

From the Editors' Desk

This issue focuses on EDI and government contracting. Once again the Journal has an international flavour with an article from the United Kingdom. Due to space constraints we have not been able to reproduce Andreas Raubenheimer's article entitled 'EDI and Tax/Accounting in Germany'. This is a most interesting article which provides a comprehensive overview of the different German entities having responsibility for different aspects of EDI. If you are considering doing business in Germany or trading with a company operating in Germany it is well worth reading. Full copies of this article are available by contacting the Editors.

Our lead article by Anthony Willis provides an update on the process of contracting with government. He refers to the different government IT procurement contracts and government policy. He warns new players about the need to comply with gov-

ernment policies and procedures which change frequently.

Peter Ng, in his article entitled 'EDI and Contract Law', examines problems raised by paperless trading and offers solutions. He concludes that those who state EDI is a legal minefield and hence should not be adopted are overstating the case against EDI. He points out that trade existed before the invention of paper and that trade will continue despite the decreasing use of paper.

Moving away from our main theme is an article by Associate Professor Francis Auburn entitled 'The Internet and Defamation'. This article considers the case of Rindos v Hardwick (Ipp J., WA Supreme Court, No. 940164, delivered 31 March 1994). In that case Dr Rindos was awarded \$40,000 for an alleged defamation that occurred through an entry on the DIALX science anthropology computer bulletin board. The case was not defended because of

the defendants lack of resources. The editors suspect that there will be many more of these cases occurring because of the informal nature of communication that appears on the bulletin boards.

The final article is entitled 'Electronic Data Interchange and Computer Crime' by Indira Mahalingam Carr and Katherine Williams. The authors consider the British laws on computer misuse and suggestions put forward by the Council of Europe on computer related crime.

All in all this issue provides very interesting reading. The Editors wish all readers of the Journal a very happy and successful New Year and we look forward to receiving your contributions for our next issue.

All papers for publication should be sent to Virginia Gore by 24 March, 1995, c/- Blake Dawson Waldron, L37 Grosvenor Place, 225 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000, DX 355.



COMPUTERS & LAW

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