



November 2001

Volume 12, Issue 11

XP Expo

Microsoft is scheduled to offer its new operating system by the end of the month. Most DACS members and computer users have heard about XP, and may be wondering what's in it for them. The November meeting is the time to see for yourself and ask all those pertinent questions as DACS, always at the forefront of technology, is inviting Microsoft to present XP.

The general meeting will be held on November 6th and John Stroiney, Microsoft's representative, will demonstrate and explain Windows XP to members and visitors. The meeting will take place at Danbury Hospital Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. with the Microsoft presentation at 8 p.m.

Making Connections

Help others without having to leave the comfort of your home. With "remote assistance," users needing help can invite a friend or support professional to connect to their computer over the Internet to fix a problem or answer a question. If your friends need help with their computers, you can do it from your own machine.

Digital Photos

Record life's memories by easily acquiring, organizing, and sharing digital photos. Windows XP will help you get digital images from a scanner, web page or digital camera and then keep them organized the way you want them. Once you have them, with just a few clicks, you can print the images on your color printer, send them to a photo finisher to create prints or automatically optimize them to email to friends.

Music

You'll see the new Windows Media Player, the all-in-one place for the discovery, download, storage, and playback of the highest quality digital music. Windows Media Player allows you to create custom play lists based on artists, titles or genres. You

can easily burn CDs or move songs to your portable music device. With the WMA file format, you get CD-quality sound at half the file size of an .MP3 file.

Video

Windows XP's Movie Maker feature makes everyone a director. It gives you everything you need to create, share, and enjoy videos on your computer. You'll be quickly able to edit your home movies or digital video footage. Windows Media Player also does a great job playing DVD videos.

Entertainment

With dramatic enhancements to the audio and video performance, your games have never sounded and looked this good. Hear it and see it for yourself.

Communication

With the new Windows Messenger, you can communicate with your friends and family. With a microphone and camera, you can easily add voice and video to make this a great way to stay in touch with loved ones.

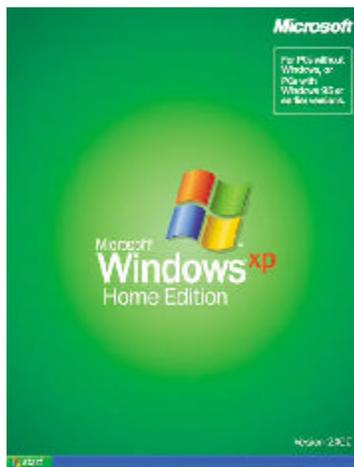
Connected Home

Easily connect and share the computers and devices in your home. If you've got more than one computer in your house, the home networking wizard will make it much easier for you to connect them to each other and share printers and other devices.

Take advantage of the November DACS meeting to satisfy your curiosity about Microsoft's latest operating system. Bring a friend with you, as general meetings are always free and open to the public. They take place on the 1st Tuesday of the month at Danbury Hospital Auditorium. For additional information about DACS, the

general meeting or the SIG meetings, please check www.dacs.org, or call the resource center at 203-748-4330.

Coming in December: John Patrick, IBM VP of Internet Technology.



President's File



In my last column, I pondered the fear and uncertainty that had arisen following the attack on the World Trade Center and the specter of a struggle that extended to Internet commerce. One month later, although

much of the uncertainty remains, there is a growing sense that the Internet threats are being contained and that many of the original fears may have been unfounded.

A sober reassessment of the terrorists' capabilities would indicate that they have little practical use for digital technology, other than for e-mail communication and document transmission. Despite fears of embedded messages, a panel of experts scanned a sample of porn sites pixel-by-pixel and found no encrypted codes other than those which flag Internet search engines to put them at the top of the list (at this close-up resolution, the x-rated pictures were probably as stimulating as Gulliver's view of the brobdignagian women). There are reports that Bin Laden communicates primarily by word of mouth, leaving the further dissemination of his plans to his subordinates. If there is any hidden meaning in the terrorists' taped messages, it is drowned out by their self-incriminating threats.

Still, don't let your anti virus programs get out of date—the hackers are still at large, and looking for new ways to penetrate even the most solid digital defenses and fire walls.

Return of Bucky Milam

A sign of getting back to normal is the return of Bucky Milam following a month's hiatus. For Bucky, computing is an out of

body experience, having yet to make that first personal step into the information age. His perspective stems from Marshall McLuhan's view of modern culture, whereby the PC adds a fumbling level of interactivity to the passive indulgence of the TV tube. It is a refreshing irreverence that reminds us that we should never take ourselves, or our chosen avocation, too seriously.

XP Expo

If you haven't spent your tax rebate yet, get ready. Microsoft is coming out with its latest version of Windows, and it's a blockbuster. With XP, Bill Gates is carrying his battle for control of the desktop into cyberspace, and it will take nothing less that warp power to make it run. Come for a test drive at the meeting on November 6.

Microsoft and Intel are betting that adding more functionality to Windows will tie up resources. That will jump-start PC sales by invoking Moore's law, the dictum that chip capacity doubles every eighteen months to accommodate increased needs. PC sales had already been declining before the terrorist attack in September, and whether this strategy succeeds may be due more to the computing public's willingness to absorb yet another upgrade along with the processing power to make it work.

Is Windows XP the desktop's final frontier? Will the information highway become just a back road in Microsoft Country? Will the Justice Department shrivel up and become an icon on the Start/Shutdown menu? You probably won't get the answers to these questions at the next meeting; but you're guaranteed to get a glimpse at what's in store for at least the next year, and be thoroughly entertained in the process.

