

Next Meeting:

Just when you thought your child was safe in his room, he could be stepping out.

At our next meeting, noted musician and Web developer, Daniel O'Connor, will show how MySpace has become a casual meeting place for more than 50 million lonely clickers, and who they might be meeting there.



President's File



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

WELL, THIS IS IT, my final President's Column.

I have been trying to decide what to write about but I am at a loss.

I was going to write about Windows Vista but my mother used to say, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything." That may be a little harsh. Windows Vista is not awful but there are more than a few annoyances and I can't see any compelling reason to upgrade so... I'll leave my thoughts on Windows Vista as "No comment."

Upcoming Events

- "Patch Tuesday" – March 13th
Don't forget to visit the Microsoft update site.
- <http://update.microsoft.com>
- Ajax World Conference & Expo
- March 19th-21st The Roosevelt Hotel, New York
- <http://www.ajaxworld.com>
- SANS 2007
- March 29th – April 6th Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego
- <http://www.sans.org/sans2007>

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Election of Officers

This is it, folks. This month, the Board of Directors will be electing the officers who are responsible for conducting the day-to-day operations of DACS over the next year.

DACS needs you and your ideas and energy if it is going to continue to thrive in the future. Officers do not need to be members of the Board. All you need is a willingness to share a little of your time, energy and talent with DACS.

If you would like to help shape the future of DACS by running for President or VP of Programs please contact a member of the board... DACS needs you!

MySpace

Hopefully, this month's General Meeting will help clear up some of the myths and misunderstandings about MySpace. MySpace and other social networking sites like Facebook allow users to create virtual communities made up of family, friends, coworkers, etc. Users can share photos, videos, create a blog and share personal information through their profile and blog.

For better or for worse, there seems to be a media created impression that MySpace is a den of iniquity infested with pornographers and pedophiles... It's not! Make no mistake though, there are people on MySpace you don't want your kids to meet. That said, in my brief experience with MySpace the good guys seem to outnumber the bad guys by a sizable margin. People use MySpace for a variety of reasons... Entertainers – everyone from musicians like Vince Gill and Jane Monheit to porn stars like Jenna Jameson use MySpace to network with their fans. Others use it as way to keep in touch with classmates or family members and still others use it as a kind of virtual support group. See <http://www.myspace.com/yourfriendcrissy> for an example.

The biggest problem I saw in my brief flirtation with MySpace was that people – especially young people – shared too much personal information with strangers.

Always remember that MySpace is a public place; never post anything in your profile, blog or in forums that you don't want to share with rest of the world or that could be used to identify where you live or the places you like to hang out... Personally, I never used my real name in my profile... just a nickname. And I never posted pictures of myself or my listed my home town in my profile.

PRESIDENT'S FILE, Continued on page 4

Membership Information

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The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Patrick Libert at 860-567-

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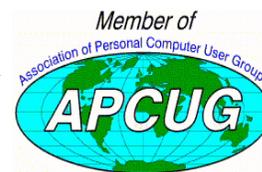
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HelpLine

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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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, February 12, 2007. Present were Richard Corzo, Sean Henderson, John Lansdale, Lisa Leifels, Rob Limbaugh, Jeff Setaro and Jamie Yates. President Jeff Setaro presided and Secretary Lisa Leifels kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held on January 8, 2007 were approved.

In the absence of the treasurer, President Jeff Setaro presented the financial and membership report. The current cash assets are \$11,444.79, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$10,388.27 plus postage on hand of \$56.52. Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$6,733.00 left a net equity of \$3,711.79. He also reported that the current membership is at 284, of which 62 are electronic. Sean Henderson suggested that it may be helpful to add the figures for one month ago and one year ago to the treasurer's report for comparison purposes.

Jamie Yates reviewed the schedule for upcoming General Meetings. In March, Dan O'Connor will talk about his experiences on MySpace. In April, Jay Ferron will do a presentation on Microsoft Vista and Office 2007. Smart Computing is interested in speaking at the May General Meeting.

Jamie also plans on talking to Best Buy and the Geek Squad. He would like to have a presentation on HDTV, TiVo, Voice Over IP and other products that generate a lot of questions. Rob Limbaugh suggested that Jamie may want to get in touch with someone from Firedog, the company that handles technical support at Circuit City. Jeff Setaro thought Carston Stereo would also be worth looking into.

Sean Henderson offered to talk about SDF (Super Dimensional Fortress) during the "What's News" segment of the April General Meeting. Sean explained that the point of SDF is to preserve and promote a non-commercial internet. Additional information on SDF can be found at their website sdf.lonestar.org.

Rob Limbaugh reported that the focus group sessions will be held on March 3rd at the DACS Resource Center. Rob and Sean Henderson are working towards getting six former members, six current members and six prospective members to attend the focus group. Erik Olson is developing the questions to be asked.

Directors' Notes, Continued on page 4

Meeting Preview

All About MySpace

By Jamie Yates

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT? If not, you must be living in a cave. MySpace makes headlines at least weekly. It's in the press and on TV.

MySpace is the top social networking web today. It has millions of users, many in their early teens, and has sparked a major controversy because of predators using it to take advantage of minors.

Join Dan O'Connor at our March 6, General Meeting when he will describe what attracts people to MySpace and what he gets out of it. He'll let us know the downsides he's discovered and answer questions such as:

- What age does someone need to be to join MySpace?

- Do parents have any need to worry about their child having a MySpace page?

- What sort of people join MySpace?

Dan will also show us what information you have to provide to join.

He'll demonstrate the features of MySpace, such as creating a bio, posting music, pictures, and videos, using messaging and instant messaging.

We'll see how to create or update a MySpace page. How to find other MySpace users, and ways to interact with them.

Daniel O'Connor (Dan-O) is a Web Developer for Apelon, Inc. in Ridgefield, CT. He has 10 years of experience working on the Internet using everything from Oracle and Java to HTML and Photoshop. He has also been a rock singer/songwriter most of his life and received many notable reviews, radio airplay and performed extensively. He has a Jazz Diploma from the Hartford Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Hartford.

Daniel's websites can be found at: <http://www.danomusiconline.com/> and

<http://www.myspace.com/danomusiconline>.

MySpace was started in July of 2003 and instantly became a hit with the younger crowd. Since then, millions of users of all ages have become members. It is rumored to have between 40 and 100 million users. It has been so successful

that in July of 2005 it was purchased for 580 million dollars. Not bad for 2 years' work.

If you have young children or grandchildren, come and learn about MySpace. If you know someone who has young children or grandchildren bring them along. It's free.

Come to this presentation, learn about MySpace, and ask questions.

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.

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.

President's File. *Continued from page 2*

Beyond that, keep in mind that people aren't always what they seem or who they claim to be. Use caution when adding friends or IMing someone... Do not share personal information with anyone you don't know in real life.

