



Avatar of the Internet Returns December 5

by Marlène Gaberel

DACS members, mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 5th, to attend John Patrick's presentation at the Danbury Hospital Auditorium at 7 p.m. The general meeting has been pushed to a Wednesday to accommodate John Patrick's schedule.

John Patrick will talk about his new book "Net Attitude" published by Perseus. Patrick has been called a visionary on the subject of the Internet and has talked to DACS members about topics well in advance of their occurrence.

Reflecting on comments Patrick made at previous DACS meetings, some seemed very futuristic at the time. I have the following personal perspective that indeed he is visionary: In the era of the 25/56 Kps modems, Patrick talked about the "always on" concept. Now my home computer is "always on" with a cable connection; my work computer, with a DSL connection.

One night recently, coming back home, I asked my kids the usual question, if homework was done. I was told no. The reason was that the cable was temporarily down (a first, I admit, as the cable connection is very reliable). Older son needed a science article and younger son required the story of the U.S. flag. I told older son to pick up an article from a recent science section of the New York

Times and handed younger son the encyclopedia, which surely would have the topic he needed. Instead of following my advice, both kids went outside to play. Upon their return, the cable was up and running, and guess what they used to complete homework that day! Kids' lives are tightly intermingled with the Internet.

When older son comes back from school, his first step is toward the computer to check e-mail, the latest offerings on e-bay and to monitor the news on CNN.

Younger son checks fashion on Gap Kids, www.gapkids.com or what's the latest on sport shoes at www.shoes.com

If I need directions to go some place, I will check Mapquest, www.mapquest.com rather than dig up the maps. If a telephone number needs to be called, Switchboard, www.switchboard.com is consulted more often than the telephone book.

Word XP directs users to the web site that contains a large collection of cliparts, templates and help. Music is piped in from the web as soon as the computer is on. At work, blueprints can be checked on the customers' web sites or e-mailed, when not long ago only faxed and mailed prints were available.

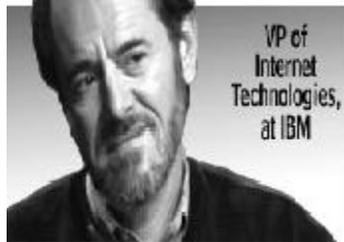
The software that my employer recently acquired allows our customers to view the manufacturing status of their parts.

Similar models involving use of the Internet were introduced by John Patrick. At the time, they seemed distant in implementation and futuristic in nature.

John Patrick travels internationally, and his perspective is not only domestic. He presents concepts not necessarily found in the US. A couple of years ago, he was talking about hand held, remote debit/card machines that he had observed during a trip to Paris. Last summer, traveling to the same city, I was not surprised to see the waitress process my card right at my table. This technology brings a sense of security when your card is not brought into some dark corners of a restaurant to be processed. I found out that those debit/credit card devices not only process the types of cards that have a magnetic band but also the cards more commonly found overseas with the microchip embedded (called "une puce" in French).

I'm very interested to hear what concepts John Patrick will introduce DACS members to at the December meeting, as I know they will affect my life sooner or later. Secure your seat early, as this meeting usually is very well attended. For more information, please check DACS' web site at www.dacs.org.

John
Patrick



<p>Meeting Date Change Wednesday December 5 Location Danbury Hospital Time 7:00 PM</p>

President's File



Many of the great military commanders of the past employed astrologers to accompany them on their conquests. The purpose was not just to predict the outcome of a battle or to divine an enemy's intentions, but also to lay the groundwork

for what must come after. For the task of creating an empire and maintaining it required an ability to ask questions about the future, and that future could be seen in the stars.

Prophet-making enterprise

As a growing empire on the frontier of the Internet, IBM saw a need to engage an astrologer to peer deep into cyberspace and set goals and a future course for the company and for others venturing onto the Web. That task went to John Patrick, Vice President of Internet Technology, and resident of Ridgefield, CT.

