

## *Lets Get Connected To The Net*

**You have your computer, a modem and the software to access the World Wide Web. The software "Internet Explorer" usually comes with Windows. You still need a ISP (Internet Service Provider). This company works like your phone company, supplying you with a service and bills you every month for it. Your ISP will give you a number for your computer to call and a password for you to type to get connected to the WWW (World Wide Web).**

**There are some World Wide ISP's free for a short period of time. AOL (American On Line) will give you a 30 day free trial. The problem with AOL is they will not let you have a backup ISP. But it is free for 30 days and you can pick up the free CD to get you on the net at most computer store. MSN (Microsoft Net) is another free ISP for 30 days, not available in Canada as of yet, US only. MSN free CD can be picked up at most Radio Shack Stores or Circuit City Stores.**

**I myself would recommend MSN 30 day free trial which will allow you to shop on the net and download another ISP that will give you the service and rate you prefer.**

**Some ISP's charge for each minute you are connected, others provide a flat fee for unlimited services. The going rate seems to be around \$20.00 a month for unlimited Services. Make sure you find out the rate before signing on.**

**When connecting to the Internet for the first time you will need a CD-ROM (Compact Disk-Read Only Memory) from a ISP**

**Insert the CD-ROM in your DC Drive. It will automatically download. Follow the instructions. It takes 5 minutes or less to establish a Internet account with an ISP. You will have to give them a credit card number to establish an account. If you decide to continue with their services after the free trial they will bill your credit card monthly. If you decide to go with another ISP, connect first with your new provider before you cancel with your present ISP.**

**After you are on line you can go to: <http://www.thelist.com>  
This web site "The List" allows you to locate a provider that offers services that meet your needs and budget. More than 6500 ISP"s are searchable by area code, country code, United States only or exclusively Canada.**

**During the process of establishing an account with an ISP, you will select and receive your own unique email address. Your ISP will handle the registration process and will ask you to choose a username to submit for registration, so be thinking of names before your sign up.**

**Every email address is constructed in the same manner. Reading from left to right, user name followed by the "at" sign or "@" sign, followed by the host and domain. Eg. johndoe@msn.net**

**This may sound technical, but it really isn't.**

**Username...is you**

**Host...is your ISP (Internet Service Provider) Eg. MSN**

**Domain...is one of the following:**

**There are many more but these are a few most popular.**

**.com...commercial**

**.org...nonprofit-organization**

**.net...part of a network**

**.edu...educational institute**

**.ca...Canada**

**Username...johndoe**

**Host...MSN**

**Domain... .com**

**johndoe@msn.com**

**As I said earlier, think of a username before you sign up. Choose carefully as it can one day come back and haunt you. There are countless business professionals and social opportunities that await your arrival. Just about the time you start discussing an opportunity with a prospective client or you meet a very special person on line, you may not want "Stinky" or "Muffin" to appear as your Internet identification.**