



## Taylor Your Image With MGI

For its May 1st, 2001 General Meeting, DACS has invited Randy Whittle, who will be speaking for MGI Software. The May 1st meeting will take place at Danbury Hospital Auditorium starting with questions and answers at 7pm. The main presentation begins at 8p.m.

Randy Whittle's presentation will mostly focus on two products from MGI Software, PhotoSuite 4.0 and VideoWave 4.0, which have unlimited options when it comes photos and videos. PhotoSuite 4.0 a complete PC photography solution. According to Whittle, it's the fastest and easiest way to edit, enhance, and creatively organize your photos. Photos can be turned into greeting cards or incorporated into personal calendars, web pages, family letters, and shared with others via email or the



Internet. PhotoSuite 4.0 makes it not only possible, but easy and fun! And with VideoWave 4.0, you can now capture, edit, produce, and share your own videos on your PC, videotape, and even over the web! You can add special effects, transitions, sound tracks, and on-screen text effects along the way.

Also new to the MGI lineup, and which will also be shown, are PhotoVista 2.0 and SoftDVDMax 4.0. PhotoVista incorporates full-featured stitching capability, enabling VR-style walk-throughs and immersive panoramas, and also enabling you to create stunning panoramic views with tools especially made for use in web pages, all automatically generated! SoftDVDMax incorporates an exclusive "Dolby Headphones" feature

*Continued, Page 4*

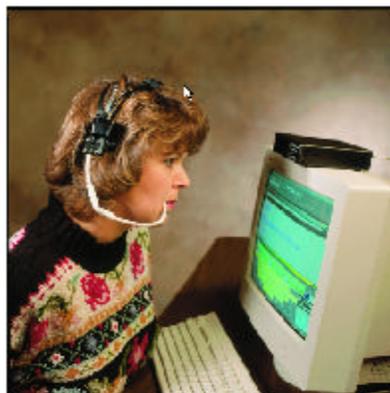
## Technology Tools that Talk-and Listen

New communication tools for the disabled will be the topic of discussion at a special mid-month meeting of the Danbury Area Computer Society on Wednesday, May 9, 2001. The 7:30 p.m. meeting, which was snowed out in February, will be held at Datahr Rehabilitation Center in Brookfield, CT, and is open to the public.

Leading the program will be David Goldberg, president of Health Science, a New Jersey-based provider of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) for the speech-impaired. Goldberg will discuss the grow-

ing field of assistive technology for the handicapped and how it is helping bridge the gap between the physically disabled and mainstream society. The presentation will focus on public and private funding sources, application to specific types of disability, and a hands-on demonstration of the products being used.

A measure of the influence of computers on our lives is how much we seem to take them for granted. Like our cars, we rarely ask what makes them work, but only how we turn them on and off and get where we want to go. Using a keyboard and a mouse are no



*Continued, Page 4*

# President's File



There was a time when the April annual election of DACS officers was a real contest. A nominating committee would get a list of candidates; each of the nominees would be asked to leave the room while the

members debated; and a hard choice would be made. The winners would generally run again and be reelected for about three years, and then others would step forward to succeed them.

Something has changed. In this year's April meeting a show of hands indicated who was willing to run for another term, and all were affirmed by a single vote of the board.

Most of the officers of DACS have served for four years or more, and are ready to retire. However, few have come forward to replace them. Perhaps it's a sign of the maturing of the computer revolution, or of DACS itself, that members seem either to be content with the way things are being run or don't know how they might do it differently. Since membership has been relatively stable, I conclude that we must be doing something right—but for how long? Without new leadership, any organization will run out of ideas and lose direction.

That is why, after four years as president, I have decided that I will not run again (actually, I came to that conclusion last year, but this time I've put it in my column and can't retract). During my last term, my most important goal will be to find new candidates to bring DACS well into the new cen-

tury. We have already brought in several new board members, and more board vacancies will open up next December. After all, as anyone who is not intimidated by the high tech bear market will agree, the computer revolution has really only just begun!

## SIG transit gloria DACS

An important but often neglected part of the DACS mission is its Special Interest Groups. We once had a SIG coordinator and more than twenty active groups, but today all we seem to muster is ten. Yet a measure of the viability of any user group is its ability to bring members together to learn and to solve problems. One of the bright new stars on the board, Don Neary, has offered to visit with each of our SIG groups during their monthly meetings to find out how they are working, what the board can do to help, and how we all can benefit from their activities. Some of the answers to these questions will be revealed in a column Don will contribute to *dacs.doc*, and it is hoped that SIG leaders will also write more about their activities in the newsletter. Perhaps this will help guide others on how to organize a SIG, and help us to fulfill our mission of people helping people.

## InterGalactic

The annual InterGalactic User Group Officers Conference has been moved up from June to April this year, and Don and I will be on hand as representatives of DACS. The theme of the gathering will be regional cooperation, and we hope to come out of the event with new ideas on strengthening user group activities. One goal of InterGalactic is to inform computer industry leaders of regional UG monthly meeting schedules, so they can organize their presentations to cover several groups in succession. We have benefitted significantly in recent years from the expanded role the Association of PC User Groups has taken on in providing shared newsletter content and national advertising. A stronger regional cooperation will hopefully provide a tier of services that the much larger (APCUG) is too distant to provide effectively.

—ALLAN OSTERGREN  
DACSPREZ@AOL.COM

## IN THIS ISSUE

MGI PHOTO EDITING	1
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY	1
PRESIDENT'S FILE	2
DIRECTORS' NOTES	3
CIRCUMVENTING THE BLIND ALLEY	5
PHOTOSHOP6 REVIEW	6
MEETING REVIEW - ADOBE WEB TOOLS	7
SIG NOTES	8
CALENDAR	9
APCUG CD	11
SPAM	12
NEW MEMBERS	13
INTERNET PROVIDERS	13
RANDOM ACCESS	14

## 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 Cripliver      Marlene 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 non-profit 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

## 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 meeting of the DACS Board of Directors was held at the RC on April 9, 2001 at 7:30p.m. Present were Messrs Bovaird, Buoy, Greger, Ostergren, Preston and Setaro and Mrs. Gaberel. President Allan Ostergren presided and Secretary Larry Buoy kept the minutes. The minutes of the last meeting, held March 12, 2001, were approved, with minor correction.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported assets, including CDs, checking account and postal account in the amount of \$22,685.05, plus postage on hand of \$184.05, a total of \$22,869.10, less a liability of prepaid dues of \$8,652.00, a net of \$14,217.10. He also reported current membership of 529.

