

FREE PAY TV "LEGALLY"

BY: **THE MAGICIAN**

There are presently many companies which provide uncut, almost first run movies, major sporting events, and assorted specials on a pay TV subscriber basis. Some of the largest are Home box Office, Showtime, Cinemax etc. Subscribers pay a monthly fee either to the cable company which they are hooked into; or to the broadcaster himself when no cable is available (E. Channel 68 in NYC)

Pay TV over a cable can usually be easily decoded using a home built box. This practice is illegal, (Though hard to trace!), and you could in theory go to jail for theft of services.

There are however, three "legal" ways to get pay TV at no charge. They are:

- 1.) Satellite TV
- 2.) On the air UHF decoding (E. Chnl 68)
- 3.) Multipoint Distribution Systems (MDS)

Lets first talk about satellite TV. HBO, Showtime etc. each have a central location in the U.S. where all of their shows originate. In order to get the snows to the many cable companies throughout the world, they beam the signal up to a satellite in synchronous orbit around the earth at approx. 22,300 miles above the equator. These satellites, the most popular being the SATCOMS and AMIKs (both having multiple satellites in orbit) then beam back the programming in an omnidirectional pattern toward earth on approx. 4GHz, allowing cable companies using large dish earth stations to receive them.

It is possible for anyone at home to also receive these programs via a home earth station. Because the satellites transponders are relatively low power, a great deal of amplification is needed for the received signal.

Due to present day technology limits on the signal to noise ratio of transistors used in the low noise amplifier (LNA) at earth stations, a minimum of approx. 10 feet in diameter receiving dish is necessary. The cost of the dish, plus associated electronics puts the cost of your own earth station at several thousand dollars, even if you build it yourself.

You will get a perfect picture, and for those in areas where TV reception is not good, or not available this might be just what you need. In suburban areas however, you could pay for an awful lot of legit cable TV fees for that money, and not have to worry about your dish antenna blowing over in a storm. Also, HBO has announced that soon they are going to start encoding their satellite transmissions meaning you will only see garbage on the screen when receiving it. (Though I am sure someone will come out with a decoder soon thereafter)

There are some strong legal questions as to whether reception of pay TV via home earth station or other methods presented in this article are within the law.

Section 605 of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 forbids the "unauthorized interception or use of radio signals" However it also specifically excludes "radio communication which is broadcast or transmitted by amateurs or OTHERS for use of the general public".

Since pay TV is broadcast for viewing by the public, reception of the signals appears to be totally legal. Cable operators and pay TV operators sorely disagree with this. They contend that the signals are part of their internal network not meant for the public, and thus reception is illegal.

So far, the public seems to be winning the argument. Unless you start selling tickets to see the movies you are intercepting (which would be blatantly illegal) no one will probably bother you.

Another method of getting pay TV for free "legally" is through the use of on the air decoders for UHF channels which broadcast pay TV scrambled for subscribers with rented special decoders attached to their sets. Last year Radio Electronics magazine published a complete article on how to build one for yourself! There are only several stations which provide this service in the country, therefore the decoder boxes will not work in many areas.



TAP
Room 603
147 W. 42 St.
New York 10036

OCTOBER 1982

No. 78

perhaps the best and cheapest way to get free pay TV is through the use of signals transmitted by multipoint distribution systems (MDS). In many areas there are several small cable networks to cover the entire region. It would be quite expensive for each to buy their own satellite earth stations in order to provide customers with pay TV. Instead, someone (the most popular being Microband Associates) sets up an earth station and then retransmits the pay TV signal on 2.1 GHz microwave. The signal is usually omni directional and is received at the local cable company with special microwave receivers and then sent out to customers.

An MDS downconverter which will receive these signals and convert them to channel 2 or 3 on your home TV can be built for approx. 50 to 75 dollars, or bought complete for approx. 150 dollars. Articles describing how to build MDS

down converters have appeared in Ham Radio magazine as well as other publications. An excellent book on the subject which gives complete schematics is "Microwaves & Radar, A handbook for video pirates, signal snatchers and ham radio jammers" by Tom Howell and published by Barry Publications, it is available in book stores.

There are two basic types of antennas used for MDS downconverters. An approx. 3 foot dish, or a 3 foot spiral. Both work well, but the dish is better.

Since the locations of MDS transmitters are not well known, following this article is a list of all presently licensed MDS stations in the U.S. If you live within 25-30 miles of any of these areas, and have no major obstructions in the way (like a big mountain!) you should be able to receive MDS and have a perfect picture.

Pre-built, air set to go MDS receivers can be found at many electronics stores in major cities. If you can't find one, just buy an issue of CQ magazine (a ham radio mag.) and you will see loads of companies that will sell them to you mail order.

