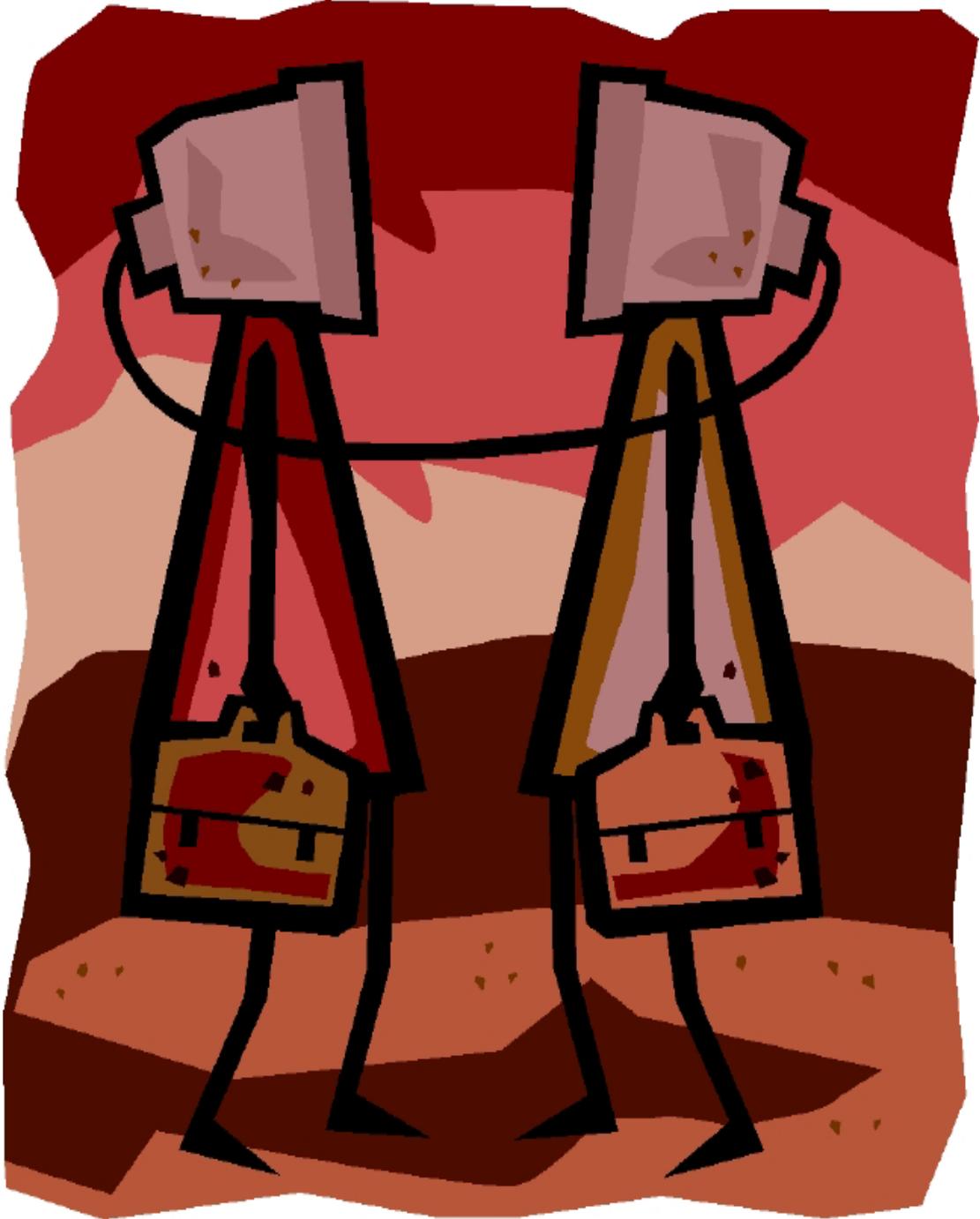


“DID YOU HEAR THAT DACS HAS INVITED BACK THAT IT GUY FROM TOWN HALL TO

CITY SERVICES ARE GETTING AUTOMATED... AND NOW YOU CAN EVEN PAY YOUR TAXES ONLINE.”

TELL HOW DANBURY HAS BEEN UPDATING ITS TECHNOLOGY? | HEARD THEY'RE BUILDING A GREAT

NEW WEB SITE, GIS INFORMATION IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, AND



President's File



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

There's nothing like waiting until the last minute... I'm really late in starting the column and it's not by choice my schedule has been

completely sideways for the last couple of weeks, and I haven't had a chance to even think about my column until about 5 minutes ago and for better or worse 5 minutes may be all the time I have to spend on it.

Before I dive into the column I'd like to take a moment to congratulate Tiger Woods on his victories in the year's final majors, the British Open and PGA Championship... Congratulations Tiger, well played.

Upcoming Events

- "Patch Tuesday" – September 8th. Don't forget to visit the Microsoft update site, <http://update.microsoft.com>.
- Interop New York – September 18th – 22nd at the Javits Convention Center, New York, NY, <http://www.interop.com>.
- Steaming Media West – October 31st – November 2nd at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, CA, <http://www.streamingmedia.com/west>.

Do you know of any upcoming technology conferences? Please send me the details... I'll include them in my next column.

