

# Intranet Gear

Here are the latest tools and books that will help you justify, build, and deploy a successful intranet.

## Intranet News Service

PointCast I-Server offers all the features of the Pointcast Network, plus a private channel for a company's use. With this online news service, employees can read stock quotes, industry news, and technology updates from their desktops.

PointCast I-Server stores content on a company's local network so that data flows quickly.

More than 5,000 companies have participated in a beta test of the product. One of those, American Management Systems, uses the product to communicate among its 7,000 em-

ployees in 50 offices.

Says Janet McCabe, vice president of the Best Practices program at AMS, "We had a newsletter, electronic bulletin boards, and e-mail. But information still wasn't getting to everybody." The Pointcast I-Server should solve that problem.

The product is available for \$995 per server. Each server supports 500 concurrent users. The software runs on Windows NT.

For more information, contact the PointCast Network, Cupertino, California, or visit the company's Web site, <http://pioneer.pointcast.com/>.

## Cool Tools for the Net

Cool Tools for the Net is a CD-ROM that contains many popular freeware and shareware development tools for Windows NT, Windows 95, and Windows 3.1.

This intranet resource kit, from Process Software, includes HTML authoring tools, development tools, graphics viewers, audio utilities, multimedia tools, and other Internet utilities.

For more information, contact Process Software, Framingham, Massachusetts, or visit the company's Web site <http://www2.process.com/>.

## Intranet Genie

Intranet Genie 1.1 from Frontier Technologies offers

- multi-layered security
- Web page content creation and administration
- intranet information search and retrieval capabilities
- communication and task-oriented applications
- additional interfaces that support back-end application development.



According to Frontier, the product's straightforward installation procedure makes setup quick and easy. Intranet Genie is an out-of-the-box product that does not limit customers to a proprietary solution. The product's open standards mean that it can be used with third-party firewalls, Web authoring tools, intranet or Internet applications, and other current or future network additions.

With the product's wizards, server setup is simple. For example, the install wizards guide a user through setup and configuration of all servers, clients, and backend applications.

Intranet Genie 1.1 runs on Windows 95, Windows 3.x, and Windows NT operating systems. Prices range from \$2,740 to \$4,095 based on the number of users.

For more information,

The image shows a screenshot of the PointCast website. At the top left is the PointCast logo. Below it, a section titled "Hot New Channels" lists several channels: CNN, Chicago Tribune, Wired, CNN In, Phila. Online, and Miami Herald. Below the list is the text "Upgrade now and get these channels!". To the right of the channels list is a vertical navigation menu with buttons for:
 

- FREE click here to download the PointCast Network™ (for Windows and Macintosh)
- what is the PointCast Network?
- corporate solutions
- technical support
- everything else

 At the bottom of the page, there is a link: "Download the PointCast Network | What is the PointCast Network | Technical Support | Everything Else | Corporate Solutions". Below that is the copyright notice: "Copyright ©1995 PointCast Inc. All Rights Reserved. 10101 N. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)253-0094". At the very bottom is the Netscape logo.

contact Frontier Technologies, Mequon, Wisconsin, 800/929-3054.

## Intranet-based Authoring Tool

Stanford Testing Systems offers IBTauthor version 1.2, a tool for creating both Internet- and intranet-based training courses. The product has the training

features of conventional CBT systems, including full multimedia capability. Authors can create complete lessons, as well as multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or clickable image questions.

IBTauthor's management feature lets trainers handle many tasks, from monitoring trainees' activities and progress to updating course

information—all via the administrator's web browser.

The authoring tool also has a built-in survey facility so that a web site can collect survey information from users, whether the users are working within a training course or are just browsing the site.

The free IBTauthor Trial Edition can be downloaded

from <http://ibt.testprep.com>. Also available are the Departmental edition, which costs \$995 and supports 500 trainees and the Enterprise edition, which costs \$1,995 and supports 10,000 trainees.

For more information, contact Stanford Testing Systems, Spokane, Washington, 509/468-5100.

# Intranet Books

## The Corporate Intranet

The *Corporate Intranet* by Ryan Bernard guides readers through the creation and management of a corporate intranet. By reading this concise book, you will learn how to

- ✎ select the right software and resources for an intranet
- ✎ design and build internal multimedia webs
- ✎ launch an intranet and promote it within your organization
- ✎ help departments har-

ness the power of web publishing

✎ link an intranet to an enterprise's databases and to the Internet.

Additional topics covered in the book include internal usage, future applications and trends, and advantages and disadvantages of intranets.

According to Bernard, the book takes a "holistic approach to the concept of communication within an enterprise." He presents an integrated business model that "gives proper weight to both the internal and external use of a web."

The book costs \$29.95. For more information, contact John Wiley & Sons, New York, New York, or visit Wiley's Web site, <http://www.wiley.com>.

*Intranet Business Strategies*  
*Intranet Business Strategies* by Mellanie Hills is for

readers that are interested in helping their companies profit from the advantages of an intranet. It is a step-by-step guide for planning and implementing a corporate intranet. The book looks at case studies from such companies as JCPenney, Bell Atlantic, EDS, Texas Instruments, and Turner Broadcasting.

Topics covered in the book include

- ✎ how to analyze the advantages, disadvantages, costs, and benefits of an intranet
- ✎ how to determine and develop an intranet infrastructure
- ✎ how to involve all parts of a company in the development of an intranet
- ✎ how to create an intranet team.

The book also provides a complete plan for selling the idea of an intranet to your company including a sample presentation with web pages.

*Intranet Business Strategies* costs \$29.95. For more

information, contact Wiley & Sons, New York, New York or visit the company's Web site, <http://www.wiley.com>.

## Intranet As Groupware

*Intranet As Groupware* by Mellanie Hills is a 312-page guide to building groupware capabilities into an intranet without expensive commercial groupware products.

Hills investigates the intranet experiences of 13 companies including JCPenney, AT&T, Bell Atlantic, EDS, Texas Instruments, and Turner Broadcasting.

