

# ACT launches revolutionary web-microportal



## Sought and not found!

We have all gone to an 'all-knowing' computer with a simple query, spent ages and found nothing! Even with a search engine it can take many time-consuming clicks, keying-in of details and searching of endless lists to get what you want.

## Three clicks

ACT has solved the problem by attaching a revolutionary new form of website called a Microportal to its main website. We are calling it the **ACT Insider**. Essentially, it focuses the Internet so that you can usually find what you need within three clicks – giving you near-instant access to any site relevant to you: your school, your work, your church, your leisure interests. It works like an index, looks like a newspaper and lives on your homepage.

## Getting started

The first thing to do is go to: <http://ACT.2day.ws> and make it your homepage. (You can do this in one click by going to the top left of the ACT Insider screen – second button down.) IT whizzes can even have ACT Insider on their desktop – providing total focused access to the Internet all the time. Alternatively, why not just put ACT Insider in your Favourites file so you can make use of it as and when you want to (eg if you are going on holiday elsewhere in the UK you can temporarily relocate the site to your new location and see/find everything going on in Edinburgh or Truro).

## New bulletin board

Have a look at our new 'Thought for Today' feature. This is being contributed by Revd Stephen Waters and he has put on some real gems lately. The other board which changes every day is the 'Latest'. This is definitely in the 'wit and wisdom' bracket. A great lift for you to start the day with. Don't forget the last bulletin board that you selected will be the first one that you see when you log on. Make sure that you are not still on the 'Welcome' board.

## Immediate benefits of ACT Insider

### Quick access to the Internet

Speedy, uncomplicated access to everything wholesome on the worldwide web. Please see the box on the next page showing a few of the new things that you can do – all within three clicks. (To install the site filter, please go to Resources > Computer > Site Filter. These can be installed either on single machines or for groups.)

### Religious resources

ACT Insider will provide you with real, sustaining, daily, lively, interactive religious resources integrated

with your everyday needs. (Hopefully your non-Christian colleagues will find the Microportal useful too.)

### Communication channel

Provided you have made ACT Insider your homepage (one click), ACT can communicate regularly and informally with you and other members through Bulletin Boards. Equally, you can communicate live with ACT and other members who have ACT Insider on their homepages.

## Create your own website in an instant

Don't forget that you can clone or copy the ACT Insider simply by going to the 'Create a Site' button (top left) and entering the name of the site that you wish to create. The new site will start looking identical to the ACT Insider – except for your new name. You can then adjust the colours, photos,

links, fonts, etc. (Or 2Day Microportals can do this for you if you would prefer.) For example, if you wanted a school site you would just enter the name of your school. This in turn can be copied to make class or group sites – which in turn can be copied into pupil or family sites. All the sites can be set to update each other.

For an example of a draft school Microportal go to [www.mcs.2day.ws](http://www.mcs.2day.ws), and to view a cloned copy of that site go to: [www.hugh.2day.ws](http://www.hugh.2day.ws). School Microportals can either be stand-alone sites or, more usually, be attached to an existing school site. Microportal school sites are designed to be so useful that in addition to having everything going on in school they can also cover everything happening in the community. They can be updated by teachers, pupils and parents – at either a bulletin board or a webmaster level.

## Sponsorship

The contact panel on the right hand side of the Microportal screen can display photos, notices, slide shows or advertisements. So you could raise

### Freebies

ACT Insider not only focuses the Internet on your road but also presents you with the most useful websites on the Web. Here are just a few of the most useful free sites available via the ACT Microportal.

#### Free Virus Checker

Most of us will sadly have suffered the effects of a virus on our computer. Many of us will have bought a virus checker. Under the Resources section (and the Computers heading) there is a one-click link to AGV's excellent virus checker. It updates every few days and will protect your computer for free!

#### Free SPAM blocker

Hardly anyone escapes unsolicited email nowadays. Under Computer Resources you have a one-click link

to download a SPAM blocker called Mail Washer. It will work for free but asks for a donation towards their expenses.

#### Free graphics packages

We now have two excellent graphics packages within the same Computer section on the ACT Microportal. The InFranView package is a particularly useful general package which will allow you to adjust, compress, re-size or adjust photos and scans. Please don't use on photos supplied for use in *ACT Now*. If you need to send photos or run a website this InFranView is a must – and totally free. For making thumbnail photographs Easy Thumbnails is absolutely fantastic! You simply find the picture that you want to squash and it does it. Marvellous for emailing pictures or preparing optimised photographs.

### What ACT's Microportal can do for you

Here are just some of the things you can access very simply:

- One click to check your local traffic, plan a route or print the maps
- One click to find a daily Bible reading or Thought for 2Day
- Two clicks to listen to The Archers – from the beginning!
- One click to see the television and radio listings – and the news
- One click to your own five-day weather forecast
- Two clicks to find a B&B or a car boot sale near you
- Two clicks to translate a letter from German into English (and vice versa)
- One click to see school events
- Two clicks to find a plumber
- Two clicks to book a restaurant table or order a takeaway meal
- One click to the day's news and sports headlines
- One click to see the movies being screened at your nearest cinemas

money for your school or charity by selling an advertisement box to your local school outfitters, shoe shop, sports shop, etc. In short, your cloned site has the potential to be completely independent and financially self-sustaining.

## A great opportunity

There is no way back – once you have the Internet within three clicks you expect it to always be within three clicks. Make [www.ACT.2day.ws](http://www.ACT.2day.ws) your homepage today!

■ Richard Searight, 2Day Microportals Ltd

