

NEXT MEETING:  
MARK BRITTON, FOUNDER OF  
MEDIA STRATĒGO ON

## SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES

INSIDE:  
PREVIEW: SMART HOUSE TECH  
HOW TO HANDLE HACKERS  
YOUTUBE FOR POSTERITY  
MEDIASHOW 4 BY CYBERLINK  
PLUS, MORE COMMENTARY AND Q&A

# President's File



Thanksgiving is almost here! If you haven't said "Thanks" to the SIG leaders, newsletter editors, Webmasters, board members, or officers lately, then please do so. The hours and hours they put in benefit all of us. They are the ones who make membership in this great organization infinitely valuable!

Many great things have been occurring behind the scenes. The most important of which is expansion of our Web services. We'll be able to host much more content than we can now. It will be opening new doors for all of us!

As things stand, the general meetings for 2009 are most likely going to be 'First Mondays of each month' of 2009.

Our annual meeting is rapidly approaching (December). John Patrick will be returning again with the latest news on the "Future of the Internet." Throughout this year I noticed that some of the suggestions and predictions he had made occurred even within the company I work for. It will be great to hear about the new trends!

Speaking of the annual meeting, we have some spots that desperately need filling. There are about 15 core people involved in making DACS the awesome resource that it is. Quite a few wear multiple hats. The old

cliché is that there's strength in numbers, and that is true here as well. We need to fill in some gaps. Here are some of the areas where DACS needs volunteers to step forward:

- **A Programs Director.** Ideal candidate would need to be able to contact potential speakers and write preview and/or review articles. We have a process that appears to work well; we just need someone that can contribute their expertise to build upon it. The current VP term ends in March 2009. Flo Ferrara volunteered for the first half, so we need someone willing to give it a shot for the next six months.

- **Board of Directors.** December is when we have elections for board members. Becoming a board member is a great way to help guide DACS forward for the next 20 years. Any DACS member can volunteer to be on the Board. Board terms are for two years. Collaboration is done by way of email and through monthly board meetings held at the DACS Resource Center.

- **Outreach.** We have a few outreach programs being developed. One is geared towards nonprofit technology needs and how DACS can lend collective knowledge. Another focus involves assisting students with technology interests or community service fulfillment requirements. The objective is to have DACS intertwined in the region. These endeavors could use some additional participants to see these grow.

- **Special Events Coordination.** If you're the type of person who can throw together an event, get-together, party, potluck, or anything similar, then we need you! We've had some great ideas for mini-events, contests, and the like and would like to have someone who can turn them into reality.

- **Benefits Coordinator.** Our group qualifies for some interesting stuff to pass along to members (discounts, services, merchandise). We desperately need a point person for this so the information can be coherently disseminated throughout the membership and kept up to date. This could also tie in to what prizes we have available.

- **'Show and Tell'.** The best part about a group is sharing the collective knowledge and experiences. Those of us with passions about certain areas of technology can share that with everyone else. We can set up a special workshop, or even schedule a mini-presentation at a monthly meeting. Each of us is a guru about something. Let us know what it is!

## Membership Information

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



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Apple User Group

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**RESOURCE CENTER:** (203) 748-4330 • **WEB SITE:** <http://www.dacs.org>

A regular meeting of your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, October 13, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Howard Berger, Charles Bovaird, Richard Corzo, Sean Henderson, John Lansdale, Patrick Libert, Rob Limbaugh, Anna van Ommeren, Jeff Setaro, Jim Scheef. President Rob Limbaugh presided and Secretary Anna van Ommeren kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held September 8, 2008, were presented and approved. Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$6406.42, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$6307.64 plus postage on hand of \$98.78. Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$1905.00 left a net equity of \$4501.42. He also reported that the current membership is at 224 - 113 of which receive the mailed Dacs.doc newsletter.

Charlie mentioned that the insurance for the resource center will be due end of January at a cost of \$888.00/annually. Rob gave a follow up report that Safe Home Security visited and advised him of the options if they took over. If deemed necessary, they would upgrade and warrantee the equipment. The cost is approximately \$25/month for general monitoring. They would credit for amounts already paid, so there is no overlap payment for service. Rob will follow up with Safe Home.

Rob announced a change in the general meeting dates, starting January 2009, the meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month in the Hospital auditorium. He also mentioned that the new room across from the auditorium is available for a small fee and can be configured into large or small meeting rooms which could offer DACS the opportunity to hold multiple workshops or mini-conventions. Rob mentioned he would remind the presenters for the Jan/Feb/March meetings that the meetings are now on the first Mondays.

Rob brought up the subject of DACS website hosting and reported that Jay Ferron of APCUG offered DACS access to a 2008 virtual server (part of our membership benefit) to host the site. Supporting programming languages include classic.asp, dotnet, php. Rob will find out how scalable the space is, but assumes it is sufficient for the DACS needs, although space consideration was a concern voiced by John.

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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 #	
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	( e )
ASP.Net	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	( d )
C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	( d e )
C#, VB	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	( d )
Electronics	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	( d e )
Interface-Instrumentation	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	( d e )
PhotoShop/Dreamweaver	Annette van Ommeren	(914) 232-0149	( e )
SAS	Lewis Westfall	(203) 790-0229	( e )
Statistics/Data Analysis	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	( d e )
SQL	Lewis Westfall	(203) 790-0229	( e )
SQL Server, MySQL-5	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	( d )
Malware	Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	( d )
VB.Net, Visual Basic	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	( d )

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- **Pride and Promotion.** Invite your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to a monthly meeting. Can you help post flyers in places you frequent? Will your employer let you post a flyer by the water cooler?

- **We're a 501c3 Organization.** Our operating revenues come from membership dues, newsletter subscriptions, newsletter ads, and tax deductible donations. Do you know of an individual or business looking to donate to a local organization? Know of any organizations that might like to stick an ad in the newsletter? The more we can defray our own internal costs, the more benefits we can give back to the members and the general community.

This is not a complete list, and we're of course open to additional input. Speaking of input, send us some. No input = no change. Get involved!

Before I forget to mention it, we have some excellent door prizes lined up for the holiday season, so make sure you don't miss a meeting! See you soon!

—Rob Limbaugh  
[relimbaugh@dacs.org](mailto:relimbaugh@dacs.org)

## DIRECTORS' NOTES, Cont. from page 3

Regarding written reviews of the meeting presentations for the newsletter, Sean mentioned he will write reviews for the meetings he is able to attend. In case he is absent, Patrick offered to take over the task. Rob offered to do the previews scheduling permitting. The upcoming November issue preview will be prepared by Rob and Sean will write the preview for the December meeting.

Sean mentioned that he is in contact with John Patrick, confirmed speaker for the December general meeting, and will continue to promote the event and provide text for the DACS site. Possible book signing at the meeting was also mentioned.

General Meeting topics for 2009 were up for discussion. Subjects ranging from new browsers, programming, Apple-related, speakers from computer magazine or Google, back-up & safeguarding data, and 'green' computing were discussed. Sean suggested a more "people-centric" presentation by people who have made major contributions to the computing world and asked the board to send him suggestions for people to ask. The subject of the general meeting agenda was discussed, but other than staying close

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# Meeting Review

## Raymond Yost - Mobile iAnywhere Technology

by Sean N. Henderson

DACS GENERAL MEETINGS tend to fall into two categories, topic wise. One type is the "how-to" presentation that shows attendees a new piece of software, hardware or technique they can employ directly. The other type of presentation is where the presenter is speaking about a technology that affects our lives. Raymond Yost of Sybase iAnywhere gave the latter sort, and treated us all to a glimpse of what's to come for our collective mobile experience.

Mr Yost started out the presentation soliciting from the crowd what type of portable devices they use – whether "just" a cell phone, or a type of smart phone. Missing from the discussion of devices was the plain-old PDA. On later slides showing varied portable devices, those using PalmOS were excluded, though the Palm Treo was shown. No one in the audience brought up or appeared to notice this. During the Q&A period following, there was discussion regarding AvantGo, which was initially used on PDAs.