The bottom line is that you control what information you put in your profile and who you add to your circle of friends. If you use the same degree of caution and skepticism on MySpace that you do in real life, MySpace can be a lot of fun.

By the way, please don't ask for my profile address... I deleted it months ago.

End Notes

Well, that's it. Next month this column will be in someone else's hands, I've greatly enjoyed my time as President and would like to offer one final thanks to the other officers and directors for their assistance and counsel over the last two years.

Thanks to everyone who sent book recommendations and a special thanks to Allan Ostergren and Patrick Libert for editing my sometimes incoherent prose and putting up with my chronic lateness.

I did take advantage of a little recent downtime to catch up on my reading... I was able to blast through *Cross* by James Patterson, *Hundred Dollar Baby* by Robert Parker, *Act of Treason* by Vince Flynn and *Wild Fire* by Nelson Demille over the last couple of weeks. I have *The Hunter* by W.E.B. Griffin sitting here but I haven't had a chance to dig into yet. 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*

Jeff Setaro reminded everyone that the election of officers will take place at the March Board Meeting. A new president and a VP of Programs will need to be elected. Jamie Yates has offered to continue to do the "What's News" segment at the General Meeting, although he is no longer a director and will be stepping down as VP of Programs. He suggested that the write ups for the meetings and the meeting previews could be distributed among different volunteers.

Jeff Setaro reported that the new PayPal page is ready to be added to the DACS website, which will enable people to pay for their DACS membership over the internet.

.-LISA LEIFELS
SECRETARY

Improvements to the Resource Center - Progress Report

by Jim Scheef

WE NOW HAVE FOUR “new” rack-mounted servers installed and ready for operation in the

Resource Center (RC).

This proved to be much more work than I had imagined. The first operating system installation is Windows Server 2003 R2 (release 2) on two machines. This first machine will replace the server that has been the heart of the network in the RC for several years. The old server will hang sometimes on a reboot

which is a real bummer when no one is at the RC to hit the hardware reset button. We have nursed this machine long enough, so our first task is to move the RC domain from the old server to the new one. When I tried this, I got an error message about doing something with the Active Directory schema. If you want to learn about Windows domains using the very latest Microsoft technology, come to the next Server SIG meeting and help me learn too as we accomplish these tasks.

Meanwhile Rob Limbaugh is working on installing the virtual server environment on one of the other servers. This is where his talk on virtualization at the general meeting gets down to the bare metal. I guarantee that the more people who come and help, the more we will all learn. Read the Server and Networking SIG report for more on our last meeting.

Routers, Routing and getting from here to there

Despite my best efforts I don't know any more about this problem this month than I did last month. Here is my insight for the month: routing, the key to the Internet, is the most unfathomable topic in all of technology. String Theory is easier to understand. It seems that the various manufacturers implement routing protocols (oh, yes, more to learn!) like RIP, BGP, ISIS and each slightly different from

the other. Whether this is because the specs leave room for interpretation or they want to lock you into their brand of router is a topic for another day (gosh, that's never happened before, has it?). Suffice it to say that documentation on all this has so far eluded me. Stay tuned – same bat channel, same bat time!



An offer for DACS members

I hope at least a few of you will take advantage of the offer in my column last month and “trade in” your old wireless router. You get money to upgrade to the latest, fastest, longer range, all the more wonderful wireless equipment being offered today and I get to use your old Linksys router for a project. Can anyone say win-win?

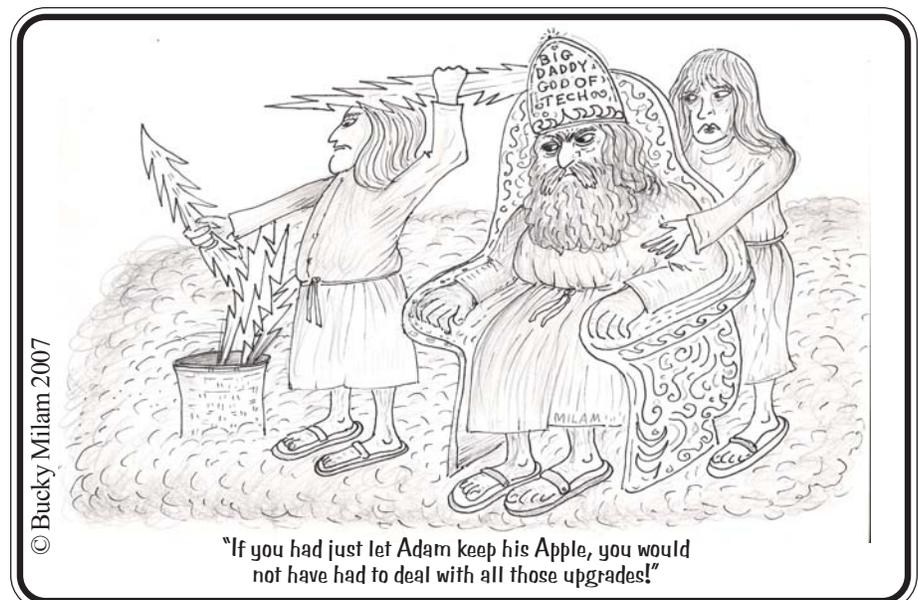
Playing with old computers

Remember the *Good Old Days* of data processing when the computer was locked away somewhere, guarded by the anointed

(or so they thought!) and you did your work on a terminal? Well I have one of those computers in my basement. A few months ago I followed an ad on Craig's List for a free DEC Micro-VAX. After two trips to New Jersey I now have a μ VAX 3100 Model 80, four terminals, two terminal servers, and four printers in my basement. At one time, the company that gave all this equipment away had about thirty people working on terminals or PCs connected to this computer. In December I wrote about “The Green Screen Experience”; well, this is the computer. A couple of nights ago I finally got the basement organized enough that I could turn it on.

When I picked it up, they had it running just to prove that it would boot. It still boots and reports that it is running OpenVMS 5.5, a fairly recent version of Digital's VMS operating system. Unfortunately, at least one of the hard drives is not responding so it complains about no swap space and refuses to do much – not that I know much to do on it! Thus my first task is to figure out which drive out of about five is the bad one and replace it. On Windows I would open Device Manager and look to see which drive is reporting a problem, or watch the SCSI bios messages during boot up. Unfortunately it does not appear to be quite so obvious on the μ VAX. If you have experience with VAXen, PLEASE contact me. As a last resort, I have a bunch of manuals to read, but you could save me from that fate!

Jim Scheef is past president of DACS



Meeting Review

The Virtual Machine

by Jamie Yates

ON FEBRUARY 6TH we had an excellent feature presentation by Rob Limbaugh, a DACS director, on virtual machines. Rob covered the following in detail:

- What they are.
- Why businesses are interested in them.
- What the average PC user can get from them.
- Trends in the area of virtual machines.
- Some of the software currently available.

What are virtual machines?