It would seem to be the most enviable of occupations—spend all day surfing the Web, draw up some conclusions and insights, and then go out and sell others on the idea. That, in a nutshell, is what John Patrick does for IBM, but with the intelligence, conviction and charisma of a true prophet. His tool of the trade is a vision of where Web technology is headed, and his mission is to travel the globe sharing that vision with governments, corporations and entrepreneurs. For his company, the rationale is what's good for the Internet is good for IBM. For nearly every year since 1994, DACS has been honored to be a whistle-stop on John's annual campaign.

Stop the future I want to get on

This year, John will be promoting a new book, *Net Attitude*, which he describes as preparing one's organization, its people and

all its systems and processes to take advantage of everything the Internet has to offer. He will redefine his vision of the future of Web commerce, the stresses and setbacks it has endured, and the triumphs it is about to undertake. You can hear it all at the next DACS meeting on Wednesday, December 5 (note delayed date).

Last call for Board

The annual membership meeting and board election is coming on December 5. For last-minute candidates, there is still an opportunity to make nominations from the floor prior to the vote. We welcome any member who is willing to contribute their time and effort to the betterment of DACS. If you cannot be at the meeting, a proxy form at the back of this newsletter can be sent in to register your selection.

Welcome back, Ted!

When our energetic associate editor, Ted Rowland told me he was moving from Sherman downeast to Maine, I was dismayed that we would lose a valuable colleague and friend. But Ted assured me that once he settled down, he would once again be available to fulfill his editorial duties by e-mail. This edition of the *.doc* is the first effort at that collaboration, and so far it seems to be working well.

In nine years I have been involved with *dacs.doc*, we have employed numerous techniques and stratagems to get the newsletter out. Editorial copy has been exchanged by mail, by BBS, by dictation over the phone, by e-mail and by hand through a car window in a distant parking lot. It is an indication of how far the revolution has come that we can simultaneously work on final copy from more than one location at once, and hopefully get our newsletter to the printer without getting into the car.

You may have noticed our ads appearing in the News-Times and on WLAD Radio. We have initiated a three-month campaign to promote our meetings, and to build membership. This is an expensive option, but one which we believe is necessary to create new recognition of DACS and to stabilize our growth for the future. But, as always, the best way to sell DACS is by word of mouth. Won't you do your part by telling a friend about us and bringing them to a meeting. A stronger DACS is all the better for serving you.

—ALLAN OSTERGREN
DACSPREZ@AOL.COM

Membership Information

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

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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	(d e)
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 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the RC on Monday, November 12, 2001. Present were Messrs. Buoy, Bovaird, Cohen, Neary, Ostergren, Pearson, Preston, Setaro and Mrs. Gaberel. Also present was Mr. James Scheef. President Allan Ostergren presided and Secretary Larry Buoy kept the record of the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting held October 8, 2001 were approved as presented.

Treasurer Bovaird reported a total cash position of \$21,864.95 consisting of CDs, checking and postal accounts and postage on hand, less liability of \$8,358.00 in prepaid dues, for a net of \$13,506.95.

He also reported current membership of 473, of which 51 (11%) are electronic only memberships. Discussed were observations and statistics regarding attendance at the General Meeting held November 6 and the effectiveness of the initial advertising schedule attempted under the authorization adopted by this Board on October 8. It was the consensus that such advertising had merit and continuation of same was authorized publicizing the January General Meeting featuring a presentation on the Linux operating system by a representative of IBM. Relative thereto, Don Pearson will consider a special presentation on the practical aspects of installing, setting up and using the Linux system.

Don Neary, acting as a Nominating Committee, reported on his efforts to recruit nominees for election or re-election as Directors at the upcoming December General Meeting.

With respect to the December General Meeting, it was announced that Jim Scheef had offered to host the Random Access session due to a conflict in Bruce Preston's schedule.