Mr Yost then went on to poll how many people would like to receive their email on such devices. The response from the crowd on this indicated that people would rather not, which gave Mr Yost a chuckle. He then went on to illustrate how Sybase's mobile technology would enable the 24/7 professional. The benchmark device to which he referenced as baseline functionality was the corporate-style Blackberry RIM devices, which primarily (solely?) focus on cell phone and email. Other devices mentioned were the remote tracking devices carried by UPS delivery people, and non-handheld-but-portable devices such as credit-card enabled vending machines.

The solution his company is addressing is when corporate managers are looking to get more and leverage such portable devices. The problem is the myriad of device types, operating systems, and specs a developer would have to consider to develop applications for broad deployment.

New PDAs, phones, and other portable solutions appear on the market so

quickly that it makes management and delivery daunting. His slides went on to tell how developers for nearly any type of application could hold off on device-specific coding till the final stages using Mobile iAnywhere Technology, which would allow focusing on the application and data-

related functionality first, and that it sits after the IDE (Integrated Development Environment). He explained that the developer package was based on two major developer camps (.Net and Java) with support also for regular Web developers.

Mr. Yost then went on to explain how today's unwired enterprise stays connected and how the Information Anywhere Suite provides the key

components for email, collaboration, application enablement, secured proprietary data access, and asset security. Part of this will be using protocols other than HTTP, but using HTTP as a fallback, to give the use more of a connected feel even when crossing in-and-out-of various networks.

Benefits of these types of technologies are that account managers can visit clients across town without dragging a laptop with them. Doctors can roam around the medical campus with a PDA instead of clipboard and files. A warehouse manager can add new stock from a coffee house using merely a phone. And, while all that is occurring, administrators and application developers can keep track of devices, secure the data, and selectively enable services for users or groups.

Questions from the audience were direct and on-topic, and answered knowledgeably, and ranged from questions about AvantGo (an acquisition of Sybase) to wanting more explanations about how the always-connected feel is achieved.

Mr. Yost is the Principal Systems Consultant, Frontline Solutions. Sybase is one of the largest global services companies which are poised to keep businesses connected with their information anytime, anywhere, and on any device.

**Sean N. Henderson** Is an IT professional musician, DACS.ORG board member and regular contributor to *dacs.doc*.



# Meeting Preview

## Smart Home Technologies

By Rob Limbaugh

**M**ANY YEARS AGO a 'smart home' was the futuristic idea that your lights could come on at a predetermined time. The grass would be automatically watered. A security system knew when to be armed. Elaborate systems supported the notion that your dinner could start cooking while on your way home from work.

Kitchens would keep track of your food inventories.

In today's world, our myriad of gadgets and devices are converging. The emergence of home networking has made a connected lifestyle possible. If you never learned to program your VCR, that's OK—thanks to home networking you don't need to know such trivial details.

Mark Britton, founder of Media Stratego (<http://www.mediastratego.com>) will help us take a deeper look into today's residential electronic technologies. Mark has over 20 years experience in engineering, designing, and managing deployment of technology laden environments.

There has never been a better way to elevate the quality of life while spent at home then through the pragmatic use of innovative residential technologies. Technologies meant to provide peace of mind, increased comfort, conviviality and a greater sense of being "connected." Mark Britton, president & founder of Media Stratego, will increase your insight & understanding on the latest & greatest tools & techniques available to you for living out your own unique "electronic" lifestyle.

Topics to be explored include the latest in:

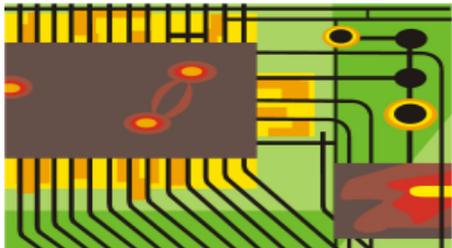
- Digital Entertainment
- Remote Energy Management
- Security/Health/Safety
- Communications & Computing
- Integrated Control & Automation
- Structured Wiring & Wireless Infrastructure

Mark will also explain why the home automation and technology systems markets are exploding in growth. It is no longer confined to luxury installed or "do it yourself" systems.

Join us this November and prepare to be amazed to find out how close to having a "smart home" you already are!

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 question and answer period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and 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.



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**DIRECTORS' NOTES, Cont. from page 3**  
to the planned time schedule, it was agreed not to change the order of the evening events.

Howie gave a report regarding the ongoing DACS collaboration with the GDNRC Technology Committee. This pilot plan offers non-profits a virtual IT structure, and 5 organizations are signed up.

Although not in need of technical IT support, DACS can help train participants with software use, and training facilities may be offered by TBICO. The pilot group assessments will occur before Thanksgiving, and are planned to go live by Jan 1. Jim mentioned the need to find teaching volunteers by December - experts in donor management, fundraising software and gift-works would be ideally suited. This working relationship also helps the DACS visibility in the community.

Newsletter distribution and printing costs were discussed. Although local colleges receive copies, Rob suggested the local schools libraries or media centers should also get the newsletter. Regarding color printing, the color cover 6-month trial supply is exhausted. Charlie reported that assuming 250 are printed; there would be a savings of \$121.50/month if restricted to B/W only. To take advantage of the bulk mail rate 200+ copies need to be sent, and the yearly fee is due in February. The advantages of color and the amount of copies to be printed will be debated by the board in December. Howie will look into "nonprofit" pricing options available through a Pitney Bowes bulk mailing program. Sean moved to extend the color cover test through December. The newsletter advertising page and rate card needs to be updated and the advertising rules and prices were discussed. Bulk mail regulations limit the kinds of advertisers that can be accepted. Another idea put forth was offering a discount, and a coupon system giving the opportunity to track responses and provide response to advertisers.

Howie mentioned DACS consider offering a high school competition, with a reward for the winnings. A technology topic encouraging team participation would be specified. Local funding resources for a monetary reward would be researched by Howie as well as whether a scholarship can be offered. The possibility of a presentation by the winning team at a general meeting was mentioned.

- Annette van Ommeren

# Commentary

## Significant Bits November 2008

by Sean N. Henderson

### ColdFusion is Hot

**M**ANY DACS members reading this probably have some experience programming with PHP. Maybe this is a time to remind developers and those making application choices about ColdFusion.



When Allaire first released Cold Fusion (two words then) in 1995, it made some headlines purely because of its name. It was a number of years later when I met a person at my wife's college reunion who was a ColdFusion developer, and she raved about how easy it was to create database-enabled Web pages.

As fate would have it, I too, have become a ColdFusion (CF) developer and have to say CF makes Dynamic HTML (DHTML) and database-enabled sites really easy. Much richer than old-school CGI (Perl or otherwise) and even still more feature rich than PHP.

The neat thing about CF's version of HTML, called CFML, is that if you can write HTML, then it's just a couple of tags and commands more to be writing dynamic websites with CFML. Some hosting providers provide a version called ColdFusion 4.5 Express. The current "standard" appears to be based on 6.1 MX. The current version is 8 (no MX) and is published by Adobe, and includes support for AJAX.

### Hype about Skype

Skype is a VoIP (Voice-over-IP) telephone service. For PC-to-PC users, there is no charge. Charges incur when wanting to have voicemail, call a landline number, call a mobile number, or have a landline number or cell phone reach a Skype account.



PC Magazine recently listed their survey for various technologies, and Skype was down from last year.

My purpose in trying Skype was to see if it was a viable low-cost replacement for a mobile phone. How would that work? There are various scenarios, none of them simple. The barrier is roaming across Wi-

Fi networks. (Actually, this obstacle was addressed in a recent Sybase iAnywhere Mobile presentation at DACS.) My target device is my Palm TX running PalmOS. A recent test of Skype to my brother out west has us talking for over an hour over a very clear connect. I was using a USB LCD phone connected to my laptop, connected to the home router by way of Wi-Fi. My brother similarly connected, except just speaking open air using his laptop mic and/or speakers. The sound quality was clearer than any cell phone call I've had.



