

THINK THERE'S NO ONE WATCHING
FROM BEHIND THOSE STACKS?
THINK AGAIN!



At our next meeting, learn from a small group of Connecticut librarians how they fought the government to protect your right to privacy—and won.

President's File



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

Here we go again... My over-extended schedule is once again wreaking havoc with my schedule...I should have submitted my column a couple of days ago but just started writing it. Ugh!!!

Upcoming Events

- "Patch Tuesday" – November 14th. Don't forget to visit the Microsoft update site, <http://update.microsoft.com>.

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

Elections/Annual Meeting

DACS will be holding its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at approximately 7:30 p.m. During the meeting we will be electing five directors. If you'd like to run for a seat on the board of directors contact Jim Scheef, chair of the nominating committee, or any officer or director. Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are on page 3.

Schedules

One of the more common complaints I hear from members is that we tend to let the general meeting agenda slip and/or run

long. You're right—we do, and I'm going to try to put a stop to it. Just so there's no confusion, the agenda for the general meeting is this:

- 6:30-7:00 Registration & Casual Networking
- 7:00-7:30 Random Access
- 7:30-8:00 What's News & a short Break
- 8:00-9:30 Feature Presentation (incl. Q&A)
- 9:30-9:45 Drawing for prizes (if any)
- 9:45- Adjourn

A little drift is unavoidable at some-times, what I'm going to do is try to keep us to within 5 minutes of that schedule.

U.S. Personal Computer Market Share

I usually don't pay much attention to the personal computer market share figures, but for a couple reasons the recently released third quarter numbers caught my attention. First, though HP has reportedly passed Dell as the number one PC supplier world-wide, Dell is still the market leader in the US. More interesting than the HP/Dell duel is Apple's growing market share. Apple led all computer companies with a 30 percent year-over-year growth rate. The table below illustrates the current top 5 in US market share; the numbers in parentheses are the percent of growth.

Rank	Company	Gartner	IDC
1	Dell	32.1 (-7.1)	31
2	HP	23 (+6.3)	22
3	Gateway	6.4 (-1.1)	6
4	Apple	6.1 (+31)	5.8
5	Toshiba	5.1 (+22.3)	4.2

If the current trend continues Apple will soon replace Gateway as the number three computer supplier in the US. Personally, I suspect Apple's market share will grow into 10-12 percent range over next couple of years.

First Impressions – IE7

Microsoft released Internet Explorer 7 for Windows XP on October 18th I've been using it for a couple of days now... The only immediate criticism I have is that redesigned user interface is terrible, I'm not sure what Microsoft was trying to accomplish when they redesigned the UI for IE7, but the result is rather kludgy in my opinion.

That said, I like IE7 overall, it seems faster and more stable than IE6 and tabbed browsing and RSS support are long over do.

See <http://www.microsoft.com/ie> for more information and to download IE7 for Windows XP.

PRESIDENT'S FILE, Continued on page 4

Membership Information

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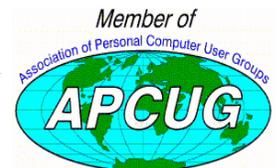
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HelpLine

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)
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Microsoft Access	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	(e)
Newdeal	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
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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, October 9, 2006. Present were Howard Berger, Charles Bovaird, Richard Corzo, John Gallichotte, Lisa Leifels, Jim Scheef, Jeff Setaro and Jamie Yates. Also present were Allan Ostergren and Rob Limbaugh. President Jeff Setaro presided and Secretary Lisa Leifels kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held on August 14, 2006 were approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$10,516.92, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$10,441.58 plus postage on hand of \$75.34. Subtracting a liability of pre-paid dues in the amount of \$5,096.00 left a net equity of \$5,420.92. He also reported that the current membership is at 305, of which 60 are electronic.

Gene Minasi informed the board that the Danbury Hospital auditorium would not be available on Tuesday, November 7th, because of a town meeting, but it would be available on Monday, November 6th. Jamie Yates reported that two of the four speakers scheduled for the November meeting were available on November 6th - one speaker could not make it and one he didn't hear from. Jamie proposed that we seek an alternative location and retain the normal meeting night.

Jeff Setaro said he would look into renting a meeting room at the Maron Hotel. Howie Berger offered to check if the Corporate Center, which was the former Union Carbide building, was available. Jim Scheef said he would find out if Hatter's Park was available. Jamie suggested we hold the meeting at the Danbury Public Library.

Charlie Bovaird said he would send out an email to the membership communicating the new meeting location. Jamie said he would include the meeting location at the top of his meeting preview which is posted on the web site.

Jamie said that he would do a presentation on Google for the January meeting.

Allan asked if there was any response to his suggestion that Ed Heere do another presentation. Jamie Yates said he would contact him and ask him if there was enough new material to do a new presentation. Jeff suggested that Jamie contact Sounds Incredible to talk about HDTV.

Jamie reported that he spoke to a member of the PC Users Group of Connecticut in Trumbull who said that Microsoft would

SIG Notes, Continued on page 4

End Notes

Ok, that's pretty much all I have time for this month... I haven't finished *Break No Bones* by Kathy Reichs yet... I have about 100 pages to go... It's a great read, though. I haven't decided what to read next; any suggestions?

As always you can contact me at jasetaro@mags.net or jasetaro@yahoo.com with your comments, questions, criticisms or book recommendations.

Cheers;

—JEFF SETARO

DIRECTORS' NOTES, Continued from page 4

be willing to do a presentation for two or three computer user groups together. Jamie also mentioned the idea of sharing speakers with them.

Allan Ostergren said he received an email from a member who is interested in editing the newsletter.

Jim Scheef made a motion that was approved for Rob Limbaugh to serve out the rest of Bruce Preston's term as a board director. Rob is a Network Administrator for a global market research company.

Jim Scheef reminded everyone that we need to notify the membership in the November newsletter about the annual meeting in December. Jeff Setaro said that the following directors are up for re-election in December; Charles Bovaird, John Gallichotte, Bill Keane, Richard Corzo and Jamie Yates.

Jim Scheef said he would like to purchase a standard 19" server rack to house the new servers that Rob Limbaugh has donated. Jeff asked him to research buying one and send him a proposal.

—LISA LEIFELS

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium.

The purpose of the meeting is the election of directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Meeting Review

Firefox Browser/ Thunderbird Email Client

By Jamie Yates

OUR OCTOBER meeting offered a presentation by Jim Scheef, DACS member and former president, on the Firefox browser. This browser has gained the distinction of being the second most used browser on the market today behind Microsoft's Internet Explorer, and is growing in popularity daily. It also happens to be free.