Charlie Bovaird suggested that the on-line format of the *dacs.doc* newsletter should be, as nearly as possible, an exact copy of the printed version, thus supporting our electronic membership and our advertisers. Included should be the equivalent of the insert for the

Minutes, Continued on page 4

Stocking Stuffers

Annual Geek Shopping List

By Mike Kaltschnee

Here we find ourselves once again in the season of turkeys, insanity at the mall, lines at the post office, and hopefully some mistletoe. I try and publish this list every year as a courtesy to your significant other, parents, and dear friends who have no clue what language you're speaking when you talk about computers. Like most people, they only want to get you gifts that you want and will use (just how many tie racks can one guy own?). So, fill out the blanks with your wishes and wants.

Last year I sent you to the geekiest (is that a word?) online store - *ThinkGeek.com*. You'll find everything from Atomic Time Carbon Fiber watches to VisionTek GeForce3 - 64mb AGP video cards. Low-cost gifts include clothing (t-shirts that only a geek would understand), a wide variety of heavily caffeinated beverages and mints, and electronics including MP3 players and a 42" Sony plasma display (yes, they really want \$7,999 for it). Of course, you need to have _____ and _____ from *ThinkGeek.com*.

Games. Last year I pushed Age of Empires, Diablo II, Links 2001 and RealMyst. Having played most of these to death, I've look at the latest games and find it hard to recommend any new games (if you know of any good ones my e-mail address is at the bottom of this article). Luckily, this season we will see two new game systems. The first is from Nintendo - the game cube, and the second is the "Xbox" from Microsoft. I know very little about game systems (my last system was an Atari 2600), but I have played a few Sony Playstation games lately. Having seen demos of these new systems, I would consider buying the Xbox for one game - Halo.

Wait a little while before getting the Xbox, though. I've seen a screen capture of a "Green Screen of Death." Wait for version 2.0. You want the _____ game system with the following games: _____, _____, _____.

A year ago I told you how "cheap" flat-screen displays were (\$600) and I will tell you this again - they are as little as \$300. You'll probably spend \$450-500 if you're serious, but you'll get a display that cost \$900 last year. A great place to start is

TigerDirect.com - they have a wide variety of flat-screen displays for you to select from. Of course, you'll want the _____ 15" or _____ 17" one made by _____.

While you're perusing the displays at *TigerDirect.com*, be sure to get the computer DVD player or video card upgrade for that special person

on your list. They have everything from low-cost computers (from \$329), parts and upgrades, and even some very cool electronics. Some of the things you need from *TigerDirect.com* include: _____, and _____.

If you're finally getting DSL or a cable modem, you'll need a Linksys router to protect you from evil people lurking on the Internet. If you have a notebook, be sure to get the Wireless Linksys router instead, plus a wireless 802.11 network card. You'll save a few hours running cable through your house and be able to surf from the backyard. So, you need the _____.

When all else fails, gift certificates work. Most online stores have them, and they take the guesswork out of geek gifts (was that an 802.11a or 802.11b router with integrated switch?). Circle

the store you would like to get a gift certificate for: *Amazon.com*, *Buy.com*, *PC Connection.com*, *BN.com*, *ThinkGeek.com*, *CircuitCity.com*, *Staples.com*, *SharperImage.com*

All you have to do now is leave this out where the intended target will find it. It helps if you circle things using a red marker and write "My Top Secret Holiday Wish List" across the top. But don't be too obvious about it.

Happy Holidays.

MIKE is a DACS member who needs someone to give this list to his wife. You can contact him by e-mail: miked@demorgan.com.

Minutes, Continued from page 3

printed version regarding advertising rates, membership application and interest categories as well as the business card ads and map locating the Danbury Hospital meeting site. It was also suggested that graphics be improved and that links to particular articles be included in the index as well as to the web sites of advertisers.

Jim Scheef then presented a detailed proposal for upgrading the computer elements at the RC. Principal element of such change would be the conversion of the workstation PC at the RC to a Windows 2000 Server, preserving the ability to produce the newsletter with a specific user account for the newsletter committee. The foregoing would necessitate removal of the Linux installation from the workstation PC, to be replaced by installation on a second machine, thus expanding services to the membership. Also, the DACS web site could be moved to mags.net, allowing mags.net to manage the DACS domain and allow DACS to escape the restrictions placed upon our site by the Danbury Public Library and significant expansion of services to the members, viz.: allowing members to update mailing and email addresses, make newsletter back issues searchable, etc. The older and mostly unused PCs at the RC could then be utilized as networked workstations.

