



April 2007

Volume 18, Issue 4



President's File



One thing that I think we can all say we've observed in life is that change is always inevitable. When I attended my first General Meeting in June of 2006, I had no idea that within a year I would find myself as the new president of DACS.

Boy, how change can come right out of nowhere! I'm a firm believer in the "if you don't stretch, you don't grow" and therefore confident that this will be a rewarding experience!

Good Thing I Have Big Feet

For my first article as the new President I thought it would be fitting to read what those before me have written for their first Presidential Messages. Not only did I figure it would give some historical perspective, but I also wanted to see what types of things were discussed. It didn't take much reading to see there are some pretty big shoes to fill!

While it was humbling to read what the outgoing and incoming Presidents' thoughts were, it was also rather comforting. When one reads those articles, it becomes abundantly clear that there are common thoughts, values, and concerns among all of them. They all thanked the support of those who volunteer their time to run the organization. They all deeply value the Members and the experiences. Each expresses their hope and visions for the future of this organization.

Given the size shoes to fill of all those before me, I'm honored that the Board of

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Directors has placed faith in me to share my hopes and visions for DACS. Thanks for the encouragement and the opportunity!

Tripping Down Memory Lane

My first introduction to computers was in 1982-83 when my school purchased their first Apple IIe. Sometime in 1984 my parents brought home a Commodore 64. I was disappointed because I didn't know anything about the C64. The frustration of having two dissimilar platforms between school and home urged me to learn how to translate programs from one to the other. It was through that need and ability that I started learning more about computer hardware itself and what it was capable of doing.

Back then, there wasn't much taught in school with regard to computers. User groups were hard to find or distance prohibitive. So, I pretty much had to teach myself. In doing so, I ended up learning about basic electronics and how the computer and peripherals worked. Of course, a teenager can only go so far before his parents wonder why they want to use a screwdriver on the family computer...

At that point, I quickly learned the value of a learning environment and how much yard work it takes to equal a Commodore 64 system. It took about a year of doing odd jobs, shoveling snow, allowances, and gifts. Finally, I had my own equipment to tear apart! My first modification was to add device selection switches to the floppy drives. Then I added a second sound chip for stereo sound. Then there was the warm reset switch, etc.

One day I could no longer go forward because I had done just about everything with my system one could do and I could not afford one of the newer x86 computers. There weren't any 'used' computers yet except for a handful of Apples and Commodores that were snapped up quicker than lightning. My only options out of High School were to go to learn Novell or ditch a car for a new computer. I gave computing up for a while. That was around 1989.

Sometime around 1994 or 1995, I had the fortune to be helping an acquaintance, who was a licensed electrician, to do wiring work for a restaurant. It happened there was a computer they were throwing out. It was an 8088 with an MFM hard drive, monochrome monitor, two built-in floppy drives, and a keyboard. They said I was welcome to it but the monitor smoked, which is why they were throwing the system away.

PRESIDENT'S FILE Continued on page 4

Membership Information

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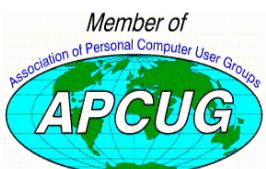
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HelpLine

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

d = day **e** = evening

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Directors' Notes

A regular meeting of your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, February 12, 2007.

The table at the Resource Center was crowded on Monday, March 12, 2007 for the meeting of your Board of Directors. Present were: 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 February 12, 2007 were approved. In the absence of the Treasurer, the report of the Treasurer was waived.

Jamie Yates led the discussion on General Meeting programs. He communicated that Jay Ferron, who is the regional representative from APCUG, will introduce us to Microsoft Vista and Office 2007 at the April General Meeting. Smart Computing has committed to speak at the May General Meeting. Jamie is also hoping to get a representative from Sounds Incredible and/or Firedog for a future presentation. Richard Corzo said he will contact Dave Marra about coming back to do another Apple presentation.

Sean Henderson presented a slide show with the preliminary results of the focus group held on March 3rd. Sean reported that Eric Olson did a great job as the facilitator for all three sessions. A total of six people attended the current member session, four people were in the former member session and five people came to the prospective member session. Sean felt that valuable information was acquired and that there were enough quality panelists to make the results meaningful. The focus group committee is going to get together and review the results and then will provide recommendations to the board.

Sean Henderson nominated Rob Limbaugh for President and Christine Novell for Vice President of Programs. With a show of hands, the following individuals were elected to their respective offices for the term on one year and until their successor is duly elected. Rob Limbaugh, President, Christine Novell, Vice President of Programs, Sean Henderson, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations, Gene Minasi, Vice President of Facilities, Charles Bovaird, Treasurer and Lisa Leifels, Secretary.

Directors' Notes, Continued on page 5

Meeting Preview

Windows Vista and MS Office

By Jamie Yates

WINDOWS VISTA and MS Office 2007 have recently become available to the general public. As a matter of fact, if you buy a new computer chances are 100% that by the time you read this it will come with a version of Vista pre-installed. Do you want to know more about these new products? If the answer is yes, come to our April General Meeting and hear all about it from Jay Ferron.

Vista has created a stir in the industry with its new Aero graphic interface, upgraded hardware requirements and major internal changes to improve security, among other enhancements. Learn about the new features and new versions, migration tools and integrated backup capability. Gain an understanding of what it can do for you and if you should install it on your current hardware now or in the future. Or perhaps just wait until it comes pre-installed on a new computer purchase.

Microsoft Office 2007 also has a number of new features about which you may want to know, including its new ribbon interface which replaces the menus you are used to.

If you have been reading about these products, you will find there are many divergent opinions as to whether Vista and Office provide enough benefits or if their annoyances should keep you on your current software. Although everyone will ultimately have to upgrade, is waiting the more prudent decision?

The press has been working overtime both praising and damning it. Since you can't avoid it, you might as well learn as much as you can about it.

Our speaker for the night will be Jay Ferron, a current member of the Board of Directors of APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups). He also has the following certifications: ADSP, CCDA, CCNA, CISM, CISSP, MCP, MCDBA, MCSE, MCT, NSA - IAM, RWMT, TCI. Jay is CIO, for Interactive Security Training, LLC, and works on various projects that include security and training and Windows and Unix network infrastructures. His customers include Microsoft, banks, government agencies, health agencies and providers.

As a speaker, Jay has presented at APCUG, Comdex, Tech Forum Managers meetings, Future Forum 2000, ISPCON, Corporate Advisory Board, CTEXPO, Web Developer conference, and many computer user groups. Jay travels the around the world teaching and training users of computer technologies.

