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How to hook you up to CompuSource?
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The following is an excerpt from Lincoln's article, in Computer Currents, Sept. 20, 1988, page 70.

I bought my modem so that I could submit articles to publishers via electronic mail. But the device seems to offer little practical value. Always to justify expenses, I checked the free bulletin boards to join.

After several hours of sitting in a room as my PC went through a 60-second cycle of dial, get busy signal, disconnect, and dial again, I came to the conclusion that I would have to eschew free bulletin boards if I ever wanted to get thru to one.

And so I decided to join CompuSource. The on-line charges are only 13 cts a minute between 2:00 and 3:45 A.M. on holidays. Of course, calling during business hours might require a second mortgage.

In the applicaation form, it asks my name, address, mother's maiden name, favorite uncle's birthmark, and also wants me to give them my credit card # from which they could charge me at will.

Anyway, I gave my Visa card #, sent in the application, and 5 weeks later, I received my entry packet, and was ready to go online.

Yet, in order to get onto CompuSource, one must connect to a local service called FishNet, press your RETURN key, type an "&", press the RETURN key twice, type the word "ampersand", press the RETURN key 5 times, and enter the serial # from your copy of Lotus 1-2-3. Then type in your system #, ID # and password.

Learning to use CompuSource is tricky. The interface gives a prompt, at which you are to type a command. With the right command, you get a list of other commands, without explanations as to what they do. You can, of course, look up any of these commands in the documantation that comes with your membership - with the meter running all the while.

But once mastered, CompuSource did put a wide range of information at my disposal. Now, for 13 cts a minute in the wee hours, I can check on the latest information for Democrats, Republics, smokers, Elvis worshippers, and vegetarian socialists for Jimmy Swaggart. But, do you really need such information at the wee hours???

That's probably why so far ATUNC has only 4 BBS hook-ups. God bless the brave. LKS)