Board Openings

We currently have two openings on the board of directors. Bill Keane has moved out of the area and Bruce Preston has re-

signed from the board of directors for personal reasons. Both of them will be greatly missed. Under our bylaws, the remaining directors can appoint new directors to fill the vacancies. These new directors would serve out the remainder of the open terms. Bill's term expires in December; Bruce's term runs through next year.

If you'd like to help shape the future of DACS as a member of the board of director's, please contact me or any other officer or director.

Access SIG on Hiatus

The Access SIG is on hiatus until a new leader can be found. If you'd like to take the helm of the Access SIG please contact me.

Newsletter Editor Needed

We've had a couple of inquiries about this opening, but so far no one has stepped up and said "I'll do it." Needless to say, the sooner a new editor can be found the sooner we can begin an orderly transition.

The editor's responsibilities are:

- 1) Edit submissions to the newsletter.
- 2) Work with production editor, Marc Cohen, to layout the newsletter in Adobe PageMaker.

If you're interested in taking the helm of our award winning newsletter let me know...

Dell Battery Recall

I'm sure you've all heard about Dell's recall of roughly 4.1 million laptop batteries. The recall affects batteries sold with the following models of Dell notebook computers or separately as secondary batteries:

- Latitude: D410, D500, D505, D510, D520, D600, D610, D620, D800, D810
- Inspiron: 500M, 510M, 600M, 700M, 710M, 6000, 6400, 8500, 8600, 9100, 9200, 9300, 9400, E1505, E1705
- Precision: M20, M60, M70, M90
- XPS: XPS, XPS Gen2, XPS M170, XPS M1710

If you own one of the affected laptops please visit <https://www.dellbatteryprogram.com/> for more information.

End Notes

I was able to get a couple of chapters into *The Traitor* by Stephen Coonts before my schedule went sideways... What little I read I liked. Hopefully I'll be able to finish it in time for next month.

As always, send me your comments, questions, criticisms or book lists to jasetaro@mags.net or jasetaro@yahoo.com.

Cheers;

—JEFF SETARO

Membership Information

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DACS, its officers and directors assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any article, advertisement, or other item in this newsletter.

The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Allan Ostergren at 860-210-0047 (dacseditor@dacs.org). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 (aam@mags.net).

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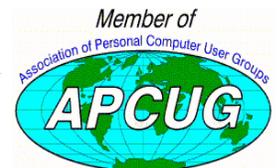
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Applications & Hardware to enhance *dacs.doc* are welcome.



Don Neary
APCUG Liaison
203-746-5538

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Vice Presidents: Gene Minasi, Jamie Yates, Gloria Arnold
SECRETARY: Lisa Leifels • **TREASURER:** Charles Bovaird

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NEWSLETTER: Allan Ostergren: (860) 210-0047; dacseditor@dacs.org
PROGRAM: Jamie Yates • **WEB MASTER:** Scott Preston (spreston@mags.net)
PR: Gloria Arnold (pr@dacs.org) • **APCUG LIAISON:** Don Neary (203) 746-5538
RESOURCE CENTER: (203) 748-4330 • **WEB SITE:** <http://www.dacs.org>

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)
ASP.Net	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)
C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	(d e)
C#, VB	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)
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	(914) 277-4269	(e)
SAS	Lewis Westfall	(203) 790-0229	(e)
Statistics/Data Analysis	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(d e)
SQL	Lewis Westfall	(203) 790-0229	(e)
SQL Server, MySQL-5	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)
Viruses	Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	(d)
VB.Net, Visual Basic	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)

Directors' Notes

A regular meeting of your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, August 14, 2006. Present were Howard Berger, Charles Bovaird, Richard Corzo, Lisa Leifels, Jeff Setaro and Jamie Yates. President Setaro presided and Secretary Lisa Leifels kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held on July 10, 2006 were approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$11,255.31, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$11,189.75 plus postage on hand of \$65.56. Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$5,329.00 left a net equity of \$5,926.31. He also reported that the current membership is at 302, of which 57 are electronic.

The confirmed General Meeting topics for the remaining months in 2006 are: for September 5, City of Danbury Technology Update by Wade Anderson; for October 3, Mozilla's Firefox and Extensions by Jim Scheef; for November 7, How the Patriot Act has affected Public Libraries; for December 5, The Future of the Internet by John Patrick.

Some ideas for future general meetings include Microsoft's Vista, Apple's Leopard, and the FBI. Jeff is going to talk to Scott Ward from Stony Hill Golf about doing a presentation on the computerized fitting systems. Howie Berger brought up the idea of partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and having a joint technology meeting.

Jamie reported that he contacted Tweeter's about a presentation on HDTV, which they declined. Jeff suggested contacting Sounds Incredible or Carston Stereo.

Howie suggested that we may be able to share speakers with the UCONN School of Business .NET User Group.

After more than 10 years of dedicated service, Bruce Preston has submitted his resignation from the Board due to health reasons. Bruce has generously shared his knowledge in resolving a wide range of computer problems for members over the years, and will be greatly missed.

Sean Henderson has requested a leave of absence from the Board due to scheduling conflicts until October.

Jeff Setaro mentioned that he has been approached by a few members who were interested in taking over as Editor the DACS newsletter.

—LISA LEIFELS

Meeting Review

Blogging Mikey-Publishing for the Masses

By Jamie Yates

AT OUR AUGUST meeting DACS was treated to an excellent and informative presentation by Mike Kaltschnee, one of our more illustrious members.