### Another USB Gizmo

There's an inexpensive USB LCD handset phone available for use with Skype. The UP-730 seems to work as expected and sounds better than expected. The unit was purchased for under \$10 on-line. It allows scrolling through the USB contacts through the handset. Is it really necessary? No. But, it has a longer cord than most headsets and it made using Skype feel more like regular phone service, especially on longer calls.

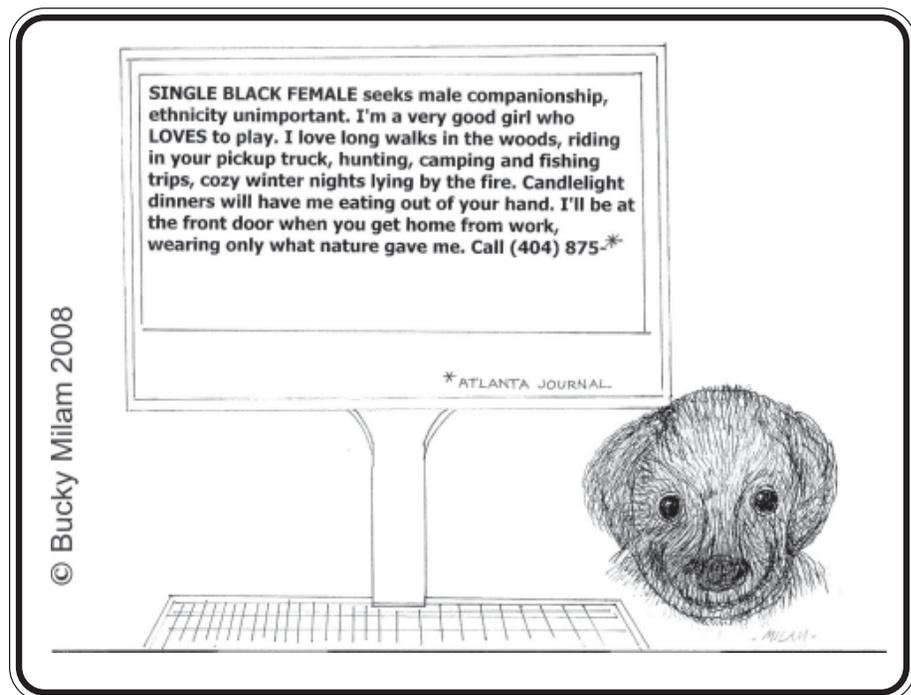
### Upcoming Events at DACS

John Patrick is confirmed for December 2, 2008. On November 21, 2008 (the Friday before Thanksgiving), I'll be presenting my PC-Based Music Production Workshop for DACS members. [dacs.org](http://dacs.org) members are reminded to check the calendar on-line at [dacs.org/calendar](http://dacs.org/calendar) for new events and to confirm event details.

**Sean N. Henderson** *Is an IT professional musician, DACS.ORG board member and regular contributor to [dacs.doc](http://dacs.doc).*



Do you have a burning computer question, but can't make it to the meeting or just never seem to get your hand up in time? Email your inquiry to Jim Scheef, the answer guy, at [askdacs@dacs.org](mailto:askdacs@dacs.org), and your question will be taken up at Ask DACS at the next meeting.



## Hacking 101

By Marjie Tucker

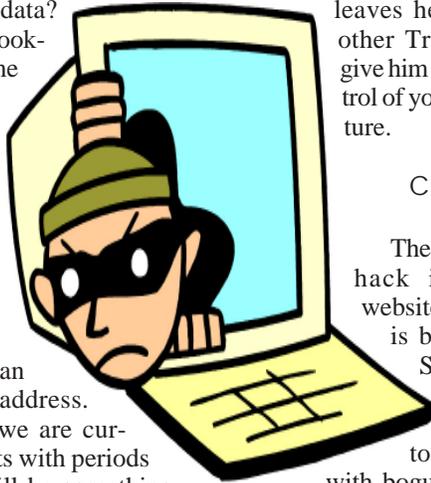
**W**E ARE BEING bombarded with warnings about securing our data and the entry to our computers. Do you ever wonder what the big fuss is all about? How can a hacker possibly get into your data? And, what would he be looking for? Let's spend some time answering those questions.

### How Does A Hacker Get Into Your Computer?

When you give your computer access to the Internet, you need an IP (Internet Protocol) address. The IP addresses that we are currently using have 4 octets with periods between them. They will be something like 192.168.100.1. When you access the Internet, that address is read by the router, modem, whatever that links you to your Internet Service Provider. Then it is read by the routers that route all the data through the Internet. This address makes it possible for you to send data, such as e-mail or requests for web pages. And, in turn, that same address is used to direct incoming e-mail and web pages into your computer. There are several websites and programs available that will translate these IP addresses into the name of the company that purchased them. In many cases, like our residential usages, the company name will be the ISP. For commercial use, it will be the name of the company that rents the block of IP addresses. Hackers use this IP address information to find their targets much like we use a physical address to find a house or office.

Once a hacker finds out your IP address it's relatively simple to send your computer a Trojan horse program, spyware, or a virus that will open a port that you usually don't use. Once that port has been opened, he can freely enter into your operating system and browse around just like he was there in person. He would look for programs that store valuable data like social security numbers and credit card account numbers. (Do you have that information entered into your Quicken or Money program?)

He would look through your My Documents folder for password lists and search your Internet Explorer favorites for financial sites where you saved the username and password. And, before he leaves he usually plants another Trojan horse that will give him the ability to take control of your computer in the future.



### Commercial Websites

The most common way to hack into a company's website through the Internet is by using a Denial of Service attack. These DoS attacks use multiple computers to overload a website with bogus requests for information. The hacker usually creates a Trojan horse program that he sends into the computers of unsuspecting people (remember that program that was left behind when your computer was invaded above?) The message that he creates usually contains a header saying that it comes from an IP address that doesn't exist. When he is ready to attack, he calls up all the computers that he infected with his Trojan horse and tells them to contact a specific IP address. Those computers follow his instructions and send his preprogrammed message to that website. Servers that control websites always check to verify that IP addresses requesting information or webpage downloads are legitimate addresses. When a server is hit by a bombardment of these false address requests, it tries to track down every one of the fake addresses. Before long the server becomes overwhelmed by the fruitless process and crashes. When it crashes, the website will vanish and the hacker will be given access to a prompt for the server. He can then use Linux or DOS commands to request and view information on that server other servers.

### How About Wireless?

Let's put this hacker into an airport where hundreds of people are sharing a wireless network. It's like leaving a child alone in a candy store. In this case the

airport's wireless system usually provides the IP addresses through DHCP and he can easily look at the list of addresses that have been supplied. He can test each of the addresses for available ports and it's quick work to access the most vulnerable. The same principles apply in hotels and restaurants that provide wireless Internet access. If you have a wireless network in your home, our hacker can drive down your street using a laptop or PDA to search for wireless networks. This process is called Wardriving. If he finds one that has not been secured at all, he doesn't even have a challenge. If you have added a password, he simply has to crack the password.

### What Tools Do They Use?

It's very easy for a potential hacker to find the tools of his trade. There are many websites that offer program tools and tutorials for using them. Here are some of the popular:

**Anonymizers and Remailers** - Anonymizers are online services that eliminate the trail of information that is left behind. These sites use anonymous proxies that a hacker can use to access computers and servers without leaving his IP address on any log. Remailers strip the header off a message and replace it with a meaningless header that can't be traced.

**Command.com** - When this command is typed into a server it will basically give you administrative rights. You can then see all the folders and files. It's also very easy for the hacker to create a new administrative account that he can re-use in the future.