Jay is currently a Board Advisor of The PC Users Group of Connecticut and board member of the CT- Information Systems Audit and Control Association. He is also an ex-President of several user groups.

Bring your questions and learn more about the new versions of both Microsoft Vista and Office. Drag along your friends, who will thank you for the opportunity.

Don't miss this opportunity.

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*

Knowing enough about electronics to suppose that the monitor smoking had nothing to do with the PC, I set out to fix the system. Sure enough, the monitor smoked—because a bristle from a wire brush fell across the circuit board shorting out a capacitor. Less than one dollar and a trip to Radio Shack later, I had a working PC! Back in the saddle!

By 1996, I had acquired an incomplete Packard Bell 486DX2 system. The power supply fried and the system was out of warranty. Being an "all-in-one" custom motherboard, my friend was going to sell it in a yard sale but offered it to me for less than \$40. Within a few months, I had built a full blown system out of it and fitted it into a standard AT computer case. The computer company I bought my parts from ended up hiring me. My break had finally come!

DACS Is It's Own Best Resource

The reason for telling that story is not really to showcase what I have or haven't done, where I have or haven't been, or what I can or cannot do. The point of the story is that learning stops when resources aren't available. Once they become available again, the learning can resume. I wish I would have had access to a group like DACS 15 years ago—I'd be well ahead of where I am now professionally.

Since my learning curve is highest with Linux, and programming, I try to attend the **Linux**, **Open Source**, and **dotNet SIGs** as often as possible. By immersing myself in those environments it helps me (re)learn syntax, jargon, and methods. I learn from what obstacles others have run into and how they overcame them.

The **PC Maintenance SIG** is a must for anyone who wants to start learning how to fix computers, because it gives exposure to different users, different configurations, and different problems. What books can't teach is how systems are in the real world with real people using them.

Server SIG is another fun one. In the past few months we've explored what it takes to get servers racked and how to lay a new network foundation. In the March SIG Jim set up a new domain controller, new DNS services, transferred DHCP, and set up a new subnet to handle the new network framework that will allow us to expand the resources available in the DACS Resource Center.

Mac SIG is another favorite. I'm immersed in the Windows world on a daily basis. For me, learning more about what Mac has to offer is somewhat of an escape. I've learned more about Macs in the past few months because of this SIG than through any other means. The information obtained has helped me for work related purposes when we deal with clients that are Mac-based organizations.

What I see in DACS is a lifelong way to keep learning and exploring. To me, the SIG's are a vital resource in that ongoing learning for myself. I encourage anyone who hasn't been to a SIG in a while to check them out. There is no way any one person can learn everything about technology, but I think its fun to try!

Going Forward

There are many objectives that DACS as a whole would like to see come to fruition. For the coming year, my goal is to have the foundation set for DACS to reach the next level. This means the creation of an infrastructure that is strong and flexible. The

foundation to attain that goal is already making progress.

If you have any thoughts, concerns, ideas, talents, interests, or resources from which the group could benefit, please contact me at relimbaugh@dacs.org. The best time to catch me in person is at one of the SIGs.

See you at the next meeting!

ROB LIMBAUGH

Directors' Notes, continued. from page 3

Jeff Setaro communicated that his laptop would no longer be available for use at the general meetings. Rob Limbaugh generously offered the use of a Thinkpad he has, which he said would need a copy of Windows XP.

Sean Henderson recruited Jamie Yates to join a new marketing committee he is forming to assist him with some of the marketing and public relation tasks.

A discussion ensued on the best way to manage the growing number of DACS user ID's and passwords. It was decided that all of the information needs to be compiled into a single document and mailed to Charles Bovaird, the Treasurer and Lisa Leifels the Secretary for safe keeping.

Jim Scheef has been in contact with Culminus, an international, not-for-profit organization that is devoted to the growth of the IT community. They create programs to help computer user groups exchange resources such as speakers and community awareness. Jim received a start up package with a long list of software including Microsoft Server 2003, Microsoft Office 2003, Microsoft Exchange and Microsoft XP and additional software which can be used by DACS.

The meeting ended with Richard thanking Jamie for doing an excellent job as Vice President of Programs. We've learned a great deal from the speakers Jamie has scheduled for us over the past couple of years. Thank you Jamie!

-LISA LEIFELS

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Meeting Review

All About MySpace

by Jamie Yates

AT OUR MARCH General Meeting, we were treated to an excellent tour of MySpace, the largest social networking site on the Internet. Some say it has over 100 million users.

Our guide was Dan O'Connor, who has been a MySpace user for the last year and a half. Dan is a musician and a web developer and uses MySpace to both feature his music and communicate with other musicians and friends.

During the evening, he demonstrated MySpace's different functions and features and discussed his concerns about it being used by minors. He showed us how easy it is to sign up for MySpace and the number of things it provides. A novice can set up an account in minutes and it is viewable by others just as quickly.

An account page can be bare bones and relatively simple or, if you have the skills, quite complex. It can show pictures and play music and a number of other things. There are even a number of web sites that either show you how to and/or provide the necessary code to add different features to your listing.

You can have a friends list of infinite size. These are people you may or may not know that wish to be listed as friends. Some of the well known bands and personalities listed on MySpace have thousands of friends in their list.

People can also leave you messages and invitations and you can send messages and invitations to your friends.

By default there is no restriction on who can either be your friend or leave messages or comments on your page. A basic account

setup leaves the user open to many unwanted contacts from strangers and allows them to list both negative and obscene comments on your MySpace page. That is where some of the problems begin, especially for minors who have a habit of disclosing more personal information about themselves than they should and may be easily taken in by comments left by others.

MySpace provides many selectable options to protect the account holder from most of the concerns but you have to wade through all these and select the appropriate ones for yourself. This can be time consuming and must be done after the account is set up. Most people never go through this process after registering.

Overall, Dan's opinion is that minors should not be on MySpace. But it is hard for even the most caring parent to prevent this since a minor can sign up and use MySpace from any computer, at any location, and the parent may not even know about it. Also, a user can use a false name, lie about their age, and even post false pictures of themselves.

So, for all its' capabilities, it can be a dangerous place for underage members even with the efforts undertaken by MySpace, due to both legal and legislative pressure.

There were many questions from the audience during the evening and all were answered by Dan. Thanks, Dan for an excellent and informative presentation.

If you have a minute, visit Dan's websites at <http://www.danomusiconline.com/> and <http://www.myspace.com/danomusiconline>.



