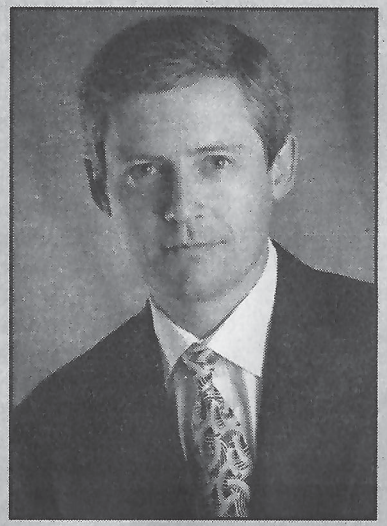
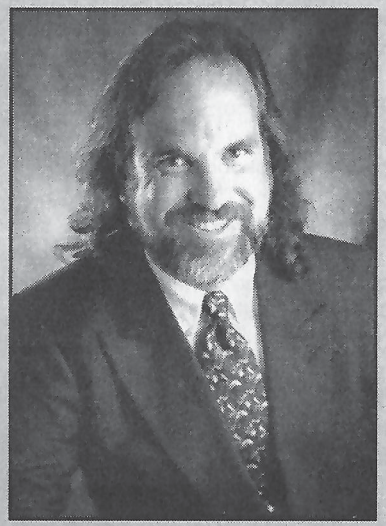
Sandpiper Networks/Digital Island

Leo S. Spiegel
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Swart
Founder and Vice President Engineering



David Farber
Founder and Chief Technology Officer



Entrepreneurs know that a team is often stronger than the sum of its individual members. The evolution of Sandpiper Networks/Digital Island represents just such synergy in the team of Leo Spiegel, Andrew Swart and Dave Farber.

The idea of starting a business together came out of a "what-if" discussion on a Martinique beach between friends and sometime collaborators Farber and Swart. Recalling that idyllic setting four years later, the two christened their new company Sandpiper Consulting. Within six months they had enough contract work designing and developing software for technology companies to warrant hiring five employees and moving into real office space in Thousand Oaks.

Hearing from Internet service providers about scalability problems, the two recognized a potential business opportunity. Two factors tax the performance of content delivery on the Internet: traffic congestion and overburdened servers. Internet content providers had no way of ensuring the content was delivered effectively during periods of increased traffic or slow performance. So Sandpiper responded with a solution and thus was created Footprint™, the world's first Internet content delivery network service.

Farber spearheaded the project from a technical perspective and Swart, a master of detail, managed the software programmers. When they needed someone with the overall business skills and experience crucial to the success of the venture, Leo Spiegel joined the team as Sandpiper's CEO.

As Web content grows richer, Footprint has adapted to serve streaming video and audio, including all the major media formats for on-demand and live events. Footprint 2.0 has been widely recognized for its technical excellence and consistently earns "best of breed" accolades.

In 1999, just as Sandpiper was on the verge of going public, the company merged with Digital Island, a company with a complementary set of technologies and services. The new combined entity provides the cornerstone of a global e-business delivery network and creates a unique offering in the Internet industry: the ability to successfully complete a two-way transaction between any two points in the world.

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Microsoft v. Sandpiper
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