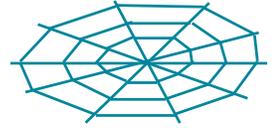
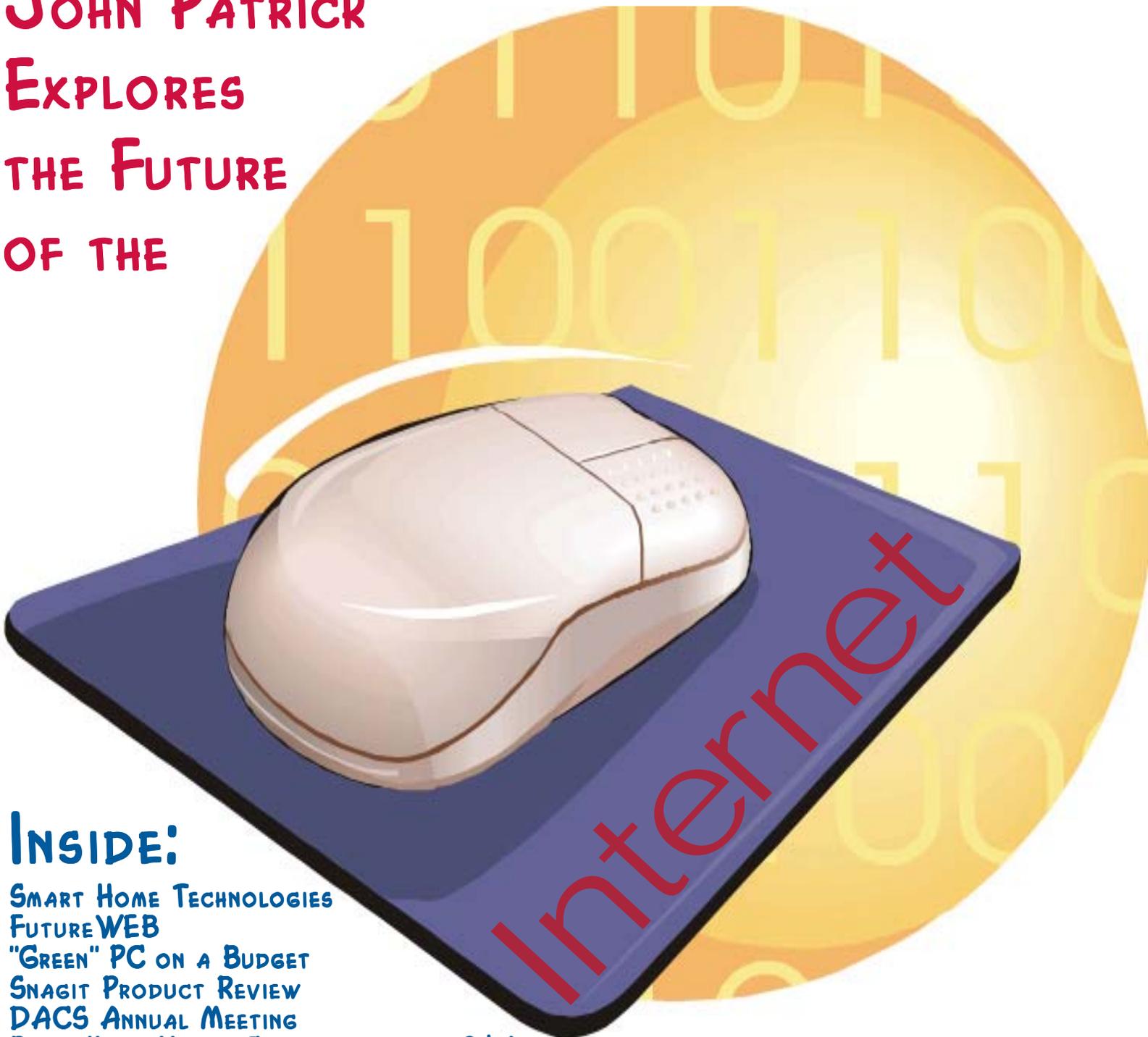


NEXT MEETING:



JOHN PATRICK
EXPLORES
THE FUTURE
OF THE



INSIDE:

SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES
FUTURE WEB
"GREEN" PC ON A BUDGET
SNAGIT PRODUCT REVIEW
DACS ANNUAL MEETING
PLUS, MORE NEWS, COMMENTARY AND Q&A

President's File



We have weathered another year. It has blown by way too fast for me this year. Except for headline news and major events (personal or otherwise), there's little I can say that I remember about it. I remember going to CES 2008 in January. I recall the bickering—uh... debating—between Presidential hopefuls. I remember the high gas prices. I remember being busy with work, home and DACS. CES 2009 is about a month away. We've had a landmark election year. Gas prices are falling. The efforts for the past year in work, home and DACS are starting to pay off.

Last year we had to shift the General Meeting schedule to 'First Mondays' for the first six months of 2008. The switch was necessary because Danbury Hospital began a program called "Medical Town Meetings" which has been very successful. They will be continuing that program indefinitely. As such, our General Meetings for all of 2009 will take place on the First Monday of each month. Please update your calendars accordingly.

December is our 'Annual Meeting' where business requiring member vote or voice is conducted. There have been many changes in the past year or so. We greatly appreciate the comments—good and bad—we've received and have worked to improve things based on that response. We will be having an open forum sound-off prior to

"ASK DACS." The purpose of this is to hear praise, critique, and new ideas from the members. The goal is to end up with a laundry list of what the Board needs to address.

During this meeting we will also be electing Directors. These are Class B Directorships for 2009-2010. We need at least one volunteer from the membership to step forward to run for election. Serving as a Director is an easy way to contribute for the betterment of the whole group and have a direct say in DACS affairs. The Board meets on the second Monday of each month in the Resource Center. Reach out to a Director or Officer for more information.

The modified agenda for this meeting will be as follows:

- 6:30 p.m. : Registration Opens
- 6:45 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.: Membership "Sound Off"
- 7:10 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.: Special Announcements for Members and Guests
- 7:15 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.: Ask DACS
- 7:40 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: Break
- 8:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.: "Future of the Internet" by John Patrick
- 9:15 p.m. – 9:25 p.m.: Elections
- 9:25 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: Final Announcements and Prizes

I'm pleased to say that we have an array of prizes this year thanks to the generosity of Culminis, Microsoft, Smart Computing, and others. Details will be given during the "Special Announcements" section of the December meeting. It wouldn't be any fun if I spoiled it here!

Have a safe Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the December Meeting!

—Rob Limbaugh
relimbaugh@dacs.org

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DACS Elections are coming in December



Be a candidate for the Board

Contact Rob Limbaugh at dacsprez@dacs.org, and say "I want to make a difference for DACS."

Membership Information

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Editorial Committee

Managing Editor:	Patrick Libert
Associate Editor:	Allan Ostergren
Production Editor:	Marc Cohen
Copy Editor:	Patrick Libert

Contributors

Charles Bovaird	Richard Corzo
Sean Henderson	Mike Kaltschnee
John Lansdale	Lisa Leifels
Jim Scheef	Jeff Setaro
Richard Ten Dyke	

DACS, its officers and directors assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any article, advertisement, or other item in this newsletter.

The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Patrick Libert at 860-567-9586 (dacseditor@dacs.org). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 (aam@mags.net).