Virtual machines provide an environment where an operating system or parts of one run under a controlling structure (software or hardware) while believing they have total control of their environment. They can run in a machine that may not have the hardware or software the virtual machine is looking for but it is simulated so that it appears to be running natively.

Many can be run at the same time and are protected from each other. The limitations of how many and what kind dependent on the hardware resources available, the controlling software's virtual environment restrictions and the vendor's licensing requirements.

This means a given computer can be running Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 98, Mac OS and/or Linux all at the same time. It can even run multiple copies of each one.

Virtual areas can also be set up within an operating system to protect activities in side it from doing damage to the rest of the system.

Most people have heard of dual booting. So what's the difference between that and a virtual machine? Dual booting allows different operating systems to be resident on the hard disk but only one at a time to be actively running on a given hardware. When they run, each one controls the machine and must be closed or shutdown before another one can be started.

Why businesses are interested in them

From a business perspective a virtual machine can be used for testing new software or to add a secondary system to a current machine that has extra resources



instead of buying another machine. If the machine is big enough (processor, memory and I/O) a number of virtual machines can be run. This saves the expense of buying additional hardware, and reduces the power, cooling, and space requirements. It also allows older software that may not run on the newest hardware or operating system to continue to run without having to upgrade it or re-write it.

Since each virtual machine runs separately, actions in one cannot affect the other so they are protected. This works well for ISPs who have customers that want and pay for their own machine to run along side other customers, who have the same requirements, without having to buy a large number of physical machines.

It also allows different operating systems to be run at the same time.

It can also be used for development of new applications for hardware that the company doesn't have, For example, a virtual machine could simulate a PDA or cell phone so applications can be built on a personal computer for these devices without the devices being present.

What the average PC user can get from them?

The average home user can use virtual machines for some of the same reasons

businesses use them but for different ends. Each home user could have their own virtual machine instead of an account under Windows so they would not be able to do damage to the other system.

It could also be used to test Linux while running Windows without needing additional machines. And it could come in handy when running certain games that no longer work on the current version of Windows so you could have DOS or Windows 98 running in a virtual machine.

Trends in the area of virtual machines:

Over time as hardware gets more and more powerful businesses will look more and more to virtual machines because many systems and applications can't use the full potential of a given box. Power, space, and cooling requirements are already recognized as major problems in the industry, so combining workloads and reducing hardware is a growing key business objective. As one example, it is said that Google has 340,000 servers worldwide and being able to combine multiple workloads of some of the servers can lead to substantial savings.

The competition for selling software for running virtual machines is heating up to the point where most vendors are now offering free versions of some of their software.

Some of the software currently available:

Rob went over a partial list of the virtual system software available. He mentioned:

- Bochs - free
<http://bochs.sourceforge.net/>
- PearPC - free but not yet fully developed
<http://pearpc.sourceforge.net/>
- XEN - parts free and parts fee
<http://www.xensource.com/>
- MS Virtual Server for Windows-free but minimal Linux support
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/erversystem/virtualserver/default.mspx>
- MS Virtual PC for Clones for Windows - free but minimal Linux support
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtualpc/default.mspx>
- MS Virtual PC for Macs - \$99

<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/products/virtualpc/virtualpc.aspx>

- VMWare Server - free, includes tolls, and primarily for emulating servers
<http://www.vmware.com/download/server/>
- VMWare Player - free and primarily for emulating workstations
<http://www.vmware.com/download/player/>
- VMWare Fusion - free, for emulating Macs on Intel based Macs
<http://www.vmware.com/products/beta/fusion/>

Rob ended his talk with a demonstration of VMWare and showed the Mac operating system running in a virtual environment under Windows along with a number of other virtual machines

Many of the audience had questions that Rob was able to answer both with his demonstration and providing additional detail.

This was a fascinating topic even though most of the audience will probably never use this capability on their own hardware at home.

Thanks to Rob for taking the time to share his knowledge and expertise with us.

JAMIE YATES is DACS program director



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

Observation

Windows Vista Operating System

Price: \$239

Windows Vista isn't exactly a gadget. But it does run on one. And if you want to keep your largest toy as up to date as possible, you may feel tempted to upgrade to Microsoft's latest operating system. CNET's Merritt suggests you wait. As with every new operating system, there are always some bugs that need to be worked out in the beginning.

Also, if you really want to exploit Vista's cool new advances, such as the transparent menu bars, then you'll need to purchase the premium version. There's just one problem: There's no guarantee

that your current computer can handle it. PCs that are even just a couple of years old don't have enough memory to support it. You'll need 1GB of RAM memory and 15GB of free memory on a 40GB hard drive to run the "premium" package.

In the meantime, if you're happy with your current version of Windows, Merritt suggests sticking with it. There's no huge benefit to upgrading now. Just keep using your current computer until you need to buy a new one and then you'll get a cleaned up version of Vista for free.

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

**EXP 01\2007
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.

Special Interest Groups SIG NOTES: March 2007

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: March 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: March 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: March 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: March 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: March 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: March 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: March 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: March 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: March 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

Server and Networking. Our January meeting followed two forks in the road as we split our labor. While Rob and Rich worked on rerouting some wires on the rack so we can run the servers with the doors closed, I went to work on why the network was not working in the Resource Center (RC), a problem reported earlier that week.

The symptoms: (1) computers in the RC were able to get an IP address but could not access the Internet and (2) the server did not respond when I tried to access it from home. If I had thought about it for a few minutes, these two symptoms did not point to the "normal" problem we often have with the RC network.

The most common problem is that the server can hang on a reboot. It doesn't happen all the time, but it is a frequent problem. Since the server is unattended 98% of the time, it's set to reboot automatically after applying the regular Microsoft updates that come out each month on "Patch Tuesday". So I ass-u-me-d (Tony Randall reference here) that this was the problem. When I found the server apparently normal, I was puzzled but moved on, now assuming that the server was not the problem. This turned out to be my first of several mistakes. In the end, there were several layers of problems.

We had two or three DHCP servers on the network, each with different "scopes"; the DSL line was not responding; and there really was a problem with the server.

Normally the server provides DHCP (assigning IP addresses) and DNS (domain name service) on the network. However, when we last worked on the new servers we connected an old 4-port router to the network just to use the switch to connect the new serv-

ers. By default, these routers provide DHCP service. When it was isolated, there was no problem, but when we connected this to the router in the RC to get Internet access, we now had two DHCP servers on the same network. The address scope of each router was different so if someone walked into the RC with their laptop and connected it to the network, it was now a toss-up as to what IP address the laptop would get. If the address came from the server, then the address would be correct, if it came from the little router, the address would not match the RC's network and the laptop would not get Internet access.

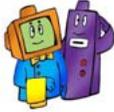
If I had rebooted the server at this point, the rest would have been much easier. Instead I fought my way thru all the other problems before Rob finally said, "Well why don't you reboot the server?" Turning the DLS modem off and on again, cleared up the DSL line, but not right away. We may need to replace this key part of our network.