President Ostergren asked Mr. Bovaird to prepare a forecast of DACS' financial condition for the purpose of future budgeting. Mr. Bovaird informed the meeting that most of those not renewing their membership had moved out of the Danbury area. He further reported that DACS' non-profit status had lapsed, and that application for reinstatement was underway. He also announced a change in insurance carrier to The Insurance Company of America, resulting in some changes in the terms of the new policy and a reduction in the cost of insurance. He also reported donation of a spare computer to the RC for usage by the SIGs.

Arrangements for the upcoming InterGalactic User Group Conference were announced, followed by a discussion of the current status thereof and agreement that DACS continue to support it.

In response to problems cited by the Internet SIG, Jeff Setaro announced that the password for access to mags.net had been reentered. It was also agreed that the overhead projector owned by DACS and currently unused, be donated to Senior Net.

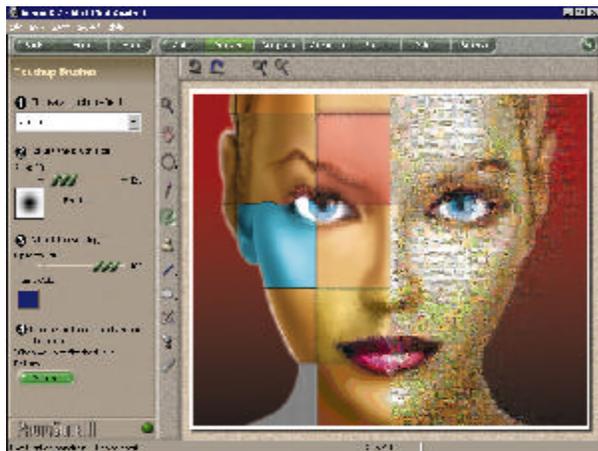
President Ostergren advised the presentation on Assistive Technology had been rescheduled for May 9 (7:30p.m.) at Datahr. Publicity therefore will again be undertaken by DACS.

Bruce Preston announced that most of the components of the new RC computer had arrived and that an "Assembly Party" should occur during the next two weeks.

Following discussion of the election of officers for the ensuing year and in the absence of some of the incumbent officers, it was agreed to defer such election to the June meeting and opportunity to consult with those individuals.

LARRY BUOY

**MGI** from page 1 enabling mobile users to experience a surround-sound cinema experience right



through ordinary headphones. Randy Whittle informs DACS that he has been enthusiastically received at user groups around the country. He adds that he is considered to be one of the most entertaining and dynamic speakers in the user group community. He holds an MBA from the University of Southern California and works as a Marketing Strategy Consultant, specializing in helping companies identify how their business and the economy will be changed by electronic commerce,

helping them to formulate strategies for making such changes work in the firms' favor.

Randy acknowledges that he learned very early the importance of feature-rich and easy-to-use software when, without the budget to hire outside resources, he was put in charge of designing brochures and marketing materials for a small startup company. He later became the founding Director of the Electronic Commerce Program at the

University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business, where he developed an innovative graduate-level curriculum for business students—the first of its kind, as required course curriculum for MBAs at a major business school. During his tenure at USC, Randy was quoted by Family Money Magazine and arranged for USC to host a week-long symposium of industry leaders.

To enhance his demonstration, Randy uses pictures of his wife Vicki and two kids, MacLean and Brittany, to illustrate how personally useful the software is. Randy will provide time for an open Q&A period and will bring valuable door prizes, informative handouts, and special user group pricing for those wishing to purchase these outstanding products at the meeting. We are looking forward to welcoming him.

For more information about MGI software, follow the link from the DACS web page at [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org), or call 203-748-4330.



**Assistive Technology**, from page 1 more complicated than a operating a clutch, gear shift and steering wheel. But

to speech, in order to communicate with others or to provide audible feedback to the user.



for people with disabilities, these simple tools can be a hindrance, or even a barrier to accessing their PC or navigating the digital super highway.

A diverse group of innovators ranging from amateur inventors to Ph.D. engineers, the AAC industry has grown to more than \$250 million in annual sales. Chief among its products are switches that allow users to input data by movement of a finger, toe, head or eye; and keypads that differentiate between varying degrees, proximity, or duration of touch. Most systems include a voice synthesizer to convert words on the screen

environment through interaction with computers.

A special guest at the program will be Shirley Fredlund, Executive Director of Voice For Joanie, a New Milford non-profit foundation that provides, at no charge, communication technology for victims of amyotrophic lateral

Although primarily developed for use by the physically disabled, this technology should provide a glimpse into a future in which we all gain more control of our

sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease)—a condition that destroys neurons controlling muscle movement, leading to total paralysis. Using an infrared eye switch, ALS patients can blink to select text on the screen and have it "spoken" by a voice synthesizer. Danbury Area Computer Society provides technical support and volunteers to Voice for Joanie.

DACS meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at Danbury Hospital Auditorium. Activities begin with informal networking at 6:30, fol-

lowed by questions and answers and Club announcements. The formal program gets underway at 8 p.m. For more information, see the DACS Web site at [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org) or call the Resource Center at (203) 748-4330.



# Service Call

## CIRCUMVENTING THE BLIND ALLEY

By Larry Buoy

Remember the presentation by the Gartner Group last June? The subject material was over my head, but one point Mr. MacDonald oft repeated during his presentation was management's tendency to overlook the human factor in designing and financing a project, be it migrating to W2K or otherwise.

Early in my business career, I learned—the hard way—that it is not a good idea to keep the Chairman of the Board uninformed, not even the Chairman of a small corporation. With advancing maturity, I also learned that the primary motivation of all corporate employees, from top to bottom, is to cover their own. The difference being, of course, that it is easier to do so at the top rather than at the bottom. I do not claim to have evolved the following procedure, I can only attest that it works.

In your dealings with customer help, service departments, billing departments, etc., have you ever been stonewalled? Employees in such departments are pretty

nearly anonymous these days, don't have any specific phone extensions and are almost universally powerless. You have the same chance of getting the same person on your second call as you have of winning the lottery. (Actually,

I did once. It was hilarious.)

