The WWW server

The Research Division has just set up an internet World Wide Web
server. The set up cost for the server was $3,000 which includes
hardware required both in our department and at the internet provider.
This cost also included a consultant coming for one day to configure
the computer properly. This cost does not include the computer or
staff time in setting it up.

The ongoing costs include 105/month to Southwestern Bell a dedicated
phone line and $650/month to the internet provider for unlimited
access to the internet.

Our primary goal was to make the Research Division's economic
database, FRED available on the internet. We created a home page for
the Bank with some brief information about the Federal Reserve System
and our Bank. Then proceeded to spend most of our time getting FRED
set up.

(Home page) As you can see we have kept the home page fairly
simple. We expect that many of our users will be accessing the
internet with slow modems through Compuserve or AOL.

From here a user can click on _Federal Reserve System_ to bring up a
brief description which basically says we are the central bank and
there are twelve districts. At the bottom of this page are the links
to the three other Federal Reserve Banks that have World Wide Web
servers. Chicago has text and data files on the WWW. Minneapolis has
lots of text information about the their Bank and the System.
Philadelphia primarily has information about their Research
Department's working papers.

I participate in a monthly conference call with other FRB that are
interested in the World Wide Web or electronic bbs. Through this I
have learned that New York plans to have a server up around the end of
this month. Cleveland and Kansas City plan to have one available next
year. While Richmond and Atlanta are interested, they have no
definite plans. I'm not aware of any plans at San Francisco, Dallas,
Boston or the Board.

If we go back to the _home page_ and click on _FRB-St. Louis_ a
description of this District's geographical location and specific
functions will appear. Soon we will add information about the
District's economy.

(FRED's page) As I mentioned before our primary goal was making
FRED data available on the internet. Typically a user will proceed to
data files. They will select the area of data they are interested
in and then choose from a list of filenames. For example, if a user

is interested in Money Stock, they would select _monthly monetary data_ and then _Money Stock(M1)_. If they choose to download the text file without viewing, in Netscape they would simply _shift click on the filename_ and a save as window will appear. Select OK to download. On the bottom of every page I included my internet email address. A user can _click on the address_ and a email window will appear allowing them to easily send me a message.

    (Back to FRED's page)
One of the wonderful features about the internet is that you can have links to any other site on the WWW. For example, I noticed that the Minneapolis Fed had set up a nice page for the _Beige Book_. So I linked to it from FRED's main page. This page is similar to the Security First Network Bank's page in that you can click on an area of the image to access different files. If you click, roughly, anywhere within our _District_ the Beige book summary for the Eighth District will display. For users without graphical capabilities, _(back to map)_ there is a list of Federal Reserve Banks to choose from.

Now if we go back to the _Bank's home page_. _Community Affairs_ has provided a description of their department and community profiles for several District cities. On the _community profiles page_ there is a brief description of what a profile is and a list of cities available. The expectation is that users will download and print the files because they are too large to view on-line. Community Affairs also provides information on how to order their newsletter. We plan to include an on-line newsletter soon.

Research plans to add working papers, the Review, and the division's statistical releases to the server in the next few months. We will evaluate different methods of making publications available, such as Adobe Acrobat or postscript.

We are willing to add pages from other departments and will assist their staff in creating pages. Currently the only way to update files is from one of two computers in the Research Department.

We are very excited to have the Bank on the World Wide Web. I hope that everyone with internet access will take a closer look at this site and let us know what you think.

This concludes our internet presentation.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.