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#### OCC LAUNCHES INTERNET BANKING WEBSITE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) today added an Internet banking section to its Web site. The move is meant to accommodate increasing interest among bankers and others in OCC initiatives and actions on Internet banking.

"We want to provide easy access for bankers and consumers to the wealth of OCC information and guidance on Internet banking," said Clifford A. Wilke, Director of Bank Technology at the OCC. "In particular, we want to share safe and sound Internet banking practices with bankers interested in this line of business."

The OCC Internet banking Web site contains OCC guidance for national banks on Internet banking dating back to 1996. The new site provides information on how to establish an Internet bank and OCC decisions on Internet bank charters.

The site contains all the safety and soundness guidance issued by the OCC on Internet bank activities. This ranges from guidance on digital certification, to cyberterrorism and technology risk in general. The most comprehensive piece of guidance, the OCC Handbook on Internet Banking of October 1999, is on the site. In addition, the site includes information on OCC legal rulings on permissible activities, including Internet and PC banking, electronic commerce, electronic payments, Internet access and other related activities.

The OCC has undertaken research on the growth of Internet banking which is contained in a research and analysis section on the new Web site. Future OCC studies on Internet banking will also be found on the Web site.

The Internet web site can be reached by direct link from the OCC's Web site at [www.occ.treas.gov](http://www.occ.treas.gov).

The OCC charters, regulates and examines approximately 2,400 national banks and 59 federal branches and agencies of foreign banks in the United States, accounting for 57 percent of the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a safe, sound and competitive national banking system that supports the citizens, communities and economy of the United States.