

NEXT MEETING: NYPD - DEALING WITH CRIME IN REAL TIME



INSIDE:

- REVIEW: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
- PREVIEW: REAL TIME IT AT NYPD
- BACK-UP YOUR FILES ONLINE
- PLUS, MORE SIG NEWS, COMMENTARY, AND ANSWERS TO YOUR COMPUTING QUESTIONS

President's File



Many great things have been going on throughout April and May in preparation for June-August! First up, we've partnered with our friends at the Connecticut Film Festival (<http://www.ctfilmfest.com>). If you recall, they invited us in

April to be a part of this year's "Interactive" events taking place in various locations in Danbury.

The CT Film Fest Interactive is about showing how games, video, graphics, music, and special effects are done. There will be some great industry leaders and supporters involved. This is the 'go-to' event for people wanting to know how cinema and game design are done. Many great workshops are scheduled.

And, it gets even better! Our very own graphic mavens Ken Graff, leader of the Digital Photography SIG and Lesa Snider, author of 'Photoshop CS4: The Missing Manual' will be presenting at the festival workshops! DACS will also be participating with a booth in the event center that will be located at the Danbury Ice Arena downtown. Stop by and show your support!

For those not aware, the 'Virtual Computing SIG' has been removed from the SIG lineup and rolled into the 'Server/Back Office SIG'. So, for those of you who still wish to get your 'virtual' fill then that is the new place to get it. This change was made largely because the concepts and territory we were moving into are

more suited to Jim's group. It kills two birds with one stone and allows for better group planning. For example, in the May 2009 Server SIG we deployed a network attached storage server to expand storage on the existing file server. In the June SIG we will convert the existing file server into a virtual machine and recap on how to access and use the NAS/SAN device.

Windows SIG is currently on hiatus. Someone willing to co-chair that SIG is needed as my schedule has been a bit cramped lately (hence it's being on hiatus). Many of us use Windows, and it would be great if people could use this SIG to show the applications they find most useful or how to get more out of applications we may be familiar with. Email me if you have some ideas you'd like to share.

Lastly, I'm interested in knowing who among our members and readership are into modifying and hacking (used in the creative sense, not malicious sense). If you're someone who enjoys reading or doing things such as those found on <http://www.instructables.com>, <http://www.hackedgadgets.com>, or similar sites, please contact me.

Finally, if we have any people who can 'work remotely' but sometimes don't choose to do so because home isn't quite enough or doesn't have the technology resources or people networking needed during the day, send me a note.

The email address to use is dacsprez@dacs.org. See you at the next event!

—Rob Limbaugh

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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.

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	Jim Scheef
Jeff Setaro	Annette van Ommeren

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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



Apple User Group

Directors' Notes

Officers

PRESIDENT: Rob Limbaugh (203) 648-9176 relimbaugh@dacs.org
VICE PRESIDENT: Positions Open
SECRETARY: Mary Tobin • **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
Joseph Tobin		josephdacs@gmail.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#, 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 Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Charles Bovaird, Richard Corzo, Sean Henderson, John Lansdale, Patrick Libert, Rob Limbaugh, Joseph Tobin, Annette van Ommeren, Jeff Setaro, Jim Scheef

Minutes of the last meeting held April 14, 2009, were presented and approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$6090.78, consisting of total bank plus postage on hand of \$127.33. Total assets \$6218.11. Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$411.00 left a net equity of \$5807.11.

He also reported that the current membership is at 209, 92 of which receive the mailed *Dacs.doc* newsletter.

Asset request by Richard: Does DACS need to get a Vista machine for the Ask DACS segment of the meeting? Right now we use the podium machine and can't show anything useful with its system. Could we use another machine to better answer questions? Jim will experiment with VM on his machine. Explore alternatives to the hospital machine. Need to be able to show Vista. Rob may have a rebuildable machine. We discussed about what's best to use at Ask DACS.

General meetings – discussion about who writes the preview and review. Nothing decided.

Jim asked about meeting topic Medical Health Records, tentatively set for the September meeting on Medical Technology – Allan Ostergren has lined up the presenter, but, it falls on Labor Day. Discussion followed about moving the meeting to the second Monday or Tuesday, since it is questionable whether people would show up on Labor Day. Rob will check with the hospital about the schedule. To be discussed later.

