



JAMES J. DUDERSTADT
PRESIDENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

200 TUBMAN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
480 TUBMAN DRIVE, ANN ARBOR, MI 48106
TEL: 734-763-1000 FAX: 734-763-1000

bcc: Jeff Ogden

January 12, 1993

Mr. Jim Sterkin
251 Bemis Road
Saline, Michigan 48176

Dear Jim:

This is a short note to thank you for your work many years ago designing and implementing the MTS Message System.

Perhaps because we are starting a new year or because there has been a lot of discussion recently about moving the University of Michigan to a more decentralized electronic mail system--for whatever reason--there have been several recent discussions about the effect of \$Message on the University. Of course, the impact has been tremendous. I personally use electronic mail as a key tool in maintaining contact with my colleagues here and across the world. Electronic mail is an everyday part of University life, and it is used to conduct a substantial part of the University's business. Who would have predicted back in 1981 that over 18 million messages would pass through the message system in the years to come?

Not only did you do the bulk of the initial work, but your outstanding design laid the groundwork that would allow the message system to evolve in the years to come. The addition of network mail, the creation of the alternate full screen message interface, and the implementation of InfoX were all made possible by the foundation you put in place. People who are involved in the maintenance of the message system have said that much of the work that they have done over the years was just "finishing up Jim's initial design."

With the passage of time, it is easy for people to take something like the message system for granted. In fact, being taken for granted is one measure of its success. This is certainly an achievement of which you can be proud; and, on behalf of the University, I want to convey our appreciation.

Sincerely,



James J. Duderstadt

cc: Douglas E. VanHouweling