



March 2001

Volume 12, Issue 3

## Flight Simming Puts You in the Cockpit

**T**he next DACS general meeting on March 6th will explore the exciting world of flight simulators. Have questions or would like to learn tips and tricks about your favorite flight simulators? Greg Gott, the speaker at the March, 2001 General Meeting will have the answers.

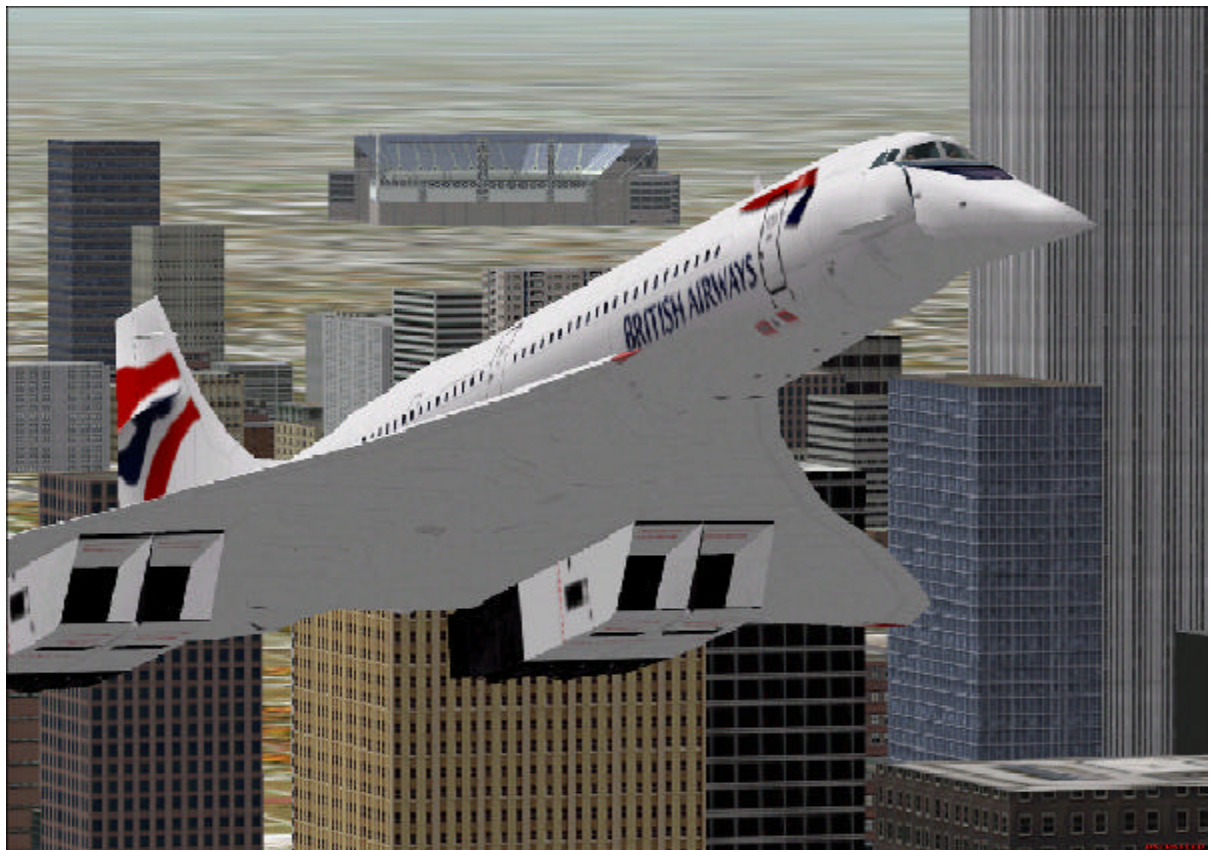
Greg will be demonstrating, talking about, and replying to questions regarding flight simulators for PCs, specifically Microsoft's Flight Simulator 2000 and Laminar Research's X-Plane. Greg contributes articles to [www.pcpilot.net](http://www.pcpilot.net), a magazine, and to the web site [www.simflight.com](http://www.simflight.com), both dedicated to flight simulators. He also freelances articles to <http://www.tecpilot.com>, another flight simulator web site.

Greg says that his specialty is PC hardware, he is also known by some gamers as the "Hardware Eagle." He will describe how a certain CPU or graphics card performs and behaves in specific flight simulators' en-

vironments. Greg adds that he usually obtains the required hardware, tests it, sees how it reacts with a particular flight simulator, and then writes reviews about it. Greg mentions that he will have door prizes to be given away, mostly software, but that "CHProducts has promised a game controller (Flight Yoke)."

This presentation by Greg promises to be very exciting to all members and especially to gamers. Both novices and experts will grab this opportunity to learn more about the exhilarating environment of flight simulators.

The March 6th General Meeting will take place at **Rogers Park Middle School Auditorium (see map on back page)**, starting at 7 p.m., with a question and answer session, followed by short club announcements. Greg Gott's presentation will begin at 8 pm. For additional information, please check DACS web site <http://www.dacs.org>, or call DACS Resource Center at 203-748-4330.



Courtesy Microsoft Flight Simulator

You can fly this plane, with complete confidence, from the safety of your desktop.

## President's File



Are you suffering from mouseopause? Did you ever want to trade that extra RAM for a RamJet, or move up to a turbo joy stick? Come to the March DACS meeting, where you'll experience the latest in flight simulation games for the Mac and PC. Actually, "games" doesn't go far enough. These are hi-tech tools that even the pros use to keep in training. Just be sure to change your coordinates to Main and South Street in Danbury, go about 100 yards further south, then right, and taxi up to the gate at Rogers Park Middle School Auditorium.

*The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Gang aft agley,  
An'lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
For promis'd joy!.*

The Poet Robert Burns certainly didn't have DACS in mind when he wrote of the hapless field mouse who lost his house, but then the situation seems to fit. Five days before our February meeting, I learned that a scheduling error had pitted us against a competing event at the hospital, and we would have to find another location. We chose Danbury High School and quickly launched Plan B, which is to notify members by e-mail and postcard of the new location and send out new releases to the press and other public groups. Plan B went as planned...until the snow closed Danbury Schools. There was no

Plan C, except to notify area radio stations of the cancellation of a meeting and hope that members got the message.