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



Patrick Libert
 APCUG Liaison
plibert@dacs.org



Directors' Notes

Officers

PRESIDENT: Rob Limbaugh (203) 648-9176 relimbaugh@dacs.org
VICE PRESIDENT: Sean Henderson
SECRETARY: Annette van Ommeren • **TREASURER:** Charles Bovaird

Directors

dacsboard@dacs.org

Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	cbovaird@dacs.org
Howard Berger	(860) 355-9837	hberger@dacs.org
Richard Corzo	(203) 797-1518	rcorzo@dacs.org
Sean Henderson	(203) 837-7068	shenderson@dacs.org
John Lansdale	(914) 533-2002	lanzdale@yahoo.com
Patrick Libert	(860) 567-9586	plibert@dacs.org ,
Rob Limbaugh	(203) 648-9176	relimbaugh@dacs.org
Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	jscheef@yahoo.com
Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	jasetaro@yahoo.com
Annette van Ommeren	(914) 232-0149	avanommeren@dacs.org

Committees

NEWSLETTER: Patrick Libert: dacseditor@dacs.org, (860) 567-9586

PROGRAM: Position open (VPprograms@dacs.org)

WEB MASTERS: Richard Corzo (rcorzo@dacs.org), (203)797-1518
 Annette van Ommeren (annagraphics@earthlink.net), (914)232-0149

MARKETING AND PR: Sean Henderson (pr@dacs.org)

APCUG LIAISON: Patrick Libert (plibert@dacs.org)

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

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)

A regular meeting of your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, November 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Howard Berger, Richard Corzo, Sean Henderson, Patrick Libert, Rob Limbaugh, Annette van Ommeren, and Jeff Setaro. President Rob Limbaugh presided and Secretary Annette van Ommeren kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held October 13, 2008, were presented and approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird submitted his report to Rob by email. This reported current cash assets of \$6773.78, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$6686.13 plus postage on hand of \$87.65 Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$2230.00 left a net equity of \$4543.78. He also reported that the current membership is at 225 - 113 of which receive the mailed Dacs.doc newsletter.

Rob reminded the board that starting 2009, General Meetings are 'first Mondays': 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7. Regarding the booking of the foyer rooms, he was in touch with the coordinator and learned that the hospital would not book the rooms more than 2 weeks in advance unless there is a certainty of over 50 people attending. Additional costs are \$75 to set up the room, unless DACS handles this task.

Rob mentioned he is working on the Virtual server through APCUG; he is planning to set up the necessary accounts, and install Drupal and MySQL. He is also documenting the configuration process and settings in case they are needed later.

Patrick presented the tentative design for the "long-term" color poster. The board discussed text edits and perhaps using updated technology images. A goal for completion before the January meeting was set. Patrick also mentioned an alternate designer should be found as a backup for the newsletter layout.

On the subject of a "Playbook", Rob suggested it be set up as a wiki, as this would be readily accessible and simple to update as needed.

Regarding general meeting subjects for 2009 - from April onwards topics and presenters need to be determined. Rob mentioned Drew Kwashnak and James Ritterbusch volunteered to do a Linux presentation, and he is in contact with them regarding presentation options and subject matter. Suggestions for the features to be covered were discussed by the board.

DIRECTORS' NOTES, Cont. on page 4

DIRECTORS' NOTES, Cont. from page 3

Jeff suggested contacting Red Hat or Novell, and Sean mentioned Debian. Richard suggested genealogy and backing up, and various other topics were debated.

Concerning available writers for the newsletter meeting previews and reviews, Rob volunteered to write the November review, Sean will cover December and the January review writer is undetermined at this time. Sean will write December's preview and Rob will take on January.

The 2009 meeting topics are set as follows: Jan – Digital Cartography with Ed Hicks, February's subject is Telephony presented by Paul Troisi, and March will be Home Server with Jay Ferron.

Sean brought up the December presenter John Patrick, and the board discussed the best methods to promote the event, as well as possible ways to show the club's gratitude for his generous presentation.

Richard mentioned the resource center projector requires a new bulb. The board discussed buying a new higher resolution projector, or just obtaining a replacement bulb for now. Howie suggested exploring hardware suppliers who offer nonprofit organizations better pricing. A final decision was to be made after the meeting.

Director Seats are up for election in December: Charles Bovaird, Richard Corzo, John Lansdale, Patrick Libert, Rob Limbaugh, and John Gallichotte. Richard Corzo, Patrick Libert, Rob Limbaugh will run again and interested individuals have been contacted to consider filling the empty seat left by John Gallichotte.

Regarding the bylaws, Rob mentioned there is no need to change these at this time.

Howie suggested the idea of establishing a DACS business-oriented group account in one of the social networks such as LinkedIn. He mentioned there appears to be a void in the Western CT area for technology groups to bridge the gap between companies seeking tech professionals and local area professionals. Limited to DACS members this would provide an opportunity to network and foster relationships. The board felt this is a direction DACS should pursue, and Howie offered to set up an account for testing.

Howie also mentioned researching possible group insurance benefits for DACS members.

Sean gave a report on his promotional efforts for DACS. Suggestions such as exploring outdoor signs (free though VistaPrint), researching nonprofit pricing for movie theatre ads, as well as other possible promotional methods were debated.

- Annette van Ommeren

Meeting Review

Mark Britton - Smart Home Technologies

by Drew Kwashnak

AT THE NOVEMBER 2008 DACS Meeting, Mark Britton, founder of Media Stratego (<http://mediastratego.com/4436.html>) energetically and enthusiastically demonstrated to the audience all about 'smart homes' and residential electronics and gave some good advice to people building additions or a new home.

Women are very influential when it comes to purchasing home electronics, involved in buying consumer electronics 73% of the time! Plus, women look at it for more qualitative benefits such as convenience, ambiance, elegance and service. They want to know "what can it do for me?"

Mark suggests to look at the room as a whole, and not just at the gadgets to set things up. Determine the room's purpose, how it is to be used, what processes are involved in use of the technology and at the operators.

Ideally, the home should be wired while the walls are still open as it costs 4 to 7 times more to retrofit as an afterthought. The wires should converge in some location in the house where the server and other systems are going to reside.

He had three categories of how and for what to wire:

- Wire for necessity items such as phone, cable and internet,
- Wire to enhance resale value for such things as satellite, home networks and surround sound and,
- Wire for its "bling", or such items as LCD touch panels, home lighting systems, DVD distribution system, cameras, etc.

Even if these are not going to be used soon, this is an investment in the infrastructure of the house and should help its resale value significantly.

ZigBee and Z-wave, both offer technology on automating the household. Z-wave has a good overview video on their website (<http://www.z-wave.com/modules/Z-Wave-Start/>) that goes over how it all works and gives some ideas on what they can do.

Mark only had time to go over a few of the possible categories of smart housing: Lighting and Energy Manage-

ment, Security, Health and Safety, and Entertainment.

For Lighting and Energy Management, Mark talked about compact fluorescent light bulbs and dimmers. Lutron products can retrofit lighting controls using RF. It even includes a page where you can set the dimmer and see how much money this little change can save you (<http://www.lutron.com/CMS400/default.aspx?app=energywb>) which Mark demonstrated for us.

While the savings from using compact fluorescent bulbs is known to be quite good, nobody really knows just how big of a savings LED lights would have over the compact fluorescent bulbs but it is estimated to be much greater.

Adapters for fitting LED lights into existing sockets are available, so one can replace a floodlight or long shop lights with the ultra-efficient LED version. Also brought up were LED light strips where one can peel and stick the LCD light or a string of them virtually anywhere. The flexible strip is cut to size or expanded upon and can go just about anywhere. One place in which it looked very attractive was inside a glass fronted cupboard.

For safety reasons, these lights could go on when there is an intrusion or when there is a fire in the house. The system can even blink the outside lights to help direct the firefighters to the correct house.