Richard would like Backing Up to be a topic for a meeting. Jeff will ask Gene Barlow to make a presentation on this topic. The August General Meeting will have something relating to 'back to school'.

It's time to contact John Patrick for his annual December presentation, Sean will contact him. We will ask if he has some other project he'd like to talk about instead of his usual subject.

CT Film Interactive Festival (Whole Festival is June 2-7, Interactive held at arena, June 4-6 (Thurs.-Sat.) from 11am-8pm), <http://www.ctfilmfest.com>

Regarding the Wireless connection, Jim will try to contact Dave Bonan about better wireless connections with more power.

DIRECTORS' NOTES, Cont. on page 11

Meeting Review

Digital Photography

By: Richard Corzo

THOSE WHO ATTENDED May's general meeting were treated to an introductory photography class by Ritz Camera's Gary Spring. Gary had just returned from a trip to Oregon. He teaches photography classes at the Ritz Camera store at Plumtrees Plaza in Danbury.

Gary started by mentioning the three types of digital cameras in the market: digital SLRs with changeable lenses, compact point-and-shoot cameras, and the in-between "bridge" cameras. Digital cameras have improved to the point that some professionals in the industry say that if your camera exceeds 8 megapixels, then you've reached or surpassed conventional film quality.

There are a few things you should have on hand when you go out to take pictures. Bring spare batteries so you don't take a chance of missing a great picture. Depending on your camera memory card size, you may also want to carry a spare memory card. When you load your pictures into your computer, you'll want to create backups of your digital photos.

You'll also want to buy a microfiber cleaning cloth for cleaning the lens. Despite cleaning the lens, if you notice a grey shadow on all your pictures in the same spot, there is likely dust on the interior sensor, which may have entered when you changed the lens on a digital SLR. You can first try the built-in sensor cleaner available from the menu, which vibrates the sensor to try to shake the dust loose. Eventually you may find that insufficient, in which case you can buy a hurricane blower to do the job.

If you have trouble seeing the viewing screen on the back in the bright sunlight, there are sometimes flip-up shades available.

On digital SLRs and some bridge cameras, you can buy a multicoated UV filter to reduce sun glare in your pictures, as well as protect your lens surface from dust or fingerprints. Lens hoods will also keep the sun off your lens.

Gary then opened up the session to questions from the audience. Someone asked about the difference between a polarizing filter and a UV filter. The circular polarizer filter can be used outdoors to make blue skies really blue and generally reduce glare. It can even reduce glare shooting through glass windows.

Gary recommended buying a case for even your point-and-shoot camera, to protect it from being scratched by putting it in your pocket or purse.

For low light conditions or for cameras without image stabilization, a tripod will allow you to take clear pictures. Even without using a tripod, it's important to position yourself to minimize camera movement. With feet shoulder width apart keep your elbows tucked to your side and hold the camera close to your body. Be sure to breathe in before taking the picture, then breathe out afterward.

For a composition tip, Gary described the rule of thirds. When taking a picture

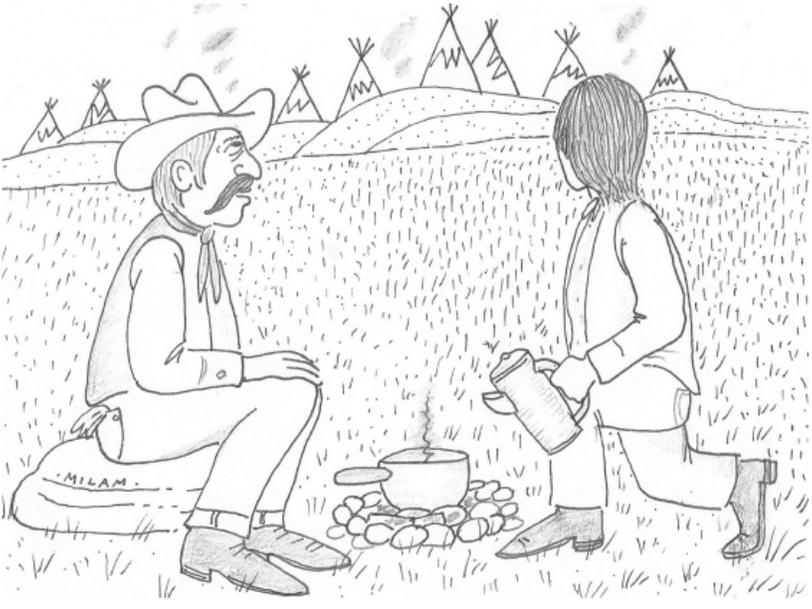


of a subject such as a seagull, rather than centering it, position the subject at one of the intersection points of a three by three grid pattern. This will create a more dynamic picture showing the seagull moving into or out of the space.

