

You don't have to be a sorcerer to get your mouse to run on different platforms.



At our next meeting, DACS board member and technology wizard Rob Limbaugh will show how virtualization can enable you to seamlessly run multiple operating systems on a single computer.

President's File



PRESIDENTIAL
RAMBLINGS
February
2007

One to go... I've greatly enjoyed my tenure as DACS President. This is a great organization and I've been privileged to work with truly outstanding people. In a way, I'm sorry to see my term end but at the same time the truth is I'm burnt out and I need a break.

I joined DACS in 1993 and I've been an active member for more years than I can count. Unfortunately I don't have the time or the passion I once did for DACS activities so it's time for me to step back and let someone else take over.

Election of Officers

Ok folks, it's time to step up. Next month the Board of Directors will elect the officers who will conduct the day-to-day operations of DACS for the coming year. We need your ideas and energy if DACS is going to continue to thrive in the future. Officers do not need to be members of the Board of Directors; all you need is a willingness to share a little of your time, energy and talent with DACS.

We have two openings that must be filled, President and Vice President of Pro-

grams. Jamie Yates our current Vice President of Programs has decided not to seek another term. I'm sorry to see Jamie go; his passion and tireless energy will be greatly missed.

For me the hardest part of being President was finding the time to write these columns. They are almost always a last minute, shoot from the hip affair that end falling far short of what they could be... All in all, it's been a rewarding experience.

If you are interested in running for President or VP of Programs please contact a member of the Board... DACS needs you!

iPhone

Have you ordered your iPhone yet? Me neither... As cool and innovative as Apple's iPhone is I don't think I'll be ordering one anytime soon. First, I just got a new phone - a Motorola Razr 3M - it does everything I need a cell phone to do and second, I'm not going to switch providers just for a phone.

That said, the iPhone is the first really cool and innovative product I've seen in the cell market in a very long time. It's based on a slimmed down embedded version of Apple's OS X operating system and has real web browser and e-mail client capabilities. All in all, I think Apple has a hit on its hands. I don't think the iPhone will achieve the same kind of dominance that the iPod has, though. Not unless Apple enters into partnerships with other service providers.

Say What?!?

Have you ever read a news story and found yourself saying "What the, that's ridiculous"? That was my reaction when I read the story about substitute teacher Julie Amero; she was convicted of 4 counts of risk of injury to a minor, or impairing the morals of a child in Norwich and faces up to 40 years in prison.

As best as I can reconstruct from news reports, Amero was substituting for a seventh-grade language class at Kelly Middle School. On Oct. 19, 2004 while surfing the web on a classroom computer, Amero and her students were bombarded with a series of pornographic images appearing in an endless cycle on her computer.

What's disturbing about this case is that everything I've read about leads me to believe that the computer in question was infested with spyware. Amero's description of an endless series of pop ups

PRESIDENT'S FILE, Continued on page 4

Membership Information

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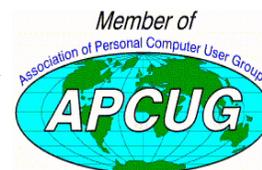
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Don Neary
APCUG Liaison
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SECRETARY: Lisa Leifels • **TREASURER:** Charles Bovaird

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HelpLine

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

d = day e = evening

Program	Name	Phone #	
Alpha Four	Dick Gingras	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(e)
ASP.Net	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	(d)
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Focus	Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	(e)
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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)
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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, January 8, 2007. Present were Charles Bovaird, Howard Berger, Richard Corzo, John Gallichotte, Sean Henderson, John Lansdale, Lisa Leifels, Rob Limbaugh, Jim Scheef, Jeff Setaro and Jamie Yates. President Jeff Setaro presided and Secretary Lisa Leifels kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held on December 11, 2006 were approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$11,980.78, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$11,906.26 plus postage on hand of \$74.52. Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$6,733.00 left a net equity of \$5, 247.78. He also reported that the current membership is at 282, of which 62 are electronic.

Rob Limbaugh will be doing a presentation on virtual machine technology for the February general meeting. Jamie is working on scheduling a future meeting with Nerds To Go and having them discuss some of the more common questions they are asked. He also would like to schedule a meeting with Sounds Incredible to talk about HDTV and other technical household products. Richard Corzo offered to get in touch with Dave Marra to see if he'll come back and do another Apple presentation.

Sean Henderson reported that he, Rob Limbaugh and John Lansdale are working with Erik Olson on coming up with six questions for the focus group. They are hoping to get twelve to sixteen people to attend consisting of non-members, current members and past members.

A discussion ensued on the pros and cons of converting to an electronic only version of the newsletter. Patrick Libert reported by email the feedback he had received from two different computer clubs wrestling with the same problems of decreasing membership and trying to reduce their expenses. The focus group may be a way to determine how to address this issue.

Jeff Setaro brought up the topic that the Bylaws of the corporation require additional amendments. Primarily the dates specified for the meetings of both the Membership and the Directors. They also need to be amended to conform to the current Connecticut Statutes. Rob Limbaugh offered to email the board the current version of the Bylaws for review.

Directors' Notes, Continued on page 4

Meeting Preview

The Virtual Machine

By Jamie Yates

On tap for our February 6 General Meeting will be a presentation on virtual machines. What they are and what they can do for you both in business and personally. Plus, the answers to many other questions on the subject.