**Password Crackers** - These programs try random passwords at lightening speeds. They are usually very successful.

**Key Loggers** - Hackers frequently install these on computers, especially public PCs. The programs actually record every stroke that you make. Hence, when you type in a username and password, it has been captured.

**Port Knocking** - This is a method of externally opening ports on a firewall by mimicking the process you normally use to add a port to your firewall.

**Wireshark** - This popular program captures and analyzes the data on a network. It's used by hackers to find information they want and it's also used by network administrators to manage networks.

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# Special Interest Groups

## SIG NOTES: Novemberr 2008

**ASP.Net.** Focuses on Web site/server application development using Microsoft Visual Studio, C#, VB, Javascript and SQL Server programming tools. Starts with Random Access, followed by a programming discussion with examples.

**Contact:** Chuck Fizer [cfizer@snet.net](mailto:cfizer@snet.net).

Meets 1st Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** November 5

**Digital Imaging.** Digital cameras, retouching and printing.

**Contact:** Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 [graffic@bigfoot.com](mailto:graffic@bigfoot.com).

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

**Next Meeting:** November 26

**Jobs.** Networking and jobs search

**Contact:** Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 [aam@mags.net](mailto: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 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** November 18

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

**Contact:** Richard Corzo [macsig@dacs.org](mailto:macsig@dacs.org).

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

**Next Meeting:** November 6

**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:** November 17

**PC Maintenance.** Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.

**Contact:** Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 [aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net).

Meets irregularly, at the DACS Resource Center, announced by e-mail.

**Server.** Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook.

**Contact:** Jim Scheef [jscheef@telemarksys.com](mailto:jscheef@telemarksys.com)

Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next meeting:** November 13

**Tech Projects.** This SIG Will work on DACS "Online Community projects as well as other areas from practical application solutions, to brainstorming and to tweeking Commercial products. All skill levels and backgrounds are welcome. The goal is to mix, match and customize technology to fit our needs.

Meets 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS resource center.

**Contact:** Rob Limbaugh at (203)648-9176, [relimbaugh@dacs.org](mailto:relimbaugh@dacs.org)

**Next meeting:** December 10

**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](mailto:cfizer@snet.net) or Greg Austin, 845 494-5095 [greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org](mailto:greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org).

Meets 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, preceeded 1 hour with a shared cost pizza snack.

**Next Meeting:** November 5

**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 look at other technologies and tools.

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

**Contact:** Rob Limbaugh [relimbaugh@dacs.org](mailto:relimbaugh@dacs.org), 203 648-9176

**Next Meeting:** December 23

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

**Contact:** Annette van Ommeren [avanommeren@dacs.org](mailto:avanommeren@dacs.org).

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

**Next Meeting:** November 18

**Windows.** This SIG will discuss ways to get the most out of your system and applications, how to do new things, and other options in terms of hardware and software to help make life easier. All skill levels are welcomed and encouraged to attend

**Contact:** Rob Limbaugh [relimbaugh@dacs.org](mailto:relimbaugh@dacs.org), (203 )648-9176

**Next Meeting:** November 20

## SIG News & Events

**Linux .** When I tried booting on the morning of the July Linux SIG, my Fedora system had died on me! While it was lousy timing, it provides the perfect excuse for the September SIG meeting: retrieving data from an encrypted hard drive!

Fedora provides for full disk encryption during installation and uses Linux Unified Key Setup, or LUKS (<http://luks.endorphin.org/>) and since it was installed by the Fedora 9 Live CD, it stands to reason that the LiveCD would contain the cryptsetup program necessary to decrypt the hard drive.

After running the following command and entering the passphrase you're in: `#!/sbin/cryptsetup luksOpen /dev/sda2 cryptst_sdb2.`

Since this didn't take the entire meeting, one of the attendees, Jim Rutterbusch, provided an impromptu presentation on Hydrogen, a drum machine application. He showed us just some of the 32 different percussion instruments available and how easy it was to create something.

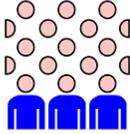
For the October meeting, the subject was installing Linux on a USB thumb drive. While you could just install a Linux distribution on the thumb drive as you would on a hard drive, it isn't the best process.

We went over two applications that run on Windows or Linux for creating a Live USB Linux drive based off of the LiveCD. The disadvantage of a LiveCD is that you cannot

*SIG News, Continued on page 13*

# November 2008

## Danbury Area Computer Society

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9	 <p>7:00 PM Board of Directors</p>		12	 <p>7:00 PM Server Jim Scheef 860 355-0034</p>	14	 <p>DACS.DOC Deadline</p>																																																																																																		
16	 <p>OpenSource Web Program. 7:00 PM John Lansdale 914-633-2002</p>	 <p>Web Design Annette van Ommeren 914 232-0149</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Linux John Lansdale 914 533-2002</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Windows Rob Limbaugh 203 826-8196</p>	21	22																																																																																																		
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# Web Video

## YouTube for Posterity

By Mike Moore

THE VIDEO SHARING websites, such as Google Video and YouTube, are either great resources or the world's biggest time-wasters, depending on your viewpoint. YouTube for example, allows users to view and share video clips with ease, and anyone can upload a video clip on this site without cost, making it a kind of "America's Funniest Videos" of the internet.

In an effort to keep users coming back to their site (and thus generating more ad revenue), YouTube encodes its video files in the Macromedia Flash format (SWF), with Flash video (FLV) data embedded within, which also prevents viewers from downloading files and making digital copies. Instead, the video files are streamed directly to the embedded player in your browser (Internet Explorer or FireFox). There is no obvious download link for users to save the video locally for offline viewing or for transferring to a portable media player. You might think of this in terms of your desktop: you get the link, but not the file.

One of the things I like about the internet is it's a little bit like a dream that you can control. Or, if you like, some kind of software heaven. If you can just imagine a solution for some perceived problem, often times you can look out there, and a solution will have already been created, like magic. In reality, this arises from the very large number of creative folks that use the internet and come across the same difficulties that you and I do, and are actually able to whip up a solution. More often than not, they don't want any money in exchange for the solution, they just want the problem to be fixed.

There are, in fact, multiple solutions for this problem—that YouTube offers no handy download link and no apparent way to put its videos on your iPod or computer for later enjoyment. I will present only one, but I also want to tell you how I found it, because that process is one that will help you with locating future solutions like this.

You can find YouTube video recorders at download.com and a host of other download sites, but I have a problem with programs found on these sites. I look for well behaved programs that only minimally solve the problem and do not try to do too much. And the distinction between well-behaved programs and ad-ware and spy-ware is getting to be very small in-

deed. The word "free" on these sites, in reference to someone's program, usually means anything but free.

It is difficult to find a site that presents only open-source, well-meaning programs that respect my desktop and my time. Such programs are like finely crafted European or Japanese tools. They are understated and unassuming, and behave exactly as expected and are documented well. The closest I have ever come to a site that presents such tools for download is <http://sourceforge.net>.

Sourceforge.net is not perfect. One of the pervasive problems on the site is that you won't always know if a particular program is for Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac or some other more exotic computer. Another problem is sometimes programmers jump right into the middle of their story when documenting the program and forget to tell us what the heck the program is supposed to do.

Anyway, I browsed to *sourceforge.net* and typed in two keywords: youtube recording ...and got 45 hits. Try that on Google and you be lucky to get less than 45,000!

Since SourceForge is about teams of programmers communicating towards a solution to a particular problem, we find far less junk on here than we do on one of the more popular download sites. But we also find projects that have only just started, and don't really have anything for us to download yet. To help me decide which of the 45 solutions to look at, I focus on the last column, which tells me the number of downloads and therefore the relative popularity of the program.

Please turn to page 7 for a screen capture of what the SourceForge search looked like.

Based on over 35,000 downloads, it looks like "Youtube Downloader" is a good choice. Note: SourceForge is not known for creative program titles either!

