

Next Meeting:

John Patrick Prophecies

on:



the Future of

the Internet

President's File



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

Bah humbug... Ok now that I've gotten that out of the way let's get down to business. Seeing as the holidays are only moments away, I thought I'd recommend a few computer-related gifts for the "geek" in your life.

Software

F-Secure Internet Security 2006 – FSIS 2006 is the Leatherman Tool of internet security applications. FSIS includes everything you need: anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-spam, a personal firewall and parental controls in a single user friendly product.

Contact: F-Secure Inc.
100 Century Center Court, Suite 700
San Jose, CA 95112
Tel. (888) 432-8233
E-mail: Info@f-secure.com
Web: www.f-secure.com

Price: \$59.90 for a single user or \$119.90 for a 3 user family pack.

Webroot SpySweeper 4.5 – Spyware is probably the fastest growing problem facing Windows users. I've tried just about every legitimate anti-spyware application available. SpySweeper is the one I bought and use. Personally I think it's the best anti-spyware application available today.

Contact: Webroot Software, Inc.
P.O. Box 19816
Boulder, CO 80308
Tel. (866) 612-4227
Web: www.webroot.com

Price: \$29.95 for a 1 year subscription or \$39.95 for a 2-year subscription.

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Acronis True Image 9 – Backing up your computer used to be a lengthy process. Not anymore... With True Image 9 and an external USB or Firewire hard drive you can backup or restore your computer in minutes.

Contact: Acronis, Inc.
13800 Coppermine Road
Suite 231
Herndon, VA 20171
Web: www.acronis.com

Price: \$49.95 Download or \$59.95 on CD.

[DACS members should contact Linda and Gene Barlow @ www.ugr.com for special user group pricing on True Image.]

Hardware

Seagate Pocket Hard Drive – If you've used a USB flash drive you know what a great convenience they are. The only problem I have with them is their limited capacity. If you need to move several large files, you can quickly exceed the capacity of a flash drive. That's where the Seagate Pocket Hard Drive comes in... With a 5GB capacity it's big enough for most jobs and at around \$90 it's cheaper than most 2GB USB Flash drives.

Contact: Seagate Technology
920 Disc Drive
Scotts Valley, California 95066
Tel. (877) 271-3285
Web: www.seagate.com

Price: \$99.99 (TigerDirect.com)

LaCie d2 External Hard Drive Extreme – External hard drives are the easiest and quickest way I've found for extra storage or to backup your computer. I've tried several different brands, and the LaCie d2 Extreme is the best I've found. The d2 Extreme is available in capacities ranging from 160GB to 500GB and sports USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and FireWire 800 ports for easy connection to both PCs and Macs.

Contact: LaCie USA
22985 NW Evergreen Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124
Tel. (503) 844 4500
E-mail: sales@lacie.com
Web: www.lacie.com

Price: \$179.00 to \$549.00, depending on capacity.

Logitech MX-1000 Laser Mouse – I never liked cordless mice; they just didn't seem to work as well as their corded cousins. Logitech has changed my opinion of cordless mice, though. Not only does the

PRESIDENT'S FILE, Continued on page 4

Membership Information

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Applications & Hardware to enhance *dacs.doc* are welcome.



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HelpLine

Volunteers have offered to field member questions by phone. Please limit calls to the hours indicated below. Days means 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; evening means 6 to 9:30 p.m. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are calling. HelpLine is a free service. If you are asked to pay for help or are solicited for sales, please contact the dacs.doc editor; the person requesting payment will be deleted from the listing. Can we add your name to the volunteer listing?

d = day e = evening

Program	Name	Phone #	
Alpha Four	Dick Gingras	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(e)
C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	(d e)
Clipper	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	(e)
Dbase/DOS	Alan Boba	(203) 264-1753	(e)
DOS	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
Electronics	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Focus	Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	(e)
Hardware	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
Interface-Instrumentation	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Microsoft Access	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	(e)
Newdeal	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
Paradox	Alan Boba	(203) 264-1753	(e)
PhotoShop/Dreamweaver	Anna Collens	(203) 746-5922	(e)
Statistics/Data Analysis	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(d e)
SQL Server	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)
Viruses	Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	(d)
Visual Basic	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)
HTML/Java	James Costello	(203) 426-0097	(e)
Windows	Nick Strother	(203) 743-5667	(e)

Directors' Notes

A regular meeting of your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, November 7, 2005. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Berger, Cohen, Corzo, Gallichotte, Preston, Scheef, and Setaro. Also present were Larry Buoy and Lisa Leifels. President Jeff Setaro presided and Secretary Lisa Leifels kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held on October 10, 2005 were approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$13,197.61, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$13,057.03, plus postage on hand of \$140.58. Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$5,170.00 left a net equity of \$8,027.61. He also reported that the current membership is 343.

In the absence of Jamie Yates, there was only a brief discussion of upcoming programs. John Patrick will be talking about the future of the internet at the December General Meeting. Jim Scheef said he would plan on speaking at the January meeting on Open Office.

Howie Berger contacted the Danbury News-Times and the Citizen News, and they are both willing to publish a press release for DACS. Howie said he needs someone to send him a press release describing who will be speaking at the next meeting and what they will be talking about. Jeff suggested that Howie ask Jamie Yates to send him the press release for the next meeting. Howie also said that the Citizen News, which is distributed in Sherman and New Fairfield, would like to include a photo with the press release. Jeff suggested that Howie get a photo of John Patrick from John's website at PatrickWeb.com.

Larry Buoy reviewed the changes that he recommended be made to the DACS Bylaws, so that they comply with the state statutes. Jeff asked for Larry to distribute an updated version of the bylaws to the board members for further review. Jeff thought that it was too late to revise the bylaws at the annual meeting, but he would like to do so at the April General Meeting.

Howie Berger said that Charter Communications would approve of John Gallichotte videotaping the general meeting, since he is an intern at Charter. John Gallichotte said he was willing to videotape one of the upcoming General Meetings.

Jeff Setaro offered the names of Howard Berger, Marc Cohen, Anna Collens, Bruce Preston, Jeff Setaro and Jim Scheef as incumbent directors for re-election.

DIRECTORS' NOTES, *Continued on page 5*

MX-1000 work better than most of its corded cousins, it's without a doubt the best mouse I've ever used.

Contact: Logitech Inc.
6505 Kaiser Drive
Fremont, CA 94555
Tel. (800) 231-7717
Web: www.logitech.com
Price: \$79.95

Distractions

Battlestar Galactica, Season One – The original BSG was one of my favorite television shows as a kid... I never missed an episode; not that there were that many episodes... The original Galactica only ran one season.

Fans of the show have been lobbying for a revival of the show for years... After several failed attempts, they finally got their wish in 2003 when the SciFi channel hired producers Ron Moore and David Eick to revive Galactica... Ron and David did more than just revive the old show, they reimagined it. The new Galactica, which stars Edward James Almos and Mary McDonnell, is a modern character-driven drama in a science fiction wrapper.

I liked the old BSG, but I love the new one. Personally, I think it's one of the best shows on television today.

You can order the five disc season one box set from Amazon for \$41.99. It includes the 3 hour pilot mini-series, all 10 season one episodes, deleted scenes and commentary tracks from Ron Moore and/or David Eick. A three disc set featuring the first 10 episodes of season two will be available on December 20th.

BSG airs Friday nights @ 10:00 p.m. on The SciFi Channel. See www.scifi.com/battlestar/ for episode details.