I now feel better armed for my next picture taking session, and want to thank Gary for an informative presentation. If you missed the meeting, you can sign up for photography classes at the Ritz Camera store for a reasonable cost, or free if you purchase your camera there.



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.



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"Don't worry... It's just some new-fangled message system they call twittering"

Meeting Preview

NYPD - Where Technology Can Mean Life or Death!

by Greg Austin

THIS MONTH'S GUEST speaker is Jim Onalfo, NYPD's first chief information officer (CIO) a recognized authority in private industry on information technology. You cannot afford to miss this meeting! The presentation will make you feel as if you were watching CSI New York.

Jim was recruited by New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly in 2003 to oversee the entire project of building and integrating the RTCC into the NYPD. Before becoming the NYPD's CIO, Jim served as CIO at Kraft Foods International, at a time when the company grew from \$2.5 billion to \$12 billion in revenue and made 40 acquisitions worldwide.

In July 2005, the New York City Police Department opened the doors to the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly's vision

of the RTCC was to reduce the police officer's reliance on paper reports and to nonintegrated databases in an effort to identify crime patterns, so officers can do what they do best, solving crimes and apprehending criminals. Since its launch, the NYPD has used the RTCC to work on more than 3,500 cases. The RTCC is responsible for accommodating officers with the quick retrieval of multiple facts in 'Real Time' about a crime, sometimes while the crime is still in progress.



The RTCC has saved detectives countless hours in searching for data, giving them more time to devote to crime-solving techniques. They can also access vital information that wasn't previously available.

Jim will take us through this breakthrough technology and how it is being used successfully to protect New York City's citizens.

This would be a great time to invite your friends, colleagues, and neighbors, and join us Monday, June 1 for our this fascinating general meeting.

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) and then announcements. The main presentation begins approximately at 8:00 p.m., with the meeting scheduled to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

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 and has been serving the region since 1990. Members receive an award-winning newsletter, members-only workshops and events, and access to volunteer phone support.

GREG AUSTIN is a 21-year veteran of the Rye Brook Police Department (Westchester County, NY) and chief of police since 2006. He became interested in programming, and by attending the DACS .NET and ASP.NET SIG meetings, learned how to write custom applications that are in use by the Rye Brook Police - specifically, a custom overtime management program for Windows Forms. He later adapted the program for ASP.NET, and is currently writing a pin mapping program to visually represent crime data with Google Maps.

DACS to be at CT Film Fest Interactive

By Rob Limbaugh

THIS YEAR, DACS WAS invited to participate in the CT Film Festival "Interactive Festival" to take place from Thursday June 4 through Saturday June 6. Thursday and Friday are the technical event days. Saturday is the general interest/fun day that will have the bulk of the crowds and events.

Many great workshops are scheduled in various locations around Danbury. This year the focus is on web, animation, advocacy, and gaming. One of the key themes is how much of this is actually possible with free software. Workshops include game development, working with Flash and CGI, music, video, image editing, and more! Point your browser to <http://ctfilmfest.bside.com/2009/schedule/week/type/interactive> for full venue details.

Two of our own, Lesa King and Ken Graff, will be hosting workshops. Lesa will be workshop leader on Friday, June 5,



for the "From Snapshot to Art with Adobe Photoshop" presentation at the Danbury Arena room 202. On Saturday, June 6, "Picture Magic: The Art of Digital Manipulation" located at Billy Baloney's will be led by Ken. DACS will also have a booth on in the expo area at the Danbury Arena. Come out and show your support!

This will be a great opportunity to rub elbows with many local businesses, artists, community leaders, and media pro-

fessionals are involved. Other non-profits scheduled to table the event include the Entertainment Consumers Association (<http://www.theeca.com>) and the Global Audio Network Guild (<http://www.audiogang.com>). Industry leaders are also scheduled to attend.

