Click joint

Terence Green goes through DOIP step by step with BTClick.

Following a flood of enquiries, it seems that we have become the Dial Other Internet Provider column this month! Since the mention of FreeServe I have discovered that BT ClickFree is even easier to use as you don't need to sign up.

Readers have sent in many queries about Dial Other Internet Provider. For instance, Pat Close writes: 'I have used OS/2 Warp since it first came out but until recently have not needed internet access on my home machine. I now want to set it up but I am not quite sure where to start. What I really need is a step-by-step guide. Do you know if one exists?' I looked around for a simple guide but couldn't find one so here I have presented my effort.

☛ **All the software you need** to get onto the internet is shipped with Warp and is installed when you choose to install the Internet Access Kit from the BonusPak (Warp 3) or TCP/IP services (Warp 4). If you have an 'Internet (Modem)' folder in the Programs folder in Warp 4 or an Internet Connection folder in Warp 3, all the software you need has been installed.
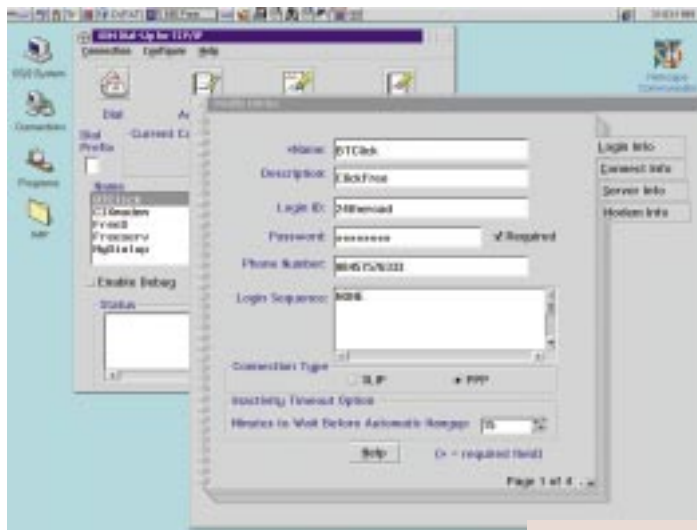
IBM supplies two dialers: the IBM Internet Dialer is only for use with its Global Network ISP; the rest of us use the Dial Other Internet Provider dialer. But, DOIP has some limitations. It doesn't redial when a connection fails due to a busy signal or poor-quality line. These days, it mostly doesn't happen, but if it is a problem there are REXX redial scripts for DOIP and other dialers, like InJoy.

Most modems, even the latest V.90 models, will work with Warp but not Win-modems because some of their modem code runs as an executable on Windows. No special drivers are required. An external modem, with lights that tell you what's happening, is preferable. Also, there's no risk of COM port conflicts (see *A Top Tip for DOIP*, May column) as can happen with an internal modem.

1 **Open up** Dial Other Internet Providers to begin configuring your connection. Click on 'Add Entry' to open the configuration pages. There are four pages but you only need to enter data on pages one, two, and three. Fields marked by asterisks must be entered and you will also have to complete some un-asterisked boxes such as Phone Number:. You will only be able to save the new entry when all the required data has been entered.
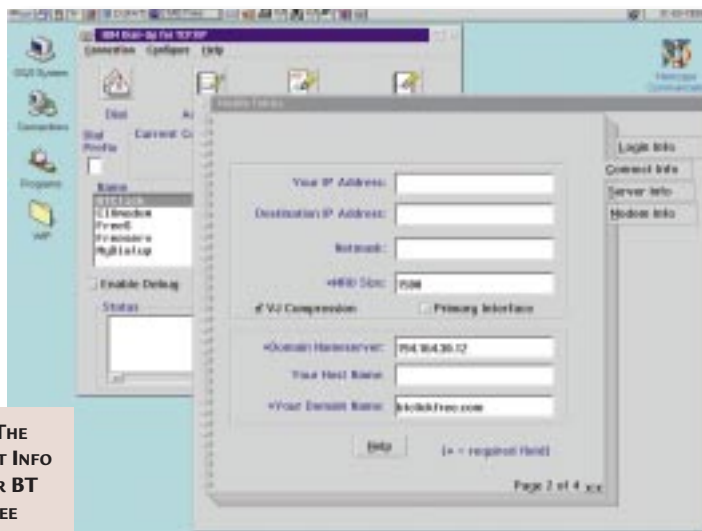
2 **On page one,** Login Info [Fig 1], enter a friendly name of up to eight characters with no spaces or special characters for the connection. Take BTClick for example. Enter your login name at Login ID and your password in the Password field. Leave the check mark next to Required. Enter the ISP dialup phone number without any spaces or punctuation. Leave the default 'NONE' in the Login Sequence box and change the Connection Type to PPP.

3 **Move to page two,** Connect Info [Fig 2]. Leave MRU Size at 1500 and VJ Compression checked. Enter your ISP's nameserver address (for example 194.164.30.12) in the Domain Nameserver: field. Enter the domain name (e.g. btclickfree.com) into the Your Domain Name: field. If your ISP supplies a static IP address, enter it in the Your IP Address: field, except most ISPs now support dynamic IP allocation in which case you can skip this entry. Some ISPs won't tell you the nameserver (a.k.a. DNS) address. Don't worry, it's easily discovered — see the box, *More DOIP Top Tips*.

