



This research is supported by the IRC
Government of Ireland Postdoctoral
Fellowship programme.

Reanimating the CDLink platform: A challenge for the preservation of mid-1990s Web-based interactive media and net.art

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Trinity College Dublin

Engaging with Web Archives
#EWA20 Virtual
21 September 2020



<http://www.xnet.com/~mkolmar/chaotic.html>

INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBackMachine

http://www.xnet.com/~mkolmar/chaotic.html

Go

NOV DEC 20 1996 JUL

24 captures

20 Dec 1996 - 15 Apr 2005

1995 1996 1999

About this capture

CHAOTIC ENTERTAINMENT

You supply the CD, these will trash it for you.

Track:

The process of Sampling is here exposed for all to see.

A CD which contains one long track is ideal. This process works well on "ambient" discs and CDs which are already chaotic played normally.

Track:

Dubious Motives for Unrepeatable Patterns

This deconstructor operates on the track you specify and the track which follows, to create sparse sound structures. Any CD with at least two tracks should work well.

Track:

Spray of Miniature Excerpts

This method breaks a section of the track you specify into tiny bits and throws them at you. Any CD should work fine.

CHAOTIC ENTERTAINMENT [Interactive Sequencer](#)

Please experiment with different discs. These methods will never play the same thing twice. You'll need to download and install a helper application called [Voyager CD Link](#). An [article](#) about CD Link and Chaotic Entertainment appeared in *The Wire*.

You can look at a custom screen of [RGB Noise](#).

If you are not seeing RGB Noise above, then [download](#) Netscape Navigator, which supports Java.

[[My Home Page](#) | [CCS Home Page](#)]

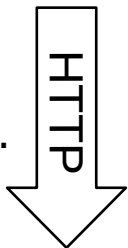
Mark Kolmar [<mkolmar@xnet.com>](mailto:mkolmar@xnet.com)

Want to look sharp on the Web? I want to help you. HTML, CGI, sound design, etc....

Voyager CDLink

```
<a href="control.vcd">Track 1</a>
```

...browser
downloads...

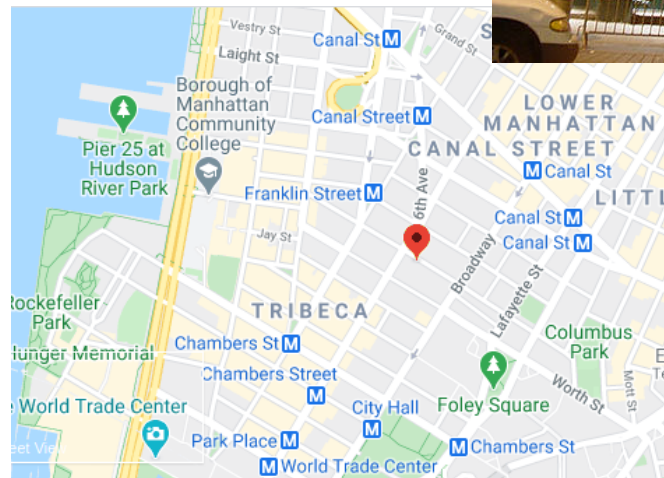


audio
CD
controls

Interpreted by CDLink



12 July 1995:
CDLink Launched
@ Knitting Factory



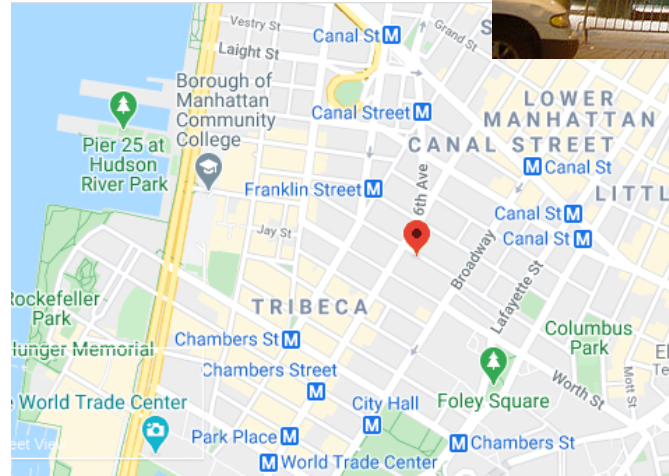
Knitting Factory @ 74
Leonard St (c. 2006)

Photo: Gene Han
(CC BY-NC 2.0)

(Voyager Company press release, 1995)

“Voyager CDLink makes an end-run around the bandwidth bottleneck; that stack of discs gathering dust on the stereo represents a bundle of high-resolution digital media that's already been delivered to the user.”