A similar conflict next month requires us to move our March 6 meeting to Rogers Park Junior High School. We have reaffirmed our scheduling for the rest of the year with the hospital. The program on assistive technology will be rescheduled, perhaps as a mid-month special meeting. Murphy's Law has a corollary about the predictable unpredictability of Mother Nature which may not be entirely appropriate for a family publication; so I'll turn again to Burns, the Scottish Poet who waxed so eloquently on uncertain expectations:

*But, Och! I backward cast my e'e.  
On prospects drear!  
An' forward, tho' I canna see,  
I guess an' fear!*

### Find a busy man

It's an editor's worst nightmare: deadline night and no copy. So I got out the list of old reliables and started dialing.

Only four days earlier, Mike Kaltschnee had become the proud father of an 8-pound 5-ounce baby girl, and was busy pushing the bottle. "I think I can handle that...I'll get you a couple of pieces by tomorrow."

Bruce Preston was en route somewhere for the long President's Day weekend, and responded to my urgent e-mail asking for an article to replace his Random Access column. "I'll get you something later in the week," he wrote back. It was in my in-box the next day.

Jack Corcoran (Virtual Jack), was up to his ears in family matters, and hadn't even been able to turn on his PC in ten days. "I'll have something for you tomorrow evening." And he did!

There's an old saying that when an important job needs to be done, find a busy man. Of course, nowadays one expects as much productivity from a busy woman as well, but the concept is still valid. For a guide to overcoming writer's block and a general pep talk, see Mike Kaltschnee's piece on page 5.

As for me, I'm still struggling to get my column out three days after the deadline.

—ALLAN OSTERGREN  
DACSPREZ@AOL.COM

## Membership Information

*dacs.doc*, ISSN 1084-6573, is published monthly by the Danbury Area Computer Society, 12 Noteworthy Drive, Danbury, CT 06810-7271. Annual subscription rates: \$25 to regular members, \$20 to students (included in dues).

### Postmaster

Send address changes to Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc., 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430.

## Editorial Committee

**Managing Editor:** Frances J. Owles  
**Associate Editor:** Ted Rowland  
**Production Editor:** Marc Cohen  
**Technical Editor:** Bruce Preston  
**Public Relations:** Marlène Gaberel

### Contributors

Charles Bovaird Larry Buoy  
Jacqueline Cohen Richard Corzo  
April Miller Crippliver Marlène Gaberel  
Jack Corcoran Mike Kaltschnee

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 Frances Owles (860) 868-0077 ([jones@ct1.nai.net](mailto:jones@ct1.nai.net)) or Allan Ostergren at 860-210-0047 ([dacseditor@aol.com](mailto:dacseditor@aol.com)). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net)).

© 2001 Danbury Area Computer Society. Permission to reprint or publish granted to any nonprofit group, provided credit is given and a copy of the final publication is mailed to the copyright holder. All rights reserved.

## Technical Support

*dacs.doc* is prepared using an AMSYS Pentium 133 and an HP LaserJet 4 Plus printer.

Software packages used to publish *dacs.doc* include:

Microsoft Windows 98, Office 7.0, TrueType fonts, Adobe PageMaker 6.5, CorelDRAW 6.0, Calendar Creator+ for Windows  
*dacs.doc* file transfer security provided by AVP.

Internet access provided by *Mags.net*

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



Jeff Setaro  
APCUG Liaison  
203-748-6748

## IN THIS ISSUE

FLIGHTSIMMING	1
PRESIDENT'S FILE	2
DIRECTORS' NOTES	3
RANDOM VECTORS	4
A CALL TO ACTION	5
INTERNET PROVIDERS	5
NEW MEMBERS	5
SIG NOTES	6
CALENDAR	7
TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEB SITE	9
RANDOM ACCESS	10

## Officers

**PRESIDENT:** Allan Ostergren (860) 210-0047 ([dacsprez@aol.com](mailto:dacsprez@aol.com)).

**VPS:** Gene Minasi (860) 354-9380 • Frances Owles (860) 868-0077

Marlène Gaberel (203) 426-4846 • Jeff Setaro (203) 748-6748

**SECRETARY:** Larry Buoy (860) 355-0394 • **TREASURER:** Charles Bovaird (203) 792-7881

## Directors

Charles Bovaird (203) 792-7881 • Larry Buoy (860) 355-0394

Marc Cohen (203) 775-1102 • Donald Pearson (914) 669-9622

Donald Neary (203) 746-5538 • Bruce Preston (203) 438-4263

Marlène Gaberel (203) 426-4846 • Allan Ostergren (860) 210-0047

Frances Owles (860) 868-0077 • Jeff Setaro (203) 748-6748

Matthew Greger (203) 748-2919

## Committees

**EDUCATION:** Gene Minasi (860) 354-9380 • **MEMBERSHIP:** Don Ruffell (203) 797-8138

**NEWSLETTER:** Frances Owles (860) 868-0077 ([dacseditor@aol.com](mailto:dacseditor@aol.com))

**PROGRAM:** Jeff Setaro (203) 748-6748

**WEB MASTER:** Jeff Setaro (203) 748-6748

**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 #	
Alpha Four	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
AOL	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	( e )
AutoCAD	Peter Hylenski	(203) 797-1042	( e )
C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	(d e)
Clipper	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
COBOL	Charles Godfrey	(203) 775-3543	( e )
Dbase/DOS	Alan Boba	(203) 264-1753	( e )
DOS	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
Electronics	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Focus	Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	( e )
Hardware	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
Interface-Instrumentation	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Internet	Nick Percival	(203) 438-9307	( d )
Macintosh OS	Chris Salaz	(203) 798-6417	(d e)
Microsoft Access	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
Multimedia	Ed Fitzgerald	(203) 222-9253	(d e)
Newdeal	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
OS/2	Rich Chernock	(203) 270-0224	( e )
Paradox	Alan Boba	(203) 264-1753	( e )
PASCAL	Duane Moser	(203) 797-2716	( d )
Q&A ver 3/4	Anthony Telesha	(203) 748-4478	
QuickBooks	Bill Sears	(203) 743-3367	( e )
Statistics/Data Analysis	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(d e)
SQL Server	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9998	( d )
Viruses	Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	( d )
Visual Basic	Nick Percival	(203) 438-9307	( d )
HTML/Java	James Costello	(203) 426-0097	( e )
Windows 3.1	Nick Strother	(203) 743-5667	( e )

