

Software Shop

The *ElectronicAppWrapper* is truly the greatest way to distribute software. I recently got a subscription to this quarterly CD-ROM-based catalog of software for NeXTStep computers. It has listings of more than 250 applications you can browse through while listening to a cappella music, with renaissance art as a backdrop.

To buy some of the software offered for sale, copy it from the CD-ROM to your hard disk, fill out the electronic order form



Wares over wires.

and e-mail it to Paget Press, which will supply a license string that unlocks all of the application's features. Simply copy the license string from the form and paste it into the application's license window. Boom. You now have software. No store. No hassle. Takes less than a day. This method saves a great deal of paper (packaging, invoices, printed manuals - although you'll get them if you ask for them).

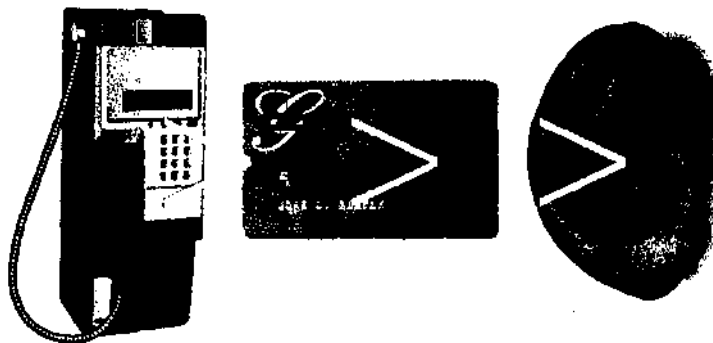
- Robert A. Wyatt

electronicAppWrapper: US\$48 per year (four issues). Paget Press Inc.: (800) 733 2031. + 1(206)4480845.

Program for the Power Caller

Sprint has launched an ambitious new service called Priority Gold. The service's most prominent feature is the new Voice Foncard. With the voice card, you can make a credit-card call by "simply" dialing Sprint's 800 number, then speaking your 10-digit voice Foncard number and the words "call home" or "call office." Sprint then automatically connects you with the appropriate number that you've pre-programmed into the system. I tried it, and the voice recognition works. Sprint's recognizing the numbers zero through nine isn't that impressive, but doing it when I'm at a telephone in a noisy airport is pretty cool.

Sprint's theory is that this modicum of voice recognition gives its new Voice Foncard improved security, since no two people have the same voice. That might be the case if the company hadn't decided to use people's *social security numbers* for their Foncard numbers! Better make sure that nobody is listening too closely when you speak those



Sprint Priority Gold: Your own 800 number and free movie tickets to boot.

digits for the computer. Or better yet, just give Sprint a phony social security number.

In addition to the voice-recognition feature, Sprint automatically gives you 1,000 "Bonus Points" each month for its Sprint Priority Rewards program (sort of like a frequent-flyer program for people who let their fingers do the walking). Once you reach 15,000 points, you can cash them in for three movie tickets or three compact discs.

You also get a residential 800 number (so friends can call you and have you pick up the tab), GroupCall (to set up your own three-way conference call), and Accounting Codes (so you can send an individualized phone bill to each of your clients - normally this costs an extra US\$5 per month, but you can have it free with Priority Gold).

You can also put your cellular telephone on the same Priority Gold bill as any other phones you might have. All this is just a measly US\$5 per month. They waive the fee if you have more than \$50 in billings. If you depend on the phone for your livelihood (and who doesn't?) Priority Gold is the way to go. - *Simson L. Garfinkel*

Sprint Corp.: (800) 877 4500.