

MicroLink

*Your personal passport to the
world of communications with*

TELECOM GOLD

What MicroLink + Telecom Gold

Give your micro mainframe power

With MicroLink your micro becomes a terminal linked directly to the Telecom Gold mainframe computer, and able to tap its tremendous power and versatility. Right away you'll be able to use giant number-crunching programs that can only run on a mainframe. You can set up your own computerised filing systems, store and update statistics and other information, cross-reference material between files, selectively extract the information you want, perform massive calculations and design reports to display information from any of the files and in any format you choose.

The biggest bulletin board of them all

The number of bulletin boards is growing rapidly. New ones are springing up in all parts of Britain and all over the world, with people of like minds chatting to each other on all manner of subjects. The only snag is that the vast majority are single-user boards – which means lots of other people are also trying to make contact and all too often all you get is the engaged tone. But with the MicroLink bulletin board there is no limit to the number of people using it at the same time. And no limit to the number of categories that can be displayed on the board.

Read the news as it happens

MicroLink has its own service of news about what is happening in the world of microcomputing. Updated daily, it tells you all about the big events, and about the launching of new products. You'll read it first here – long before it's printed in the computer magazines.

Electronic mail is cheaper than the post

Sending mailbox messages to other subscribers, whose numbers are rapidly growing, is the cheapest form of communication possible. You can send a message of any length to another mailbox for less than the cost of a first-class stamp. And it doesn't cost a penny more to send the same message to 500 different mailboxes! Even a message sent to a mailbox on the other side of the world only costs 30p.

Free access to MicroSearch

One of the many innovative features of MicroLink is a unique means of locating

hardware and software products, called MicroSearch. Constantly updated by Britain's major distributors, it contains many thousands of items, together with their prices and where you can buy them. Fast, easy-to-use keyword searching means you should be able to find what you want within seconds.

Create your own user group

You can set up your own closed user group within MicroLink. A distribution list can be compiled containing the names of all your colleagues or friends on the system, and messages can be sent in one simple operation to all members of the group. Only the people you nominate will be able to see the messages.

Chat to other users in real time

One of the most popular features of MicroLink is the Chat facility, allowing keyboard to keyboard communications with other users. With this you become a link in a vast international chain. You will find new realms waiting to be explored and new experiences waiting to be shared with kindred spirits who enjoy tele-computing just as much as you do yourself.

have to offer...

We're only a local phone call away

More than 96 per cent of MicoLink subscribers can connect to our mainframe computer in London by making a local phone call. This is possible because they use British Telecom's PSS system, which has access points all over Britain. A local phone call is all you need, too, for access to the international Dialcom system through MicroLink.

Telemessages - at a third of the cost

The modern equivalent of the telegram is the telemesssage. Send it before 10pm and delivery is guaranteed by first post the following day (except Sunday). The service was intended for people phoning their message to the operator, and it costs £3.50 for 50 words. But you can now use it via MicroLink for only £1.25 for up to 350 words!

Send and receive telex messages

With MicroLink you can turn your micro into a telex machine, and can send and receive telex messages of any length. You will be able to

communicate directly to 96,000 telex subscribers in the UK, 1½ million worldwide - and even with ships at sea via the telex satellite network. Business people can now send and receive telexes after office hours, from home or when travelling. You can key in a telex during the day and instruct MicroLink not to transmit it until after 8pm - and save 10 per cent off the cost!

The mailbox that is always open

MicroLink is in operation 24 hours a day, every day. That means you can access your mailbox whenever you want, and from wherever you are ... home, office, airport - even a hotel bedroom or golf club! No-one needs to know where you are when you send your message.

What does it all cost?

Considering all the services you have on tap, MicroLink is remarkably inexpensive. You pay a once-only registration fee of £5, and then a standing charge of just £3 a month. On-line costs are 3.5p a minute (between 7pm and 8am) or 10.5p a minute during office hours. There is an additional 2p a minute PSS charge if you are calling from outside the 01 London call area. Charges for telex, tele-messages and storage of files are given on the next page.