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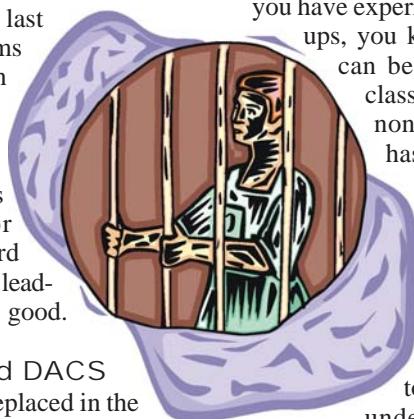
Commentary

Circuit Rider Version 4.9

by Jim Scheef

New DACS Officers

WI'M SURE YOU ARE aware by now, DACS is governed much the same way as a regular corporation in that you, the members, elect a board of directors and those directors then appoint the officers. Our new president is Rob Limbaugh. Rob was elected to the board in the elections last December. If this seems quick, please keep in mind that I became president right after I was elected to the board. This board has some great ideas for moving DACS forward and Rob will give us the leadership we need. This is good.



Patriot Act and DACS

While it has been replaced in the news by newer scandals, a few weeks ago the Inspector General of the US Department of Justice issued a report of its audit of how the department was using and misusing the powers granted under the USA Patriot Act and the renewal that passed last year. The report was alarming to say the least. More directly, it mirrored almost word for word what we heard at the November general meeting when three people from Library Connections told us their experiences with the national security letter they received and fought. Their courage in fighting for our civil liberties is to be lauded all the more now that we know the true scale of the problem.

Crime and Punishment in the Information Age

Later this month Julie Amero, a substitute teacher from Norwich, CT, will be sentenced to as much as 40 years in prison. Is she a terrorist? A child predator of some sort? Then surely she is a double murderer because 40 years is twice the normal sentence given for murder. Julie Amero was convicted of none of these crimes. No, she was the person in charge of the classroom when the classroom computer displayed some pornographic images. Julie Amero is barely computer liter-

ate. Her defense was not permitted to bring forensic evidence before the jury that would have demonstrated how this out of control situation happened. Why didn't she just turn off the computer? Apparently the regular teacher had logged onto the computer that morning and left the room with instructions not to log off or turn off the computer because then the students would no longer have access. If

you have experienced a barrage of pop-ups, you know how frustrating it can be. Combine this with a classroom of children and a non-technical person who has been told not to turn off the computer, and you have the situation that led to the charges against Julie Amero. Her conviction appears to be the result of an overly zealous prosecutor and a judge with no understanding of technology. But beyond all of this, does the potential punishment fit the crime? Of course not! You can read more at www.nwdocfinder.com/7765. I summarized this from Mark Gibbs "Backspin" column in the March 12th issue of Network World.

Now let's think about this logically. Who else could be held negligent in such a case? What about the school's network administrator? Or the person who set up and configured the computer for use in the classroom? Could or should they be held at least partially responsible in this situation? A simple pop-up blocker might have averted much of the "horror" that happened that day. Is Julie Amero going to prison because someone didn't click a check box in Internet Options? Hopefully, this case will be reversed on appeal, or at minimum granted a new trial. If you work in IT or provide computer support, Julie Amero represents the "worst case scenario" for when something goes wrong.

Improvements to the Resource Center – Infrastructure Progress Report

The Resource Center network suffered another setback this month. After

three trips to the RC, I finally had to reconfigure the router after resetting it to "factory new". Read more about this in Server SIG Notes. Now, I think I can say we are up, running and "stable." Our next step is to design the infrastructure we need for a 21st century DACS. This includes both DACS itself and facilities to support the SIGs. DACS is incorporated as an educational non-profit. Education is our primary activity, which we provide through the general meetings, the special interest groups (SIGs) and networking between members. If these improvements to the network in the Resource Center further the learning opportunities for our members, then the effort will be worthy of our time. Come to the next Server and Networking SIG if you would like to help or just learn what we're doing and how we're doing it.

JIM SCHEEF is a former president of DACS.

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



Thanks!
The
Management

Software Review

Adobe Photoshop Elements 5

by Nancy Dennis

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP Elements 5 is a photo editing and organizing program that also includes easy to use features to back up your photos, and really fun creative ways to show off your photos to family and friends.

Adobe Photoshop is the top of the line photo program for the professionals and costs hundreds of dollars. Elements (under \$100) has many of the same features as the professional version with a lot of fun and easy features added in, making it the software choice for the non-professional user like you and me.

The software installs the Adobe Photo Downloader in your system tray and is ready instantly whenever you plug in your camera or memory card. Your photos are downloaded into the Organizer where you have easy access to them for viewing, tagging, creating collections, printing, emailing, creating all the fun projects, or switching to the Edit mode for a Quick Fix or Full Edit. Your photos are identified by Elements in Catalogs. You can have multiple catalogs for different users of your computer in the family, or say for photos that you may use for work which you want to keep separate from home photos. You can even use the Organizer to select photos to order prints online or size and send through your email client. Your photos are managed by date with a timeline across the top of the screen that is very easy to navigate when you are looking for a photo at a specific time on the calendar. The Tags and Collections feature takes a few extra minutes when you first download the photos, but sure makes it easier to select certain photos when you are ready to create a project. Tags can be given for photos of specific family, friends or places and events. Collections work in a similar fashion but could include several different people, say in a vacation.

Since software packages come with little or no manuals, I find that one of my first places to explore is the Help feature.



The Adobe Help Center, which is on the Help menu, includes a very extensive index of help on the program as well as hyperlinks to video tutorials on the Adobe web site. The Help Center includes a very good Search tool with easy navigation and even a Bookmark feature where you can bookmark a topic that you may want to return to again quickly. I was also offered free online tutorials from Adobe after I registered the software. Be sure to take advantage of this offer. There are eleven video tutorials that give a very good overview of everything from getting your photos into Elements to creating fun creative projects.

Another quick way to get to help on any of the tools on the screen is to hover your mouse over the tool and a link appears that takes you directly to the Help Center on that tool. You will find that you don't miss the manual with this complete Adobe Help Center.

When the Elements program starts there is a Welcome Screen where you can choose to open the Organizer, Quickly Fix Photos, Edit and Enhance Photos, or Make Photo Creations. Once you decide which mode you want to begin with you can set the Welcome Screen to always open in that mode or stay with the Welcome Screen. Since you need to open a photo in order to edit it or select several photos for projects it made sense to me to always open in the Organizer mode.