Toys for the easily amused

Last, but not least, stop by www.thinkgeek.com... They've got everything from Star Wars light sabers and caffeinated soap to PC upgrades. Odds are you'll find something there that will keep your "geek" amused for hours.

That's it for this month... Your comments & questions are always welcome. You can reach me at jasetaro@mags.net or jasetaro@yahoo.com.

Happy Holidays;

—JEFF SETARO

Meeting Preview

The Future of the Internet

By Jamie Yates

AT OUR TUESDAY, December 6, General Meeting, DACS is happy to welcome back John Patrick for what has become his annual appearance. John is a well renowned globe-traveling speaker, who provides his audiences with an eloquent, informative and enjoyable presentation on where the Internet is going.

As President of Attitude LLC and former Vice President, Internet Technology, IBM Corporation, John is certainly an expert in his field. Because of his extensive world-wide travels, he is able to present a global perspective on the World Wide Web.

John is also the author of *Net Attitude* and one of the leading Internet visionaries, and believes the rapid evolution of the Web is about to make today's Internet seem primitive. His presentation and technology demonstrations will bring to life a vision of the technological and societal changes underway, with examples of how businesses and institutions of all kinds can use the Internet to become *on demand*. John will provide an exciting vision about the power and the potential of the Internet and how the Internet will provide significant advances in order to meet the increasing expectations of an on demand world. He will discuss the key opportunities that are just beginning to surface, and the potential limitations that may stand in the way. More importantly, he will offer a visionary glimpse of the future beyond the Internet as we know it.

The Internet now touches everyone's life in some way or another, and with all the new gadgets becoming available that allow Internet access from anywhere you happen to be to get anything you want, each of us needs to understand as much as we can about the Internet's future.

You will also have ample opportunity to get your questions answered about many facets of what's happening

with the Internet and what new technologies will be able to provide for you.

This is a must see presentation for all members and guests, and will put into perspective the inner workings of the Internet and how it will effect our daily lives now and in the future. As more and more existing activities go online and become commonplace, this evolving medium will spawn even newer, undreamed of, capabilities for the future.

This is a meeting all members should attend, and if you have a friend, family member, neighbor, or fellow worker who wants a better understanding of what the Internet is all about drag them to this free meeting.

DACS meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. Activities begin at 7 p.m. with casual networking and Random Access. There is a business session at 7:30, followed by a short break and the evening presentation at 8:00.

JAMIE is DACS program director, and a prolific volunteer in the area community



DACS Elections are coming in December



Be a candidate for the Board

Contact Jeff Setaro at dacsprez@dacs.org, and say "I want to make a difference for DACS."

Meeting Review

Fulfilling your burning desire

By Jamie Yates

THE SUDDEN EXPANSION of new types of media storage, like iPod, combined with the growing clutter of old media LPs and tapes, has led many music mavens to look for ways to convert their analog collections to a digital format.

At our November General Meeting our own Bruce Preston, showed how to turn your golden oldies into digital CDs or iPod archives, and to banish those pesky pops, clicks and hissing sounds in the process. His presentation certainly *sounded* great.

Bruce brought with him a set of equipment and software, so that he could not only talk about the subject but also give a number of different demonstrations to show what can be done with today's tools such as Voyetra's *AudioSurgeon*, which can be had for a *song* (and a \$30 download).

With the current crop of portable digital players in the marketplace, being able to carry around and access all the different content you possess in one library or on one portable device has been a holy grail for a number of years. Now you can do it and *hear* the results.

Converting to digital is not the only objective. Bruce showed how with the tools available you can improve or reorganize your media library easily once in digital format. He did such things as removing pops and hisses from old recordings to improve their sound quality, assembling a playlist and then burning a CD that will work in your stereo system, computer, car, or walkman. Bruce showed how these tasks can be accomplished by even the most non technical of users. If you are very lucky (happen to own one) you can store your selections on an MP3 device such as an Apple iPod. It certainly allows you to *play* around.

All the above is easier and more convenient than carrying around a stack of LPs and 45s in your pocket along with a phonograph (this device used to be popular many years ago) on your back. It *scales* down the effort to something manageable.

Based on all of Bruce's presentations I sometimes wonder if there is room enough in his house for both his family and all the different gadgets he possesses. Is there something Bruce does not own?

Thanks Bruce!

[You can download AudioSurgeon from www.voyetra.com]

JAMIE is DACS program director, and a prolific volunteer in the area community



"A one . . . an' a zero . . . an' a . . ."

Directors' Notes, Continued from page 3

tion at the Annual Meeting to be held in December 2005. Marc Cohen and Anna Collens have made the decision not to run for another term. Anna said that she didn't have the time to attend the board meetings. Marc, who was one of the original founding members of DACS, said that he will continue to come to the meetings; therefore we may not be losing all of his valuable years of experience after all. Sean Henderson and Lisa Leifels were mentioned as possible replacement candidates.

Howie Berger inquired if anyone thought it was a good idea if once a year at the annual meeting we acknowledged the contributions made by one or two of our members. He thought we should talk about this further at the next meeting.

—LISA LEIFELS

Be Informed by E-mail

Members who wish to receive DACS email messages who have not received an email notice for the December General Meeting should send a request to be put on the DACS email list to *treasurer@dacs.org*.



"The meeting has been delayed. The president appears to be losing today's game of *Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance*."

Tips and Tricks

Windows Recovery or Restore Disks: Problems and Alternatives

By Vic Laurie,

ONCE UPON A TIME you received a copy of a full Windows installation disk when you bought a computer. This allowed you to reinstall individual system files or Windows components if anything went wrong. But no longer. These days the best you can hope for from many vendors is a so-called “recovery” or “restore” disk”. And many major vendors do not even provide that much. Instead they put stuff on a hidden partition on the hard drive. This is all the backup that you get, and if the hard drive crashes, the hidden partition goes too. Then you have no way of reinstalling Windows on a replacement hard drive without getting a disk from the original PC vendor. From what I read on the Web, this last process can take some time and effort, if you succeed at all. If you are out of the warrantee period, you may be completely out of luck.

Some vendors may provide a Windows disk when you buy a PC if they are prodded hard enough. However, there may be some kind of “handling and shipping” fee. Note that, if you do finally get a disk, it will probably be an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) version and may lack some features of a full-fledged version. Also OEM versions of Windows are often not eligible for upgrades.

The failure to provide an actual Windows installation disk with new computers is convenient for Microsoft and the computer vendors but can be a real problem for the PC user. There are many problems that can be fixed by copying a single system file or reinstalling small portions of the Windows operating system. Without an installation disk, PC users need to have some other source for these files. If you put a recovery disk into your CD drive, it will want to reformat your hard drive and reinstall an image of your computer that is a replica of the way your system was on the day you bought it. Any changes that you have made will be wiped out. All those programs you installed, all those Microsoft patches, XP SP2, all of it will be gone. The same thing applies

when you restore from one of those hidden partitions.

Therefore, an alternative is needed. At the very least, a source of files for adding and removing Windows components and restoring corrupted files should be available. Sometimes the vendor will have put the Windows installation files in the root of your hard drive or in the Windows folder. In Windows XP look for a folder named “I386” (without the quotes). If you do have one of these folders, burn a copy to a CD for backup. This CD will not have all the functions of an installation CD since it will not auto-run nor will it boot. However, reinstallation can be initiated by clicking the file Winnt32.exe (assuming that you can get your system to boot). If you have a FAT32 disk and can use DOS, Winnt.exe is the appropriate file to access from a DOS boot disk.

