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 Lucent Technologies, Inc.

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Lucent technology offers Internet anonymity

November 14, 1997 2:59 PM PST
 PC Week

From PC Week Labs

Tired of getting spammed? Yearning for some anonymity on the Net? Lucent Technologies Inc. is offering an antidote to electronic intrusions on privacy.

LPWA (Lucent Personalized Web Assistant), a technology demonstration at Lucent's Bell Laboratories that is due for commercial release next year, is a combination of a proxy server and an anonymous E-mail source that hides surfers' identities as they visit Web sites.

In PC Week Labs' tests, LPWA was easy to use and highly effective, although it slowed delivery of some Web pages in tests.

We first signed on to the LPWA site, using a real E-mail address and a password. LPWA then acted as the proxy server to shield our identity as we browsed various sites. We could create personal accounts on some sites using LPWA's capabilities to automatically generate site-specific account names and passwords and generated an E-mail address with the phony user name.

The LPWA site collected the mail from each site and for-warded it to our real E-mail address. We could keep track of what account name was used to send the mail and monitor who had access to our subscriber information.

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Last updated May 6, 1998
 06:01:04 PM PT

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Because it functions as a proxy server, LPWA doesn't require any software installation on the user's part, just the addition of the LPWA proxy server address in any browser that supports a Proxy Authorization HTTP header.

The only drawback to LPWA's approach is that using a proxy server can add significant delays to accessing previously unseen pages, which are not stored in the proxy server's cache. We cut out the delay on some sites by exempting them from using the proxy server.

The LPWA site can be reached at www.lpwa.com.

Lucent Technologies, of Murray Hill, N.J., can be reached at (888) 584-6366.



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