

## Manic Mondays

By William Powell

It seems the surf's always up on Monday. StatMarket [www.statmarket.com](http://www.statmarket.com) indicates that Monday is the most popular day for Internet usage. Though the survey doesn't posit a reason for the increase, it's not likely to be attributable to a flurry of Internet-related research. Truth be told, it's likely a rush of activity on Internet email sites as employees engage in an Internet version of the weekend update, while avoiding the cap-tious eye of managers. Perhaps more

telling of the way we use the Internet is the reported falloff during the weekend.

Specifically, the study reports that just over 15 percent of weekly Internet traffic worldwide occurs on Monday, with traffic slipping below 14 percent on the weekends. Data covers more than 50 million Internet users a day and use of 125,000+ Websites.

"What we're seeing is that people tend to surf the Internet during the workweek more than at home on the weekends,"

# Breakdown of Surfer Traffic

(May 20, 2001 to May 18, 2002)

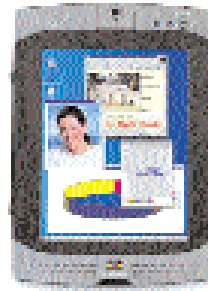
Day	% of Weekly Traffic
Sunday	13.68
Monday	15.04
Tuesday	14.27
Wednesday	14.37
Thursday	14.50
Friday	14.67
Saturday	13.47

says Jeff Johnston, vice president of product marketing for StatMarket. “That may imply that much of [workers’] personal Web use takes place at work.”

Research from Nielsen/NetRatings, during that same time period, furthers StatMarket’s theory that Internet users are now spending more time online at work than they are at home—six hours, 53 minutes at work per week compared to three hours, 30 minutes at home.

## Tablet PC

There was a time, in college, when I refused to write on anything other than a paper tablet and a clipboard. Being confined to a desk just wasn’t cool; I had to be outdoors. I needed to sit beneath a tree, shrouded in dappled sunlight, to spill my heart onto the page—and compose some really bad poetry.



Now you see people sitting around parks and playgrounds with laptops, but that still seems so formal. You can’t prop up a laptop on your knee and scribble your thoughts. That’s only one of the reasons I find ViewSonic’s ViewPad 1000 so appealing.

This 9-by-12-inch tablet PC sports a 10.4-inch, touch-sensitive display, which allows users to enter text via My-T-Touch onscreen keyboard or through Pen Office handwriting recognition software. A built-in camera is included should you need to take part in a videoconference while on the go. Other features include a 20GB hard drive with 256MB of memory, 800MHz Celeron processor, two USB ports, and built-in microphone and speakers. For Internet connections, there’s a 56kb modem and wireless capability for 802.11b networks. In short, it’s a full-fledged mobile computer running Windows XP, which could be very handy for professionals on the go.

Back at the office, the ViewPad can be propped up with its built-in stand and connected to a full-sized keyboard. An optional docking station is also offered, transforming the ViewPad into a desktop PC.

Current price for the ViewPad is US\$1995. Go to ViewSonic’s Webpage for more information [www.viewsonic.com](http://www.viewsonic.com).

## Ready to Rumble?

If you missed the first browser war between Microsoft’s Internet Explorer and Netscape’s Navigator, you didn’t miss much. Netscape, the early leader, quickly lost its share of the market to a determined Microsoft, whose bundling of IE with Microsoft Windows was controversial. Now, Netscape plays second fiddle to Microsoft IE, which holds

a 70 percent share of the market, according to Jupiter Media Metrix, though other analysts would wager it’s considerably more.

AOL Time Warner’s US\$4.2 billion purchase of the foundering Netscape in 1999 had many loyal users excited, but a lackluster release of Netscape’s 6.0 update, and AOL’s continued use of IE

as its chosen browser, seemed to slam the door shut on Navigator’s reemergence as a contender. However, a few recent developments have many Netscape fans heralding Navigator’s return.

First, AOL’s contract to use IE expired in January 2001. Then last fall, AOL began testing Netscape Navigator with its CompuServe service and, most

# Those naughty Brits

A survey of British employees, conducted by Experian, a global information services company, uncovered some pretty shocking news regarding the way Brits (and likely most of the Western world) use email at work. The least of which was that one in six employers had either fired or threatened an employee with disciplinary action for sending inappropriate email at work. The worst of it is that 60 percent of employees admitted to sending email to a co-worker who sits next to them. (I suspect that another 30 percent were probably too embarrassed to admit it.)

Other interesting tidbits revealed by the survey: Sixty percent of office workers admitted to reading personal email while on the job (done that); 33 percent had sent embarrassing email to the wrong person (done that, too); and another third admitted to having a cyber relationship with another professional whom they've never met (do I need to say it?).

recently, with its AOL 7.0. Perhaps the most encouraging indication that a switch could be under way is the recent release of Navigator 7.0. The preview version is already receiving positive reviews for its speed and added features. Most notable are the tight-knit integration of AOL services, such as AOL Instant Messenger and the Unix-based Gecko page-rendering engine that's said to be more secure than the one tied directly to the Windows operating system. In fact, Navigator 7.0 works with Windows, Macintosh, and Unix. Also included in the update are an enhanced mail client; tabbed browsing, which opens multiple, tabbed Webpages within a single browser window; and a feature borrowed from Opera's browser: the ability to perform a Web search on certain words by highlighting and then right-clicking on them.

AOL executives have been reticent to announce IE's replacement with Navigator in its version 8.0 release (due out later this year), but it's hard to believe that AOL won't seize this opportunity to be free of Microsoft and incorporate an in-house browser that, in terms of features, competes as well. Of course, you don't have to wait until this fall or be a user of AOL to take advantage of the new browser. A free version of preview release 1.0 is available online

[www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com).

Let the browser war begin.

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## QuickTips

From time to time, you're swamped with the number of email messages you intend to reply to. If you receive a lot of email daily, an important message can be lost in the depths of your inbox.

One trick I've tried with Microsoft Outlook is flagging important messages for follow-up. Right-click on the subject line of your message, select Flag for Follow Up. Then, under the Flag to: dropdown menu, select the action you'd like to take, such as Reply. Under the Due by: drop down menu, select a time and date. If you haven't followed up on the message in advance of the due date, Outlook generates one reminder and another should it become overdue. When the action is complete, you can right-click on the subject line and select Flag Complete or check the Completed box in the reminder. Completing the task turns the red flag to white. Setting a completion time is important. If you don't, you're likely to end up with more flags than a Fourth of July parade.

Another option is to set aside some time in your calendar. That's a great way to handle your email, especially if you know that you'll have free time on, say, Wednesday morning between 10 and noon.

First, drag the message from your inbox onto the calendar icon in the Outlook shortcut bar. That will create a new appointment item. Enter the date and time you'd like to follow up, click Save and Close, and you're set. One of the nice features about handling your messages this way is that the body of the email is displayed in the notes section of the appointment. As with any other appointment, Outlook will send you a reminder when it's time to respond.