Next, I tried to log into the RC's router, a Netgear FVS318. This is a very good small-business-grade router. It would not accept the administrator password and seemed to have been reset to factory settings as it was now on a 192.168.0.1 network address. This explained why the server could not 'ping' the router. Totally frustrated at this point, I did a hard reset to get it to "factory specs" and configured the router from scratch back to the correct settings. Netgear routers are wonderful products that are amazingly easy to configure if – and only if – everything else is working correctly. We have a static

Sig Notes, Continued on page 11

March 2007

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
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USB Devices?

How Does Windows Handle Devices?

By Dave Gerber

ONE SUBJECT THAT OFTEN COMES UP is how Windows handles USB (Universal Serial Bus) devices and what you can do when USB devices don't work as you expect. First, let's talk about the two versions of USB that you'll probably encounter.

USB 1.1: these were the first widely-available devices and usually ran at a speed of 1.5 mb/sec. They were meant to replace old-fashioned serial and parallel (printer) connections that ran at only a fraction of the speed and could connect only one device at a time. While this speed was OK for slow devices like mice and keyboards, it wasn't useful for transferring large amounts of data, like from digital video cameras. For faster speeds, you needed SCSI or FireWire (IEEE 1394) connections. Since these were used mostly on the Mac, you often needed an add-in card for your computer to use them, which is one of the inconveniences that USB was supposed to alleviate.

USB 2.0: typically runs at the much higher speed of 480 mb/sec, which is faster than the original FireWire standard and much faster than SCSI. This is more appropriate for large data transfer, such as to external hard drives, and necessary to connect CD or DVD burners. However, some people still prefer FireWire for devices like video cameras, because FireWire is really a network that allows devices to be more interactive.

So how do you know which USB you have? If your computer was made sometime in the last few years, chances are its USB ports are version 2.0, which are backwards-compatible with 1.1 devices. One way you can tell which version your computer has is to look at the Device Manager in Windows XP:

- Press Windows Key + Break to open Device Manager (or click the Start button, then right-click My Computer and select Properties).
- Click the Hardware tab, then click Device Manager.
- At the bottom of the list, click the plus sign next to Universal Serial Bus controllers.

If your computer has is equipped with USB 1.1, you'll see a device or two called a Host Controller or Open Host Controller.

If your computer is equipped with USB 2.0, you'll see a device or two called an Enhanced Host Controller or USB 2.0 Controller.

Any USB device you buy will have the regular USB trident logo and any high-speed USB device will have the red, white and blue high-speed logo.

If you connect a high-speed USB device to a low-speed USB port on your computer, Windows will probably give you a message that the device can run faster if you connect it to a high-speed port. A USB 2.0 internal expansion card costs about \$20 and a USB 2.0 notebook adapter (fits in the PC Card slot) costs about \$40.

The most common problem people have is when they connect a USB flash drive (sometimes called a thumb drive) to a computer and the computer doesn't recognize it.

First, let me say that these are great devices. Connect one to your computer and it works like a removable hard drive.

When you connect a USB device to a computer running Windows XP, the computer will detect it immediately. When that device is a USB drive, you'll probably see a message on the taskbar that Windows detected a new device, followed by a dialog box that asks if you want to open the drive to see its contents, play a movie and other choices. Windows will also assign a drive letter to the device. But sometimes you won't get this dialog box, and when you open My Computer manually (Windows Key + E), you won't see the device listed. That means there's a drive letter conflict.

Here's how you fix it:

- Select Start/Control Panel, then double-click Administrative Tools. (You may also have Administrative Tools directly on the Start menu.)

- Double-click Computer Management.

- On the left side of the Computer Management console, select Disk Management.

- On the right side, you should see a device listed as a removable drive, probably with the same letter as another drive you're already using.

- Right-click the white bar where it shows the letter, then select Change Drive Letter and Paths.

- Select the letter, then click the Change button.

- Pick a letter not already in use from the list, then click OK.

- Click OK on the warning message, then click OK again. (I assign U: to all USB flash drives, since I never use more than one flash drive at a time.)

- Close the Computer Management console. When you go back into My Computer, you should see the USB drive with the new letter.

Another common problem is running out of ports. When USB started being implemented, the idea was that you would daisy-chain the devices together. So computer manufacturers would put in only two ports (always in the back) and only one port on laptops. For a variety of reasons, the daisy-chain idea never caught on, and computers made today typically have four ports in the back and two in the front, for quick access.

If you run out of ports, you can fix the problem — as with so many others — by applying cash. Buy an external USB hub for anywhere from \$10 to \$40, depending on size, number of ports and power. A hub will split a single USB port into several more. The better ones have their own power supply, so your devices don't have to rely on the computer for powering the USB connection. When there isn't enough power to go around for all the devices, they can go offline.

This brings me to the last problem I'll mention: USB devices going offline because of reasons unrelated to power shortage. This was fairly common when you had many devices connected using USB 1.1 in versions of Windows older than 2000, where the devices had to supply their own software to get USB to work. (Native USB drivers were first included with 2000, then made more robust in XP — and Vista, presumably). If this happens, simply unplug all the USB devices, then plug them back in one-by-one. If any are daisy-chained together, connect the parent devices before connecting the child devices.

DAN GERBER, PROGRAM CHAIR, SARASOTA FLA. APCUG MEMBER of "Live on the Internet" Bits and Bytes radio show team Dave_bytes@comcast.net & davebytes.com

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), brings this article to you.

Sig Notes, Continued from page 8

IP address at the RC, so the router setup wizard cannot automatically configure the WAN or Internet address; it must be entered manually. My first attempt to configure the router was stymied because the DSL modem was still not responding. Without Internet access, the Netgear setup wizard would not believe that what I entered was correct because it could not "phone home" over the Internet. The result was a series of very strange results from 'ping' and 'nslookup' – two utilities that test connectivity between computers and over the Internet.

To debug the DSL line, we connected my laptop directly to the DSL modem. Again I had to enter the static IP address into the laptop TCP/IP configuration. Once I proved that the DSL line was working, I could rerun the router WAN configuration and the router was finally back in business. The final step was to reboot the server and the RC was back to "normal".

What I learned from this is that I need to provide some documentation for people to debug and correct the typical network problems in the RC. If the first person to encounter the Internet connectivity problem had simply rebooted the server, then turned the router off and on again and finally done the same for the DSL modem, the network would probably have come back to life without any further ado.

The next Server and Networking SIG meeting will be Thursday, March 8th at 7 p.m. in the DACS Resource Center. Come and join the fun!

Macintosh. In February we had guest speaker Patrick Mikulak from the Danbury Apple Store give us a demonstration of iWork '06. This suite from Apple consists of Pages, a word processor, and Keynote, a presentation program.