With a right click of a photo in the Organizer you can select the Go to Quick Fix feature as a truly "quick fix". With this feature you are able to fix the most common problems with your photos without having to know any of the more advanced features. Now mind you the advanced features are in Elements, but you may find that you seldom need to go into that mode to get the results that you want. With Quick Fix mode you have auto buttons for lighting, color, sharpen and red eye. Then if the auto button doesn't quite get the photo like you want there are fine tuning levers to

adjust to finish the job. If you just can't get the look you want you can click the Full Edit tab from this window and go into the more fully featured mode of Elements to complete the task.

Some of the new features for editing in Elements include correct lens distortion, sharpen blurred edges, fine-tuning with curves, creating dramatic black and whites and support for raw files. One of my very favorite features of Elements in the Full Edit mode is the Artwork and Effects Palette. From this palette you can pick from dozens of backgrounds, frames, graphics and shapes. Then select a style for that object from a dozen more selections and just drag and drop onto your photo. This palette includes different themes for effects, filters for effects and text styles, all applied with a double click. There is even a Favorites area where you can drag an effect that you especially liked and want to get back to quickly. A couple other favorites of mine in the Full Edit mode are the Adjust Color for Skin Tone and the Spot Healing Brush. If you have a photo where the skin color just doesn't look right you can use the Adjust Color for Skin Tone feature to quickly change the skin tone by using the eyedropper over the skin. If you want the result a little more tan or blush there are easy adjustments in that same dialog box. The Spot Healing Brush works wonders for those marks and blemishes just by clicking over the area. There is also a new feature called Magic Extractor that provides an easy wizard to extract an object (or person) from your photo. Again there are fine tuning options in this wizard if the extraction is not quite what you want. I found that this feature works very well. The red eye fix in Elements 5 is by far the best red eye fix that I have used in a photo editing program. There is even an option to have red eye corrected as your photos are being downloaded from the card reader.

Elements 5 has added a Back-Up and Restore feature that allows you to back up your photo catalogs to a server online (you have to sign up for this service). The online back up service through Adobe Photoshop Services gives you a 30 day free trial. There is also a Back-Up feature that will do Full and Incremental back ups of your catalogs to a CD or DVD, another drive, or another folder on the hard drive. This feature is Wizard driven and makes this very important task quick and easy, without leaving the Elements software. This feature is right there on the tool bar along with all the other online services.

Elements 5 Continued on page 14

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: April 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: April 4

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: April 25.

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: April 19

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: April 18

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: April 5

Open Source Web Programming. Focuses on open source tools for Windows and Linux.

Contact: John Lansdale, 914-533-2002.

Meets 3rd Monday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: April 16

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: April 19

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: April 12

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, preceeded 1 hour with a shared cost pizza snack.

Next Meeting: April 4

Virtual Computing. This SIG will explore virtual computing technologies and how to leverage them as additional system resources. Our main focus will be on the free VMWare products, but we will also take a look at other technologies and tools.

Meets 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center

Contact: Rob Limbaugh (relinbaugh@dacs.org), 203 826-8196.

Next Meeting: April 24.

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: April 25

SIG News & Events

Mac SIG In March we covered eMusic (<http://www.emusic.com>), the second most popular online music store after iTunes. It is compatible with the iPod, in fact any MP3-playing device, and both Macs and PCs. It is a music subscription service where a monthly charge of \$9.99 gets you 30 downloads for that month, rather than a la carte like iTunes where you purchase individual songs for 99 cents. The MP3 files on eMusic are generally 192 kbps variable bit rate, a higher quality than the songs on iTunes, and there is no copy protection, so you can copy the music to as many devices or computers you have. If you need a CD for playback on your stereo or in your car, you can import the song files into iTunes, create a playlist, and then burn the CD right from iTunes.

The reason eMusic can offer music without copy protection is that it only offers music from the independent labels. The major labels like Sony/BMG, Warner Music Group, Universal, and EMI have resisted selling their music on line without copy protection, so for artists like Mariah Carey or Britney Spears you will need to buy the CDs or purchase their music at iTunes. You may still find artists you recognize on eMusic, but to get full value you may find you'll have to spend some time doing some research to find music you like. As you would expect, eMusic lets you search by artist, album, or song name, and you can also browse by genre and

subgenre. They list best selling albums and artists, and they also have in-house music experts who recommend particular albums. In your own profile area eMusic will show your "neighbors", other eMusic subscribers who have downloaded some of the same music you have, and you may browse the other music they have downloaded to discover music you might like. If eMusic doesn't have the particular artist you're looking for, they can usually recommend similar artists you might enjoy.

Of course, the true test of whether you like the music is in the listening. eMusic offers 30-second samples of individual songs, but even more convenient is a "Listen to ALL" feature which allows you to hear all the song samples of an album with one click (a feature that I wish the iTunes Store would offer). It takes a little bit of work to take full advantage of this on a Mac. In the SIG meeting I showed M3U2iTunes (<http://www.burroak.on.ca/m3u2itunes.html>) which is a free third-party tool that provides the missing link. The "Listen to ALL" button on each album page is actually a link to an m3u playlist file. By default, iTunes only plays the first song in the m3u playlist. M3U2iTunes converts the m3u playlist into an iTunes playlist, allowing you to sit back and listen to all the song samples. In keeping with the music store theme of the night, we raffled off an iTunes gift card provided by the Danbury Apple Store.

SIG Notes, cont. on page 15

April 2007

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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follow-up

Additional Comments to the Virtual Machine presentation

By Rob Limbaugh

IT WAS A GREAT pleasure having the opportunity to present at the February General Meeting. Only the surface was scratched, and there wasn't much room to get into all the things possible with Virtual computing technology. I thought the group Q&A was great and only find it fitting that I try to expand on some of the questions asked.

A member of the audience asked if virtual disks could be set to auto-grow. My answer was that yes it can be done but that I don't do it because of fragmentation reasons. Basically, you have two options—either the disk file can start out small and expand as needed, or it can be comprised of disk pieces and additional pieces are added as needed. To the virtual machine, the disk pieces would show as a single logical drive, but on the file system of the host computer it would appear as multiple large files. The other reason I favor a single non-expanding disk file is that it's easier to keep track of.

