About the Cover

The Internet on April 1, 2003

This month's cover was contributed by Bill Cheswick of the Lumeta Corporation and diagrams the Internet as it was on April 1 of last year. It nicely fits in with the topic of this year's theme for "Math Awareness Month", which is networks. Color coding in the figure indicates distance from the scanning host. Layout in the diagram was determined by an algorithm that considers the graph as a physical system of springs and determines its minimal energy configuration. Thus, in a sense the graph interprets itself. More information on the Lumeta Internet mapping project can be found at `http://research.lumeta.com/ches/map/` and also in the paper "Mapping and visualizing the Internet" by Cheswick, Hal Burch, and Steve Branigan in the proceedings of the 2000 USENIX Annual Technical Conference. Designing graph layout is an interesting problem. A good place to start in the huge literature on this topic might be the proceedings publication "Graph Drawing", *Lecture Notes in Computer Science,* Springer 1984.

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