2000 The Year of E-Everything and E-Commerce

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1. Introduction

We are surrounded by reminders of the growth in the capabilities of information and communication technologies, especially the Internet. The use of the Internet as an interface between the public administration and citizens as well as businesses comprises a broad and growing range of applications but the most important is the Internet and World Wide Web. The Internet will change the way you live. The Internet will change the way you work. The Internet will change the way you play. The Internet will change everything. Everything will converge on the Internet. All of those activities are occurring with the help of the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and related organizations providing access to the Internet and related services such as electronic commerce. By January 2000, about 69.59 million Internet hosts are connected in about 250 countries and territories. A host may have 1-100 terminals. A terminal may serve 1-20 persons. Assuming that a host serves 10 persons, the number of people on the Internet may be said to be about 347 - 695 million in the year 2000 and expected to be over one billion in a few years. The year 2000 may also be said to be the year of "e-everything" from "a through z", such as e-auction, e-banking, e-commerce, e-dating, e-education, e-entertainment, e-fax, e-government, e-housing, e-knowledge, e-learning, e-loan, e-mail, e-music, e-phone, e-government, e-tour, e-trading, e-travel, etc., up to e-zoo. This paper presents a brief history computerization and Internet in Thailand, Internet for Education (E-education), E-Government, and E-Commerce.

2. Computerization and Internet in Thailand.

As shown in Figure 1, the number of Internet hosts in over 250 countries as of January 2000 is 69.59 millions. If there are 5 - 10 users per host, the number of Internet users would be 347 - 695 millions. An Internet host may have only one user, but another may have several hundred users.

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1 Invited keynote presented to the Seminar Program Assumption Graduated School at Dusit Resort Pattaya, February 5-6, 2000


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