For this presentation we welcome Rob Limbaugh, DACS Board member, for his first General Meeting feature presentation.

The concept of virtual machines has been around in the mainframe market for years but it is only in the last several years that it is beginning to have a major impact on the server and personal computer segments of the industry. There are many different implementations from hardware to software and many different definitions. They can be used for software testing, allowing legacy software to run on newer hardware without requiring conversion, and to improve resource utilization.

Most of you may be familiar with an implementation which is not quite virtualization but in some cases gives similar results. It's called dual booting and is as basic as you can get. It allows for multiple copies of the same operating system or different operating systems to be resident on a single machine. For it to work only one system can be running at a time and the running one must be shut down before another can be started. It supports both Windows and/or Linux.

Another one you may have heard of recently is Apple's Boot Camp. It allows for Mac OS X and Windows to be resident on an Intel based Mac. It also requires only one operating system to be active at a given time.

These are very basic implementations. Some of the ones Rob will be discussing allow for multiple virtual machines (operating systems) to run concurrently on a single machine, each believing they control the whole machine, or software that runs inside an operating system but is totally fenced in so that it cannot cause problems with the running machine or other software. There are many different variations of these around, each offering different benefits and some that are even free.

During the evening, Rob will define the different types of virtualization and

some of the products or functions that support each. Some may be familiar to you and others not. Rob will review software such as VMWare, Microsoft's Virtual computing platforms, and GreenBorder, to name a few. He will also discuss their benefits, drawbacks, and costs and will spend some time on trends in this area as we move into the future.

Some of these different techniques can be used by each of you whether you are looking at them from a commercial or home/personal perspective.

Come prepared with an open mind and questions and enjoy an educational and thought provoking evening.

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 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.

President's File, *Continued from page 2*

is a very common occurrence on an infected system.

In fact, a computer expert hired by the defense testified he found spyware on the computer and that the pop ups were caused by the spyware. I also find it disturbing that the detective who examined the computer testified that he did not check for spyware. Why?

There are other things that bother me; among them the school had no active content filtering system... I saw one report that said the license had lapsed... and I've seen no mention of whether or not the system in question had updated anti-virus software and anti-spyware software or if all the appropriate patches and updates had been installed... All questions that need to be answered.

One other question needs to be answered... Amero testified that she told at least four teachers and the Assistant

Principal at the school about the problem, but received no help. Why not?

This case should serve as wake up call for parents, teachers and school administrators... Parents need to be asking what steps schools are taking to prevent this from happening in their children's classroom. Teachers and administrators must make sure that computers in their classrooms are fully patched and updated and that quality up to date anti-virus and anti-spyware software is installed and maintained and that content filtering software is installed and maintained on the schools' network.

Hopefully, Amero's conviction will be overturned on appeal. Alex Eckelberry, President of Sunbelt software—the makers of CounterSpy—has been in contact with Amero's attorney's and made their experts available to the defense on a pro-bono basis for any analysis of the infected machine.

For more information on this case, spyware in general and some useful tech tips checkout the Sunbelt Software blog @ <http://sunbeltblog.blogspot.com/>.

By the time you read this, you'll probably have to do a little searching to find the post related to this story but it's worth the effort.

End Notes

Ok, that's pretty much all I have time for this month... I haven't had a chance to start a new book yet but have a few on tap. Feel free to 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 3*

With respect to the forthcoming election of officers at the March meeting, Jeff Setaro announced his intention not to stand for re-election as President. Jamie Yates has also decided not to run for re-election as Vice President of Programs.

Charlie Bovaird recommended that the board vote on setting up a DACS PayPal account. The board approved the decision which will enable DACS memberships to be paid directly from the DACS website.

RESPECTFULLY,
LISA LEIFELS SECRETARY

Meeting Review

Google Redux

By Jamie Yates

Our January General Meeting was well attended for Jamie Yates' presentation on Google (www.google.com). The material covered can be viewed loosely as a follow up, but mostly an extension, to the Searching with Google presentation of three years ago.

Jamie started off the evening by telling the audience that they would be amazed by the products and functions that Google has introduced in the last several years and by the end of the evening it appeared they were. He also explained that there was no way to cover all of Google's areas in the time allowed.

One thing you should note is that Google now requires you to sign up for an account for many of the new services offered. The account sign up is free but does not automatically allow the use of Google's email functions (Gmail).

Gmail is still in beta and can only be accessed by a Gmail account which you can only get by invitation. It also has been improved over the past year.

Initially some of Google's new search features such as Weather, Movies, Q & A, Recipes, and Music Trends were described. All were straightforward except for Music Trends, which is based on collecting and analyzing the background music playing on Google Talk users' computers. It is not necessarily reflective of music industry numbers.

He then went on to talk about the following:

- **Google Music Search:** allows you to search for a popular music artist/group and then click the "more music results" link on the results page to display album titles, song titles, artist's pictures, reviews and links to on line stores.

- Google's new facility that allows you to enter your phone number in an ad and connects you to the company free of charge without passing your phone number to that company.

- **Google Books:** lets you download PDFs of public domain "full view" books.

But there is still more to Google:

There are several new customized search facilities that are now offered. One is Personalized Search, which analyzes prior searches to determine the results of

future searches. For example, if you search for "fly fishing" for one of your searches and then search for "bass" Google will assume you are looking for fish and not an instrument or singing voice.