One of the largest benefit of moving all of your DVDs and music to an entertainment server is the amount of space that it will immediately free up. One product on the market that handles all of this beautifully, though expensive, is called Kaleidescape (<http://kaleidescape.com>).

Before Mark ran out of time, he took DACS through accessing a dashboard for a real house. From this dashboard, he could see and modify the settings for all the automated components plus it calculated the cost of running a house with those settings and the amount of the savings.

While this may not be quite like the Jetsons', the capabilities that are available for one to make a house do what one wants are becoming easier and easier.

DREW KWASHNAK directs the Linux SIG

Meeting Preview

The Future of the Internet

By Sean henderson

AS IT HAS BEEN DACS' pleasure for many years, DACS welcomes the return of John Patrick at our General Meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. John will bring us a leading edge look at the Internet. John will help us sort out the fads from the more fundamental shifts in content and lifestyle made possible by the ubiquitous Web.

John Patrick is president of Attitude LLC and former vice president of Internet technology at IBM, where he worked for thirty-eight years. During his IBM career, John helped start IBM's leasing business at IBM Credit Corporation, and was senior marketing executive for the launch of the IBM ThinkPad brand. Starting in the early 1990s, John dedicated his time to fostering Internet technologies. One of the leading Internet visionaries, John is quoted frequently in the global media and speaks at dozens of conferences around the world. Business 2.0 named him as one

of the industry's most intriguing minds, Industry Week named him one of the top 30 people who drive innovation and provide the initial spark to economic growth, and Network World called him one of the 25 most powerful people in networking.

John is a founding member of the World Wide Web Consortium at MIT in 1994, a founding member and past chairman

of the Global Internet Project, a member of the Internet Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is a member of the Engineering Advisory Board at Lehigh University. John has been a business and technology advisor to numerous companies. He is a member of the board of directors of Jupitermedia Corporation, Knovel Corporation and Danbury Health Systems, Inc. His book, *Net Attitude*, paints a vivid picture of the future of the Internet and the attitudes needed to capitalize on it.



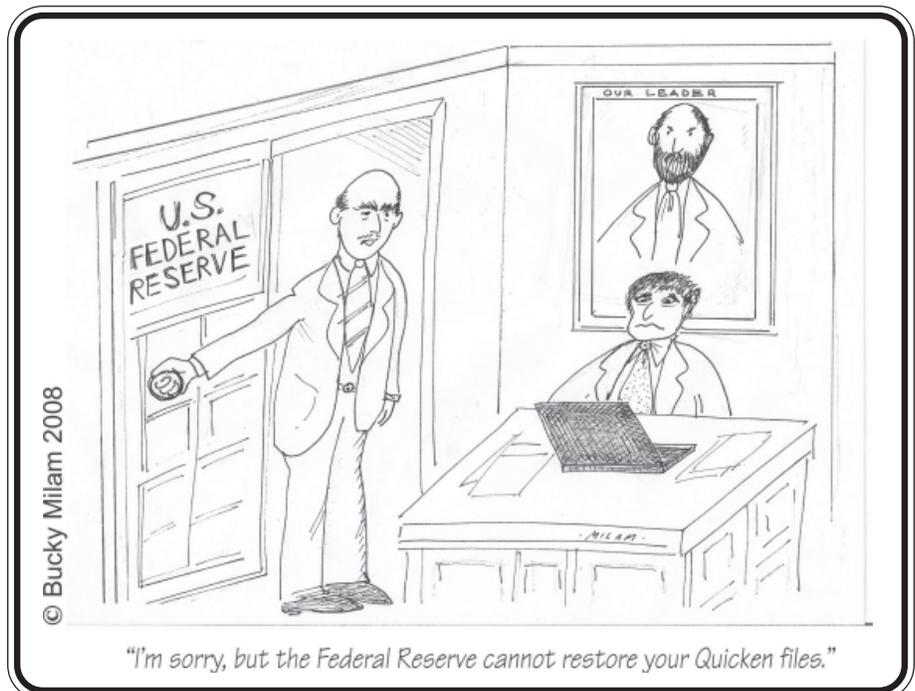
DACS meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. with registration and casual networking. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with annual members meeting and other regular features. The main evening presentation begins approximately 8:00 p.m. Meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

As a reminder, DACS General Meetings are free and open to the public. Members and prior attendees are encouraged to extend invitations to anyone interested in this topic.

Danbury Area Computer Society (DACs) is a registered nonprofit. DACs has been serving the region since 1990. Members receive an award-winning newsletter, Members-only workshops and events, and access to volunteer phone support.



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, and your question will be taken up at Ask DACS at the next meeting.



Tips & Tricks

On The Bench: Article 1.2 Build a 'Green' PC on a Budget

By Rob Limbaugh

WE'RE CONSTANTLY bombarded by the subject of energy conservation—"green"

equipment and I got there early enough in the day to have relatively fresh dibs!



this and 'green' that. I think that much of our problem is our 'disposable society'. On top of that it seems that most people tend to be 'green' only if it fits into their budget and lifestyle. It is a little difficult to rationalize spending \$25,000 on a solar array for a house that will take a decade to 'pay for itself'.

But, if you happen to be looking for another computer and you're willing to spend some spare time and effort, you can rescue good parts from a premature demise and save money at the same time. How? Read on!

Timing Is Everything

Around here we have 'transfer stations' to which local residents take their refuse and recyclables if they don't have curbside pickup or another service. The transfer station is somewhat of a presorting point before everything goes to a larger dump site.

What amazes me is that people seem to be willing to pay a few bucks to throw away things that could be recycled or disposed of for no cost—just a bit more effort. No matter. That works out well for me—I can shop!

I need more computer equipment like I need another hole in my head. What I always seem to lack are good motherboards to match up with the spare DVD drive here and spare hard drive there. On a recent trip to the dump I hit pay dirt! Someone had dropped off a bunch of computer

Weeding Out Junk

Knowing that 'garbage' tends to be at dumps, I look for specific traits when considering a rescue of any would-be junk. Last thing I want to do is throw it away when I get home and you can't exactly test things at a transfer station. This is a good exercise in knowing your hardware as you can just take home the good stuff and leave everything else there. As luck would have it, I found a gutted case with a motherboard stripped of every-

thing but the CPU and heat sink. Even the BIOS battery was gone! They did leave the power supply, though.

Back to the Bench

So far my out-of-pocket expense is \$0.00 and I'd like to keep it that way! I take the guts home and blow them out with an air-compressor. The minimum needed to successfully power on a motherboard are a power supply, motherboard, CPU, fan, and memory. Unfortunately I didn't have any memory on hand for this motherboard, so now it's time to do some leg work and see if I should consider spending the money when I don't even know if the board works.