A problem is that you will have a disk that lacks any of the multitudes of patches and updates that will have come out since you bought your computer. Therefore, you need to “slipstream” with the XP SP2 update. Slipstreaming is a way of merging updates with the original files so that everything is updated. This is not a quick job but it is worth doing. An excellent detailed step-

by-step procedure is given at the Elder Geek site. If you can borrow a Windows XP installation disk (almost any version will do) you can extract the image that is needed to make the CD bootable and add that to the disk. Details for using common CD burning software to do all this is given at the reference cited above.

One more problem can be getting the Windows XP product key for your system. It may be pasted or written somewhere in the documentation that came with your computer. Be sure to make a permanent record of it. If you cannot find the product key, there are several free applications that will retrieve it from your system. One is ViewKeyXp and is available here. Another is Keyfinder, which is available here. Also, system information applications like Belarc Adviser can reveal the key.

At the end, you will still have something that provides backup only for the Windows operating system. Since I want to be able to restore everything, including software that I have installed, I prefer to spend a few dollars and use disk imaging software. It makes keeping up-to-date backups on CDs or other external media very easy. Norton Ghost, BootIt Next Generation or Acronis True Image are all reasonable choices.

VIC LAURIE is a member of Princeton PCUG, New Jersey. He can be found at victor@vlaur.com

This article was provided by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.



Do the DACS General Meetings leave you thirsting for more? Find out all that plus food for thought at the meeting after the meeting—the DACS PIC SIG.

Tips and Tricks

Speedup Your Computer – Clean Your “Startup”

By Ira Wilsker

WEBSITES:

<http://www.sysinfo.org>

<http://www.safer-networking.org>

<http://www.answersthatwork.com>

I RECENTLY RECEIVED several questions on my weekly radio show (KLVI 560AM, Saturdays 1-3pm) and my TV show (KEBQ-TV22, cable 99, Saturdays 4-5pm) about computers that were slow to boot, and had obvious performance degradation. While there are many causes of this inadequate performance, such as a fragmented hard drive, and other problems, one of the most common causes of slow booting and poor performance is having too many programs automatically load when the computer is booting.

Fortunately, there are several good solutions and resources that can speed the boot problem and improve performance. The manual solution, available on most but not all versions of Windows from Windows 98 to XP is to utilize the integrated command MSCONFIG. If available, MSCONFIG can be accessed by clicking on START – RUN and then typing “MSCONFIG” (no quotes, and it is not case sensitive) in the box, and then click on “OK”. A window will open showing several tabs, one of which will be labeled “Start” or “Startup”. This will typically be a white window with black print, showing a checkbox followed by a program name or path. Boxes that are checked indicate a program that will load when the computer is booted. Unfortunately, as the computer is used, and more software is installed, many programs like to have themselves unnecessarily load at boot time, and many viruses and Trojans also utilize this method to load each time the computer is turned on.

While there are countless thousands of legitimate and illicit Windows programs which want to load at boot, there are several resources, some of them free, which can identify programs as necessary or unnecessary at boot. Once identified, unchecking the appropriate box on the MSCONFIG – STARTUP list may stop that program from loading. An excellent and fairly up-to-date website which lists

most of the items that may show up in the startup box, is Paul Collins (a.k.a. “Pacman”) startup list available at www.sysinfo.org. The user of this website can enter either a program name from the startup list (without the path; c:\directory\program.exe would only use “program.exe”). Once the item is found on the web list, it is clearly described, and labeled as: “Y” – Necessary, leave it alone; “N” – not required and could be started manually if needed; “U” – Users’ choice; “X” – Definitely not required, a resource hog, virus, spyware, or other item that should not be loaded at boot; “?” – Unknown, not listed. If the file listed adjacent to the checkbox is listed as a “Y”, leave it checked, and if listed as “X”, then uncheck the box. Items marked as “N” should be unchecked, unless they are frequently used shortly after the computer is booted.

Many users are not comfortable performing such tasks manually, but there are several utilities available that contain a startup manager to ease the process of deciding what to allow to run, and what to stop. One free utility that actually is intended for another function, but contains an easy to use startup manager is the popular anti-spyware product Spybot Search and Destroy (www.safer-networking.org). Since many spyware products install themselves in the startup list, Spybot allows the user to control those malware programs as well as all other startup programs at boot. Download the Spybot, install and update it, and then open it. Click on “Mode” on the menu bar, and select “Advanced”. On the left side of the window will be a choice of utilities. Go to “Tools” and click on “System Startup.” This will load a list of programs loaded at boot, along with their corresponding checkboxes. The right edge of the window has a narrow gray bar with two triangular arrows, one right (close) and one left (open); click on this bar and the data from Paul Collins’ startup list (mentioned

above) will be shown as each listed item is clicked on. Necessary items are highlighted in green, and users’ choice items are highlighted yellow. Dangerous and unnecessary items are highlighted in red, and white items are unknown to “Pacman”. Unwanted items can have their corresponding “check” removed by clicking on the checkbox; this will stop the item from loading at boot. Items can also be deleted using the red “X” at the top of the window. When Spybot is exited, the changes to the startup will be saved, and should not load at the next boot.

A reasonably priced (\$20) commercial program that offers greater power and flexibility to control what loads when the computer boots is a British program “The Ultimate Trouble Shooter” available at www.answersthatwork.com. Open the program and click “Startups”. Initially, startup programs will be labeled in the traditional red (remove), yellow (personal choice), green (leave it alone), and white (not listed). Upon clicking on any startup item a detailed description is displayed on the bottom half of the window. Unchecking a box will stop the item from loading at the next boot.

There are several other utilities that contain startup managers, and most will do a satisfactory job. By cleaning the files that load at boot, the computer will boot faster, have fewer software conflicts, run faster, shutdown faster, and increase your computing satisfaction.

IRA WILSKER, is an APCUG Director; Columnist, *The Examiner*, Beaumont, TX; radio & TV show host. iwilsker@apcug.net

This article is provided by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.

Are you up to your nose with computer questions? DACS Special Interest Groups may have the answers. If not, let us know, and we'll try to create a new SIG that helps fulfill your special needs.



Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: December 2005

Access. Designs and implements solutions using Microsoft Access, and with SQL Server as a back-end to the database program.
Contact: Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920 (*bpreston@mags.net*).
Meets on 2nd Tuesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: Dec 13

Advanced Operating Systems. Explores OS/2, Linux, and NT operating systems. For info, follow link to Don's site on *dacs.org*.
Contact: Bill Keane (*wbk@mags.net*) 203-438-8032.
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: Dec 14

dotNET. Programs for Web site/server.
Contact: Chuck Fizer (*cfizer@snet.net*).
Meets 1st Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 7

Excel/Math. Review of mathematics with emphasis on programming spreadsheets for business applications.
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Meets on 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: Dec 15

Digital Imaging. All about digital cameras, retouching and printing.
Contact: Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 (*graffic@bigfoot.com*).
Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 28

Investment Strategies. Discusses various investment strategies to maximize profits and limit risk.
Contact: Paul Gehrett, 203 426-8436, (*pgehr4402@aol.com*).
Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Edmond Town Hall, Newtown.
Next Meeting: Dec 15

Jobs. Networking and discussion of the jobs search environment.
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Meets on 3rd Friday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: TBA

Linux. Provides Help in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.
Contact: Bill Keane (*wbk@mags.net*) 203-438-8032
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 21

Macintosh. Focuses on all aspects of the Mac operating system.
Contact: Richard Corzo (*macsig@dacs.org*)
Meets 1st Thursday at DACS Resource Center at 7 p.m.
Next Meeting: Dec 1

Microcontroller. Investigates microcontroller applications from theory to hands-on implementation and member projects.
Contact: John Gallichotte, 203 426-0394, (*tlclotus@ieee.org*).
Meets on 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: In hiatus until further notice.