And the fun doesn't stop there! There are parties, networking, and other social events scheduled throughout the week! This is huge!

The CT Film Festival is also still looking for more volunteers. Please contact David Bonan, Director of Interactive Programming, at 203-770-8304, or bicyclereporter@gmail.com for details.

Check out <http://www.ctfilmfest.com> for more information about the CT Film Festival, films, and full event schedule.

Lights! Camera! Action! See you there!

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: June 2009

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: June 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: June 24

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: June 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: June 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: On hiatus

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: June 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: Cancelled

VB.Net.. 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: June 6

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: Combined with Server SIG, June 11.

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: July 21

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: On hiatus

SIG News & Events

Linux. The DACS Linux SIG has begun its series on the Building A Home Server with an Introduction to installing and commands for managing the server.

What Ubuntu has done for desktop Linux, Ubuntu Server is trying to do for the server; making it easy to get, install and run a secure Linux server. We will be testing out this theory as we plumb the depths of setting up our own Home based "semi-professional" server on a family network. This exploration will be using Ubuntu Server 8.04 LTS while much of what we learn should be transferable to any Linux server. We will be looking into setting up secure File, Print, Web and Network services as well as Virtualization and Firewalls. Subjects in which attendees are interested will also be considered.

Some of the information on managing the server is coming from Apress' Beginning Ubuntu LTS Server Administration by Sander van Vugt and the *HowToForge.org* website.

We started by going over the installation process with the focus on server-specific settings including file formats, partitioning and the directory structure. Once the server is reinstalled we will be looking at common Command Line functions and configuration files which we will be using in the future as we study different services. If time permits we may go into file management and server security.

Once we get the server set up and started we will be looking at file management, server security and network settings. At

SIG News, Cont. on page 11

June 2009

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
	<p>1</p>  <p>General Meeting 6:30-9:30 PM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>4 PM ASP.Net 7 PM C# VB.Net Chuck Fizer 203 798-9996</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CT Film Festival Interactive 11 AM - 7 PM</p>  <p>Macintosh 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>5</p> <p>CT Film Festival Interactive 11 AM - 7 PM</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>6</p> <p>CT Film Festival Interactive 11 AM - 7 PM</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>14</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>OpenSource Web Program. 7:00 PM John Lansdale 914-533-2002</p>	<p>16</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>7:30 PM Linux Drew Kwashnak 203 910-6477</p>	<p>18</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>19</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>20</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>28</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>29</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CT Film Festival</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>May 2009</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Jul 2009</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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File Management

Online Backup Services

There Are Pros & Cons But They Are Up & Coming

by Ira Brickman

THE CHANGING FACE OF how we use our computers includes the latest concept: using programs and services directly from the Internet. Many of us, for example, have found it more convenient to access our email using a Web browser (a.k.a. "Webmail") instead of a dedicated client like Outlook Express. The Internet's evermore ubiquitous nature means that receiving email is as simple as finding an available computer with browser software. Backing up your hard drive using an online service is one of the up and coming online services. The advantages are:

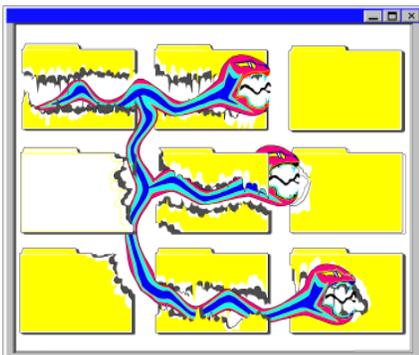
- No need to buy backup software or purchase external USB drives or optical media to backup to.
- Not storing backups where the computer is located secures against fire, theft, and other risks.
- Like Webmail, the backups are available from any computer with an Internet connection & a browser.

As good as that sounds, some of the other considerations are:

- There are some costs usually involved.
- Backup privacy and security is dependent on a third party and transmitting your data over the Internet adds privacy and security risks.
- You become dependent the backup service staying in business. If not, you are out of luck.
- It takes a lot longer to backup or restore than using a local hard drive.
- There is no imaging which means you are not backing up a picture of your hard drive, including your operating system installation. Rather you are backing up folders and files.

