



# Department of Information and Communication Services

May 2004

BITS & BYTES

Issue BB2004-05

---

**2004 BOW Competition Reminder!** -- Nominations are now being accepted (via your DSO-CS) for the 2004 Best of Web Competition with a deadline of **19 June 2004**. All Flotilla, Division, and District sites are encouraged to participate, with specific details for this year's event posted on AIRS: <http://216.167.73.185/~airs/>

First Place Winners will receive a distinctive 5 Star Logo: <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauweb/gifs/5Star2002.jpg> for their website and a beautiful Trophy: <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauweb/gifs/BoW2002.JPG> will be presented at NACON 2004.

Don't miss your chance to be the Best of the Best!

Jeff Mahl  
[DC-ld@cgaux.org](mailto:DC-ld@cgaux.org)

---

**Use it or loose it!** -- For Security reasons, when a User of AUXDATA has not logged on for 6 Months, their account access will be deleted. When that occurs, you will have to request new account access via your FSO-IS.

In the very near future, the 6 month period will be changed to **3 months** to further improve security.

Bob Platt  
[bplatt@juno.com](mailto:bplatt@juno.com)

---

**Not receiving your email?** -- The National Testing Center/DirAux West: <http://www.auxetrain.info> continues to have problems with members who are not receiving their grading emails for exams. This posting is a request that CS & IS officers help in getting the below information to members: Popups, Cookies, Spam and more...

**Spam** - With the upsurge of junk email on the Internet, many of us have taken to using what is called a Spam Filter for our email. AOL and OTHERS have one built-in and with their latest iteration of their email software, it is turned on by default to block email from everyone except those that you add to a list of those that you want to accept email from. What sort of problem would this cause? If you sign up to take an exam or are taking an open book exam on the National eTesting website, you'd never get the email that the website sends to you confirming your request, or for open book exams your grade. If your email bounces back, we assume the request is fraudulent and never enter you into the system. The same goes for proctors signing up, the only way we can verify that you sign up and not someone else using your name is by sending you an email.

If you are using a "user" level filter, make sure that you add the following email domains:

@cgaux.org , @cgauxnet.org , @cgwebs.net, @dirauxwest.org , @dirauxannex.org ,  
@cgaux.info , @auxedirectory.org, @cgauxed.org

to your personal "White List" to insure that our email passes through.

**In some instances your Internet Service Provider "ISP" may have incorrectly labeled Auxiliary or Coast Guard mailings as SPAM deleting these mailings before they ever reach your mailbox. This is an increasingly common problem for legitimate mailers. If you suspect this is the case, contact your ISP and advise them you want this important mail passed through to your mailbox!**

As a further point, if you purchase goods on-line from web stores, add them as well as to your "White List" as they will be sending you a receipt and such.

**Cookies** - Yes, cookies are a part of web browsing and many web sites rely on cookies being enabled. Again the National eTesting site (as well as the National eDirectory [www.auxedirectory.org](http://www.auxedirectory.org) ) uses cookies to keep your session open when you log in with your logon and password. If you have cookies disabled in your browser, you will not have access; the system will respond as though you used an incorrect password and not let you in. Cookies are not dangerous; they are simple small text files that make using interactive websites a pleasurable experience. You can learn more about cookies at this web page <http://cgaux7.org/cookies.asp>

**Popups** - Oh how annoying the popup ads can get on some of the websites we visit. I've seen endless streams of popups that are just so hard to close as every time you close one, another pops up. But again, the National Auxiliary eTesting website uses popups, not for ads, but for presenting the content in a usable format in order to make your exams an experience of ease and friendliness. If you have a popup stopper installed or one is a normal part of your browser, you MUST disable it while visiting the eTesting website.

**More** - How old is your web browser? The National Auxiliary eTesting website utilizes the latest state of art tools to give you a secure website that can be interactive and provide you with a place to take our exams. You need to insure that you have the latest browser technology installed on your computer to take advantage of this facility. If you have a browser that is several years old, it may be time to update it. Microsoft Internet Explorer is FREE so there is no reason to not keep up to date with the latest technology.