— LARRY BUOY



Meeting Review

Windows XP.

by Marlène Gaberel

On November 6th, Microsoft's John Stroiney returned to DACS for a presentation of Windows XP. John does not try to sell DACS members anything. He presents the product and the facts and lets viewers make up their mind. After his third visit at DACS, he seems to have grown much more comfortable in his presentation. John's appearances are to the point and he does not exceed his allotted time. He handles some questions from the audience and makes himself available for additional input afterwards to those who need specifics.

John emphasized that XP is primarily very stable and reliable, and according to what I read, even though John did not say it, more stable and reliable than previous editions of Windows. There are three versions of Windows mXP: one for home users, Windows XP Home edition, which will replace Windows ME; Windows Professional, intended to replace NT or 2000; and the third for higher end CAD and other similar types of programs.

XP has profiles that different users in the household can customize to their liking, such as wall paper, cursor type and favorites. Up to 100 profiles are available, but who wants so many on one computer? The main user can limit the type of profile available. In my case I would choose to

not grant administrative duty to my kids. Even a guest account is a

possibility, if you have someone visiting your house and that person would

like to check e-mail or browse the web.

The desktop can be totally uncluttered if this is the choice of a user. Microsoft claims that it is easier to find files and be better organized to find files or recently used folders. New backgrounds and new screensavers are available in the latest version. When the aquarium was shown, it drew ahs! and ohs! from the audience. The new screensavers require, however, at least a 16 meg video card. By the way, more fishes for the aquarium are available online to download.

John did a demonstration of a video clip which was impressive. Before XP this

would have required another software to run this type of video. Videos can have voice over, music and the length of clips can be adjusted.

In the latest issue of Windows Media Player, the cover of a CD like a real CD is shown, making it easier to sort the music on the hard drive.

The "My Pictures" folder makes slide shows available. In addition, prints can be ordered online. XP has a photo printing wizard from which photos can be selected to be printed on printer or e-mail. Pictures can easily be reduced from a large bitmap file in to a much smaller .jpg file for e-mailing.

XP also includes basic CD burning functions. John did not do a demonstration of this, but mentioned it during his presentation.

Another function of Windows XP is the messenger. With the proper equipment such as microphone and web cam, voice conversations can be conducted, and even video conferencing.

While installing, Windows XP will check for the latest update of drivers online. This function, however, is reversible; the driver can be rolled back to its previous state or the computer online connection can be turned off, to prevent the updating of drivers. Windows XP has a built-in firewall.

John Stroiney gave us the web address www.microsoft.com/windowsxp for additional details. This page contains information about pricing for upgrades or for purchasing full versions.

MARLÈNE GABEREL is a DACS board member and VP for Public Relations, who learns as much about computers from her sons, Joshua and Zachary as she does from DACS. You can e-mail her at: marlene_gaberel@yahoo.com.



Jack Scully, center coordinator for Danbury SeniorNet presents DACS president Allan Ostergren with an award for community public service. The award was in recognition of DACS member volunteer activities on behalf of SeniorNet, in particular by treasurer and board member Charlie Bovaird.



Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: December 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: Dec. 11

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: Dec. 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: Dec. 6

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: Dec. 26

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: Dec. 13

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: Dec. 4

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: Dec. 24

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: January

SIG News & Other Events

Back Office The Back Office SIG celebrated the installation of the DSL line in the Resource Center with a nite of frustration installing Windows 2000 Server on the Resource Center PC.

The difficulties revolved around the drivers for the video and network cards. Once we got the network running, we were able to use the high speed internet connection to download the newest drivers for the Matrox video card. Unfortunately this results in a BSD on boot up.

In December we'll continue installing Windows 2000 Server and start installation of DNS (domain name service) and Active Directory. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 13th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

Visual Basic. Random access questions included a question on how to connect a VB program to an Access database and a general question about Microsoft's .NET. The Access question was looking for better performance than they were seeing with the application in native Access. This led to a discussion on how to optimize an Access database for best performance including normalizing tables and indexing fields used in joins. This may be a topic for a future meeting.