12 July 1995:
CDLink Launched
@ Knitting Factory



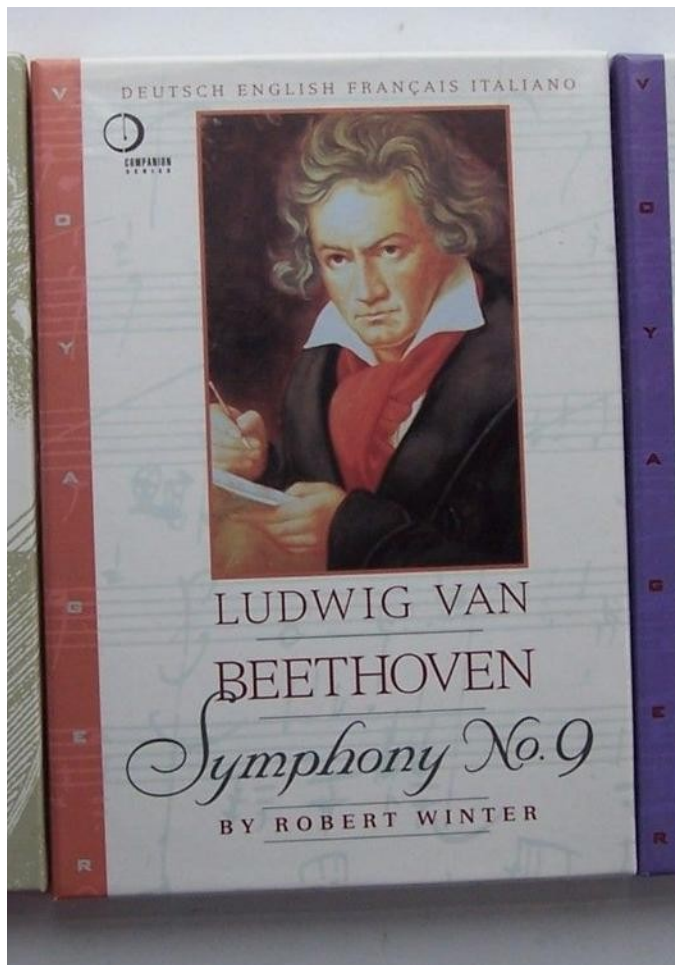
Knitting Factory @ 74
Leonard St (c. 2006)
Photo: Gene Han
(CC BY-NC 2.0)

(Voyager Company press release, 1995)

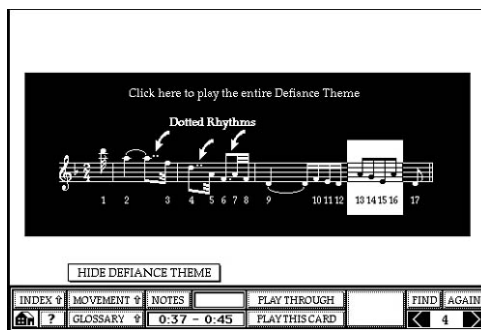
The Voyager Company

Jon Turell, Bill Becker, Aleen Stein, and Robert Stein

1984 (CA → NY)

