

Cleveland, Denver;  
Redskins, Vikings,  
face off today, 1C



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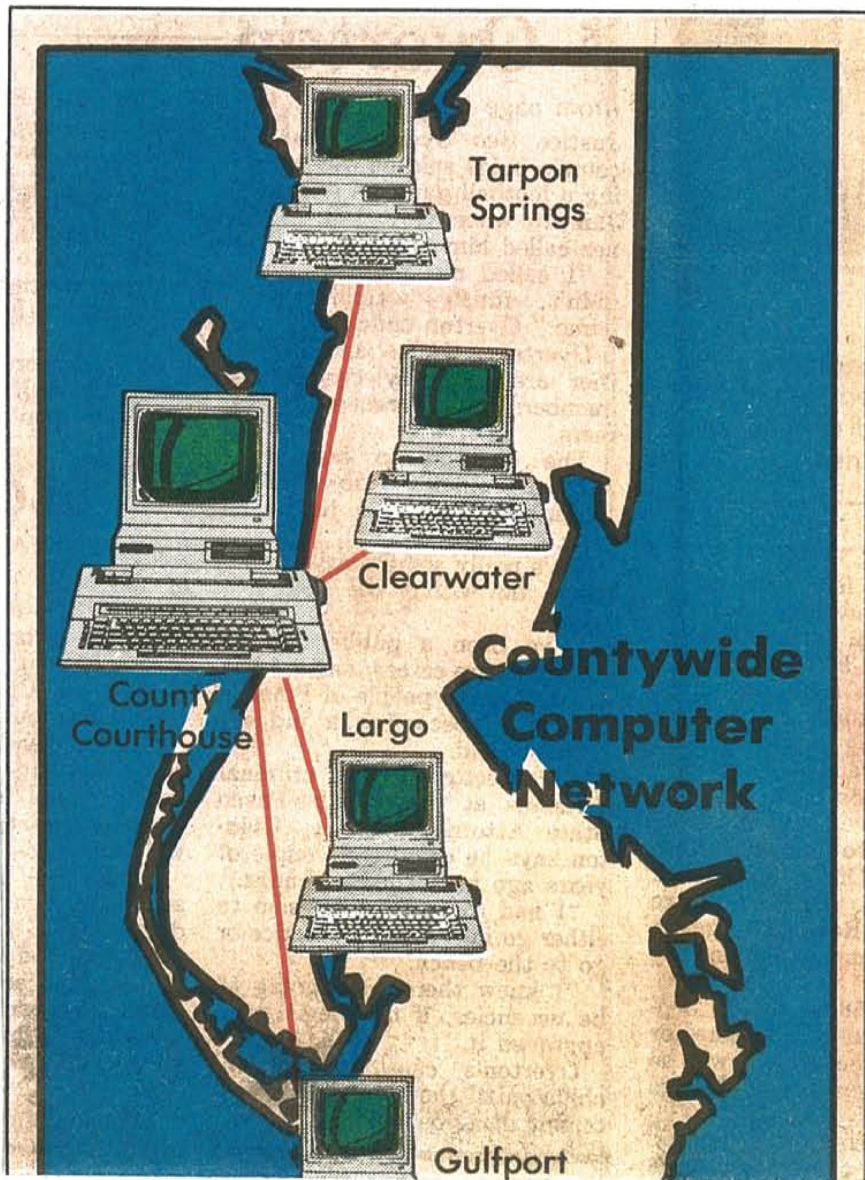
# Clearwater Sun

Northern Pinellas County's Local Daily

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## The Pinellas Connection



The idea behind the computerized network is to provide a digital map of Pinellas County that details each individual parcel.

By MARIA C. DIMENGO  
Sun staff writer

CLEARWATER — Just ask Pinellas County Property Appraiser Ron Schultz what it means to computerize, and he'll map out the details with a St. Petersburg telephone book.

How much computer data does he have on Pinellas County?

"A huge amount," he explains.

According to Schultz, that "huge" amount of data boils down to this: There are 644 white pages in the St. Petersburg phone book. The amount of computer data on Pinellas County is equal to 469 copies of that portion of the phone book — or a stack of them piled 34 feet high.

And that's a lot of data.

For the past 11 years, Schultz has been churning out Pinellas County data into "mappable" information. And he hopes one day his newfangled computer system will be able to link all 24 municipalities into one major data base.

"It is the organization of data that produces information," Schultz said rather philosophically. "Each time you reorganize it, it creates new information. When you're exposed to new

lems between the (Pinellas) Planning Council and municipalities."

Not only does the system generate zoning maps more accurately and efficiently, it prints mailouts, as well as the tedious "day-to-day nitty gritty administrative things," said Schultz. After a year's time, each city's system would pay for itself, and the initial cost for each municipality would be about \$2,000, he said.

Currently, there are four municipalities linked to Schultz's data base: Clearwater, Largo, Tarpon Springs and Gulfport. Under an experimental project coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the city of Pinellas Park will be linked to Schultz's computer system within the year.

The system would provide flood insurance rate maps, which could be extended to include all Pinellas municipalities if successful. Schultz met with FEMA representatives last week to begin testing the project.

"A year from now, Pinellas County will become a national demonstration area for this," said Schultz. "We're the only one doing it."

The overall computer plan is a good one, Schultz contended, and is being