The .NET question led to various prognostications on the future of programming using the new Microsoft tools. Chuck believes that .NET will take a long time to catch on due to the need to distribute the Common Language Runtime (CLR) to all client machines that will run Windows Forms applications. Jim's viewpoint is that .NET will take off quickly for web-based development using ASP.NET. This one part of .NET requires the CLR only on the server. Time will tell.

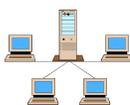
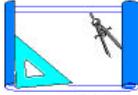
The main topic was a demonstration of how to write a simple DCOM object. Chuck wrote an Active-X EXE program to calculate sales tax and a client standard EXE program to call it. This demonstration of the concept worked quite well but we did not have a second machine available for a test over a network. Next month we hope to have the server available in the Resource Center for a network test.

The December meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 4th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center. The day change is necessary to avoid a conflict with the general meeting on Wednesday. The main topic will be a continuation of DCOM.

Web Site Design. We will take a brief break for December, and will meet again in January. Look for further announcements in the next issue. Please feel free to contact Matthew Greger at 203-748-2919 or email at *Matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com*.

December 2001

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Random Access

November 2001

Bruce Preston, Moderator

Q. In Windows Temporary Internet Files I have files and folders with names such as GX34M3QOUX7 and so forth. They all contain cookies I would like to delete them, but when I do, I get a message: "Warning, you are about to delete a system file, doing so may cause Windows not to work." May I delete them?

A. Yes, they will be recreated if needed. The "safe" way to delete them is via Internet Explorer (or Internet Options in Control Panel — you get the same thing) and click on DELETE FILES.

Q. At the September meeting I asked questions as to why my machine was running slow. The main suggestion was to add RAM. It is better, but I think that it can do still better. Next step(s)?

A. Delete files in \WINDOWS\TEMP, and \TEMP — anything dated prior to your most recent boot is fair game. Then run a SCANDISK and fix any damaged clusters. Then immediately run a defrag so that when you load files you get them with one disk access rather than having to move the disk drive head all over the place for segments of files. Make sure that you are not running things that you don't need — there are a lot of things that can get loaded at startup that you really don't need — I highly recommend that you look at StartStop <http://www.tfi-technology.com/startstop.htm> — a free utility that gives you control over what loads, without uninstalling them. The "Task Manager" — what you get when you do a Control-Alt-Delete, doesn't show you everything.

Q. A friend double-clicked on an e-mail attachment in error, and picked up a virus. He had not updated his McAfee anti-virus signature files for a long time, and the virus got in. McAfee says he needs a rescue disk for his Dell System — it is running Windows 98 Can anyone supply

one?

A. The rescue disk can be created by any machine that is running Windows 98, it does not have to be a Dell System.

Q. I won an eBay Auction — the seller wants to be paid in German Marks. How do I get money over to Germany? The US Post Office no longer issues International Money Orders; the bank wants \$30 to do an electronic money transfer. How do I pay him?

A. You might be able to get a money order in Euro Dollars. You can wire money using Western Union (the local Stop & Shop courtesy desk has this service available). Also look on the web for MoneyGram by Traveler's Express — www.moneygram.com — I have received payments from Italy using this service.

Q. I was using AOL and clicked on a link — got an error message — WAOL has problem with WSP.DLL — I have SyGate's firewall. Any suggestions as to how to fix the conflict?

A. AOL does things "differently" from other sites. They won't help you, because, by virtue of their being the largest consumer ISP, they essentially think that the rest of the world is out-of-step. However, SyGate (www.sygate.com) will tell you what you need to do to run with their products — look in their FAQ for work-arounds. For example, there are pages dated September, 2001 that mention fixes for AOL compatability. I have had good response from SyGate's technical service. Another member suggested looking at BugToaster (www.bugtoaster.com) which is a free service that analyzes crashes and matches them to a database of known problems and fixes.