We skated over backups because I felt it would take us too far off topic. Backup strategies are themselves a part of a Disaster Recovery Plan. In any case, both the virtual machine file itself or the data within it can be backed up. What method is used really depends on the importance of needing the virtual machine instance vs. the data within it. The data on a virtual ma-

chine can be backed up just as any other computer or server. The virtual disk files that define the virtual machine can also be backed up, but if your primary virtual disk drive is 6GB, then the virtual disk file will be 6GB even if you really only needed to back up 2GB of data.

When working with virtual machines, make sure you read the license agreements for the OS(s) and applications that are planned to be loaded. It's one thing to install Windows XP on a virtual machine to play around with a program and then delete the virtual machine within the trial period. It's another thing to build a virtual Windows XP machine for the intent of prolonged use. This is also true of applications installed in the virtual machines. If in doubt, consult the vendor of the application or OS.

Isolation and cooperation of the virtual machines to their host and each other is important. Each virtual machine is independent of each other and the host. The host software prevents them from interacting unless they are "logically" connected. In order to network virtual machines, virtual network cards must be assigned to them. Access to external networks has to be allowed and defined on the host computer. This topic can delve much deeper than this and would be better left to an external discussion because

it greatly depends on what someone needs or wants to do.

Even though the systems are isolated, the risks of virus transversal exist once virtual machines are given access to network and physical drive resources that can be accessed by other physical machines. Each virtual machine should have virus scanning software run on it, as well as the host system. On the host, I exclude the path I have the virtual machines in to maximize performance. I use Avast! on my virtual machines because it's free and works well.

During the presentation we said that programming environments could be tested, a sandbox network could be created, checking out new operating systems, and working with backups. We also mentioned for recovery purposes. All of these were noted as "disposable" purposes. We didn't mention much about day-to-day use. In my case, on one computer, I have a virtual machine for the Linux SIG and one that is an XP domain member on my home network (which is the one I used for the presentation). Three of my servers at home are virtual machines running across two physical servers. One virtual machine is used as a Symantec Ghost box when I need to image a machine.

Lately I've been using virtual computing to rebuild some bad diskettes. Years ago I copied the disks into "DISK1, DISK2, DISK3" type folders for archival purposes in case the originals degraded. The virtual machine has allowed me to rebuild the bad disks. So far, I've gone through my DOS 6.22 install disks, legacy versions of Windows and Windows for Workgroups, and my old DOS based 'tools' diskettes.

Due to overwhelming interest, a Virtual Computing SIG has been formed that meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm. For more information, contact me at relimbaugh@dacs.org.



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"Welcome to the Pearly Gates... please leave your cell phones and iPods in the receptacle before entering the portal."

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.

What's News

March 2007

By Jamie Yates

Description: Want to compare various major Anti-virus programs? Over 20 are reported at this web site Done and reported quarterly. Just one of a number of rating sites Microsoft OneCare ranked lowest by a wide margin
<http://www.av-comparatives.org/>

Description: Private search leaves no tracks unless you click ads Does not reveal your IP address or create tracking cookies Done by proxy Can search Google, Yahoo, and MSN Other services available on the Internet Question? Should you trust the proxy?
<http://www.blackboxsearch.com/>

Description: Every day get a new piece of commercial software free Free software available for a least 24 hours. Fully functional. Can't beat that! Also have a game-of-the-day site
<http://www.giveawayoftheday.com/>
<http://game.giveawayoftheday.com/>

Description: A cheat sheet for using Google. Independently created, free and downloadable. Lists all Google domains. Lists Google Services. Lists basic

Google Calculator operators, Lists advanced Google Search operators. And much more...
<http://www2.adelaide.com/google-cheat-sheet/?cheatsheet&page=all>

Description: Are you a font junkie? Want free fonts? This site has thousands of them, Also points to other sites for additional fonts. Do you want to turn your own handwriting into a font? Go to second site and follow instructions
<http://www.1001freefonts.com/>
<http://www.fontifier.com/template.html>

Description: You want to test drive Windows Vista on line? Go to site and enter your email address Download an ActiveX control and begin. You can use all functions on line to see them in operation. Only supports Vista Business
<http://www.windowsvistatestdrive.com/>

Description: The government has changed the dates of DST starting this year. Daylight Savings Time is coming March 11th. You all knew that. Were you prepared?

Was your software? And don't forget your clocks, phones and PDAs.
http://support.microsoft.com/gp/cp_dst
<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=305056>
<http://www.palm.com/us/support/downloads/dst.html>

Description: You are on the National Do Not Call List, right? It stops most telemarketers from calling you. Both land and cell phones can be registered. Registration is good for only 5 years Web site allows inquiry on expiration date so you know when to re-register
<https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>

Description: Again from Google: Traffic information on Google maps 30 plus metropolitan areas as of now. Continuing to expand. If no traffic button available there is no information. Speed color coded (red<25, yellow=25-50, green>50, gray=n/a)
<http://maps.google.com/?ie=UTF8&z=3&om=1>
<http://maps.google.com/support/bin/search.py?query=traffic&ctx=en%3Asearchbox&Action.Search=Search>

Description: You thought user problems only started with the computer? The original help desk. Way, way, back when.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFAWR6hzZek>

Pandora's Box

A Free Music Resource

by Sandy Berger

THE INTERNET is filled with free resources, but some are better than others. Here is one of the best free music resources on the Web.

Pandora is one of my favorite music websites. Just surf over to www.pandora.com and type in a song or an artist that you like. Pandora analyses your choice and creates a music station with similar-sounding music. It will then play comparable songs that it thinks you will like. You can add more music and/or artists to the station to refine your choices. You can also tell Pandora whether or not you like the song that is playing. It uses your likes and dislikes to refine the songs it chooses. You can create up to 100 different stations with different types of music.

Pandora was created by the Music Genome Project, a group of musicians and music-loving technologists who have broken music into hundreds of music attributes or "genes" such as melody, harmony, rhythm, instrumentation, orchestration, arrangement, lyrics, and harmony. They then use high-tech methodology to analyze the musical qualities of each song and rendition.

The results are uncanny. I created several music stations with different genres that I like and in almost every case I was presented with similar music that I found very pleasing. You can experiment with different combinations. For instance, putting James Taylor and Willie Nelson together gave me an interesting, but likable mix of music.

Pandora is pretty smart. Typing in The Christmas Song and choosing Diana Krall as the artist gave me a whole station of mellow Christmas music which is just what I was looking for. Typing in The Nylons and Take 6 gave me a nice selection of acappella and harmonistic music.

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS
www.compukiss.com
[sandy\(at\)compukiss.com](mailto:sandy(at)compukiss.com)

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.