Although these programs can be used to open Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents, respectively, their strength lies in the creation of attractive documents and presentations using Apple-designed templates. Both programs include an iLife Media Browser so you can easily incorporate your own photos and videos. Patrick showed us how to take a shape as a mask for a photo and have the text flow around the irregularly shaped image. It's also possible to create charts and graphs from a table of numbers, although the numbers cannot be imported from a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Since he had it installed on his laptop Patrick also showed us Parallels Desktop running Windows XP on his Intel Mac allowing him to run Windows programs at the same time as his Mac programs.

Linux. VMware, Rob showed us Tuesday, night is pretty cool. I've installed it myself and have been setting up one experimental virtual machine after another. Monday, after installing the server version [http://](http://www.vmware.com/products/server/)

www.vmware.com/products/server/ I set up an Ubuntu machine using one of those CD's Drew got us for the Linux SIG. It was very easy and worked the first time. Performance was decent on both my Intel 3 GHz processor/1 GB RAM Windows XP box and my overloaded Windows 2003 server portable 1.8 GHz / 750 MB RAM. The portable's performance was a surprise because a couple of months ago I installed an Ubuntu VM on it with Microsoft's Virtual Server 2005 R2 www.microsoft.com/windowsserver/system/virtualserver/default.aspx. It ran very slowly. I installed a couple of other Linux distros directly from downloaded files. One was a virtual appliance, the other a boot image iso.

I do worry, installing anything from the web, no matter how innocent it seems. The VMWare endorsement makes me feel safer. So I downloaded both of these through the reference list www.vmware.com/vmtrn/appliances/directory/. Other sites seem OK too. After all, who in the most generous, honest and kind non-profit open source world would try to harm someone else's computer? But security running these VM's is probably another, very serious subject.

The appliance was a pre-built LAMP machine from rBuilder www.rpath.org/rbuilder/project/lamp/releases. The zip file (70 MB) downloaded quickly. Installing it only took around 170 MB of space. I think it's based on Gentoo Linux including Apache MySQL and PHP. To install, all I had to do was unzip then a file->open from the VMware server. For ethernet, VMWare sets up something for each machine which they name a "bridged connection." My machine automatically got a new local IP address. The host Windows XP address, 192.168.1.29 still worked. The new virtual machine got 192.168.2.13 with an administrator's console of <https://192.168.2.13:8000>. The rBuilder machine had a script that made a Samba file share, so all you need to do in Windows to get your Linux web app files installed is to drag and drop. (Samba www.samba.org is a windows network file and printer sharing system (SMB) that runs in Linux.) Here's how I checked it out. After starting the virtual machine, In Windows XP, Run-> command-> `\\192.168.2.13\wwwroot`. A File Explorer window opened to the wwwroot folder to the server. Then I wrote a quick info.php (could have been any web or PHP page) and saved it into the folder. e.g.,

```
<?PHP
phpinfo();
?>
```

From IE, I browsed to the server's address (<http://192.168.2.13>) and there it was, the familiar information page showing PHP Version 5.1.6-pl6-gentoo. PHPmyadmin worked as well, so I could easily set up databases, if I wanted. There were some questions such as how to modify the PHP.ini file, but generally there was enough to set up most PHP applications.

The other machine was a Debian server. For this, I went to a web site recommended by VMware www.installlinux.com where you pre-build a custom (boot) ISO of any Linux want by answering questions. When complete, download your custom ISO. It's much easier than setting up Linux by answering the questions manually during the install. VMWare had a web appliance to run install Linux itself in a VM, but I used the site directly on the web. Following prompts, I built and downloaded a Debian server. In Windows XP it was a file named iso30451.iso .

To use an .iso file in VMware server here's what you do. File -> new -> select machine type (Linux/other in my case) take defaults, etc., an empty machine is built -> Edit virtual machine settings -> Add -> CD -> Select a drive connection Use Iso Image -> next -> browse to the downloaded ISO. When you start the virtual machine it boots from the .iso file as if it were a CD. It's fast and since this .iso was custom built from web questionnaire, there were no pauses or CD changes.

From an application programming viewpoint, besides the great sandbox, the possibilities are exciting. In a Windows web/desktop application for example, you could pull data (via a web service app) and pages directly from a Linux internal site. That site can be coordinating/gathering data from multiple others. For example, it could be an online web store or an internal web reporting system. The Windows app could be in MS Access or Excel. Or, maybe, using Visual Studio tools for Office you could grab office data, reformat it and push it to the Linux server. MySQL and Apache are a lot cheaper than Windows Servers. The source of data can be more than one desktop Windows XP workstation. Think about creating those appliances and bundling them into a Windows product. Everything is separate and modular. (This is all without thinking about going the other way. VMWare can run in Linux and start Windows virtual machines.)

At least part of next month will be centered on VMWare. Looking for interesting virtual appliances, setting it up in Linux (maybe to run a Windows 2000 VM) and configuring the server PC Rob Limbaugh has donated to our SIG. Drew may bring us more topics, maybe more on video setups, drivers, tools, etc. in Linux . If you want to set up your own Linux PC bring it in. I don't want the meeting to get distracted by spending too much time on any one particular problem and collectively we're not the Linux guru's Bill was in the old Linux SIGS so don't expect too much. On the other hand we sort of know what we're doing and might get you going.

Significant Bits

By Sean N. Henderson

TECHNOLOGY AND MUSIC are intertwined for me. So much so, that sometimes I cannot think about one without thinking about the other. This month I'm writing about a key piece of music technology that enables me to create and produce music – the software sequencer.

A “sequencer” is a device or program whose minimum capability might be thought of as a digital version of a player-piano roll - a technology circa the 1920s. Only now instead of just playing a piano, it can create and play any number of electronically generated sounds, and also control internal and external devices that understand a protocol called MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) www.midi.org.

REWIND

Around the 80's, sequencers used to be primarily hardware-based, usually a table-top unit, made no sounds and had to be connected via a MIDI jack to other sound-making devices such as synthesizers and drum machines.

All this equipment was pretty expensive for regular musicians, usually hovering around \$1,500 - \$2,500 in early 80's dollars for each piece. I obtained my first piece of MIDI gear around 1984 when I got a Sequential Circuits Prophet-600 www.synthmuseum.com/sequ/seqpro60001.html. Soon after, I got two Roland units – a TR-909 drum machine www.synthtopia.com/synth_review/RolandTR-909.html and an MSQ-700 hardware sequencer www.synthony.com/vintage/msq700.html. This equipment could play a couple parts of a music piece – up to about 6,500 notes which got exhausted pretty easily. The Prophet-600 played a synthesizer baseline, and the TR-909 covered the drums. The performances were pretty meager, especially with only 6-note polyphony and only one patch (preset) at a time (mono-timbral). I was far away from my goal of being the next HoJo, Thomas Dolby or Jean-Michel Jarre.