Election time

December 5 is the date for DACS' annual membership meeting and Board election. Board members are chosen for two year terms, with half up for reelection each year. Six seats are up this year, with one vacancy announced. Volunteers are urgently needed to run for these positions, with a stipulation that all be willing to roll up their sleeves and contribute sweat equity to the tasks at hand.

If you would like to be a candidate, please contact our nominating committee, Marlène Gaberel (mgaberel@earthlink.net) Or Don Neary (donneary@prodigy.net).

ALLAN OSTERGREN
DACSPREZ@AOL.COM

Membership Information

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The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Frances Owles (860) 868-0077 (jones@ct1.nai.net) or Allan Ostergren at 860-210-0047 (dacseditor@aol.com). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 (aam@mags.net).

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HelpLine

Volunteers have offered to field *member* questions by phone. Please limit calls to the hours indicated below. Days means 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; evening means 6 to 9:30 p.m. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are calling. HelpLine is a free service. If you are asked to pay for help or are solicited for sales, please contact the *dacs.doc* editor; the person requesting payment will be deleted from the listing. Can we add your name to the volunteer listing?

d = day **e** = evening

Program	Name	Phone #	
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)
Macintosh OS	Matthew Greger	(203) 748-2919	(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)
HTML/Java	James Costello	(203) 426-0097	(e)
Windows	Nick Strother	(203) 743-5667	(e)

Directors' Notes

A meeting of the Board of Directors of ADACS was held at the RC on October 8, 2001 at 7:30p.m. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Greger, Neary, Ostergren and Setaro and Mrs. Gaberel. President Ostergren presided and Secretary Buoy kept the record. The minutes of the September 10 meeting were accepted with corrections.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported total CDs, Checking and Postal accounts of \$21,492.25 and postage on hand of \$73.70, a total of 21,565.95, less prepaid dues of \$7,622.00, for a net of \$13,943.95. Current membership of 474 was also reported.

The first order of business was definitive action regarding the DACS marketing plan authorized at the September meeting in relation to the target General Meetings for November and December involving Microsoft's XP OS and John Patrick's traditional talk, respectively. Matthew Greger and Jeff Setaro informed the Board of the results of their investigation of rates for the print and radio media. It was agreed that, within the budget of \$2,000.00 set, paid advertisements for each of the November and December meetings be placed two times per week during the two weeks prior to each meeting and that radio spots be arranged for each of the two days prior to each meeting. Discussions were also had regarding additional publicity efforts with respect to these two meetings. Larry Buoy agreed to attempt negotiations with higher echelon management of The News-Times for some type of future cooperative endeavors with respect to keeping DACS' activities in the public eye.

Brief mention was made regarding conflict with the availability of the Hospital's auditorium for the October meeting.

The Board was reminded of the upcoming election of six directors at the December General Meeting and Don Neary agreed to act as a nominating committee to canvass the incumbents willing to stand for reelection and prospective candidates for any vacancies.

Charles Bovaird mentioned that the installation of DSL service at the RC would require the purchase of a router and he was authorized to do so.

Also discussed were any possible initiatives by DACS to promote the release of John Patrick's book in connection with Mr. Patrick's presentation for the December General Meeting.

—LARRY BUOY



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Kids Corner

Delta Force Land Warrior

By Joshua Gaberel

Delta force land warrior is probably the best 1st person shooter game that I have ever played. It is not only the campaigns and the missions and graphics that are excellent but it is also Nova world, the Internet multiplayer. It is unlike any ordinary internet game playing. It is a lot easier, because the only thing you have to do is click once and you are there.

For other multi-player games, if I ever wanted to play against anybody else I had to type in codes and numbers and a variety of different things. With Nova World all you have to do is select a char-

acter and a weapon then choose where you want to go and you have no problem you're playing against up to 50 players in

about 2 minutes. In the missions and campaigns there are a variety of weapons that you can use. Some of the weapons are sniper rifles and pistols and machineguns. They also have the new OCIW land warrior, which is the newest weapon in the United States Army. Also, the characters are different. There are two women—one is good at close quarters combat and the other is a good swimmer. There are three men—one is a sniper, another is a heavy gunner, and the third is an expert in explosives. There are also a wide variety of places to fight; for example, you find jungles, deserts, winter forests, cities, oil rigs, and islands in the middle of an ocean.

This game is really good, because you can go wherever you want; there are no boundaries like there are in other games. The rating is Teen, for animated violence and animated blood. It requires the higher end Nvidia 3D video card. Direct X 7.0 is enclosed with the game, if not installed on your computer. Multiplayer over the Internet is best if played with a fast (DSL or cable) connection. I would not try to play this game with a dial-up connection.

For more information go to www.novalogic.com/

JOSHUA GABEREL is the son of DACS Publicity Director *Marlene Gaberel*, and a regular reviewer of computer games.



acter and a weapon then choose where you want to go and you have no problem you're playing against up to 50 players in



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The
management

Making Waves

Connecting Your PC to Your Stereo

By Bruce Fries
author of *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook*.

If you've taken the time to put your music collection on your computer, you'll probably want to listen to it through a good stereo system. Even if your stereo isn't in the same room as your computer, there are several options for connecting the two, including direct analog cabling, USB Audio devices, wireless audio transmitters, and network audio receivers.

The most basic concept of connecting audio equipment is that inputs must always be connected to outputs. Sometimes you will still get sound if you mistakenly connect a sound card output to an output of a stereo receiver. When in doubt, connect the sound card output to the CD jack on your stereo—it's always an input.

Connect high-level (also called line-level) outputs to high-level inputs, and connect low-level outputs (such as a microphone) to low-level (Mic) inputs. Do not use the receiver's phono input jack because this is designed for a very low-level signal and has a special equalization circuit. Avoid using the sound card's headphone or microphone jack to connect to other equipment unless you have no other choice.