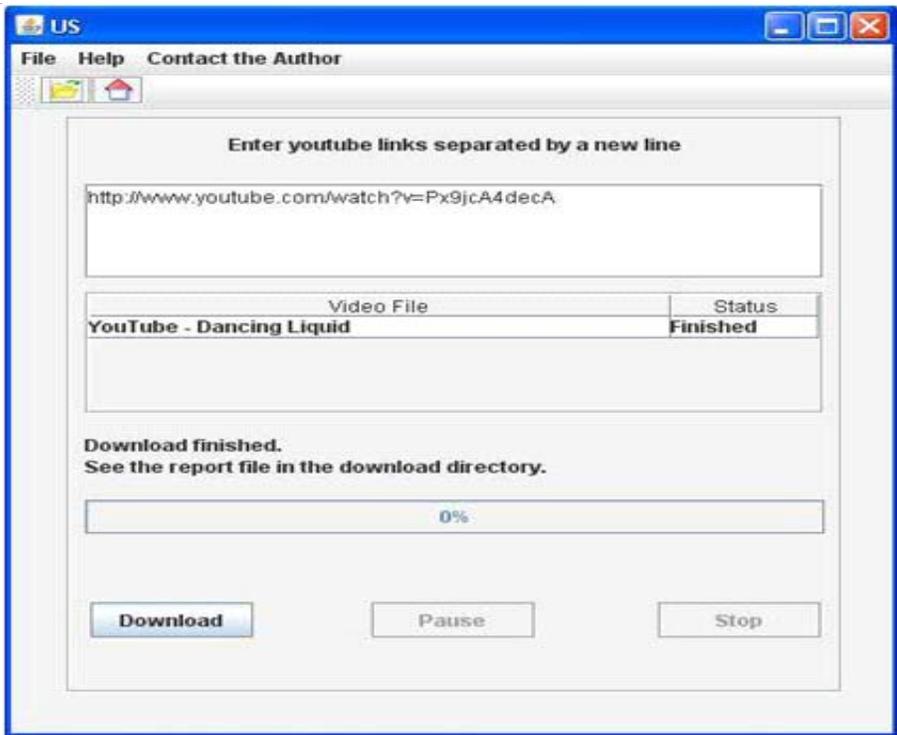
Note that the description of this program indicates the program is "platform independent," meaning that it does not matter whether you have a Mac or PC, this should run on both. Platform Independent usually means that the program runs inside of a browser and uses Java technology to achieve its independence. See Java.com for more information on how Java manages to do this. If you have the latest Internet Explorer or FireFox browser, you probably have Java. If not, it's easy to download it from Java.com if you have a fast internet connection.

Options: [Filter](#) [Details](#) [Images](#) [Help](#)

youtube recording  [Advanced](#) [Search Syntax](#)

Page: 1 2 3 ... 45 Next > 1 - 10 of 442 Results - Display 10

Name	Relevance	Activity	Rank	Registered	Latest File	Downloads
<a href="#">MPlayer Youtube Video Streamer</a>		82.89%	37,814	2007-03-12	2007-03-15	2,803
Want to watch Youtube video, but you don't have Flash plugin? (ex: gnulinux ppc os), so try this great script to watch STREAMING VIDEOS from Youtube! You don't need to download video on your disk, you can stream directly the FLV videos from Youtube! <a href="#">Download</a>						
<a href="#">Members (1)</a> Topic: Display, Streaming						
<a href="#">Lora YouTube Player</a>		83.89%	35,602	2008-05-29	1970-01-01	0
Lora Youtube Player is a simple gtk application to manage YouTube video's playlists and play YouTube videos. <a href="#">Members (2)</a> Topic: Players						
<a href="#">Ultimate Youtube Downloader</a>		85.75%	31,503	2008-05-11	1970-01-01	0
Ultimate Youtube Downloader is a platform independent GUI-application that downloads movies from Youtube. Planning re-encoding flash video to other formats. <a href="#">Members (1)</a> Topic: Conversion						
<a href="#">YouTube Downloader</a>		99.56%	982	2008-04-16	2008-05-17	35,258
YouTube Downloader is a free powerful utility that will help you to download your favorite videos from youtube. The application is platform-independent and runs in Windows, Linux, and MacOS. <a href="#">Download</a> <a href="#">Members (1)</a> Topic: Video Capture						



The file comes down as ytd17.zip. After I unzip the file to a directory (a good choice would be My Videos), I notice there are two directories, one labeled YouTubeDownloader and one called simply, bonus. Without even being tempted by the “bonus” directory, I navigate into the other directory and find two more directories, “full” and “opensource,” and I chose full. Inside there is a file called ytd.jar. It carries a little blue and orange coffee-cup logo which is another giveaway that this is a java program. I double click on this file and hope for the best. Windows asks me if I want to open it, and I click OK. It opens, but I am also directed to a web site automatically. I hope the programmer just wants me to know something about the program and is not wanting to sell me anything!

Here we see another benefit of Java programs—no installation needed. Just double click and it goes to work for you.

I opened my browser and went to YouTube.com, selected a video and then copied the URL (from the browser address window) using CTRL-C, put my mouse cursor in the space where it says “Enter youtube links separated by a new line” and hit CTRL-V to paste the URL in there. I guess you could type it in too, if you were very accurate. [In Europe, they refer to the ENTER key as a “new line.”]

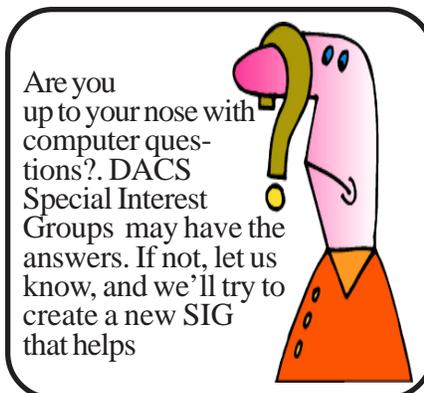
I clicked on the download button and when the download was complete, the pro-

gram rather cryptically referred me to the download directory, which turned out to be where I installed YouTube Downloader, My Videos. There was a file in there called YouTube-Dancing Liquid.flv, which was indeed my video, but there was a problem—the FLV file extension was not associated with any of my applications! No matter, when I double clicked the FLV file, Windows gave me a choice of what to open it with. I chose my trusty VideoLAN player (on your BGAMUG CD), and it worked just fine.

Happy YouTubing!

**MIKE MOORE** is editor, *Bowling Green Computer Users Group, Kentucky*, [www.bgamug.org](http://www.bgamug.org). He can be reached at [ml.moore@insightbb.com](mailto:ml.moore@insightbb.com).

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**Aircrack** - This program is used to crack wireless WEP and WPA passwords.

**Metasploit Framework** - This is a tool that can be used by hackers to search the Internet for sites that have dubious code. These are the sites that are the easiest to hack - especially when this program does the searching for you.

Networks identifying the types of data and the internal addresses of this data. It’s a valuable tool for administrators, but can save a great deal of time for a hacker.

**NMAP** - This is a port scanner. Since a hacker knows that he needs to use a port to access your computer or network, he can use this program to see which ports you have open.

**NetStumbler** - This program finds any wireless networks that are in range. Wardrivers drive through residential neighborhoods using NetStumbler to search for available wireless networks.

**Kismet** - This program takes NetStumbler one step farther. It searches for wireless networks that are not broadcasting their SSID.

**NSLookup** - If you type a domain name into this program, it will give you the company’s IP address

**Traceroute** - This is a very valuable troubleshooting tool for technicians. It will trace a packet on its route through the Internet. It shows every IP address it visits along the way.

**Snort** - This is an open-source intrusion detection system. It shows traffic analysis and packet logging on networks.

**TCPdump** - This is the most widely used network sniffer/analyzer for UNIX networks.

**Net Cat** - This has been called the Swiss army program for hackers. It performs many sniffing and cracking tasks.

This was really just some of the basics. But, if we know why security is so important, we may remember to take the right precautions. Hope your web surfing stays secure.