The second new search capability is the Custom Search engine. A user can name and create their own search engine. This search engine can contain a list of web sites that you want Google to search as a group without using all the sites that are in Google's database. This search engine can be shared and updated by people you select.

A very interesting new feature is a beta version of a search engine called SearchMash (Searchmash.com). The result shows web sites, images, videos, blogs, and wikipedia entries related to your search, all on one screen separated into each category.

- **Google Alerts:** allows a user to setup predefined searches that are done a number of times a day with the results sent via email once a day.

- **Google Maps:** provides directions to places/addresses you specify and provides the ability to zoom in on specific areas, down to almost treetop level, if low level photographs are available. These photographs are normally provided for major metropolitan areas and tourist attractions. The result can display images, streets, or a combination.

A novel new beta product from Google is Google Earth. It requires a download and behaves in a similar way to Google Maps but, in addition, you can pan, tilt and zoom. You can also rotate the image and see personal pictures taken by individuals posted at various locations on Google Earth. In addition, you can see information on various tourist locations, different kinds of business establishments, and see three-dimensional structures. It is amazing to use so you should consider trying it out.

Google Notebook allows you to save different snippets from any web site you visit along with its URL and personal comments. This can be helpful in the future when you need this information for various reasons or want to go back to the site. Collecting this data is easy with provided browser add-ons for IE and Firefox. This information can be kept private or shared with various people.

You can also search 200 years of news archives using the News Archive search engine and Google also provides a shareable on line calendar function that you can update and share with friends and family.

Google Reader is an on line RSS reader that can collect information from various sites as it becomes available. You tell Google Reader in which sites you are interested and that's all there is to it. You can now get all your current information from one place without having to visit individual sites to see if they have updated information or having to subscribe to their newsletters. It acts as a clipping service.

The number of different functions seems endless because it is. One of Google's capabilities that tie them all together is Google's Personalized Homepage. Here you can set up your own homepage with the Google search engine on it and with the use of Google Gadgets can add many of the above personalized functions so they are viewable in one place. It can show your local weather, custom search engines, RSS reader content, notebook(s), alerts, maps, Gmail (if you have an account), bookmarks, news, and other information such as stock market numbers and more. There are hundreds of Google Gadgets that can add function and content to your Google homepage.

Google also provides a word processor and spreadsheet program that allows you to create and edit files on line and share them with others for collaboration or distribution. It can accept Microsoft formatted files, as well as other file formats, uploaded from your machine. When a file is completed to your satisfaction it can be left on Google's servers or downloaded to your machine in a format you select. It can then be used in your local word processor or spreadsheet program.

You would think that Google has everything you need and there couldn't possibly be more but they are still coming out with new functions on a weekly basis. It's almost possible to do all your normal day-to-day activities using Google instead of the software on your personal computer. All you need is a web browser.

If any of the areas described above are of interest to you, go to Google (www.google.com) and give them a try. You'll even find many things that haven't been discussed here such as: Youtube, Google Toolbar, Google Desktop Search, Google Mobile Maps, Sketchup, Google Page Creator, Picassa, Google Patent Search, Google Pack, Blogger, Froogle, Google Talk, and more.....Enjoy!

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: February 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: Feb 7

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: Will resume in April.

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: Feb 15

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: Feb 21

Macintosh. Focuses on all aspects of the Mac operating system.

Contact: Richard Corzo (macsig@dacs.org)

Meets 1st Thursday at DACS Resource Center at 7 p.m.

Next Meeting: Feb 1

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: Feb 19

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: Feb 15

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: Feb 8

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: Feb 7

Wall Street. Examines Windows stock Market software.

Contact: Phil Dilloway, 203 367-1202 (dilloway@ntplx.net).

Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Feb 26

Web Design. Explores Applications for designing and creating Web sites.

Contact: Anna Collens (avo555@earthlink.net).

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Suspended until Spring

SIG News & Events

Macintosh: In January we looked at different media playing programs. Mac OS X includes QuickTime, but there are media files that it can't play. We looked up a movie at the Internet Movie Database site (<http://www.imdb.com>) and found that a trailer for that movie was available in RealMedia or Windows Media format, but not QuickTime.

We went to <http://www.real.com> and, with a little persistence, found the link to the free RealPlayer. When it started the first time it asked us to supply some information including an e-mail address. We didn't want to give out our real e-mail address, so after a few tries we came up with a fake address that someone else hadn't already registered with. Once we got past that, RealPlayer works just fine and includes an Internet plug-in that gets installed in /Library/Internet Plug-Ins. We were able to play the RealMedia version of the movie trailer.

Microsoft is discontinuing support of Windows Media Player on the Mac, but if you have a PowerPC (not an Intel) Mac, then you can still download their Windows Media Player 9 for Mac OS X from here: <http://www.microsoft.com/mac/otherproducts/otherproducts.aspx?pid=windowsmedia>.

The download is available in one of two obsolete compressed formats, bin or hex, so you may need the Stuffit program that came with Mac OS 9 to decompress the file that

contains the installer. The other option that Microsoft endorses for playing Windows Media files on a Mac is a third party program called Flip4Mac. This will work on either an Intel or a PowerPC Mac. It installs some codecs so that a Windows Media file can actually be played in QuickTime.

