17in Taxan monitor.

■ Also in December [p41] we said that "by the end of 1997, 27 percent of all households in the United States had purchased airline tickets online". This should have read, "27 per cent of all US households that shop online, had purchased airline tickets online."

next month

BUDGET PCs GROUP TEST

If the Christmas and New Year celebrations have left money too tight to mention, why not check out our budget PCs group test? We've compared ten models, each for the amazing price of only £499.

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Don't spend a fortune at your local lab on photo reprints — today's colour inkjet printers can do the same job in the comfort of your own home, and they're great for text and business graphics, too.



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