

## **PREFACE**

**M**y mother called me one night, wanting to know when I would have time to show her how to “dot-com.” She’s tired, she says, of hearing about “this-dot-com” and “that-dot-com,” and not knowing what they’re talking about. She wants to know why there is all this commotion about the Internet.

OK, I arrange a time, she comes over, and I demo the Internet. She’s a catalog shopper, so we visit some of her favorite catalog companies’ Web sites. Perfect. She grasps the importance of the Internet instantly.

“This is like having access to every companies’ catalogs!,” she says.

“Only the smart ones.”

I show her my books at Barnes and Noble’s Web site. That got her.

“You mean I could order a book right now? And it would come to my house?”  
(She’s quite proud that her son has books—she keeps them on the coffee table.)

“Yep. Just give them your credit card number.”

Then I showed her on-line stock prices and the local weather forecast, and printed the TV schedule for a four-part mini-series. I wrapped it up with a demo of sending e-mail, complete with an embedded picture of the family.

That was it—she wanted to dot-com. I gave her an old 486, got her an ISP account, and set it up. She was on the air. I'm now getting jokes, anecdotal child safety documents, and animated greeting cards from her. She most recently had me install the latest version of Netscape on her PC. "I need 128-bit encryption," she said.

The Internet has become such a powerful instrument of business and communication that it would be hard to imagine operating without it. Indeed, parts of this book would not have been possible without a collaborative effort by talented professionals in the U.S., Canada, and Belgium—all occurring over the Internet.

This period in the Internet's evolution is like the early days of television. The complete spectrum of the technology's application is not yet realized, nor is the medium's final form apparent. It's very likely that someday television service will be replaced by the Internet. All programming will be available all the time in your favorite language. The impact and benefit of a company having an Internet presence is undeniable. Any company that doesn't have an Internet implementation just isn't going to get my mom's business.

This book is intended to bring you, the AS/400 professional, an understanding of the protocol that is the heart of Internet and intranet communications. It is hoped that the information here will position you to take full advantage of your AS/400's potential for optimizing your business. There are three areas of focus in this book:

- TCP/IP terms and concepts—The language and technology of the Internet's protocol.
- TCP/IP implementation—How to evaluate, configure, and use the common utilities of TCP/IP host support.
- Programming to the TCP/IP support layer (Sockets)—How to use AS/400 and PC programming to get to the most powerful features of TCP/IP support.