Commentary

Significant Bits

By Sean N. Henderson

HAVING JUST ORGANIZED a focus group for *dacs.org* this past month along with others on the committee, I'm finding this installment a little rushed as far as deadlines. My intended article about the roles computers play in our lives will have to wait until next month. This month, the topic is a collection of applications and utilities for both Windows and UNIX.

ERRATA

Let me begin by clearing up some errors in the last two Significant Bits articles. In the February column the MP3 player I wrote about was made by "Creative Labs". The March article made mention of an Amiga 4000, which should be the model Amiga 3000. Also in the same column some of the software links got skewed. The on-line version should have these corrected.

MORE ABOUT SOFTWARE SEQUENCERS

I did get a chance to check out Sonar 6 Professional music sequencing/production software. Morgan at East Coast Music Mall was kind enough to lend me a NFR copy. What a great software package! I saw the previous demos, and this package is just all-around slicker and more thought out.

However, I've come to the conclusion that my Gateway MX6436 laptop is simply not able to do any serious music sequencing without adding external hardware - and even then, maybe not. So I'm in the market for a new laptop, probably one made by Rain Recording. I will be looking for one that has old-school parallel and serial ports, and an on-board GM-compatible sound-module, not just a version of MS GS Wavetable SW Synth. Other features to look for include three audio-related eighth-inch stereo jacks (mic/headphones/line-in) instead of two (mic/headphones), and an analog volume control vs. using a Fn-key type

thing. Two PCMCIA ports would be nice as well.

By the way – thanks to everyone with their help and suggestions for somehow faking out XP to believe there's a parallel

port on my laptop. Alas, none of the suggestions panned out.

SOFTWARE PICKS

My current browser is a program called Flock (<http://www.flock.com>).

I like it because it comes with provisions for blogging, image management, link management

and other things already built in. It just looks nicer, behaves nicer, and uses the same page-rendering engine as Firefox. I use some of the default services suggested with Flock, such as del.icio.us and Flickr. My blog uses Wordpress hosted on SDF (aka freeshell.org and numerous other synonyms), and also actionable from within Flock. I'm looking at migrating from Flickr to Coppermine, also hosted on SDF.

I'm still using terminal-based email. Web-based email provided by the likes of Google and Yahoo just do not do it for me. But, there's another answer for those seeking a server-side mail application, though it's not delivered via a web browser, but via a terminal session. I access a program called 'pine'

<http://www.washington.edu/pine> on SDF using a ssh-protocol client called PuTTY.

<http://www.putty.nl>

PuTTY gives me ssh access, and once 'in', I fire up 'pine' on the server-side and chew through my email that way. Like all things UNIX, the ability to work with things in a batch mentality (wholesale) vs. pointillistically (retail) goes a long way with me. For instance, attachments get handled by 'piping' the email message into a handler that converts these binary file-types into plain-text readable format. So, I get the text portion of

PDFs, spreadsheets and word processing documents. This is all I need 99% of the time. Pine is very fast at selecting and organizing email, and selections can be done on an amazing amount of criteria. To some this may not matter, but for someone like myself who has many interests, groups, memberships, accounts, and so on, this flexibility is key. Another nice thing about Pine is it lets me save a message while ditching its attachment. That's a key feature for me because a lot of people send me attachments and not links.

Since I'm a big terminal (command-line) user, I was thinking there's got to be a command-line calendaring program in UNIX. I was right and discovered a program called 'pal'.

<http://palcal.sourceforge.net>

In checking SDF,

<http://sdf.lonestar.org>

I found it was installed there and so started using it. Some of the .conf files were missing at SDF, so the SourceForge site was useful in finding the pal.conf file. A little editing with 'vi' and now I'm using a command-line app for calendaring – just like that! Such heaven. Another such program is GNU's 'gcal'. Using 'pal' is simple. Just type 'pal -d today' and get 5 lines of calendar plus the day's history and calendar events. Typing 'pal -m' lets me interactively add an event. Or, I could just hand-hack my personal .pal file myself if I wanted to make a whole bunch of changes at once. Try doing that in MS Outlook! The 'pal' program also lets you check other user's calendars as well. Typing 'pal -h' will get you all the options, and typing 'man pal' will get you more information.

On a (lengthy) side note (really a long-winded rant) - programs like MS Outlook continue to baffle me, and I truly cannot understand why people use such awful, complicated software. All the features touted by MS Outlook are features present naturally in versions of both UNIX and Linux operating systems. Plus, so many of the commands I use when forced to use MS Outlook are buried in sub menus. And no amount of configuration in MS Outlook will force plain-text emails in **all** situations, which is my preference. There doesn't seem to be a corresponding or logical key sequence for many features I like. I'm used to Ctl-n being a new email message, regardless of what screen I'm in. MS Outlook makes this key sequence to me "New screen-dependent object", rather than "New email message regardless of screen". The Journal part of Outlook is a



crime, and seems to stick these entries where it wants them instead of an exact time (or no time) that I choose. Then there's trying to import-and-export .pst files from one box to another, which never seems to work because the other box had Outlook 200 vs the new box having Outlook 2003. So much bother for so little benefit.

Despite my current interest in 'pal', I'm still a big fan of the PIM software that comes with Palm Devices - Palm Desktop. One plug-in piece that runs inside this is called SplashID. It's a very simple database application, but it works great at keeping track of all my passwords, logins, combination locks, serial numbers, and so on. It's well worth the price. Obviously, one could build their own mobile database app using MobileDB or similar, but this is already done, so why do the double-work? Unlike programs like Roboform, it doesn't paste or automatically fill in login info, but I'm handy at typing and doing cut-n-paste so it's no bother. Despite other DACS member recommendations, passwords are something I don't want handled automatically.

TWEAKS

Any version of Windows seems to need a lot of corrective configuration right out of the box. The first thing I do when I get a new machine is uninstall and disable all the programs that come with Windows as a sweat-heart deal. So that means getting rid of McAfee - or Norton anti-virus programs and replacing them with something saner. (My current fave is Awil's Avast! Anti-virus.) If your new machine has some MS Office trial ware or student ware, ditch those immediately and load Open Office 2.0, or upgrade to a full MS Office version. Don't even waste any time with the trial ware. I get rid of absolutely everything having to do with AOL. Then I download an alternate browser, and get that going.

Another thing to do immediately is to download two of Microsoft's PowerToys - Open Command Prompt Here, and TweakUI. For XP users the link is <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx>.

