

■ 'A point of contact to find people with skills in the IT industry'

New website will reflect the changing Network

by Max Channon
Staff Reporter

THE Digital Peninsula Networks' new website is now online – and offers members even more control over its content.

Project manager Ed Sibley, who oversaw the creation of the RDA funded website – which utilised the talents of DPN members like Evergreen and Content Team On Line – said it will act as online office, shop window and forum.

"This is the DPN's third website and is right for the organisation now

– as the DPN grows the website has to evolve," said Mr Sibley.

"It builds upon the content and experience of the two previous websites and contains some very powerful features. It will be a very powerful tool for members to make contact with each other and outsiders and it can promote members of the network to the rest of the world."

"It is a point of contact to find people with skills in the IT industry and their geographic location is irrelevant – that is one of the main points about this technology, it enables people to choose where they live and work," added Mr Sibley.

The new site allows members to

add information to their biographies, which can be accessed in a variety of ways. For example, if a potential client is looking for someone with a particular skill they can call up a list of DPN members who have the experience and talents that they are looking for.

In addition, members can upload their own news bulletins, which will be featured alongside general news about the network.

A prototype of the website had been up and running for several weeks before its official launch – to allow members to make their own suggestions or detect any bugs – and has already seen members like the Media Centre for Cornwall steering

group post up news bulletins on their latest developments.

The website even features a built in 'jargon buster' to help make it more user friendly.

"A lot of our members aren't serious computer users, but do rely on the internet and e-mail to do their business. The site needs to be inclusive and easy for everyone to use – not just serious techies," explained Mr Sibley.

"At its launch the website is really just a skeleton that will be fleshed out by the members, who will start to add their own content.

"That is the thing with this new website – it is driven by the members," added Mr Sibley.