DALNET WEBSITE DESIGN PROTOTYPE
Presented to Board Members
22 January 2001

Over the past few months the DALNET Website Committee (DWC) has examined various design templates for an updated DALNET website. As our January meeting, we have determined a design direction, we hope you will find satisfactory.

Before today's presentation, we have successfully presented the prototype to the Project Managers. At this time, we hope to obtain your comments and criticisms of the prototype. If all goes well, we hope to set a GO LIVE DATE. In preparation for going live, the committee will send a list of updated DALNET links (in order to update member sites) to Project Managers along with the GO LIVE DATE. After this presentation with the help of DALNET staff, we will prepare to mount the newly designed site by our GO LIVE deadline.

As with any organization, the DALNET website must meet many purposes. The committee named these areas

    a) **About DALNET**
       Purpose: to reach external markets.
    b) **Services for Members**
       Purpose: to reach internal staff
    c) **Im@gine Gateway**
       Purpose: to provide portal to SE Michigan resources

These three purposes define our navigation hierarchy. Unfortunately, some of the areas bring up conflicts. For example, the About DALNET section would be more interesting as a flashy hi-tech area. This however, runs in direct conflict with our commitment to providing a site that can be accessed from an average computer in our member institutions. Thus, we have made concessions.

The redesign of the DALNET website is designed for all monitor resolution types and to minimize load time. It is also designed with web safe colors in order maximize uniformity.

The prototype is currently located at http://www.dia.org/dalnet. This is a temporary location. The site is currently located at http://www.webpac.wayne.edu. We are wondering if the board is interested in pursuing the address http://www.dalnet.org. It is current held by another group. However, it has been inactive since 1998. The new suffix .info would give us the address http://www.dalnet.info. This may be worth obtaining. Our committee would welcome your advice on this issue.

For the Website Standing Committee,

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