Open Source Web Programming. Focuses on open source tools for Windows and Linux.
Contact: John Lansdale, 914-533-2002.
Meets on 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 9

PC Maintenance. Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Meets on 4th Thursday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: Dec 22

Server. Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook.
Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@telemarksys.com*)
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: Dec 8

Visual Basic. Develops Windows apps with Visual Basic.
Contact: Chuck Fizer, 203 798-9996 (*cfizer@snet.net*) or Jim Scheef, 860 355-8001 (*JScheef@Telemarksys.com*).
Meets 1st Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 7

Wall Street. Examines Windows stock Market software.
Contact: Phil Dilloway, 203 367-1202 (*dilloway@ntplx.net*).
Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 26

Web Design. Applications for designing and creating Web sites.
Contact: Anna Collens, 203-746-5922 (*acvo@annagraphics.com*).
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Dec 20

SIG News & Events

dotNET. Our session began with some real excitement when we were drawn to a new laptop machine proudly set up by Jim Scheef. Not only does it have tremendous eye appeal, but it also has a 64-bit processing chip inside from AMD. Acer has certainly taken a lead role in a fast-moving technology. With Microsoft XP Professional on it, great things can be done.

Claude managed to edge into this lively scene with a topic of enduring concern: making sense with code. The gist of this discussion was to explore some possibilities for logical analysis in the coding process for C#. Two aspects of communication with machines were considered, an aspect seen in a deliberative mode and an aspect seen in an intuitive mode. In a spirited discussion with an audience of widely experienced gurus, many examples of tools and techniques came into view.

Greg Austin affirmed that his coding process was intuitive and offered to present an example of a prior project. Greg's application was designed and implemented for a workgroup in a LAN in

his place of work. A key feature of this application is to control at the server his dynamic link libraries for contacts and photos. Each client machine uses the same DLL in the server machine, so that changes and updates can be done in one place rather in each client machine. Information resources at several client desks were consolidated in an automated database in the server. This application used a coding technique of reflection to achieve economy of concept and operation.

Not too reluctantly we paused for pizza. The sausage as a topping tasted better than ever. This taste delight prompted many reminiscences of those good old days in Chicago, where Jim Scheef had yet to discover pepperoni and happily savored superb sausage where it doesn't get any better.

Afterward, Greg continued his demonstration and highlighted some of his uses of patterns in design of code. With a sentry pattern, he has an escape from code where a null occurs. He

SIG Notes, Continued on page 12

December 2005

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<p>11</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Board of Directors</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Access Bruce Preston 203 431-2920</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Advanced OS Bill Keane 203 438-8032</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 PM Math Charles Bovaird 203 792-7881</p> <p>7:30 PM Investment Paul Gehrett 203 426-8436</p>	<p>16</p>	 <p>DACS.DOC Deadline</p>																																																																																				
<p>18</p>	 <p>Open source Web Program. 7:00 PM John Lansdale 914-533-2002</p>	 <p>Web Design Anna Collens 203 746-5922</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Linux Bill Keane 203 438-8032</p>	 <p>7:00 PM PC Maintenance Charles Bovaird 203 792-7881</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>																																																																																				
	 <p>7:00 PM WALL STREET Phil Dilloway 203 367-1202</p>	<p>27</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Digital Imaging Ken Graff 203 775-6667</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>																																																																																					

Circuit Rider

Version 3.7

By Jim Scheef

DOWNLOAD YOUR music—it's safer than buying CDs!

Unless you've been hiking in the wilderness for the last two weeks, you heard about Sony BMG's plan to infect your computer with "root kit" software intended to hide digital rights management (DRM) software that limits how you use the music on that the new Neal Diamond album you just bought. At first, Sony BMG (the music publishing part of Sony) denied that they used anything like the "malware" you work so hard to avoid; but when other malicious code was released that exploited the Sony code to hide its files too, the record company was forced to acknowledge what they had done and try to correct the problem. The result is a recall of possibly millions of CDs sold over the last few weeks. You can read Sony's apology and find information about how to identify problem CDs, the program to exchange those CDs, and how to remove the bad code from your computer on www.sonybmg.com.

Now, can you imagine being the executive who approved this plan? Or, even worse, how about the poor IT guy who told that executive, "Oh, yea, this will work. No one will ever find this stuff and defeat it." Fortunately for us, one of the first people to find the "root kit" was Mark Russinovich of Winternals, Inc., a company that makes tools that get you out of bad trouble when Windows servers crash. He also has a site called *SysInternals.com* that offers free software. He was testing one of those programs (RootkitRevealer, which does what the name implies), when he discovered the Sony malware. (Ok, he wasn't the first to find the Sony malware, but was the first to publicly announce it.) Make no mistake, this is malware. It hides files at the lowest level of the operating system and then uses the hidden files to

monitor your use of the music on the protected CDs and phone home to Sony.

There is another unintended (and so far unreported) angle to this story. Technically, Mark Russinovich violated the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) when he found the Sony code.

He was debugging a new version of RootkitRevealer, and had to reverse engineer the Sony root kit code to determine what it did and how to defeat it. When he started, the Sony copy protection software was just another splotch of evil code that did not belong on the computer. It was not until he disassembled it that its origin and purpose became clear. It is against the law to dis-

assemble or reverse engineer any software intended to protect copyrighted material. Now I ask you, should Mark go to jail? The DMCA needs to be repealed. Call your Congresspeople and next year don't vote for them if they continue to support this gift to the music and movie industries.

A challenge

Can you stop using Internet Explorer? I did. Well, almost; every once in a while I still need to open something in IE. After a lot of trials and a few false starts, I finally made Firefox 1.0.7 my default browser. Along the way, I've found enough cool stuff to make a general meeting presentation. Initially I did not like Firefox by itself enough to make the switch—there were too many IE features and add-ins that I missed. However, once I discovered the Mozilla Extensions web page (<https://addons.mozilla.org/extensions/>) I found little tools that fixed all of my complaints and even made life a little easier. One of these extensions is called PlainOldFavorites. This cool 22K download puts your IE Favorites on the Firefox menu bar, so they work just like in IE. No more synchronizing your Firefox Book-

marks and IE Favorites! This, plus the Firefox versions of the Yahoo and RoboForms toolbars, and I was hooked. I now have more than fifteen extensions loaded.

Along the way, I found that there is more to this than just telling Firefox to be your default browser. I also went into the Tools menu of Windows Explorer (note the name—not IE) and opened Folder Options. Click the File Types tab and scroll down to the HTM and HTML file extensions. Now click the Change button, browse to `firefox.exe` (wherever you have it installed) and click OK all the way out. If you did this right, all of your IE shortcuts will change the Firefox logo, as Firefox is now the default program for that type of file. Double clicking what used to be an IE shortcut on your desktop now opens that web site in Firefox. Cool, eh?