Mike is well known for his blogging site *HackingNetflix.com*. He talked about

both blogging and podcasting and showed how, with reasonable effort, he established a site that is now known world wide. From its humble beginnings it is now consistently ranked second on Google when looking for information on Netflix (after the actual Netflix site). Netflix is the on-line DVD distribution service that has changed the way people rent videos.

Mike and his blog have been featured in the media many times in the past several years. He has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, on CNN and many other high profile media. He is so well known and respected by even Netflix that he was invited to a meeting with the company's CEO, Reed Hastings

What is a blog? It is a type of website where entries are made, such as a journal or diary, in chronological order. Blogs often provide commentary on a particular subject, such as, food, politics, or local news—or anything else a person wants to discuss. Most blogs are primarily text, but they can also have images, video, audio, or a combination of all them, and also may include links to other blogs, Web pages, and other media related to the topic. One key feature of most blogs is that they let visitors comment on the entries. Several ways to locate blogs are to use a Google search for a particular topic or visit Technorati.com.

During the presentation, he described how to set up a blog, what software to use, and how to pick a topic for your blog. You can add pictures to blogs, and even create entries by just

sending an email from your computer, cell phone, or PDA. What made his presentation so interesting were his passion and the excitement he expressed for the subject during his talk.

According to Mike, creating maintaining a blog is easy with the variety of tools now available. These range from free to minimal cost plus. Software such as Blogger and MSN Spaces are free, while other more complex products, such as TypePad, Moveable Type and WordPress each come with a monthly fee.

He also described pod-casting and video podcasting, ways to create your own radio or TV show on the Internet, which can be downloaded to an Ipod or like device and listened to while you are on the road or at home on your computer.

Mike spent time pointing out that if you have an area that you are passionate about, you should consider creating your

own blog. With his blog he is even able to generate income because of the number of people who now visit it. Last year he had 60 thousand unique visitors and this year the number is over 200 thousand.

Blogs' numbers are growing rapidly, with a current estimate of 50+ million of them, and a collective traffic of about 1.2 million posts a day.

If you want to start a blog, Mike makes several suggestions. Read a number of blogs to get a better feeling about what they are all about. Pick a topic you are passionate about (you don't have to be an expert on that topic). Have realistic expectations. Learn as you go. Network with other bloggers like crazy—and above all, be honest about what you say.

Mike's presentation was very informative and thought provoking, and DACS thanks him for his time and effort.



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.



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

Meeting Preview

Everything's Up-to-date in Hat City

By Jamie Yates

HOW DO LOCAL communities use information technology to better serve the public?

Come to our September meeting and hear an update on Danbury's current IT projects and what is planned for the future. As residents of Danbury and surrounding towns and municipalities, you should learn how Danbury taxes are being spent on their IT offerings and what that means to its citizens.

Wade Anderson of the City of Danbury Data Processing Department will describe in detail how technology is used to maintain day-to-day government operations. Mr. Anderson will give DACS members the opportunity to ask questions and make comments, which could influence future directions of the department and give people living in other communities some ideas about what questions to ask the people serving them.

Mr. Anderson will describe what has happened in IT over the last 3 years since he last spoke to us, what is currently underway and what is in the future plan. His presentation will describe how technology is used to serve local government, business and the general public. He will provide an update on current applications and how Danbury continues to make improvements in services using the new technologies available.

More specifically, Wade Anderson will discuss the following:

- New GIS initiatives. Danbury has one of the finest GIS databases in the state. Hear how the average citizen can use them.
- Installation of the second generation of computer equipment in police patrol cars and fire apparatus. Hear what this equipment can do to better serve you.
- New equipment that is going into both the police and fire departments, and a new interim dispatch center that is being planned.
- The new police station which is starting to become clearer to all involved as it moves from concept to engineering and

architectural drawings. The every two-week project meetings go into an incredible amount of detail. You can be sure there will be technology advances included in this project.

- Several brand new initiatives on the horizon. One is computerizing the Elmwood Senior Center, another is in the parks and recreation department.

- How the city deals with virus/spam/spyware. He won't disclose all that is being done, but would welcome input from the membership.

- The boring details of our recent General Ledger upgrade (just kidding). However, the city

runs a full set of ERP software for finance/administration and public safety activities and how that makes the city government operate smoothly.

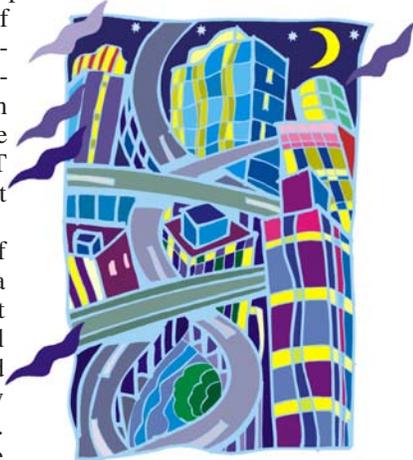
- The redesign of the city web page. Here is another opportunity for you to tell us how we should be doing it. Constituent input would be very welcome, and we are

at the point where suggestions could be accepted and implemented.

The presentation will be rich with content pertinent to Danbury residents and adjoining areas, and Wade Anderson will explore the future and the directions citizens want their city to go.