FAST FORWARD

Today, there are software-based sequencers, whose features are so rich and capabilities so great that comparing them to their 80's-based hardware cousins seems comic. Sequencers became a software program run on a personal computer, and they no longer just play and record MIDI events, but near-unlimited tracks of audio and controller information. They also “sequence” small sections of audio, called “loops” or – more

generically - “samples”. One of the first programs to do loop sequencing was Sonic Foundry's Acid Pro (now marketed by Sony). Today, most sequencers with any horsepower work with “loops”.

Connecting to external MIDI instruments isn't done so much anymore since there are software plug-in instruments, called VST instruments. Today's modern sequencers can have several VST instruments and other types of plug-ins such as effect processors, drum machines and virtual instrumentalists.

In fact, they are out-right studios in of themselves and additionally record live audio. The term “sequencer” has come to mean everything involved in MIDI and audio production. There's even some strong branding. You may have heard someone mention that something was made with “Pro Tools”. Pro Tools® is the industry standard sequencer/recording platform of today, and just as Kleenex® generically refers to all facial tissues, so does Pro Tools® refer to any software sequencer.

SEQUENCER USAGE

How much music or how much of a musician does one need to be to use a sequencer? That depends on the software, and the industriousness of the user. So, programs such as Band-In-A-Box merely require the user to type in the chords in popular notation, e.g., G7, and pick a style, such as “Bossanova”, and voila – instant arrangement. These types of sequencers are typically thought of as “arrangers”,

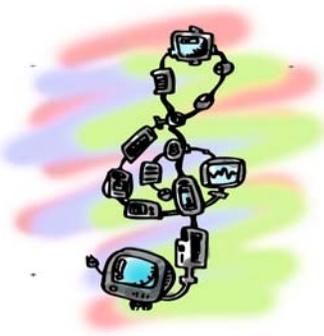
not sequencers. In general, the more style presets, hand-holding, and (yes) artificial intelligence a sequencer has, the more it is considered an arranger. Arrangers are used more for hobbyists and demos, less typically for final production or in performance.

Basic loop sequencing requires very little music knowledge, but it is pretty time consuming in terms of auditioning bits of music (“loops”) that might go together. Obviously, more musical knowledge helps. Using a loop-sequencer product like Acid Pro, even a novice could put together something nifty. There are also countless volumes of loops and samples available for sale on-line and at music instrument stores, and yes, real artists use these things. The better artists tweak them in some ways, but many just use the loops, phrases, and so on, as-is. Hip-hop artists in particular seem to be keen on loops. But, I bet groups like Godsmack and some other seemingly live-sounding bands use them as well.

What I call regular sequencing involves specifying the notes, their individual velocity and loudness, and to which specific instruments they are to be played. It's old school, but the music created sounds more like me and less like someone else. Since I play most of all the instruments I sequence (drums, keyboards, piano, guitar, bass, trumpet, etc) I'm pretty particular about the music sounding like something I would play. Not to say that it is better than the loops (it's not), or more time efficient (debatable), just more personal.

Sequencers have various “screens”, some of which can be displayed or accessed in combination. The basic screens include a “piano-roll” view, an arranger view of the various tracks, a list view of the specific MIDI events, and some graphic views of continuous type data such as pitch-wheel usage. Optionally, there will be a “score” view which looks like actual sheet music, and constructs for managing VST plug-ins and “pools” (directories) of loops (samples). There may also be an integrated sample-editing screen. Many times, samples that are edited are left untouched in the pool, and the edits themselves are stored and the edited sample is constructed on the fly as the sequencer needs it. This is called non-destructive sample editing.

Inputting a performance into a sequencer can be done by capturing a live performance from a MIDI enabled instrument such as a keyboard or an electronic drum kit. This is a key use of a sequencer



since it allows the user to go back and edit specific notes of a performance for timing, pitch, and loudness with surgical precision. Other ways to input a performance is to simply mouse them into the “piano-roll” view, or type them into the sequencer in the list view. Some sequencers more associated with academia can use various music scripting languages to generate music in a programmatic or algorithmic way.

PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS

Some of the same techniques in tuning a machine for high-performance gaming can be applied to tuning a home computer for music production.

SEAN'S HOME STUDIO

So what do I use? On my “test box”, I have Steinberg Software’s Nuendo 1.6 (N1.6) running on Windows 98SE. (www.steinbergusa.net). My all-time favorite software is Music-X (www.amigau.com/c-music/musicx.htm) on the Amiga 2000

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amiga_2000).

To this day, I still compare any sequencer package against Music-X. I would still be using Music-X if I could port it to my laptop. Version 2.0 of Music-X added ARexx support, which allowed more compositional type scripting abilities.

On the laptop, there’s no way to use N1.6 for lack of a DB25F (printer) jack for the copy-protection dongle. Even a USB-to-DB25F cable won’t work. I took this as a reason to explore other sequencing software.

I was looking at a copy of Computer Musician (December ’05 issue) and it came with a complete self-contained sequencer package, called Computer Muzys 1.5. After using Muzys on-and-off since about the middle of 2006, it’s turning out to be too troublesome and I may have to upgrade to something like Pro Tools LE (as low as \$300 when purchased with the Mbox 2 Mini audio interface) or Sonar SX3, which is in the \$400+ price range. Supposedly, there’s a 3.0 version of Muzys, but I haven’t found it. Maybe it’s in a current issue of Computer Music.

What do I compose or write with a sequencer? Good question. Recently, I wrote a song for Where’s Jane, a rock band based out of Westport, CT. The song is called “Chrome Girl” and based on a character from a William Gibson novel. Sound-wise, I was trying to capture a sort of mid-tempo progressive-rock

(prog) sound similar to a track from King’s X’s first album.

Currently, I’m enrolled in the RPM Challenge www.rpmchallenge.com where songwriters have one month to complete an album. The current genre I am exploring is something I call “Klezmer”, which comes from both a Jewish and Eastern-European tradition. I am from neither background, but I still like learning about new styles, so we’ll see how much of this makes it to the challenge.

Previously, I had an entire night’s show of cover songs sequenced for the group Dogs Will Hunt – a duo of myself on bass and Brian Snyder on guitar. From a performer’s perspective, playing against a sequencer is definitely more lifelike than playing against pre-recorded tracks. Especially since I could vary the tempo on the fly without changing the pitch, and adjust the various instrument levels on the fly as well.

As of this writing, I’m still porting my Sean And The Time Travelers set from 2000 across the various sequencers looking for the right software package. The next packages I’m looking at testing will be Jazz++ and more probably some version of Cubase.

