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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFOWORLD'S BOB METCALFE TO EAT HIS WORDS?

***Internet Guru to Address his Internet Collapse Predictions
at Sixth World Wide Web Conference***

SAN MATEO, Calif. --April 3, 1997-- "I predict the Internet . . . will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse."

With those words in his Dec. 4, 1995 "From the Ether" column, *InfoWorld* Executive Correspondent Bob Metcalfe gained national media attention and sparked heated debate over the future survival of the Information Superhighway.

During his closing plenary speech at last year's World Wide Web Conference in Boston, Metcalfe promised the audience of 2,000 that if, in his judgment, the Internet did not collapse during 1996, he would eat that Dec. 4 column at the 1997 Web Conference.

On April 10, 1997 Metcalfe will deliver the keynote wrap-up of the Sixth World Wide Web Conference in Santa Clara, Calif. At that time he will defend his prophecies and let the audience decide whether or not consumption of the column should ensue.

"To size an outage, multiply the number of users times their hours of denied access," said Metcalfe. "A recent BBN Corp. 'kilolapse' lost thousands of user-hours. An ampersand mistyped into a router deNetted 400,000 Netcom users for 13 hours -- a 5.2 'megalapse.' Another botched router update deWebbed 6.2 million America Online users for 19 hours -- a catastrophic 118 megalapse.

"We've been lucky, though. The gigaapses I've been warning about -- more than a billion lost user-hours in a single outage -- did not occur. But during my keynote, I'll make the case that the Internet did collapse, repeatedly, and then throw myself on the mercy of the audience."

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No doubt Metcalfe's conference wrap-up will contain insightful thoughts on the conference and the future of the Internet. But will he literally eat his words? Curious minds are encouraged to attend the keynote to find out for sure, but sources say he has been advised to bring along a knife and fork.

Metcalfe Keynote Information

What: Sixth World Wide Web Conference Closing Plenary

When: April 10, 1997; 4:45 PM

Where: Santa Clara Convention Center

Conference Information: <http://www6conf.slac.stanford.edu/>

Media Registration: Hassan Schroeder, hassan@webtuitive.com; 408-938-0567

Background Information

A complete archive of Metcalfe's "From the Ether" columns can be found on *InfoWorld Electric* at www.infoworld.com/metcalfe/. Related highlights include:

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/4/95 | Predicting the Internet's catastrophic collapses and ghost sites galore |
| 1/8/96 | Will Netscape eat its hat over claims it was too busy for Web Conference? |
| 2/19/96 | Up next, Internet weather forecast calls for traffical depressions and storms |
| 2/26/96 | Fuzzy-headed anarchy will lead the way to the Internet's total collapse |
| 7/8/96 | Netcom-Cisco outage could foreshadow much bigger collapses ahead |
| 11/18/96 | The Internet is collapsing; the question is who's going to be caught in the fall |
| 12/23/96 | I'll eat my columns, but I was prophetic with 1996 'net collapse predictions |

About Bob Metcalfe/InfoWorld

Bob Metcalfe is a technology pundit. His Internet-related "From the Ether" column in *InfoWorld* reaches an average weekly readership of 570,000 information systems managers. He is vice president technology of the International Data Group (IDG). He invented Ethernet at Xerox PARC in 1973, founded 3Com Corporation in 1979, and turned to punditry in 1990. He received the IEEE Medal of Honor in 1996 and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1997.

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METCALFE TO EAT HIS WORDS? -3/3-

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