Most consumer sound cards have 1/8" mini phone jacks. A mono jack is used for the microphone input, and stereo jacks are used for the line-in, line-out and headphone. Better sound cards may have separate RCA jacks for the left and right channels. These are the same kind of jacks found on most home stereo systems. High-end sound cards may also have connectors for digital inputs and outputs.

The simplest connection between a computer and a stereo system is to run a cable directly from the sound card's line output to a line input of your stereo. To record from your stereo system to your computer, connect a cable from a line-out (or record) jack on your receiver to the line-in jack on your sound card.

If your sound card's line output is an 1/8" stereo mini-phone jack, you'll need an adapter cable (male 1/8" stereo mini-phone to dual male RCA). These

cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics.

USB audio devices perform the basic functions of a sound card, but outside of the PC, and are less likely to pick up noise from the PC's electronics. USB audio devices can be used for both recording and playback and are a good solution for notebook computer users who want higher quality sound.

The Roland UA-30 (www.edirol.com) is a flexible USB audio device that supports both Macs and PCs. The UA-30 works great and includes just about every type of input and output connector you might possibly need.

Wireless audio devices can transmit a stereo audio signal up to 300 feet. These devices typically include a transmitter and a receiver with standard RCA line-level input and output jacks. Wireless audio devices provide more flexibility than hard cabled connections, but are much more prone to interference compared to other types of connections.

The MP3 Anywhere Digital Audio Sender by X10 (www.X10.com) is a good wireless audio device for most users. It sells for under \$100 and uses the 2.4 GHz spectrum to reduce interfer-

ence and provide a high quality connection. The MP3 Anywhere also includes a remote control and software, which allow you to control most popular player programs.

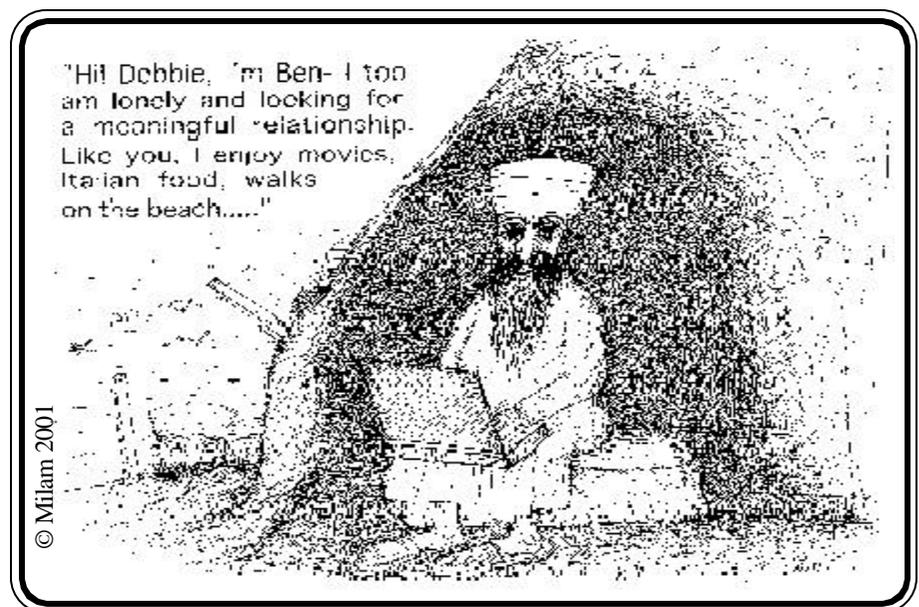
The ideal way to transmit audio from your PC throughout your house is by streaming the audio from your PC via a network. A network audio connection eliminates the loss of high frequencies, interference and hum typical of analog cable and wireless connections.

The Rio Receiver (www.riohome.com) is a very capable network audio device that allows you to access individual songs and playlists from your PC anywhere you have a telephone or network jack. The Rio has an LCD interface that displays song title, artist name and other information, and also includes a remote control.

Whatever your choice of PC to stereo connection, you will be able to use your computer as a digital jukebox and take full advantage of the latest digital music technologies to play high-quality music anywhere in your house.

For more information on connecting your PC to your stereo, pick up a copy of *The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook* (\$19.95) from www.TeamComBooks.com or read it online for free at www.MP3Handbook.com.

BRUCE FRIES is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.



Meeting Review

Going Once...Going Twice... ...Sold in Seven Days

By Marc Cohen

As the Arlo Guthrie song goes, "You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant". On eBay the anything is all laid out for you on your computer screen. No more trudging through hot and dusty aisles and aisles of stuff on a stifling July afternoon, and best of all, a cool drink is as near as your refrigerator.

The October meeting was led by our own father and son team of Bruce and Scott Preston. Starting with a carefully crafted PowerPoint slide introduction to the intricacies of eBay, they then showed us how anyone with an internet connection can participate. This is a place where buyers and sellers can meet at the world's greatest perpetual flea market. Anything from new CDs to old LPs and 45s, (rpm records, not automatics), first editions, used paperbacks, automobiles, autoparts, house furnishings, new to antique. Almost anything that someone wants to buy or sell can be found here and the search is made easy. Typing one or two words in a search box or by browsing through thousands of categories and sub-categories will lead you to your dream. I did say almost anything can be found here, except, weapons, drugs, live animals, offensive materials, Nazi memorabilia, counterfeits, pesticides, Etc.

