

# Fast Times

A publication of Attic-Static, Frankly Speaking and Flash-Talk

Vol. 2, No. 1

Spring 1987

## FAST Returns

On Tuesday, March 10th, at approximately 3:00 p.m. two-thirds of the FAST Network went offline when Attic-Static and Flash-Talk were taken down by thier respective owners, Dave and Jim.

We're happy to announce that the entire FAST Network is back up and operating, and because many of you have asked why service was (temporarily) discontinued at Attic-Static and Flash-Talk, were taking this opportunity to let everyone know the reasons behind the decision.

### A message from Jim Schott, Flash Sysop, Flash-Talk

"D-Dial is...a place where friends can come to talk, to joke around or to have serious conversations.

D-Dial is...a place to meet a wide range of people of all types and age groups, a place where you can continually make new friends.

D-Dial is...a place to get together, make plans, do things...

D-Dial is...a place to have FUN!!!!"

That's what I THOUGHT D-Dial was, until recently. Then I started thinking it over, and as I thought, I became more and more discouraged.

And what did I see that discouraged me?

"Rumor has it that this D-Dial is running anti-privacy mods."

The above statement says it CLEARLY, "RUMOR." RUMOR is what it is, and there is NO truth to the rumor, whatsoever. D-Dial Sysops CAN NOT and DO NOT WANT TO read private messages or E-Mail. In fact, there is MORE privacy on a D-Dial than on the average BBS!

In all fairness, I know that most of the users that I had as password holders at the time I "pulled the plug" on my machine were NOT the ones saying this, but I just mention it here as one of the factors that led me to feel that perhaps it was time to say goodbye to D-Dial, at least as a Station Owner.

But there were other factors as well. Other things that discouraged me.

"Ten dollars a month for a password?? What a ripoff!!!"

"You're just on a power trip, that's why you own the station!"

Not many people realize that the actual cost involved in setting up a D-Dial station is approximately \$3,000. That's for one single station. I just set up an additional link station, and so I, personally, have invested over \$4,000 to provide D-Dial for my users.

Contrary to what some people may think, D-Dial is NOT a way to "make a quick buck." D-Dial Sysops are NOT rich (Crazy, maybe!)

As your Sysop, I've been put on the line time and time again by electronic hoodlums who've threatened my password holders. I've always taken my user's part in these confrontations, and as a result have often became the target of the wise-guys hostility, myself.

I've experienced every kind of threat imaginable, as a result of coming to the aid of Flash-Talk password holders. Everything from threats of bodily harm, threats of having my phonelines disconnected, my credit ruined, my family harmed. You name it, I've heard it.

I have always protected the people on my system from disruptive callers, and I certainly WILL continue to do so. But if this is what's known as a "Power Trip," taking this kind of harassment, all I can say is, "Stop the D-Dial, I wanna get off!"

And as far as "getting rich quick"...

If I were out to get rich quick, let me tell you, D-Dial is the LAST place I'd invest my money. I've had my station up for just over a year now, and the way I figure it, I'm looking at two more years of operation before my initial investment will be paid back to my bank account. That HARDLY constitutes "getting rich

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## FAST Network Expands

New link station provides a home base for Flash-Talk, Attic-Static and Frankly Speaking.

The new linking station is located in Bloomfield, at the home of Flash, and provides more call-in lines for all password holders on the net, as fewer lines are taken from each station to create the FAST Network.

As of this writing, there are no further plans to expand the net, but plans are being made to provide a spring and summer filled with parties, trips and events for all members of the net.

## Frankly Speaking changes location

Frankly Speaking has changed its location, and is now in Wayne, N.J. The "new" Frankly Speaking has a full seven lines, and accepts the same passwords that were valid on the D-Dial at its original location.

The new number is

**(201) 633-0569**

The new mailing address is Post Office Box 1594, Wayne, New Jersey 07474.

See ya online!

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*Fast Network*

Head Co-Sysop: Barb (#005)

**Attic-Static**

Sysop: Attic Master

**Flash-Talk**

Sysop: Flash

**Frankly Speaking**

Sysop: Frank

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# Editorial

## To /V or not to /V Who gets time, and why...

By Barbara Nathan

Most everyone who is a D-Dial password holder started their career on D-Dial as a guest; and, as a non password holder was granted either by a friendly co-sysop or by a station owner.