## Directors' Notes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of DACS was held at the Resource Center (RC) on Monday, February 12. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Neary, Ostergren, Pearson and Setaro, a quorum. President Ostergren presided and Secretary Buoy kept the record of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting held January 8, 2001 were approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported combined checking account balance, CDs and postal account balances of \$22,210.38 plus postage on hand of \$103.13, a total of \$22,313.51, less prepaid dues of \$8,098.00 for a net of \$14,215.51. He also reported current membership of 526.

The Board then discussed programming of future General Meetings. Suggestions included involvement by DACS members, particularly SIG leaders, Linux, Filemaker Pro and Apple for the vacant General Meeting slots in July and August. Don Neary will join the Program Committee to seek candidates for future presentations.

The board discussed a proposal of the Web Design SIG to seek use of the Danbury Public Library's facilities. Don Neary will follow through with Matt Gregor on the issue.

Jeff Setaro announced that passwords had been obtained from three additional radio stations to enable DACS to arrange last-minute snow cancellation notices. He also distributed a list of the media for publishing in *dacs.doc* and on the DACS Web Site.

After a brief discussion of the ongoing lease arrangements for the RC, the subject of replacing the current computer at the RC was again raised, and Treasurer Bovaird was authorized to purchase same through Amsys Computer for a negotiated amount not to exceed \$2,500.

President Ostergren advised the meeting that the date of the annual InterGalactic meeting for the year 2000 had been tentatively fixed for April 28. He suggested that those contemplating attendance consider DACS' participation therein so that timely arrangements could be made.

The meeting was also advised that there was a conflict in the availability of the Danbury Hospital's auditorium for the March General Meeting (which meeting will be on Tuesday, March 6), but that subsequent meetings appeared to be firm. A discussion of alternative sites ended with the consensus to continue to seek use of Danbury High School in case of future scheduling conflicts.

—LARRY BUOY

### Being There

By Virtual\_Jack

**T**o be there, where the action is, when the technology is breaking. To see the barriers coming down, the opportunities opening up, and the potentials unfolding. To be a player, even if only in a bit part. To be contributing to the project, be it ever so small. To be a part of something that has never happened before.

And that's what meaning is all about. You have to be lucky to be there. You have to just happen to be in the right place at the right time. But if you are, it becomes the defining moment of your life, a precious memory that you always have with you.

The momentous times dominate the history of our civilization. But they occur for only brief periods of time and in scattered locations over the globe. And, ironically, at the time the fortunate few who are there and making it happen usually don't realize until much later what it was all about. Only later is it obvious, the magnitude of their experience and how fortunate they were to have been there. Marco Polo's crew probably just signed on for a job of work. Likewise the Spanish and Portuguese adventurers of the 16th century. The builders of the industrial revolution in England were undoubtedly focused on making a few bob more. Even

the early workers in the transistor industry thought far more about reliability, linearity and competing with vacuum tubes than they did about making a new way of life for people.

We have been fortunate to an unbelievable degree in our working life time. We have seen multiple amazing developments in technology come into being. The development of the atomic bomb and the entire nuclear technology that it ushered in was an experience so traumatic in the lives of those who participated that it will take the perspective of history to put in its proper role in history. The space program that immediately followed was an adventure story pure and simple. The innovation of the computer and its insertion into the everyday life of the entire population of the globe was never predicted in any of the most far out science fiction. The computer industry produced heroes and geniuses. But we should put the dazzle of the individuals in proper perspective.

"It is not enough to be the possessor of genius—the time and the man must conjoin. An Alexander the Great born into an age of profound peace might scarce have troubled the world..." ["Divisions of Historical Thought" by John Cleveland Cotton as cited in "The

Curfew Tolls" by Stephen Vincent Benet.]

From the classifieds of the  
San Jose Daily Bugle

#### Garage for Sale

2 car garage, fully insulated, ample electrical, wired for T1 and DSL, three 24/7 convenience stores in walking distance, perfect for startups, includes attached 3 BR house

So here we are now. Computers have become commodity items. The excitement is over. They are just another part of every day life. The internet is now used by more than half the population of the country. "Where have all the flowers gone?"

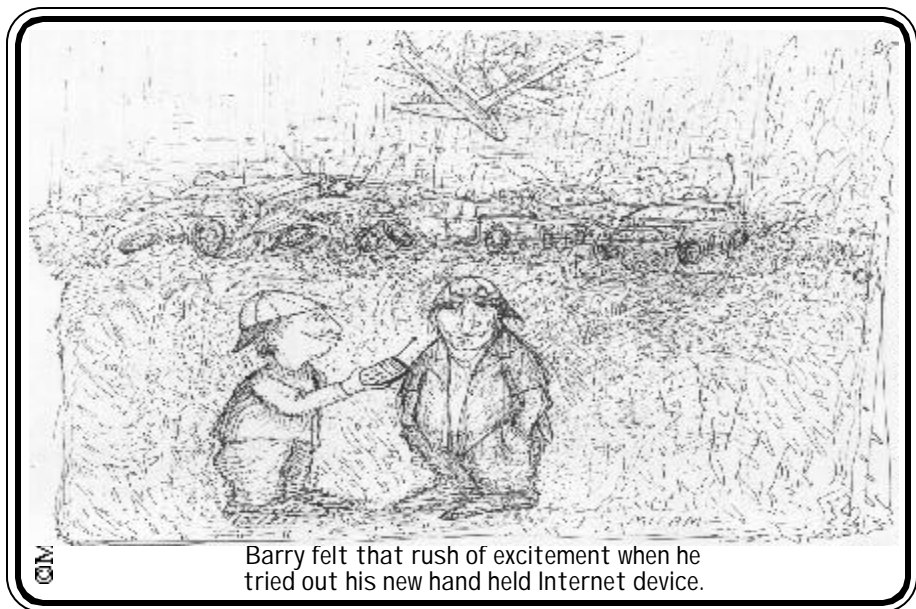
The dilemma facing anyone who has tasted even the slightest nectar of technology adventure is what to do now. Are we really settling back to text book better business practices and building on what has been done? Or are there truly fundamental breakthroughs out there right now, just waiting to happen? The answer is that no one really knows. There are predictions galore and because there are so many of them, someone will just happen to be right and after the fact be labeled as brilliant