Just remember, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to browse the web and enjoy the full features of every website there is, just some common sense, an up to date browser and some knowledge like we just gave you above. Happy Browsing, the Internet is a great place to learn and further yourself if you just use the right tools.

Doug Simpson  
[dws@cgaux.info](mailto:dws@cgaux.info)

---

Dorothy Williams, SO-IS D7-13 reports solving a problem opening reports using Jinitiator to save or print reports.

"It suddenly occurred to me that I had installed a program to block pop-ups. When I disabled that program the reports opened fine. I thought that might be helpful if anyone else is having similar problems."

Nancy Day DSO-IS D7  
[nday0001@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:nday0001@tampabay.rr.com)

---

**Want to check your Currency?** -- That's right, now you can get access to AUXDATA and go into your own record and check your own Currency Maintenance!

A special "How To" PowerPoint series has been developed for first time users of AUXDATA by Bob Platt, and tested by our Team including Marilyn McBain, Peter Kirschner, Harry Schoepe, Mike Merriman, and Nancy Day. These step-by-step tutorials guide you through the process. **Presentation #3 - How To Check Your Currency Maintenance** will let you know just where you stand!

Just added is **How To #4 – Useful AUXDATA Reports**. All of these great presentations are now available in the "How To" Library in two formats! PowerPoint Show.pps for those who have MS PowerPoint, as well as Adobe.pdf (which can be printed) for those with Adobe Reader:

For the "How To" Library just click: <http://www.auxservices.org/support/B&B.htm>

If you have an idea for a new **How To AUXDATA Topic**, send your email suggestions to Bob Platt at: [bplatt@juno.com](mailto:bplatt@juno.com)

Jeff Mahl  
[DC-ld@cgaux.org](mailto:DC-ld@cgaux.org)

---

**AUX-04 "C" School Student Support Website** -- has been created by Tom Miller DSO-CS D13, and is now available at: [www.uscgaux.org/~aux04/](http://www.uscgaux.org/~aux04/) Content will be steadily added in the coming weeks, so you'll want to check often for updates. Student applicants will soon be advised if they have been selected to attend the first AUX-04 "C" School session, scheduled for the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT 24-28 JUN 2004.

Jeff Mahl  
[DC-ld@cgaux.org](mailto:DC-ld@cgaux.org)

---

### **Factoid**

Many applications try to launch themselves every time you start your computer. Often this leads to increasing delays in getting your computer ready to go. To check what is launching itself when you restart your computer go to Start > Run and then type: **msconfig** Select the "Startup" tab and uncheck applications you \*may\* want to remove from the Start sequence (ie. Real Audio, QuickTime, etc.). You can still run these applications, but they will only launch when needed. NOTE: Do NOT uncheck such applications as your antivirus, etc. as you do want these running at \*all times\* in the background!

### **Cyber Spot of the Month**

Spyware or Adware is most likely on your computer if you surf the web (put there surreptitiously). You can easily find and remove it if you know where to look. There are a number of applications available and one that is often recommended by trade magazines is Spybot-Search and Destroy. This FREE application is straight forward, and when used will quickly tell you what was lurking in the background and how to remove it!

<http://www.safer-networking.org/>

**Did you know?**

Every month a new Banner is featured at the top of the Members "What's New" page at [http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/home\\_frame\\_760a.htm](http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/home_frame_760a.htm) Don't forget to check it for the "Hot" item this month!

**Reminder:**

This mail system is for use only for the distribution of Bits & Bytes, and other I-CS Department information. It is not to be used for any other purpose. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Viewing problems?**

Check the Bits & Bytes Archive for a complete list of \*all\* issues at:  
<http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/infoserv/BandB.htm>

**Bits & Bytes**

A resource of the Department of Information and Communication Services  
Charlotte Kelly, Editor, [BC-ISN@cgaux.org](mailto:BC-ISN@cgaux.org)