Firefox is one of the prime reasons that Microsoft is producing an updated release of its own browser, which is now available in pre-release form, will be a free download for XP, and will be included in Vista's release early next year.

In addition to discussing the Firefox browser, he also spent some time on a free mail client called Thunderbird. Both the browser and email client are open source products, and have spawned thousands of free and useful extensions.

According to Jim, many people have switched to Firefox because of its increased functionality and the feeling that it is more secure than Internet Explorer.

Is it really more secure? Jim said yes and no. It has a more modern code base, so it can build on the knowledge of past browser security holes, and doesn't support Microsoft's ActiveX controls, which have been a source of many security problems. Also, since it is open source, any one with the right knowledge can fix problems when they appear, leading to faster fixes, as opposed to waiting for Microsoft to take months to fix its problems. So that makes it more secure.

But Firefox also has a smaller user base, so it is not yet as attractive a target as Internet Explorer. Many people believe that as its base grows, more effort will be expended to defeat its security—and as an indicator, some problems are starting to appear. That means that ultimately its vulnerability may be on a par with Internet Explorer. Only time will tell.

Firefox supports tabbed browsing, which allows all open Web sites to be displayed within one browser window, as opposed to having multiple open windows

on your system. The user can switch between open sites simply by clicking on the appropriate tab.

One of its key features is the thousands of extensions that are available to support additional functions. They can be found at <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/extensions>.

Jim's favorites include:
• Plain Old Favourites
—use IE favorites in Firefox.

- Roboform Toolbar – works just like IE.
- Yahoo Toolbar – just a click away.
- Duplicate Tab – so handy, you won't believe it
- Adblock – does just what it says

Firefox adheres to more Web standards than Internet Explorer, and as a result some Web pages may not display properly. But have no fear—there is even an extension that allows a Web page to be displayed using IE's Web rendering engine inside of a Firefox tab.

Several other features discussed were the Software Update feature, which makes it easy to get the latest security and feature updates. Firefox automatically downloads these small updates in the background and prompts you when they are ready to be installed. And also the Clear Private Data tool, which, with a single click, you can delete all personal data, including browsing history, cookies, Web form entries and passwords.

During his presentation, Jim went over how to make Firefox your default browser after it is installed. He also told us that there is a Version 2 of the browser in beta that should be available shortly.

You can get Firefox at <https://www.mozilla.org/firefox/>.

Next, Jim discussed Thunderbird, a free open source email client. Thunderbird supports POP3 (Post Office Protocol) and IMAP4 (Internet Message Access Protocol) and is supported by Microsoft Exchange. It also has many extensions, and seems to support AIM Mail.

Overall it was an informative and enjoyable presentation.

Thanks, Jim!



Meeting Preview

The Patriot Act, Privacy, and Connecticut Libraries

By Jamie Yates

Important notice

This meeting will be held in the Farioly Program Room at the Danbury Public Library (170 Main Street - Corner of Main and West Streets). Registration begins at 6:30 PM.

Parking will be available in the lots off Bank Street, adjacent to the library. Signs will be posted.

ONE OF THE HOTTEST topics in the news these days is the Patriot Act and personal privacy. While the Act covers many areas of the government's war on terrorism, our November DACS meeting will concentrate on one of its specific areas—what people do at the library, what they read or search for, or access. This should be a fascinating discussion that will be of interest to all DACS members and the general public.

The issue under discussion involves Library Connection, Inc., a nonprofit consortium of one academic library and 26 public libraries. Library Connection manages a common computer system for its member libraries that contains 3.5 million items. The system enables member libraries to manage over 270,000 registered patrons and process 7.6 million circulations a year.

In July 2005, the FBI presented George Christian, Executive Director of Library Connection, with a National Security Letter (NSL)—which was authorized under Section 505 of the USA PATRIOT Act. The NSL directed Christian to surrender “all subscriber information, billing information and access logs of any person” who used a specific computer at a particular library branch.

At the time it received a National Security Letter, Library Connection also provided telecommunications services for more than half of its members.

Christian and the three-member Executive Committee of the board of Library Connection, engaged the American Civil Liberties Union to file suit to challenge the constitutional validity of the NSL. Because Section 505, which authorizes the FBI to demand records without prior court approval, also forbids, or “gags,” anyone who receives an NSL from telling anyone else about receiving it, they also challenged the validity of the gag order.

For almost a year, the ACLU fought to lift the gag order, challenging the government's power under Section 505 to silence four citizens who

wished to contribute to public debate on the PATRIOT Act. Ironically, the New York Times had early on identified Library Connection from legal documents where the FBI had failed to redact citations of the plaintiffs in the case. In May 2006, the government finally gave up its legal battle to maintain the gag order.

Their lawsuit was remanded back to the lower courts for a decision on the merits. On June 26, 2006, the ACLU announced that, after dropping its defense of the gag provision accompanying the NSL request, the FBI abandoned the lawsuit entirely.

George Christian

George Christian has been the executive director of Library Connection since its corporate reorganization in 2003. In addition, Christian is a trustee of a \$3 million fund dedicated to the support of a branch of the Trumbull, CT public library. He served on the Trumbull Library board for six years, has been a member of the branch advisory board for 12 years, and is currently its president.

Barbara Bailey

Barbara Bailey is the current secretary of Library Connection (formerly president and executive board member).

She is president of the Connecticut Library Association and a member of ALA and the New England Library Association (NELA). Bailey has been a librarian for 30 years, and is currently the director of the Welles-Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury, CT. She earned her M.L.S. from the University of Rhode Island, in Kingston.

Peter Chase

Peter Chase is the current president of Library Connection. For 25 years, he has been the director of the Plainville Public Library, in Plainville, CT. In addition, he is the chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Connecticut Library Association. He earned his M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh.

Alice Knapp

Alice Knapp is the immediate past president of the Connecticut Library Association, and spoke on behalf of “John Doe” while the gag order was imposed. She is the director of Public Services at The Ferguson Library in Stamford, CT. Previously, she was director of the Bethel Public Library. She earned her M.L.S. from SUNY Albany.

DACS meetings adhere to the following format. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. with registration and casual networking. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. 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 evening 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.

JAMIE is program director of DACS and a member of the board..

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.



Are You A Zombie? How About Your Computer?

by S. Jack Lewtschuk

THERE ARE LITERALLY hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of “zombie computers” out there. Is your computer one of them?

