

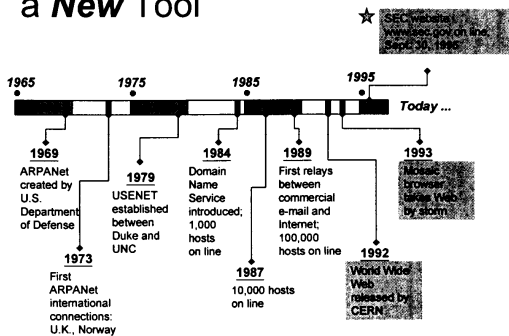
Proceedings of the 7th Annual Federal Depository Library Conference

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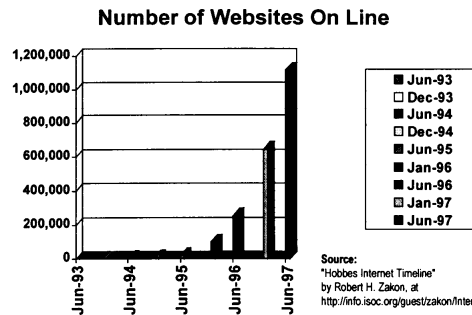
The SEC Website as a Reference Source: The EDGAR Database and Beyond

Ruth S. Pitt, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
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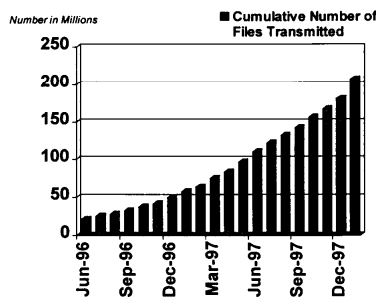
... The Web Is Still
a **New** Tool



Although the Popularity of
the Web Has Skyrocketed ...



How the SEC Website Has
Grown: Use of the Site



The SEC's Web site: www.sec.gov

- Grew out of an experimental EDGAR Web site offered by a university

- SEC's initial offering added:
 - News
 - Rulemaking
 - Enforcement Actions
 - SEC Information
 - Investor Information
 - Links to Related Sites

How the SEC Website Has Grown: Resources on the Site

Original Experimental Site	SEC Site Additions
<p>EDGAR Database</p> <p>• EDGAR help material</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the SEC • Investor Education • Additional EDGAR materials • News, speeches, etc. • Enforcement material • Rulemaking • Other sites (links) • Small Business

- Has become a means of doing SEC business, as well as a public information resource

How Is the Public Using the SEC Web site?

- Investment research
 - Company and industry information
 - Investment basics
 - How to avoid scams, etc.
- Legal research
 - Securities-related
 - Other matters, using company information
- Making complaints about fraud (Complaint Center)

- Schoolwork (from middle school-level on up)
- Other uses as well (job search, "raw material" for value-added company information services, etc.)

How Is the SEC Using the SEC Web site?

- Publishing
- Educating the public
- Soliciting public input on proposed rules and other matters
- Communicating with its registrants (companies, brokers, etc.)
 - Researching, in much the same manner as members of the public

What's Being Used on the SEC Web site

- 80 to 85% of the site's output is EDGAR data (16-17 GB out of a typical 20-GB weekday)
- The remainder is a mix of the other offerings:

Investor education materials are among the most popular ...

But use of news, rulemaking, and SEC legal actions is also significant

Some Popular Pages on the SEC Web site*

- SEC News Digest index
- Investor Education home page
- Staff Legal Bulletin No. 5 (re: Year 2000 disclosure)
- Proposed Rules index
- Employment Opportunities
- Press Releases index
- Litigation Releases index
- Concept Releases index

**Does not include EDGAR searches or documentation*

Using the SEC Web site for Research:

A Live Demonstration, including

- EDGAR
- Other materials on the site

Future Plans for the SEC Web site

- Improved EDGAR and site searches
- Ability to download SEC paper forms in PDF (Acrobat[®]) format
- Expanded SRO Rulemaking section
- More SEC program (Division, Office) information
- Revised Investor Education offering

WAIS Search Tips

- **Use connectors!**

To form a two-word phrase (ADJ = "adjacent to"):

Boston ADJ Chicken

To limit the search:

Downes AND Accounting

- Avoid searching on overly common words

For example, don't use "Inc." or "Corp." to search for a company

For EDGAR Archives

- Use the CIK (Central Index Key) if you know it:

For example, 0000065100 = Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.

- Limit your search by date or form type - or both:

0000065100 AND 1997* AND 8-K

(gives 8-K change reports for Merrill Lynch during 1997; date format is YYYYMMDD; note use of asterisk for wildcard)

Questions & Answers

- On the SEC Web site and the current EDGAR system