DACS meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. with registration and casual networking. The meeting starts at 7:00 with a general question and answer period (Ask DACS) and a discussion of what's new in technology followed by a short break. The featured presentation begins at 8:00.

As a reminder, our General Meetings are free and open to the public so invite anyone you know who would be interested in this topic.



New Members

From 7/17/2006-8/20/2006

Daniel Campion

Greg Fisher

This is your last newsletter
If the membership date on your mailing label reads

**EXP6\2006
or earlier**

You need to renew your
DACs membership

NOW



Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: September 2006

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: Suspended

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.
Meetings suspended until new SIG leader is chosen.
Next meeting: TBA

ASP.Net. Focuses on Web site/server application program development using Microsoft Visual Studio, C#, VB, Javascript and SQL Server programming tools. Session starts with a Random Access session, followed by a programming discussion with examples.
Contact: Chuck Fizer (*cfizer@snet.net*).
Meets 1st Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Sep 6

Excel/Math. Review of mathematics with emphasis on programming spreadsheets for business applications.
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Meetings suspended until further notice.
Next meeting: TBA

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: Sep 27

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: Sep 21

Jobs. Networking and discussion of the jobs search environment.
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Meets by e-mail.
Next meeting: TBA

Linux. Provides Help in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.
Contact: John Lansdale 914-533-2002
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Sep 20

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: Oct 5

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: Sep 18

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: Sep 21

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: Sep 14

VB.Net, Visual Basic-6. Focuses on Smart Client Windows application development using Visual Studio, VB, C# and SQL Server programming tools. Starts with a Random Access session followed by Object Oriented discussions and programming with examples.
Contact: Chuck Fizer, 203 798-9996 (*cfizer@snet.net*) or Greg Austin, 845 494-5095 (*greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org*).
Meets 1st Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, preceded 1 hour with a shared cost pizza snack.
Next Meeting: Sep 6

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: Sep 25

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: Sep 19

SIG News & Events

dot.NET. Fresh from Appalachia, Chuck launched our session with a lucid talk on his topic for dotNET: the interface. An interface is a class whose name always begins with a capital "I" and it is very similar to a prototype as known in earlier times in 'C' programming language. An example is IConverter. When methods are defined in this class their name and signature is given. Some interfaces are precompiled.

This exposition extended into illuminating detail to illustrate code for methods defined in an interface. We saw a namespace InterfaceLib containing an interface IMjInterface having two methods that are implicitly pub-

lic: void Print(string lineOfData), void Print(int[] numbers). Each line defining a method is ended with a semicolon. We had extended discussion of the manner in which such methods are invoked.

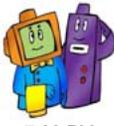
Enough time remained to illustrate another subject, namely, an improved technique to produce a voluminous report. Instead of generating an entire group of reports at once, these reports were produced incrementally, and then concatenated. Thus a crash on the server during extended computation was avoided.

VB.Net. A refreshing pizza break gave us further impetus to attend to a clever briefing by Greg Austin during our evening

SIG Notes, Continued on page 11

September 2006

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Circuit Rider

Version 4.2

By Jim Scheef

Net Neutrality

IF YOU'RE STILL ASKING what all the fuss is about, read the Wikipedia article at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality for a pretty good synopsis of the situation. When you finish, move to your favorite search engine and check the web sites with a more political orientation. Congress is "on break" as I'm writing this, so for the moment they can do no harm. However, they will reconvene by the time you read this and the chances they will do something stupid increases exponentially. We are headed for the same fate as the people of China and Saudi Arabia, except that instead of the government filtering your Internet connection for political content, the censor will be your ISP forcing you to pay for your television signal over his wire. What other content you might lose at the same time is anyone's guess. Sixteen years ago, the Republicans ran on a platform of Congressional term limits. Maybe it's time to throw them all out.

Your Next Wireless Network Go for the Power

If you look at the pretty pictures in the computer magazines, they will tell you that 802.11N is the latest in Wi-Fi technology, as everyone rushes to bring out routers and network cards that meet the "Pre-N" draft specification. Some don't even claim draft compliance, and simply refer to using "MIMO technology" (multiple input-multiple output). The reality is that there is no 802.11N specification, because the ratification committee dumped the last draft into the garbage. The result is that no manufacturer makes equipment that will reliably talk to equipment made by other vendors. There are only three companies making the actual radio chips, so you would think the situation would be better than it is. I will

mention here that the reviewers all say that when this new stuff works, it is really fast. On the other hand, most Pre-N equipment suffers from short range. If blazing speed at 10 feet is what you need, then go for it; but be absolutely sure you get the latest stuff all from the same manufacturer. And read the reviews before you buy.



