

Transcript of the video 'How to send an 'E mail' - Database – 1984'

With the assistance of the outside broadcast unit, we will be linking from the Database team to their home. Pat Green and Julian, welcome to Database!

Hello, Jane!

Hello, Jane!

Now, Julian, I see you have your computer linked to the telephone line. Can you tell us how you did that?

Yes, well, it's very simple really. Um, the telephone is connected to the telephone network with a British Telecom plug, and I simply remove the telephone jack from the telecom socket and plug it into this box here – the modem – and then take another wire from the modem and plug it in where the telephone was. I can then switch on the modem and we're ready to go. Um, the computer asked me if I want to log on and it's now telling me to phone up the main Prestel computer, which I will now do.

It's a very simple connection to make.

Extremely simple. Um, and I can actually leave the modem plug- plugged in once it's done that, without affecting the telephone. I am now waiting for the computer to answer me. It asks for the tone, and then I just flick a switch on the modem and replace the receiver, and...

Things are starting to happen.

Things are starting to happen. The Prestel computer is now asking me to enter my own personal password, which I have now done, and it comes up with an ope- an opening screen.

And, Julian, can you tell me – what is Micronet?

Well, Micronet basically is an area o... of Prestel that's specially designed for microcomputer users. It has a lot of facilities, has a magazine type page of what's new today, daily news, reviews of the current software that's available. There's a letters page so people can write in. Um, there are programs available on Micronet that you can load directly down the phone line. Some of them are free; some of them you do have to pay for.

Now, Pat, whose computer is it?

Well, it's a co-operative, really. We all have a part share but Julian a... and I mainly use it.

And why did you buy a computer?

Well, I was very interested in the new technology and didn't want to be left behind. I don't think it's only for the youngsters at school now. I think us older ones will have to learn a lot about it.

And what do you use the computer for?

Well, for keeping household records such as, uh, what I have in the freezer and people's telephone numbers and addresses. Um, I use it as a word processor for my letters, which always come out perfect now, and, um, the most exciting thing, I find, is, um, the mailbox, where I write to other people on the Prestel system.

And who have you written to recently? Have you got any examples?

Um, yes, um, I sent a message to my doctor, asking for a repeat prescription, and, um, he's set... he's left the prescription for me in the chemist.

Right. Well, thank you very much, Pat and Julian. We'll be seeing you later in the programme.

Bye, Jane!