Links to many topics about the mechanics of working with eBay can be found at <http://pages.ebay.com/sitemap.html>

Bruce and Scott then logged onto eBay and as a buyer did a word search for some obscure items starting with 'Lincoln Welders', an industrial tool. They then followed with 'Lincoln Logs', a toy, then off to a 'log cabin quilt', home furnishing, and then a quick look at 'Log Cabin Maple Syrup'. (Remember the tin log cabin shaped can the syrup came in?) There were more than one item in each category with descriptions, photographs and the current bids price for each. At the bottom of each item is a 'place a bid' form. Enter your bid and your eBay user name and password. If this is your first bid, there is

a link on every listing page so you can register. You will need to pick an eBay user name and password and your name, address and e-mail address. First time sellers have to register on the appropriate seller's form linked to the 'sell your item' page. If someone outbids you or if you win the bid, eBay will notify you via e-mail. An

Danbury Area Computer Society

presents

Buying and Selling on



Bruce and Scott Preston

General Meeting - October 9, 2001

other bidding choice is to place a proxy bid, eBay will then automatically increase your bid by minimum increments over the current high bid up to your proxy limit. Most auctions last exactly 7 days.

At the end of the auction, eBay will notify both buyer and seller including their e-mail addresses. The buyer and seller must then contact each other to complete the sale.

eBay does not get involved in the payment process other than to collect their fees. eBay charges the seller a listing fee that ranges from \$0.30 for items under \$10.00 to \$3.50 for items \$200 and up. In addition, there are optional features available at nominal fees - bold or highlighted listings, the gallery, featured listings and for additional pictures after the first, when hosted by eBay's Picture Service, 'iPix'. You may use HTML to enhance the appearance of your listing at no charge. A seller can also elect to have the auction last 3, 5, or 10 days. again for a small additional fee. eBay also has one last seller's fee based on the final selling price starting at 5.0% of the first \$25.00 reducing in

increments to 1.25% on items selling for over \$1000. If you decide to sell an item you will need to provide a credit card number against which eBay will charge listing and commission fees. Photos can be stored in eBay's picture service 'iPix' or any other free or fee based image hosting service.

Really expensive items like houses and automobiles have a separate fee schedule.

After Bruce took a photo of one of our mugs, Scott edited it for faster downloading, and with a few quick clicks, placed it up for auction on eBay by filling in the 'Sell Your Item' form, adding a brief description and photos of our wonderful mug. The seller also must list any addi-

tions, above the bid price such as: State Taxes, Shipping and Handling, and Insurance. At this time the seller may also set a 'reserve price' (the price below which he will not sell) and a 'sell it now' price (if met this will end the auction in an immediate sale). The seller's listing also includes a method of payment, ie, personal check, money order, cashier check or credit card. Payments can be handled through eBay's payment option (another small fee) or thru an independent payment company such as 'PayPal'. By the way, some one bought the mug for \$1.00, so I

guess Bruce will have to finish the transaction.

To establish a level of trust between buyers and sellers eBay asks each participant in transactions to rate each other and there is place to add a brief comment. These ratings are permanent and available for all to see. A net of 3 negative comments will get you blackballed from future eBay transactions. This is probably better credit information than you can get from most freestanding retail establishments or customers.

Finally, you won't have to worry about casually scratching your nose and end up buying some unwanted item. So let's all get out there and follow the President's advice by spending money and stirring up the economy in these trying times....

MARC a founder of the Danbury Osborne Group in 1982 (one of the groups now incorporated into DACS) is currently the production editor of DACS.DOC and a long time board member, considers himself a perpetual computer novice, looking at the computer as a tool for simplifying business problems, not for creating new ones.

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: August 2001

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

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

Next meeting: Nov. 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*.

Contact: Don Pearson, 914 669-9622 (*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: Nov. 14

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*)

Next meeting: Nov. 8

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

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

Next Meeting: Nov. 28

INTERNET. Acquaints DACS members with the Internet.

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

Next Meeting: Looking for new leader

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

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

Next Meeting: Oct 15

MACINTOSH. Discusses Macintosh hardware and software.

Contact: Matthew Greger, 203 748-2919, (*matthewg@thebusinesshelper.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*) or Jim Scheef, 860 355-8001 (*JScheef@Telemarksys.com*).

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

Next Meeting: Oct 3

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*).

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*). Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Oct 29

WEB SITE DESIGN. Fundamentals of design for the Internet.

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

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

Next Meeting: Oct 10

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.

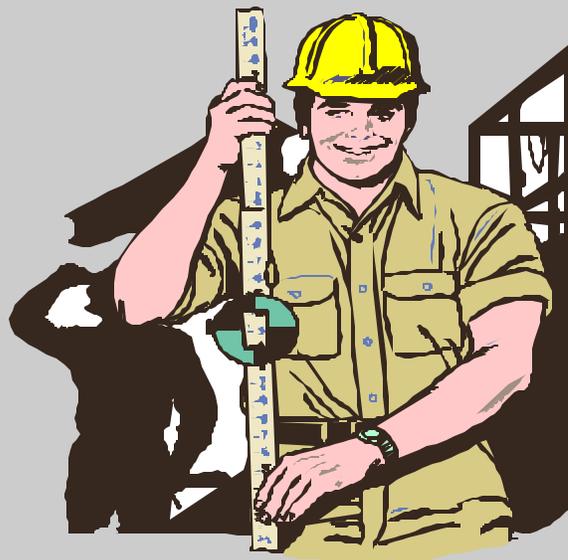
Internet. The Internet Special Interest Group meets [usually] at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the DACS Resource Center on the lower level of Ives Manor, located at 198 Main Street, a few buildings north from the Danbury Public Library. Open discussion of interesting sites and other Internet matters precedes and follows the presentation.

The SIG is looking for a new leader. Contact Richard Koser at *rkoser@worldnet.att.net*.

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.

