This simple queue visualization Applet conveys all of this data. It can be connected to and used by any online resource that may attract more users than it can handle at any one time. "But it is a lot more. By clicking the Interactive Button I can enter instant messaging mode. No more waiting in silence; I can now attempt to familiarize and strike up conversation with fellow queuers without any real-world social awkwardness!"

How long is this line? How many people are in it? How fast is it moving? Am I even still connected? What am I supposed to do in the meantime?

"The interactive mode is entirely optional and may be disabled at any time. Other interactive users are indicated by smiley faces. I am now able to choose an avatar or photo and fill in some personal info for public display."

Hey there, Henry!

I feel like thinking, but I'm no hurry, and I'm wondering if there's any chance I could switch places with you.

This interactive feature is great!

I know. I wouldn't normally talk to strangers, but this sure beats doing nothing. Hey, I like Styrofoam too...

A Java application acting as the server listens for new remote Applet connections over the Internet and creates new threads as connections are established. The threads communicate with the remote Applets via socket connections. They act as liaisons between the remote Applets and the server, ensuring that the information in each Applet is consistent with the current state of the system.