How much it costs to use MicroLink

Initial registration fee: £5.

Standing charge: £3 per calendar month or part.

Connect charge: 3.5p per minute or part – cheap rate; 10.5p per minute or part – standard rate.

Applicable for duration of connection to the Service. Minimum charge: 1 minute.

Cheap rate is from 7pm to 8am, Monday to Friday, all day Saturday and Sunday and public holidays; Standard rate is from 8am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Filing charge: 20p per unit of 2,048 characters per month.

Applicable for storage of information, such as telex, short codes and mail files. The number of units used is an average calculated by reference to a daily sample.

Information Databases: Various charges.

Any charges that may be applicable are shown to you before you obtain access to the database.

MicroLink PSS service: 2p per minute or part (300 baud); 2.5p per minute or part (1200/75 baud).

Only applies to users outside the 01- London call area.

Telex registration: £10.

Outgoing telex: 5.5p per 100 characters (UK); 11p per 100 (Europe); 16.5p per 100 (N. America); £1.15 per 400 (Rest of world); £2.75 per 400 (Ships at sea).

Deferred messages sent on the night service are subject to a 10 per cent discount.

Incoming telex: 50p for each correctly addressed telex delivered to your mailbox. Obtaining a mailbox reference from the sender incurs a further charge of 50p.

It is not possible to deliver a telex without a mailbox reference. If a telex is received without a mailbox reference the sender will be advised of non-delivery and asked to provide a mailbox address.

Each user validated for telex and using the facility will incur a charge of 6 storage units a month. Further storage charges could be incurred depending on the amount of telex storage and the use made of short code and message file facilities.

Telemessages: £1.25 for up to 350 words.

Radiopaging: No charge.

If you have a BT Radiopager you can be paged automatically whenever a message is waiting in your mailbox.

International Mail: For the first 2,048 characters – 20p to Germany and Denmark; 30p to USA, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel. For additional 1,024 characters – 10p; 15p.

These charges relate to the transmission of information by the Dialcom service to other Dialcom services outside the UK and the Isle of Man. Multiple copies to addresses on the same system host incur only one transmission charge.

Billing and Payment: All charges quoted are exclusive of VAT. Currently all bills are rendered monthly.

Electronic mail saves you money

It's been proved time and again that electronic mail cuts business costs. Research has shown that most phone calls are highly inefficient. You often have to make several calls to reach the person you wish to speak to. In any case, 90 per cent of business calls are requests for information – for which electronic mail is ideal. The giant Westinghouse Corporation spent \$4.9 million installing electronic mail in its offices worldwide. It now saves them \$42.1 million a year!

Letter perfect – thanks to 'Spell'

No more reaching for the dictionary when you use MicroLink. If you're not too certain of your spelling, let your message be examined by our 'Spell' program before you send it. It only takes a few seconds. Our giant built-in dictionary will correct any errors in a flash – and your correspondence will be immaculate!

Your link with Radiopaging

If you have a BT Radiopager you can be paged automatically whenever an urgent message arrives in your MicroLink mailbox. You can also page someone else directly from your micro by keying in their pager number – or just their name if you've set up your own personal directory.

Software over the telephone

MicroLink is setting up a central store of software programs which you'll be able to download directly into your micro. The range will include games, utilities, educational and business programs, and will cover all the most popular makes of micros.

Talk to the world – by satellite

MicroLink is part of the international Dialcom network. In the USA, Australia and a growing number of other countries there are many thousands of users with electronic mailboxes just like yours. You can contact them just as easily as you do users in Britain – the only difference is that the messages from your keyboard go speeding around the world via satellite.

What you need to access MicroLink

You must have three things in order to use MicroLink: a computer (it can be any make of micro, hand-held device or even an electronic typewriter provided it has communications facilities), a modem (it can be a simple Prestel type using 1200/75 baud, or a more sophisticated one operating at 300/300 or 1200/1200 baud), and appropriate communications software.