The true technology adventurer, however, has far more in common with those who signed up to sail uncharted seas and explore the unknown frontiers. Robert Service got it just right in his "The Spell of the Yukon" when he wrote

*"Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting. So much as just finding the gold."*

There are many opportunities out there. Genome work is now dependent on computer technology and the techniques of handling vast amounts of data. The promise of what might come of that may be the greatest technology accomplishment ever. Insertion of data processing technology into the psyche of the individual may make everything done so far with computers seem primitive. There still is the intrigue of the undiscovered out there and the life experience of being part of it is still as much of a defining moment for the individual who chooses to put himself or herself into it as it ever has been.

**VIRTUAL JACK** is an old, retired computer programmer who feels very grateful for the opportunity he has had to touch just a bit of the atomic energy, aerospace and computer developments.



Barry felt that rush of excitement when he tried out his new hand held Internet device.



# A Call To Action

## People, Start Your Word Processors

By Mike Kaltschnee

**W**e need your help, and we need it bad. DACS, which has been around for more than 15 years, is in desperate need of your help. Every month we put out one of the top user group newsletters in the world, an award winning document that is the heart and soul of our group. Yet we are struggling every month to get enough articles to fill it.

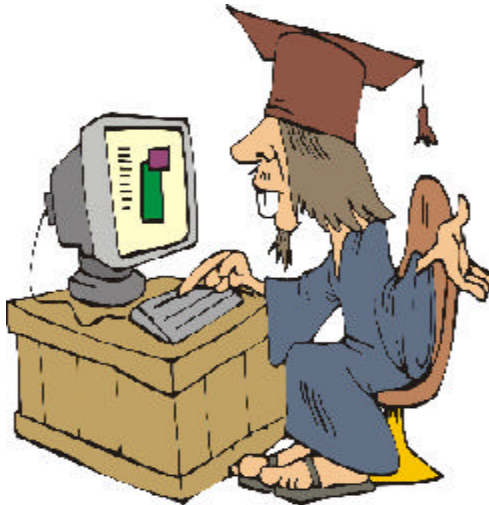
I know most of you can write an article. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, or even remotely professional (although they prefer a quick spell-check). If you've read any of my columns you know they'll take what they can get.

What do you write about? I've spoken with a lot of you, and almost every single one of you is passionate about something. Write about something you like, such as a new printer, computer, software program, or even how you use your computer in your business. If you write for DACS, you can get some great FREE software to review (it's a lot easier than winning the raffle - I've never won!).

If you've read some of my columns, I like to write about gadgets, Microsoft, Macintosh (yes, I'm one of THOSE people), graphics software, the Internet, and things that interest me. This is not a job and I'm not getting paid. I can typically write what I want (although Allan has held back my article on growing genetically modified turnips for some unknown reason).

What makes a user group like DACS a huge success is not the fancy speakers (we've had some bad presentations from great companies), but the DACS members. One of the best presentations we have ever seen was done by a DACS

member and his son (Bruce's networking presentation a few months back). We may be losing sight of why people join a computer group such as DACS: to meet with similar people and share their experiences. DACS is a great way to share your interests with others.



What gives me the right to complain about the lack of articles? I've been writing articles for DACS for almost 6 years. I am not a professional writer, and I think I'm as busy as most of you (I'm writing this article with a five-day-old baby sleeping next to me). It doesn't take long—I spend as little as an hour and as much as three hours writing each article. The quality of the writing is less important than the content.

### Write what you're passionate about.

Write what you want to talk about. You can even use a pseudonym if you're shy.

Several people have approached me about writing articles. It's easy. Just fire up your word processor of choice, and make a quick outline of what you want to write about. At the bottom of the page I usually keep a list of topics I want to cover. I write a few paragraphs, edit them, and then write a few more. The DACS newsletter team, easily the most underpaid and overworked editorial and production staff in the industry, can help you with ideas and editing. They make me look good.

If you're stuck for ideas, don't hesitate to send me some e-mail. I'd love to help you get started.

*MIKE is a DACS member who loves to hear the sound of his keyboard. You can contact him by e-mail: [mikek@demorgan.com](mailto:mikek@demorgan.com)*

## New Members

12/19/2000 thru 2/20/2001

Carol Bancroft  
Wade Anderson  
Francis Caro  
William Hearing  
Andreas Sturm  
Herman Izzard  
Richard Riddle  
Mel Boesch  
Joan Rothfuss  
Peter Heneage

### THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

If the membership date on your mailing label reads

**EXP 01/2001  
or earlier**

You need to renew your  
DACS membership  
— NOW

## Local Area Internet Providers

AT&T WORLDNET	800-967-5363
CLOUD 9	914-682-0384
CONCENTRIC NETWORKS	800-745-2747
C. P. CONNECT	203-734-6600
DELPHI INTERNET	800-695-4005
EARTHLINK	800-395-8425
MAGS-NET	203-207-5695
EROL'S	888-463-7657
GTE INTERNETWORKING	800-927-3000
IBM/ADVANTIS	800-888-4103
INTERNET84	203-830-2122
INTERRAMP/PSI	800-827-7482
JAVANET	800-952-4638
LOCALNET / FAIRFIELD CTY	203-425-3535
MCI	800-550-0927
MICROSOFT NETWORK	800-386-5550
NETAXIS	203-969-0618
NETCOM	800-353-6600
NORTH AMERICAN	800-952-INET
NETMEG INTERNET	888-863-8634
ON THE NET	203-270-6388
PARADIGM	800-664-INET
PUTNAM INTERNET	914-225-3234
SMART WORLD TECH.	203-790-4600
SNET INTERNET	800-408-8282
SPRYNET	800-SPRYNET
TIAC	203-323-5957
WEB CONNECT OF RIDGEFIELD	203-438-7650
WEBQUILL INT. SVCS	203-750-1000

List for informational purposes only, not an endorsement of any service.