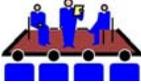
On a leftover subject from last time, one member related how he was not able to hear audio from YouTube or other Web video sources. It turns out the Audacity audio recording program we looked at recently had set the Audio Output format to something higher than the standard audio CD rate of 44100 Hz. This is a global setting in Mac OS X which you can check in Audio MIDI Setup in your Utilities folder. The latest version of Audacity, 1.2.5, has a preference to prevent this from happening. Another member asked for advice on wireless routers. He had heard that the latest Mac machines include Airport cards that could potentially support the new emerging 802.11n standard. I advised him to stick with the cheaper 802.11g (Airport Extreme compatible) routers, as the 802.11n standard is not yet finalized and there are potential incompatibilities between different manufacturers' "pre-N" routers.

Apple's Macworld announcement of the AppleTV and a new Airport Extreme router due in February changed that advice

SIG Notes, Continued on page 8

February 2007

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jan 2007</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Mar 2007</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p>  <p style="font-size: small;">Macintosh 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p> <p style="color: red;">Groundhog Day</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">3</p>
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Circuit Rider

Version 4.7

By Jim Scheef

Improvements to the Resource Center

DACS is extremely lucky to have our Resource Center (RC). It may not be much to look at when compared to a modern office meeting room, but it's ours. We all owe former DACS President, Dick Gingras a huge thank you for his work and foresight in obtaining this space for the club. Back in the "old days" each SIG leader had to find his/her own place to hold meetings and most were far from ideal. For those of you unfamiliar with the RC, it is located in the lower level of Ives Manor on Main St. in downtown Danbury. Ives Manor is operated by the Danbury Housing Authority.

Current improvements to the RC are in the form of "new" equipment that the SIGs can use for various purposes to further the club goals of education for our members and the community. The Server and Networking SIG is presently installing four or five "new" servers. Come and help us all as we learn about enterprise-grade servers, networking, operating systems, power management, etc., etc. One of our first goals is to use one of these servers to explore and test ideas for a new DACS web site. I guarantee that the more people who come and help, the more we will all learn.

Is the SCO saga nearing an end?

SCO may be nearing bankruptcy which might end this lawyers' bonanza. See www.linux-watch.com/news/NS6344337348.html for an update.

Wi-Fi in Waiting Rooms

I started writing this column while waiting for my car at the Ford dealer in an unspecified Connecticut city. There was no Wi-Fi anywhere in the dealership. If I have to sit there waiting for my car, I would like to make the time productive, and I'm not alone. Several times I've seen other people using their laptops, trying to get some work done while waiting. Doctors' offices present a slightly different situation where the doctor is often running late yet they ask that you arrive early to update your insurance, etc. I

would be happy to arrive early if I could be productive while waiting. This could lead to a treatise on my ideal notebook for computing on the go, but I save that for another time.

Routers, Routing and getting from here to there

Regular readers know that the networking at my house is far from "typical", so when I have problems, they tend to be harder to diagnose. In my latest problem, I have cured the symptom without solving the real problem. The problem started when I reconfigured the wireless router that lives in the attic to have its own network address rather than just being part of the "wired" network. Eventually the wireless network will work like the one in the Danbury Hospital auditorium where you must agree to "terms of service" before you get access to the Internet. Also, like the hospital, I want to limit "guest" machines to just the Internet and keep them out of my network. Then I can open the router up to anyone close enough to get a signal. But first I need to make this work for my machines where they have full access to everything. So my home network is really two networks; first a router at the network gateway with a network address of 10.0.42.23 (the normal connection to the Internet) and the wireless router forms a second network at 10.1.42.1. Thus packets from computers on the wireless network must pass through both routers to reach the Internet connection to my ISP.

The implications of the second network are many. A router is a device to create a path between two networks. So the most fundamental issue is that the wireless router must now actually route packets between these two networks. My first and most significant problem was that while the computers on the wireless network could get to the Internet (packets passing through both routers) but they cannot "see" any computers on the wired network. While this is, in fact, how I want the wireless network to work for guests, I want full access!

Every computer running the Internet Protocol (the IP in TCP/IP) has a "route table" in memory. How it builds this table is something I still don't fully understand, but I'm learning. This table starts with the network configuration information that either you enter manually into your computer or

comes from a DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol) server. This basic information is the machine's IP address, something called a netmask, and a gateway or default route. This is actually the IP address of the router on the local network. Without getting into "Routing 101", the computer then learns additional routes as you use the network and these new routes are added to the route table. You can display this table on your computer by typing "route print" in a command window.

The "solution" that cured the problem is to add a "route" directly to the machines on the wired network that tells them how to reach the wireless network. This is not how it is supposed to be done; it should be automatic and somewhere, some machine is dropping the ball. Type "route /?" at a command prompt to see how to manually add a route. Stay tuned, there is much more to this. As I learn, I'll share.

An offer for DACS members

Back in December I wrote about one of my "other clubs" and vintage computer collecting. The Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists, Inc. is building a computer museum in Wall, NJ, on the Jersey Shore. The club will host its second "Vintage Computer Festival - East" in June. One of my projects is to have Wi-Fi installed and working for that event. Curious how we mix the old and the new, isn't it? For this project I would like to buy up to twenty used Linksys routers. I'll pay up to \$20 for your old router if it's suitable for the project. You can use the money to upgrade to a new router with the latest technology and fastest speeds. The models I can use are shown in the table. Each hardware version is identified by the first four characters of the serial number. The very latest versions are not suitable (NS) for the project.