The motherboard, in this case, can be identified by a silkscreen of "PTGD1-LA" between the PCI slots. This cross-references to a board used in HP Pavilion Ax00 systems. This gives me access to motherboard details so I know what the connecting pins are, memory requirements, and other details necessary to

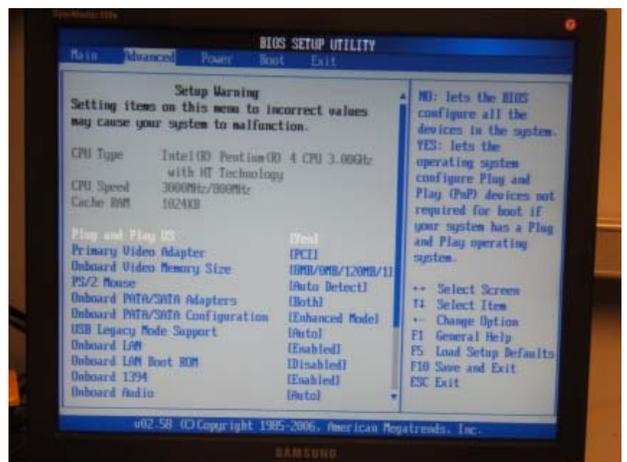
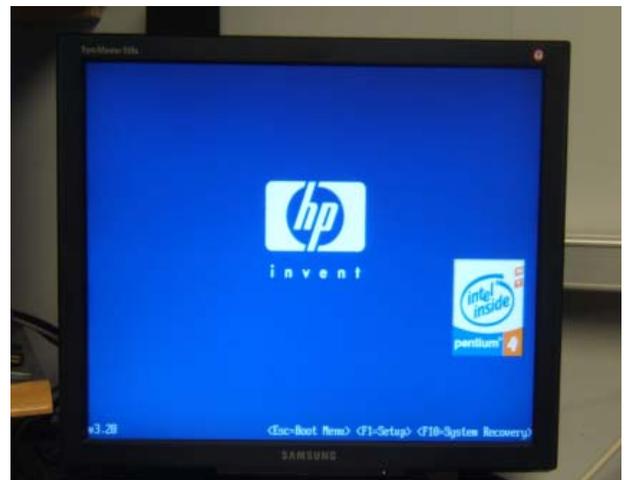
do troubleshooting. Yippee, memory for this board is on sale right now—1GB for \$27!

Good, Bad, or Ugly?

In this situation I presume the components are good until proven faulty. Having all the dust blown off, I sniff around the motherboard. That's right... using my nose, I sniff around the motherboard. The power supply, too. Fried components have a burnt smell. All smells good.

Powering on a working system with the memory removed should get yield 'memory error' beep codes from the motherboard. I power everything on and get beep codes indicating bad memory. During this time I listen for fan noise out of the power supply and the CPU fan. Nothing that sounds like skateboard wheels on pavement. Things are looking good!

Many motherboards take CR2023 batteries for memory, including this one. I picked up a two-pack along with a 1GB stick of PC-3200 memory. So far I'm out about \$30 and still don't know if this will fire up completely—but odds are in my favor. Besides, if I needed PC-3200 and



PC batteries today, I'd need them in the future for another find later.

Hot Dog!

With the memory seated and a battery added, I fired up the machine and the screen came up! Woo-Hoo! Looking really good now! And it's a P4!

I gathered up a spare SATA hard drive and DVD drive and connected them to the system. BIOS reported the devices. Turns out this is an Intel P4 3.0GHz CPU with Hyper-threading.

Wrapping It Up

Sure this isn't a screaming-fast brand new machine, but it has much potential and is still quite useful. Someday, the parts will wind up being recycled through the transfer station for good—but not today. For now, it has a new life. This board has integrated video, audio, and four SATA ports. It has IDE, USB, PCI Express, and legacy connections. It is also very quiet. This is not bad find at all! I will probably use this as the start of my network storage system.

Now if only I could get my hands on some DVD-RW drives that don't work...

New Members

- 1) Fran Brisco
- 2) Albert Caronia
- 3) Richard Jablonski
- 4) Mary & Brian Tobin

This is Your Last Newsletter

If the membership date on your mailing label reads

**EXP 10/2008
or earlier**

You need to renew your
DACS membership

NOW

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*.

Commentary

Significant Bits December 2008

by Sean N. Henderson

DECEMBER ROCKS

IF YOU HAVEN'T taken in our December General Meeting before, this would be a great year to start! We are fortunate to have such a tech industry rock star as John Patrick motor in to present his technology observations to our group.

With the shakeups that have rocked (to overuse the metaphor) the world economically, his take on tech will surely be of interest to all.

DACS IS ROCKIN' AGAIN

Thank you to everyone who attended the PC-Based Music Production Workshop on November 21, 2008 at the DACS Resource Center. This was the second year DACS has had this workshop it was another hit. Attendees gained some tips and tricks about how to have fun making music on their PC using commonly available and industry standard software.

Like last year, the workshop started with an overview or history of computer music, then continued on to various demonstrations. Discussion focusing on pure algorithmic composition and academic computer music was left for another time.

The software that was demonstrated included M-Audio's KeyRig virtual synthesizer rack, Audacity, Anvil Studio and Pro-Tools. As mentioned before in SIGNIFICANT BITS, a software music sequencer is a program that records and arranges audio and MIDI tracks, and which may host instrument plug-ins, called VST instruments. Small bits of audio that get used in these programs are called loops, or more specifically ACID loops, named after the program by Sonic Foundry, later bought by Sony. Sonic Foundry's (now Sony) ACID was the first to sequence audio loops in the same way that MIDI patterns are used.

The hardware that was demonstrated included M-Audio's MobilePre USB ASIO2-compatible audio interface, M-Audio's KeyRig 25 USB/MIDI keyboard, and a modified Gateway MX6436 notebook computer. Playback was through some low-cost computer speak-

ers connected to the M-Audio MobilePre.

For those who didn't get to attend and would like to play around with a music program that will let you drag-and-drop bits of music to make a new piece of music, ACIDxpress can be had for free at www.sonycreativesoftware.com/download/freestuff.asp. To locate audio samples for use with ACIDxpress or similar, try typing 'free ACID loops' into a search engine. Alternatively, loop libraries on CD-ROM may be purchased at local music stores specializing in pro-audio. A search for '8Packs' can provide some loops as well.

There are many other choices that will handle ACID loops. Many other sequencing platforms offer demo, trialware, and lite (read hobbled) versions. Previously I had spent over a year trying to navigate audio/MIDI driver issues, I still advise that for Windows, it all needs to be ASIO2. When shopping for an audio interface, some may come with bundled software, which is good if you are just starting out. An ASIO2-compatible audio interface is necessary if playing back mixed track types, or if recording new tracks while monitoring the others (overdubbing) is desired. If interested in going-to-school on my research and sidestepping some pitfalls, make sure and go ASIO2 compatible for everything involved.

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

LINKS

M-Audio:

www.m-audio.com

Audacity Audio Editor and Recorder:

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Anvil Studio:

<http://www.anvilstudio.com/>

MIDI:

www.midi.org

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: December 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.

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

Next Meeting: December 3

Digital Imaging. 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: No program for December

Jobs. Networking and jobs search

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: Drew Kwashnak 203-910-6477 (Cell)

Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: December 17

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: December 4

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: December 15

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

Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 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

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

Next meeting: December 11

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

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 or Greg Austin, 845 494-5095 greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org.

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

Next Meeting: December 3

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, 203 648-9176

Next Meeting: No meeting in December

Web Design. Applications for designing and creating Web sites.

Contact: Annette van Ommeren avanommeren@dacs.org.

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

Next Meeting: December 16

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, (203) 648-9176

Next Meeting: No meeting in December

SIG News & Events

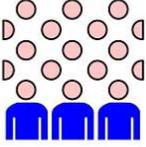
ASP.Net and C#VB.Net. During our first session, 4-6 p.m., our dotNET session was fully engaged with structure and usage of the CAPTCHA application as reconstructed with new features for tonight's meeting. This application is a plug-in to serve as barrier to automated spam attacks on the DACS Web site's feedback page. The design of CAPTCHA is to challenge the authenticity of a prospective user of this page with a set of characters and a choice from a set of random questions as to the identity or color of these characters. Entry for meaningful work depends on submitting a valid reply to this question. This next version of the CAPTCHA control implements a GIF image as an interposer between the Submit button and continuation to feedback submittal. Whereas in the initial version, which

relied on character symbols encoded in the HTML as either characters, hexadecimal characters or decimal characters, a hacker could sift the HTML and decrypt the displayed symbols for an automated hack, this newer version displays the Submit challenge using a GIF image and a question. Automated hacking is thus thwarted, because symbol detection becomes significantly more difficult to determine. The application makes substantial use of the random number function of the .Net class. On a random basis, symbol font name, font size, font color, symbol indentation, symbol top positioning and symbol rotation are among the variables that are used on a symbol by symbol basis in the construction of the CAPTCHA image.