Now I can get to my actual premise that, generally speaking, it is more important that the network function with reasonable speed at the perimeter than it is to have blazing speed at ten feet. So for now I suggest that you leave the 'N' and MIMO stuff at the store and instead look for higher power. Why is it that we can hear WFAN in New York so clearly when we have trouble receiving WLAD in Danbury? The answer is power. WFAN runs 50,000 watts while WLAD uses a toy transmitter (well, a much smaller one anyway). Naturally there are wireless routers that have higher power outputs and hence will have a longer range. Of course, a one-way Wi-Fi connection is worthless, so you want to have a high-power radio in your laptop as well. Most Wi-Fi cards and routers put out 40-80 milliwatts. If you have a Linksys WRT54G of the correct vintage, you can install open source firmware that allows you to crank up the power to more than 200 milliwatts. If you don't want to hack your router, you can buy one of the high-power models from Buffalo Technology. Look for the WHR-

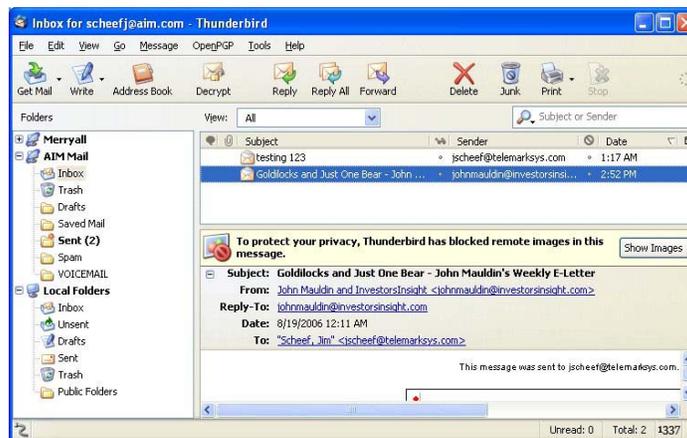
HP-G54 router/access point and the WLI-CB-G54HP notebook adapter. Plus, these routers are hackable using the DD-WRT firmware I'm running in my Linksys WRT54GS. The DD-WRT project web site is www.dd-wrt.com. We can talk more about this at the Server and Networking SIG.

More Free Email- Competition is grand

If you are an AOL customer you know that you no longer have to pay for the AOL service. Of course you must still pay for the dial-up connection, but I would hope that most DACS members have moved beyond dial-up by now. About the same time AOL started a new email service based on their instant messaging called AIM Mail. Plus, there has been free email at Netscape.net, which for some reason was accessed through netscape.com. All of these email "vendors" share the AOL name space which means that if you have bob1234 as your AOL screen name, no one can get bob1234 at AIM Mail or Netscape.net.

Well with the changes at AOL come changes at the other email "services" as well. Netscape.net email is being folded into AIM Mail. As a Netscape.net email user, I get to keep my address "for life". But here is the cool part, AIM Mail accounts will get 2Gigs of space (the magic number set by Google) for free, up from 250Megs, and (are you sitting down?) both AOL and AIM email will be IMAP compliant! This is the first time AOL has broken their proprietary strangle hold on their email customers. This means that you can use just about any email client you want, including Outlook, Outlook Express, Eudora (on Mac per web site), even a Blackberry. Thunderbird is conspicuously absent from the list of supported clients, but I just set it up and it seems to be working just fine. I'll add a short demonstration of this to my presentation on Firefox at the October general meeting.

So, what's so cool about IMAP (internet mail access protocol)? The primary concept to IMAP is that your email messages remain on the server and you access them from there. When you open a message it is downloaded to your email client which displays the message. When you compose a message, your copy is placed in the "Sent" items folder on the server. In theory it makes no difference what email client you use, because the messages are stored on the server. If you use the web-based interface at aol.com or aim.com, then all of your messages



are available—just like Yahoo Mail, GMail, Hotmail, etc. So far all this works only when you have an active connection to the Internet, and a fast one is always better. Some email clients can be set to make IMAP messages available offline. As you might expect, this means that the client maintains a local copy of the messages and must synchronize this local message store whenever you connect. Now you can work with those messages offline and compose new messages, which will be sent when you reconnect. All this, and you can still use that email client that you know and love!

Now the really cool part—IMAP is bi-directional. That means you can upload messages! Most email clients allow you to set up more than one email account. In Thunderbird, I can drag a message from my Exchange server account to AIM Mail and the message disappears from the Exchange folder and reappears in AIM Mail! That message is then available via the web interface on any computer. Now you can actually use that 2Gigs of space they are “giving” you for “free.” There is, of course, no free lunch, and your eyeballs will be exposed to some advertising in exchange for all this largess from AOL. Hey, ain’t ‘puters wunnerful?

Now there are a few additional wrinkles in my particular situation. Somehow I have separate mailboxes on both *Netscape.net* and *AIM.com*. I’m not sure how this happened, but I use AIM occasionally and a couple months back noticed a message about free email. These two “accounts” have the same screen name because Netscape instant messaging has always been a very thinly disguised version of AIM (which once upon a time stood for AOL Instant Messaging) and Netscape.net has used AOL’s authentication mechanism (like all Microsoft sites use Microsoft Passport authentication). Ah, what tangled webs we weave...

The picture at left shows two email accounts. Merryall is my Exchange server email, but this could be a simple POP email account, and AIM Mail. The Merryall folder is closed because there are too many subfolders to fit in the window. The open message is addressed to *telemarksys.com*, where it was received by Exchange Server. I dragged it to AIM Mail where it is now available. It will be interesting to see if Yahoo and Google consider this enough of a threat to implement IMAP in their email services.

JIM SCHEEF is past president, and a long-time member of DACS

Privacy

CAPTCHA

(Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart)

By Sandy Berger. Compu-KISS

HAVE YOU EVER tried to sign up for a message board or Web service and been presented with an image with letters and numbers which you are asked to read and type into the Web form? While the shape, size, and background of the image varies it always has contains a series of letters and numbers, usually on a graphic background.