OK! The solution—and thanks to whoever first put me wise to it, but is now long forgotten.

It's much easier than it used to be, thanks to the Internet. From the home page of any corporation, drill down, or up, to the corporate structure. You may be dealing with a wholly-owned subsidiary. If so, go to the parent corporation home page. You will usually find a list of

all the officers. Look for the officer either specifically identified with the supervision of the department giving you the shakes or with the operation of any wholly-owned subsidiary (or a best guess).

Now—write a polite, civil letter setting forth the facts of your frustration to the corporate officer chosen per the foregoing paragraph, with a copy to the source of your frustration. BINGO! Remember, a vindictive or surly attitude in your letter puts any recipient, no matter how high on the ladder, in defensive mode. Remember also, the Chairman of the Board, and maybe even the President, doesn't spend much time at the office.

If the Internet doesn't provide you with the information you need, there's always the nearest public library. There's always been *Moody's* and *Dun & Bradstreet*, but in a quick survey of my own public library just recently, I discovered some specialized references that could provide information. There's the *Encyclopedia of Bankers & Finance*, the *Registered Company Directory*, *Brands and Their Companies* (I wish I'd seen that one before) and *Plunkett's*—(by industry).

Personally, I believe the current tendency to make customer service as unavailable as possible will only stop when the big wheels start squeaking, and the big wheels will only start squeaking when they get overloaded. See the first paragraph.

**Larry Buoy** is DACS Secretary and a board member. A late adopter, he has become an old saw on coping with the Internet.



## 128-bit Encrypted Job Security.

**Become a Red Hat Certified Engineer—the most popular, most respected Linux certification. The choice of IT pros.**

You know no job is forever. Bosses leave, departments change, budgets disappear. But with the right skills you can make yourself invaluable.

Red Hat Certified Engineer™ tests your ability to install and configure Linux®, as well as file systems, security, and open source applications like Apache and Sendmail.

Prepare through intensive hands-on classroom instruction or via eLearning. We'll teach you today's most critical network services. We'll test you on live equipment.

When you succeed, the skills, job security, and the confidence that goes with it are all yours. Along with the best four letters of recommendation you'll ever earn: RHCE™.

Training available on site and in the following cities:  
Austin, TX • Boston, MA • Durham, NC • Portland, OR • San Francisco, CA • Santa Clara, CA  
Washington, DC • Atlanta, GA • Chicago, IL • New York, NY • Salt Lake City, UT

© 2001 Red Hat, Inc. All rights reserved. Red Hat and the Red Hat "Shadow Man" logo and Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE) are trademarks or registered trademarks of Red Hat, Inc. in the US and other countries. Linux is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

[www.redhat.com/training/](http://www.redhat.com/training/)  
1 888 REDHAT1



## Software Review

# PhotoShop 6: The Best Professional Image Editing Tool Keeps Getting Better

By Mile Kaltschnee

**W**hen asked if I wanted to review PhotoShop 6 for the Mac, I immediately responded “Yes!”

Having used PhotoShop since the very first release, I had to see what the wizards at Adobe had in store for us this time. PhotoShop has been, and continues to be (despite some fierce competition), the best image-editing tool on the planet.

The most prominent new feature is the addition of vector support. Traditionally, PhotoShop has been a raster, or pixel-based tool, mostly used for editing photos. With this new tool you can bridge the two worlds and create hybrid art. The vector tools include basic shapes, such as rectangles and polygons, which can be moved or resized at any time during the image editing process. You can also create custom shapes, which can be used over and over again for projects.

It may seem like a simple change, but I think the biggest improvement is the new ability to edit text right on the canvas. I hated bringing up the text box, only to have to reload the dialog to make minor changes in fonts. Working with text is now easy, almost elegant, when compared to prior versions. Text remains vector text, so you can continue to manipulate it as you work, while maintaining the high quality output of non-rasterized text.

The coolest new feature has to be LIQUIFY. Although it sounds like something you do to a small mammal with a blender, it's more like Kai's Power Goo for grownups. This is an industrial strength way of distorting images. No, it's not a filter, the Liquify command is special enough to rate it's own place on the “image” menu. I had

tremendous fun playing with images, distorting them with incredible precision. If only I could get paid to do this.

Adobe has added the creation of high-quality PDF output from PhotoShop 6. You can now create smaller preview files so that anyone with the free Acrobat Reader can view your images — they

don't have to own a copy of PhotoShop.

The most useful feature (in my opinion, anyway) is the slice tool. I'm going to let you in on a Web designer secret—they don't create those fancy images and then program 'em, they cut up the image first and let GoLive, Dreamweaver or FrontPage do all of the work. It used to be tricky to cut up an image, but now you can slice the image in PhotoShop and it will write the appropriate HTML code for you.

If you want to create fancy Web effects like rollover buttons, you can use the included and almost completely integrated ImageReady 3. They have been integrated so tightly that it's hard to think that ImageReady is a separate program instead of a dialog box. There are some amazing effects available, including text warping rollovers and enhanced image maps. I'm looking forward to using these features on the next Web project I have to do.

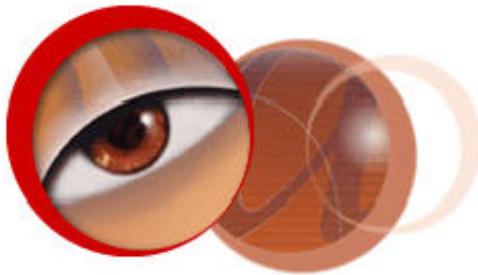
There are so many features in PhotoShop 6—I could write almost two reviews. The only way to really learn about PhotoShop is to use it (or take a class). Although I've just started using this new edition, I'm already excited about the new features I can use to enhance my Web development efforts.

If I had to complain about one thing, it would have to be the cost. With the street price of a new version being more

than \$500, and an upgrade over \$200, it's too expensive for casual use. I do have to give Adobe credit for shipping a lower-cost version, PhotoShop LE, for about \$99. It's crippled in ways that won't affect most users, so you can accomplish most Web or simple image editing with it.

If you're serious about editing images, I highly recommend PhotoShop 6, or the upgrade if you have an earlier version. I have yet to see another program that even comes close to the stability, functionality or usefulness of this product.