Creating zombies out of computers used by you and me has become a major tool used by computer hackers, unscrupulous marketers, and other malicious evil-doers. A computer becomes a zombie when it performs tasks as instructed by someone other than the computer owner. The instructions given to the zombie usually involve distributing information to other computers, which the zombie computer does without notifying its owner. In every spare moment, a zombie computer sends out data, most of which is spam that tries to get someone to purchase something.

Watch for “Zombie Computer” Warning Signs

- The computer seems sluggish.
- The computer seems to be accessing the hard drive constantly.
- The mouse or keyboard becomes unresponsive.
- Excessive “bounce” notifications from people you never knowingly tried to e-mail.

These warning signs may also be symptoms of other computer problems, but if you see any of them you should investigate. For more information on zombie computers and spam, check out the **Federal Trade Commission’s Operation Spam Zombies** website at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/spam/zombie/index.htm>.

Protect Your Computer from becoming a Zombie

- Install a good **antivirus program** and make sure you update it regularly.
- Install a good **two-way firewall**. It will notify you when information is being sent from your computer. Unfortunately

the WindowsXP firewall is not adequate for this purpose—it is “one way” only.

- **Update your operating system** and other software regularly.
- Use an **anti-spyware program** to eliminate spyware on your system.



- **Check your antivirus and firewall software** occasionally to make sure they are running properly—often one of the first instructions given to a zombie computer is to disable the antivirus and firewall software.

- **Don’t open unknown/unexpected e-mail attachments!**

- **Use caution when downloading software**—buy from reputable companies, and be sure to read every screen as you download and install any software.

NOVICE CORNER

So, you’ve decided to download a program from the Internet. Are you sure that you really need it? OK, if you can’t live without it, are all of your security programs active and updated? If so, click on “download” and cross your fingers.

An Internet download usually comes with a “prompt” from your browser—you’ll be asked whether to “Run” (or “Open”) or to “Save” the file. What should you do? Here’s the difference:

- If you select “Run”, the download file will go to your “Temporary Internet Files” folder. Then it will run or open automatically.

- If you select “Save”, you have to choose where the file will be stored on your hard drive (creating a “Downloads” folder on your C-drive might be a good idea at this point). The file will sit in this file until you decide to open it yourself.

So “Run” is convenient, but “Save” gives you more control and it’s generally safer. Once the file is saved, you

can run a virus scan on it and examine the file. On the other hand, you shouldn’t be downloading something of which you are unsure. Downloads from companies you know—for instance, **Microsoft**, **Adobe** or **Apple**—are always OK.

Even if you do choose “Run”, you may still have the option to do some checking. **Internet Explorer** often lets you view digital signatures from the download prompt. After you click “Run”, a digital certificate message will pop up. You can click on the name listed under “Publisher” for more information. Under “Digital Signature Information”, it should say, “This digital signature is OK”. Otherwise, the file is high risk.

Another option you might see is a checkbox labeled something like “Always ask before opening this type of file”. Other browsers might use different phrasing such as “Always perform this action with this type of file”. The phrasing can be tricky—the two examples mentioned here have opposite effects. So be careful with options that include “always”, “never” or “automatically”. Select the setting that will alert you with every download. Good luck!

S. JACK LEWTSCHUK is a member of the Bay Users’ Group – Personal Computer (MBUG-PC) www.mbug.org. He can be reached at [blacklion\(at\)royal.net](mailto:blacklion(at)royal.net).

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.

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can reach over
300
active computer
users and
software buyers
by taking
advantage of
the attractive
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Macinations

DSL by Dummies Dealing with the Phone Guy

By Bill Manyin

I WAS ATTRACTED TO NY Verizon DSL 768Kbps for \$14.99/month for the first year and 17.99/month thereafter. Their Website said I had to have Verizon local service to qualify, so I switched service. (It turns out you can keep your non-Verizon service with some conditions.) I went through various harangues because of Mac instead of Windows. They claim to support Mac, but I found out that is only tongue-in-cheek.

If you are a DSL beginner, like I am, note that they allot a portion of your bandwidth to your phone line so that you can use your phone at the same time as your DSL. Also, you must install DSL filters they provide on all your phone cables except the one going to your DSL modem.

The Verizon Website said I could get the \$14.99 price only if I ordered from the Web, but when I tried, the Web page insisted I give them my Verizon Account number. This pushed me to switch to Verizon service. When I switched to Verizon local, regional, and long-distance service, they refused to give me my account number. They said it would appear on my first bill. However, the Web offer expired on 9-15-06, which was before that. They said the account number didn't get assigned by the computer until then. I said "Baloney! It must be assigned as soon as I become a customer." One Verizon department refused to tell me my account number, even though I was calling from my own phone, as though the account number was a national secret. Then the billing department finally told me. When I went back to the Verizon Website to order, it didn't ask for my account number, probably because it now knew my telephone number was served by Verizon.

The DSL installation instructions announced it only takes 1 hour to install. The Verizon DSL package came with an Install CD that couldn't proceed from the window about installing the wall phone

DSL filter. The screen says "Do you have a wall phone? Answer Yes or No." But the Yes and No boxes never appeared. Calling Tech Support told me this is a known problem for the Mac. I said if it's a known problem why don't you put a note to that effect in the box! Furthermore the DSL wall plate filter they provided only works for new wall phones, not the old

one that we had.

Tech support said that was all they had: "One size fits all." I told them that was wrong. I checked Radio Shack and found out they didn't carry the correct kind either. The problem is that the DSL wall plate filter connector doesn't extend the 0.25 inch extra to connect to the old wall phone jack. The result: I went out and bought a new wall phone.

Before I ever connected the DSL modem, I had problems on my "new" DSL phone line, with long distance calls getting cut off from one side. When I called Tech Support I couldn't get them to understand that this problem was with the phone line connection and NOT the DSL connection. They finally opened an incident of a "Sync" problem and said I should stay home the next day when a repairman would come. I stayed home, losing the chance to go to work, but he never showed up or called. When I called back Tech Support they couldn't explain anything. When I looked at My Account on their Website I learned that my incident was "Closed" the same day they opened it with no explanation!



I was forced to struggle to understand various Verizon Tech Support people having foreign accents. One exasperated fellow finally talked me through installing my DSL modem without explaining what he was having me do.

I paid an extra \$49.99 for wireless, so Verizon sent me a Westell VersaLink Model 327W modem. When I changed the cryptic password they assigned, I was told that Mac users had to manually change the password for their modem. They keep emphasizing to use their Website instead of their Tech Support. BUT their Website is lacking. They have two Webpages that claim to explain how to change the Model 327W password—neither one is correct. I tried Chat, but it doesn't work from Mac. I resorted to email, which only got me references to their Westell modem Web pages which are wrong! I was forced to call their Tech Support again, and finally got someone who spoke English who helped me.