The service that grows and grows

We've briefly described on these pages some of the many features available on MicroLink and Telecom Gold. But others are being introduced all the time – to exploit to the full this exciting new link between micros and mainframe and make it the most comprehensive communications tool ever devised!



All the latest developments in MicroLink are reported in the communications magazine TeleLink. If you have difficulty in obtaining a copy from your newsagent, send £12 for a 12-issue subscription to: TeleLink, Europa House, 68 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 5NY.

Terms and conditions relating to your membership of MicroLink

This contract is made between Database Publications Ltd, of Europa House, 68 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 5NY (DPL) and the subscriber whose name and address appears overleaf.

Whereas DPL has agreed with British Telecommunications plc (BT) through its agent Telecom Gold Limited to sell and distribute the MicroLink Service (the Service) and BT through Telecom Gold Limited has agreed to supply the Service to customers of DPL.

It is agreed as follows:

1. Access

DPL shall issue to the subscriber such user codes (called mailbox numbers) as it thinks fit in order to allow the Subscriber and persons associated with the subscriber, access to use the Service.

2. The Service

The Service shall be BT's Telecom Gold Dialcom Service, and shall comprise such services and facilities as DPL shall in its discretion from time to time consider appropriate, subject to the supply by BT of such services and facilities.

3. Charges

a) The subscriber shall pay for all charges arising under this contract from his subscription to and/or use of the Service, and/or from the issue to him of any mailbox number issued by DPL to the Subscriber. All charges are payable on demand.

b) DPL shall give to the Subscriber not less than fourteen days written notice of any alteration in the applicable charges for the Service. The charges applicable at the date of this Subscription are set out overleaf.

c) Subject to any provision of this contract, liability for charges for service shall commence, unless BT notifies the customer to the contrary, with effect from the first day of the month in which BT first makes service available to the customer.

4. Limitations on use

a) The Subscriber shall not use, or permit any person to use the Service otherwise than according to instructions given by DPL or BT, existing for the time being and in particular, shall not use the Service for the purpose of sending abusive, offensive, indecent or menacing communications, or for sending communications which cause annoyance, inconvenience, or needless anxiety.

b) The Subscriber shall not permit any person to use the Service by means of a mailbox number issued by DPL unless the name and relationship of that person to the Subscriber

has been disclosed to DPL.

5. Termination

a) This contract may be terminated by either party giving not less than one month's written notice, such notice to expire on the last day of any calendar month.

b) DPL may terminate this contract forthwith without notice if the Subscriber shall

i) fail to pay any sum payable under this contract or payable under any other contract with DPL to which the Subscriber is a party.

ii) be adjudicated bankrupt, enter into liquidation or any arrangement or composition with his creditors, or if a receiver is appointed of any part of the Subscriber's assets and not discharged within seven days, or if any judgment against the Subscriber remains unsatisfied for more than seven days.

iii) fail to comply with any term of this contract, or any instruction given by DPL or BT under clause 4 of this contract.

c) DPL may terminate this contract without notice in the event that BT and/or its agent Telecom Gold shall cease to supply the Service.

d) If the customer fails to comply with any provision of this contract he shall nevertheless continue to be liable for all charges due and to become due for service provided during any period of such failure.

6. Assignment

The subscriber shall not, without the written consent of DPL assign this contract, or any rights or obligations arising under this contract.

7. Limitation of liability

a) For the avoidance of doubt neither DPL nor BT has an obligation duty or liability in contract, tort, for breach of statutory duty or otherwise beyond that of a duty to exercise reasonable skill and care.

b) In any event in no circumstances shall either DPL or BT be liable in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty) or otherwise for loss (whether direct or indirect) of profits, business, or anticipated savings or for any indirect consequential loss whatever.

c) In any event DPL's liability in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty) or otherwise arising by reason of or in connection with this contract or howsoever otherwise shall be limited to £500,000 for any one incident or series of incidents and £1m for any series of incidents related or unrelated in any period of 12 months.