Call your Congresspeople

By the time you read this, the renewal of the USA Patriot Act will probably be a fait accompli. But if it's not, please call your congresspeople (all of them) and ask how they have voted on the Patriot Act Renewal. Tell them that your civil liberties are important and that you are ashamed that they voted for the act as it was (both of our Senators did) and that you expect them to protect your civil liberties. Remember when this was first passed? The Justice Department and the FBI said the library records search provision would "hardly ever be used". Well they have used it more than 30 thousand times since then. I find it hard to believe that all of those instances were "exceptional cases" of national security.

JIM SCHEEF is former president of DACS and a computer consultant.

Smart advertisers
reach over
500
active computer
users and
software buyers
by taking
advantage of
the attractive
advertising rates
in
DACS.DOC



What is CALEA and Will It Affect My Life?

By John Brewer

IN 1994, CONGRESS passed a law known as the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The purpose of CALEA is to define the existing statutory obligation of telecommunications carriers to assist law enforcement in executing electronic surveillance pursuant to court order or other lawful authorization and requires carriers to design or modify their systems to ensure that lawfully-authorized electronic surveillance can be performed. That is a mouthful

In simple terms, the focus is electronic surveillance of telephone calls. A bit of history preceding the enactment of CALEA is helpful.

Electronic surveillance consists of either the interception of call content (commonly referred to as wiretaps) and/or the interception of call-identifying information (commonly referred to as dialed-number extraction) through the use of pen registers and/or trap and trace devices. Lawfully-authorized electronic surveillance is considered to be an invaluable tool for law enforcement in its fight against crime and terrorism.

In 1968, Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, which laid out the meticulous procedures law enforcement must follow to obtain the necessary judicial authorization to conduct electronic surveillance. The law was enacted after Congress debated issues concerning law enforcement's need to effectively address serious criminal activity and an individual's right to privacy.

In 1970, Congress amended the federal wiretap statute to make clear the duty of service providers and others to provide law enforcement with the technical and other assistance necessary to accomplish the intercept.

In 1978, Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to safeguard national security by authorizing select government agencies to conduct electronic surveillance of a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power for the purpose of obtaining foreign intelligence information.

In 1986, as a result of developments in telecommunications and computer technologies, Congress enacted the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which amended the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act by broadening its

coverage to include electronic communications (including email, data transmissions, faxes, and pagers).

The provisions of Title III of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, as amended, continue to govern the U.S. procedures for obtaining legal authority for initiating and conducting lawful interceptions of wire, oral, and electronic communications.

CALEA seeks to expand the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to perform electronic surveillance and stay current with changes in technology. The issue that has become a current controversy is the cost of compliance by the private sector. A term that is attached to this sort of compliance issue is "unfunded mandate."

A recent article in the New York Times addresses CALEA and the cost of compliance. "The federal government, vastly extending the reach of an 11-year-old law, is requiring hundreds of universities, online communications companies and cities to overhaul their Internet computer networks to make it easier for law enforcement authorities to monitor e-mail and other online communications. The action, which the government says is intended to help catch terrorists and other criminals, has unleashed protests and the threat of lawsuits from uni-

versities, which argue that it will cost them at least \$7 billion while doing little to apprehend lawbreakers. The order, issued by the Federal Communications Commission in August and first published in the Federal Register last week, extends the provisions of a 1994 wiretap law not only to universities, but also to libraries, airports providing wireless service and commercial Internet access providers. It also applies to municipalities that provide Internet access to residents, be they rural towns or cities like Philadelphia and San Francisco, which have plans to build their own Net access networks."

The technology that has created the sudden brouhaha is the ability to make telephone calls over the Internet. Internet traffic is sent in packets of data and they do not necessarily follow each other in a constant stream of traffic. In fact, they are often sent through different Internet routes and assembled at the receiving end.

According to the New York Times article, "technology experts retained by the schools estimated that it could cost universities at least \$7 billion just to buy the Internet switches and routers necessary for compliance. That figure does not include installation or the costs of hiring and training staff to oversee the sophisticated circuitry around the clock, as the law requires, the experts said." Terry Hartle, a senior vice-president of the American Council on Education is quoted as stating, "This is the mother of all unfunded mandates. Even the lowest estimates of compliance costs would, on average, increase annual tuition at most American universities by some \$450, at a time when rising education costs are already a sore point with parents and members of Congress."

On October 25, 2005, a coalition of public interest and business groups asked the federal appeals court for the District of Columbia to overturn the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling requiring that broadband Internet and interconnected voice-over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services be designed to make government wiretapping easier.

In the ruling finalized on October 13, the FCC ordered distributors of broadband and certain VOIP services to comply with the CALEA. CALEA requires telephone companies to design their systems to ensure a baseline level of government wiretapping capability. Some experts opine that when Congress passed CALEA in 1994 it specifically exempted the Internet from its reach.

The civil liberties, privacy and high-tech industry advocates opposing the FCC rul-



ing warn that it extends the wiretapping rules to technologies it was never intended to cover, imposes a burdensome government mandate on innovators and threatens the privacy rights of individuals who use the Internet and other new communications technologies.

The appeal was filed by a number of parties that include the Center for Democracy and Technology, COMPTTEL, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, Pulver.com and Sun Microsystems.

The merger of the voice telephone system and the Internet has created new challenges that are yet to be resolved.

John Brewer practices law in Oklahoma City, is a member of the Governor's and Legislative Task Force for E-Commerce, and enjoys issues relating to eBusiness and cyberspace. Comments and questions are welcome and can be emailed to johnb@jnbrewer.com.

In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. The article may contain sources for content as attributed within the article.

The above article appeared in the Computer Club of Oklahoma City eMonitor, November 2005. It was provided by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.

New Members

10-20-2005 to 11-24-2005

Lary Grossr

**THIS IS YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER**

If the membership date on
your mailing label reads

**EXP 9/2005
or earlier**

You need to renew your
DACS membership

NOW

SIG Notes, Continued from page 8

also showed how to change displays by changing a plug-in control of properties to appear in drop-down combo boxes.

Another cool tactic he showed us was his use of Dreamweaver to construct HTML code and test it with sample displays. Then this code can be put into an SQL table in a memo field to be drawn out for use in a C# application.

Finally, a tip passed to us was to take notice of a good editor from <http://www.fckeditor.net/>. Greg has used it to advantage in his coding process. With so many good insights and precepts we were ready to sally forth.

PC Maintenance . The motivation for the October PC Maintenance SIG meeting came from a recent experience removing some virus' from a friends machine. It had been operated for six months using a dial up connection without virus, ad-ware, or firewall protection. The PC was acting sluggish. Occasionally, a window would have a blinking blue highlight and the machine would freeze, forcing the user to restart the machine.

Attempts to install ad-aware were frustrating, and after a few hours the machine was moved to a workbench. The next step required stopping all programs on this XP machine at startup using start, run, msconfig and selecting diagnostic mode on the general tab. After a restart, we checked the startup tab and determined all listed startup programs were unchecked except one invoking *se.dll*. Of course, this looked suspicious. Calling our virus guru, it was suggested that XP recovery should be turned off so that previous settings would not be restored upon restart. This procedure allowed running the machine with all startup items unchecked.

The following free software was now successfully installed from trusted Internet sites: ZoneAlarm, Ad-Aware SE, and Spy-bot S&D. A licensed copy of F-Prot for Windows virus program (from www.f-prot.com) was installed.