I downloaded the Westell User Manual PDF file, but do I really want to print 166 pages?

In general I found their phone tree annoying. It would sometimes ask what operating system I was running, but always assigned me to a Windows "Help" person. After I'd explain my problem, he would tell me that he would have to switch me to a Mac person who made me start from the beginning.

Allot only 1 hour to install Verizon DSL? Ha!

What great service from Verizon! Use carrier pigeon; it works better.

Verizon never offered an opportunity to provide feedback on their "service."

BILL MANYIN is a computer programmer, retired from IBM, who has used networking since the days of 134.5bps. He joined DACS in 1994 and can be reached at william.manyin@mindspring.com.

Have you seen our newest feature at the DACS monthly meetings?

What's News?

A 15-minute summary of the latest happenings in hi-tek, along with hints at what to look forward to in coming months. Right after Ask DACS.

Just another reason to come to the meeting. If you wait to read about it in [dacs.doc](#), it will already be history.

Want to share something new and exciting on the Web? Send the link to jjyates@dacs.org.

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: November 2006

ASP.Net. Focuses on Web site/server application development using Microsoft Visual Studio, C#, VB, Javascript and SQL Server programming tools. Session starts with a Random Access, 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: Nov 1

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: Nov 29

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: Nov 16

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: Nov 15

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: Nov 2

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: Nov 20

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: Nov 16

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: Nov 9

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: Nov 1

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: Nov 27

Web Design. Explores 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: Nov 21

SIG News & Events

.NET: The .Net SIG began with program code. We had a special treat in our dotNET SIG to see Chuck demonstrate his reconstruction of his ZipBack program. A core advantage of this program is it avoids a postback of a Web page by allowing user actions such as data validation to be resolved at the browser.

First we saw a page with the several controls needed to display customer information from the Northwind database such as Customer ID and Customer Name. We reviewed the various constituent coding elements in HTML and C# as seen in MS Visual Studio IDE. The HTML included INPUT commands for each of the controls to appear on this chosen page.

There were several highlights to this live coding process. We saw several lines of code that were protected for content of our user controls. We saw fields that were to bear content within a class. We saw how a line of code can be indicated to run at the server.

After our refreshing interlude of pizza preoccupation, we continued with strategies and tactics for data retrieval using SQLClient. We dipped into JavaScript. Events were handled with automated IDE code wiring invoked by OnExecute maneuvers. Our endeavor was to attempt to populate the controls using a Binding process, however

we exhausted our time segment before a demonstration could be presented. This will be left for the next SIG where Binding step will be demonstrated along with other ZipBack functionality.

Our roster of attendees was much augmented for the evening session and a clear presentation of coding strategies stimulated much incisive discussion. We concluded with a raffle turned coin toss for the presentation of a C# instruction manual.

PC maintenance: The major set of problems presented to the PC Maintenance SIG over the last six months had to do with managing privacy when using the internet.

If a PC user has no concern about this or fails to learn and act on privacy maintenance, They will lose their privacy.

Step 1 - read the following article.

www.informationweek.com/1103/safepc.htm

Step 2 Develop and execute your household plan to continuously manage your privacy in this digital world.

November 2006

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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Commentary

Circuit Rider

Version 4.4

By Jim Scheef

Uncle DACS needs you
I'M VERY PLEASED to say that someone stepped up to the plate and agreed to take on the job of *DACS.doc* Editor. If you are disappointed that you missed this opportunity, first, shame on you for not speaking up, and second, it's never too late to help. We are still looking for at least one more person to run for DACS board. Being a director ranges from fun to frustrating. If you would like to help make DACS a better organization, we will welcome your ideas and help.

Digital Life Show

If you're a computer game player and you didn't go down to the Javits Center to see the Digital Life show, well, try to make it next year. I received a gratis invite to see the show on opening day. The reason for this was that Microsoft wanted industry people to watch a long presentation on Vista. Fortunately I was able to miss much of this. The part I did see about the Media Center Edition was interesting. The actual show was almost entirely for gamers—PC and Xbox gamers. One part of the show floor was a huge LAN party with about a hundred Alienware (now owned by Dell) PCs. Bordering this area was a platform for a rock band with many, many loud speakers and the largest flat-screen monitor I've ever seen. There were several strategically placed bars around the show floor. I was extremely glad I was there when I was because it would have been hell once the show opened to the public. If you're coming to the conclusion that the show is oriented to young men 21-39, I think you're right. The booth babes were getting ready as I left.

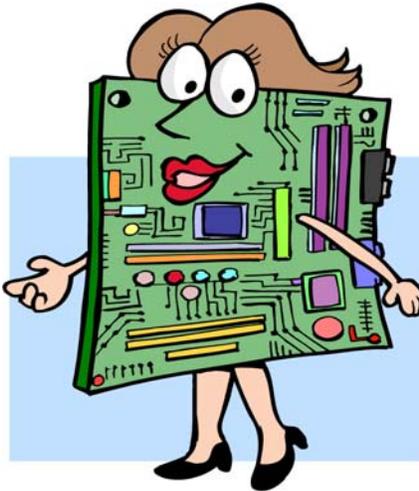
My reason for going to the show was to see the latest in home theater systems. There was none of this. I was also in-

terested in home security and automation systems. I found two vendors. I was disappointed by the Digital Life Show, but I am not the target audience.

Microsoft and SCO

Remember the SCO suit against IBM and others over source code allegedly stolen from UNIX (which SCO says it owns) and used in Linux? The legal case is still in the U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City. The potential of a Microsoft connection to SCO could make the shenanigans at Hewlett-Packard look like an episode of *Ozzie and Harriett*. Basically, it seems that Microsoft said they would guarantee a \$50M investment in SCO by BayStar, Inc. You can check this out at www.Linux-Watch.com. Searching on SCO will find the article. You just can't make this stuff up!

In other Microsoft news, the software giant [the most congenial description I could find on the spur of the moment] has finally agreed to provide security software vendors with information on the kernel-level "hooks" needed to integrate anti-virus and similar security software into the Vista operating system. In the past these companies have been treated as partners and given early access to this API (application programming interface) information while new versions of Windows were still in development. Vista makes some major changes in how these APIs work in an effort to make the operating system more secure. Not using the kernel-level APIs would severely limit the functionality of security software. This time Microsoft withheld the information until the companies started to make really loud noises. What changed? Well, as Microsoft brings a product (Windows



Live™ OneCare™) in this arena to market; suddenly Symantec, McAfee and the others are competitors! I thought Microsoft had learned what constituted monopolistic behavior. It's amazing how utterly blatant they can be!