Happy viewing, and if you have any questions, comments etc. send them to me at TAP C/O THE MAGICIAN

LOCATION AND CALL SIGNS OF MDS TRANSMITTERS			
ALBANY, NY	- KPK28	NEW YORK, NY	- WQQ79
ANAHUIN, CA	- KPI19	NORFOLK, VA	- WSL35
ANCHORAGE, AK	- KPO63	OK. CITY, OK	- WJL99
ATLANTA, GA	- WQR43	OSAGE BEACH, MO	- KOB43
BALTIMORE, MD	- WPF46	PHOENIX, AZ	- WPP47
BOSTON, MA	- WSL35	PHILADELPHIA, PA	- WPE97
BURLINGTON, IA	- WKH62	PITTSBURGH, PA	- WPF46
CHICAGO, IL	- WOP49	POSPANO BEACH, FL	- KPJ28
CLEVELAND, OH	- WQQ66	PROVIDENCE, RI	- KRV65
DENVER, CO	- WPI32	RICHMOND, VA	- WQQ39
DETROIT, MI	- WJM22	SACRAMENTO, CA	- WSL88
HONOLULU, HI	- KPA43	ST. LOUIS, MO	- WQQ64
HOUSTON, TX	- WOP76	SALLILAKE, UT	- KEW74
INDIANAPOLIS, IN	- WPX33	SAN ANTONIO, TX	- WJ880
JACKSONVILLE, FL	- WDU633	SAN FRANCISCO, CA	- RPF81
KALAHAZOO, MI	- WKS29	SEATTLE, WA	- KP161
LAS VEGAS, NV	- WKM65	SPRINGFIELD, MA	- KEW79
LOS ANGELES, CA	- KPF79	TAMPA, FL	- WOP43
LOUISVILLE, KY	- KOA86	TUCSON, AZ	- WJ378
MIAMI, FL	- WJ79	URBANA, IL	- KEW94
MILWAUKEE, WI	- WKR27	W. PALM BEACH, FL	- WPI36
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	- WPE99	WASHINGTON, DC	- WOI93
MEMPHIS, TN	- WKR26		

The UNIX Security Problem
by
Fred Steinbeck

In the May-June issue of TAP, number 75, Simon Jester writes about a new method of breaking into computers, a method which was developed on the UNIX system by a group of students at U.C. Berkeley.

After a little thought, and some talking with other UNIX hackers (I, too, am one), we managed to find out what the method was. Simon is right - it should work on just about any system, and it probably does have security experts shitting in their pants.

The idea revolves around a nasty premise - the one that most intelligent terminals have a "transmit line" or "transmit page" control character or escape sequence. Now, the trick to this idea is very simple. Write what ever command(s) you want executed onto the other person's terminal, after sending his "clear screen" control character to his terminal. Then send the command to tell his terminal to send those commands to the computer. So it looks to the computer like he just typed those commands.

It seems, then, that all this is good for is for issuing commands from other people's terminals. But if the person whose terminal you're having do the issuing is the (gasp!) super-user (the system operator - "super user" is a UNIX term), one could access the password file. So, if the following commands were sent to the SU's (super-user's) terminal, the password for root (another name for the SU) would be set to nothing:

```
<DEL> (the DEL character code, to break  
him out of whatever he's doing)  
  
ex /etc/passwd (edit the password  
file...)  
  
l (goto line #l, the entry for root)  
  
d (delete the line)  
  
i (insert - add a new line...)  
  
root::blahblah.....  
  
(tells "ex" that you're done with  
the text you're adding)  
  
wq (write and quit)  
  
logout (log root off the system)
```

In the lines above, "root::blahblah....." should be the first line of the /etc/passwd file (accessible by typing "cat /etc/passwd" and following it with return), without the encrypted password, which is between the first to colons ("::"). The commands above such as "l", "d", and "wq" are U.C. Berkeley editor commands, for the editor known as "ex".

Anyway, the "logout" command logs the super-user out, and then you should log out and try to log in with the account "root". If all has gone well, the system will not ask for a password - you will be logged in as root. Be sure to then use the "passwd" program to change the password to something other than nothing.

I see I have forgotten how to get stuff onto root's terminal. Well, there are a number of ways to do this. One is to use the "write" command. Simply say "write root" and then hit return. The problem with this is that it prints "message from so-and-so on <terminal name>..." so root will know who did it.

The methods below all require you to know the name of root's terminal. To get this information, give the "who" command and hit return. It will print out the users on the system, and their terminal names. So, if it printed "dialup0" next to root's name, the name of the terminal below would be "dialup0".

Another method is to use the "Mail" program to mail into root's terminal. The form would be

```
Mail /dev/<root's terminal>  
  
<the control characters and commands you  
want to send to the terminal>  
  
Control-D
```

This, too, will print "From so-and-so" on root's screen. Not too good, but it will get the job done.