Often the letters and numbers are distorted and you have to struggle to recognize them, making you wonder why the website is making you go through this extra step. Don’t blame the website. This image-recognition routine is something caused by cousins of the nasty spammers who have permeated our email.

The mechanism that makes you type in this information is called a CAPTCHA. If you know what those letters stand for, you will have a pretty good idea of why this mechanism is being employed. CAPTCHA stands for Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.

Here’s the story. Spammers have completely infiltrated the world of the Internet. In email they try to get you to buy their wares. On message boards they list links to their Viagra and pornographic websites so that they get better positioning in the search engines. They overload online opinion polls and they sign up for free email accounts which they use to send out more spam.

For the most part, all of this spam activity is done automatically. The spammers send out what we call “bots”. These are actually software programs that search the Internet and imitate the behavior of a human. These bots are smart enough to fill out registration forms and so they can automatically register at a variety of websites.

We recently had an attack of these automated bots on our Compu-KISS message boards. After years of being unaffected, we suddenly had hundreds of postings that told off-color jokes and lead to pornographic and drug-selling websites. We moved the website to a new area

(www.happycomputing.com), but were still inundated by these automated posting. So we installed a CAPTCHA. Now when a new person registers for the message board they must type in the five letters and numbers that they see on the screen to prove that they are human. Since the CAPTCHA is a graphic image, most of the bots cannot read the text like humans can.

The CAPTCHA that we use has letters and numbers that are undistorted, so it is easy to use. If, however, we are attacked by some of the smarter bots that are out there, we will have to distort the letters and numbers slightly to make it even harder for the bots to register.

Although a slight inconvenience to the average user, the CAPTCHA is a real roadblock to vision impaired Internet users who use screen readers which, like the bots, are unable to read the text on the CAPTCHA.

It is extremely unfortunate that we all have to be inconvenienced because of the activities of Internet spammers. I really hated to have to install this software, but I had no other choice. The same is true of many other websites and Web services. So when you encounter a CAPTCHA, don’t blame the website, blame the spammers!

The Compu-KISS Message Boards can be accessed at www.compukiss.com or directly at www.happycomputing.com.

SANDY BERGER is *The Compu-KISS® Lady... a nationally respected computer authority, journalist, media guest, speaker, and author and a 30-year computer expert. Sandy is a consumer advocate promoting simplicity, ease-of-use, and stability in consumer technology products. She works with hardware and software developers to help them make their products more user-friendly.*

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.



What's News

August, 2006

By Jamie Yates

The format of What's News is still evolving, so if you have any suggestions on changes or improvements please send an email to vpprograms@dacs.org. Topics should be related to computers or electronics in general, and include a brief description, along with a URL that provides further details. Past segments can be found in our Newsletter archives.

Description: Want to get emergency alert messages while on the road? ...The US government unveiled a communications system that in case of emergency should soon allow it to send SMS alerts to Americans' mobile phones and computers... Available in the south by year end; Nationwide in 2007

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nf/20060712/tc_nf/44436;
<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/07/12/060712191204.9i5b29n0.html>

Description: A Spell Checker for Internet Explorer. Integrates flawlessly with Internet Explorer and other IE based browsers... Supports a wide range of web applications including simple text forms, rich text editors, forums, blogs, webmail (including Outlook Web Access and Lotus iNotes) and more... Supports custom dictionaries... Free with donation requested

Source: <http://www.iespell.com/>

Description: Protect yourself on the Internet with GreenBorder... Nothing can get to your files or PC... Shop and bank online without being spied on... Uses virtualization combined with strong security... Creates an impenetrable protective barrier that keeps all interactions with a web site and its associated content and programs away from the internal parts of the PC... Files or programs that have been downloaded will open or run in a protected environment.

Source: <http://www.greenborder.com/>

Description: Want current coupons for purchases... For online shopping only. Hundreds of sites... Thousands of coupon codes... Take a look.

Source: <http://www.currentcodes.com/>

Description: HP's electronic Post-it note... Smaller than a grain of rice. Inexpensive, wireless, battery-free microchip that can store documents, audio files or video clips... Called the "memory spot." Dozens of pages of text, a 15-second video clip or other data stored on a spot could be displayed on the screen of a cell phone that's waved in front of the chip... Can be encrypted and requires close contact to read.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/15055928.htm>

Description:

Want to know what Short Message Service (SMS) slang words are?... Or Internet/email slang?... See the Internet slang dictionary:

BRB:	Be	Right	Back
LOL:	Laughing	Out	Loud

LMAO:	Laughing	My	Ass	Off
TTYL:	Talk	To	You	Later
QT:	Cutie			
POS:	Parent	Over	Shoulder	
BTW:	By	The	Way	

Source: <http://www.onlineslang.com/translation.php>

Description: Vishing joins Phishing as security threat... Uses Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones instead of a misdirected Web link to steal user information... Requires placing a phone call instead—only, the number isn't to a bank or credit card, it's to a VoIP phone that can recognize telephone keystrokes... A recorded message tells the person receiving the call that their credit card has been breached and to "call the following (regional) phone number immediately."

