

LAFN OUT LOUD

LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

The Los Angeles Free-Net is proud to be the sole ISP permitted to exhibit at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books this weekend, held on the UCLA campus. LAFN users are invited to come to our booth (#909, near the East entrance to the Festival) and meet our Steering Committee. New users who sign up AT THE FESTIVAL will be given our new LAFN tote bag as our way of saying "thanks" for signing up on the spot. Current users who bring a new user to the Festival will have their account extended for two (rather than the customary one) extra month for the referral. All visitors to the booth will be given an LAFN bookmark. For more information on the Festival, link to www.latimes.com/festivalofbooks.

USE OF PROXY SERVERS

Sometime ago LAFN switched to a new dial-in service with new phone numbers. There were 2 areas that the new service didn't cover so we have retained some of the old lines to be able to provide service for all our users. However, our new service has been able to make available new phone numbers to cover those areas. As a result, the last of the remaining old numbers will shortly be taken out of service.

The new dial-in numbers do not need a proxy server to function properly. While we have needed to retain our old proxy servers to support the old numbers, they will go away with the old numbers. Some of our users who switched over to the new numbers some time ago did not remove the proxy entries from their browser. While, generally this worked, it was much slower than it needed to be and not always as reliable. However, with the termination of the old numbers and the proxy server, it becomes essential for all users to remove all proxy server entries from their browser. Those still using the old dial-in numbers also need to switch over to the new numbers. We sent a direct notification to all who have dialed into the old numbers this year. However, the new numbers are included below. Please note, that the new numbers do not exist in the database used by the number finder URL. You have to check with your phone company to identify which are local, non - t o l l c a l l s .

If you need information on finding the proxy settings in your browser, there are instructions in the Frequently Asked Questions on our web page. Please note that the instructions are for setting the proxy entries. In this case you will be deleting the entries.

SPAM MAIL BLOCKING

Maillists continue to be a big problem for our users. Maillists frequently use a unique serial number in the address so that address is never used again. As a result we cannot establish a bypass for it. This leaves you with the options of using a family account, or a disposable e-mail address for the list and removing blocking from that address. However, there is another possibility on the horizon: Bayesian filtering. This works by having your mail program analyze each message to determine which messages are spam and which are desired based on the content of the messages. You have to personally train the filter to get the desired results. Some have claimed that bayesian filtering will be better than 98% accurate.

Currently, there are not very many mail clients available that include bayesian filtering but more should be available in the next year. I have been playing with it for several weeks now. The 98% number is pure hype, but it is more accurate than I expected. When used in conjunction with regular mail filters to handle the maillist messages, you should be able to have spam blocking removed from your account and let the bayesian filtering eliminate most of the spam.

If you have the opportunity to try out bayesian filtering, please let me know how it works for you.

DISPOSABLE EMAIL ADDRESSES & PERSONAL DOMAINS

Just a reminder that the Los Angeles Free-Net offers its users disposable email address for a charge of \$10 for 5 addresses. This service allows our users to register for goods and services without revealing their primary email address. As a result, if their registered address is spamed, it can simply be deleted and the next disposable address can be used for further registrations. For a charge of \$40, users can establish their own domains through LAFN as well. Just another way LAFN seeks to meet the needs of its users.

That's all for now. Until the next issue of our newsletter, keep **LAFN OUT LOUD**.

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