

EDITORIAL

I am now ADSL enabled. Having a permanent and very fast (500 kbyte/second) link to the Internet means that I can indulge in that idiosyncratic web browsing which often turns up real gems of information, such as the 79.350 hits on the word 'hatching' when I was really interested in 'hacking'. Very interesting stuff it is too. It's nice to know that there are people out there who are even more weird than computer auditors. Web cams to spy on the birth of Clarissa the duck's siblings, must be exiting to someone, I suppose, but the use of lasers in the process is positively indecent.

The link has not been without its teething problems, such as the 5 days of non-operation just hours after it had been installed, but why kick BT when they are already down? I have also yet to sort out my e-mail connectivity to make full use of the link, but I suspect that is simply a question of shelling out more money to some cash strapped dot.com somewhere in the ether. However, having read Valji and Chadwick's paper on e-mail security, which you will find in this edition, I am not sure that I should bother. Woody Allan once said 'just because your paranoid, doesn't mean that they are not out to get you'. Having been permanently linked to the Internet for just a short amount of time, I am absolutely convinced that 'they' are out to get me. My firewall pings with alarming frequency to inform me that it has detected yet another attempt to probe my perimeter, but of equal concern is its constant detection of my browser trying to access sites on the internet without my knowledge. It appears that many sites in my favourites folder seem to think that they have an implied right to whiz off to their home sites whenever they get the opportunity and without a by your leave sir. I know that they are probably trying to be helpful by looking for updates, but I find it extremely disturbing, especially as some of the attempts relate to sites that I have never book marked. I suspect it is something to do with those little cookies that come down the wire every time one stops at a site for even a few seconds.

Apart from Valji's paper we have an article on QiCA by David Chadwick which compliments the information provided by the IIA; an overview of changes in SAP R/3 by Bob Ashton; a bulletin on interesting web sites from Andrew Hawker and the usual update on our parent body by Colin Thompson. We also have a plea from Caroline Smith for help with her MBA dissertation in information security. Please spend a few minutes to speak to her. Remember the IIA's motto of 'progress through sharing'? Well, do some sharing with Caroline.

You will also find our regular cartoon competition. Give it a try. I like the dark evenings to be lightened by the occasional bust of humour.

The compliments of the season to you all and a happy and prosperous new year.