*Mike is a DACS member who challenges you to help DACS by writing, volunteering, or by helping another member. You can contact him by e-mail: [mikek@demorgan.com](mailto:mikek@demorgan.com).*



### Key features of Photoshop 6.0

#### Expand beyond pixels

- Superb vector support
- Advanced PDF output options
- Layer styles
- Image warping

#### Produce superb Web graphics

- Slice tools
- Weighted optimization controls
- Dynamic layer-based slices
- Tighter integration with Adobe ImageReady 3.0

#### Master the power of Photoshop quickly

- Enhanced layer management
- Expanded text features
- Streamlined interface
- Preset manager

A complete new features list, along with a comprehensive guide and product tutorials are available on [www.adobe.com/products/photoshop](http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop)

# Meeting Review

## GoLive Presentation Drops Dead On stage

By Allan Ostergren

While Adobe has proven itself the clear leader in graphics software, at the last DACS General Meeting their presentation hardware proved buggy and not very user friendly.

Alarms began to sound when DACS PR director, Marlène Gaberel tried to email Adobe Representative, Timothy Plumer, to get some notes for the preview, but got no response. Then, as the meeting got under way, we were told that Steve Hart, a developer from the company's Stamford office would take over the presentation.

Almost immediately, Hart let it be known that since user groups are at "the bleeding edge of technology," he would skip the beginner stuff and get down to specifics.



A single Photoshop image can serve as the source for multiple images on your Web page.

We've been through this before. We keep telling presenters that DACS is a broad-based user group comprising all levels of experience, and that we prefer to be entertained—to see first what software can do and then figure out how to get it

done later. Yet a long line of techno geeks keeps forming to show the fine points of navigating dialogue boxes and tool bars.

Steve was clearly in his element, carving up and resizing Photoshop images and shuffling them from one file list to another while they instantly materialized on his Web page. Clicking and dragging on a file produced a line that followed the cursor to the associated directory and dropped it firmly in place. If the association proved incompatible, the line would drop and dangle like a bungee cord. Another tool—a touch-up wand for red eye—was not so intuitive. On a hint from the floor, Steve had to look that one up in Help.

It was impressive, but mind-numbing. So, assuming I was not the only one to leave the meeting more confused than when I arrived, I set out to search Adobe's Web site for a clearer demonstration of its new product line for Web authoring and creation.

In recent years, Adobe has begun to bundle its applications into functional groups and marketing them at a combined discount. This helps to standardize their applications around a single format and improves stability between applications. Toward this end, Adobe dropped its PageMill Web design application and pur-

*GoLive - continued on page 15*

Borland's award-winning Java™ implementation platform spells out the complete enterprise solution.

Experience for yourself what the Fortune 500 have already discovered.

Call now to speak to a Borland representative at **800-632-2864** or visit [www.borland.com](http://www.borland.com).

**Borland**  
**J**Builder™  
**A**ppServer™  
**V**isiBroker™  
**A**ppCenter™

Made in Borland. © Copyright © 2001 Borland Software Corporation. All rights reserved. All Borland brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of Borland Software Corporation in the United States and other countries. Java and all Java-based marks are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States and other countries.™ servers.

## 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:** May 8

**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:** May 9

**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:** May 10

**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:** May 30

**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:** May 16

**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:** May 17

**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:** May 2

**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:** May 29

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

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

Meets second Wednesday, 6p.m. at the Danbury Public Library.

**Next Meeting:** May 9

## SIG News & Other Events

**Back Office:** The April meeting featured Nick Percival, of Semantech, as the guest speaker. Nick demonstrated his web site "Teacher Web" and gave us a quick introduction into how it was developed. "Teacher Web" allows school teachers to build a web site for homework and other class materials without any knowledge of HTML or programming. It is quite innovative and is used by over 30,000 teachers. The site was developed as a Visual Basic "IIS Application". The resulting program then runs in IIS (Internet Information Server - Microsoft's web server). Check out the site at [www.teacherweb.com](http://www.teacherweb.com).

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 10th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

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. All are welcome, from beginners to experienced developers.

The VB SIG will meet Wednesday, May 2nd at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

**Internet:** At our April, 2001 DACS Internet SIG meeting on Wednesday, the 18th, George Krampetz presented "Adventure Travel" with 'live' illustrations from Web sites, chat groups and search engines. George is a Trips Coordinator for Danbury Ski Club and DSC Divers and uses the Internet to research destinations, obtain details and make initial arrangements with tour operators and resorts. The techniques used can be directly transferred to research non-travel-related products as well.

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).

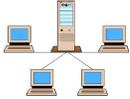
**Web Site Design:** Our topic for May 9, 2001 is "Let's create a web page." We have already discussed image sizing, different types of web design programs, search engines, and practically all the elements of good and bad design. Now "Let's create our own web page."