Web Site Design. It was great seeing everyone again and it was even better seeing some new faces. Our topic for next month's meeting is An Exploration into Adobe Photoshop and Image Ready. During this session we will take some pictures using our digital camera and then bring them into Photoshop for enhancement. It should prove to be an interesting night for both the beginner and advance web designers. This will also be an opportunity for YOU to bring in a photo (on a CD) or email us your photo that needs HELP.

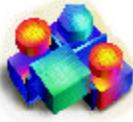
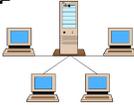
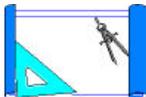
The meeting will be held at the DACS Resource Center on the lower level of the Ives Manor at 7pm. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Matthew Greger at 203-748-2919 or email at *Matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com*.



Under Construction
Need more fill for this site

November 2001

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	 7:00 PM GENERAL MEETING Windows XP	 7:00 PM Visual Basic Chuck Fizer 203 798-9996	 7:00 PM BACK OFFICE Jim Scheef 860 355-0034	9	10
11	 7:30 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS	 7:00 PM ACCESS Bruce Preston 203 431-2920	7:30 PM ADVANCED OS Don Pearson 914 669-9622 7:00 PM DACS RC WEB DESIGN Matthew Greger 203 748-2919	 7:30 PM INVESTMENT Paul Gehrett 203 426-8436	16	 NEWSLETTER SIG NEWS DEADLINE
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	 7:00 PM WALL STREET Phil Dilloway 203 367-1202	27	 7:00 PM GRAPHICS Ken Graff 203 775-6667	29	30	

Intellectual Property

Copyright Law

By Francis G. Pennarola, Esq.

The growth of the Internet has brought to the forefront three relatively obscure areas of the law - copyright, trademark and patent. The three are commonly grouped together under the title "Intellectual Property." As the Napster case demonstrates, despite the ease with which original works may be digitized and copied, the guiding principles of intellectual property law remain. In this column, I'll focus on copyright law, leaving trademark and patent law to the next.

What is copyright?

Copyright is the protection extended to original works of authorship that are fixed in a tangible medium of expression. U. S. Copyright Law protects the form of the expression of ideas but not the underlying ideas.

For what may copyright protection be obtained?

Among other things:

- literary works including computer software and databases;
- musical works, including any accompanying words;
- pictorial, graphic and sculptural works (including photographs);
- websites; and
- sound recordings.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

What is not protected?

Copyright protection does not extend to any idea, procedure, process system, method of operation, concept, principle or discovery, regardless of the form in which it is described, explained, illustrated or embodied in such work. For example, the writing in which Albert Einstein first expressed his Theory of

General Relativity would be protected by copyright, but not the Theory itself. Facts are not protected.



How does one obtain a copyright? The answer is deceptively simple. A copyright exists in the original work from the moment of creation. No registration is required to create a copyright. In order, however, to bring an action for infringement, the copyright must be registered with the U. S. Copyright Office, part of the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov). This is an excellent resource for forms and explanatory materials.

What are the rights of the copyright owner?

The copyright owner has the exclusive right to do and authorize any of the following:

- reproduce the copyrighted work.
- prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted work;
- distribute copies of the work to the public by sale, rental, lease, etc.; and
- perform the copyrighted work publicly.

There are other exclusive rights as well.

How does one enforce a copyright?

Copyright infringement actions are brought in Federal Court. The key to enforcement is to first register the copyright office and then commence the action.

Who is the owner of the copyright?

Generally, the person who creates the work is the owner of the copyright. For instance, if I hire a photographer to take my picture, absent any agreement to the contrary, the photographer owns the copyright in the photograph. I am entitled to the picture I buy, but I do not have the right to reproduce it absent an agreement with the photographer. Further, a photographer who agrees that a photograph may be used in print still has the exclusive right to publish it on the web.

The exception to this rule is the "Work for Hire" doctrine. An employee who is paid to take the photograph does not own the copyright in it. His employer does. Similarly, if pursuant to a written contract, an independent contractor agrees that the copyright belongs to the person hiring her, that person owns the copyright.

Copyright violations and infringements are rampant on the Internet. The Napster case is but the tip of the iceberg. New models have to be developed to compensate the creators of original works, or there will be little incentive for them to produce.

Francis G. Pennarola is a member of the law firm of Chipman, Mazzucco, Land & Pennarola, LLC in Danbury. He regularly represents clients in the IT, website development and advertising fields.

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Legal services to
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SeniorNet

Volunteer Opportunities

As an all-volunteer organization, the Danbury SeniorNet Learning Center relies entirely on our 60-member team to support all Center programs and activities.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, but they have one common theme – the desire to assist older adults with their entry into the age of computer technology. The many talents they have to share, the energy they expend and their willingness to go the extra mile continually amaze us. We know over 250 students a year are grateful for having this tremendous resource of volunteer power available in the Greater Danbury area.

SeniorNet is both a part-time and a flexible commitment – within certain limitations you can determine the hours of the day, days of the week and months of the year that you want to be involved. Want to increase participation – great. Need to take time off – no problem.

Here is what we can offer prospective volunteers:

Opportunities for **instructors** and **coaches** are available for individuals with a basic working knowledge of computer software and hardware. Instructors lead each class following the outline provided in the course workbook. Coaches sit with and guide the students to ensure they are taking the prescribed steps. There is usually one coach for every two to three students. (Coaching positions can be used to train those aspiring to be instructors).

Volunteers should also possess the desire and skills to impart their knowledge to others in a 'team based' and 'user friendly' environment. Most courses are offered during the daytime. Additional offerings may take place in the evening and on weekends, if volunteers are available to support this effort. Future offerings such as Quicken, basic graphics, multimedia applications and genealogy will depend on the interests of the students and the skill sets of the volunteers.