This time, of course, was conferred by the station owner or co-sysop by means of a three stroke command, "/V#" where "#" reflects the slot number that the newcomer is using for this visit. My own time on D-Dial as a non-password holder was short. I found D-Dial at the time station #17 opened. At that time the station was brand new, and like all D-Dial stations, the sysop offered the first month of service at his station for free. Therefore, within one or two visits I had a password.

Since that time, just a little over year ago, it's been my pleasure to be a member and a working co-sysop on a number of D-Dial stations, including station #1, the station of Bill Basham, inventor of D-Dial.

I've conferred that "/V" on many many people, many times and of course, I've come up with a few of my own guidelines - general rules of thumb I use, in deciding who to give time to, and when.

First in line for a "/V", of course, is the new user. When I see someone new online, I try to give him or her a few basic instructions, not enough to confuse the newcomer, but enough to get them to the point where they're inside typing with the rest of the group, handle in place. While I do tell them that D-Dial is a "user-supported" system, I invite them to visit with us for a few days before deciding if they want to become a password holder.

A new user, of course, is the life blood of D-Dial, and it's important for all stations to have friendly, helpful co-sysops on duty at peak hours to help the newcomer settle in.

Next in line for time are the friends from far away. These are people who have passwords at other stations, who from time to time stop by to say hello. I

know when I occasionally travel to stations where I don't have an account and I am greeted by a friendly station owner or co-sysop, the warm welcome that they give me, and the few minutes time online that I am granted go a long way in terms of my impression of the station. Many times I return the favor, recommending that station as a "nice place to be", when I run into callers online that come from the area code of the station where I was given a warm welcome.

The next group of people to be considered for gratis time online are the "fillers", or "unpaid entertainers". These are the "faces" we see hanging around local D-Dial stations week after week, steadfastly refusing to invest the few dollars monthly that would get them a password. One of the secrets of a successful D-Dial station is the healthy "bouncing scroll" that's the result of having enough people online at any given time. During slack hours when the station isn't filled by password holders, I often grant time to keep these "filler" people, simply to keep things rolling.

And of course, as a co-sysop, it's a good idea to check in with your station owner and ask him if there's anyone, any handle you should look for (perhaps a friend or relative), who your station owner might want time granted to. This applies to password holders as well. Many times online I'll get a private note from one of our people, telling me to look out for a friend of theirs...and of course I'm more than happy to extend time to these newcomers who have been given our number by D-Dial password holders.

The way I figure it, we all started our D-Dial careers as, "the new kid in town", and the very best way to introduce people to the system is by giving them enough time to see what we're all about.

"Try it, you'll like it!", is a phrase that comes to mind. And for most of us, it surely did apply.

# Crossword Puzzle Answers

(Answers to Crossword Puzzle which appeared in the Fall 1986 issue)

## ACROSS

1. Kagro X
4. Dark Wanderer
8. Mark
11. DJ
13. InterChat
15. Alleycat
16. Suzy
17. Orgon
18. Pred
19. Cherokee
22. Ron
23. Bit
24. Nose
25. Snow
28. The Fly
31. Not Now Suzy
32. Flash
33. Bug
34. Breaker
36. Fox
37. Amy
38. Micro
43. Bibble
44. Elroy
46. Squeeze
47. Gib

49. Chronos
50. Phillip
53. Frank
55. Krunch
58. The Master
61. Zair
62. Poke
63. Dan
64. Bback
67. Meri
68. Ezrin
69. Illy
70. Deathbolt
71. SilverEagle

## DOWN

2. Angler
3. Ozzy
5. Rads
6. AT
7. Don Johnson
9. King Quincy
10. Kitten
12. Juke
14. Attic Master
18. Pirate
19. Chief
20. King

21. Beach Bum
26. Wendel
27. Phaxx
29. Laura
30. Cah
34. Barkeep
35. Firestarter
36. Fire
39. Ice
40. Gib
41. Questar
42. Der
43. Bill
45. Link
48. BRB
51. Hunter
52. Phreak
53. FT
54. Red
56. Rehi
57. Help
58. Tracey
59. All Amer
60. Pockets
65. Bob
66. Blue

# FAST Combo Password Package

March marks the second month that the FAST Network has made combination passwords available for two or all three systems on the network.

The combination password prices are as follows:

1 Station	\$10.00*
2 Stations	\$15.00*
3 Stations	\$18.00*

Information on where and how to send for the combination package is on the order form on the back page of this newsletter.

The combination password package has met with great success so far. Having a password on all three stations means almost never having to hear a busy signal!

\*A password is good for one full month from date of purchase.

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