Further information?  
Call Jim Finch @ 203 790-3654

## Special Interest Groups

### SIG NOTES: March 2001

**ACCESS.** Designs and implements solutions using Microsoft Access database management software.

**Contact:** Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920 ([bpreston@mags.net](mailto:bpreston@mags.net)). Meets on 2nd Tuesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next meeting:** Mar 13

**ADVANCED OPERATING SYSTEMS.** Explores and develops OS/2, Linux, and NT operating systems. For meeting notes and notices, follow link to Don's site on [dacs.org](http://dacs.org).

**Contact:** Don Pearson, 914 669-9622 ([pearson@attglobal.net](mailto:pearson@attglobal.net)). Meets on Wednesday of the week following the general meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Don Pearson's office, North Salem, NY.

**Next meeting:** Mar 7

**BACK OFFICE.** Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook. The SIG meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

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

**Next meeting:** Mar 8

**GRAPHICS.** Create/print high-quality graphics and images.

**Contact:** Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 ([graffic@ntplx.net](mailto:graffic@ntplx.net)). Meets on last Wednesday, 7p.m., at Best Photo Imaging, Brookfield.

**Next Meeting:** Mar 28

**INTERNET.** Acquaints DACS members with the Internet.

**Contact:** Richard Koser ([rkoser@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rkoser@worldnet.att.net)). Meets on 3rd Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center. Members' suggestions are welcome.

**Next Meeting:** Mar 21

**INVESTMENT STRATEGIES.** Discusses various investment strategies to maximize profits and limit risk.

**Contact:** Paul Gehrett, 203 426-8436, ([pgehr4402@aol.com](mailto:pgehr4402@aol.com)). Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Edmond Town Hall, Newtown.

**Next Meeting:** Mar 15

**MACINTOSH.** Discusses Macintosh hardware and software.

**Contact:** Chris Salaz, 203 798-6417, ([crsalaz@kami.com](mailto:crsalaz@kami.com))

Meets on 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.,

**Next Meeting:** Suspended until further notice

**VISUAL BASIC.** Develops Windows apps with Visual Basic.

**Contact:** Chuck Fizer, 203 798-9996 ([CFizer@compuserve.com](mailto:CFizer@compuserve.com)) or Jim Scheef, 860 355-8001 ([JScheef@Telemarksys.com](mailto:JScheef@Telemarksys.com)).

Meets on 1st Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Mar 7

**VOICE FOR JOANIE.** Provides and supports people with Lou Gehrig's disease with special PC computer equipment.

**Contact:** Shirley Fredlund, 860 355-2611 ext. 4517 ([voiceforjoanie@juno.com](mailto:voiceforjoanie@juno.com)).

Meets by arrangement., at Datahr, Brookfield.

**Next Meeting:** Contact Shirley

**WALL STREET.** Examines Windows stock market software.

**Contact:** Phil Dilloway, 203 367-1202 ([dilloway@ntplx.net](mailto:dilloway@ntplx.net)). Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Mar 26

**WEB SITE DESIGN.** Fundamentals of design for the Internet.

**Contact:** Matthew Greger, 203 748-2919 ([matthewg@thebuisenesshelper.com](mailto:matthewg@thebuisenesshelper.com))

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

**Next Meeting:** Mar 14

## SIG News & Other Events

**Back Office:** The Back Office SIG covers Windows NT server, network infrastructure and server-side software development (SQL Server, ASP, web pages, etc). We talk about everything from home networking to SQL Server stored procedures to politics.

**Visual Basic:** The Visual Basic SIG discusses all aspects of software development using VB and VBA from the client side. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to experienced developers.

The VB SIG will meet Wednesday, March 7th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

The Back Office SIG will meet Thursday, March 8th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

**Internet:** At its February 21st, 2001 meeting of the DACS Internet SIG, Brian Backman presented "Surfing the Internet JobScene."

The Internet Special Interest Group meets [usually] at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the DACS Resource Center on the lower level of Ives Manor located at 198 Main Street, a few buildings north from the Danbury Public Library. Open discussion of interesting sites and other Internet matters precedes and follows the presentation. Members' suggestions for Internet SIG topics and participation are welcome and even essential; contact Richard Koser at [rkoser@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rkoser@worldnet.att.net). Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Feb 21.

**Voice for Joanie:** This SIG will be meeting on an irregular schedule. Please call Shirley Fredlund at 860-355-2611, ext. 4517 for more information, or to serve as a volunteer.











**Web Site Design:** No report this month. Next meeting March 14. Contact Matthew Greger at 203-748-2919, or by e-mail at [matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com](mailto:matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com).

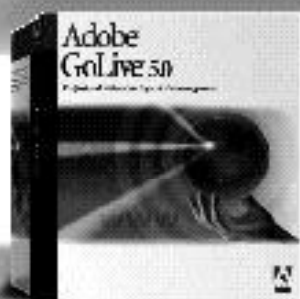


Under Construction  
Need More Material

# March 2001

## Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 				1	2	3
4	5	 7:00 PM <b>GENERAL MEETING</b> <b>Flight Simulation</b>	7:00 PM <b>WEB DESIGN</b> Matthew Greger 203 748-2919  7:30 PM <b>ADVANCED OS</b> Don Pearson 914 669-9622	 7:00 PM <b>BACK OFFICE</b> Jim Scheef 860 355-0034		10
11	 7:30 PM <b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	 7:00 PM <b>ACCESS</b> Bruce Preston 203 431-2920	7:00 PM <b>WEB DESIGN</b> Matthew Greger 203 748-2919	 7:30 PM <b>INVESTMENT</b> Paul Gehrett 203 426-8436		 <b>NEWSLETTER</b> <b>SIG NEWS</b> <b>DEADLINE</b>
18	19	20	 7:00 PM <b>INTERNET</b> Richard Koser rkoser@att.net	22	23	24
25	 7:00 PM <b>WALL STREET</b> Phil Dilloway 203 367-1202	27	 7:00 PM <b>GRAPHICS</b> Ken Graff 203 775-6667	29	30	31



# Adobe® GoLive® 5.0

**Professional Web**  
authoring and site management

Adobe® GoLive® 5.0 software gives you industrial-strength design, production, and management features so you can create professional dynamic-database-driven Web sites. Tightly integrated with other Adobe products such as Photoshop®, Illustrator®, and LiveMotion®. Adobe GoLive software protects your code from modification and corruption while offering industry-leading site layout and management functionality.