Using TweakUI, I immediately ditch the Recycle Bin icon on the Desktop, include the Windows version info on the Desktop, and adjust the Places menu to include "...\\All Users\\Documents" and "Program

Files" directories. These two PowerToys are so important, I really cannot work on a Windows PC without them.

Other tweaks include in order: display full path in both address bars and title bars, show hidden files, and unchecking "hide extensions for known file types." These tweaks are usually performed by clicking in the menu bar of a folder: Tools > Folder Options... > View. Then I check off the particular boxes and radio buttons in the Advanced Settings part of the window. I also like unchecking "hide protected operating system files" so that I can see everything in the folder. My default view setting for all folders is "detail view." Looking at a folder full of randomly dispersed icons seems like chaos to me.

When I first came across the launch bar next to the Start button on the Task Bar, I didn't really see the point, but now I'm loving it. In particular I use it for putting two shortcuts there for shutdown.exe. One is for logoff and the other for shutting down. This way it's a one-click thing to shutdown or logoff my machines - the way God intended.

The last hack I'll mention here is one I got from a "Windows XP Hacks, 2nd Edition". Edit the hosts file to loop back ad-related websites. This works wonderfully. The link mentioned in the book is <http://www.everythingisnt.com/>

hosts.html. This will make a huge difference in your computing environment. One tip I have for this is copy or rename your machine's 'hosts' file (no extension, so no file associations) to something like 'hosts_orig.txt' first, before editing or replacing the actual 'hosts' file.

I'll leave you with a couple of book recommendations. Both are published by O'Reilly. The first is "Windows XP Hacks, 2nd Edition" by Preston Gralla, and the other is "Windows XP Annoyances" by David Karp. I consider both of these books essential.

That's it till next month. Have fun!

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.



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**.

Elements 5 *Continued from page 7*

Once you have your photos downloaded, edited and backed up it is time for the really fun part of Elements 5 – creating projects like photo book pages, photo layouts, album pages, greeting cards, CD and DVD jackets and labels, slide shows, VCD's with menus, photo galleries and flipbooks for the web, photo calendars, and PhotoStamps. Most of the print projects can be printed on your own printer or ordered through an online service that can be set up with a wizard right in Elements. I didn't register for the online service but was very tempted by some of the neat projects that can be created and then sent off for printing and delivery. For instance the photo calendar can be created with 12 of your photos and then step through the wizard to choose the cover, page layout, and title, etc. Then through the

another wizard for options to save the show as a file, burn to disc, e-mail the show or send to a TV. The wizard works great burning to a Video CD format. (The only option that I would like to see added would be to burn to DVD.) If you have several slide shows that you would like to burn to one CD you can select the Create a VCD with menu and the wizard will allow you to add multiple slideshows and then create a menu before burning.

The next project I tried was to create a Photo Gallery. With the same Disney photos selected the Photo Gallery opens a wizard with three types of galleries; Web Galleries, Animated or Interactive. With Web Galleries chosen the wizard asks for arrangement of the photos on the page and a style with both options showing thumbnails of how your choice will look. Next the wizard opens a dialog window with more options to customize, such as Gallery Title and Slideshow duration and effects. You then can select where to Share the gallery; either choose Do Not Share (which saves to your hard drive), PhotoShop Showcase (more about this later), My FTP Site, or CD. I also tried the Animated

The print projects are wizard driven and offer step by step selections for size, layout, theme and then additional options depending on the project chosen. I decided to make a print project of a CD cover and label for the Disney slide show that I created earlier. The wizard walked me through the entire process opening Elements in the Full Edit mode with my selected photo and all the layers in the layer palette created – it truly seemed like magic. Since you are left in this mode you can then adjust or fine tune the project before saving and printing it.

One feature that I was not able to try but may be of interest to some reading this review is the ability to download and upload photos from a mobile phone.

I highly recommend Adobe Photoshop Elements 5. There is an upgrade rebate in the box of \$20, so if you are using an older version you can take advantage of that. The price today at Amazon.com is \$69.99 with free shipping and your \$20 rebate makes the total price \$49.99. There are other special offers at local stores and online. Visit Adobe's web page www.adobe.com for system requirements.



wizard the calendars will be printed, bound and mailed – what a great idea for Christmas gifts!

I decided to create a slide show with photos taken at Disney World. After selecting the photos from the Organizer and then selecting Slideshow from the Create menu the wizard started with slide show preferences and then the main Slideshow Editor opens with very full featured options that are available in most of the stand alone slide show programs. This feature is like a program within a program – I am really impressed with the scope of the Slideshow Editor. There are transition options, panning and zooming, audio and narration, and adding blank slides and graphics and text.

Once you have the show the way you like it the Output feature opens

and Interactive galleries with the same photos. The wizard makes creating these very complex shows a breeze. If you don't know how to publish to your web space a dialog box offers simple steps to help with that task, or you can register and sign on to the free Adobe Photoshop Elements Showcase feature. This is an online community for users of Elements to upload and share their photos and galleries.

Each project that you create and save is added to the Organizer at the top. If you want to edit a project you just double-click the project file and the wizard that was used to create it opens. All of the print projects like the Photo Book Pages, Photo Layouts and Album Pages, are saved (with multiple pages when applicable) with a .pse extension.

BY NANCY DENNIS
SARASOTA PCUG, FLORIDA
WWW.SPCUG.ORG

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

New Members

12/06 to 3/07

John Bobko
Jim Steffen

This is your
last newsletter
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mailing label reads

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or earlier**

You need to renew your
DACS membership
NOW

Server and Networking. We started the actual reconfiguration of the Resource Center (RC) network in March. We had four goals: (1) Change the network address from 10.0.198.0 to 10.198.0.0. (2) Create a new DHCP scope on the server that will become a new domain controller. (3) Create new DNS zones to support the new network address. (4) Create the new Active Directory domain for the RC.

While we "completed" all of these, we did not have a stable network when we left. The problem was all in the network address change. While I changed the IP addresses of the router and the two running servers, this apparently did not completely remove all traces of the old network address from the router. As a result, the network would work for some amount of time, maybe ten minutes, and then lose the Internet connection. Naturally, we assumed the problem was hardware related. Surely it wasn't something I did! The network seemed to be working when we left, but the next day I could not connect from outside. After two more trips to the RC, I found and fixed the root of the problem when I reconfigured the border router from scratch - wiping out all of the previous configuration.

Come and help us all avoid similar mistakes when we meet again on Thursday, April 12th at 8pm in the DACS Resource Center.

