

 **News Release****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****WIZARDS OF THE COAST GOES ONLINE WITH COMPUSERVE****The Official Wizards Forum on CompuServe**

March 20, 1997 (Renton, Wash.)--Wizards of the Coast, Inc., makers of the world's bestselling trading card game, **Magic: The Gathering**[™], has launched a new interactive Forum® area on CompuServe Interactive (CSi). The Forum will allow game players to interact with one another, and will feature virtual talk shows and conferences with Wizards of the Coast® personalities. The Forum will also deliver current information on Wizards products and events, and offers access to *The Duelist*®, an electronic version of Wizards of the Coast's popular gaming magazine.

"We are truly excited about the opportunities this relationship with CompuServe will provide for our customers," said Peter Adkison, president and CEO of Wizards of the Coast. "This partnership will allow us to enhance our existing online presence and heighten awareness of our games, events and services for those individuals new to the gaming industry."

"CompuServe is very pleased to be associated as a partner with Wizards of the Coast, a company with the reputation of being the leader in the trading card game industry," said Beth Sibbring, director of transaction revenue at CompuServe. "The level of usage on the Forums related to Wizards of the Coast has increased tremendously over the past six months, making the creation of a new Wizards site an ideal addition."

The Forum will provide online interaction, including message boards, file libraries and real-time conferencing, providing Wizards of the Coast with dynamic opportunities to interact with game players. Message boards will be monitored daily to respond to game-related questions, allowing organized league players to directly schedule card matches.

Other areas of interest include a calendar of scheduled events, a file-sharing area for downloading card checklists, game rules and rulings, and player ranking lists. Wizards of the Coast will also host a weekly "Town Meeting" to feature interviews with game designers such as Richard Garfield, artists, events coordinators, and other Wizards notables.

The Duelist Online will showcase new articles, some of which will not be found in the company's magazine version. These will include game reviews, strategies and backstory fiction, as well as poetry and humor. Select articles from back issues of *The Duelist* will also be available to subscribers. *The Duelist* is a definitive guide to **Magic: The Gathering** and other Wizards of the Coast trading card games. Each issue of *The Duelist* includes news and information from the entire spectrum of the trading card game industry, including rules clarifications, strategy tips, game variants, card lists, artwork, artist profiles, previews and profiles of the top competitors in organized play.

Wizards of the Coast is a privately held game company best known for the trading card game **Magic: The Gathering**. Since **Magic** was released in August 1993, more than two billion cards have sold, and the game is available in nine languages. Wizards of the Coast is headquartered just outside of Seattle, Washington, in the city of Renton, and also has international offices in Glasgow, United Kingdom; Antwerp, Belgium; and Paris, France. For more information on Wizards of the Coast, visit the company's website at <<http://www.wizards.com>>, their online area on CSi (GO WIZCOAST), or the official Forum on CSi (GO WIZFORUM).

Founded in 1969, CompuServe Incorporated provides the world's most comprehensive online/Internet access through its two brands CSi and SPRYNET. Through CompuServe, its Japanese licensee NIFTY-Serve and its affiliates around the world, more than five million home and business users in more than 185 countries are connected online and to the Internet. CompuServe Network Services manages complex global data communication environments for more than 1,000 corporate customers. With world headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, the CompuServe organization includes offices in Reading, Munich, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Zurich and Paris.

If you have any questions, contact Customer Service at <custserv@wizards.com>

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