Model	Hardware Version	Serial Number	Offer
WRT54G	1 or 1.1	CDF1xxx CDF2xxx	
		CDF3xxx	\$5
WRT54G	2	CDF5xxx	\$10
WRT54G	2.2	CDF7xxx	\$20
WRT54G	3	CDF8xxx	\$15
WRT54G	4	CDFAxxx	\$15
WRT54G	5+	CDFBxxx +	NS
WRT54GS	1, 1.1 or 2	CGN0xxx CGN1xxx	
		CGN2xxx CGN3xxx	\$5
WRT54GS	2	CGN3xxx	\$10
WRT54GS	2.1 or 3	CGN4xxx or CGN5xxx	\$20
WRT54GS	4	CGN6xxx	\$10
WRT54GS	5+	CGN7xxx +	NS

Commentary

Significant Bits

by Sean N. Henderson

The most “valuable” versions have more RAM and better radios. By the way, there is no difference in the hardware between the latest G and GS routers. What gives the GS its “Speedbooster” feature is all in the firmware!

Come to a Server and Networking SIG meeting if you would like to learn more.

Jim Scheef is past president of DACS

SIG Notes, Continued from page 6

a little bit if you are planning on getting the AppleTV. You'll need the new Airport Extreme for faster transfer of video at 802.11n speeds, and the new router will enable the 802.11n capability of the Airport cards in the latest Macs. However, bear in mind that if you have any non-Apple devices in your home network, you bear the risk of incompatibility due to the immaturity of the 802.11n proposed standard.

Server and Networking: We made progress at the January meeting as Rob Limbaugh connected power to the servers and we started loading the OS on the first server.

This server is a Dell PowerEdge 2450 so we used the Dell utility to do the initial configuration, it was amazingly easy. This machine has five 18G SCSI hard drives, all connected to a RAID controller. After some discussion about the relative merits of several options, we chose to configure two drives in RAID 1 (two drives mirrored) and the remaining three drives in a RAID 5 array (striping with parity). When this is all done, the computer will see one 18G drive where we will install Windows Server 2003 and one 36G drive for other stuff. If you do the math, you will see that we have sacrificed two of the individual 18G drives for redundancy. This is all configured and managed by hardware in the SCSI controller so the system sees almost no performance penalty.

It is readily apparent that we need to get more done faster than just meeting once a month, so we plan to reactivate the Advanced OS SIG as soon as we get Board approval – details to follow.

Learn more about servers, networking, and how to make it all work, come to the next meeting on Thursday, February 8th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

Happy New Year to all DACS members! This is my first article for DACS.DOC, so to begin, here's a little bit about what this Board member is using for gear in 2007.

Last year, my electronic life got some nice upgrades. My wife got me a new Verizon Motorola RAZR in September, my brother got me a new Palm TX PDA, and I garnished a new Gateway laptop for my lengthy commute into Manhattan. Here are my thoughts on some of these upgrades.

Depending on the day, I either really like or despise the RAZR. I like it because it's a flip phone and fits me ergonomically when I'm talking. The camera feature is handy for sending pictures of our children when they're doing something funny. The reception and network perform pretty well, and the unit is honest enough about signal strength and availability of signal. (Signal honesty was a problem on both the Nokia 3360 and LG VX3200. I didn't mind if at times there wasn't a signal, but when my prior units said I had signal when I didn't, it really wasted my time.) The battery lasts a reasonable amount of time for such a small unit with so much to do.

Where the RAZR is less appealing is when I have to dial or send a text message, and then the interface is horrible. To be fair, this varies by software version, and mine seems to have all the bugs others' RAZRs do not have. My pet peeves with the RAZR is that when needing to type in a zero, it's not possible to “punch through” and it wants me to change editing mode, or press the number 1 key a dozen times. That's just bad UI design. Unlike the Nokia 3360 or LG VX3200, it is not possible to key on the RAZR without looking.

Next is my new PDA – Palm's TX. I like the TX's color screen, the feel of it in my hand as I'm working it, and that it's a PALM device and not MSCE-based. It has an SD card slot, and can function as a media player in addition to the usual PIM stuff.

My co-worker at Nomura gave me so much grief when I started since I was still using my Handspring Visor Deluxe. I loved the Visor. The Visor still syncs better and/or quicker than the TX. The TX

produces more noise in the log output so that it is unknown when syncing produces a message whether something is actually wrong or not. The other thing to think about when making the tech leap in something like PDAs is that the address book on the Visor is somewhat incompatible with the new Palm Address book, and when converting, it blindly puts all the addresses under “Work”. To me it should have been smart enough to figure out that if there's a home phone number, then the single address supported in the old address book format should go to the home address on the new format, not the work address.

The pros of the TX are many. I love the sharp color screen, and learning the new Graphitti wasn't hard. I downloaded TCPMP to watch movies on it, and using a combo of DVD Shrink and some other software pieces I'm able to watch my videos on something a lot less bulky than the laptop while commuting. Besides video, the SD card slot makes the unit a capable MP3 player, so I'm looking forward to at some point having the unit be my primary player vs. my Creative Laps unit.

My laptop has been pretty good. It's a Gateway M6436, and was bought for a very reasonable price. Since we have MS Office on our box at home, and my wife needs it, and I didn't feel like paying for another license, I took Jim Scheef's advice and checked out Open Office 2.0. So far, so good. I'm writing this article with it, and did our family newsletter on it, so it works for me.