SIG News, Cont. on page 11

December 2008

Danbury Area Computer Society

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SIG News, Cont. from page 8

This version is utilized by incorporating a .CS file into the page's application and recompiling the application to receive a page ASPX.dll which is then deployed to the web site server.

This dotNET code is supported by MS Frameworks 2.0, 3.0 or 3.5. We saw the program in action and then reviewed each module within it to see how each function was given effect. Of particular interest were two functions: generation of the characters and questions. The characters are selected into a CharacterImageObject each of which contains the randomization. The CharacterImageObjects are then submitted to the System.Draw objects where the symbols are drawn on to a bit map canvass one character at a time. When all the symbols have been drawn, the bit map is saved as a .GIF file in a subfolder of the web page where it is subsequently retrieved by the submitter's Browser as an file.

The SIG's second session, C#/VB .Net, which continued after being refreshed by our pizza, we welcomed Richard Corzo. Richard is DACS co-Webmaster and he was going to embed this program into the DACS Web page. We again reviewed its details with the goal of briefing him on details of its working to demonstrate to him the manner in which he could get effective action in his machine. This opening demonstration will enable him to incorporate this security feature to prevent some hacker automata from breaking into our Web site. At this stage, where the tires meet the road, we encountered one of the first obstacles to deployment. Richard's development environment refused to compile his feedback web page indicating a problem with the syntax of an ArrayList object. Our development environment uses Visual Studio 2008 Integrated Development Environment (IDE) while Richard's IDE is Visual Studio 2005. VS 2008 has compiled version selection ability which we chose as .Net 2.0, the .Net version supported by VS 2005. Although the VS 2008 IDE handled the source code with finesse, the VS 2005 IDE had a hissy fit. We determined a work around to the syntax problem and Richard will implement this work around when he next attempts to compile and deploy the revised application page. Although Microsoft seems to give lip service to the intuitive troubles migrating between development versions, those troubles often give developers hours of unpaid research time to resolve. We are looking forward to Richard's implementation using the work around and whether its therapy resolves the feedback spam issue.

We concluded this day's work marveling at the complexity, effectiveness and finesse exhibited in this program.

At the next session, our plan is to examine CAPTCHA implemented as a server control. As a control, it will become a tool in the IDE's toolbox where it can be dragged and dropped on to a web page. This will be most beneficial because no source code will be required, and the tool can be used on multiple pages with minimal programming impact to the web page.

If anyone is interested in obtaining the current version of the CAPTCHA source code please send me an e-mail at cfizer@snet.net.

Linux. When you are out on the road, sometimes you want to make sure your files are protected. Encryption is one of the few ways to really protect your files from prying eyes and if you want to access the files from different computers, even running different operating systems, then you may want to look into the open source application TrueCrypt.

True Crypt is an open source encryption application that allows you to create an encrypted file, folder or partition and access it from any computer running TrueCrypt.

Installation files are available for download for Windows Vista, XP or 2000, Apple Mac OS 10.5 or 10.4 or for Ubuntu or openSUSE Linux. This makes it easy but if you don't have one of these two linux distributions you can still install the application from source.

So we will be demonstrating using TrueCrypt and installing it on Fedora 9, a distribution TrueCrypt does not provide installation files for.

The December 17, 2008 meeting's presentation subject is to be announced. Look for it on the DACS.org website.

Macintosh. In November, we had guest speaker Harlan Jessup, one of our own Macintosh SIG members, talk to us about genealogy software on the Mac and doing genealogical research on the Internet. We also took a look at an updated version of Mac software firewall Little Snitch.

Harlan showed us Reunion 9 (<http://www.leisterpro.com>) for the Mac, which he described as "one of the earliest and still the best software for the Mac." The front page showed him and his wife with their children below and parents above. Clicking on any of the names brought us to another page showing the person's spouse, children, and parents. You could drill down as far as his research had discovered ancestors.

For doing genealogical research on the Internet Harlan gave us a list of websites:

Cyndi's List

(<http://www.cyndislist.com>)

Over 250,000 links to everything genealogical.

Ancestry.com

(<http://www.ancestry.com>)

Social Security Death Index, Census Indexes and Images, American Genealogical and Biographical Index, and much more. (Requires subscription. Available at many libraries including Danbury and Newtown)

Mormon (Latter Day Saints) Records

(<http://www.familysearch.org>)

Family History Library in Salt Lake City, including microfilms which can be borrowed at LDS church in Newtown.

Heritage Quest Online

(<http://heritagequestonline.com>)

Census records, thousands of genealogical books, periodical source index (PERSI), Revolutionary War pension applications, Freedman's Bank records. (Access through iconn.org)

New England Historic & Genealogical Society

(<http://www.newenglandancestors.org>)

Search all of NEHGS Register and Great Migration Begins plus many other New England databases.

Ellis Island

(<http://www.ellislandrecords.org>)

Passenger lists for arrivals at Ellis Island, 1892 to 1924.

Stephen Morse Webpages

(<http://www.stephenmorse.com>)

Much easier searching for Ellis Island records, Castle Garden records, and many other useful sites. No user name or password required.

SIG News, Cont. on page 13

Software Tools

Snagit, a product review

By John Roy

SO WHAT IS SNAGIT? It is a screen capture program (Like base level PrintScreen). Every computer user needs the ability to capture information off of the screen. Your basic operating system has always provided rudimentary capability to print or capture a full screen but it is woefully inadequate in today's environment. How many times do you need a screen region or maybe an area that scrolls off the display as many web pages do? How about having the ability to extract only the text or capture screen actions? All of these functions and many more are easily addressed with Snagit.

Snagit has been around since 1990. I remember my first exposure to this great utility back in those early years when computer expositions were held at the Javitz Convention Center in New York City. While today's functionality greatly supersedes those early days the neat scroll capture was the cool feature of the times and is still a main-stay tool.

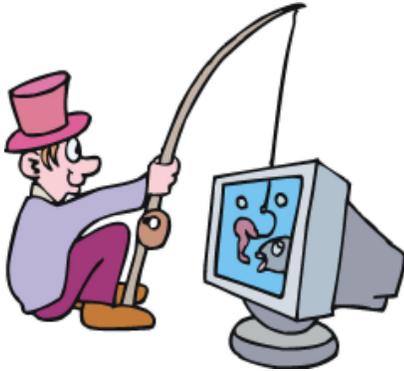
For a screen capture program to be useful it needs flexibility beyond Microsoft's dismal screen and window capture. Snagit provides every imaginable capture you could ever want with Image Capture, Text Capture, Video Capture, Web Capture, and Printer Capture. Each of these modes has additional control options such as delayed capture, capture the mouse cursor, set a timer, or capture mul-

iple areas, to name a few. Video capture provides a very useful tool for creating instructional clips. You can play back the video or even save individual frames. The

ability to capture editable text from dialog boxes and other screens where it ordinarily can't be copied is extremely useful.

To make life easier you have the ability to set up profiles to reflect the way you like to work. Profiles coupled with a defined hot key can grab and process a clip all the way to the intended application. You can configure input, output, effects and options. Add-ons are automatically and/or optionally installed into several applications such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point and Internet Explorer) and other popular products. Wizards and toolbars are available to simplify setting up profiles.