d) DPL does not exclude or restrict its liability for death or

personal injury, where such arises as a result of the negligence of DPL or its employees.

e) The Subscriber shall indemnify DPL against all loss, actions, proceedings, costs, claims and damages arising from

i) any breach by the Subscriber of his obligations hereunder;

ii) the use of the Service by third parties by means of any mailbox number issued to the Subscriber.

f) DPL shall not be liable for any loss or damage occurring through any act or omission of BT or its agent Telecom Gold Limited, in the supply or failure to supply, the Service to DPL. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained hereby, the supply of the Dialcom service shall be upon and subject to the standard terms and conditions of BT from time to time and of which the subscriber shall be deemed to be aware.

g) Neither party shall be liable for failure to perform its obligations if the failure results from Act of God, Act of Government or other Authority or Statutory undertaking, fire, explosion, accident, power failure, industrial dispute, inability to obtain materials or anything beyond such party's reasonable control.

h) DPL accept liability hereunder for direct loss caused to the subscriber where such loss arises solely due to acts or omissions of DPL or its employees in the provision of access to the service up to an aggregate maximum of £1,000 or a sum equal to one month's average service charges to the subscriber over the previous 12 months' period, whichever is smaller. Save as otherwise provided herein, DPL shall be under no liability for any loss suffered by the subscriber or by any other person arising from negligence or otherwise.

8. Any notice, consent or other communication required to be given hereunder by either party to the other, shall be made in writing and may be served by first class post to the address of the other as set out herein, and shall be deemed to have been received 48 hours from the time of posting.

9. This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Subscriber and DPL in respect of the Service, and no representation, statement, warranty or condition not expressly contained in this agreement or incorporated herein by reference, shall be binding upon DPL as a warranty or otherwise.

10. This agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, and the English Courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to determine any disputes arising hereunder.

Name

Position

Company

Address

Postcode Daytime telephone

Commencement of Service

Please indicate month of commencement 19
 Allow 14 days for validation of mailbox

Payment

Whilst Database Publications Ltd is the supplier of all the services to you, the commission and billing thereof will be handled by Telecom Gold as agents for Database Publications Ltd.
 Date of first payment to be on 15th of month following commencement.
 Please complete billing authorisation form A, B or C below.

A. Direct Debiting Mandate (Enter full postal address of Bank Branch)

To

I/We authorise you until further notice in writing to charge to my/our account with you on or immediately after 15th day of each month unspecified amounts which may be debited thereto at the instance of British Telecommunications plc - TELECOM GOLD by Direct Debit. Bills are issued 10 days before debit is processed.

Name of Account to be debited

Account Number

B. Please debit my/our Access/Visa account number

I/We authorise you until further notice in writing to charge to my/our account with you on or immediately after 15th day of each month unspecified amounts which may be debited thereto at the instance of British Telecommunications plc - TELECOM GOLD. Bills are issued 10 days before charge is applied to your account.

C. Please invoice the company/authority.

If you select this option, which is ONLY AVAILABLE to government establishments and public limited companies, you will be sent an authorisation form for completion which will require an official order number to accept unspecified amounts.

MicroLink

in association with

TELECOM GOLD*

Application Form

Terms and conditions: I/We have read and accepted the terms and conditions as set out on this document and hereby apply to join MicroLink.

I enclose my cheque for £5 payable to Database Publications as registration fee to MicroLink.

I intend to use the following computer _____

I also wish to use Telex. I authorise you to charge an additional £10 to my initial bill for validation.
 I confirm that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____

Date _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Mailbox assigned _____

Start date _____

Password _____

SEND TO:
MicroLink
Database Publications
Europa House
68 Chester Road
Hazel Grove
Stockport SK7 5NY.

* Telecom Gold is a trademark of British Telecommunications plc.



YOUR NEXT MOVE . . .

is to complete and return the form overleaf. Within days you will receive your personal mailbox number and password, an easy-to-understand Quick Guide to MicroLink, and the telephone number of the Helpline where you can get additional assistance should you require it.