For commuting into Manhattan via rail, a 15.4" laptop is a little too large, but at home on the couch or dining room table, it's nice. The keyboard is pretty good for laptops, not too “Chicklety” (my brother's word), and laid out well enough. Being more of a keyboard-guy than an mouse-guy, I'm always dismayed at the liberty manufacturers take with keyboard layouts.

Sean N. Henderson is a welcome addition to the board of directors. On top of leading a dual life as a computer-guy and musician. His devices also contribute to his music life as well. He promises more on that next time.

What's News

January, 2007

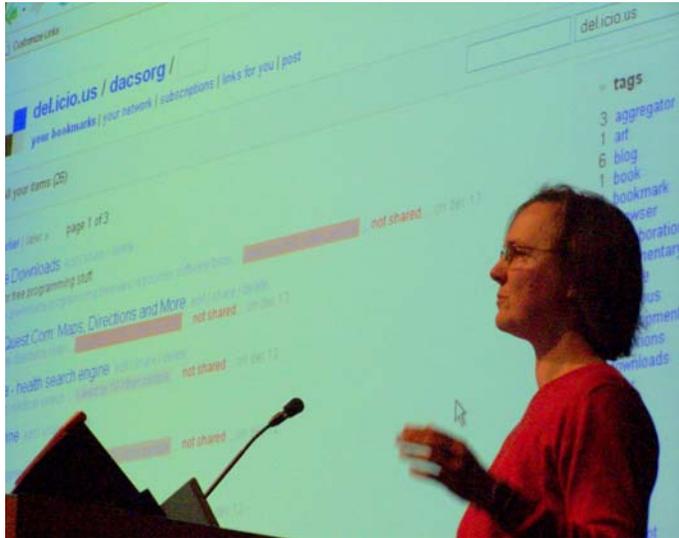
By Jamie Yates

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.

What's News for the January General Meeting was a little different this month. We had a guest presenter and she focused on a single topic. Chris Novell, DACS member, spent the What's News time slot discussing Del.icio.us (<http://del.icio.us/>), a well known social bookmarking site.

Purchased by Yahoo! while retaining the services of developer Joshua Schacter, this site is enjoyed by over one million users storing their favorites in free ac-

counts that can be accessed from any Internet capable computer. Users can decide whether to share a site with everybody in the Delicious environment, keep it exclusively for their own use, or share



it with only specific people in their own network.

A user's local book marks (favorites) can be imported and are automatically stored as "unshared" pending further review. New book marks can be easily added using browser buttons provided by Delicious. Even if a user is at a computer

that doesn't have the buttons installed, as would be the case in a public library, it is not a significant drawback.

DACS members attending the Delicious workshop in December got the first look at the newly created DACS Delicious user account: "dacsorg". A couple dozen websites on wide ranging subjects had already been stored by the workshop leader, some thoughtfully, some purposely not, giving participants an opportunity to observe examples of both what could be effective as well as how to edit entries to remedy oversights.

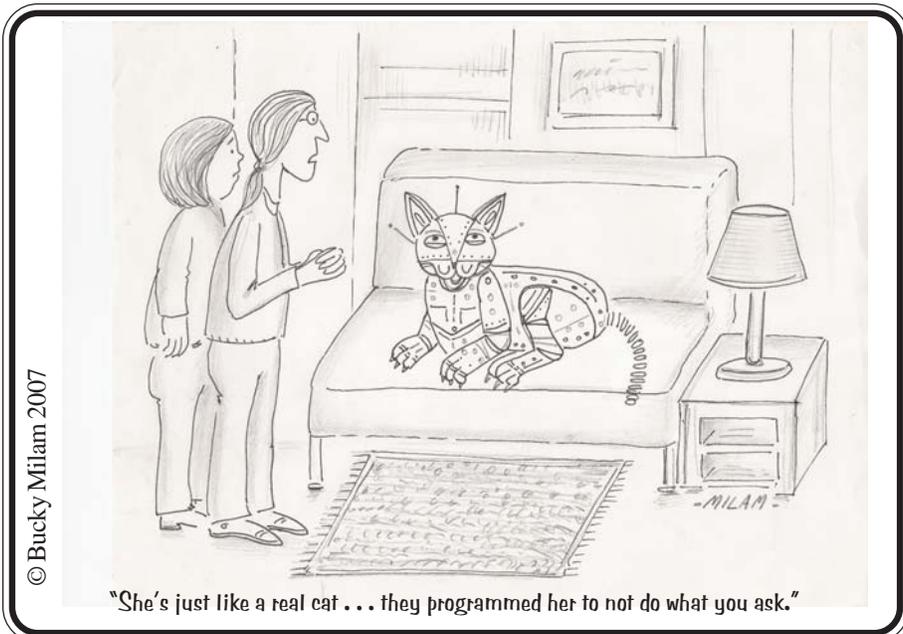
DACS members are encouraged to check out those two dozen starter sites and begin adding more. This is such an easy way to make a contribution to the club! If you are interested, contact a DACS board member to obtain the account password.

DACS members can easily double the entries by the February general meeting. If inclined, members can also start their own Delicious user account and add "dacsorg" to their network, which can be another way of taking a look at the club's entries (assuming the entries have been stored on a "shared" basis).