More opportunities exist for volunteers skilled in providing technical assistance for **hardware and software installation and maintenance**. Others – skilled in **public relations, newsletter production, photography and computer course text development** or related areas – can be utilized in our organization.

As a SeniorNet volunteer, you have an opportunity to use your talents and skills to benefit others and possibly acquire new skills in the process. You will work in a challenging and inspiring environment and meet many new people, both staff and students, who share common goals. Add to this a complimentary membership in the national organization as long as you are providing service to the local chapter and the opportunity to take free Center courses.

To learn more about the SeniorNet Team and our exciting volunteer opportunities, please contact Jack Scully, Center Coordinator, at (203) 775-4411 or e-mail to jackscully@prodigy.net. It may change your life!

www.danbury.org/seniornet

Computer Shopping

Like New Duds the Dell Needs to Fit the Dude

By Mike Kaltschnee

I just went through the process of buying a new computer for my brother-in-law, and I thought I would share some of my observations with you. He approached me about getting a new computer, and since I buy "older" machines or build my own, this was a relatively new experience for me. No, I'm not going to tell you what he wound up paying. I don't want to get lots of e-mail from people telling me he paid too much. I will tell you he bought a Dell after much consideration, with the Sony Vaio being a close second choice. We talked several times before selecting the Dell, and even put together a list of things he wanted to do with it:

1. Internet e-mail, instant messaging, and Web browsing
2. Video editing (he had a DV camcorder)
3. Watch DVD movies
4. Make custom Music CD's
5. Homework and research for his daughter in high school
6. Connect to his DSL connection via a home network Neither he (nor his daughter) play games, so a bleeding edge machine wasn't required.

The budget was about \$1,500, which we very close to meeting. Some of the things you should consider when getting a computer:

1. Processor - get a Pentium 4. Don't buy anything else at this point.
2. Hard disk - as big as you can afford. Get the faster 7200rpm drive if you're going to be playing games or doing video editing.
3. RAM - there is no excuse for not getting 256 megabytes of RAM at this point. If it adds more than \$75 to the cost, then have a friend put one in a PC you buy separately.
4. Video card - very important. Get a 4x AGP card with at least 16mb of RAM, with 32mb or 64mb if you can.
5. Network card - comes with most now, and makes it easy to plug into a cable modem or DSL line.

6. Monitor - your old monitor will probably work but we got a 19" .26 dot pitch monitor as part of a bundle price to replace a really old, low-resolution monitor. This is your Window into the Internet and software, so make it a pleasant experience.

7. Software - make sure it comes with Windows Me or XP. A system restore CD will make the task of restoring your computer to factory settings a quick job. Works comes with most computers, but get the Office upgrade if you can afford it.

8. Warranty - how will you get a replacement for the monitor or hard disk that dies in 2 weeks after you get the computer. Ask. You might be surprised by the answer.

Mike's Tips for Buying A Computer

1. Really think about what you are going to do with it, and what you might do with it. Buy a little more speed than you think you need, but twice the RAM and hard drive. They are cheap additions now and save time later.

2. Get the type of machine you need. Windows is the most popular operating system, and while you can do most things on a Mac, there is more software for Windows. Buy the machine for the software you will use. Linux is not really for beginners, unless you want to learn (no flame mail - I like Linux, but wouldn't put my mother on it yet).

3. If you're not sure, enlist the help of a computer expert friend. They might be willing to work for a hot meal or a six-pack of beer. Ask them for their preferences, but keep in mind some might be biased towards the Mac or Linux (which are great options) but buy what you want, not what someone forces on you.

4. Watch for hidden costs, such as shipping. My first quote from Dell included a \$95 shipping and handling cost (they ran a free shipping special offer later). Also watch to see if they add tax to the order - if they don't, you might be responsible for paying it later (use tax).

5. Keep in mind the cost of software. If you want to have a full copy of

Microsoft Office, it could be as much as \$500 at the store, or just \$100 from your vendor. If your machine doesn't come with Windows, you might be paying \$200 for a copy if your machine dies or you need to update your system.

6. There is no such thing as a free lunch. We were able to price the same machine for much less, but it didn't have on-site service (which means I won't be fixing the machine) or a real copy of Windows (in case one is needed for a re-install).

7. Ask if there is a system restore disk for the computer. Things happen, and being able to return the computer to the way you got it from the factory quickly can make your life easier.

Before you ask why I didn't buy it at a show, I'll tell you. We spend quite a bit of time looking at computers at shows, and they sound really cheap. However, when I priced it vs. the Dell, they were about \$200 different. The show computer didn't include software (not even Windows), warranty, or decent manuals. If we had bought a show machine I would wind up spending the \$200 in MYtime fixing things. I'm not against saving money, if you feel comfortable buying a show computer, but my brother-in-law is not a computer person. He just wants to have fun - not be stressed out by it.

The Dell showed up about a week later. He set it up without me, and was able to get things going with minimal help from me, including burning CD's. There is a lot of value in the "Out of box" experience you get when setting up and using your computer. I think that alone makes the Dell worth a lot more than the \$200 difference in price.

Don't e-mail me about how much better another computer manufacturer is than Dell. You have to find a vendor you feel comfortable with, and that may be Gateway, Compaq, Apple (I have 2 Mac's), or HP. I asked a bunch of friends that buy computers, and all of them said "Dell." I also asked the salesmen at computer stores what was returned or had complaints, and Compaq was the worst of them, followed by HP. I hope this helps you find a computer if you're looking.

Don't be afraid to ask questions about the computer you're buying, as there is no such thing as a stupid question (except the one you are afraid to ask).