Having many capture options is only the front end of this versatile utility, there is also an overabundance of tools to annotate, mark up, organize, convert, edit and share captured content. The processing tools suite includes a very powerful editor that will bring your clips to life. No longer are you stuck with a blasé clip. With very little effort you can spruce up your clips by adding effects, borders, stamps, and hotspots to name a few. You can operate on one or many images at the same time. A batch conversion utility allows



the user to modify and output a collection of clips into a wide selection of formats. This utility allows you to set up your output to selections such as File, FTP, Email, Printer, etc. The output properties are fully customizable.

Since Snagit stores every capture you make, a first reaction would be "how does one find the clip of interest"? Well search capability is automatically built into the software and can be further enhanced by the use of tags. Every capture you make saves the time, date, and URL information that will allow you to quickly return to the site of the capture.

To fully appreciate the value of this great program, download the 30 day free trial and/or view some of the extremely informative and clearly illustrated tutorials available on TechSmith's website <http://www.techsmith.com/>. Snagit lists for \$49.95, runs on all newer Windows operating systems including 64-bit Vista. A minimum of 1 GHz processor and 512 MB of Ram is required but double that for smoother operation. TechSmith has developed and improved on Snagit over the years and has a product that belongs in every computer user's tool box.

JOHN ROY is president, The Personal Computer Users Group of Connecticut (<http://tpcug-ct.org/>; johnroy1@comcast.net).

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Smart advertisers
can reach over
225
active computer
users and
software buyers
by taking
advantage of
the attractive
advertising rates
in
DACS.DOC

Circuit Writer Version 6.4

by Jim Scheef

It's Over – And So It Begins

AS WE ALL GET used to the prospect of President Obama—some with trepidation, others with jubilation—the one thing we can be sure of is that change is coming. Trite as that sounds now, his presidency will be historic in more ways than we can possibly know right now. But how will it affect us, the computer-using public, is more important – well to us anyway. For instance, the White House will have its first CTO (chief technology officer) recognizing the role of technology and information systems in everything we do. Hopefully, the White House will no longer need to worry about losing emails as it seemed to be such a problem for the outgoing administration.

A Future in Chrome

Will Chrome steal the plating off Microsoft's shine? This topic could be more complex than why the Republicans lost the elections. Fortunately, there are far fewer pundits talking about it so I will point you to two eWeek articles that get into some depth. *Google Chrome Could Nuke Microsoft From the Internet Market* (tinyurl.com/6pkkue) (for web: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Application-Development/Google-Chrome-Could-Nuke-Microsoft-From-the-Internet-Market/>) and *Google Chrome Keeps Pace with Web App Advances* (tinyurl.com/64xjz4). [for web: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Search-Engines/A-Technical-Overview-of-Google-Chrome/>] The second is more technical and shows Flash crashing in a Yahoo webpage rendered in Chrome. With the 800-pound gorilla of Google pushing Chrome, it will become a player in how we interact with the web. Whether it will become Google's "web operating system", only time can tell.

Two Lists of Ten

Before we leave Chrome, here are *10 things to love (and hate) about Google Chrome* from TechRepublic (<http://tinyurl.com/4z97lu>). (for web: <http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/10things/?p=422>) Read thru this article and perhaps you'll see why I think Chrome will

be important – or at least a good browser.

The second list is *10 ways you might be breaking the law with your computer* (<http://tinyurl.com/5f8r89>) from the same blog. (<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/10things/?p=356>) This one shows how insidious the intellectual property laws have become with the inference that these laws need to become more rational and reflect the needs of consumers as well as owners.

Does Search Really Work?

Why is it that when I search for 'man bites mosquito', I get 400,000 hits for exactly the opposite? But, if I search for 'man bites grasshopper', the third and fifth items are articles about a man biting a dog? If first generation search was either simple word indexes built by web crawlers like Alta Vista or indexes built by hand like the initial Yahoo. Google brought in the second generation where search ranking is based on other criteria – like other links to the site or consistency of information within a site, etc.

Some people, like those who design new search engines or who write articles about it (tinyurl.com/5qkyql), (for web: <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Search-Engines/The-Only-Problem-With-Google-Yahoo-Microsoft-Search-is-That-Theyre-Awful/>) think the coming generation of search will be based on semantics and the "social graph". Semantics, of course, involved the meanings of words and thus their order becomes significant. Current search treats your search arguments as keywords and the order you give them has little significance, hence the results to man bites dog are really for dog bites man (unless you search for the string in quotes which is still a different search). I started to use this as my example but there is a movie out called "Man Bites Dog" so that search found many references to the movie but none to what I really meant. So semantics sounds great, right?

Social graph refers to the Google Social Graph API (code.google.com/apis/

socialgraph/). This application programming interface allows developers of web sites that rely on users to build content, to use links that people have already made public to create links between social sites like Facebook and Classmates, to pick a couple that you have probably heard of. At least that is what the article implies.

I had to do some searching to find this as the article doesn't really explain it. Searching for the string "social graphic" returned forty results out of 135,000. Using my eyeballs on these results I found a reference to a gawker.com article (gawker.com/tag/social-graphic/) about "Six Degrees Of Separation Between George W. Bush and Parker Posey." We know who the first guy is and Parker Posey is some kind of musician or something (I don't really care but apparently everyone agrees that the relationship strains credibility). According to the diagram in the article, these two people are linked by two chains of six or less "degrees". A diagram of social relationships is what does this and social web sites like LinkedIn and Facebook could be a source for such information – maybe. In the immortal words of the excellent motivational speaker Dr. Richard Byrne, "It will if it does, and it won't if it doesn't." (Don't bother searching for Dr. Byrne as he passed away before the advent of the search engine.)

So why isn't search better? There is actually an incentive for current search engines to not get any better. If it takes you four or five tries to find what you want, Google or Yahoo get three or four additional opportunities to show you advertising. Remember, that's what pays for all this.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Joyous Kwanzaa, Happy New Year, Cool Solstice, Happy Ramadan and Happy Festivus to all!



Ask DACS

November 2008

by Jim Scheef

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.

There was one question submitted by email this month.

Q: Directly from the email: *For some time, I have been having a problem with Microsoft Outlook. Most of the time I try to open the program on startup, I get the following message: "Cannot open the Outlook window. The set of folders cannot be opened. The file C:\Documents and Settings\user name\Local Settings\Application Data\Microsoft\Outlook\Outlook.PST is in use and cannot be accessed. Close any application that is using this file and try again. You might need to restart your computer."*

I transport my notebook PC between work and home, and variously access a wired network and home wireless one. I have tried starting up with the networks unplugged, with only occasional success. I often have to use windows restore to go back to an earlier configuration, or to put the system to sleep instead of turning it off. I even purchased an upgrade to Office 2007, but the Outlook problems came back.

A: The audience went around and around on this. We finally suggested looking in the Mail applet in Control Panel to see what PST file(s) are used by Outlook.

After the meeting, the member sent me a screen grab of the data files listed in his Outlook profile. In the list of data files, the problem file was listed four times! It appears that the file is indeed in use, but by Outlook itself. Removing the extra references cured the problem. Unfortunately we do not know how the multiple references were created, so there is no assurance the problem cannot recur.

Q: I use three programs to clean up temp files: Windows Disk Cleanup

(WDC), System Sweep 7 Cleanup, and the disk cleanup feature in Norton Internet Security 2008. Recently the Norton cleanup no longer works.

A: Suggestions centered on using only one such program at a time. A couple members said that some of these programs run as a background process (not WDC, I'm not sure about the others) and thus could be in conflict. Since all of these products are aimed at the same result: finding and deleting temporary Internet files and other temporary files, that there is no need to use more than one particularly on a daily basis.

