
POLLING THE WEB

The WEB is a collection of Internet sites which provide both text and graphical information. The WWW or World Wide Web is one of the fastest growing parts of the Internet. This growth covers tools, homepages and visitors. Len Bayles, who is the author and creator of the following poll on *suggestive* demographics of the WWW has allowed us to present his results posted to the Internet world on Oct. 13, 1994. This is his report. *ibl*

On July 21, 1994 I posted a poll to comp.infosystems.www.users (a news group or conference) which I reposted three more times to the same group. During the one month period I received 332 replies to the poll. In the 332 replies I had 3 duplicate respondents. Here are the results of that poll.

1. Software used to access W³, for example, Mosaic, Lynx, Cello, etc.

Mosaic	85.71%
Lynx	6.99%
MacWeb	3.65%
Cello	1.22%
Other	2.43%

Users having access to multiple software packages represent 36.17% of the sample.

2. Platform used, i.e., Unix/XWindows, MSDOS/Windows, Macintosh.

Unix	62.31%
MSDOS/Windows	19.45%
Macintosh	15.81%
Other	2.43%
Users who have access to multiple OS's	26.14%

3. Does your software-system display graphics?

Yes	95.73%
No	4.27%

Some users commented that they disable graphics due to speed considerations.

4. Can you utilize sound files?

Yes	67.17%
No	32.83%

5. How many hours per week do you spend accessing W³?

1 to 5 hours	51.53%
6 to 10 hours	28.53%
11 to 15 hours	6.13%
16 to 20 hours	7.98%
21 to 25 hours	1.84%
26 to 30 hours	1.23%
31 to 35 hours	.31%
36 hours or more	2.45%

6. What is your primary motivation for using W³, i.e. business, pleasure, scientific?

Business	46.34%
Pleasure	37.20%
Information gathering	16.46%

Most of the responses fell into the above three categories. I categorized the results from the primary answer only. A large percentage of the respondents use the Web for a combination of the above reasons.

7. What is the bandwidth of your connection, i.e., dialup 14.400, 56Kb, T1 ?

T1 or faster	33.13%
56k to less than T1	22.80%
14.4 to 28.8	20.67%
9600	1.82%
2400	1.82%
Unknown	19.76%

I suspect that most of the "Unknown" group fall into the T1 or faster category. Many of the respondents in this category said that they were on a network but were unsure of the speed but said it was fast.

8. Are you a W³ provider?

Yes	62.33%
No	37.67%

I think this was a confusing question. Many responded "yes" to this that were not providers as such. It seems that many accounts today let you have your own personal home page. While this does not make you a "NCSA" it does allow for the average user to look like the big guys.

Although the following two questions were optional, most did respond to them.

9. Age

16 to 20	9.15%
21 to 25	26.76%
26 to 30	22.54%
31 to 35	12.32%
36 to 40	15.49%
41 to 45	5.63%
46 to 50	4.93%
51 to 55	2.11%
56 an up	1.06%

As a side note, I did get one answer that said "as old as dirt." I was unable to place this in the above categories, but it was worth mentioning.

10. Sex

Male	87.19%
Female	12.81%

The general comments were very interesting. If anyone is interested in seeing them please Email me. I will be compiling a file containing them in the near future. Please feel free to mail me with any comments or questions about the poll. I would like to do this again in six months. If you have suggestions for new or re-worded questions please let me know.

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