Order Adobe® GoLive® 5.0 at  
[www.adobe.com/store/products/golive.html](http://www.adobe.com/store/products/golive.html)

Adobe, the Adobe logo, Photoshop, Illustrator and LiveMotion are trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated. © 2001 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved. Adobe and GoLive are the U.S. Trademark of International Programs.





# WWWhat's up, Doc?

## Getting Traffic To Your Web Site

By Mike Kaltschnee

It doesn't matter if you have a small, personal Web site or a huge corporate Web presence. The purpose of putting a Web site together is to get the right people to see what you're doing, and if you're selling something, for them to buy it. A lot of Web sites are like billboards in the desert - pretty but never seen.

Most people I've talked to have made a huge mistake and have put off launching their Web site until the last minute. Promoting your site is something you should start after you have a basic prototype to show potential partners. You can usually put this prototype online in a hidden area so you can restrict viewing. You also need to get Some feedback on your first designs.

Contact the owners of Web sites that are similar to what you're doing, and in most cases, don't be afraid of contacting competitors. People view an average of five to seven Web pages per visit, so if they leave your site you'll want to send them to another site that is sending you traffic. You can swap links, banner ads, or even write articles cross-promoting your sites.

Getting people to your site is expensive. Some studies have shown that it can cost up to \$20 to get one person to come to your site. If only one percent of visitors buy something, you'll be in trouble quickly. By swapping links and doing cross-promotions, you'll be able to drive a lot of qualified traffic without spending a lot of money.

If you are selling something, consider paying an affiliate a percentage of the sale. Avoid paying for traffic, as these deals can easily be cheated and you'll wind up with a lot of traffic and no sales. Even if you pay an affiliate \$1 for every \$20 you sell, you're getting a low-cost way of selling products. These partners will drive traffic to your site if they're making money, and it's a cheap way of paying only for

marketing that works. A site that will manage this process for you is Commission Junction ([www.cj.com](http://www.cj.com)).

If you have an e-mail list, you can have the partner Web site be a "sponsor" for your newsletter. You can trade this for being a "sponsor" of the partner's list as well (or sell the sponsor placements and use the money for marketing programs). To get email addresses, you can ask for them, but giving away a small prize (a Palm M100 costs \$149) works best. Never abuse these names or sell them to anyone else, and make sure that you put a privacy statement

on your site so visitors will know exactly how you're going to use their names. Send them about two mailings a month at most, and make sure you include some useful information - not just a bunch of ads.

You can also purchase email addresses in very targeted categories. This can work very effectively - you can target people that love Sushi and send them a personalized offer. However, this type of promotion tends to be expensive, with names costing 15 to 20 cents each. The best way to try this type of marketing is to purchase a sample of the list and do a test mailing.

Some companies offer a banner ad exchange program. One of the better known is Link Exchange (now part of BCentral.com). You put a banner space on your site, and you get a certain number of ads on another site in return. You can even select the type of sites you want to put your ads on. This works great if you're getting a lot of traffic but don't have a huge budget.

Beware of promotions and opportunities that address a large group of people outside your customer base. These are typically sweepstakes programs that give away \$5,000 or a large prize. They tend to attract a huge audience of people that

aren't interested in your product or site, and instead cost you money and time, especially if you're paying for your bandwidth.

Get your name out there any way you can. Amazon.com is a great example of branding. Almost everyone knows their name, and a large percentage of Web shoppers have purchased from them. Amazon.com is a great brand; they have a well-defined and mature Web site, and they are able to get as many as eight percent of visitors to buy. Spend some time at Amazon to see how they sell.

Public relations is something that most companies and small Web sites overlook. It's cheap if you do it yourself, and can be much more effective than most paid marketing programs. You need to contact the editors at local or national publications that would cover a Web site like yours. It helps if you have a story to tell as well. A friend of mine put together a car enthusiast Web site for his new Eclipse, and one of the major car magazines listed it for free in an article. You can't pay for marketing like this.

The only way to fail at Internet marketing is to do nothing. The cost of entry is low, the overhead (if you're smart) is low, so you can have some time to experiment and find out what works.

**Mike Kaltschnee** eats, sleeps, and breathes Internet marketing. You can contact him by email at [mikek@demorgan.com](mailto:mikek@demorgan.com).



## Voice for Joanie

Help give the gift of  
speech

Call Shirley Fredlund  
at 355-2611, ext.  
4517

and become a  
**Voice for Joanie**  
volunteer.

# Random Access

## Not So Random Access Episode 1: Starting Your Machine

by Bruce Preston

The February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, so there was no Random Access Question and Answer session. Our editor has asked me to supply something to take its place for the month—so here are some things that I think you might find interesting.

### Why Does My Machine Run So Slow?

I got a call a few weeks ago from someone who had been given my name by one of my clients. His complaint was that his machine was running extremely slowly, where before it had acceptable performance. He asked me to take a look. While this is not normally what I do, out of respect for my client I said I'd take a look.