ROUNDUP

Here’s some newbie and not-so-newbie software choices to investigate if you are interested:

Apple/Mac:

Garage Band
Steinberg Software Cubase SE1VAP/
SE3/SX3/SX4 Apple Logic Express/Pro
Apple Logic Express/Pro

Windows PC:

Cakewalk SONAR Home/Studio/Producer
Steinberg Software Cubase SE1VAP
SE3/SX3/SX4 Jazz++
(<http://jazzplusplus.sourceforge.net>)
Cubase SX3 (SX4 is out as of this writing)

Linux/UNIX: Rosegarden

<http://www.studio-to-go.com>,
<http://www.rosegardenmusic.com>
Muse
Jazz++ (see link above)
Amiga 500/2000/4000:
Bars And Pipes (no longer published – check eBay.com)
Music-X (ditto)

PDA's running PALM OS:

miniMusic BeatPad
Bhajis Loops
<http://www.chocopoolp.com/bhajis>

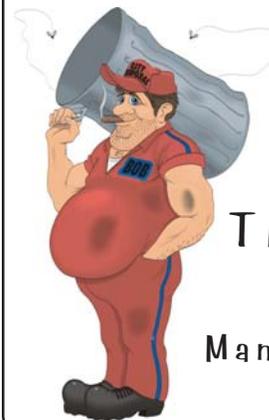
RESOURCES

<http://www.harmony-central.com>
<http://www.synthzone.com/midiseq.htm>
<http://www.keyboardmag.com>
<http://www.studio-to-go.com>
<http://linux-sound.org>

Sean N. Henderson *Is a member of the board of directors. On top of that he leads a dual life as a computer-guy and musician. His devices also contribute to his music life as well.*

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What's News

February 2007

By Jamie Yates

Description: *Windows Vista is here.* What functions are in what edition? Which Vista edition can upgrade from which XP edition?... Charts tell the story.

Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/upgradepaths.msp>
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/editions/choose.msp>

Description: *Apple's big announcement.* The Apple iPhone. 3.5" wide screen and supports music, video, photos (2mp) and phone...Can randomly select voice mail message... Support Wi-Fi and Bluetooth...Multi-touch screen control for all functions...Supports full browser and email client... Also has widgets (weather and stock, etc)...Only \$500 or \$600 (4 or 8 GB)

Source: <http://www.apple.com/iphone/>

Description: *They never stop! Microsoft will be shipping a Windows Home Server later this year...* Provides storage, sharing, backup, and remote access... Based on Windows Server 2003...Simple tabbed interface and expandable storage with hot swapping...Remotely accessible.

Source: http://www.winsupersite.com/reviews/whs_preview.asp

Description: PC Magazine's top 99 undiscovered sites...Sites that are still flying under the radar...Categorized as follows:

- Apps - PC & Mobile, Business, Computing,
- Consumer Electronics & Photography, Health
- Information, Search & Reference
- Lifestyle, Entertainment & Fun, News
- Oddities & Gaming
- Shopping & Consumer Issues
- Travel

You may even know some of them.

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

Description: *Apple will charge for final version of Boot Camp...* Rumored to be \$29...Free for Leopard users...Available in Spring...Will also support Vista.

Source: <http://www.maccoop.com/articles/2007/01/20/apple-to-charge-macos-x-tiger-users-for-final-boot-camp-release>

Description: *Do you want to help the environment and reduce Global Warming?* Download automatically reduces computer's power consumption...Cuts your energy bills...100 million PCs reduces on a yearly basis:

- 300 billion kg of CO2
- 1.8 billion gallons of oil

It's free.

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

Description: *My pick.*

The Old Time Radio Network...Over 12,000 shows...100 added weekly... *Cisco Kid, Bob Hope, Lux Radio Theater, Phil Harris and Alice Faye, Amos and Andy, Our Miss Brooks, Ozzie and Harriet, Duffy's Tavern, Dragnet, Fred Allen, Have Gun will Travel*, and many others...Under thirty need not apply.

Source: <http://www.otr.net/>

Description: *Want to send large files?*

Up to 100MB for free...Can be downloaded up to 100 times...Up to 2GB for fee accounts...Held on server for 7- 14 days depending on account type... Downloads can be tracked.

Source: <http://s13.yousendit.com/>

Description: *For the person who has everything.* 320 x 240 pixels and 260,000 colors...Shows videos and photos and plays MP3 audio...Removable MP4 player...Has USB, audio, video in and out

connections...Can handle multiple formats such as: AVI, MP4, MPEG 1, MPEG 2, MP3, WMA, JPEG, and BMP...Only \$289 with 512 MB SD Flash card
Source: <http://www.egokast.com/>

Description:

And.....for the Dilbert fans.

Do you know anyone drew up like this?

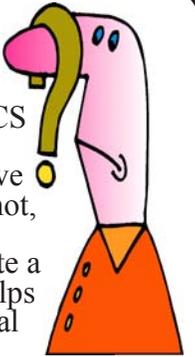
Source: <http://www.flixxy.com/dilbert-the-knack.htm>

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.

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.

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.



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Ask DACS

February 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 Meeting may submit questions to askdacs@dacs.org. We will ask the question for you and post the reply in *DACS.ORG*. Please provide as much information as possible since we can't probe during the session.

Q. *I have a DSL connection, but it takes several minutes for me to establish my connection with AOL. My DSL is on the same phone line as my voice and fax. My AOL dial-up connection used to be on a different phone line which I'll call line 2. What is wrong with my DSL connection and how might I fix it?*

A. There was some discussion about the need for filters—if you have a DSL connection, every phone on the line must have a filter. The purpose of the filter is to isolate the DSL signal from voice devices, and it enables DSL to always be on. There was concern that the DSL connection might really have been on Line 2. The next day a member called and it was determined that the DSL was in fact on “Line 1” of the first telephone jack, and the former dial-up connection was “Line 1” of the second jack. The machine was booted and several checks were performed. First, it was determined that AOL was the only entry. The “Never Dial” option was set. Next, the DSL connection was tested by sending a PING from a DOS command window to a specific IP address—it worked; four replies were received within a second. This proved that the network adapter was configured properly and that the DSL connection was good. Next, a PING was sent to a remote host by name - this time the remote host address was converted to an IP address and responses received. This proved that the DNS was resolving names. Lastly, Internet Explorer was started rather than AOL, and the user was able to navigate to sites such as CNN and eBay. From that it was determined that the AOL configuration was bad. AOL was started, and SIGN ON options was selected. It listed DSL and Dial-UP, with DSL the default.

When the user tried to connect, the system hung. After a boot, AOL was started again, but this time, a new broadband connection named “My DSL” was created. As part of the wizard, a check was placed in the “connect automatically” option. The connection was saved and tested, and AOL came up immediately. The old “DSL” connection evidently had a bad setting, so it was deleted, and the system now works properly. The only non-default setting was the “connect automatically” check-box.

Q. *How do I set up a wireless network with my DSL connection?*

A. The easiest way to create a wireless network is to add a “Wireless Access Point” to an existing wired Ethernet that has internet access and supports the “DHCP” protocol for automatic configuration. The popularity of wireless networks has caused equipment costs to plummet, while the capabilities have increased. You will need to purchase a wireless access point, you could also buy a router with built in wireless access capability. Netgear and Linksys were two brands that were recommended at the meeting. The installation process will be easier if you buy the same brand name for the wireless access point and the wireless network card.

