What is the SIPB?

The **Student Information Processing Board** (pronounced 'Sip'-bē', occasionally written as 'ΣΠΒ') is a student organization that supports computing at MIT. Our members range from casual users to hard-core hackers; what we share is a desire to help other students and members of the MIT community with their computing needs.

How can I contact the SIPB?

The SIPB office is on the fifth floor of the Student Center, next to the Athena cluster. We are in **W20-557**, the office with the big sign on the door saying "We are not Athena". (People get confused frequently enough that we need to emphasize that we're a student group, not part of MIT Information Systems.) You can also contact us by sending email to `sipb@mit.edu`, or by calling **253-7788**. We're staffed completely by volunteers, many of whom are students. This means we're open almost any time of the day, including 4 A.M. However, we don't have set hours of operation like most organizations do.

What does the SIPB offer?

The SIPB supports a wide range of computing interests. We answer questions over the phone, on-line, and in person; provide certain resources (such as documentation and access to unusual hardware) to the MIT community; and support hardware and software that "falls between the cracks" of the other support mechanisms at MIT.

We provide support for Athena, MIT's distributed computing environment, make available additional software and hardware (such as a digital scanner, various tape drives, and a Macintosh on MITnet). We also provide support for both Linux and NetBSD, which allow many students living on campus or in an FSILG to use Athena software on their personal computers. We also provide many services to MITnet and the Internet, including a news server (news.mit.edu), web server (`http://www.mit.edu/`), and an Internet FAQ Archive ftp/mail server (rtfm.mit.edu).

Who can join the SIPB?

Anyone who is interested in what we do can become a prospective member of the SIPB. You do not have to know a lot about computers, and you don't have to be a computer science major. You **do** need the desire to learn and help other users. Our meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 P.M. in our office (W20-557) and are open to the public.

If you would like to answer questions on the phone or in person, write documentation or programs, or are interested in learning more about SIPB in general, come by our office or take a look at our web page: `http://www.mit.edu/sipb/`