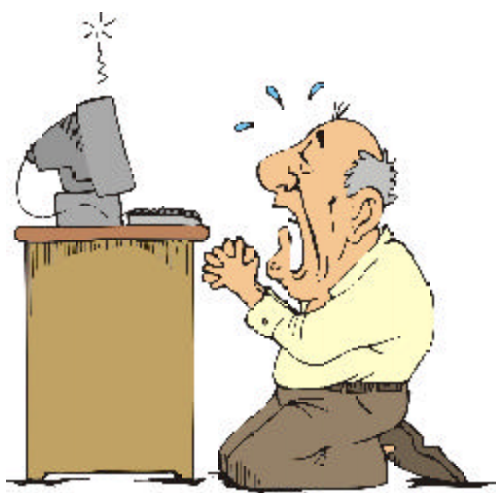
When I got there, I spotted something immediately, even before he offered to demonstrate the problem. His "System Tray" took up two-thirds the width of his "Task Bar." Nomenclature: The Task Bar is the bar of buttons across the bottom (usually) of the screen that shows which applications you are currently running. The System Tray is a subset of the task bar - to the right, that usually contains the clock, the speaker volume control, and various "applets" that may be running. I asked him to identify what they were - he couldn't, saying that they had "just appeared over time" as he installed things on his system. I demonstrated that by hovering the mouse pointer over an icon in the System Tray a "tool tip" would appear to identify the item. We found, for example, that he had four separate and distinct "scheduler" applications for such things as mail, anti-virus, office task, etc. None of them actually had scheduled tasks defined, but they were all running.

Before I showed him how to remove these things (how to do this follows later in this article) I went to START / PROGRAMS / ACCESSORIES / SYS-

TEM TOOLS and launched the application "System Monitor". This is a utility that comes with Windows that can measure various performance metrics on your machine. If it isn't in your menu, you can selectively install it from Windows Setup. When it starts, it will show you a moving chart for "Kernel Processor Usage" which

relates how hard the CPU in your machine is working. This can be interesting when the machine is working hard, but should be boring when the machine is sitting "idle". Select the EDIT menu item, and "Add Item.." then select "Memory Manager" and "Allocated Memory". Close the menu and you will see a second chart start to scroll across your screen from right to left. This chart shows how much memory is being used by the system—for all applications, drivers, applets, etc. In the case of the machine in question, he had 120MB of memory allocated. A good trick, because the machine only had 64MB of RAM!

How could this be? The answer is "Virtual Memory" which is memory that doesn't really exist in the machine's RAM—instead, Windows moves copies of what it needs into the real RAM and puts copies of what it currently doesn't need out on the disk in the "swap file." Windows doesn't really know or care if an application is useful or not - as long as you have requested it to be run, it will start it up, and allocate memory for it. If it doesn't have enough "real" memory it will use the swap file—but of course this has the disadvantage of severely degrading system performance.



Having identified where the bottleneck was, we then proceeded to ruthlessly eliminate the components that we didn't need. The first thing to do is to remove things from the "Start Up" folder that you don't need. My preferred approach is to create a folder named "Start Not" in the C:\Windows\Start Menu\Programs folder—this makes it a peer of the "Start Up" folder. You can do this from within Windows Explorer by navigating to C:\Windows\Start Menu\Programs and then selecting FILE / New... / Folder and naming it "Start Not." Then drag the shortcut icons from the "C:\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Start Up" to the new "Start Not" folder. Restart your machine and you should see a greatly reduced number of applications in the System Tray.

But wait, there's more! Programs can also be launched from the C:\WINDOWS\WIN.INI file. This is a text file that you can examine and modify via SYSEDIT. (START / RUN / SYSEDIT) [Note: Win98 users: see "System Configuration Utility, below]. Near the top of the file you may see a line reading "LOAD=" and a line reading "RUN=". These were the now obsolete mechanisms from Windows 3.x, and were used to load device drivers or applications at Windows start up time. If you are running Windows 9x, Windows Me, Windows NT, or Windows 2000, you probably really want to examine these to see if you really want/need them. You can disable them by changing them to comments by inserting a semi-colon character at the beginning of the line—such as ";LOAD=xyz.exe." Then restart your machine and verify that everything still works properly.

If LOAD= and RUN= are now obsolete, they have been replaced by shortcuts in the Start Up folder, right? No, not necessarily. There are other, less well known mechanisms as well. For these you have to delve into the Windows Registry—not for the faint-of-heart. Select START, then RUN, then type in REGEDIT. You will be presented with an interface that is similar to Windows Explorer—a pair of window frames with a "tree view" in the left window pane. (In the paragraphs that follow, when I say "expand" I mean to either double-click on the icon or to click on the "+" character to the left of the icon.) Expand "My Computer". Expand "HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE." Expand "SOFTWARE." Expand "Microsoft."

Expand "Windows." Expand "Current Version." You should now see folders for "Run," "RunOnce," "RunOnceEx," "Run Services" and "RunServicesEx." As you click on each of these, in the right window you may see command(s) that will be executed at startup. The category "Run" is fairly obvious. The category "RunOnce" is usually used after an application is installed—this will run any additional "setup-type" components next time you start the machine. I don't think that I have ever seen anything in the RunOnceEx key, I don't know what it is used for. Similarly, the RunServices is to start a "service" - such as, say, a Fax Monitoring application.

**CAUTION:** There is no way to "comment out" a Registry value—you either change it or delete it. You can "export" a key to a .REG file and then later "import" it back in if you wish. If you aren't comfortable with this, then don't do it. If you do work with RegEdit - keep VERY accurate notes of what you did so that you can "undo" it.

We removed the items that were causing applets and applications to load, and restarted the problem machine. The System Monitor reported that Allocated Memory was now at 40MB instead of 120MB. We then ran some of his applications and found that if he started, say, Internet Explorer and Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel (his common mix of applications) he was still allocating considerably more memory than he had. This clearly indicated that he needed more RAM. So we threw some hardware at it. But the System Monitor at least saved us from what he thought he had to do - purchase a new machine with a faster processor—in all cases the System Monitor was showing that his kernel usage was relatively low.

**WINDOWS 98 USERS:** There is a utility that will do much of the above for you - it is started via START / RUN / MSCONFIG. Use it before you try the other methods above, as it is much more "user friendly."

