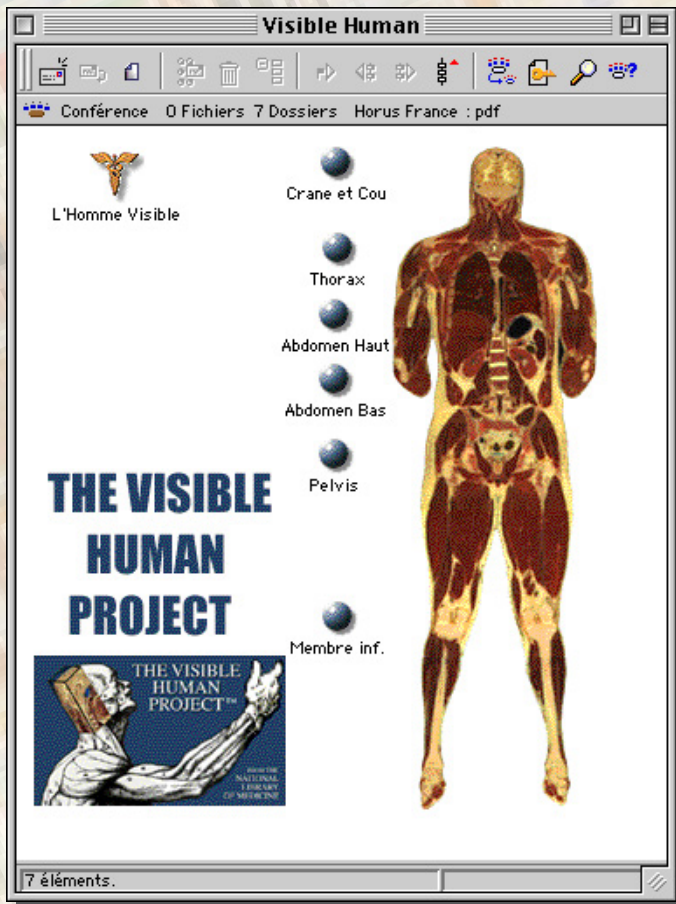


The Horus Medical server, established in France in 1994 by three doctors, was set up to provide discussion forums for a small group of about fifty doctors. Promotion by the Apple Medical Division during several exhibitions helped to increase awareness of the Horus Medical Server and today, with approximately 1500 members, it has become the largest online communications network for the medical community in France. Its membership has expanded to include medical associations, unions, laboratories and software companies such as HDMP (Health Data Management Partner) and manufacturing healthcare companies like Baxter.

Much of the success and growth of the Horus system is attributed to its co-founder, Dr. Paul Dardel, to the technology they decided to base it on. Above all, they were looking for a communications tool which was multi-platform and both easy to use and administrate. "FirstClass was simply unique at this time and we felt that its fast learning curve would encourage doctors to join in," explained Dr. Dardel. "The simplicity of installing, configuring and upgrading the system is a key advantage of FirstClass. The low memory requirement, its full integration with the web and the truly multi-platform client (Mac or PC) are unique advantages for users. FirstClass is the only product that provides online conferencing features that work".

The system was in fact based on the early 2.7 version of FirstClass and has since evolved in tandem with subsequent upgrades of the product. In 1996, with the release of SoftArc's FirstClass Intranet Server (FCIS), Horus became accessible to its members via the web (www.horus-medical.fr) and has recently been upgraded to the 5.5 version of FCIS. The Horus server is now very dynamic with over 400 online conferences and has between 800 and 1000 connections a day. Most members are connecting from France but they also live in other countries such as Guyana, Canada and USA. Many of the conferences have been set up for the large laboratories that need to bring people together from various locations to discuss and share information on the same projects.



The key strengths of FirstClass as a communications solution for professional networks, according to Dr. Dardel, are the ease of use of the client interface, the potential for customization and the rich conferencing features. The receipt on read, message history and unsend message are some of the features that make FirstClass unique in the marketplace. "The results are far greater than purely web based systems," says Dardel. The doctors can access the Horus website, register online and can download the client to have even faster access to the conferences.

With 60,000 doctors out of 160,000 connected to the Internet in France, the market potential for Horus is impressive. The government plans to extend the computerization to the entire medical population.

Horus generates its revenues from the doctors' membership fees and medical laboratories or corporations interested in setting up projects online.

For more information about Horus, please contact Dr. Paul Dardel
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