News from the SANS Institute

The fact that I get all these e-mail newsletters is probably a reason to question my sanity; however, four items in a recent issue of the SANS NewsBytes (Vol. 8, Num. 82, October 17, 2006) caught my eye. This newsletter is a compilation of news items gleaned from other sources. The first item is an appellate court decision regarding e-mail privacy rights. The decision from the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces "ruled that Lance Corporal Jennifer Long of the US Marine Corps had a reasonable subjective expectation of privacy regarding e-mail stored on her government computer" and that the e-mails could not be admitted as evidence. This possibly precedence-setting decision was based on the fact that the Corporal had a password known only to her and the logon banner did not warn that such access was possible. The banner only "described access to monitor the computer system, not to engage in law enforcement intrusions by examining the contents of particular e-mails in a manner unrelated to maintenance of the e-mail system." Even if this completely changes the rights of employers to access computers used by employees, my position remains that anyone who uses their work e-mail for personal business is a fool.

The next item was a report from the House Government Reform Committee that said that "there has been data loss from all government agencies." This is news? Well it would be if there were not more scandalous items coming from Congress. The report continues that "many agencies could not say what data were lost, and many attributed the losses to government contractors. The number of data losses attributed to online attacks is quite low—most losses were due to lax physical security and lost or stolen computers and data storage devices." And we thought all the problems were at the Veterans Affairs Department, right? You just can't make this stuff up! (Oh, I already said that.)

More good news from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) which re-

ported that someone breached one of their servers and obtained the e-mail addresses of their mailing list subscribers. CBO closed the hole that allowed the breach [I believe there is an analogy about a barn door], "but the thieves sent phishing e-mail purporting to come from CBO to the purloined addresses. Law enforcement officials have been notified of the incident and have begun an investigation."

Last is an item about how McDonalds Japan gave about 10,000 people flash MP3 players as prizes. The devices included ten songs plus a software "bonus" in the form of a variant of the QQpass spyware Trojan horse program. When the devices were connected to a Windows PC, the Trojan horse exposed "passwords and other sensitive data" to attackers. Apparently an infected machine was used to load the content on the players. McDonalds Japan has apologized and established a helpline to help the "winners" disinfect their computers.

Normally the SANS Institute (www.sans.org), which does security training, is not this funny.

The Election

By the time you receive this, the election will be mere days away. Personally I'm more hopeful this year than I have been for the last several elections. Rather than tempt fate by making predictions, I will just ask that you vote your conscience. Next month we can discuss the results!

JIM SCHEEF is past president of DACS.

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."

Home Entertainment

How Do I Get My Home Videos Into the Computer?

By Elise Edgell

I HAVE STACKS OF VHS and 8mm tapes that I want to convert to digital format before they are no longer accessible. I know that once I get the analog videos converted to digital format I can preserve them, edit them, back them up, etc. But, what technology is available to me?

First of all, let me explain that I have never been good at reading about a technology, learning all it's terms and features before I have had a chance to use the technology. When I am making a decision about software, frequently the feature, which sounded so good on the box and enticed me to purchase it, is not the feature which I really use. It often is something that I was unaware of when I initially got the program but which I use the most and like the best. An example of this is the "Reveal Codes" feature in WordPerfect.

When VCRs first came on the market, I wanted one. I heard about the pros and cons of VHS and BETA formats. I had a hard time remembering which was which. I had never used a VCR before I purchased a VHS model. I rapidly learned the different recording speeds and how they affected the quality of the image. The next VCR I purchased was a BETA format. The image quality was much better and I couldn't understand why it was not the format of choice for everyone.

Since that time, I have had a VHS camcorder, an 8mm and a Hi8. Again, the quality difference between the three formats is noticeable. I have not purchased a digital camcorder yet so I have not learned the difference between the different types of digital camcorders. When I was looking for the technology necessary to convert my precious memories to digital format I was focused on analog conversion devices.

The first analog capture device connected to the computer with a USB1 cable. That did not work well and I put the project aside for a while. I then received a ADS Instant DVD USB 2 capture device as a gift. By this time I had acquired a couple of video editing programs. I had installed them, read the documentation (much of it was incomprehensible to me without actually using the program), and attempted to capture some video from a Hi8 tape. This did not work well. I found that soft-

ware programs are very touchy about which video capture device they will talk with. Fortunately, the video capture device came with capture software so I am able to transfer my analog video to digital. But, not in the way I wanted and I am still learning the terminology.

I wanted to write this because some of my confusion may be the same as yours. The software programs say that they can "capture" both analog and digital video. They also talk about "capture card" for the digital video. It is necessary to have a "capture card" or "capture device" to take the analog information from your VHS (or other analog input) and convert it to digital information. This is usually accomplished by connecting the video-out and audio-out from your analog device (VHS player, camcorder, etc) to the input section of your capture card (this may be your video card) or external device. When you are in the process of capturing the video, the analog information is converted in the capture device to a digital format (there are several such as MPEG1 and MPEG2) and then stored on your computer. Once stored, they can be used by video editing programs or can be burned to a disk.

Please note, if you have a digital camcorder, you do not need a conversion



device. The information that is on your camcorder is already in digital format. Depending on the type of camcorder the digital information may be stored on a tape, memory card, hard disk, or even on a DVD. If you cannot remove the storage device and put it into a reader on your computer then the way to transfer data is through a FireWire or USB2 connection to your computer. If you are using a video editing program to enable the transfer, there are some nice things that the program may be able to do with the data as it is received. It may automatically create chapters and provide other information that is handy when you want to edit the information (rare is the tape which cannot be improved with cutting out the unintentional video of the pavement).

There are programs which let you transfer your converted VHS tape directly to a DVD.

The reason to do this is to get the analog tapes preserved. I know that I will never have the time to edit all the old tapes which I have, but I do want to preserve them. The CapWiz program which came with my ADS Instant DVD USB2 capture box has this feature. If you purchase a program that is not bundled with the capture box (or card) be sure that specific version of that program will work with your model of capture device.

Expect to put in some time learning the terminology. Read carefully what the program will do and what it will not do so that you are realistic in your expectations. Keep in mind that what you are working with, once you have your video in digital format, is a file. The file can be in several different formats with different characteristics. What I mean is that, just like with digital photos, a file format which is really compressed will not look as good as a larger file with more information. When dealing with video information, you must remember that you need a lot of storage on your disk and it really helps to have a disk with fast response time.