The downloaded version of Ad-aware, Spy-bot, and F-Prot were run which eliminated a long list of problems. The latest tables were downloaded for Ad-aware, Spy-bot, and F-Prot. These programs were re-run, picking off a few more problems.

Running the default setup of F-Prot identified a virus called Netsky, but was unable to remove it. Researching Netsky using Google, we found a downloadable fix at www.F-Secure.com. Executing the downloaded "fix" program corrected the problem, which was verified by a re-run of F-Prot.

With Zonealarm active, it was verified that no open doors existed by running ShieldsUp from www.grc.com.

Further research on *se.dll* (using www.google.com) referenced *w32/Startpage* and *W32/downloader.cuf*. Additional research indicated this was related to CoolWebSearch, a program that redirects search sequences. This was viewed as undesirable since it was installed on the machine without user authorization. In addition, since an easy process to remove it proved difficult, it was viewed as a forced entry onto private property without authorization.

We found a solution - *CWSshredder.exe* - from a trusted site (www.SmartComputing.com) that successfully eliminated it from detection by F-Prot.

We re-ran Ad-aware, Spy-bot, and F-Prot successfully, and then performed a windows update. This machine had never had any Windows updates and the update process took hours.

After turning on XP recovery and restarting the machine, we again validated the machine was virus and "ad ware " clean.

At the October PC Maintenance SIG all these issues were illustrated, reviewed, and discussed. We also discussed some alternative actions such as: (1) Backing up your data and performing disaster recovery (requires experience, knowledge, and patience), (2) Hiring an expert (estimated cost \$300), or (3) Backing up your data and reinstalling it along with all applications on the new machine. The latter may prove to be the most cost effective solution if your current machine is over two years old.

Web Design. Last month's meeting took a look at CSS and how it relates to different media. A web page can be made more user-friendly if it is customized to the end product. Whether it is interpreted by a screen, printer, handhelds or WebTV, a designated style sheet can optimize the page to each item. In the case of printing, CSS can be modified to change the text formatting, as well as hide items not necessary on a printed page such as link bars or images.

A Yahoo news group has been set up for our DACS web design sig. Go to webdesign_dacs-subscribe@yahoo.com. Sign up and let's communicate with each other for help and/or suggestions for the web design SIG meetings.

Next month's meeting will look at PhotoShop and how it can help start a site design. Go to www.annagraphics.com/signsite for more information.

Random Access

November 2005

Jim Scheef, Moderator

WE WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM the floor at the start of our General Meetings. In addition, members who are not able to attend the General Meeting may submit questions to askdacs@dacs.org. We will ask the question for you and post the reply in *DACS.ORG*. Please provide as much information as possible since we can't probe during the session.

Q. (AskDacs) I use Windows 98SE and Outlook Express. For some reason, Outlook Express refuses to remember my password—I have to enter it every time I start it. The check box that says "Remember Password" is greyed out. How do I get it to remember my password?

A. We looked in Google using "site:microsoft.com outlook retain password" and found that this is a known bug in Windows, a registry entry is bad. The way to fix it is outlined in the Microsoft Knowledge Base article <http://support.microsoft.com/?id=290684>.

Q. I have recently purchased a new computer with Windows XP, and would like to move my existing saved e-mail messages, address book, etc. from my old Windows 95 computer. Is there a way to do it?

A. Yes, Microsoft provided a utility in Windows XP called the "File and Settings Transfer Wizard". What you do is run it first on your new machine, and it will prepare a file which you then save on a diskette or CD. You then take it to the old computer (Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000 or XP) and run it. It will seek out and identify your "My Documents" files, mailbox files etc. and put them in a single (and very large) file which you then move to your new machine. You will need to figure out how to move the file—it could be by burning a CD, writing to a flash drive, writing via a shared drive on a server or on the new machine, etc. You then run the File and Settings Transfer Wizard on your NEW machine and point it to the transfer file. It will then import the file and distribute the files to the appropriate locations. Also, important—especially if you are coming from a Windows NT, 2000, or XP machine, it will adjust the ownership permissions for the files so that you may access them. You will find the File

and Settings Transfer Wizard in your START menu at START / PROGRAMS / ACCESSORIES / SYSTEM TOOLS / FILE AND SETTINGS TRANSFER WIZARD

Q. When I open my inbox, I often have a long list of e-mails that I really don't want to read at all. Is there a way to get rid of them all at once rather than clicking on each one individually and then clicking delete?

A. Sure. You can do it using a Windows convention that also works in many other places, such as Windows Explorer for removing files. Do a single click on the first message in the list, thereby highlighting it. Then scroll down to the last message in a contiguous group and shift-click it. All of the messages between the first one you clicked on and the one that you just shift-clicked on will be highlighted. Now click the delete button (or press the delete key on the keyboard) and the collection of messages will be deleted at once. There is also a variation on the method—you may do a control-click on individual messages to add them to the highlighted list. You may also do a control-click to un-highlight an individual message. Thus, suppose you have 10 messages and only want to keep the sixth one. Click on the first, shift-click on the last (thereby highlighting them all) then control-click on the sixth (thereby removing the highlight from just the sixth.) When you have the messages that you want to delete highlighted hit the delete button or key and way they go. One more embellishment—in Windows Explorer, if you are doing this with files—if you hold down the shift key while you press the delete button or key, you will get the confirmation message as usual, but the files will be fully deleted rather than 'moved' to the recycle bin. Use with caution! Some more embellishments—

press control-A and all messages (files) will be selected. You may then un-select with a control-click.

Q. My daughter has a computer with a 3GB hard disk and Windows 2000. The drive is almost full. Can I upgrade it to Windows XP? ?

A. Now let's get practical—you can purchase a new hard drive for about \$1 per gigabyte at most any office superstore, Walmart, Costco, etc. Drives packaged for consumer use come with software and detailed instructions that tell you how to install the drive and 'clone' the old drive onto the new drive so that it becomes your primary (boot) drive. Once you have copied your drive (operating system and data) you remove the old drive, change the cable connections and possibly move a jumper, and you now have lots of room. Lastly, however, you should take into consideration whether you really want to upgrade a machine that is perhaps 5 years old if it has Windows 2000 on it—with the cost of new machines under \$400 for a machine that is considerably more powerful than anything that came with Windows 2000, it is questionable as to whether you should put any money into the old machine—especially if the new machine comes with a copy of Windows XP. If you have the installation CDs for all of your application programs (things such as Office, etc.), you may still install them. You may still run older versions of Office (97, 2000, etc.) on an XP machine. By the way, the DACS Hardware SIG will show you how to do upgrades like this.

Q. Will running 'defrag' give me more space?

A. Defrag doesn't reclaim space. All it does is put all the pieces of files into adjacent portions of the hard disk so that when Windows or an application needs to read the file into memory the hard disk can get at it with a minimum of moving the head around. (The slowest part of reading or writing to the hard disk is positioning the head to the proper location on the disk.) If you had 2 GB of data on the drive before you defrag, you will have 2 GB of data when you end. However, there is a 'disk cleanup' utility which will scour your drive looking for abandoned files—things in the temp folders etc. and remove them. If you

haven't done periodic 'house cleaning,' then that will help some. For example, if in Internet Explorer, go to TOOLS then INTERNET OPTIONS and on the "GENERAL" tab, click DELETE FILES. This will get rid of copies of portions of web pages that are in your browser's cache. Cached files (also known as 'Temporary Internet Files') are typically images of things like buttons, logos, etc. that the browser stores in anticipation of your returning to a page. It is faster for the browser to retrieve files that it has cached than to go out to the the web page to get another copy. Thus, for example, if you frequent eBay, you will find many of the eBay logos and images in the cache. Other browsers are similar—for example, often you will see AOL mention that it is refreshing graphic images or 'art work'. Note that if you haven't done a disk clean up or cleared your cache, it may take 10 minutes or more to clean up the disk. You might want to consider looking at Webroot's Window Washer <http://www.webroot.com/consumer/products/windowwasher> utility, which will do an intelligent clean-up of your machine.