MIKE is a DACS member who needs to visit the Betty Ford Center for computer addiction. You can contact him by e-mail: mikek@demorgan.com.

Giving vs Taking

by Don Singleton
Director, APCUG

Membership in your local User Group offers a wonderful opportunity to learn more about computers. With practically no effort on your part, other than attending a meeting, you can sit and watch a very good program, presented by a knowledgeable speaker, and frequently you also get an opportunity to participate in a raffle or door prize drawing where you have a chance to win a nice program for your computer. Even if you don't want to come to meetings, membership gets you a copy of the monthly newsletter, which contains information about upcoming meeting programs, some of which you may decide you want to attend. It also contains technical articles, reviews, and other news to read at your leisure.

But your local User Group also offers an opportunity to get a lot more out your membership than you can possibly get by being passive. It offers the opportunity for you to become an active participant, and give something of your self (time, effort, knowledge, etc.) to benefit others. The inner satisfaction and rewards one gets from helping others are truly amazing.

People frequently point to the 80/20 rule, which is found in many aspects of life; for example, 20% of the people in an organization will do 80% of the work, while the remaining 80% of the people collectively do 20% of the work. Well, there is a further application of the 80/20 rule: the active 20% doing the work, are getting 80% of the pleasure out of the club, and the passive 80% get only 20% of the pleasure.

I encourage you to think about this for just a few minutes. Is there something that you could do to help others, so that you can see whether or not I am right?

You will certainly see that the returns from investing that effort to help others far outweighs the investment. Can you give just a little bit of your time, doing whatever you do best? Perhaps that is:

Making a few phone calls to try to arrange something we need (speakers for a SIG, a meeting place for a SIG, advertising for the newsletter, etc.)

Trying out a new computer program, and then writing a review of it for the newsletter, sharing what you liked and did not like about the program, so that

other members can benefit from your experiences.

Spending a little time in a one-on-one basis with a new member who just got a computer, or who just got a new program for his computer, and who is completely lost trying to figure out how to make it work.

Donating some of your time to help church workers, or workers in some charitable organization, who are having trouble getting the most out of their computers.

Spending a few hours sitting in a booth at a computer show, telling people that stop by the booth what your local User Group has to offer.

Presenting a program to your user group, or to another user group in town.

Speaking to a class in the public school system, telling them how computers are used in real life, and possibly sparking that interest that encourages them to work harder to learn how to use computers, or speaking to a group of public school teachers, teaching them things they don't know about computers, to better enable them to teach their students.

Leading, or helping to lead, a special interest group, enabling UG members interested in a particular subject or program,

to get together and share their experiences with others that have that same interest.

Joining us in the UG's Refurbishing Computers project, to help recondition old computers to be donated to some worthy non-profit agency, or other worthy recipient.

Spending some time adapting computers to aid the handicapped, so that a quadriplegic confined to bed or a wheelchair, and totally dependent on others, gains some control over his own life, whether it is something as simple as being able to turn the TV on and off without help from someone else, or whether it is a powerful as being able to communicate his thoughts, wishes, and ideas, when previously he may have been unable to seriously communicate with the outside world.

The elected officers, and the Special Interest Group leaders are all wonderful people, since most of them are Givers, rather than Takers. It is a real pleasure interacting with this group of generous UG Members, and they do a number of things to help make UG successful for the rest of the membership. But they can only do so much. There are many things that could be done, but are not currently being done, and I would be willing to bet your UG's President cannot in good conscience ask these Givers to give even more. Not that they would not accept the responsibility; they probably would, but he/she would run the risk of burning them out. What your President needs is a few more people to become Givers.

If you would be interested in helping your local User Group in any particular way, please let your President know. Things get pretty hectic at a meeting, so just mentioning your interest runs a risk that he/she may forget it when someone after you brings up something else entirely. But if you would write down your name, phone number, and the particular skills you have which you think your local User Group might be able to use, and perhaps an indication of the amount of time you would be able to devote each month, and either bring this to a meeting, or mail it to your President, he/she will do everything possible to match you up with a job you can handle, and you can start reaping the rewards of being a Giver.

And if your UG President can't find enough to keep you busy, contact president@apcug.org, and I bet Dan can find some committee in APCUG that could really use your help.



Random Access

October 2001

Bruce Preston, Moderator

Q. I have a Windows Me system, and in Windows Explorer, it gives me three 'window panes.' How do I get rid of the center one which has a graphic representation with a large icon that represents my hard drive?

A. Turn off the "Web View" which makes Windows Explorer behave similar to Internet Explorer, and the large icons will disappear. We recommend that you use the 'Details' view, as it provides you with a tabular, and sortable view of the contents of your file folders.

Q. I have two printers available to my machine - an HP 870Cse and an Epson Stylus Color 600. When I print the self-test pattern which can be generated by holding buttons when I start the printer, the print quality is excellent. However, the printing from applications is not nearly as good. When I connect the printers to a Mac, the print quality is also good. What might this be?

A. It sounds like the printer drivers are not correct, or the settings for the printers are not appropriate for the application. Within the properties page for the printer there is often a page called 'Color Management' which might be appropriate—for example this controls print quality as to 'proof', 'draft', 'normal', etc.

Q. I have a Canon printer. I would like to make the default print mode gray scale. Does anyone know how to do this?

A. We don't know of any way to make gray scale the default for the printer, however you may be able to make the default for a certain type of document to be gray scale. For example, in a word processing application, you could define a default template which defines the document as being gray scale.

Q. I have installed 256MB RAM SDRAM, and the machine now runs noticeably slower than what it had when I only had 128MB. Why would that be?