A fast computer with lots of RAM is also important. It is only recently that video editing has become practical for the home user. Before really large, fast hard disk storage was affordable, the home user was very limited in the size of file that could be edited. With today's fast computers, inexpensive RAM, large storage disks, and inexpensive DVD writers it should be within the reach of many home users to be able to preserve valuable analog tapes. Plus, be able to make home movies from them that friends and family are willing to watch.

If you are planning to buy a new computer in the near future, keep in mind the requirements for video editing as well as the requirements for VISTA. Fortunately, the requirements for the Ultimate version of VISTA are also good for video editing purposes.

ELISE EDGELL is president, North Orange County Computer Club, California. <http://www.noccc.org>, eliseedgell@aol.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.



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

**EXP8\2006
or earlier**

You need to renew your
DACS membership
NOW

Post Your Biz on *dacs.org*

We would like to post a directory of our members' business services on the DACS web site.

These would preferably be computer related, hardware and software solutions, Web design, etc., but can include Accounting, Travel, Advertising, Public Relations, or any other business service that you might be able to provide to all our members.

At some future date we may include the directory in our newsletter.

To get your listing, post your name, business, phone, e-mail and Web address to dacsprez@dacs.org.



Resource Management

The cost of natural gas from 1988 through 2005 a spreadsheet illustration using Microsoft Excel

By Charles Bovaird

FIVE PHASES ARE required for data analysis: Data collection, Data entry, Data analysis, Graphic representation, and Interpretation

(1). Data collection. - The data collection phase of analytical problems is generally the most expensive. More recent improvements using computers to collect data have simplified the process for simple problems. Collecting large amounts of data automatically in some cases has simplified the data collection phase, but has also encouraged the collection of larger data samples with more detail, thus adding to the complexity of the process.

A plethora of computer applications have been created to address these more complex problems. Many require expert treatment by specialists trained in management science/operations research. Complex problems have always existed. One currently in the media is PLM (Product Lifecycle Management). In the past, PLM has been addressed using large-scale computers where the cost justified the means. Now that we have powerful desktop computers, PLM products and services may make sense to smaller businesses. This example is but a simple Excel model to identify some questions that could be addressed developing a PLM model.

In this illustration the data source was collected over the years 1988-2005 from

the monthly billing statements. \$/CCF (100 cubic feet) was used because CCF was the major cost component.

(2). Data entry

Starting with a blank spreadsheet, do the following: In cell A1 enter the word "year". In cell B1 enter the words "5% per yr increase" (line breaks can be executed by positioning the cursor, hold, alt, enter. In cell C1 enter "\$ per CCF natural gas".

To enter numeric data, enter in cell A2 "1988". In cell A3 enter "1989". Highlight cells A2 and A3. Place the cursor on the small box in the lower right hand corner of cell A3, press Left click-hold-and drag down the A column to A19, and release. This procedure changes the year values by +1.

Next, we enter the data from our data source into column C for each year. In cell B2 we copy the value from C2 (0.77).

(3). Data analysis

Initially we do not know the annual percentage increase so we will design the spreadsheet and graph in such a manner as to test various percentage values and observe the effect on the projected trend line. Type into cell E2 the words "Est. Annual Growth rate % =", In cell h2 type an initial estimate value = 5. Calculate the following years' values by first typing the formula "=\$B2*(1+\$H\$2/100)" into cell

B3. Now highlight cell B3, point to the drag handle (lower right hand corner of B3) and drag to B19 and release.

(4). Graphic representation

Because a graph usually generates more insight than a table of numbers, we now create a graph.

Highlight columns A, B, and C. Click on the graph icon at the top of the spreadsheet. Now click on the type of graph (scatter graph in this case). Next click on the graph display you wish to use. Now click next, next, finish.

The graph is now displayed on your spreadsheet. You can now use "click, hold, drag" to modify the location and shape of the graph on the spreadsheet.

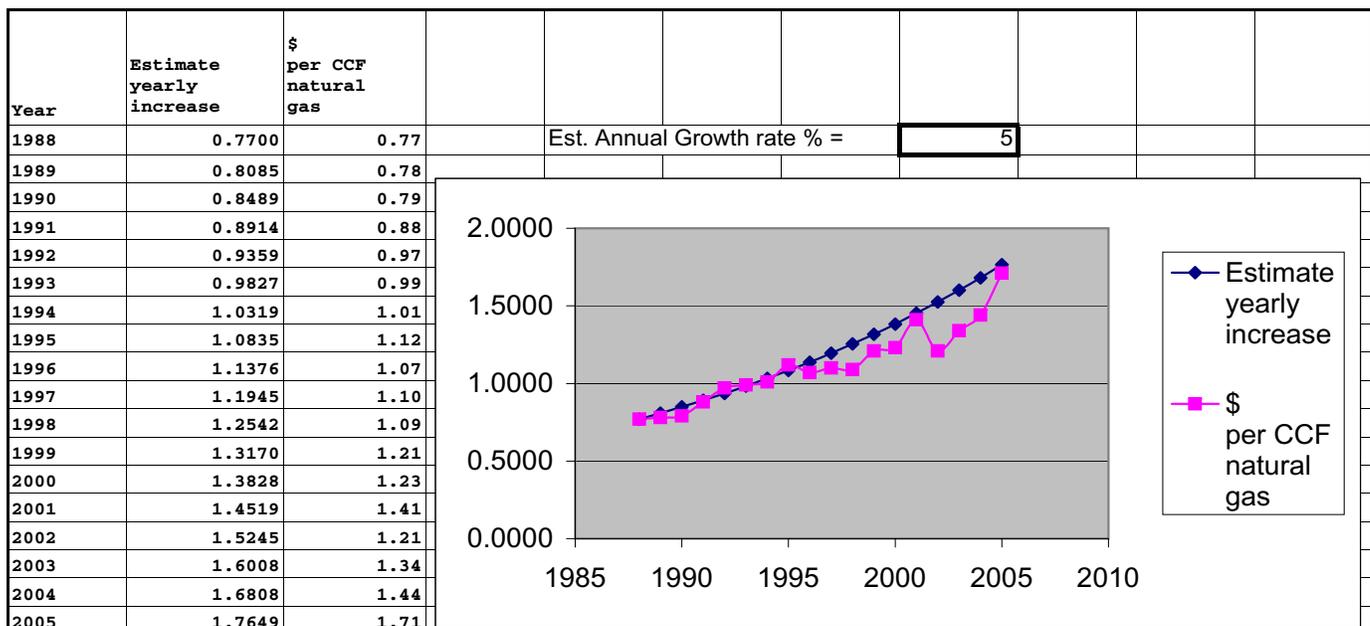
File, save spreadsheet as "Natural Gas price analysis 1988-2005".

