



News Release

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WIZARDS OF THE COAST PARTNERS WITH DRAGONSTAR SOFTWARE TO OFFER ONLINE PLAY FOR MAGIC: THE GATHERING TRADING CARD GAME

February 26, 1999 (Seattle, Wash.)--Adventure games leader Wizards of the Coast Inc. and Dragonstar Software announced today that the two companies will partner to re-release Dragonstar's *Apprentice* and *NetDraft* software programs beginning March 1, 1999. The programs were developed to offer online game play for the world's bestselling *Magic: The Gathering* trading card game. Dragonstar Software had withdrawn the software programs from the Internet at the request of Wizards of the Coast due to the software's unauthorized use of intellectual property owned by Wizards of the Coast.

Christopher Warden of Dragonstar Software said, "We look forward to working closely with Wizards of the Coast and appreciate their support of *Apprentice* and *Netdraft*. We would also like to thank the *Magic* community for their support."

According to Joel Mick, vice president of the *Magic: The Gathering* product group, "Dragonstar Software's developers have created a compelling online play experience for the *Magic* community. As the new sponsor of *Apprentice*, we want to support this popular method of game play. Wizards of the Coast's long-term goal is to provide *Magic* players with the best online play experience possible, and players should expect several exciting new releases in the years ahead."

Jeff Christianson, Wizards of the Coast's senior vice president of business development and general counsel, said, "Dragonstar Software understood and acknowledged Wizards of the Coast's need to protect its intellectual property rights in *Magic: The Gathering*. We appreciate the company's cooperation and professionalism in resolving this matter and look forward to working with Dragonstar."

The *Magic: The Gathering* trading card game was developed by award-winning game designer and mathematician Richard Garfield. In this intense game of strategy, players battle to reduce each other's score from 20 to 0 through a series of attack and defense moves using cards with varying numerical values. These illustrated cards depict fantastic monsters and imaginative worlds. With an estimated fan base of more than six million players, the *Magic* game is played in social and competitive settings, including the prestigious \$1 million *Magic: The Gathering* Pro Tour circuit. Played in more than 52 countries worldwide, the *Magic* game is supported by the DCI players' organization, the governing authority for all officially sanctioned *Magic* tournaments. Helping both amateur and professional *Magic* players track their rankings, the DCI staff currently sanctions more than 60,000 *Magic* tournaments around the world per year.

Dragonstar is an online software development group founded by Christopher Warden. The company started working on *Apprentice* in 1996 and continues its development through the efforts of lead programmer Ryan Davis and many others. In 1998, Eric Lewandowski joined the Dragonstar team to work on the popular *Magic: The Gathering* drafting utility, called *NetDraft*. For information about Dragonstar and its products, or to download *Apprentice* or *Netdraft*, visit the Dragonstar website at <www.dragonstudios.com>.

Wizards of the Coast is a leading developer and publisher of entertainment products, including the world's bestselling *Magic: The Gathering* trading card game. Wizards of the Coast subsidiaries include TSR Inc. and Five Rings Publishing Group Inc. Headquartered just outside Seattle, Wizards of the Coast has international offices in Antwerp, Paris, Milan, Beijing and London. For more information, visit the company's website at <www.wizards.com>.

If you have any questions, contact Technical Support at <custserv@wizards.com>

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