Q. I have a machine whose C: drive is marked "compressed." Is that the same as DoubleSpace?

A. Back in the days when hard drives were expensive, someone invented a technology that compressed all files on a drive (or folder) using the same technology as the ZIP utilities. This could often reduce the space consumed by the file on the drive to less than half its original size—but at the cost of requiring additional processor time to open, read or write the file. The technology was first marketed by Stacker, but Microsoft soon made it an option in Windows called DoubleSpace. In Windows 95 and 98, etc., you could create a 'virtual' volume, i.e. letter "D:" drive which was actually a large file on your real drive "C:" that was managed by DoubleSpace. In Windows NT and later, the whole drive could be compressed. There are some serious drawbacks to compressing the system drive—for one thing, if the file is part of Windows, you take a real performance hit if operating system files are compressed. That the C:

drive on your daughter's computer is compressed means that at some point in time the drive got full and it was compressed to "make more room." If you are looking to upgrade the system, it probably isn't a good idea to work with a compressed drive.

Q. I have a new laptop that does not have a parallel printer port, and my printer requires a parallel printer connection. Is there an adapter available?

A. There are several USB to Parallel adapters—the Belkin and Targus brands come to mind. Just be aware that not all of them support bi-directional data transfer which is required for many or the more sophisticated printers. The adapters cost around \$30 to \$40 dollars. Note that in many cases it might make more sense to retire the old printer and replace it with a new printer that supports USB. Another thing to consider is a printer that has a built-in ethernet port. With that, you connect the printer to your broadband router, and any computer on your network can submit print jobs—you don't have to have a computer connected to printer to act as a print server.

Q. I have a 200GB external USB hard drive. I plug it in and see nothing. FDISK doesn't see it. Is there a way to recover the image files that I know are on that drive?

A. Sounds like the drive might have been removed when the allocation table wasn't posted. You might be able to recover your data using a data recovery tool, but things are being complicated by it being a USB drive. If the case can be opened such that you can get at the drive itself, you might have better luck if the drive is directly attached to an IDE controller. But be very careful that you don't mess up the partition table. You mentioned FDISK—if you write with FDISK, you are going to have a real problem. You might look into Ontrack's EasyRecovery program. There is a free trial version that will bring back one file at a time—it should be enough to determine if the drive can be fully recovered. As an aside—for media files it is very important that you do not just unplug the drive without first "stopping" the device. There is an icon in the system tray that you click to open a windows

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

DACS members may publish noncommercial, computer-related classified ads in dacs.doc at no charge. Ads may be placed electronically by fax or by modem, or hard-copy may be submitted at our monthly general meeting. Fax your ads to Charlie Bovaird at 203 792-7881.

Leave hard-copy classifieds with Charlie, Marc, or whoever is tending the members' table at the meeting.

For Sale. HP P920 19" CRT 1280x1024 resolution - \$30.00

Samsung SyncMaster 512n 15" Flat Panel - \$75.00

HP 200i DVD+RW Drive - \$20.00

Contact: Jeff Setaro @ 203-748-6748 or jasetaro@mags.net

for disconnecting USB devices. This is important for any type of removable media—hard drives, flash drives, media (camera) cards, etc.

Q. Related question: I have a compact flash card which appears to be unusable. Is it trash?

A. Probably not—there are several recovery programs available—Bruce reviewed one in April, 2004—here is a link to the review. <http://www.dacs.org/archive/0404/feature2.htm><http://www.dacs.org/archive/0404/feature2.htm>.

Note that for many cards, you must have a card reader that understands the instructions needed for doing low-level work with the card. The article explains this.

BRUCE PRESTON is president of West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield, CT specializing in database applications. A DACS director, Bruce also leads the Access SIG. Members may send tech queries to Bruce at askdacs@dacs.org.

Candidates

The following DACS members have been nominated for the Board of Directors for 2005-2007. Please show your support by voting at the annual meeting, December 6, or by volunteering to serve on our Board.



Howie Berger — Sherman. A member of DACS for many years, He is a principle in Visual Access Technology, Inc., a software development and consulting company located in Danbury, and has over 30 years of experience in software development for Computer-Aided Design, Facilities Management, and Web-related consulting in Knowledge and Information Management.

Howie is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Candlewood Lake Authority where he has been active in educational outreach within the 5 lake towns. He was actively involved in land use and environmental causes in Redding over his 16 years there prior to moving to Sherman 4 ½ years ago, and served on the Zoning Commission of the Town of Redding.

One of his goals as a board member is to facilitate an integration of members' expertise and DACS resources throughout the broader business community. He would also like to see an expansion of services and education to the general public.



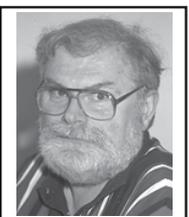
Sean N. Henderson — Brookfield,. Sean and his family moved to CT in 2003 from NYC, where he lived and performed for 10 years. Originally from Los Angeles, his first computer was a Radio Shack TRS-80. Sean holds a Bachelor's in Music Business, and several certifications including Audio Production, GUI Design, Perl/CGI, and HTML. He currently teaches piano, plays drums for Where's Jane, and does Perl/Web Development.

For more information on Sean, visit www.SeanNHenderson.Net/dacs.html.



Lisa Leifels — Newtown. A member of DACS for 5 years, and as of April of this year has served as the secretary of DACS. She has enjoyed attending both the general meetings and the Microsoft Access Special Interest Group meetings over the years and would like to become a more active participant in the organization.

Lisa is a database consultant who has been working in the computer industry for over 15 years, developing custom software solutions for client organizations..



Bruce Preston — Ridgefield, is a consultant specializing in PC-based software solutions with emphasis on database applications. He has more than 30 years of experience in such areas as data communications, database management, technical support, and user education. For the past six years he has moderated the Random Access sessions that start our monthly General Meetings, as well as leading the monthly Microsoft Access Special Interest Group. Lately he has been joined by his son Scott, who co-presented two General Meeting programs - "Building a Home Network" and "Buying and Selling on eBay." His non-computer interests include digital photography, steam locomotives, and bicycling.



Jeff Setaro — Danbury. A lifelong Danbury resident, Jeff has been involved in the computer industry for more than 17 years. He has been a DACS member for 11 years and has served as a DACS vice president for six of them. After stepping down from Program Chair to assume direction of the DACS Web page, he was persuaded to continue in both capacities. He also serves as information coordinator on computer viruses and until recently as director of the Web page design SIG. He is a member of the 1995 VAR business advisory board and is frequently called upon to comment on industry issues.