Q: Does anyone use a Windows registry cleaner that seems to produce positive results? (This is a follow-on question from the moderator.) If you do, please respond to askdacs@dacs.org with the name of the program, it's cost and the appropriate website.

Q: I use a DSL connection to the Internet with Windows XP. If I leave the computer on, is it less vulnerable if I

close the browser? I have a hardware router with wireless.

A: The consensus is that if the computer is on, it is vulnerable to some degree. Wireless access can increase this exponentially depending on how the wireless access point is configured. These days the biggest security problem comes from botnets. Infection can come from a variety of sources including worms and drive-by downloads from compromised (but often legitimate) websites. Others suggested that logging off or turning the computer off when it is not in use is good policy.

Q: I found something on my computer called "Rapid Antivirus online Windows Security Scan". What is it and how do I remove it? I use Symantec antivirus.

A: This almost undoubtedly malicious software (malware) of some sort. If your antivirus software is up to date, it should detect and quarantine the malware. Other suggestions were to search on the Symantec Antivirus Research Center website; or to download SuperAntiSpyWare or Malware Bytes. Both offer free versions.

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 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 News, Cont. from page 11

Towards the end of the meeting, I explained that Little Snitch (<http://www.obdev.at/products/littlesnitch/index.html>) was designed only to monitor outgoing Internet connections. Mac OS X already has a built-in firewall for controlling incoming connections. The new version of Little Snitch has the option of showing your Internet connection activity in the upper right of your screen.

The makers of Little Snitch provide an installer program that can also uninstall Little Snitch. If you have Little Snitch version 1 installed, you should uninstall it before installing Little Snitch 2.

Server and Networking. The November meeting was canceled at the last minute due to inclement weather and because your leader was under the weather.

Watch the web and our Yahoo Group, BackOffice_DACs, for news about the program for December. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 11 at 7p.m. in the DACS Resource Center.

Cookies will be served.

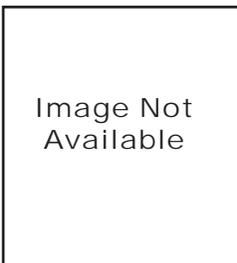
Candidates



Charlie Bovaird (incumbent) — is a consultant and retired IBMer. A long time DACS member, a board member for over 14 years and serves as treasurer. He brings to DACS over 40 years of experience with hardware and software. He prepares the monthly *dacs.doc* mailings and has chaired DACS' participation at the PC EXPO. He developed the membership survey maintains the membership database. He also chairs the PC Maintenance and Math SIGS, coordinates the activities of the education committee, and is actively involved in SeniorNet as a PC technician and instructor.



Richard Corzo (incumbent) – Richard Corzo has been a computer programmer for over 25 years starting on IBM mainframes and working his way down to personal computers. He's been a PC user and DACS member for 14 years, a Mac user for the past 6 years, and has written many articles on operating systems and utilities for the DACS newsletter. He has been leader of the Macintosh SIG since the spring of 2004, and is interested in contributing a Macintosh perspective to the board.



John Lansdale (incumbent) — John Lansdale, CDP, MCP, possesses a background in Computers as a programmer, director and consultant since 1969. He has been on the DACS Board of Directors since January, 2007, and is leader of the Open Source Web Programming SIG. He has contributed numerous articles for *dacs.doc*, on a variety of subjects from programming to lifestyle.

John shares his volunteer schedule with the Mid-Hudson Computer Users Group, where he is Special Interest Group Leader on Web Application Programming, and an active member of the Linux and C# groups.



Patrick Libert (incumbent) — A resident of Litchfield and a member of DACS for four years, he has actively participated in the Mac SIG. He has been using Apple computers since 1992, but is fully competent with PC's. He has been working actively for five years as a volunteer testing the latest builds of the Opera browser.

Patrick has spent most of his career working with French and Belgian companies which manufacture glass and plastic packaging for the cosmetics industry. He is fluent in French and has traveled extensively for business to many countries before he retired in 1998. He lived in Ridgefield for 23 years, moved to Hawaii for seven and then returned to Connecticut in late 2001.

Patrick is delighted to be a member of DACS and he hopes that his varied experience will help the Society to continue its growth and participation in our community.



Rob Limbaugh (incumbent) - Rob has been infatuated with computers since his first experience with Commodore and Apple machines in the early 80's. He got his first 'professional' computer job working for an OEM/VAR system builder in the mid-west. For the past 8 years he has been a system administrator for a global corporation.

Rob came to DACS in April, 2006 and quickly established a leadership role, joining the board in eight months later and becoming president the following April.

Ballot

I (we) hereby appoint Annette van Ommeren or Charles Bovaird proxies to vote in my (our) stead at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 9:15 p.m. as follows:

The election of the following to serve as directors for a term of two years and until successors shall be elected and shall qualify (vote for no more than five):

- Charles Bovaird
- Richard Corzo
- John Lansdale
- Patrick Libert
- Rob Limbaugh
- _____

Signature(s): _____ / _____
_____ / _____ / _____

(Membership in DACS is a family membership. If there is more than one member in your household, all please sign.)

Signed _____

Dated _____

Notice of the Annual Meeting of Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held at 9:15 p.m. Tuesday, December 2, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. will be held at the auditorium of the Danbury Hospital, 24 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 9:15 p.m. for the purpose of electing directors. The number of directors is fixed at eleven individuals in two alternating classes of six and five. Each class serves for a term of two years and, this year, the class of five is to be elected. The individuals named above have agreed to stand for re-election or election to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Members to be held in the year 2010.

If you do not plan to attend the meeting, please return the attached proxy to:

**Danbury Area Computer Society
4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430
to arrive prior to December 2, 2008 and express your preferences.**

Your presence in person and participation in the meeting would be appreciated. Come and hear not only what we did this year, but what, with your help, we hope to do in the coming year.

**Respectfully,
Annette van Ommeren, Secretary**

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Voice for Joanie



Help give the
gift of speech
Call Shirley Fredlund
at 203 770-6203
and become a
Voice for Joanie
volunteer

Future Events:

December 2

John Patrick:
The Future of the
Internet

January 5

Ed Hicks, Orienteering
Unlimited, Inc. –
Digital Cartography

February 2

Paul Troisi, Vantage
Communications – IP
Telephony

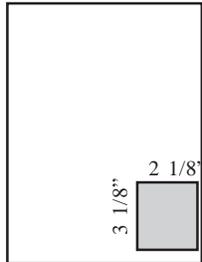
March 2

Jay Ferron, APCUG –
Home Server

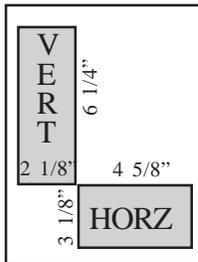
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DANBURY AREA COMPUTER SOCIETY, INC.