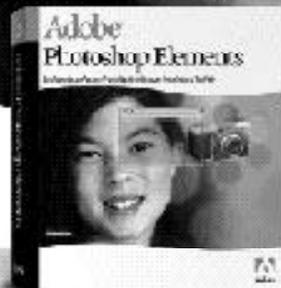
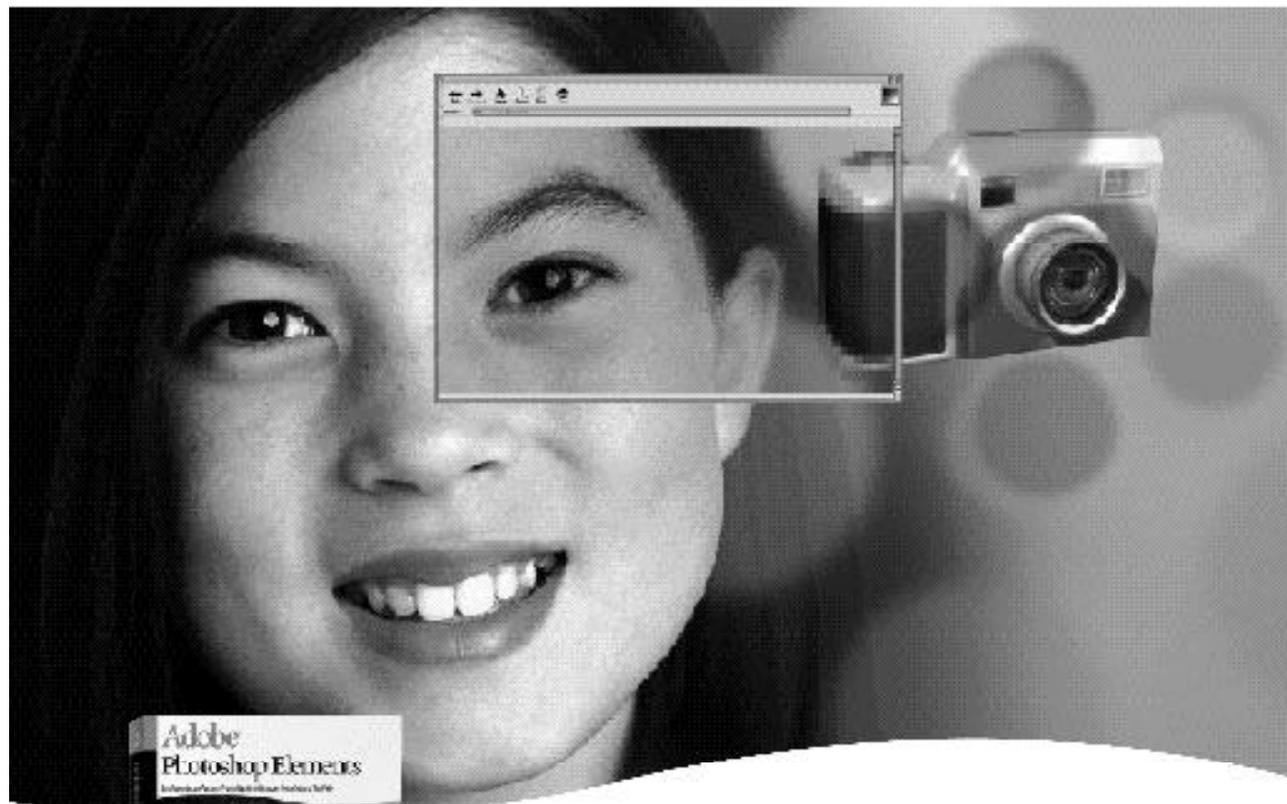
For the next **two** meetings we will demonstrate using Adobe Photoshop/Image Ready and GoLive to create our web page. We will take a step-by-step process from inception to final outcome, which will include layout design, digital photos, rollover buttons, FTP, Meta tags, etc. Come join us at the Danbury Public Library Program Room (located at the lower level) from 6pm to 8pm. If you have any questions please email Matthew Greger at [Matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com](mailto:Matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com).

NANCY GREGER

# May 2001

## Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
		<b>1</b>  7:00 PM <b>GENERAL MEETING</b> <b>MGI</b> <b>Photo &amp; Video</b>	<b>2</b>  7:00 PM <b>VISUAL BASIC</b> Chuck Fizer 203 798-9996																																																				
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  7:00 PM <b>ACCESS</b> Bruce Preston 203 431-2920	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM <b>WEB DESIGN</b> Matthew Greger 203 748-2919  7:30 PM <b>ADVANCED OS</b> Don Pearson 914 669-9622	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM <b>BACK OFFICE</b> Jim Scheef 860 355-0034		<b>12</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER</b> <b>SIG NEWS</b> <b>DEADLINE</b>																																																	
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  7:30 PM <b>BOARD OF</b> <b>DIRECTORS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  7:30 PM <b>INVESTMENT</b> Paul Gehrett 203 426-8436	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>																																																	
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>																																																	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  7:00 PM <b>WALL STREET</b> Phil Dilloway 203 367-1202	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May</th> </tr> <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>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		May							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		
May																																																							
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																																																			



## Adobe® Photoshop® Elements

Easily create  
professional-quality digital  
images for print and the Web

Adobe Photoshop Elements software offers unique features designed specifically for amateur photographers, hobbyists, and business users who want an easy-to-use yet powerful digital imaging solution. State-of-the-art image-editing tools free you to explore your creativity while mastering the elements of digital imaging. Work with photos taken with digital or traditional cameras and prepare your images for print, e-mail, or posting on the Web.

Adobe® Photoshop® Elements  
Special Offer for \$69.

See Details at [www.adobe.com/offer/74300](http://www.adobe.com/offer/74300)

## Spoils of Membership

### APCUG CD: Just one of the many benefits of being a DACS member

By Mike Kaltschnee

When DACS President Allan Ostergren sent me the APCUG CD, I thought to myself, "Oh, boy. Another compilation CD." And then I saw what was on the CD. Then he told me it was free for DACS paid members—and I was really surprised. (APCUG = Association of PC User Groups)

It's great for a compilation CD. The folks at APCUG know what we need—and they put it on the CD. O.K., so it doesn't have the latest versions of everything on it—most products are updated so often it's impossible. But it's a great CD to have around if you're trying to quickly rebuild a machine and don't want to spend the time downloading all of your applications again.

So exactly what is on the CD? I have to admit it wasn't the sexiest piece of software I've used, but they make up for it in content. My quick count shows more than 100 programs. They include Web browsers, image and document viewers, MP3 players, virus tools, Zip/Unzip utilities, and Internet tools.

My favorites from the disk include:

- Web Browsers—I absolutely HATE downloading them on a modem. Keep this CD handy—it has all of the top ones.

- Ulead GIF Animator—I adore this program. It's easy to use and it works.

Can't say that about much software these days.

- Acrobat Reader - Who wants to download 5meg every time you reformat your machine?

- AOL Instant Messenger - No, you don't have to be an AOL member to use this great communications tool.

Everyone knows that there is no such thing as a free lunch, and that includes some of the software on the disk. Be sure to check out the license agreement after trying the program out—you might have to pay \$20 or so to use it forever. But this goes for all software you use on a regular basis—you should pay the guy who wrote it or he won't do it anymore. There were a lot of great shareware programs that stopped development because the developer couldn't make any money doing it. Take a few minutes and look at what you use or need on a regular basis. Think about what you would do if you didn't have that program, and send a check. Sorry - I work in the software business.

If I had to really complain about one thing, it would be the lack of Mac software.

The APCUG CD is an unexpected benefit of being a DACS member—one you should definitely check out. If you're not a member—keep reading.