All in all, the pros certainly make trying online backup worthwhile. The cons, however, mean you have to judge how private the files are and how large your backups will be. And the risk of a service folding

means you should be wary of using smaller, totally free backup services for anything very critical to you.



There are some well-known, reliable services which can be free to use, within certain limitations. Or for a small monthly fee, you can get all the pros and limit your risks.

If you want to use an online backup services, there are three commercial services you can explore and consider to start with. They are: Amazon S3/Jungle Disk,

Mozy, and Carbonite. All three have similarities:

- They require that you download and install a desktop client to configure backups, manage restores.
- Once your first backup is created, the client program then works in the background to backup of new and altered files.
- All three encrypt your data before transmission and store it in encrypted form on remote servers.
- None require you to restore from the original computer.

You can also restore your data to a different computer.

If you search the Web, you will find an abundance of reviews about each of these services. There is much that has been positively written about Jungle Disk and Amazon's Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3). The S3 service is part of a package of Amazon services meant to be accessed through third party software. Jungle Disk is the leading program to do that. It "mounts" the online storage so that it seamlessly appears as another drive in your Windows Explorer. Jungle Disk can schedule automatic backups, but the mounted drive means you can drag and drop to manually backup files and folders And it allows for incremental backups.

This last is important because there are costs involved. Amazon currently charges 10 cents per Gigabyte per month for storage and another 17 cents

per GB for the data transfer. Incremental backups mean the transfer costs are kept to a minimum after your initial backup.

JungleDisk costs \$20 after a 30-day free trial. Amazon S3: <http://tinyurl.com/qx87a>. Jungle Disk: <http://www.jungledisk.com>

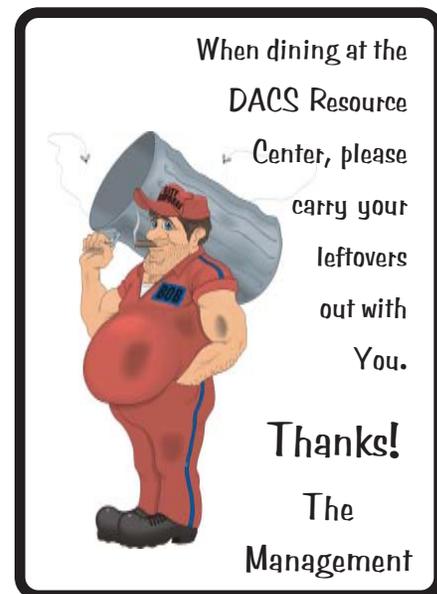
Mozy, at <http://mozy.com/>, on the other hand, can be free if you use the "MozyHome" alternative, limited to 2Gb of storage. But for \$4.95 per month, Mozy offers unlimited backup of a single home computer. Though not as convenient as Jungle Disk, the MozyHome software makes backing up easy and has many backup options.

Carbonite, <http://www.carbonite.com/>, offers a yearly subscription for unlimited backup of a hard drive, starting at \$49.95 per year, with lower costs for upfront payment of multi-year subscriptions. This makes it a little less expensive than Mozy per year. The Carbonite software might be a little easier to use than Mozy. Some reviewers found Carbonite to be slower and the Carbonite Web site does contain a caution about speed.

With costs potentially less than the upfront cost of a hard drive, these backup services are at least worth a look for their convenience for computer users

IRA BRICKMAN is president, **ICON PC User Group, Inc.**, New York, (president@iconpcug.org) From *The ICON Graphic, Newsletter of ICONPCUG, October 2008 Edition* (www.iconpcug.org).

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Circuit Writer Version 6.10

by Jim Scheef

The Healthcare System

AS THE NEWS about coming changes to our nation's health care system reaches a crescendo, I've been way too busy to listen. Even without listening I do know that the Obama administration plans to use information technology to bring needed savings. This means that providers will be in-



stalling electronic patient records systems. Would you be interested in learning about such systems? I don't mean the big systems used at hospitals like what Ed Heare presented a couple years ago, but rather the systems used by your personal physician and similar providers to store your test results and medical history. These are the systems that will save (or not) the billions of dollars needed to save our economy. Let me know at jscheef@dacs.org. If there is sufficient interest, I'll find vendors and doctors to do a general meeting presentation.