Source: http://channels.lockergnome.com/windows/archives/20060721_vishing_warning.phtml
<http://www.internetnews.com/security/article.php/3619086>

Description: IE 7 will be delivered in the fourth quarter... Will use "high priority" update feature of Automatic Updates in Windows XP... Automatic Updates will first notify people when IE 7 is ready to install, and then show a welcome screen that presents key features and the choices to install, not install or postpone installation... Has significant security enhancements, plus new functions.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-7350_3-6098500.html

Description: Free phone number and voice mail... Give it out instead of your personal numbers... Use it online, in stores, and out on the town... No contract, credit checks, or extra equipment required... All calls go right to voicemail... Get alerts in email or on your cell phone... Check your voicemail over the phone or online... Select an area code from most cities. Brought to you by NetZero.

Source: <http://www.privatephone.com/>

Description: More info on Windows Genuine advantage program... What causes a false positive... Read "When a 'False Positive' isn't a false positive"... One reason could be when a copy of Windows is installed on more than one machine... Most issues are resolved with no cost to the user.

Source: <http://blogs.msdn.com/wga/archive/2006/07/16/667063.aspx>

Description: Get a Yelpie... Security with a bite... Protect your expensive items when away from home... Beaches, Swimming pools, Sporting fields/venues, Hotel rooms, etc.... 90 decibel alarm with motion sensor... Membrane keypad... Not cheap - \$100

Source: <http://www.yelpie.com/product-features.html>

Description: Men have been had for centuries... The world's best kept female secret is revealed... They can do it if they want to... Use this information wisely... Could be dangerous to your health.

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB-wUgnyGv0>

Ask DACS

August 2006

Jeff Setaro, Moderator
Lisa Leifels, Reporter

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. I am using the AVG Anti Virus software with the Eudora Mail Client, and do not see the message checked by AVG in the tagline of outgoing mail.

A. Open the AVG Control Center by right clicking the AVG icon in the system tray and choose Launch AVG Control Center. Make sure that 'Check outgoing mail' and 'Certify mail' are checked. If these are both checked you may need to check whether your e-mail program is configured to send outgoing e-mail to the AVG scanner.

Q. What is included in the free calls currently being offered by SKYPE?

A. Skype was acquired by eBay in October 2005 and offers free software that allows calls to be made for free to another person using Skype anywhere in the world. Skype is currently offering a service called

SkypeOut, which allows people who are in the U.S. or Canada to use Skype to call any landline or mobile number for free until December 31, 2006. They also offer phone numbers that can be purchased that can be reached by non-Skype users.

Q. What antivirus software do you recommend using with a MAC?

A. Macintosh viruses do exist, although fewer viruses have been written specifically targeting the Macintosh OS. Sophos Anti-Virus for Mac OS X is geared for enterprise customers, McAfeeVirex for Macintosh and Norton Antivirus for Macintosh are two of the more popular products for retail customers.

Note: Due to personal reasons, Bruce Preston will no longer be hosting Ask DACS. Jim Scheef will take over as moderator in September.

When dining at
the DACS
Resource Center,
please carry your
leftovers out
with you.



Thanks!

The
management

Wanted

Award-winning computer publication, *dacs.doc*, is seeking an editor. Candidates must only demonstrate a proficiency in the English language and a willingness to learn, and need not have prior publishing experience or advanced knowledge of computing. Attention to detail and a willingness to seek advice from others would be a strong plus.

This position will take effect in January, 2007. Current editorial staff will train successful candidate in applicable software and publishing tasks.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

DACS members may publish noncommercial, computer-related classified ads in *dacs.doc* at no charge. Ads may be sent by e-mail to Charlie Bovaird at aam@mags.net, or hard-copy may be submitted at our monthly general meeting.

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

Situation Wanted:

CompTIA A+/Network+-certified IT Analyst/Computer Technician, with past corporate experience- looking for Computer Technician or other technical position in the Danbury area. ICMS or Break/Fix position OK. I am also looking for IT contacts, at any of the larger local companies, too.

Contact Brian Lund, at (203) 794-1596, or blcom@sbcglobal.net.

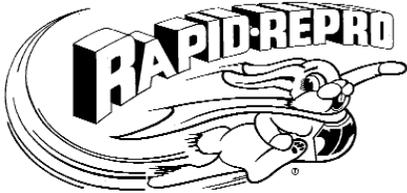
SIG NOTES, Continued from page 6

session. He showed his application to present vital information for members of an entire department. With three buttons for Contacts, Overtime Callout, and Photos he could invoke a shell program to retrieve management information. His code featured a grid coming from Infragistics to gain advantages of additional features not available in earlier versions of data grids from Microsoft.

An extended discussion of coding techniques ensued to illuminate selected topics. Reflection was seen to be a display of attributes of an assembly. Displays of properties were seen to differ from storage characteristics, as when 10 pixels for a button border were displayed as "10px" though stored as an integer 10. Meanings of key concepts such as 'namespace' and 'static' were reviewed. We ended with a sense of satisfaction in a lucid, informative session.

