



# The Gigaphone

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## The Shouting Ground Newsletter

105 S. Walnut St.  
Ph: 217-351-7921  
Fx: 217-351-7922

Champaign, IL 61820  
email: [admin@shout.net](mailto:admin@shout.net)  
www: [www.shout.net](http://www.shout.net)

### From the Cubicle of the President:

Summer has come and gone, and Fall is upon us! Fortunately, the weather has been nice, which hopefully should force y'all to get outside and stay away from those infernal computers! Wish I could. But seriously, things have been hopping around here as usual, and instead of the usual tech article, I thought I'd mention a couple of things happening around the Shouting Ground office.

First, I'd like to introduce everyone to our new technical support guru, Lucas Peet. Lucas hails from the Peoria area, and has come to Champaign to help us out in our ISP endeavors! We have been very pleased with Lucas' progress. He comes to us with good experience in PCs and UNIX, and we look forward to a long-lasting future with him.

Second, we are excited to announce that we will be offering dialup services in the Chicago area most likely by the end of this year! We have located office space in downtown Chicago, and will be offering both analog and digital (ISDN) dialups in the following area codes: 630, 708, 773, 815, 847, and who could forget the beloved 312! If you are interested in helping us beta-test this service (or perhaps know someone who lives in the Chicago area), please call us for availability.

-Bryan



### Virtual Hosting, DNS, and Virtual E-mail

By Brent Metcalf

People often get confused about the difference between a domain and a web address (or URL [universal resource locator]). They are two separate things. A domain is a logical concept of a group of machines that have something in common: they're all in the same building, they're all associated with the same company, they all perform a similar function, etc. Shout.net is an example of a domain, yahoo.com is another, and amazon.com is yet another.

In these domains you will often find several computers performing different functions. For instance,

the web server on shout.net's domain is called www, a common name for a webserver. So the hostname of the web server is `www.shout.net`. `www` is a machine or host on the `shout.net` domain. `ftp` is another common name. Companies usually name their `ftp` servers `ftp`. And so `ftp.shout.net` is the hostname for the machine `ftp` in the domain `shout.net`.

When you register a domain with Network Solutions (Formerly InterNIC, they are the keeper of .com, .net, .org, and .edu domain names on the Internet) that's all you're registering. There are no hostnames: no `www`, no `ftp`, no anything else involved. Just the domain name, like `shout.net`.

Once Network Solutions has entered your domain into their top level domain name servers, then your domain has to be served somewhere to actually exist on the Internet. At this stage, it's just reserved for you at Network Solutions. That's where Shouting Ground comes in. We can host your domain on our name servers (primary and backup domain name servers) and it will then exist as a domain on the Internet. This is called **Domain Name Serving**. (\$50 startup and \$5/month)

Although if that's all you do, there's nothing much that having a domain will do for you. You have to add some other services to it. If your web page is on our server, and you want your web page to come up if someone attempts to contact `www.yourdomain.com`, there are some configurations that need to be done. Our web server needs to be ready to answer calls for `www.yourdomain.com` and give the client the correct web page when they come surfing in to that address. We configure our webserver (`www.shout.net`) to "pretend" to be `www.yourdomain.com`, and to serve up your web page when people contact that address. This is called **Virtual WWW Hosting**. (\$5/mo)

Virtual E-mail is another feature that can be used if you have your own domain hosted with us (see Domain Name Serving above). This allows us to create E-mail aliases in your domain that route E-mail to actual E-mail boxes. If you want *all* E-mail that ends in `@mydomain.com` to be put into one E-mail box, then we add what's called a blanket alias to your domain. Any E-mail addressed to anything ending in `@mydomain.com` will be put into the E-mail box you specify. (This E-mail box doesn't even have to reside on our servers, it could be

another E-mail address somewhere else.) This particular service is included in our Domain Name Serving Service.

But suppose you wanted specific @mydomain.com addresses to go to specific people. Suppose your E-mail address was joesmith@shout.net, and you wanted people to be able to reach you at josephsmith@mydomain.com, we would need to configure our E-mail server to watch for E-mail addressed to josephsmith@mydomain.com and put it into the joesmith mailbox. Furthermore, if jaysmith@shout.net wanted people to be able to send him mail at jasonsmith@mydomain.com, we'd need to route E-mail addressed to jasonsmith@mydomain.com into the jaysmith mailbox. The stipulation for this is that the true mailbox name must be 8 characters or less. This is **Virtual E-mail**. (\$5/mo)

Feel free to E-mail admin@shout.net if you have any questions about any of these services .



## How to make PPP work under Linux

by Lucas Peet

Getting PPP to work under Linux is not hard. But wait, "What's Linux?" you say. Linux is an Open Source 32-bit, multi-user, multitasking, UNIX-like operating system. It's a more complex, stable and robust operating system than Microsoft Windows. Also, it's freely available on the Internet, or for very little cost through other sources.

In order to get PPP to run, you must have network and PPP support compiled into your kernel. If it's not, you need to reconfigure your kernel and rebuild it. (If unsure on how to do this, see Resources below.) Once you have PPP and network support compiled into your kernel, you need to gather some more information. First, know which serial port your modem is on. If your modem is on COM1 in DOS (or Windows), under Linux it's /dev/ttyS0 or /dev/cua0. If it's on COM2, it's /dev/ttyS1 or /dev/cua1. You need to now your IP address (if it's static), and our DNS server IP addresses. You also need to know our dialup number.

1. Log in as root and edit your /etc/ppp/ppp-on file, which is typically in the /usr/sbin/ directory. If you're having trouble finding the file, type `find / -name ppp-on` at your root directory, although it really should be in /usr/sbin. The ppp-on script is well documented, and easy to follow, so you should have no problems changing the variables to your settings. You need to change the "TELEPHONE=" variable to our dialup number, the "ACCOUNT=" to your username, and "PASSWORD=" to your password. "LOCAL\_IP=" should be 0.0.0.0, unless you know you have a static IP, in which case you should put that in place. You will also need to change the bold text on this line to which serial port your modem is on.

```
"exec /usr/sbin/pppd debug lock modem crtscts
/dev/ttyS0 38400 \"
```

Also, if you have a static IP address, you need to delete the bold text on this line as well.

```
noipdefault netmask $NETMASK defaultroute connect
$DIALER_SCRIPT
```

2. Set up DNS. Edit the file /etc/resolv.conf. You need to change the domain and nameservers listed in this file to our domain and nameservers. It should look like this:

```
domain shout.net
nameserver 204.253.184.5
nameserver 204.253.184.3
```

You should also check that your /etc/host.conf file is correctly set up. This should look like

```
order hosts,bind
multi on
```

That's it! You're ready to dial in and get online. In order to be able to use PPP though, you must be logged in as root, so if you aren't already, become root. Then at the command prompt type:

```
# /usr/sbin/ppp-on ('#' is the command prompt)
```

You should now hear your modem dialing up, and in a few seconds, you should be able to check your E-mail, browse the web, or do anything you would do online. To disconnect, simply type

```
# /usr/sbin/ppp-off (Again, '#' is the command prompt)
```

### Resources:

You can download PPP 2.3.10 from our FTP server:

```
ftp://ftp.shout.net/linux/ppp
```

For information on how to re-configure and compile your kernel, read the Linux Kernel HowTo at:

```
http://www.linuxhq.com/HOWTO/Kernel-HOWTO.html
```

If you don't have Linux, but would like to try it, you can buy a copy or download it free from the following websites:

```
http://www.redhat.com
```

```
http://www.debian.com
```

```
http://www.slackware.com
```

```
http://www.caldera.com
```