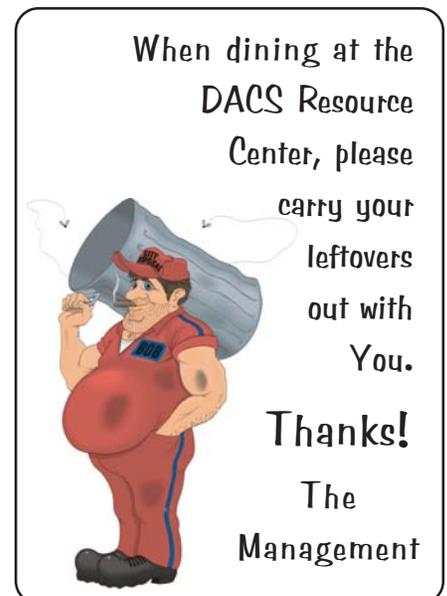
Members with questions about getting started with Delicious can reach Chris Novell at sewcrafty123@aol.com.

Remember that any DACS member can create a short presentation on any subject they would like and present at the General Meeting. Come up with an idea and contact Jamie Yates (vpprograms@dacs.org).

Thanks go to Chris for her efforts and a very informative presentation.



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Ask DACS

January 2007

Jim Scheef, 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 Meet-ing 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. We are trying to set up signatures that include our logo and contact information in Outlook 2003 SP2, but when we reply to a plain text message the file under "signature for new messages" flips to <none>. How can we keep this from hap-pening?

A. To be honest, this is not the question I answered at the meeting. What I demonstrated was how to create a signature with a graphic. As we started someone pointed out that a plain text email cannot contain graphics and we went on to the demo of creating the signature and demonstrating that it worked in an HTML email.

So the answer to the question is that Outlook defaults to plain text format when you reply to a plain text email and you can't include a graphic in a plain text email. Thus the choices are: change the format and reply as HTML or create a signature without the graphic and set that as the signature for plain text replies.

To create a signature with a graphic in Outlook 2003:

1. Click the Tools menu. Select Options. The Outlook options dialog opens.

2. Click the Mail format tab. Make the default mail format HTML.

3. Click the "Signatures..." button at the bottom. The Create Signature dialog opens.

4. Click the button for new or edit a signature as appropriate. The basic edit dialog opens.

5. Click the "Advanced Edit..." button. On my machine Microsoft FrontPage opens; you will probably have Word open.

6. Create and format your signature in this editor. Use the editor to insert the desired graphic. The graphic should be sized to the

exact size you want it to display at screen resolution (72 or 96 dots per inch). Be sure to save the signature as an HTM file. Close Word or whatever.

7. Click OK until you are back to the Mail Format tab.

8. Change the signature for new and/or reply emails to the signature file you just edited.

9. Click OK to close the Outlook options dialog.

10. Click the button to create a new email message. The new message should contain your signature with the graphic.

Q. Last month our SBC/DSL server went down for a week and now I am getting the error message 'Can't find server' when I access the internet. Sometimes it happens on the first tab, other times on the second or third tab.

A. First check for viruses and spyware, also try temporarily disabling any firewall software you may have running. You can also run Hijack This and have someone check the log file.

If your HJT log doesn't indicate that anything malicious is responsible for your broken internet connection try reaching websites using their IP address, for example use <http://66.102.7.147> to get to google to determine if it is a DNS problem. If it is a DNS problem you can flush your DNS cache by typing `ipconfig /flushdns` at a command prompt.

Q. I just got a new computer and they had an option for RAID 0, which I opted for. Was this a good decision?

A. RAID also known as Redundant Array of Independent (or Inexpensive) Disks, refers to a data storage scheme using multiple hard drives to share or replicate the data among the drives and it is used frequently on servers.

RAID Level 0 involves no redundancy, files are broken into stripes and the stripes are sent to each disk. This level is becoming increasing popular especially to performance-seekers. The disadvantage to this level is that it doesn't deliver fault-tolerance. If one drive fails then all data is lost. RAID 0 should not be used on mission-critical systems. It is ideal for the non-critical storage of data that has to be read/written at high speed.

Q. What are the risks of using hiber-nate mode?

A. Hibernation mode copies your present working condition to the hard disk before going into the deepest of power saving sleeps, therefore no power consumption at all because everything is switched off under software control. It is slower to restart than Sleep mode, since you have to wait for the relatively slow disk drive to restore everything. Many people prefer to use it, instead of shutting down their computer, since it is quicker to restart than rebooting your computer.

Sleep mode on the other hand, powers down the monitor to use the minimal current and stops the disk drives completely after copying the current state of your computer to RAM.

Since restoring RAM is faster, sleep mode is a better option for a desktop computer, and hibernate mode is more useful on a laptop to conserve battery life.

Both Hibernate and Sleep mode may fail to wake up properly due to non-compliant peripherals or their drivers.

Remember that the size of the hibernate file is equivalent to the size of your total memory. Therefore if you have 1 Gb of RAM, you'll need 1 Gb available on your hard disk.