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Future Events

September 5 • Wade Anderson - IT and the City of Danbury

October 3 • Jim Scheef - Mozilla's Firefox and Extensions

November 7 • Public Libraries and The Patriot Act



This space available

Contact Charles Bovaird

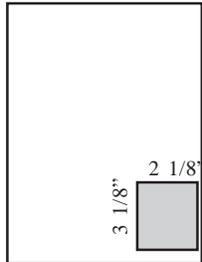
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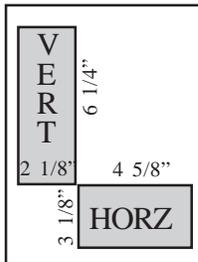
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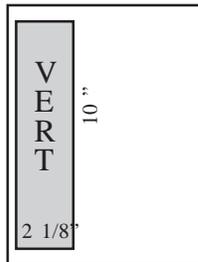
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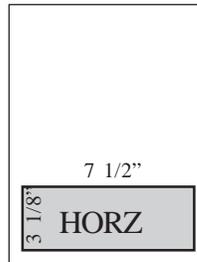
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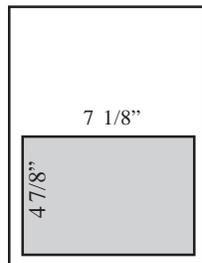
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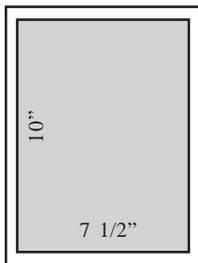
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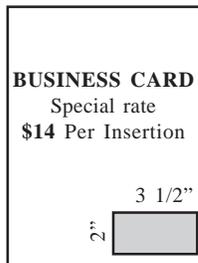
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Danbury Area Computer Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section (501)(C)(3) of the US Tax Code. Its purpose is to promote education, knowledge sharing, networking and communication between users of personal computers. DACS is an all 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.

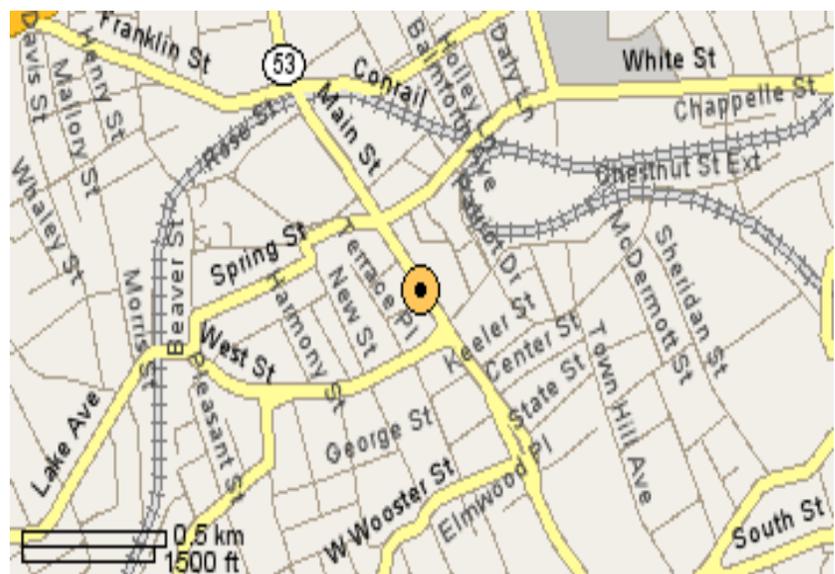
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session.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

Digital: Music___ Photo___ CAM___ TV___ other_____

Business: Corporate Employee___ private employee___ professional___ business owner___

Company Name _____

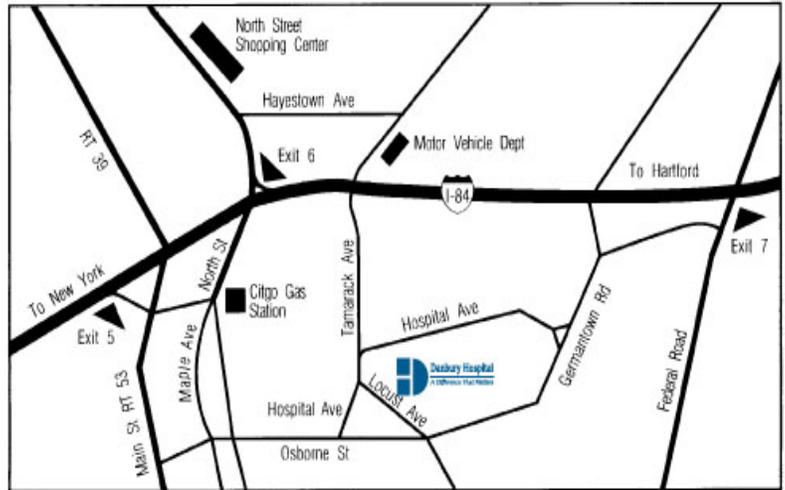
Office use only: Paid _____ Check # _____ Membership # _____

Meeting Location

Danbury Hospital
24 Hospital Avenue
Danbury, CT

Traveling West on I-84, Take Exit 6. Turn right at exit ramp light at North Street. Turn right on Hayestown Avenue. Turn right on Tamarack Avenue. Follow Tamarack Avenue uphill to traffic light. Turn left at this light onto Hospital Avenue. Follow Hospital Avenue to appropriate visitor parking lot on right.

Traveling East on I-84: Take Exit 5. After stop sign, go straight ahead to intersection of Main Street and North Street. Go straight through onto North Street. Turn right off North Street to Maple Avenue. Go on Maple Avenue to Osborne Street. Turn left on Osborne Street. Turn left onto Hospital Avenue. Follow Hospital Avenue to appropriate visitor parking lot on right.



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