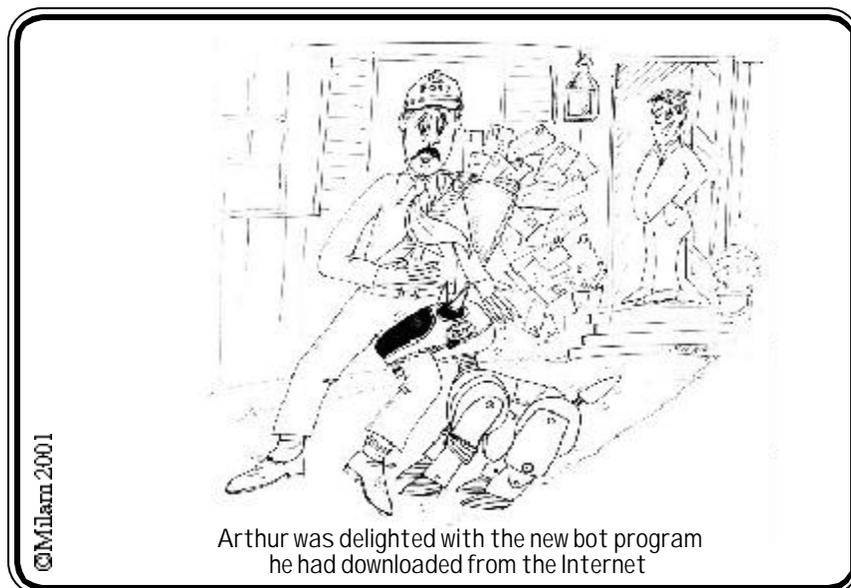
### DACS Membership Benefits

So what are some of the other benefits of being a DACS member? Well, you're not supposed to attend the meetings without paying (except for the first time). The meetings are great—they are informative, fun and only occasionally silly. We have some of the best speakers in the user group circuit come visit us, as well as John Patrick from IBM every December.

I belong to DACS for the networking, since I never win anything at the raffle. There are some great members, each of whom specializes in one area or another. Unix? Mac? Commodore 64 (well, maybe not), Networking? They are all covered. Just ask Allan or anyone who seems to run the meetings and they'll tell you whom to talk to. Some of these people charge \$100 or more per hour, and will speak to you (within reason) at the meetings. The best place to drain their brains is at the "Pig SIG" after the main meeting. Buy them a beer and they'll pretty much tell you anything you want know. Several are also on a list of experts whom members may call for help.

If you're already a member, I'm sorry for preaching to the converted. If not, sign up today. The award-winning newsletter is easily worth the price, and the other benefits are immeasurable. In the more than 15 years that I've belonged to user groups I've made some great friends, and I hope to be a DACS member for the next 15 years.

*Mike is a DACS member who challenges you to help by writing, volunteering, or by helping another member. You can contact him by e-mail: [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.

# Email Management

## Can Spam

by Brian Backman

Anyone who has had an e-mail account for more than twenty three and a quarter milliseconds has received Spam, so there's no need for a lengthy description of it.

**Basically, Spam is unsolicited advertising e-mail messages.** It is also a really tasty meat product that goes great with pineapples and sliced jalapenos, but that's not the kind we're dealing with here.

My goal for this article is to give you a few pointers on how to reduce the amount of Spam you receive or possibly eliminate it, and some ways to deal with it when you do get it.

Before we get started, you should understand that there are two kinds of e-mail advertising.

### Opt-in and Opt-out

Opt-out is Spam. Opt-in is any sort of commercial mail, such as newsletters, catalogs and sales flyers that you have agreed to accept. Usually, you agree to accept these as a condition, reward or benefit of registering with an online service (remember PriceLine?). Be careful about the difference. If you get a message that you believe is Spam, think first about any agreements you may have made recently. It would be really poor form to report a legitimate, sweet, loving, angelic emailer as a putrid tool of the Devil, Spammer.

With that in mind, **to the ramparts!**

### Attempt to Eliminate

I don't believe that you can totally eliminate Spam, but this is as close as you can get:

**Filter out mail from any sender whose address is not in your address book.** This is the anti-social method, but absolutely

the most effective. Set up your mail system so that it will compare the sender's address to those in your address book. If the sender's address does not match anything in your address book, the mail will be rejected or redirected away from your inbox. This is fairly simple to set up,

though not all mail systems offer this feature. Using Hotmail as an example, go to Options, then Inbox Protector under Mail Handling. For Level of Protection select Custom, and then check **only** "The senders address is in your Hotmail address book." If you really don't

want to be bothered, you can also select the trash can as your discard folder.

While this method seems foolproof, I have heard anecdotal evidence that some Spam has slipped through, so I can't guarantee it. Also, remember that this will not protect you from any virus that an "approved" sender might mail you.

You should also keep in mind that this will prevent you from receiving any mail you have requested, such as newsletters you sign up for, unless you can get their address into your address book first. This can be very annoying as when your Uncle Finster's lawyer sends you a message that the old boy is about to croak and you'll not get a dime of the inheritance unless you show up at his bedside pronto.

### Anti-Spam Mail Accounts

This one usually incurs a fee, so move on if you're a cheapskate.

There are mail systems out there whose main claim to fame is the near total elimination of Spam, as well as aggressively reporting Spammers. These

services use a combination of methods to prevent Spam. I'll give a quick description of the most famous one, SpamCop (URL listed at end). When you sign up with SpamCop, give them a list of approved sender addresses. Mail from these senders will pass through unimpeded, exactly as in the Hotmail example previously mentioned.

Now things get complicated. Any mail from a service provider that is on SpamCop's approved list, or that SpamCop has never heard of, will be passed through as well. Any mail from a service provider whose name is on the Evil Children of Satan list will be placed into a "holding area." The sender will receive an automated reply explaining that they've been blocked because their service provider is in league with the minions of Hades. The sender can then fire back a reply that he or she is not a spammer and this was a legitimate message. The mail will then be sent on to you.

If you do receive Spam, you report it to the mail service and they'll take care of reporting it. If a provider causes a lot of complaints from members, then that provider will be considered scum of the earth and placed on the bad list.

You don't totally eliminate the Spam, but you do cut it way down and get the satisfaction that providers who generate a lot of Spam will be inconvenienced.

### Try to Fight Back

Ah, you valiant fool. Do not go quietly. . . Rage, Rage!

Fighting back is OK as long as you understand that you will ultimately lose. At best, you may close down a few Spammer's accounts, but they will just open new ones. At worst, your mail account may become unusable.