(5). Interpretation

By changing the percentage value in cell H5, we can observe the projected growth line relative to the annual price data. Some questions the user of this model could consider are:

- (1). What is an appropriate historical price growth rate?
- (2). What is an appropriate projected price growth rate? Include your rationale.
- (3) What problems does a projected 5% price growth rate portend for people on fixed income?
- (3). What caused the trend change in 1994 and in 2005?

Charlie Bovaird is a retired IBM-er, who never stopped thinking about a better mousetrap.



What's News

October, 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 a phone number of a business or person? Most, if not all, services charge over \$1...Directory assistance for free...Targeted advertising supported.

Source: Online or by telephone (1-800-FREE411); <http://www.free411.com/>

Description: Surf the Web without leaving any visible trace...No install or registration required...No history, cookies, Web cache or auto-complete...Old cookies stay but new ones deleted at session end...Free to use...Supports Windows today and Mac and Linux soon.

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

Description: What is Phishing? Do you know it when you see it? Take the test and find out...Just 10 questions.

Source: <http://www.sonicwall.com/phishing/>

Description: Want to know about a flight that you are meeting? Is it on time, late or canceled? Are there general airport delays? Just want to see all airport traffic?

Source: <http://www.rlmssoftware.com/>; <http://flightaware.com/>

Description: Want to find out about clinical trials or results? For you or someone you know...Multiple sites available...Can locate by condition or location and more.

Source: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>; <http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials.html>

Description: What has 400 times more germs than a toilet seat? Everyone knows it's a keyboard and mouse...Now there's an answer: A wireless mouse that has a nanocoating of Titanium oxide and silver...99% efficient at killing germs...\$39.95.

Source: <http://gearlog.com/blogs/gearlog/archive/2006/09/25/22013.aspx>

Description: Create a personalized song for someone...Love, Birthday, Valentines, Christmas, Mother's and Father's day...Add names, dates, places, jokes and more...Delivered at selected date by email...Can also be saved on your computer...MP3 format...1 for \$4.95, 5 for \$9.95 – other prices available.

Source: <http://www.instasong.com/InstaSong/home.shtml>

Description: Want a secure firearm, or prevent stolen bullets from being used? How about using password protected bullets? Enter code on gun that bullets recognize...Can be set to reauthorize in set amount of time...Bullets are programmed at purchase.

Source: http://www.newscientisttech.com/article.ns?id=dn9412&feedId=online-news_rss20

Description: PC Magazine's Top 99 Undiscovered Web Sites...These are useful, funny, or interesting—enough to merit entrée into the Web's public consciousness...Listed by category—Apps - PC & Mobile, Business, Computing, Consumer Electronics & Photography, Health, Information, Search & Reference, Lifestyle, Entertainment & Fun, News, Oddities & Gaming, Shopping & Consumer Issues, Travel. Give'em a look.

Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2011427,00.asp>

Description: StumbleUpon selects random Web sites recommended by multiple people...Can be set up to only select from certain categories...May be used from the Web site or a free toolbar...Supports both IE and Firefox...May be a replacement for me and *What's News*.

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

Description: Who'd have guessed it? The new Amish laptop...21st century technology...13 x 6 bead resolution...78 RAB (Random Access Bead) memory...Be sure to read FAQs

Source: <http://www.mystique.net/amish.html>

Description: Weird Al Yankovic has a new album...Plus some free tracks...And this one is provided by the RIAA in an attempt to discourage illegal downloads.

Source: <http://www.dontdownloadthissong.com/DDTSecard.swf>

Be Informed by E-mail

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

Let DACS Promote Your Business

DACS is offering members free space to advertise their small businesses in the business card section of the colored insert in *dacs.doc*. This offer is being made subject to space available, and cards will be rotated each month to guarantee equal access.

Please send your cards to DACS at 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430, give to any board member, or e-mail graphic image to *dacseditor@dacs.org*.

Sorry, but postal regulations require that ads be computer related, and specifically forbid ads for Credit, Insurance or Travel Services.

When dining at the
DACS Resourc Center,
please carry your
leftovers
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Thanks!

The
Management

Ask DACS

October 2006

Richard Corzo, 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. How can I backup my Internet Explorer favorites and my Mozilla Firefox bookmarks?

A. There are several third-party software programs that will assist you with the backup or you can manually do it yourself by following the instructions below if you are using Microsoft Internet Explorer:

1. Open Internet Explorer, click the File menu and Import and Export. Then click Next.
2. Select Export Favorites and click Next. Select the folder you wish to back up; if you wish to back up all favorites, leave the Favorites folder highlighted and click Next.
3. Select the destination folder you wish to save the favorites and click Next.
4. By default Microsoft Internet Explorer will save your bookmarks as bookmark.htm. Click Finish.

Here are the steps to follow if you are using Mozilla Firefox:

1. Open Mozilla Firefox, click Bookmarks, and then click on the Manage Bookmarks link.
2. In the Bookmarks Manager window click File and choose Export.
3. By default your bookmark file will be called bookmarks.html. Choose the location you wish to save the bookmarks file to and click the Save button.

Q. How can I synchronize my Internet Explorer favorites and Firefox bookmarks?

A. Once again there are several software packages that will help you to do this for you, or you can manually follow the Firefox export process above and then do the following steps from within Internet Explorer.

1. Open Internet Explorer, and from the File Menu select Import and Export. This will begin the Import/Export Wizard.
2. Select Import Favorites and the select the file you would like to import. Click Next.
3. Select the destination folder and

click Finish.

Here are the steps to import your Internet Explorer favorites to Firefox:

1. Open Mozilla Firefox, click Bookmarks and then click on the Manage Bookmarks link.
2. In the Bookmarks Manager window click File and choose Import.
3. Choose the Internet Explorer browser, and click Next to continue and then click on the Finish button to complete the import process.

To synchronize between different PCs, you may also want to explore a service such as Sync2IT (<http://www.sync2it.com/>). On a Mac Safari's bookmarks can be synchronized across different Macs using a .Mac account, and then the bookmarks are accessible from any Web browser on any PC or Mac. If you use other browsers on the Mac, the shareware program Bookit (<http://www.everydaysoftware.net/bookit/>) can keep everything in sync across one or multiple Macs.

Q. I have an IBM computer running Windows XP which the RecordNow software came pre-installed on and is working fine. I have a second computer that originally was using Windows ME, but has been upgraded to run on Windows XP that I would like to use the RecordNow software on. The version of RecordNow on the older computer is only compatible with Windows ME. Is there a way of migrating the software from one computer to another computer?