Are you Confickered?

The Conficker worm may be the most successful malware released to date, or the biggest failure. So far it's hard to tell as the April 1 doomsday has come and gone seemingly without consequence. Of course, that does not mean that it's all over. The worm still infects millions of computers. Is your machine among them? The simplest test I



have found is an "eye chart" prepared by a clever programmer ([joestewart.org](http://www.joestewart.org)) at <http://www.joestewart.org/cfeyechart.html>. Take a look. If you don't see what you are supposed to see, then check this eWeek article for some free tools (tinyurl.com/d4usxe) to remove the worm.

Ultimate Zero-Day Attack

In an attack that will be hard to top for a long time to come, some almost too clever attackers pirated and infected a copy of Windows 7 release candidate with malware and started to build a botnet based on the installs. This may be the first case of infecting a version of Windows before it is released, in effect creating their own set of built-in vulnerabilities. Presumably, the carrot was that the pirates had removed the expiration date from the release candidate, or at least claimed they had and then seeded the RC on BitTorrent sites. Researchers at Damballa (<http://damballa.com>), an enterprise security firm that specializes in protection from botnets, were able to shutdown the command center. Dambella estimated that 27,000 copies were installed in just a couple of weeks. Beyond the piracy angle, this incident points out the dangers in testing prerelease versions of operating systems. To date there are no third-party antivirus or malware detectors that support Windows 7, plus the infection was made even more difficult by the fact that the trojan was "pre-installed."

The theme is DMCA

Does the Digital Millennium Copyright Act affect you in your daily life? Not at all? Well, hold on there, keyboard breath! Maybe you should reconsider that position. Ever want to copy a movie DVD to your hard drive so you can watch in on your iPhone or other device? Is the DVD you bought yours or not? Read this PC World article (tinyurl.com/q3ro5j) about why you should care about the DVD copying case now in Federal district court. The legal concept of Fair Use, part of copyright law from the very beginning, has been effectively eliminated for any electronic media or device by the DMCA.

Copyright law has become so lopsided that even free speech is affected. Google, owner of YouTube, has filed a detailed submission (tinyurl.com/dx8u3k) about how

many takedown notices are bogus. The filing is in New Zealand where a draconian version of the DMCA is under consideration but the statistics are the point.

"In its submission, Google notes that more than half [57%] of the takedown no-



tices it has received under the US Digital Millennium Copyright Act 1998, were sent by business targeting competitors and over one-third [37%] of notices were not valid copyright claims."

A copyright holder can stifle speech on a website merely by making an accusation of infringement. This example of unintended consequences is not what Congress had in mind. Take another example of wiki operator, Sam Odio (http://bluwiki.com/go/Sam_Odio), who runs the site BluWiki.com as a hobby from his company OdioWorks. When some BluWiki users started a discussion about interfacing iPods and iPhones to software other than that available from Apple's iTunes, Apple threatened legal action under the DMCA. OdioWorks took down the discussions but now, with support from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (eff.org), has filed suit against Apple to regain free speech. Read about this on the EFF website (<http://eff.org/press/archives/2009/04/27>).

And finally, lest you think this only affects liberals, consider that the McCain presidential campaign complained to YouTube last October just before the election when the video site took down McCain campaign ads as a result of DMCA complaints from various news organizations. From the blog (tinyurl.com/r2h35z) on the New York Times website:

"The commercials incorporated snippets of television news broadcasts. Using provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the news organizations demanded that the commercials be removed from YouTube because they violated the organizations' copyrights."

Senator McCain voted for the DMCA, and opposes legislation to enforce network neutrality. The irony of it all! Oh, the irony!

This is just the tip of the articles I would like to at least mention. I'll post a list of the additional articles on the DMCA on my blog at <http://circuitwriter.spaces.live.com>.

May 2009

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.doc* and on *dacs.org*. Please provide as much information as possible, since we can't probe during the session.

We had one question from before the meeting:

Q – I use Microsoft Outlook 2007 on Windows XP Pro with email accounts on Exchange 2003 plus various email providers like MSN and Yahoo. I have two logons on this machine, one is a regular machine account and the other is a domain account. When I open Outlook on the domain account, Outlook fails in a severe crash. Yet when I open Outlook when logged on the machine account, Outlook opens and runs normally and can access all the various email accounts. This setup worked for years using Outlook 2003 and continued to work using Outlook 2007 until about a week ago. What could cause this?