But if you want to try...

When you open a message that turns out to be Spam, there will almost certainly be a link at the bottom that you can click on to cancel further messages. This seems pretty easy, just click and end the torment

Right?

Don't you believe it!

What you're really doing is proving to the Spammer that your e-mail account is valid and that you read Spam. The vicious little insect will then sell your address to others of its species and you will be inundated.

You could try reporting the Spammer. This may give you some per-



sonal satisfaction, but don't think for a minute that it'll accomplish much.

First off, you'll need to set your e-mail system to "display full header information." What you're doing here is inserting all of the available routing history into the message when it's displayed, rather than just who sent it to you and the date of transmission.

This will, hopefully, give enough information to the Spammer's provider that they can track down the weasel.

The downside is that the full display option takes up more space. It'll also insert a mountain of text into your mail when you forward messages. You can delete it, but it's extra work to do

Sooo, the question is, are you willing to put up with all the extra gobbeldygook just to report a Spammer?

Your email service provider's Help should tell you where to report Spammers, but usually it will be "abuse@" followed by the provider's name. For example, "abuse@yahoo.com."

You need to forward the Spam message to the "abuse@" address, making sure that you have the full header showing. Now the problem with that is that you had to open the Spam to forward it. Guess what? The Spammer may now know that you read the message and you will again be inundated.

Maybe it's worth it to you just to report. However, I have reported Spammers numerous times and all it got me was some very nice automatic responses and an *increase* in Spam mail.

Now, you can use certain tools to try and trace the Spammers yourself and report them.

For example, Whois (<http://www.cix.co.uk/~net-services/spam/whois.htm>) from Net Services is supposed to show information on the originator of the mail. You can then send a complaint to their provider.

Another program from Net Services is Spam Hater ([http://www.cix.co.uk/~net-services/spam/spam\\_hater.htm](http://www.cix.co.uk/~net-services/spam/spam_hater.htm)). This program is supposed to help you trace and report Spammers as well. I haven't tried either (Whois is freeware by the way), but they may be worth a look.

### Accept Fate, But Reduce the Pain

As you may have noticed by now, I'm a bit of a fatalist. Then too, I don't

have time to go chasing Spammers and I'll bet you don't either. Of course, if you're truly committed to going after the vermin, I applaud you. If I were retired or even just single, I would certainly take a shot at them now and then.

All I do is delete any and all messages that I do not recognize.

That's it. The whole Tamale.

Spammers have a way to get notices that you opened their mail. I'll say it again, whenever you open a Spam message, the Spammer knows it. Now you have just verified that your address is valid. Your address will be sold. You will get more Spam. End of story.

Whenever I forwarded Spam from Hotmail accounts to [abuse@hotmail.com](mailto:abuse@hotmail.com) to report them, I got replies that there was nothing that could be done because the addresses in the message were fake. Within days, I was flooded with Spam from hotmail addresses. The same results from Yahoo and Netscape. On and on.

When I started simply deleting the Spam, the volume slowly decreased.

Well, on my Hotmail account there is one other thing I do; perhaps your account has a similar feature. In Options go to Inbox Protector under Mail Handling. In the Level of Protection, select Custom and then check *only* "Your address appears on the "To:" or "Cc" line" and "The sender's address is in your Hotmail Address Book." This seems to have cut down on my Spam somewhat, but it's not certain.

Well, that's it. The sites listed next can give you much more information. If you really want to fight, check them out.

### More Info and Help

Here are links to some sites that will give you more information and help on fighting Spam

- JMHO on Spam (<http://home.att.net/~marjie1/index.htm>): Great information site.

- Spam Cop (<http://spamcop.net/>): Spam free e-mail and reporting assistance along with more info.

- Fight Spam on the Internet (<http://spam.abuse.net/>): More info and some tools!

- Spam FAQ ([www.mall-net.com/spamfaq.html](http://www.mall-net.com/spamfaq.html)): Some good resources, redundant info, a stirring call to arms!

---

**Brian** has worked in Tech Writing, Training, Quality Testing and Help Desk, as well as some Web Development. He is a regular at the Internet SIG.

## New Members

3/23/2001 thru 4/22/2001

Bob Rottmann  
John Worthington  
Mark Bogues  
Joe Sabal  
Gerald & Roberta Gigon  
Zakir Ali  
David Bailey  
Bruce Buzby

### THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

If the membership date on your mailing label reads

**EXP 032001  
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/FAIRFIELDCTY	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

# Random Access

## Random Access—April 2001

Bruce Preston, Moderator

Members who are unable to attend the General Meeting may submit questions to [askdacs@aol.com](mailto:askdacs@aol.com) — they will be presented at the meeting, and the response(s) will be placed in the Random Access column.

**Q. (askdacs) I have been using Windows 98 on my 700MHz Pentium w/ 128MB of RAM. Periodically I receive an error message noting that my memory resources have dropped to too low a level. This is detected by First Aid 97 software. It reports that GDI resources are below 20%, User resources are below 20%, System resources are below 20%, and Free Memory below 2%. What levels should I set for triggers, and what should I do?**

A. The consensus was to stop using First Aid 97 — it has problems, and it consumes the very resources that it is complaining about. If you want to check to see where things are, just use the System Monitor that comes within Windows 95, 98, Me, NT and 2K. We don't recommend running it all the time, but rather as a check tool.

**Q. (askdacs) In Win 98, my mouse has a tendency to free up for about five or six seconds. This is usually a minor inconvenience, but if I am using a sound-editing program (CoolEdit) to record music to a CD from a DAT it drops the music. I have to start recording at the beginning again.**

A. The first question was "Does he have a fast enough processor for conversion and burning?" We don't know. We will assume that you do. The next thing to check is to make sure that DMA (Direct Memory Access) is activated for the devices (hard disk and CDRW) involved. This means the devices need not bother the CPU for memory to device

transfer. Lastly, it was recommended that you SCANDISK, then DEFRAG, then establish a very large fixed size swap file rather than the default dynamic swap file managed by Windows. The swap file size is controlled in Control Panel / System / Performance. Lastly, you might try slowing the write speed of the CDRW down from 16X if that is what you are trying to burn at.