Lastly, I have just found a free utility, called StartStop, ([www.tfi-](http://www.tfi-)

[technology.com/startstop.htm](http://www.tfi-technology.com/startstop.htm)) which enables you to control what applications run at startup. Further, it gives you the full path to the application or applet, which should give you a hint as to where the application came from. I have no ex-



perience with this utility, but intend to investigate it.

*DACS board member **Bruce Preston** usually moderates the "Random Access" session that begins each General Meeting. In addition, he chairs the Microsoft Access SIG for DACS, and runs West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield. Further episodes of Not So Random Access may follow on various topics, as the weather dictates.*

## FREE CLASSIFIEDS

DACS members may publish noncommercial, computer-related classified ads in *dacs.doc* at no charge. Ads may be placed electronically by fax or by modem, or hard-copy may be submitted at our monthly general meeting. Fax your ads to Charlie Bovaird at 203 792-7881.

Leave hard-copy classifieds with Charlie, Marc, or whoever is tending the members' table at the meeting.

Computer science student seeks opportunity doing ASP programming. E-mail [glennbreda@yahoo.com](mailto:glennbreda@yahoo.com)

Smart advertisers reach  
over  
1000  
active computer users  
and  
software buyers  
by taking advantage  
of the  
attractive advertising  
rates in

# DACS.DOC



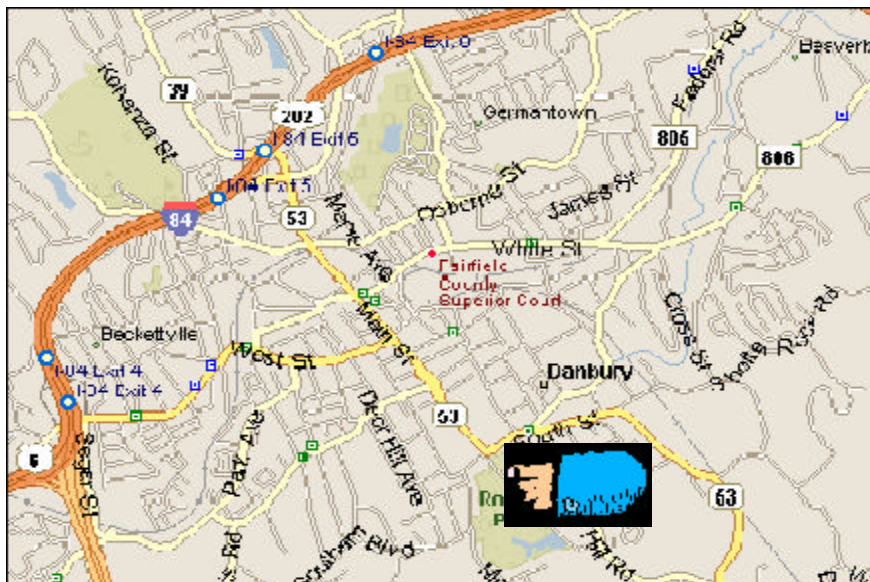
**Now Available:** Direct From Disk, Black and White,  
Spot or 4 Color Copying

"For All Your Printing and Copying Needs"

**3 Commerce Dr. Danbury, CT**

**Phone (203) 792-5045 Fax (203) 792-5064**





Next meeting will be held at Rogers Park Middle School Auditorium

## Voice for Joanie

Help give the gift of  
 speech  
 Call Shirley Fredlund  
 at 860-355-2611,  
 ext. 4517  
 and become a

**Voice for Joanie**  
 volunteer.

## Future Events

March 6 • Greg Gott - Flight Simulation Software  
 April 3 • Adobe Systems, Inc. - Hottest New Web Products  
 May 1 • MGI Software - PhotoSuite & VideoWave

### AMSYS Pentium II & III Business Systems

**SYSTEMS INCLUDE:** Intel BX Chipset System Board with 100Mhz Bus, 512KB Pipeline Burst Cache, 32 MB PC-100 SDRAM, 4.3GB HDD, 4MB AGP SVGA, 3.5" FDD, 2 Serial Ports, 1 Parallel Port, 2 USB Ports, 3 PCI Slots, 3 ISA Slots, 1 Shared PCI/ISA Slot, 1 AGP Slot, Mid-Tower Case with 9 Drive Bays and 220W Power Supply, 104 Key Windows 98 Keyboard, Microsoft Mouse.

Intel Pentium/Celeron 333 Mhz CPU w/ 128K Cache  
 Intel Pentium/Celeron 366 Mhz CPU w/ 128K Cache  
 Intel Pentium/Celeron 400 Mhz CPU w/ 128K Cache  
 Intel Pentium II 350Mhz CPU  
 Intel Pentium II 400Mhz CPU  
 Intel Pentium III 450Mhz CPU  
 Intel Pentium III 500Mhz CPU

**AMSYS<sup>®</sup>**  
**COMPUTER**  
**900 Ethan Allen Hwy.**  
**Ridgefield, CT 06877**

**203 431-1500 / [www.amsys.net](http://www.amsys.net)**

#### OPTIONS & UPGRADES

Upgrade to 64MB 100Mhz SDRAM  
 Upgrade to 96MB 100Mhz SDRAM  
 Upgrade to 128MB 100Mhz SDRAM  
 Upgrade from 4.3GB to 6.4GB HDD  
 Upgrade from 4.3GB to 8.4GB HDD  
 Upgrade from 4.3GB to 10GB  
 Upgrade from 4.3GB to 13GB HDD  
 Add 32X CD-ROM  
 Add DVD ROM II (Instead of CD-ROM)  
 Add 100MB Internal ZIP Drive  
 Add 32-bit PCI Wavetable Sound Card  
 Add Speakers  
 Add Microsoft Office 97 Sm, Bus. Ed.

**Call for latest prices!**

#### PENTIUM II 266 MMX Notebook DACS SPECIAL \$1,895

32MB RAM  
 4GB HDD  
 3.5" FDD  
 24XCD-ROM  
 Battery  
 12.1" TFT Display  
 3D Sound  
 512K Cache  
 2MB 128bit VGA  
 2 PCMCIA Slots  
 TouchPad  
 USB Port  
 Win 98  
 Carrying Case

© AMSYS, Inc. 2000