A. Is it possible that your original

SDRAM was 60ns PC133 memory and that you put in slower, say 70 or 80ns PC100 memory? If so, the system bus has detected that it is slower memory and had to slow down the entire machine to accommodate the slower memory. When you boot the machine, quite often on the start up screen during the Power On Self Test (POST), it will display the speed at which the memory is running. Your memory will run at the speed of the slowest component. On some machines, it must exactly match or it just plain won't run.

Q. I added memory to my machine, and expected to see 384MB, but it only reports 383MB. What happened to the rest of the memory?

A. The number that you see is 'extended' memory - the first 640KB is 'real' memory and is reported differently from extended memory. The reason for this is that the original machine and DOS were designed expecting an upper limit of 640KB for RAM (random access, or 'program' memory) and the addresses above 640KB (up to but not including 1MB) were reserved as addresses for devices—the most notable of which would be the video display, which was assumed to have memory starting at 640KB. Because there is the block of memory between lower 'standard' or 'real' memory and the extended memory, it has to be counted separately. While not applicable to your machine, we will note at this time that some 'entry level' machines from about 3 or four years ago often assigned extended memory and gave it to an onboard video chip to use as video memory. This only appears on machines that have 'integrated motherboards' - where the video adapter, as well as perhaps the sound card and modem are all on the motherboard. Thus, you might find that you appear to be 1, 2, 4 or even 8MB 'short.' Another situation where memory may appear to be gone is the case of "Shadow RAM." Here, slower

memory that is used for the BIOS code may be copied into high-speed memory, and the BIOS run from this faster RAM. This is usually a multiple of 64K, so you probably won't notice it.

Q. Do motherboards limit the amount of memory that can be in a DIMM socket?

A. Yes, some may have a limit of 64MB for a particular socket. Memory beyond this may be ignored. You would be advised to check the system specs in the book that came with the motherboard, or find them on the internet.

Q. I want to move data from a Windows 98 machine to a machine running Windows XP. Can I use the LapLink that I have on the Windows 95 machine?

A. A new release of LapLink was required for Windows 2000; I suspect that you need at least this release for Windows XP. Several suggested using 'Direct Connect' which is a parallel port connection that comes bundled within Windows; but this is comparatively slow and 'dumb'. If you are going to be doing a lot of data transfer, and/or keep the 98 machine in use, and/or share an internet connection, then you might want to look into peer-to-peer networking, which just requires a network interface card (NIC) in each PC, and a Cat-5 "Crossover" cable. If you ever want to add a third machine, then you would also need to add a relatively inexpensive ethernet hub or switch.

Q. What do you do when your computer doesn't have available slots on the motherboard?

A. If you have filled all of your slots, you can't add any more cards. You might be able to add devices if they are USB devices and you have a USB connector and your level of the operating system supports USB. Further questioning uncovered some confusion—the questioner was unaware that unused slots have cover plates in the slot position to prevent electromagnetic interference (radio waves, etc.) from leaving the computer. Slot plates that don't have a connector socket or jack on them are probably associated with an empty slot. The only way

to be sure is to open the machine.

Q. Someone told me that I can run DSL and dial-up simultaneously. Is this true?

A. Well, yes. The DSL connection is put on the same circuit as regular telephone service, and the regular telephone service still works. The regular telephones require a 'filter' that prevents the DSL data from reaching the regular telephones. And your dial-up connection can go over this regular telephone connection. However, I have found from experience that where the telephone circuit prior to DSL supported a v.90 modem at perhaps 50kbps, it now can only manage 26kbps. Still, this is probably sufficient for those times when you may still need a dial-up connection as with some banks, etc.

Q. Is sound ever completely on the motherboard, completely in software, or only in the sound card?

A. You need a sound-processing chip. It may be on a sound card, but the 'sound card' may actually be chips on the motherboard. These are most commonly on 'integrated system' motherboards where the sound and video are included on the motherboard. A tip-off is if the sound connectors come out of jacks on a board, or if they come out from the 'case'.

Q. I want to create a clean copy of my OS. Can I put my applications on another partition, load the OS, and have the applications run from there?

A. The applications will only run if they have entries in the system registry for the OS. If you install a clean copy of the OS, then you don't have any program entries in it. If you tell it to copy from the original OS's registry, you will copy any 'junk' in that registry, defeating the purpose of the 'clean' install. If the system is working with the OS on, say, C:, and all of your applications are on, say, D: and you build a new install on a new partition, you will need to re-install your applications. However, you may "reinstall" to the same locations on D: again, so that you do not have two copies of the application stored on your hard disk. However, doing the installation will

have the net effect of creating the required entries in your new OS's system registry.

Q. I want to move everything from a 4GB drive to a 30GB drive. What's the best way?

A. Included with the 'retail' packaging of many hard drives, such as Maxtor and Quantum, will be a utility diskette containing MaxBlast. This will clone the drive to a same-sized or large partition for you. Once done, change the jumper on the new drive from 'slave' to 'master' and use this drive as you master, and you are done. DriveCopy from PowerQuest will do that, and more.

Q. The drive is actually a RAID array.

A. Ignore the previous, you have to do it 'the hard way'.

BRUCE PRESTON is president of West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield, CT, specializing in database applications. A DACS director and moderator of the Random Access segment at the monthly general meetings, Bruce also leads the Access SIG. Members may send tech queries to Bruce at askdacs@aol.com.

Need more help?
Can't make it to
meetings?

E-mail your questions
to askdacs@aol.com.

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.

New Members

9/24/2001 thru 10/19/2001

Elliot Lane
Stephen Polson
Sanford D Kaufman

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Future Events

November 6 • Microsoft's XP OS
December 5 • Future Visions by IBM's John Patrick
January 8 • Dan Powers, VP Linux Solutions, IBM Corp.

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