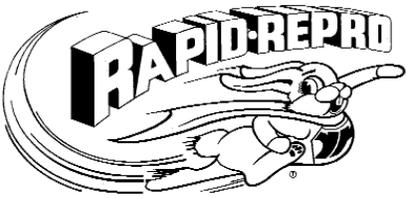
Jim Scheef — New Milford. Jim Scheef has been a DACS member since DOG became WCMUG. He has actively participated in the club over the years on the Program Committee, and as head of the Internet Committee. For the past six or more years Jim has been a co-leader of the Visual Basic SIG and started the Back Office SIG last year.

Jim has been a software developer since the days when mainframes were high-tech. His company, Telemark Systems Inc., provides custom software and networking solutions to businesses around Connecticut.

Jim's goals for DACS are to provide new services to the members via the DACS.ORG web site and to expand the use of the Resource Center as a learning facility. Jim convinced the board to install a DSL internet connection in the Resource Center as a step in this direction.

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Future Events

December 6 • John Patrick - The Future of the Internet
January 3 • Jim Scheef - OpenOffice



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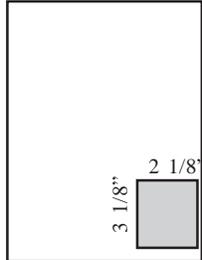
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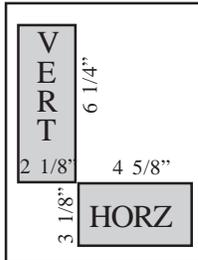
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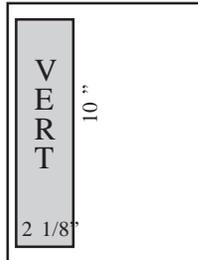
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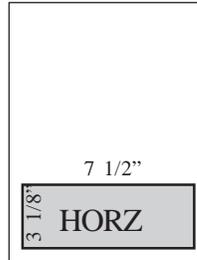
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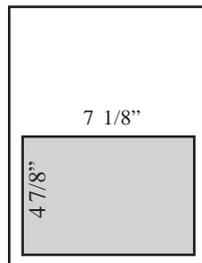
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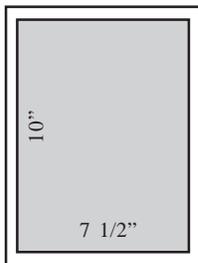
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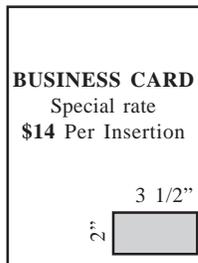
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Danbury Area Computer Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section (501)(C)(3) of the US Tax Code. Its purpose is to promote education, knowledge sharing, networking and communication between users of personal computers. DACS is an all volunteer organization, with no employees. The major source of income is member dues. Members can volunteer to become instructors, lecturers, DACS officers and board members, committee members, or SIG leaders.

We sponsor or participate in community support projects by collecting, repairing, and redistributing used computer equipment and software to community service providers such as schools, libraries, and patient/client support groups. DACS members provide pickup, refurbishing, installation, and training assistance as needed. Firms or individuals with equipment to donate should leave a message on the DACS Infoline (203-748-4330). or send an email to recycling@dacs.org.

The Voice for Joanie program was created in 1992 through the initiative of DACS member, Shirley Fredlund. This program provides computer-assisted speech for victims of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ("Lou Gehrig's Disease"). DACS members have contributed volunteer time and technical assistance since the program began. Voice for Joanie and DACS have earned national computer industry recognition and financial assistance for this vital collaboration.

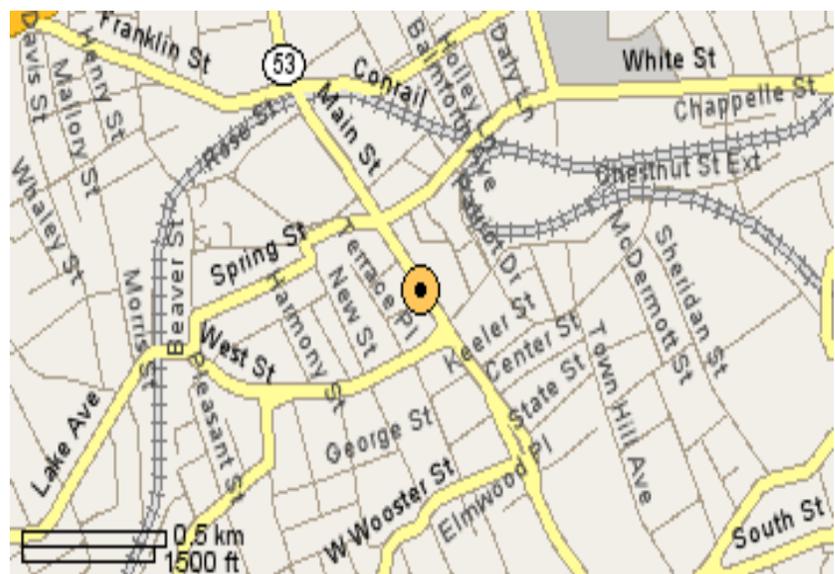
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session. A free product raffle is often held at the conclusion of the main presentation.

In addition to the general meeting, DACS sponsors many special interest groups (SIGs) where members can learn and share information about a specific topic. Each SIG plans its own meeting schedule and program topics.

Our newsletter, *dacs.doc* is published monthly for our members, and mailed to arrive before the general meeting. It features articles written by members and others on timely topics including product and software reviews, issues and trends in personal computing and "how-to" articles on sound, video, digital photography, etc. In addition, each issues includes the calendar of meetings, announcements on SIGs and other DACS events. *dacs.doc* has won numerous prizes over the years for its design and content.

Through its activities, DACS offers numerous opportunities to network both professionals and computer hobbyists. Our Special Interest Groups are an excellent way for members to both learn and share application or hardware knowledge. Any DACS member can form a special interest group on any topic where there is interest. Most SIGs meet in our Resource Center in downtown Danbury.

If you have concerns, requests, or suggestions regarding DACS or its programs, please contact dacsprez@dacs.org. DACS officers and board members' phone numbers are listed on page 3 of *dacs.doc*.



The DACS Resource Center is in Ives Manor, Lower Level, 198 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810 (203-748-4330).



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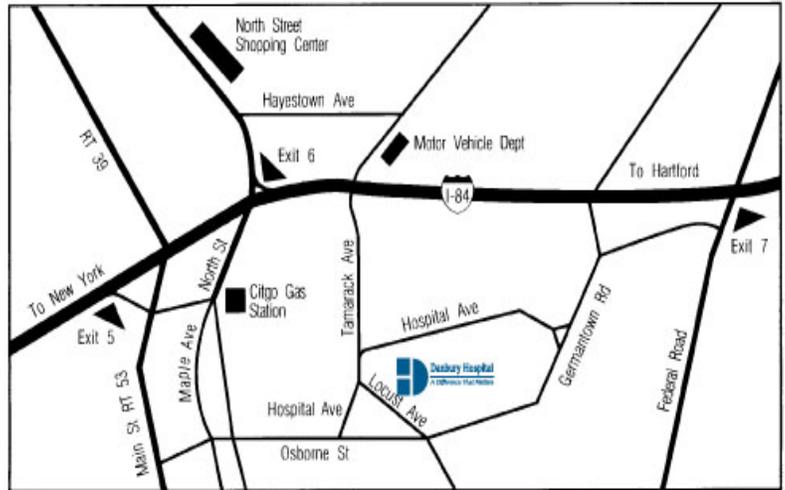
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