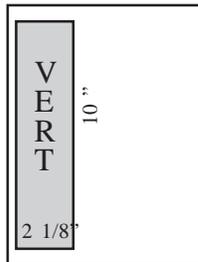
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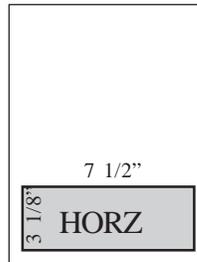
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6 Insertions **\$250***



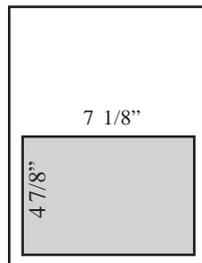
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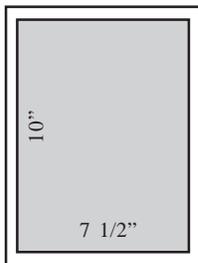
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ARRIVES IN MAIL BY 1st OF EACH
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WITH COPY TO:

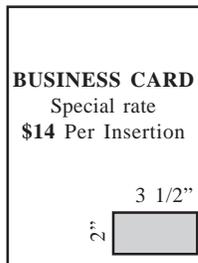
CHARLES BOVAIRD, TREASURER
DANBURY AREA COMPUTER SOCIETY
4 GREGORY STREET
DANBURY CT 06810-4430
TEL: 203-792-7881
E-mail aam@mags.net



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Sketch ad in this box



Danbury Area Computer Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section (501)(C)(3) of the US Tax Code. Its purpose is to promote education, knowledge sharing, networking and communication between users of personal computers. DACS is an all volunteer organization, with no employees. The major source of income is member dues. Members can volunteer to become instructors, lecturers, DACS officers and board members, committee members, or SIG leaders.

We sponsor or participate in community support projects by collecting, repairing, and redistributing used computer equipment and software to community service providers such as schools, libraries, and patient/client support groups. DACS members provide pickup, refurbishing, installation, and training assistance as needed. Firms or individuals with equipment to donate should leave a message on the DACS Infoline (203-748-4330). or send an email to recycling@dacs.org.

The Voice for Joanie program was created in 1992 through the initiative of DACS member, Shirley Fredlund. This program provides computer-assisted speech for victims of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ("Lou Gehrig's Disease"). DACS members have contributed volunteer time and technical assistance since the program began. Voice for Joanie and DACS have earned national computer industry recognition and financial assistance for this vital collaboration.

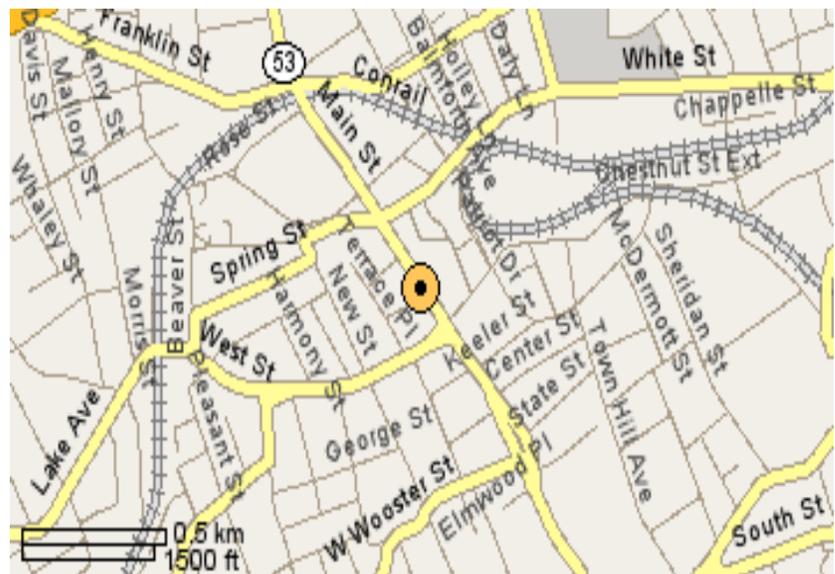
Our general meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. The main presentation is scheduled from 8-9:30, preceded by casual networking, announcements and Random Access, an informal question and answer session.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

In addition to the general meeting, DACS sponsors many special interest groups (SIGs) where members can learn and share information about a specific topic. Each SIG plans its own meeting schedule and program topics.

Our newsletter, *dacs.doc* is published monthly for our members, and mailed to arrive before the general meeting. It features articles written by members and others on timely topics including product and software reviews, issues and trends in personal computing and "how-to" articles on sound, video, digital photography, etc. In addition, each issues includes the calendar of meetings, announcements on SIGs and other DACS events. *dacs.doc* has won numerous prizes over the years for its design and content.

Through its activities, DACS offers numerous opportunities to network both professionals and computer hobbyists. Our Special Interest Groups are an excellent way for members to both learn and share application or hardware knowledge. Any DACS member can form a special interest group on any topic where there is interest. Most SIGs meet in our Resource Center in downtown Danbury.

If you have concerns, requests, or suggestions regarding DACS or its programs, please contact dacsprez@dacs.org. DACS officers and board members' phone numbers are listed on page 3 of *dacs.doc*.



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



DANBURY AREA
COMPUTER SOCIETY, Inc.
Family Membership Application

Personal Information

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

Basic membership with mailed newsletter - 1 year () \$45.00

Basic membership with online newsletter access -1 year () \$30.00

Corporate membership is also available. More information and forms online:

www.dacs.org/aboutdacs/joining.htm

Each member has access to the HelpLine volunteers, newsletter online in PDF form, group related news via email, SIG meetings, and any group-only related events, promotions, or activities.

Pay by cash (at the General Meeting),
check or money order, payable to:

or go to www.dacs.org, and
click on **JOIN DACS NOW**

Charles Bovaird, Treasurer
DACS, Inc
4 Gregory Street
Danbury, CT 06810-4430



Tell Us About Your Interests

Please take a moment to answer the following questions as they apply to you.

Hours a week you use computers _____ How did you learn about DACS? _____

Hardware: PC__ MAC__ desktop__ laptop__ palm__ other _____

OPSYS: Windows__ MAC__ LINUX__ other _____

Communications: Dialup__ HI-Speed__ WiFi__ LAN__ other _____

Applications: Office__ Financial__ other _____

Digital: Music__ Photo__ CAM__ TV__ other _____

Business: Corporate Employee__ private employee__ professional__ business owner__

Company Name _____

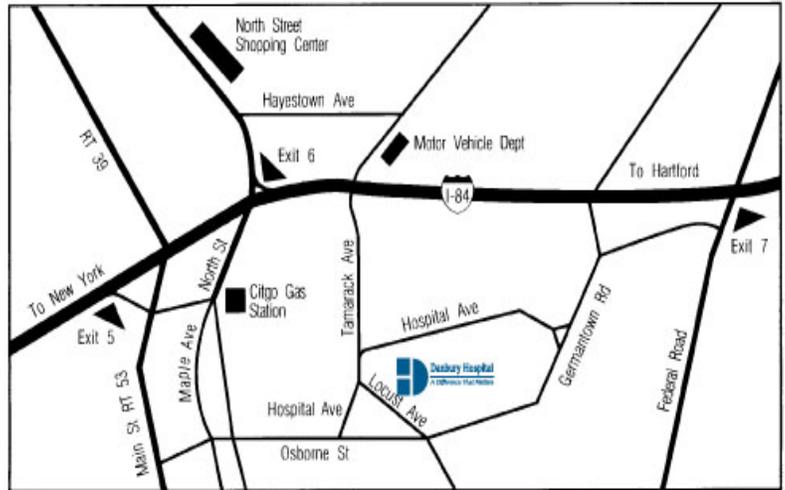
Office use only: Paid _____ Check # _____ Membership # _____
--

Meeting Location

Danbury Hospital
24 Hospital Avenue
Danbury, CT

Traveling West on I-84, Take Exit 6. Turn right at exit ramp light at North Street. Turn right on Hayestown Avenue. Turn right on Tamarack Avenue. Follow Tamarack Avenue uphill to traffic light. Turn left at this light onto Hospital Avenue. Follow Hospital Avenue to appropriate visitor parking lot on right.

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



West Mountain Systems, Inc.

Bruce J. Preston
President

120 Old West Mountain Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877-3603
203.431.2920 / fax: 203.431.4543



Allan Ostergren
president

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