**Q. In Windows 2000 I do the shutdown request, it shuts down, but then it powers up on its own. What's going on?**

A. Some motherboards support "Wake On Lan" and/or "Wake On Modem" which permit activity on the network card or the modem to wake the machine up. If you don't want this feature, you have to go into the BIOS and disable it. Follow up revealed that you have a cable modem — and even though you have a firewall, yes, even an innocuous 'ping' will tickle the Wake On Lan capability.

**Q. I am running Windows 98 and System Tools reveals that the Kernel usage is high even though I am not really doing anything. Should Kernel usage be high when the machine is idle?**

A. No. It should be down under 5%. We suggest that you go get STARTSTOP, a completely free download from <http://www.tfi-technology.com/startstop.htm> and install it. It will give you the opportunity to control what gets started at boot time. Not to scare you, but if you are on a cable modem or a DSL line, you may want to check to make sure that you haven't been hit by the "Bymer Internet Worm" which uses "spare" CPU cycles to try to break a coded

message by brute-force calculations — it works its way into machines through the internet and then tries to solve a puzzle posed by an encryption vendor. If your anti-virus signature files are up to date, it should have found it.

**Q. Everything I read tells me that having TEMP files can really slow your machine down. Why do they exist, and why don't they disappear? Why isn't there an automatic way to get rid of them?**

A. Anything that is in your TEMP directory (C:\TEMP or C:\WINDOWS\TEMP) should be fair game for deletion immediately after booting. If you look at the creation date of a file in the temp folders, and the date and time is earlier than when you booted the machine — the file may be deleted. Files are often left there after doing an install, or if a program is shut down abnormally. Once you start an application, such as a word processor, it will create temporary files, and may hold them 'open' which means that you can't (and shouldn't!) delete them until the application closes.

**Q. Is anyone using the AT&T internet service at \$4.95/month? Comments?**

A. Several people reported that it is just fine—if you can stand the advertising. You get 150 hours/month, six email addresses, and 60MB of space. You can't get rid of the advertising; it is controlled by the dial-up connection for the service. If you get rid of the dial-up connection, or use a different dial-up connection, you can't get in.

**Q. I have an IBM Aptiva with Windows 98. Should I leave it on when I am not using it, or just turn off the screen, or use the "suspend mode" option?**

A. There have been problems with "suspend mode" where it won't start up properly, perhaps because the hard drive doesn't come up to ready speed in time to reload the suspend image. We suggest that you leave the machine on all day, but turn it off when it is not going to be used for a

long time, such as overnight. There are certain stresses put on the hard disk, the power supply and circuit boards when you start them up from a 'cold' state—enough that it is probably more cost and energy efficient to leave it on and idle. If your monitor has an energy saving feature that blanks the screen (rather than just activate a screen saver), then use it.

**Q. Is there any place where I can get a monitor repaired? Is it worth it?**

A. There had been a place in Brookfield that did it, but we haven't seen him lately. There is also a company that shows up at some of the local 'computer fairs' that sells refurbished displays, but we haven't seen him much lately either. That's probably because the price for displays has come down so much that it just doesn't make economic sense to repair them when they go bad. An exception is that you can sometimes find 'new' refurbished units—these are displays that were returned to the vendors immediately after being sold and repaired. They can not be sold as new, and are thus sold at a deep discount. You can sometimes find these on the internet, or at the occasional computer fair.

**Q. The keypad portion of my IBM desktop machine's keyboard will not let me reliably type the '0' key when I am in a DOS application. This causes a real problem when we are putting in costs. For Windows applications there has never been a problem. It is not a USB keyboard. Any suggestions?**

A. The idea that we could come up with is that perhaps you have inadvertently loaded a keyboard macro program in your DOS environment—such as the old *SideKick*, or *Lightning* applications—with these you can assign a sequence of characters to an arbitrary key and use it to emit one or more characters. This can even be done with the ANSLSYS driver.

*Bruce Preston is president of West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield, CT, specializing in database applications. Members may send queries to Bruce at askdacs@aol.com. Responses will be published in the next issue of dacs.doc*

*GoLive, Continued from page 7*

chased a more powerful one from GoLive Technologies. GoLive then became the centerpiece for Adobe's Web Collection, along with up-dated versions of Photoshop, Illustrator and LiveMotion that have been retooled to work as a team.

A key element of the new GoLive is dynamic linking of Web content—just drag an item to be linked and a string follows your cursor to the associated file. Try to link to an unrelated file, and the line drops and dangles. Dynamic linking lets you quickly navigate between Web elements and the applications in which they were created.

Another great feature is Smart Objects. You can take slices of Photoshop images, such as a logo, and drag and drop them into place holders around your Web site. The place holders are linked to the original Photoshop file. You can then resize the object in the Web editor using data in the original file without changing the Photoshop image from which it is derived. This process can be repeated to create many more objects, each based on the same image.

You can use Photoshop to design your Web page and then import it directly into GoLive as HTML. Each layer of the Photoshop file can be saved as a separate image and stored in floating boxes. The images can then be stacked together or placed separately.

But I have little space left, and need more time to surf the Adobe site for more tips and tricks. You can make your own way through a wealth of how-to documents and tutorials by visiting the Adobe site at [www.adobe.com/products/tips/golive.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/tips/golive.html).

*Allan is president of DACS, and an advanced novice user who adores Adobe products.*

## 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**

One- to four-color printing  
Direct from disk high speed  
black & white and color copying  
now available

For All Your Printing, Graphics, and Copying Needs



3 Commerce Drive  
Danbury, CT 06810  
(203)792-5045  
Fax (203)792-5064  
[mail@rapid-repro.com](mailto:mail@rapid-repro.com)

PRSRT STD  
AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Danbury, CT  
PERMIT NO. 237

## Computer Donations Welcomed

The DACS computer project is accepting the following items  
(in working condition):

- Mice with PS2 type connectors
- 101 type keyboards with PS2 type connectors
- RAM modules (8 meg or larger)
- IBM compatible Computers with Pentium processors (75 Mhz or faster)
- IBM compatible Computers with 1 gigabyte (or larger) hard drives
- VGA or SVGA monitors
- Laser printers.
- Volunteers

To arrange a donation, call 203-431-1500

## 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

May 1 • MGI Software - PhotoSuite & VideoWave  
May 9 • Assistive Technology at Datahr  
June 5 • Microsoft Corp. - TBA

## 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**  
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.

Up -  
Up -

### 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. 2001

Call for latest prices!