Q. I am planning on purchasing a DVD player for my TV - I understand that they can also play CD audio, and CDR and CDRW audio. Can they

also be used to display slide-shows that I have put on CDR or CDRW?

A. Someone in the audience said that such a capability is in Windows XP — stay for the presentation!

Q. Does anyone have experience with AOL Broadband — Charter Pipeline? Which release of AOL will work — I've heard that 6.0 doesn't work; AOL has just come out with 7.0; anybody using 4 or 5?

A. A few reported using 5.0; no one had yet ventured into 7.0 — tune in next month.

Q. Is anyone using Ztree — (successor to X-Tree Gold). As a replacement for Windows Explorer, does it work?

A. Yes, it works fine.

Q. I am using a program called Starbase to handle pictures and records. I have exported registry keys from Windows 98 and tried to import them into Windows 2000 and they don't load.

A. The format of the exported registry files are different — however, if you compare the exports of the same "something" from both Windows 98 and Windows 2000 you should be able to discern the difference and modify the Windows 98 export file to be compatible with a Windows 2000 import.

Q. I have 128MB memory modules in my machine. I've tried to add a 64MB module, but it isn't recognized. Any suggestions?

A. The memory refresh rate must be the same for the modules, although some motherboards will downgrade the bus to run at the slower modules' speed. Also, some motherboards require that the memory modules be matched in size. To determine which memory modules will work with your machine, you really need to check the specs page in the manual that came with your motherboard or system. Companies that specialize in memory (as opposed to a generalist mail-order house or office supply store, etc.) should be able to work with you on this. I have had good support from Coast-to-Coast Memory in New Jersey — 800-4MEMORY www.coastmemory.com.

Q. I still like my WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS and it runs fine under Win-

dows 98 It works fine for relatively small text files, but if I receive a file beyond a certain size, it locks up, complaining about running out of memory. Is there anyway that I can get more "extended memory"?

- A. Create a shortcut for the executable, then right-click on it and go to Properties, where you can tell it that you need a lot more memory. You can even give it a custom AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS file that will let you provide FILES, BUFFERS, etc as well. Note that putting these into AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS at the 'system level' on your C: drive will not give you the desired results.

Comment from Member:

Point of Interest — my machine dual-boots Linux and Windows 98SE. It has 1GB of RAM — I couldn't re-install Windows 98 SE on it until I removed memory down to 512MB Once installed, I was able to return the memory to the machine.

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.

New Members

10/20/2001 thru 11/12/2001

Sanford Kaufman
Stephen Andrewson
UJ Oler
Robert Green
Lisa Leifels
Srini Chillara
Marvin Shapiro
Robley Sailer
Bashir Ahmed
Beverly Stoddard
Paul Rosler
Chalapathy Ajjanavara

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Legal services to
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Contract review and preparation
Estate Planning

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.

Library News

e-Books Arrive at Danbury Library

Elizabeth McDonough, director of the Danbury Library, has announced the library will again add to its growing list of services with the addition of thousands of electronic books (e-Books). "Without taking an inch of space on our shelves, we will add over 4,000 books to our collection," explained McDonough.

"A major goal at the Danbury Library is to assist our customers in getting the information they need in the most efficient way possible. E-Books are the newest way for us to deliver books to our cardholders-fast and conveniently."

E-Books are full text electronic versions of published books that can be searched, borrowed, read and returned by using a computer connected to the Internet.

The e-Books have been integrated into the library's catalog. Just like any book, e-Books can be searched by author, title, or subject. These books can be viewed online from the library, from home or the office using the Internet and can be downloaded to a laptop.

Just like other library materials, e-Books are checked out using a Danbury Library card.

They will circulate for seven days and there are no fines for late returns since

after seven days, the eBook is automatically returned to the library.

"Although there will be many classics among the offerings, leisure reading is not the focus of this collection.

The majority of the eBooks we have purchased and will purchase in the future will be most helpful to students with homework assignments ("Cliffs Notes" will be among the offerings) as well as adults needing quick information," McDonough explained.

