



27th September 1991

### Micronet to close from 31st, October 1991

I am writing to inform you that the Micronet service provided as part of Prestel will cease as from 31st October 1991. All members are recommended to keep their Prestel accounts to continue to receive Prestel's other services and to take advantage of a free introductory membership to CompuServe (details enclosed) as an alternative to the many products and services provided by Micronet.

#### Why Micronet is being closed

Micronet is being closed to allow us to concentrate on our primary objective: to provide improved business solutions that meet the needs of our customers, through developing and expanding the range of business and financial information services available via Prestel.

With over 10,000 members, Micronet is easily the largest online service in the UK specialising in microcomputing. However, it is still not large enough to enable us to maintain a cost effective service and provide the extra facilities requested by our customers. With over 800,000 members worldwide, CompuServe offers a much wider range of services for the PC enthusiast and, consequently, is better placed to serve this market.

#### The benefits of keeping your Prestel membership

Even after Micronet closes on 31st. October, as a Prestel member you will still have access to the full range of business, financial and general services available on Prestel including:

- \* Phonebase on-line directory enquiries and Electronic Yellow Pages
- \* live sports results from the Press Association
- \* comprehensive UK theatre, cinema and event listings, plus theatre booking from First Call.
- \* CitiService - constantly updated prices from the Stock Exchange and other financial markets
- \* instant UK company reports and credit checks from Infocheck
- \* comprehensive travel information including worldwide flight schedules and fares, low cost charter flights, British Rail timetables and AA Roadwatch
- \* home Banking from the Bank of Scotland
- \* UK and worldwide weather forecasts and information from the Met Office
- \* Prestel Mailbox

If you have an Interlink Telecom Gold account you can keep this and continue to access Telecom Gold as before - either directly or via the Prestel gateway.

To keep your Prestel account you need do nothing. You will continue to be charged at your existing tariff of £30 a quarter plus 8p per minute time charge at peak times and no time charge at off peak times for standard rated Prestel products. Alternatively you may choose to transfer

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Network House Brindley Way Apsley HEMEL HEMSTEAD Hertfordshire HP3 9RR

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to the standard Prestel subscription of £20 per quarter subscription plus 8p per minute time charge at peak times and 3p per minute at off peak times. If you wish to change to the Standard Prestel subscription please complete and return the form attached to this letter.

However, if you decide to cancel your Prestel subscription you must inform us by completing the attached form. Provided you return this form before 31st December we will refund any subscription outstanding from the date we receive your cancellation. **Please note that although Micronet is being closed you will remain a Prestel subscriber unless you cancel your account.**

### The benefits of using CompuServe

We believe you will find CompuServe to be an excellent alternative to the many products and services provided by Micronet. The enclosed literature includes a free introductory membership to CompuServe which will allow you to try the service and see for yourself what it has to offer.

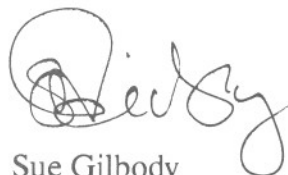
Although we are all disappointed that Micronet is closing we very much hope that you will keep in touch with the exciting world of online services by remaining a Prestel subscriber and through joining CompuServe.

We have provided a special database on Micronet on page 8685 which provides more information about why Micronet is closing and the options available to you. If you have further enquiries please consult this first.

For enquiries about CompuServe and the special offer to Micronet members call CompuServe freephone on 0800 289 458 (9.00am - 9.00pm weekdays).

For enquiries about Prestel, Micronet and your existing account please send us a mailbox on 890716214 or phone the special Micronet helpline on 0442 237788 (9.00am - 5.30pm weekdays).

Yours sincerely,



Sue Gilbody  
Customer Services Manager

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*Return this form only if you wish to change or cancel your Prestel account.*

- ☐ Please change my Prestel account to the standard subscription of £20 per quarter plus 8p per minute peak and 3p per minute off-peak time charges.
- ☐ Please cancel my Prestel account. I understand that I will be responsible for all charges incurred until the date notification is received by Prestel and the account closed.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone: ..... Prestel account number .....

Return to: British Telecom, Micronet Customer Service, Network House, Brindley Way, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9RR



27th September

### **CompuServe as an alternative to Micronet**

Dear 'Netter,

By now, you will have heard that Micronet will close permanently at the end of October 1991.

Throughout its eight-year life, Micronet has led the way forward for online electronic publishing. We've responded quickly to your needs and have provided articles and a daily news service without equal - we've even picked up a RITA award along the way. Much of this would not have been possible without you, the members.

However, while it is disappointing that Micronet is to close (particularly so to myself as Editor for the past three years) there is still good news.

Rather than see the Micronet community disbanded, we have negotiated with CompuServe to make a special offer of free membership exclusively to Micronet members. I've been using CompuServe myself for some time, and my impression is that of finding an "Aladdin's Cave" for computer and communications enthusiasts: world-wide email, thousands of useful files, interactive forums and the CB-lines - I believe there is something for everyone.

You'll find that some of CompuServe is very similar to Micronet, but much is quite different and exciting. There are some services which Micronet simply couldn't provide, such as real-time "chat" areas, and the system is much larger, with people to talk to from all over the world.

CompuServe is committed to the UK and Europe, as you will read elsewhere in the special brochure. Already, new services have been launched specifically for modem users in our part of the world: UK and European news, sports and weather information are online already, and there's more to come.

New sections have been added to CompuServe's "UK Computing Forum" to support the many computers used by Netters: machine-specific sections for Amiga/Atari ST, IBM compatibles, Acorn and Sinclair machines have recently been opened. CompuServe are continually refining parts of the service to reflect their increasing European membership.

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In this pack you should find three A5 brochures:

**A Special Invitation to Members of Micronet**

Read this brochure first to learn details of the offer of free introductory membership to CompuServe. This special Micronet/CompuServe brochure has been designed to help smooth your introduction to CompuServe.

**The Worlds Largest Information Service**

Skim through this brochure to review the range of services available on CompuServe.

**Membership Brochure**

As an experienced user of online services, you may not need to read much of the technical information contained in this brochure. However, the brochure does include such vital information as your temporary User ID number, temporary password, and other related information (see back cover of brochure for personal details).

I recommend that you take up CompuServe's offer. It gives you free time on the system so you can find out for yourself what it has to offer. I think you'll like what you see.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul D. Needs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul D Needs,  
Micronet Editor

PS: on the UK Computing Forum (GO UKFORUM) you'll find names you'll recognise from Micronet & it's been made FREE of connect time charges for the entire month of October. So drop in today, mention your Micronet MBX number and say hi!