A – The mysterious questioner is, in fact, me and the machine is my primary laptop. The solution that worked was to open the Mail applet in Control Panel and create a new profile. This is not the solution I wanted as there are many favorites and other customization in the now corrupt profile. When creating the new profile, I had to use care to point the entry for the Exchange Server account to the old data file. Such files have an extension of .OST rather than the normal .PST. In my situation, I have both accounts pointing to the same .OST file so that the data is not duplicated on disk and updating one account updates both. I have not followed Rob's advice completely and have not deleted the corrupt profile. I do not want to lose the customization if possible, so I'm slowly copying pieces of the corrupt profile to a new one using RegEdit. I'll report what happens next month.

Q – I often want to email pictures or other content I find online. After highlighting the content I right-click and select "Mail to" (exact text may vary) and a window opens to compose a new email. The problem is that the

window is for Outlook and I use Outlook Express. How do I get Outlook Express to open?

A – This is a common problem. When Outlook is installed, the installer sets it to be the "default email program" without asking if that is what you want. Of course you paid for Outlook so why wouldn't you want to use it, but that is not the question. The easiest place to change the application that Windows knows as the default email program is in the "Set Program Access and Defaults" (SPAD) tool. By default this is in the Start menu, but if you have changed this, open the Add or Remove Programs applet in Control Panel. The SPAD tool will be at the bottom of the left-hand menu. Click the tool open the various to see what best fits your needs. I'm always in "Custom" where you can mix Microsoft with other options. Select the desired email program using the radio buttons. The check boxes seem to only affect the Microsoft programs that have been the subject of antitrust litigation. For example, unchecking Outlook Express will remove it from the Start menu.

Q – I use Acronis True Image (<http://www.acronis.com>) to backup my hard drive. Recently I changed the location of the removable storage where the backups are stored. Now I must change the drive letter in True Image for each backup from E: to L:. How can I get True Image to recognize this change as permanent so backups will run more automatically? I have looked in the registry and found a key named ShadowCopy that seems to be the only possibility. Is this leading to a solution?

A – Suggestions started with uninstalling True Image and then reinstalling so it sees the new drive letters. Since there does not seem to be a way to change the drives recognized by True Image, it may be possible to change the drive

letter for the backup drive to the "E:" that True Image expects. The Disk Manager part of Computer Management can change the drive letter of any drive. (Warning: Changing the letter of the drive labeled "System" will have serious repercussions.)

Q – I recently upgraded the RAM in my computer. Does anyone know of a place that will buy my old RAM modules?

A – My suggestion was to offer the memory modules (sometimes called "sticks") on the DACS Community Forums. Smaller RAM sticks have little to no value because everyone wants more RAM and the smaller sticks take up the limited slots available on the system board.

Q – I just upgraded to Vista and cannot find the picture preview display that I preferred when using XP that shows both the file details and a larger-than-thumbnail view of the picture.

A – We have been severely limited in our ability to respond to such questions by the lack of a machine running Vista. We are trying to find a way to provide both Vista and Windows 7. This question requires a demonstration of the various ways to configure Windows Explorer in Vista.

Q – I'm having trouble connecting a new PDA (personal digital organizer) to my computer using USB. The PDA is not recognized. Have USB ports changed?

A – There have been no recent changes to USB technology. A member pointed out that many devices (cameras, storage devices, etc.) require that device drivers be installed on the computer before connecting the USB cable to the device. Once the drivers are installed, it should be possible to see all USB devices attached to the computer in Device Manager. We were able to approximate a possible solution on XP that should work in Vista by adding the date the picture was taken to file details. Then sort the list by that date and click the option to display in groups.

Q – I upgraded my Mac to the current

version of Mac OS X and the performance is very slow. How can I remove the unwanted stuff to make it run better?

- A – The audience quickly determined that the real issue is that the machine, an iMac G5 needs more RAM. The newer version of OS X needs more RAM than what came in a two-year old MAC. A RAM upgrade should give a noticeable improvement.

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!

DIRECTORS' NOTES, Cont. from page 3

Dates: Thursday, June 4 - Saturday, June 6, 11am-7:30pm.

