

## USING A WEB PAGE FOR FILE TRANSFER

by Gordon Woolf\*

Files can be transferred as email attachments, but this method has some major disadvantages:

The files are much larger than they need be, because of the conversion system used by email, and therefore take longer to transfer. There is also a tendency to find that, just when a file is needed urgently, someone else has sent an email with a huge attachment that is ahead of the one you want.

There are ways of logging on to the email server and selecting what you want to download, but the method below avoids the need for this.

The ideal way to transfer files via the internet is to use what is known as the File Transfer Protocol, or FTP, and an FTP transfer program such as the Shareware CuteFTP (there are many others). Unfortunately, not all internet service providers offer a free or low-cost FTP facility. However, they do almost all offer web space.

Such web space is not secure, in the sense that anyone who knows the file name can log onto a page, but, provided a transfer page is not linked to any other page, and the filename is known only the sender and recipient, it acts almost as a password. And, in any case, files for transfer should remain on the system only for long enough to ensure that they have been received at the other end.

A typical transfer web page might be setup as follows:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Times May 5 pages</TITLE>
</HEAD>
```

```
<P>Hello Jim...
```

```
<P>This is the file: <a href="pp29-30.pdf"> pp29-30.pdf </a>You
should be able to download this by right clicking and selecting
save as file or save target as...<P>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

The code in angle brackets is as much HTML coding as you need to know.

Assuming that this is saved as transfer.htm and both it and the file which is named in it are transferred to the web site by whatever method the service provider allows, it will be accessed by typing into the browser address space, something like:  
www.provider.net/~localnews/transfer.htm

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