4 **Skip to page four,** Modem Info, and select

MORE DOIP TOP TIPS

Ian Park has a BT Internet account but BT insists the DNS address is dynamically allocated and won't tell him what it is.

This is what happens when Windows becomes the only platform worth supporting. It's rather like genetically-modified (GM) foods. Many people believe that GM foods are bad. Well, that may or may not be true but GM crops will definitely be bad for the planet if they extinguish diversity. ISPs who fixate on Windows eliminate necessary diversity, and so knowledge not required for Windows becomes disposable knowledge.
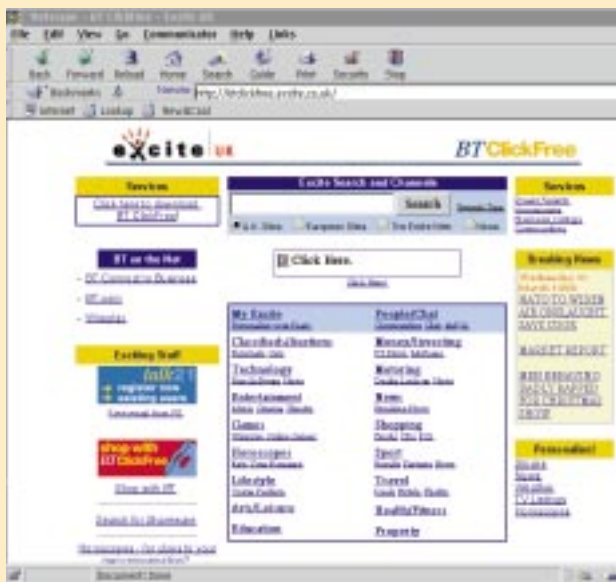
However, BT Internet nameserver addresses are not a secret. They're publicly available at www.internic.com. If your ISP can't or won't furnish its DNS address, just use the lookup tool on the Internic site to discover them. Catch-22 is how to check the DNS address if you can't connect!

The answer is BT ClickFree — a free ISP [Fig 3]. All you need is the phone number (0845 757 6333 but enter it without spaces or punctuation) plus login name and password which you can make up yourself. Remember that the common login names will long ago have been used by someone else. I used '24theroad' which no-one else had yet taken. A quick search on Internic reveals the DNS address for btclickfree.com as 194.164.30.12 so enter these into the Connect Info, set the modem for Warp speed, hit dial, and you can use Netscape to look up your ISP's DNS on Internic.

☛ **Reader Jeremy Eastaugh** asked after DOIP instructions for CompuServe but as I was slow in answering he discovered the answer himself at www.os2.com/file_c/tips/OSMKNETC.TXT. CompuServe needs the script;

```
\r
ame:                          (use lowercase)
CIS
ID:
[LOGINID]/GO:PPPCONNECT    (type exactly as shown, including brackets)
ord:                          (use lowercase)
[PASSWORD]                   (type exactly as shown, including brackets)
```

Do not put your real Login ID or Password in the text. The values are picked up from those you entered in the respective entries, above. Set the Connection Type to PPP, leave MRU at 1500 and VJ Compression checked, enter 149.174.211.5 in the Domain Nameserver: field and compuserve.com in the Your Domain Name: field and — *voilà!*

▲**Fig 3** BT ClickFree: all you need is the phone number and a login name and password

Hayes Compatible from the drop-down list. Select the COM port to which your modem is attached and change speed to 38400. Leave Data Bits (8), Mode (Dial), Parity (NONE), and Prefix (ATDT) at their defaults. Change Initialization String 1 to AT&F. Leave Initialization String 2 blank. These settings help ensure a first-time connect. Once you are sure that everything else is working OK, you can bump the speed up and tune the other settings.

5 Now double-click on the down-arrow icon in the top left corner of the window to close it. Answer 'Save' to the message and you are ready to dial! In this example, with BTClick highlighted, click on the Dial button. If all goes well, DOIP and the modem will do their stuff and you will see the message '[PPP] Enter Ctrl-C or Ctrl-Break to End Session' in the status window. This means that the connection is active. If not, you can diagnose the problem from the status window.

If there is a long pause after the message, 'info: connecting with <slattach AT&F>' in the Status window, and then 'Exit called', it means your modem couldn't be found. Check the COM port assignment and the serial cable to the modem. If the program communicates with the modem you will see the AT&F message being passed and the modem should respond with an 'OK'. If it doesn't there could be a problem with the modem or the cable. If the modem makes the connection but you don't get to the [PPP] message your setup might be incorrect or there could be a problem at the ISP end.

☛ **I have an apology** to make to readers as, in past columns, I have stated that we intended to place programs such as IBM VisualAge for Java and StarOffice for OS/2 on the *PCW* cover-mounted disc. Unfortunately, following changes in the way that the cover CD is prepared, that is no longer a possibility. Nevertheless, we will continue to place Fix Packs and essential utilities on our *PCW* cover disc whenever space is available.

PCW CONTACTS

Terence Green welcomes your feedback on the OS2 column. Contact him via the PCW editorial office (address, p10) or email os2@pcw.co.uk