A. Sonic-RecordNow is CD Writing software that comes pre-installed on IBM Thinkpads.

The following link has an updated version of the RecordNow Software if you have purchased an IBM Thinkpad and have a previous version installed.

This CD-RW application software download is applicable only for Microsoft Windows 2000 and XP customers who have purchased the

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.

For Sale

CASIO WC-50 Disk Label printer. Prints directly onto CD or DVD disks. Larry Buoy (lbuoy6143@earthlink.net) or (860) 355-0394

ThinkAccessory Options, or ThinkPad systems with the options.

Notes: Early OBI optical drives may have shipped with CD-RW software which did not support Windows XP. This update provides that support. - This software is provided on a "use as is" basis. Source: <http://www-7.ibm.com/pc/support/site.wss/document.do?sitestyle=lenovo&lnodocid=MIGR-43887>.

If you no longer have the previous version installed, you could purchase the latest Sonic RecordNow! Software from Roxio (<http://www.sonic.com/products/Consumer/RecordNow/>).

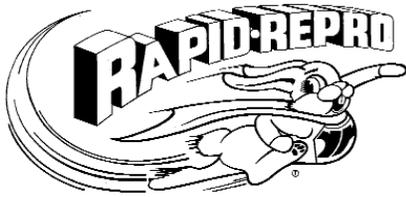
Q. Is there a way of finding out the date a web page was last updated?

A. Firefox seems to be the best browser to get this information, at least compared to Internet Explorer or Safari. From the Firefox menu select Tools then Page Info. You should see the date and time the page was last modified. Note that some Web pages are dynamically generated each time you visit the page so that you will always see the current date and time.

Richard Corzo is a computer programmer and a DACS director. He has contributed past articles on PC operating systems and utilities.

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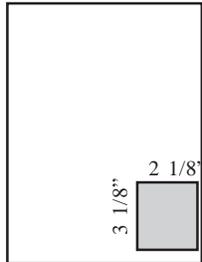
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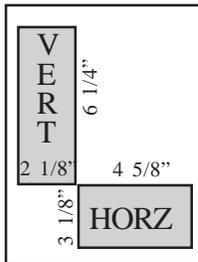
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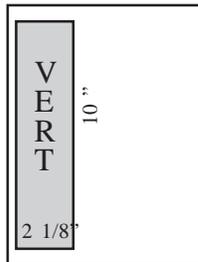
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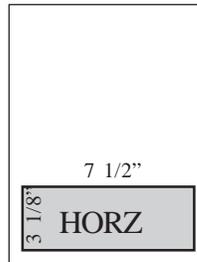
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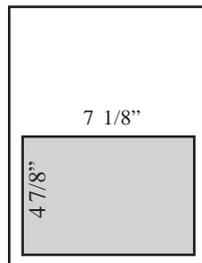
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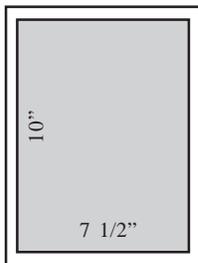
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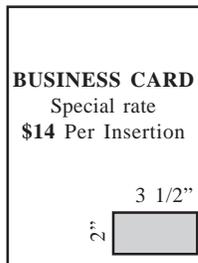
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Danbury Area Computer Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section (501)(C)(3) of the US Tax Code. Its purpose is to promote education, knowledge sharing, networking and communication between users of personal computers. DACS is an all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

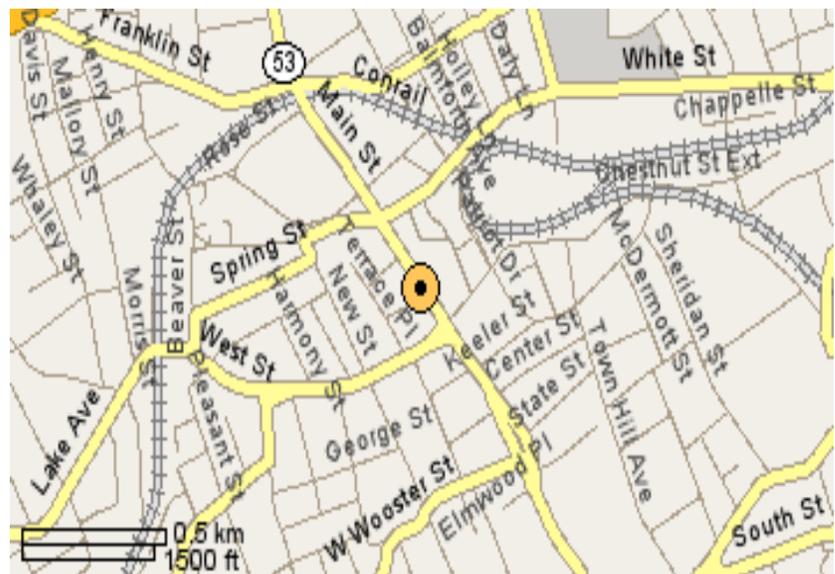
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session. 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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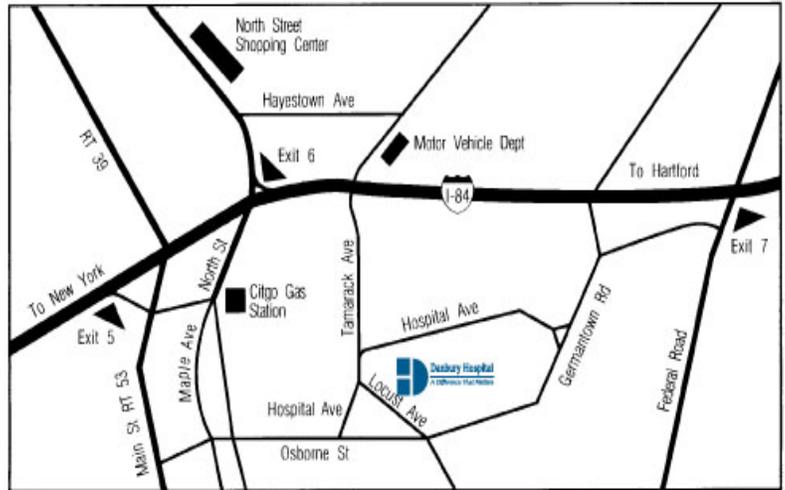
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Traveling West on I-84, Take Exit 6. Turn right at exit ramp light at North Street. Turn right on Hayestown Avenue. Turn right on Tamarack Avenue. Follow Tamarack Avenue uphill to traffic light. Turn left at this light onto Hospital Avenue. Follow 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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