

"Hey, Spot," I said, "with the massive amount of cash this Foreword has brought me, I felt generous, and so I bought you your very own computer."

Spot looked across the room to where I'd set up the machine next to his water dish. Still shiny with that putty-gray factory finish, it was the very latest model—the IBM Dog Computer 3000 with a cordless pawboard and a squeaky mouse! A 999,000-baud modem was connected to Spot's very own phone line. "Gosh," drooled Spot, "Thank you, Kibo! It's the most wonderful thing anyone ever gave a dog like me! Now I can log on to that amazing new Information Superhighway!"

"Uh, Spot, before you do, you know how to use the Internet, right?"

Spot barked happily and ran in a little circle. "Sure I do! I've seen *The Lawnmower Man* and *WarGames* and every episode of William Shatner's awesome *Tekwar*. I know all about this stuff. First you put on your virtual reality helmet and your glowing blue neon datasuit, then you fly through the maze, and laser beams come out of your eyes and you have to shoot the computer viruses before they turn you into a skeleton and then you have twenty seconds to guess the three-letter password before all the nuclear missiles in the world come out of the screen at you!!!" Spot turned on his new computer and the screen lit up:

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Spot cried. "Waah! This sucks! Kibo, you tricked me. I hate you!"

"Now, now, little Spot, it wasn't I who cruelly deceived you. It was the *media*. Remember, everything can be blamed on the media. Who told you it was called 'The Information Superhighway'?"

"The media," sobbed Spot.

"And who told you it was a super-cool new thing they just invented last week?"

"The media," sobbed Spot.

"And who told you it was a dangerous and scary thing that could molest your children while they sleep?"

"The media!" bawled Spot. "Oh, how I hate them! They're evil. I guess I don't know anything about what the so-called Information Superhighway is really like. Kibo, you'll have to show me what to do here."

I leaned over and typed in Spot's password, DOG\$BONE. Spot was now logged in to the world's most powerful information service, Dogidy.

WELCOME TO DOGIDY™, AN INFORMATION SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE.

A JOINT VENTURE OF MacBURGER AND COLA-SODA.

You have 13 new pieces of mail from long-lost friends and people who want to date you.

There are 637 news articles clipped for you, on subjects that you care deeply about, with all others omitted.