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CLASSIFIEDS**
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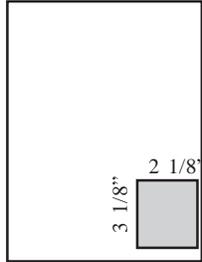
February 6 • Rob Limbaugh - The Virtual Machine
March • TBA



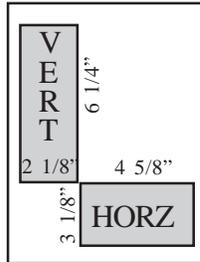
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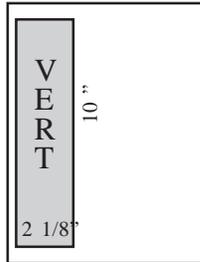
Rate Card



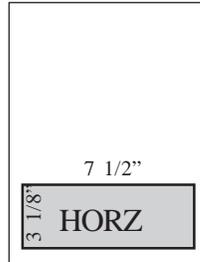
1/9 PG
1 Insertion **\$26**
6 Insertions **\$130***



2/9 PG
1 Insertion **\$50**
6 Insertions **\$250***



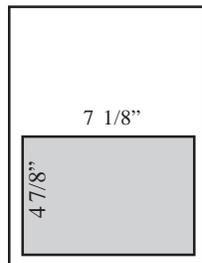
1/3 PG
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6 Insertions **\$360***



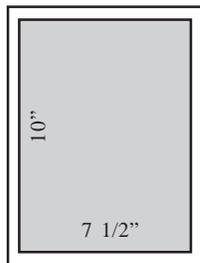
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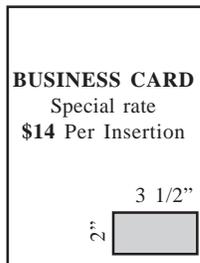
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Danbury Area Computer Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section (501)(C)(3) of the US Tax Code. Its purpose is to promote education, knowledge sharing, networking and communication between users of personal computers. DACS is an all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

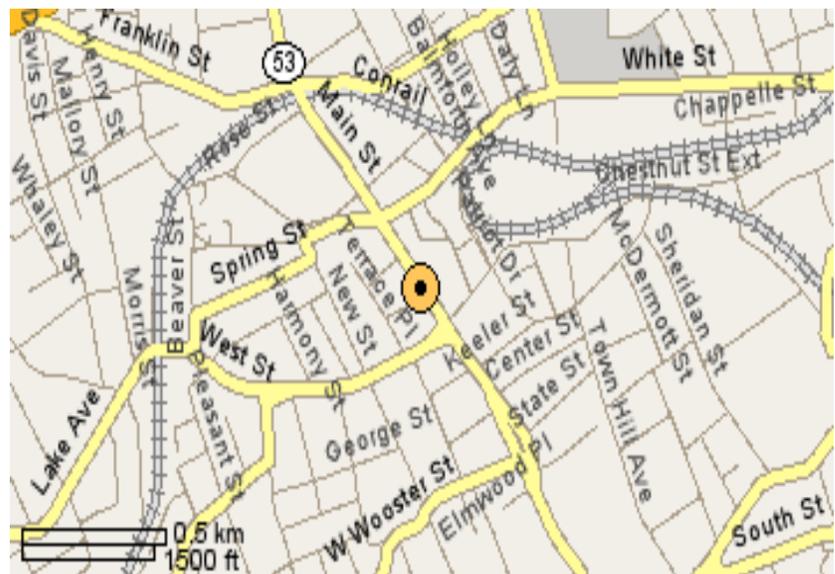
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session.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



DANBURY AREA
COMPUTER SOCIETY, Inc.
Individual Membership Application

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Name _____ Home Phone () _____
Address _____ Work Phone () _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Fax: () _____
Company _____ E-Mail: _____ @ _____

Billing Information

Regular Membership - Includes printed newsletter.

1 Year () \$30.00 3 Years () \$81.00

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1 Year () \$20.00 3 Years () \$56.00

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Please take a moment to answer the following questions. Answer all that apply.

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Hardware: PC___ MAC___ desktop___ laptop___ palm___ other_____

OPSYS: Windows___ MAC___ LINUX___ other_____

Communications: Dialup___ HI-Speed___ WiFi___ LAN___ other_____

Applications: Office___ Financial___ other_____

Digital: Music___ Photo___ CAM___ TV___ other_____

Business: Corporate Employee___ private employee___ professional___ business owner___

Company Name _____

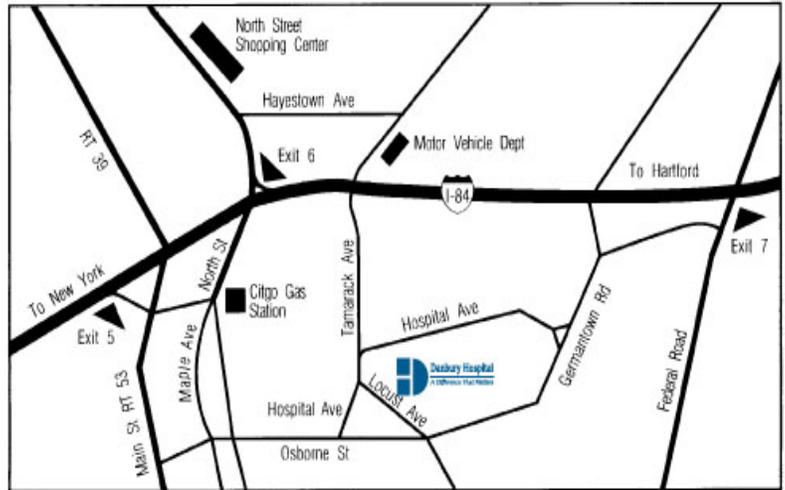
Office use only: Paid _____ Check # _____ Membership # _____

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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