

# THE HEIGHTS

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## How to phone home using the Internet

The Internet is the ultimate communications tool. You can send an E-mail to any person in the world, you can post a message to the Usenet that can be seen by anyone on the planet, and you can use Internet Relay Chat to type messages to a person on line.

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### My Corner of the 'Net Anthony C. Tecce

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But what about talking to a person? What about actually hearing the voice of a loved one? And how do you convey your emotions and temperament to someone via the "Net"? Sure, "emoicons" (i.e., :) ☺ ☹ help, but how much more two-dimensional can a person's feelings get?

The problem is that calling home costs so much. College students call home the most and

long-distance carriers know it. There are at least 20 flyers touting long-distance rates on bulletin boards around campus at any given time.

Once again, the Internet comes to the rescue to provide us with yet another cheap, efficient way to stay in contact with our friends and relatives. New Internet applications have recently been released that allow you to use your computer to have conversations on line (more or less) with another person.

The application, called IPhone, will use your ethernet or modem link to make a connection over the Internet to another person using IPhone on their computer.

One caveat exists, however: if you use IPhone over your modem connection, it will likely run very slowly. Even with an ethernet connection, there will be a small delay.

To contact a person using IPhone, you can either choose a

time when you will both connect to an IPhone server and converse from there, or simply use the Internet Protocol (IP) address to call their computer directly. It might be more effective to use a server if you are using a remote-access connection, as wherever you dial-up you are given a different IP address.

Information about IPhone is available at <http://www.pulver.com/iphonel/>. You can download a demo version for Macintosh at my personal web site at <http://www2.bc.edu/~tecceaa/cornerstuff.html> and an IBM version by searching all of the archives listed at <http://www.shareware.com>.

*This is a write-in column. If you have any questions concerning the Internet or computers in general, E-mail me at [tecceaa@cs.bc.edu](mailto:tecceaa@cs.bc.edu).*

*My past articles are kept at <http://www2.bc.edu/~tecceaa/corner.html>.*