**MARJIE TUCKER** is editor, *Macon Computer User Group, North Carolina*, [www.mcug.org](http://www.mcug.org). She can be reached at [mcug@dnet.net](mailto:mcug@dnet.net).

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# Photo Sharing

## Media Show 4 by Cyberlink

### A Review

by Terry Oden

**T**HERE MAY BE HUNDREDS of ways to gather, store, view, edit and show off your pictures and videos. This is one of the best and easiest I have found so far. Your own operating system will do a fairly good job of getting your pictures and videos into your computer for you. On the net you also have programs that are free like Picassa, Flickr and You Tube which all do a very good job of storing and displaying your own work to family and friends.

One of the things that I liked best about Media Show was ease of operation. There are only 5 buttons to control the whole program. Below you'll find a screen shot of the second screen you'll see select the Pictures button.

Starting with the # 1 button, or the Home button here you can see all of your different folders and how many pictures or videos you have in each folder.

For the # 2 button you have Create. Here you can do things like make your own Screen Saver, compose a movie or DVD. You can print your own pictures or order prints on line.

Next you have the # 3 button or the Share button. Here you can share your

pictures with friends and family or upload them to Flickr. Also, you could upload them to U-tube with a single click of your mouse, if desired.

The next button # 4 is the View button, here you can adjust the size of your thumbnails or add any captions to your pictures. You can also change the color of the skin of the program (appearance).

The last button or # 5 is the Folder Tools button. Here you edit, sort, locate, delete or hide some pictures if you like.

This Media Show 4 is one of the top programs when it comes to ease of operation, not to mention what the finished product will look like. To create a movie or slideshow with sound and motion, fading or cell you only have to make about three clicks of the

mouse. First you have to decide if you want background music or not, next select what format you want to use, and where to save your work in your computer. Yes, you do have to tell it what pictures or videos to use! At last, all you do is click the Burn button and that's it. Zap you're done!

Yes, you do have to tell it what pictures or videos to use! At last, all you

do is click the Burn button and that's it. Zap you're done!

To create a DVD it's very easy. First decide a name for your DVD. Then pick out a menu style for your DVD. Now comes the hard part. You must decide which videos you want to use and if you want any still pictures in it or not. Yes, once again you have to tell the program which videos or pictures you want to use.

Next, click on the preview button to see what your work looks like. If you like it, click on the burn button and you're done.

### System Requirements

1. Operating System- Windows Vista / XP (with Direct X 9 or above)
2. Screen Resolution- 800 x 600
3. Printers- All
4. CPU- Intel Pentium D 3.0 GHZ, AMD Athlon 64 3500+ or above
5. Sound Card- PCI sound card or on-board audio
6. Memory- 512 MB RAM minimum, 1GB recommended
7. Hard Disk Space- 1 GB required, 20 GB recommended for DVD production
8. Graphics Card- Intel 945GM or above-64 MBVRAM or above
9. Optical Drive- A DVD burner (DVD+R/RW or DVD-R/RW) is required to burn content onto DVD's
10. Import Devices- Cameras via removable disk interface-Cameras support Windows Portable devices interface-Camcorder DV devices via IEEE 1394 (Firewire)
11. Internet Connection- An Internet connection is required for some upload/download features.

As for the overall way the program works, I've not found a program this large at this cost that operates so easily and simply. I have found no shortcomings with this program yet. This is the best program for the money that can be found, under \$50.00.

**TERRY ODEN** is president, *Macon Computer User Group, Georgia*, [www.mcug.org](http://www.mcug.org). She can be reached at [terry@brmemc.net](mailto:terry@brmemc.net)

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# Circuit Writer Version 6.3

by Jim Scheef

**A**S I SIT DOWN to begin writing, it is already one day past deadline and I haven't even started writing Ask DACS either. My main delay so far has been the Sunday morning talk shows.

### The Defense of Liberty

Have any of you been watching the BBC series *The Last Enemy* on PBS (channel 13 or 49) on Sunday evenings? The actual plot is far too complex to explain here, but it involves a massive database system called T.I.A. for Total Information Awareness (by coincidence, someone closer to home called their data mining database TIA after the public reacted poorly to the original name of Carnivore). Its backers hail it as the ultimate weapon against terrorism and common crime. Since this is a BBC production, the action takes place in London where there are already more surveillance cameras than possibly anywhere else on Earth. T.I.A. links all the surveillance video with facial recognition software, all the credit card databases, with all government records to provide a “no-where to hide” means to find and track people, see with whom they associate, what they buy, whether they vote, where they travel, and more and more. All this has been made easier by the introduction of a national ID card that contains a chip with basic information. While the card is “optional”, it is virtually impossible to enter a government building or obtain medical services without one. Police carry a reader that verifies the card's authenticity and displays the information on the chip. One of the characters is a minister of the government agency that sponsored the development of the database by a government contractor.

Naturally T.I.A. is being misused from the very beginning by people in government, and others outside the government already have unauthorized access. So far (Episode 3) we don't know how that happens. From a technical standpoint the production is very, very good – none of those 100-point type messages that flash “searching...” or other hokey stuff going back to “War Games”. The resolution of satellite images are only a little better than the good parts of Google Earth. Perhaps the best (or scariest) part from a technical standpoint is that the technology is fairly well explained when that is appropriate to

the story line. Most of the time, the system is used to develop the story line. T.I.A. is itself a character central to the plot.

The story is an eye opener, even for me, as it shows the potential for misuse of such a system better than I ever dreamed. While not even part of the plot, government backers of the system are shown using the system to identify people in crowds protesting against a law authorizing national implementation of the system. So much for the “I've got nothing to hide” people. Merely walking past such a protest could associate you with some “radical group”. Amazingly the American Experience ([www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/presidents/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/presidents/)) profile of Richard Nixon was on PBS the night after the second episode. With surveillance cameras in every parking garage, think about how he could have used T.I.A.!

You can catch up by watching the first three episodes online at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/lastenemy/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/lastenemy/). The series ends the Sunday before Election Day. In his acceptance speech at the Republican convention in 1964, Barry Goldwater said, “I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice! And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue!” I believe this statement was misunderstood then and now. If we give up our liberties in the name of security or just give them up because we aren't paying attention, the terrorists have won. Be sure to vote on Election Day and even more important, know why you vote the way you do.

### Tech Terms to Avoid

Several people pointed me to David Pogue's latest email column (not the one printed in the NYT) about words often used by elitist technosnobs to impress the luddites or just obfuscate what they write. You can read it at [tinyurl.com/6rzla3](http://tinyurl.com/6rzla3). I must admit that I use some of his terms when I write this column. For instance, I often rail against DRM (digital rights management). I agree with Pogue that this should be called what it is: copy protection. If I use technical jargon in this column, I want you to call me on it – give me a virtual slap on the wrist – and I'll try to do better.

### RFID Skimming

I had no idea there was a name for the act of surreptitiously reading RFID tags. No matter what you call it, it is now illegal in California. The law had the backing of groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, Gun Owners of California, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, Citizens Against Government Waste, California State Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Republican Liberty Caucus, and the National Organization for Women (NOW). Is that a coalition, or what! Read the complete Information Week article at <http://tinyurl.com/6axnu8>. By the way, in *The Last Enemy*, the protagonist is “chipped” with RFID tags hidden in his clothes to make it easier for the government to track his whereabouts.

### Fun Stuff – History of the PC

As the microprocessor marks its fortieth anniversary, read this story (<http://tinyurl.com/5mgxfc>) in *Computerworld* about the true origins of the personal computer – in Texas, not Silicon Valley.