The final way is to create a file with a text editor that has the necessary control characters and commands in it. For sake of argument, let's say the file name that has all this is "test". Once you have this info in the file, type:

```
cat test | /dev/<root's terminal>
```

This will accomplish what we want, without leaving your name on root's screen, but will not work if root has set it so that he can't receive messages from other terminals. If this is the case, one must use the "Mail" method as outlined above.

There are other UNIX tricks I will write about in the future... If you have any questions or comments, please write to me c/o TAP.

Alarms (III)

Continuing on the subject of silent alarms we come to secondary phone transmission. This is the use of a device known as an automatic fone dialer. At the triggering of the alarm the fone dialer is put on the line and a preprogrammed number is dialed, such as the cops, friends etc. As soon as the destination number is picked up a prerecorded voice hysterically screams "Help, my house is being ripped off." and also states the person's name and address. (Actually it should do this every time you pay taxes.)

To defeat this system just cut the fone line. Placing incoming calls and lifting extension fones will not always work because some units are equipped with a line seizure system that places the call no matter what you do.

There is also a radio transmission system that sends a digital signal to a central office via a small transmitter. These are very difficult to defeat and you would not encounter one unless you plan on robbing a major diamond exchange.

Now that I have covered all the parts of a system you must wonder "How the fuck does it all work together?" Here's how. Every system has a central box. This box is the brain of the alarm. It monitors, activates and coordinates all of the components. In a typical box there are one or two terminal strips. This is the place to disable the alarm. (Be careful what you touch because some of these strips carry 120 V house current.) Most are labeled. To disconnect the alarm you can A.) disconnect the battery backup and then disconnect the power (never on a direct fone transmission system) B.) disconnect all the signaling devices or C.) short all the closed circuit sensors and cut all the open circuit sensors.

In general if you must attack an alarm system first figure all the ways to defeat it. To do this you need information on the system. Visiting the building, buying alarm company catalogs, writing the company on a bogus letter head requesting info on that alarm system and being friends with a company worker are all good ways to get information.

The "in" thing now is the portable home alarm.

It is a cheap ultrasonic sensor attached to a built in horn. Any shock store sells them. They go by all sorts of names such as The Dig, The Protector, Big Brother etc. but they are all the same thing. An unusually novel way to dispose of these things is to get a silenced pistol and upon entering blow the thing apart before it emits that squeal that might even be damaging to your ears (that's why you silenced your pistol right?). Or just walk up to the thing and smash it with a sledge hammer.

A new device called Burglar Mist emits a cloud of tear gas upon entry. They are activated by a trip wire. If you get caught by one of these just wait a few minutes for the gas to clear (you did disconnect the alarm didn't you?). If you run into an unused unit do relocate it in a more useful place such as the owners bedroom. This concludes this series of articles, good luck!

The Stainless Steel Rat

CN/a JUDAS GERARD

CN/A is the acronym for Customer Name/Address. In these bureaus exist so that authorized Bell employees may obtain the name and/or address of a customer anywhere in the Bell System simply by giving the operator the customer's telephone number. All numbers, including businesses and non-published numbers, are maintained on file. Here is the way an employee might go about using CN/A once he has looked up the CN/A number for the area code of the target number:

"Hi, this is Jim with the Residence Service Center in Pasadena. I've got a customer on hold who claims not to have made a rather lengthy call to (212) 555-1212, so I need the customer's name on that please. That was (212) 555-1212."

When the employee sounds natural and is cheery, the CN/A operator doesn't ask any questions. The CN/A list for the Bell System is printed either in this issue or the next, sorted by area code. The list is copyright 1982 by "Judas Gerard" and license to reprint granted exclusively to TAP.

To close this tutorial, allow me to explain the name change. My previous articles were published with the pen name of PAUL MONTGOMERY. I have been informed that the is an ex-pennar in California by that name who resents my pen name. Unable to convince HIM to change HIS real name, I changed my pen name, hence forth I am JUDAS GERARD.

