## The Birth of the Microscopy Advantage™ CD

Charles A. Garber, Structure Probe, Inc./SPI Supplies cgarber@2spi.com Kristof Kovacs, STARGMK, Veszprem, HUNGARY

stargmk@mail.datanet.hu

In North America, one could very easily get a distorted

view of the rest of the world when it comes to internet access. In the USA and Canada, one can stay connected continually, without regard to cost. And the connections tend to be fast and convenient.

But this is not the case in most of the rest of the world. While there are some notable exceptions. Australia and Israel for example, many in the international microscopy and microanalysis community have to struggle with connections that are either very slow, or very expensive, or both. In fact, in many parts of the world, internet content is routinely not with the benefit of graphics. This is really a great disadvantage since, in many instances, the real important information is contained within the graphics. Even in the USA and Canada, because of firewall considerations or other concerns, a surprisingly large number of end users do not have internet access at their main workstations, and they have to suffer the inconvenience of using some kind of shared resource, either "down the hall" or worse yet, in another building.

The end result is that websites that contain useful content, those that are true informational resources, be it for new equipment and products, vendor data bases, or other useful information, are not accessible to considerable portions of the target audience of microscopy and microanalysis users, even in the

USA and Canada.

The "solution" is Microscopy Advantage CD. This CD contains a cross-section of the best microscopy resource sites-just as on the internet. As a result, the same information that up until now had been available only to on-line viewers, now is available to off-line viewers. All that is needed is to pop the Microscopy Advantage CD into the CD reader and off you go.....for visits to leading column instrument manufacturers, EDS manufacturers, supplies and equipment manufactures, and even sites providing training and education services. All this without having to go on-line once!

How can you get a copy of the Microscopy Advantage CD? It is available from any of the firms with websites featured on the following webside (www.microscopy-advantage.com) or when placing an order with SPI Supplies, just mention your interest and receive a free copy. Just be sure to request it when placing your order.