### More Browser News

Are you tired of having malicious code in websites write bad stuff to your computer? Well, how about a browser that runs in a virtual environment? The “HP Firefox Virtual Browser” will somehow do just that. Initially to be available as part of something called the “HP Compaq dc7900 business desktop”, a new browser is news when it comes from Hewlett Packard, that largest computer maker (given market volatility, who knows if this is still true). Read all about it in *eWeek* at [tinyurl.com/5spqst](http://tinyurl.com/5spqst) plus related stories.

### Politics

I know you're disappointed that I didn't talk more about the election. Carefully consider what issues you care about most and then learn the positions of the various candidates on your issues. And do this for all the elections, not just the Presidential race. Did you know that we will vote on whether to convene a constitutional convention to amend or even rewrite our state constitution? Television advertising has already started about the issue. You might want to learn more than just what the “No” side puts on TV. Another ballot initiative would lower the voting age to seventeen. You might want to discuss this one with your teenager (or find one in your neighborhood) before you make up your mind.

by Jim Scheef

**W**E 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](mailto: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.

There were no questions submitted by email this month, so we started with questions from the floor.

**Q:** *The member has recently installed Verizon DSL. After the computer has been on for some time, it seems to slow down. Rebooting restores it to normal. The system is on continuously for several days and then a reboot is required. The machine runs Windows XP and there was no broadband before this.*

A: The consensus was that this is not caused by Verizon but is normal Windows behavior. Suggestions included running a "good" hardware firewall (router) and/or a properly configured software firewall. A typical Windows machine running continuously without firewall protection is a botnet dream. An unprotected machine will soon be sending out spam or worse.

**Q:** *In a follow-up question, the same member asked what an "MRU" is. AdAware reported finding these when scanning the disk. They are not flagged as malware.*

A: MRU is "most recently used". These are files that were recently opened in some application. The list should roughly correspond to "My Recent Documents" in the Start menu.

**Q:** *The member reports a problem with Yahoo. He gets a message that "Internet Explorer cannot open this page, followed by the URL." After pressing enter (the OK button), the page opens normally. How can I eliminate this annoying extra step? The browser is Internet Explorer 7.*

A: One member suggested deleting the cookies for the problem website. This seems to clear up a similar problem on his Yahoo home page. Another member suggests that this is a scripting error and recommended switching to Firefox. My own opinion was that the error came from a timeout

while loading the page. All this tends to indicate that it is not clear exactly what the problem is, or the solution, if there is one.

**Q:** *How can I automate building complex emails that include content from several sources, like a couple of Word documents, an Excel spreadsheet, and some clip art? Each email is different, pulling pieces from different documents each time. I would like something that would make the copy and paste process easier and faster.*

A: Suggestions ranged from the Office Clipboard Organizer (looks like it could be a help), to a Windows macro. While writing this I searched for 'copy and paste clipboard' and found an application called Clipboard Express Pro™ ([tinyurl.com/nyv9](http://tinyurl.com/nyv9)) which is the type of application I suggested. I also found a tutorial "What is Clipboard? This tutorial will give you the answer!" at ([tinyurl.com/6rwwnu](http://tinyurl.com/6rwwnu)) which explains how to use the Office clipboard to make copy multiple items (up to 24) to the clipboard and then paste them sequentially, which I believe is exactly what the member wants, however I suspect that the target application must be an Office application which may mean that the email must be prepared in Word. This would be quite easy if you are using Outlook as your email client.

**Q:** *How can I get a count of the files in a Windows Server 2003 directory when the number of files exceeds 100,000? The files are "bad mail" messages that have accumulated over a period of time. Apparently Windows has a limit to the number of files in a directory and does not like it when this limit is exceeded. A lock up or crash can result.*

A: Advice came from many sources. "Blow it away," was one suggestion. Another member suggested using the 'move' command to move a few hundred files at a time into new

directories to get the number of files below the threshold of instability. The move can be canceled with Ctrl-c after a few seconds.

**Q:** *My email provider (Charter) sent me a message that I have too much email. If I save an email message, does it still exist on the email server? I use WordPerfect Mail (part of Corel Office).*

A: The simple answer to the question is "it depends". Email that is not web-based (i.e.: Yahoo Mail, Gmail, Hotmail, etc.) comes in three standard flavors: POP (post office protocol), IMAP (internet message access protocol) and MAPI (mail application programming interface). MAPI is used only on Microsoft Exchange Server so we are not concerned with it here. POP ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post\\_Office\\_Protocol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Office_Protocol)) is the email most people use with Outlook Express. When you check your email, the messages are copied from the server to your email client and then deleted on the server – unless your email client has the "leave messages on the server" option turned on. This would eventually fill your email space and lead to the notification received by the questioner.

If the email is IMAP ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imap](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imap)), then by design, the messages stay on the server until you specifically delete them. An optional copy is usually also kept on your computer automatically by the email client when the client synchronizes the client files with the server. If you never delete any messages then eventually your mail space on the server (and possibly your hard drive) will fill and the provider will (hopefully) send you some notification.

To determine how many and which email messages are in your account on the email server, log in and review your account using the webmail interface.

**Some additional notes on email:** Using an email account from your ISP, such as [yourname@charter.net](mailto:yourname@charter.net) ties you to that ISP. Closing your account at Charter would also cancel the Charter-based email address making it necessary to create a new email account somewhere else. You will repeat this cycle as long as you use ISP-based email addresses. Using an account that is independent of your ISP, frees you from ISP tyranny

making it much easier to change ISP (how you connect to the Internet) whenever you see a better deal. Services like Gmail, Yahoo Mail, Hotmail, AOL Mail, and AIM Mail all make your email “portable” so it does not matter how or from where you connect to the Internet. These services are gradually abandoning their proprietary interface and moving to standards-based protocols. AOL Mail has been free for about a year and no longer locks you into their proprietary

email client. AOL and AIM offer both POP and IMAP so you can use an AOL email address with any email client program. Gmail offers IMAP (they want to keep your email messages on their server as part of their business model. AOL, AIM and Gmail all provide 2G of space in their free accounts – for a normal person this amounts to unlimited space. I use an AIM Mail account for several high-volume email lists and read and manage the messages

using Thunderbird, a free, open source, email program that supports IMAP.

**Disclaimer:** Ask DACS questions come from members by email or from the audience attending the general meeting. Answers are suggestions offered by meeting attendees and represent a general consensus of those responding. DACS offers no warranty as to the correctness of the answers and anyone following these suggestions or answers does so at their own risk. In other words, we could be totally wrong!

### SIG NOTES, *Cont. from page 5*

save your changes; while with the LiveUSB you can create a persistent storage to save your files and modifications.

The two programs we went over are Unetbootin (<http://unetbootin.sourceforge.net/>) and Live USB Creator (<https://fedorahosted.org/liveusb-creator>).

Unetbootin provides an easy way to install a number of different distributions from either an already downloaded ISO file or it will go out and download the ISO file by itself from which to install. After a couple of attempts with ISO files I previously downloaded, I recommend you let the system download what it needs.

Live USB Creator can install a couple of different versions of Fedora including Fedora 9. One advantage over Unetbootin is that it provides for setting persistent storage space aside right from the beginning and you can choose the size of your storage.

Either way, a very helpful website that includes tutorials on installing a number of distributions from Windows or Linux is *Pendrivelinux.com*.

Since we had some time and it was recently announced, we took a few minutes to look at IBM's Symphony Office Suite which is based off of OpenOffice.org and is available as beta for the Ubuntu distribution.

At the November meeting we will be talking about getting started encrypting with TrueCrypt. Hope to see you there!

**Macintosh.** In October, we took a look at the new iTunes 8. It has a new Genius feature that offers knowledge about what songs are similar to each other.

To make the demonstration interesting I brought in my home iMac which has about 30 GB of music. By selecting a song in my collection and clicking the Genius icon, I got a generated playlist of similar songs from my collection that I might also enjoy. So if I select a jazz song, then the other songs in the playlist will be in a similar vein.