Virtual Computing

At the February General Meeting, we only skimmed the surface of 'virtual computing' technology and how it can be used to leverage resources, build test environments, work within isolated 'virtual computers,' or redeploy aging applications on to new hardware. Thanks to the overwhelming response, I am proud to present the new 'Virtual Computing' SIG.

Our journey will begin by exploring VMWare, because it is available free for Windows, Linux, and OSX running on Intel x86 hardware. From there we will learn to deploy and reconfigure virtual machines for work and play.

The topic for the first meeting include:

- A recap and overview of 'virtual' computing and devices
 - Things to be aware of
 - Useful tools
 - Determining which version of VMWare to use and how to obtain the licences
 - Installing VMWare on Windows, Linux, and OSX
 - Begin creating and adjusting virtual machines

We look forward to seeing you there!

Rob Limbaugh

Ask DACS

March 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 an HP All-in-One Printer connected to a Mac. When I print out PDF files from within a web browser window, some of the lines on the bottom half inch of the page don't print out, but I can view the entire document on the screen.

A. Here are a few different ideas you can try to help narrow down the cause of the problem.

When printing PDF files from within your web browser, use the print icon or print menu item provided in the Adobe Acrobat Reader's toolbar, do NOT use the web browser's print facility.

Try saving the PDF file to disk and then opening up the PDF file in Adobe Acrobat Reader outside of the browser. You can then change the margin settings and save them. Then open up the PDF file again from within the web browser.

See if you are able to print other types of files, such as a text file or a Microsoft Word document. This will determine if the problem is system-wide or just specific to Adobe Acrobat files. If the problem only occurs in PDF files, then you may need to update your Adobe Acrobat Reader software.

If it is possible try printing the same file to a different printer. If the file prints out fine on a different printer, then you may want to download the latest printer driver, uninstall the old printer driver and install the new printer driver.

Q. Does anyone know how to create a parallel printer port on a notebook? I have some software which requires that I use a parallel port dongle for security reasons.

A. This is a common problem on notebook computers that have too few parallel and serial ports for connecting to peripheral devices. You can use the long, thin PC Card

slot, formerly known as the PCMCIA slot to add a PC Card, (or compact flash card) which can be used to add a parallel port.

You may also want to contact the software manufacturer to see if they will replace the dongle with a USB key.

Q. Now that thumb drives are getting bigger is it possible to run a complete application on a thumb drive?

A. Yes. Software gurus have updated an assortment of applications to work directly off of your thumb drive. There is a portable edition of the Firefox browser, Thunderbird email, OpenOffice and a zip program to archive files.

Award winning Migo software enables you to create an encrypted backup on your portable drive to use Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express, Internet Explorer, on another PC and then synchronize the data back to your own PC.

You can also use a U3 smart drive to carry your applications and store your data. Just plug it into any PC and you will have access to a large number of the applications. When you unplug it, no personal data will be left behind. Go to the U3.com website to see a complete list of the software available.

Q. Has anyone had experience with Adobe Photoshop Album for managing photo files?

A. Adobe Photoshop Album is no longer available. You may want to consider buying Adobe Photoshop Elements, which is a simpler and less expensive program to use than Adobe Photoshop. It gives you the power to store, edit and show off your photos in creative ways. Microsoft Digital Imaging Suite is another software program that was also recommended.

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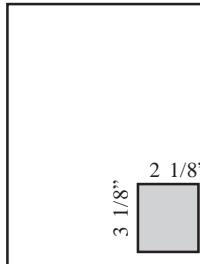
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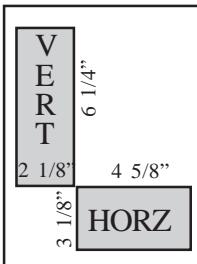
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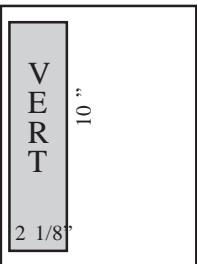
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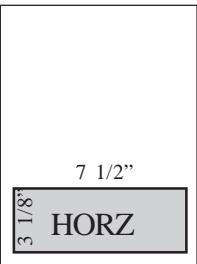
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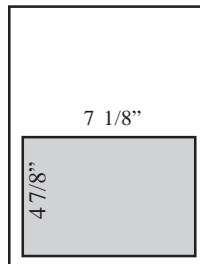


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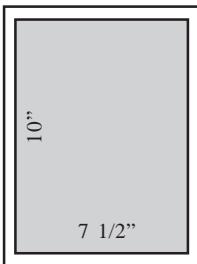
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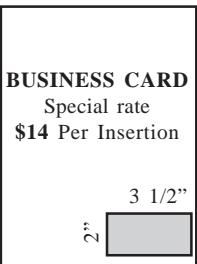
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We sponsor or participate in community support projects by collecting, repairing, and redistributing used computer equipment and software to community service providers such as schools, libraries, and patient/client support groups. DACS members provide 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.

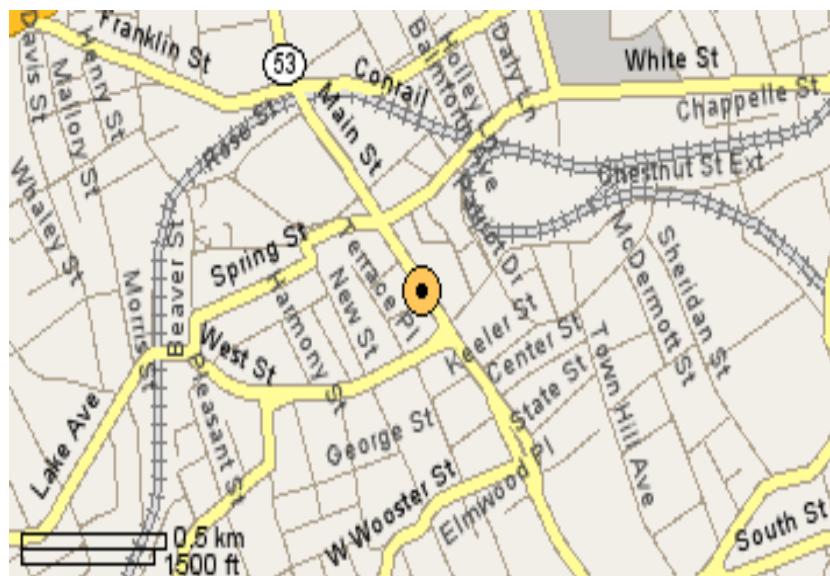
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session.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