- | | |
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| 203 - (203) 789-6800 | 319 - (416) 487-3641 |
| 204 - Not Available | 401 - (601) 961-0877 |
| 205 - (205) 989-7000 | 402 - (303) 232-2300 |
| 206 - (206) 382-8000 | 403 - (617) 787-2750 |
| 207 - (617) 787-2750 | 404 - (604) 432-2976 |
| 208 - (303) 232-2300 | 405 - (402) 345-0600 |
| 209 - (415) 546-1341 | 406 - (502) 583-2861 |
| 212 - (518) 471-8111 | 407 - (518) 471-8111 |
| 213 - (213) 501-4144 | 408 - (414) 424-5690 |
| 214 - (214) 948-5731 | 409 - (201) 676-7070 |
| 215 - (412) 633-5600 | 412 - (402) 345-0600 |
| 216 - (614) 464-2345 | 413 - (416) 487-3641 |
| 217 - (217) 525-7000 | 414 - (614) 464-2345 |
| 218 - (402) 345-0600 | 415 - (615) 373-5791 |
| 219 - (317) 265-7027 | 416 - (313) 223-8690 |
| 301 - (301) 534-1168 | 417 - (617) 787-2750 |
| 302 - (412) 633-5600 | 418 - (217) 525-7000 |
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| 304 - (304) 344-8041 | 702 - (415) 546-1341 |
| 305 - (912) 784-9111 | 703 - (804) 747-1411 |
| 306 - Not Available | 704 - (912) 784-9111 |
| 307 - (303) 232-2300 | 705 - (416) 487-3641 |
| 308 - (402) 345-0600 | 707 - (415) 546-1341 |
| 309 - (217) 525-7000 | 709 - Not Available |
| 312 - (312) 769-9600 | 712 - (402) 345-0600 |
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| 314 - (314) 436-3321 | 714 - (213) 995-0221 |
| 315 - (518) 471-8111 | 715 - (414) 424-5690 |
| 316 - (816) 275-2782 | 716 - (518) 471-8111 |
| 317 - (317) 265-7027 | 717 - (412) 633-5600 |
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| 416 - (416) 487-3641 | 815 - (217) 525-7000 |
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| 515 - (402) 345-0600 | 918 - (405) 236-6121 |
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Phone-y tale isn't to Burt's credit

Sorry, folks, but Burt Reynolds will not be paying for your long-distance telephone calls. A tall tale that the movie star had invited the public to make calls against his telephone credit card number began circulating last summer.

In August, the rumor was responsible for \$110,000 worth of calls, according to the tiny southern Illinois telephone company caught in the middle. Most of the 14-digit credit card numbers spread in the rumor carry codings that Bell nonexistent customers of the Wabash Telephone Cooperative of Louisville, Ill., a rural independent company serving 4,800 subscribers in Louisville and surrounding towns.

Larry Coffin, an American Telephone and Telegraph Co. spokesman, recently told the tale of the rumor:

"The story, which is false, is that Reynolds recently won a \$1 million judgment in a lawsuit. And since he is so rich and such a good guy, he wants to share the wealth with his friends and fans.

"So, he supposedly said on the Johnny Carson show, or on the Ross Barret show or in The New York Times, that he's letting folks use his telephone credit card until Oct. 1."

FIREARM DISCHARGE RESIDUES

By Doctor Atomic

Have you ever been around the scene where a firearm has been discharged when the police show up? The police take the people suspected of shooting the gun and check their hands and clothing for traces of firearm discharge residues. They use two main procedures for collecting residues.

In the first method the hands are swabbed with cotton pieces soaked in nitric acid solution. The swabs are then subjected to neutron activation analysis at the lab. Other chemical analysis of residues is directed toward discovering nitrite and nitrate groups of unburned powder residues and reaction products of the charge.

In the second method, the "film-lift" method, an adhesive tape is applied to the web regions of the hands. (Common test.) Then the tape is sent to the lab for investigation in a scanning electron microscope. In this test they are looking for particles of metallic elements (especially Pb, Sb, and Ba) from the detonated primer. These particles are small, 20 to 30 micrometers, and they are not visible even at moderate magnification with a regular microscope.

For this TAP article, I had an exclusive interview with firearm expert Marvin Galapagos. He said that he would not be caught by leaving residues on himself. First, after quickly leaving the scene, he would dispose of the clothes that he wore when he fired the gun. Note that the police are especially interested in shirt sleeves. Next, he would shower and wash his hands well with soap and water.

Then, to get rid of the micro-particles that remain after the soap-and-water washing -- particles that were blasted into his skin when he fired the gun -- he would prepare a dilute solution of nitric acid (5% or less) and dip his hands in it for a few seconds. After this, he would rinse his hands in a baking soda and water solution to neutralize any remaining acid solution.

The logic here is that if nitric acid solution on swabs is used by the police to collect particles, then it can also be used by the technologist to clean his hands of these particles. However, if a nitric acid solution were not available, he would scrub his hands and change his shirt immediately.

Also, Marvin G. said that if he found himself in a situation where there is no soap and water, and where fast action is called for, he would pour gasoline on his hands. When gas evaporates, it leaves lead and other residues behind that would confuse lab tests. Then, when the lab tests turn up lots of micro metal particles and the police question him about it, he would tell them that he was working on the carburetor of his car. A very nice alibi.

For a more detailed presentation, I refer the reader to "Chemical Criminalistics" by A. Mashly and L. Stromberg (1981), published by Springer-Verlag, N.Y. Also covered in detail are the analysis of drugs, explosives, fibers, and fire investigation. If your library doesn't have this book, see if it is available on inter-library loan.

Since our right to bear arms is being slowly legislated away, this well known bumper sticker slogan is an appropriate note to close on: "If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns."

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