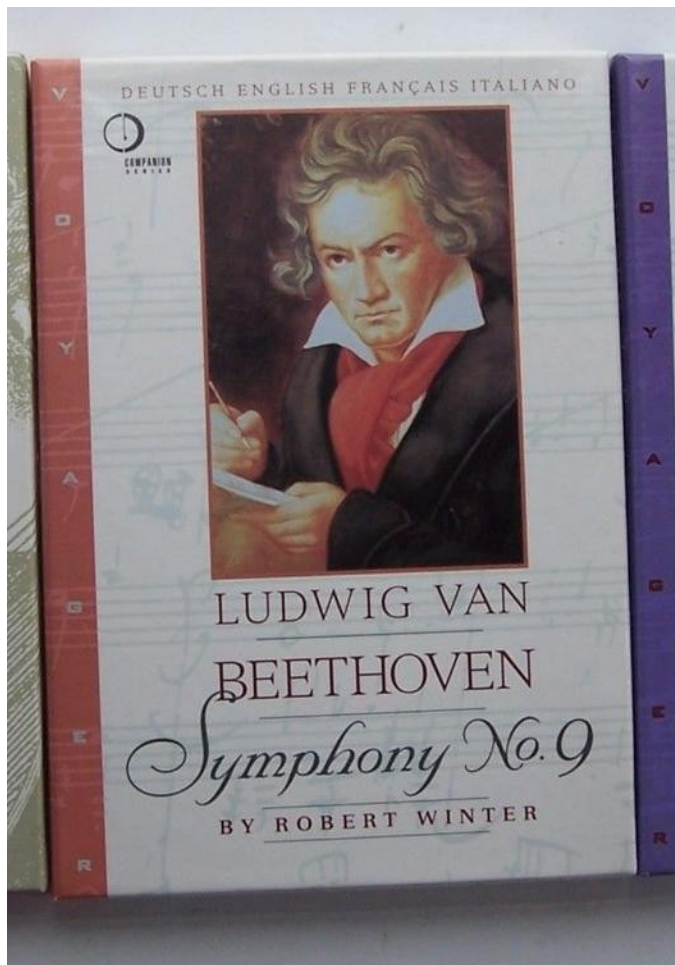


HyperCard



1989: floppy + audio CD
1991: mixed-mode CD

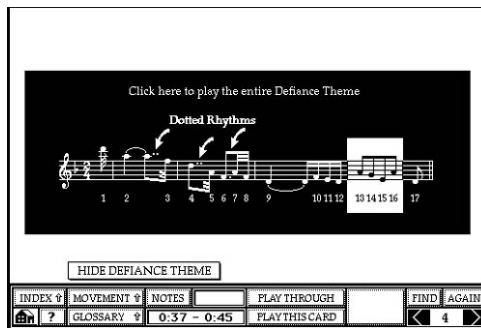
Product page (Wayback)
OCLC/Worldcat “all editions”



Product page (Wayback)
 OCLC/Worldcat “all editions”



HyperCard



1989: floppy + audio CD
 1991: mixed-mode CD

V O Y A G E R
cd-roms
 "The single best source of stimulating, innovative CD-ROM titles."
 -- The New York Times

Our Secret Century

CD-ROMs by Title

CD-ROMs by Category

[about art](#)
[art](#)
[books](#)
[cultures](#)
[documentary](#)
[educational](#)
[film](#)
[kids & parents](#)
[meditation & exercise](#)
[music](#)
[nature](#)
[thought & testimony](#)

Today's Special

JUST RELEASED

A Night To Remember
 A CD-ROM based on the film of the same name, "A Night To Remember" is a fascinating history of the "unsinkable" Titanic. 30% off now!

Dracula: Truth and Terror
 Horror invades your hard drive with Raymond McNally's blood dripping study of the fanged one. 30% off!!

The Louvre For Kids
 Zoom in on the Mona Lisa's smile, or view the Venus de Milo from different angles. A world of educational, artistic fun for kids. 30% off!

Our Secret Century, Volumes 1-8
 Hilarious, disturbing and immensely revealing, Rick Prelinger's films are startling odes to an idealized national identity. 30% off!

