

Ingenious Ideas

Using The Internet To Find Long-Lost Friends

(NAPSA)—The Internet is making the world a smaller place—bringing people closer together—and making it easier to find the people you lose track of.

Only a few years ago, finding a former friend or long-lost loved one would have required a lot of time and energy. However, with the Internet tools that are available today, you can find old friends in a matter of minutes.

To help people reconnect with friends and family, MSN TV Service, a provider of Internet access over the television, has compiled a few tips for finding someone online. Additional information is available at www.msntv.com/tvtips.

Tips for Finding Old Friends Online

Gather Your Info: The first step in conducting a successful search is to consolidate what you know about that person. Having a person's last known address or their spouse's name is a great place to start. Other details such as a club they belonged to, or a high school or college they attended or if they were in the military will also help narrow the search.

Online Telephone Book: The Internet provides access to nationwide phone directories, and they can be a great resource when you know that a person resides in a specific area.

Helpful Web Sites: With so many people using the Internet to find old friends, a number of specialized Web sites have been created to help. To find the sites best



Finding your high school sweetheart or an old college friend is not as complicated as it used to be.

suited to your search, MSN TV recommends using a search engine and key words that best meet your needs.

Some useful keywords are: “white pages,” “lost friends,” “military friends,” “high school friends,” and “family reunion.”

Search Smart: One of the best ways to get familiar with the Internet search process is to conduct a search on your own name. This will give you a good idea of which search terms work, as well as letting you know how easy or difficult it would be for someone to find you.

The MSN TV Internet receiver from Microsoft provides e-mail and Internet access over a TV and is easy to set up. It comes with a wireless keyboard and remote control, so there are no cords running through your living room. MSN TV service works through existing TV and phone lines.