The other aspect of the Genius feature is that it can offer, based on a song selected from your music collection, suggestions of iTunes store songs you don't yet have. These appear in the Genius sidebar which can be opened on the right.

iTunes 8 also offers a new grid view using the album cover art associated with each song. It's very reminiscent of iPhoto '08 and its Events view, particularly when you sort the grid view by artist rather than album. If you mouse over an album cover representing an artist, you can see it flip through other album covers by the same artist in your collection, just like iPhoto will reveal individual photos flashing by from an event.

On a related subject, I demonstrated use of the Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com>) MP3 store. (On their home page look for Digital Downloads > MP3 Downloads.) Like the iTunes store built into iTunes, the Amazon MP3 store sells

music that you can load onto your iPod, or any other type of MP3 player for that matter. Unlike most of the iTunes store music, there is no copy protection, so there is no need to authorize computers to play your music.

Earlier this year I discovered that I like singer songwriter Teddy Thompson (<http://www.teddythompson.com>), so I bought his self-titled first album, which I didn't have yet. As a convenience for downloading entire albums rather than just a single song, Amazon has an Amazon MP3 Downloader program (one for Mac and one for Windows PCs). The songs are downloaded directly into iTunes, so if you open up iTunes you will see the purchased music show up in your music library.

Finally I wanted to demonstrate using the new DACS Community Forum (<http://www.jasetaro.com/dacsforum/>). There's also a link on the right side of the DACS home page. Among other forums there is a Macintosh SIG forum, where after registering you can post a new topic, or respond to an existing one. We have already started a topic on iTunes 8.

**Server and Networking.** At the October meeting, we installed VMware ESX Server on a new DELL server machine for the Resource Center. This was my first exposure to the ESX and I really like the fact that it is the only thing between the virtual machine and the bare metal - no operating system to provide the basic I/O operations or consume extra machine cycles. After confirming the hardware configuration, I ran the install while Rob Limbaugh told me which buttons to push. The install was amazingly easy because we were using hardware on the VMware officially supported list. I tried the install ESX on my server at home and ESX did not recognize that the disk drives are configured as a RAID 5 array, so I must now search for a device driver.

We did not get to the point of creating a virtual machine. That will probably happen at the Tech Projects SIG and we will attempt to migrate some existing virtual machines next month at Server and Networking SIG.

The next meeting of the Server and Networking SIG will be Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m. in the DACS Resource Center.

**Web Design.** At the October meeting, Jim Scheef generously presented a demonstration about the intricacies of installing the Windows Virtual PC, and then setting up and configuring a “virtual operating system.”

He showed us the benefits of installing programs and browsers without risk to the main machine. As a web designer, being able to test web sites on different browsers is invaluable to ensure consistency, and this kind of set up can be a great way to do it all on one computer. A link to the Windows Virtual PC download pages can be found on the web design SIG web site tutorial page: <http://www.design.annagraphics.com/tutorials.shtml>.

Thanks to Jim for an enlightening evening!

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# Future Events:

## November

Mark Britton of  
Media Stratego -  
Smart House  
Technology

## December

John Patrick:  
The Future of the  
Internet

## January

Ed Hicks of Orienteering  
Unlimited, Inc. – Digital  
Cartography

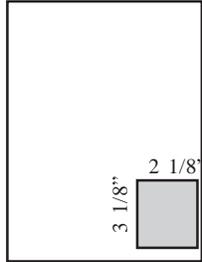
## February

Paul Troisi, Vantage  
Communications – IP  
Telephony

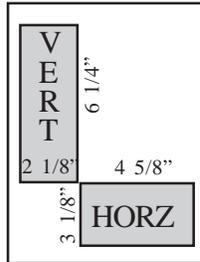
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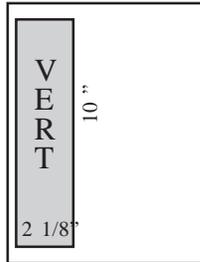
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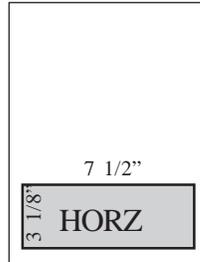
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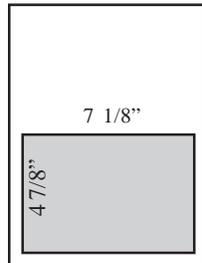
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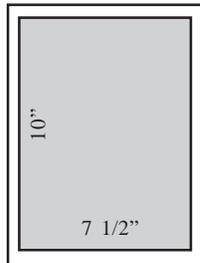
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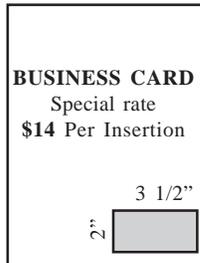
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We sponsor or participate in community support projects by collecting, repairing, and redistributing used computer equipment and software to community service providers such as schools, libraries, and patient/client support groups. DACS members provide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

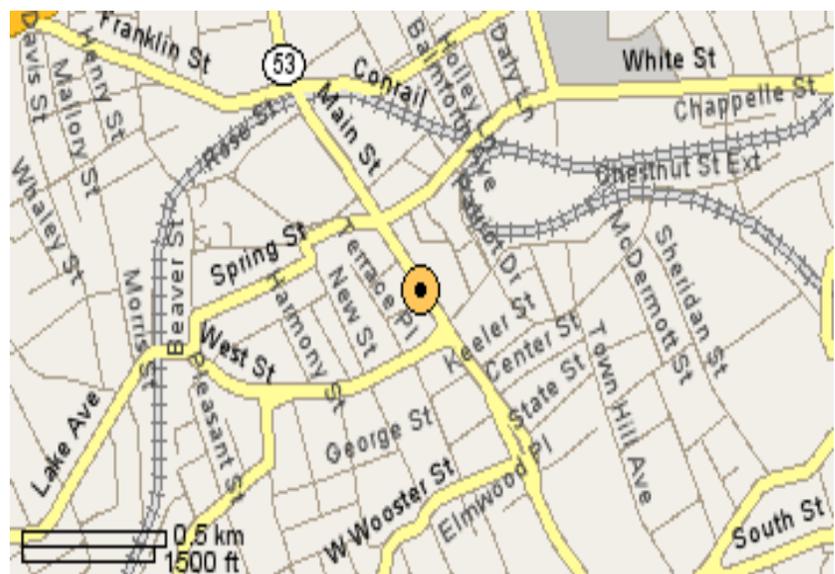
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session. 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](mailto:dacsprez@dacs.org). DACS officers and board members' phone numbers are listed on page 3 of *dacs.doc*.



The DACS Resource Center is in Ives Manor, Lower Level, 198 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810 (203-748-4330).



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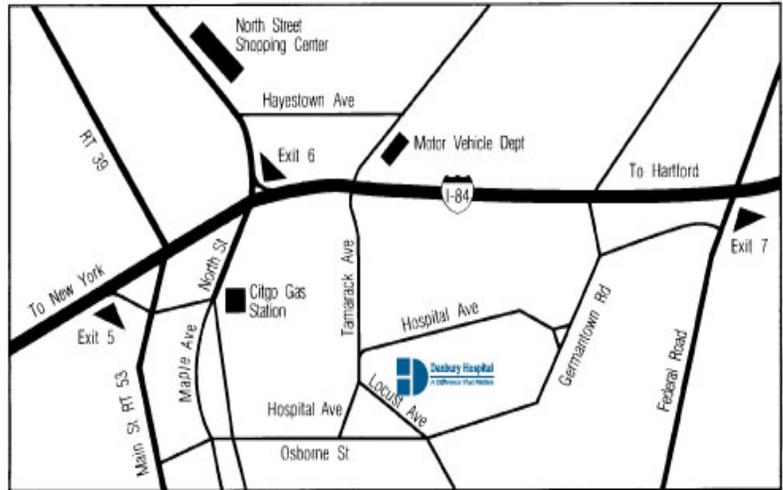
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