Painters Painting
 A CD-ROM based on the film of the same name, Painters Painting is a vibrant collective portrait of tumultuous post-war New York art

CD-ROM products (1996) (Wayback)

The Voyager CD AudioStack (1990)

THE VOYAGER COMPANY

The Voyager VideoStack
Indispensable toolkit for developing interactive videodisc applications with HyperCard™. \$99.95

The Voyager CD AudioStack
Toolkit for creating HyperCard™ stacks which work with any CD Audio disc. \$99.95

CD Companion
to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony
Combines the interactivity of HyperCard™ with a CD recording to explore every facet of this important classical work. \$99.95

1-800-446-2001, CA only 1-800-443-2001
CIRCLE 258 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Audio EVENT MAKER Event Number: 1 of 1

Link To CD CD TITLE: Miles Davis — Milestones

☐ Disc Time Time: Track 06 of 06
☒ Track Time 05:31 Track Length: 10:42:08

SHOW: Check Event Options
☐ Check for 2 secs before start/end
☐ Check for 2 secs after start/end

THIS EVENT:		TRACK	MIN	SEC	BLOCK	DESCRIPTION:
START OF EVENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	06	05	24	00	<input type="button" value="CHECK START"/>
END OF EVENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	06	06	41	12	<input type="button" value="CHECK END"/>
SELECT A TRACK AS THE EVENT		LENGTH OF EVENT	01	17	12	<input type="button" value="PLAY EVENT"/>

PREV TRACK SCAN PAUSE PLAY SCAN NEXT TRACK EJECT

Index Track Search Clear All Entries New Event Event List Find Event
 Home Time Search Delete Event Insert Event Button Card

The Voyager CD AudioStack is a HyperCard tool kit for creating your own interactive CD-audio guides. The Event-Maker is one of the main tools. Once you've identified a particular passage of CD audio, you can automatically create a button that plays it from your stack.

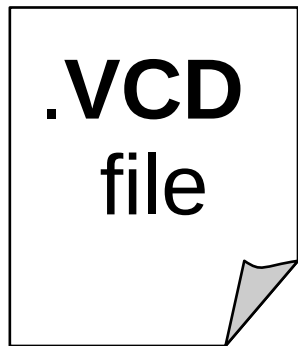
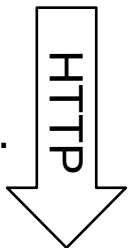
MacUser
January 1990, p. 294

MacUser
November 1990, p. 88

Voyager CDLink architecture

```
<a href="control.vcd">Track 1</a>
```

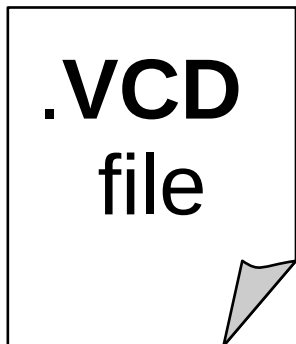
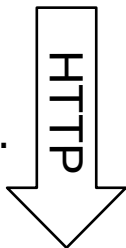
...browser
downloads...



Voyager CDLink architecture

`Track 1`

...browser
downloads...



[Link to .VCD specification \(Wayback\)](#)

The VCD Control Language

This section uses the following notation:

CAPITALIZED WORDS - A command or literal
Data in <>'s - Required parameters
Data in {}'s - Optional parameters
tmsf - Track, Minute, Second, Frame (1/75th-second)

The "example usage" texts linked below represent the content of the linked text.

PLAY {t,m,s,f}{,t,m,s,f}

Example Usage:

[\[COMMANDS\]](#)

[PLAY](#) -- plays the CD from its current position, clearing any

[\[COMMANDS\]](#)

[PLAY 03,01,00,00](#) -- plays from track 3, minute 1, second and

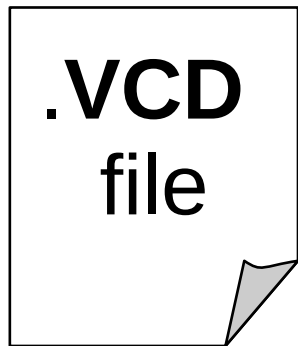
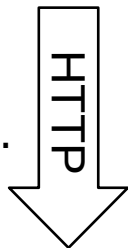
[\[COMMANDS\]](#)

[PLAY 03,01,00,00,03,03,20,00](#) -- plays a 2-minute, 20-second

Voyager CDLink architecture

```
<a href="control.vcd">Track 1</a>
```

...browser
downloads...