1. Install the wireless network card in the desktop or laptop computer and the driver software that comes with the card.

2. You also need to install TCI/IP networking if it isn't already set up and configure it to work for your new wireless network card.

3. Install the management utility for the wireless network card.

4. Install the Wireless Access Point.

5. Connect to the Internet – Connect the DSL modem to the access point.

6. Configure Security on the Access Point and Wireless Network card. At the minimum, you should change your network name from the default, which is usually the manufacturer's name.

Q. *Can you connect more than one computer to a wireless access point?*

A. Yes, theoretically you could have 254 different IP addresses inside your private network.

Q. *I was recently having trouble booting my new PC, I burned a BartPE from my old computer, but it didn't understand RAID 0. Are there drivers I need to install to make the BartPE work?*

A. Yes, you need to install the correct drivers for your new computers hard drive.

For anyone unfamiliar with the BartPE software, here is a brief explanation. BartPE was created by a Dutch programmer named Bart Lagerweij, his software helps you to build a “BartPE” (Bart Pre-installed Environment) bootable windows CD-Rom or DVD from the original Windows XP or Windows Server 2003 setup CD, which is very suitable for PC maintenance tasks. You can use it to recover data from a failed operating system installation or a lost administrator password. BartPE is free software with a graphical user interface and is not supported by Microsoft. Microsoft has a similar tool called WinPE.

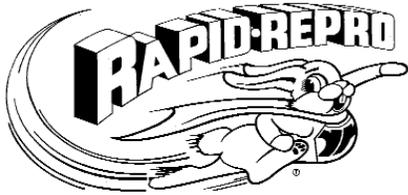
Q. *I use Outlook Express and AOL email and lately I am getting a lot more spam on Outlook Express.*

A. You can set up filters or message rules, as they are called, in Outlook Express. Go to Tools>Message Rules>Mail and then click and experiment with setting up different rules to see what works for you. For example, you could make a rule to prevent specific email addresses or names from coming in. You may also want to talk to your ISP about filtering your email.

LISA LEIFELS, REPORTER

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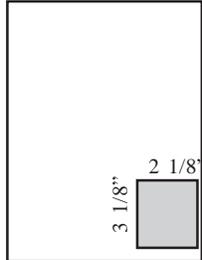
April 3 • Jay Ferron - Microsoft Vista and Office 2007



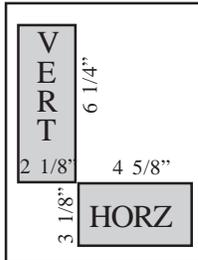
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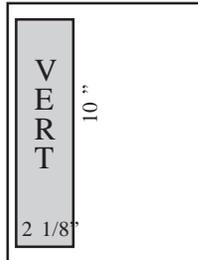
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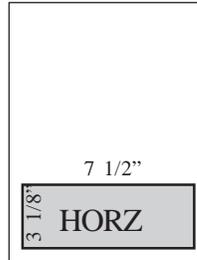
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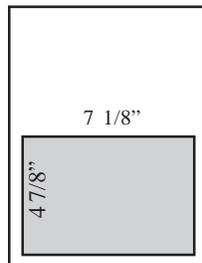


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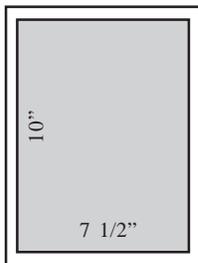


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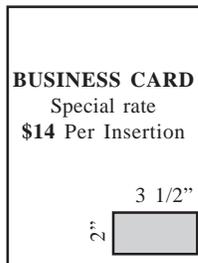
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Danbury Area Computer Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section (501)(C)(3) of the US Tax Code. Its purpose is to promote education, knowledge sharing, networking and communication between users of personal computers. DACS is an all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

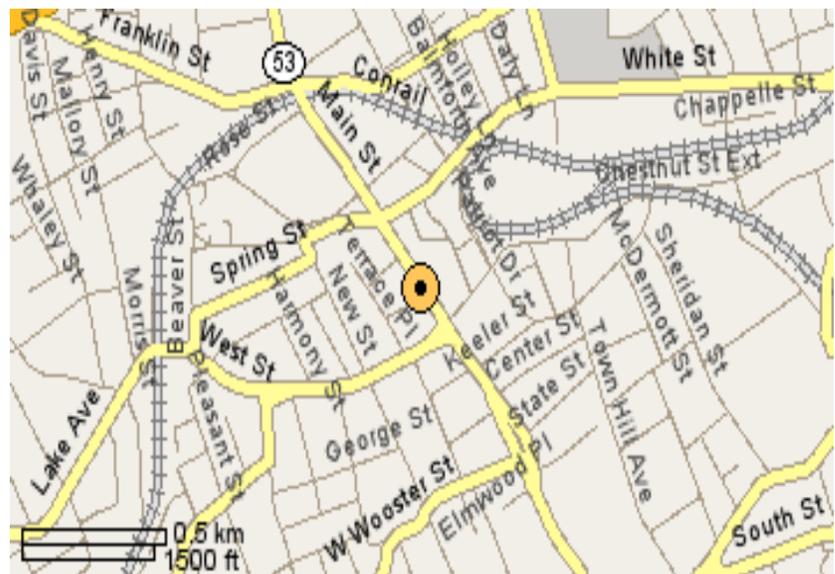
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session.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

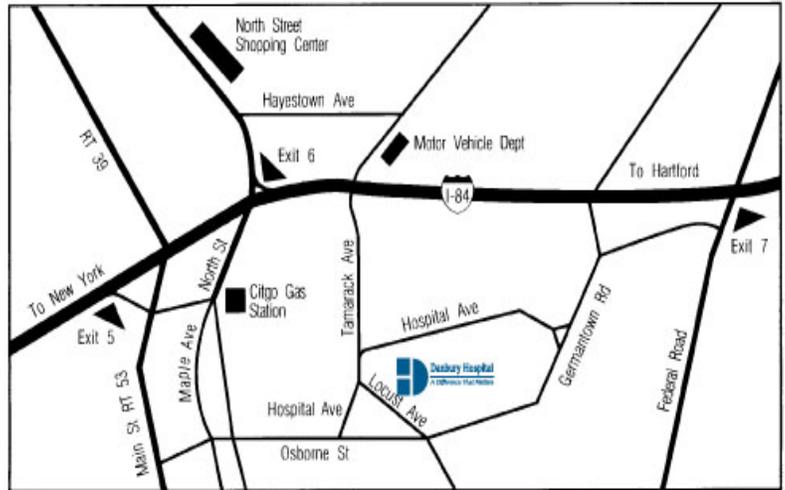
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Traveling East on I-84: Take Exit 5. After stop sign, go straight ahead to intersection of Main Street and North Street. Go straight through onto North Street. Turn right off North Street to Maple Avenue. Go on Maple Avenue to Osborne Street. Turn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



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