DACS will have a 10' x 10' space at the ice arena, and get two 6' tables. Participants so far are:

Richard Corzo (table), Rob Limbaugh (table), Charles Bovaird (table), Sean Henderson (table), Joseph Tobin (table), Jim Scheef (table), Lesa Snider King (workshop leader), Ken Graff (workshop leader), George Krampetz, any one day all day (table). Table volunteers get access to all activities of the Film Festival.

It was suggested for Charlie to send out an email to the members to ask for volunteers.

We debated about possible purchasing a USB key with the DACS logo as a hand out (what size and amount to get). Possibly give to Festival visitors when joining DACS? It was decided not to buy, due to cost.

Regarding brochures, we definitely need to get those, looked at the prices

Charlie provided from Allegra. Annette offered to help Patrick with the layout of the trifold brochure.

We do need to order polo shirts with the logo, to be used by the table volunteers. Jim will send out a link to company that does them. Need to look at prices. Decision to be made later.

Rob motioned to adjourn, all seconded.

—Mary Tobin



SIG Notes, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

this point, we should be ready to begin focusing on the fun part of the server, the part that people see such as file sharing, web serving and more.

Macintosh. Rather than our planned topic on Mac security, the May SIG meeting turned out to be a continuation of Bill's Leopard upgrade from last month. He had upgraded directly on top of an existing Tiger (10.4) installation.

He had trouble with Apple Mail in that none of his mail was visible. We could see his mailbox folders in the file system in his home folder under Library:Mail. However the Import Mailboxes... menu item was disabled under Mail's File menu.

We did a Google search on "Apple Mail import mailbox disabled" which led to an Apple Support discussion that pointed to yet another with the solution. It was a post (<http://discussions.apple.com/message.jspa?messageID=8881914#8881914>) within the thread "Mail won't quit".

The procedure involved quitting Mail, moving the Mail folder to the desktop, and restarting Mail. A fresh empty Mail folder was created in the home folder Library and Import Mailboxes... was now enabled. We pointed the import to the saved Mail folder on the desktop. Import Mailboxes... imports into a separate Import mail folder so as not to disturb any existing mail you might already have, and then you can move the mail to the normal folders as you wish. The operation was 100% successful with all of Bill's mail recovered.

This does point out the downside of upgrading in place. Although it seems convenient in preserving all your existing settings and installed applications, you can sometimes wind up with problems with the upgraded system. You may have better luck with either an Archive and Install or an altogether clean install, but the latter does require you to reinstall your applications.

Another member reported a different problem in not being able to send mail. He and his wife had each recently gotten new Macs. Apparently they had copied the Address Book from one machine to another. He had noticed the special icon next to his wife's Address Book entry that indicated who was "me". The remedy would be on his machine to select his own record and choose Make This My Card under the Card menu. That way Mail won't be confused as to who is the sender (him and not his wife).

Next month we'll return to the regular first Thursday of the month schedule.

Server. The May meeting topic returned to the DACS infrastructure as Rob Limbaugh demonstrated how to configure a storage area network (SAN) using the open source system OpenFiler (<http://openfiler.com>). OpenFiler is based on Linux and replaced the OS on the box used. Rob had the computer ready to go with OpenFiler already installed.

We stumbled at first as we did not define all the RAID members to be an equal size. Once we fixed that, the actual array definition took almost no time using all four drives in the machine. Next we configured iSCSI – a SCSI protocol that runs over TCP/IP – to make the drive space available to the servers on the network and then set a piece of that space to be a 70G virtual drive.

On the server we need an iSCSI "initiator", the software that acts like a "driver" between the Windows Server operating system and the iSCSI protocol. This software is available at no charge from Microsoft. Once installed, the initiator is set to connect to the virtual drive. Once the server "sees" the new drive, it can be used just like it was a regular physical hard drive – as far as the Windows operating system is concerned, there is no difference. Storage virtualization offers a number advantages with flexibility at the top of the list.

The next meeting of the Server and Networking SIG will be Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m. in the DACS Resource Center.

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Future Events:

June 1

NYPD - Where
Technology Can
Mean Life or Death

July 6

Lesa Snider King,
Tips and Tricks from
'Photoshop CS4:
The Missing Manual'

August 3

TBA

September 7

TBA