Windows 9x

CDLINK.EXE



Mac OS

Netscape
Navigator

Extension



INTERNET ARCHIVE
Wayback Machine

18 captures
19 Dec 1996 - 16 Apr 2005

FEB JUN APR
1996 1997 1999

THE CDLINK REGISTRY:

Browse alphabetically by band name or artist's last name:

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#)

[Link to The CDLink Registry \(Wayback Machine\)](#)

A

ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS - [J. S. Bach's "Musical Offering"](#) by Tim Smith

ALBITA - [No Se Parece A Nada](#) by Mark Schone

LAURIE ANDERSON - [Bright Red](#) by Phil Zampino

B

J.S. BACH - [Art of Fugue](#)

[Musical Offering](#)

[Fourteen Canons on the Goldberg Ground](#) all above entries by Tim Smith

BEASTIE BOYS - [Ill Communication](#) by Thomas Goetz

THE BEATLES - [Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band](#) by Bruce Eder

[Past Masters - Volume One](#) (compares *She Loves You* and *Sie Liebt Dich*) by Dave Haber

BON JOVI - [New Jersey](#) by Gavin Edwards

BUSH - [Sixteen Stone](#) by Dave Bonds

DAVID BYRNE - [David Byrne](#) by Alec Foege



Guru — Jazzmataz

Browse alphabetically by band name or artist name:
by Danyel Smith
(Wayback Machine)

DeathNET background music

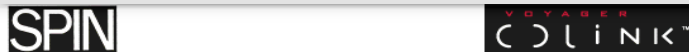
(Wayback Machine)

Rush fansite by J. Geoff Malta

(Wayback Machine)

Fourteen Canons by Tim Smith

(Wayback Machine)



CDLink(tm) Programming Options

Soundtrack from "Twin Peaks"
Warner Bros CD 26316 (1990)

or
John Taverner's
Virgin Classics

Please note: Your order from the original
To be
flute:
along
DJ, P
bares
Or, you may choose

Master Programmi

Twin Peaks: TP Mas
The Protecting Veil



RUSH

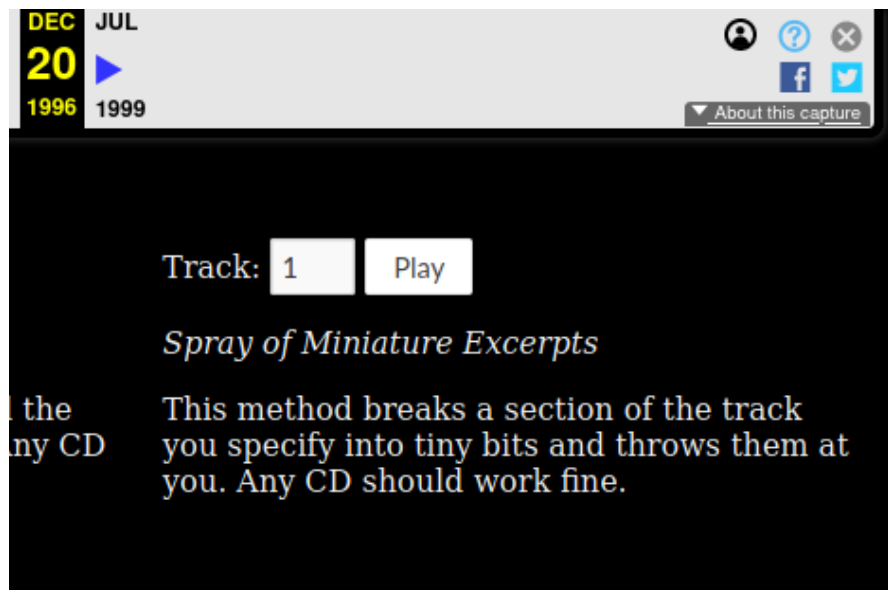
Analysis of Each Canon

The first four canons of the cycle use the Goldberg ground as leader. While not too interesting things to hear, from a theoretical perspective these canons are necessary inasmuch as Bach demonstrates in them the inherent contrapuntal possibilities of the *soggetto*, or "subject," by combining it with itself in four ways:

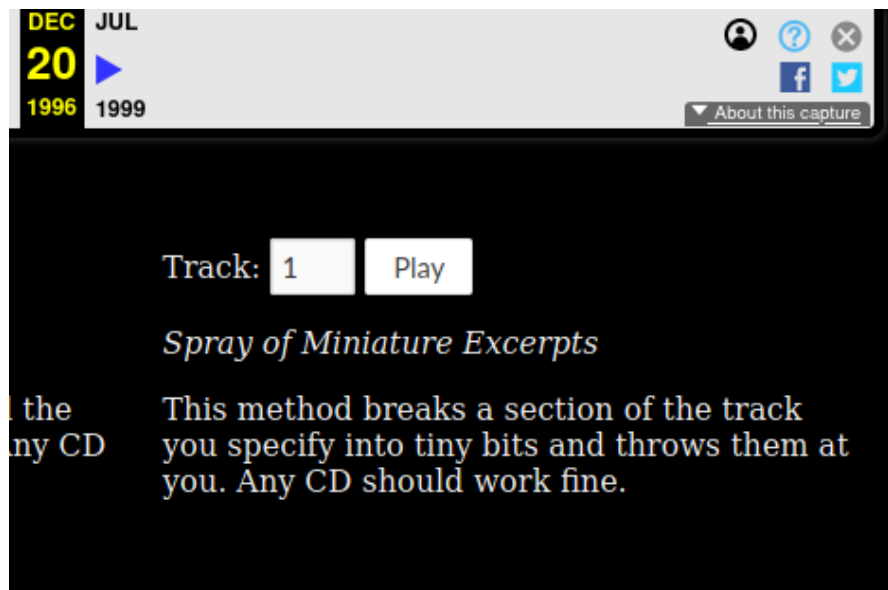
- Canon 1 - *soggetto* with its retrograde

- Canon 2 - inverted *soggetto* with its retrograde

Behind *Chaotic Entertainment*



Behind *Chaotic Entertainment*



[excerpt from contents of .VCD file generated by *Chaotic Entertainment*'s “spray” feature]

play 1,4,35,58,1,4,35,63

play 1,4,34,51,1,4,34,55

play 1,4,34,63,1,4,34,67

play 1,4,34,68,1,4,34,72

play 1,4,34,74,1,4,35,3

(Straebel 1997)

Wayback Machine “diff” of Chaotic Entertainment

1996-12-20 vs 1999-02-10

Deleted text

New text

The process of Sampling is here exposed for all to see.

A CD which contains one long track is ideal. This process works well on "ambient" discs and CDs which are already chaotic played normally.

Dubious Motives for Unrepeatable Patterns

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C HAOTIC E NTERTAINMENT [Interactive Sequencer](#)

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twice. You'll need to download and install a helper application called [Voyager CD Link](#). [The entire Voyager site is gone, so you can download the PC version of the program from here.] An article about CD Link and Chaotic Entertainment appeared in *The Wire*. This site also has been written up in Tower Records' Pulse! magazine, while another article appears in the German music journal Positionen.

specify into tiny bits and throws them at you. Any CD should work fine.

C HAOTIC E NTERTAINMENT [Custom Sequencer](#)

Please experiment with different discs. These methods will never play the same thing twice. You'll need to download and install a helper application called [Voyager CD Link](#). [The entire Voyager site is gone, so you can download the PC version of the program from here.] An article about CD Link and Chaotic Entertainment appeared in *The Wire*. This site also has been written up in Tower Records' Pulse! magazine, while another article appears in the German music journal Positionen.

You can look at a custom screen of [RGB Noise](#).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3217H8Jppi>

(Accessed 30 August 2020, 16:05 p.m.)

Select bibliography

Gillen, Marilyn A. “Labels Link CDs, Web Sites via CDLink.” *Billboard*; New York 107, no. 29 (July 22, 1995): 58.

Straebel, Volker. “‘Chaotic Entertainment’: Mark Kolmars CD-Remix Im Internet.” *Positionen* 31 (May 1997): 31–33.

“Voyager: CDLink 12 July Press Release,” Captured June 6, 1997.

<https://web.archive.org/web/19970606172601/http://www.voyagerco.com/cdlink/getstarted/pressrel.html>.

“Voyager CDLink (VCD) Control Language Reference,” Captured June 6, 1997.

https://web.archive.org/web/19970606172542/http://www.voyagerco.com/cdlink/about/vcd_ref/cmdref.html.

www.eamonnbell.com for more
or contact <belle2@tcd.ie>