Over 300 of the "Complete Idiots Guide" book series are offered on topics such as golf, playing the piano, raising a teenager and home repair.

Once checked out, readers will be able to perform full-text searches to speed research.

In addition to no fines and access to books 24-hours a day, readers will find another interesting feature of e-Books.

By highlighting a word that is unfamiliar to them, users will be provided with a definition as well as a verbal pronunciation of the word.

In some cases a picture of the word will also be displayed.

For further information contact the Information Services desk at 797-4527.

Candidates



Larry Buoy— Gaylordsville. After nine years of computer use Larry still considers himself a computer beginner. He serves as DACS secretary, keeping the minutes of the board meetings and writes the monthly "Directors Notes" for the newsletter. He would like to see more programs and events geared to the new computer user.



Marc Cohen— Brookfield. After more than 30 years providing advertising and public relations photography to local and national companies, Marc has recently retired. In 1982 he was the founder of the Danbury Osborne Group (now incorporated into DACS). A board member from the beginning, Marc has filled many DACS positions over the years— disk librarian, secretary, newsletter editor, and production editor. He considers himself a perpetual computer novice. To Marc, the computer is a tool for simplifying business problems, not creating new ones.



Allan Ostergren — Sherman. A social policy researcher with experience in journal and newsletter design. Since joining DACS in 1991, he has served as a volunteer for Voice for Joanie and the Danbury Senior Employment Center, editor of *dacs.doc*, DACS vice president, and for the last four years as president. He has been a member of the board since 1995. He is also active in area arts activities, and in his dwindling spare time, manages the Lumina String Quartet, a Connecticut classical chamber ensemble.



Bruce Preston — Bruce Preston - Ridgefield, is a consultant specializing in PC-based software solutions with emphasis on database applications. He has more than 30 years of experience in such areas as data communications, database management, technical support, and user education. For the past six years he has moderated the Random Access sessions that start our monthly General Meetings, as well as leading the monthly Microsoft Access Special Interest Group. Lately he has been joined by his son Scott, who co-presented two General Meeting programs - "Building a Home Network" and "Buying and Selling on eBay". His non-computer interests include digital photography, steam locomotives, and bicycling.



Jeff Setaro — Danbury. A lifelong Danbury resident, Jeff has been involved in the computer industry for more than 15 years. He has been a DACS member for seven years and has served as a DACS vice president for six of them. After stepping down from Program Chair to assume direction of the DACS Web page, he was persuaded to continue in both capacities. He also serves as information coordinator on computer viruses and until recently as director of the Web page design SIG. He is a member of the 1995 VAR business advisory board and is frequently called upon to comment on industry issues.



Jim Scheef — New Milford Jim Scheef has been a DACS member since DOG became WCMUG. He has actively participated in the club over the years on the Program Committee, and as head of the Internet Committee. For the past six or more years Jim has been a co-leader of the Visual Basic SIG and started the Back Office SIG last year.

Jim has been a software developer since the days when mainframes were high-tech. His company, Telemark Systems Inc., provides custom software and networking solutions to businesses around Connecticut.

Jim's goals for DACS are to provide new services to the members via the DACS.ORG web site and to expand the use of the Resource Center as a learning facility. Jim convinced the board to install a DSL internet connection in the Resource Center as a step in this direction.

Ballot

1. Select six (6) of the candidates for director of the Corporation, as indicated by my check mark:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| — Larry Buoy | — Bruce Preston |
| — Marc Cohen | — Jeff Setaro |
| — Allan Ostergren | — Jim Scheef |

2. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting

___ Yes ___ No

I appoint Don Neary, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, as my agent to vote in my place and stead at the annual meeting of members on December 5, 2001 as follows:

Signed _____ Dated _____

Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is given that the Annual meeting of members of DACS will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the Danbury Hospital Auditorium, 24 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut.

An election of six (6) directors will be held. The meeting is further called for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the membership.



Gentlemen, in choosing our new board member we will have a clear choice on the direction this organization will take in developing a Net attitude.

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at 860-355-2611,
ext. 4517
and become a

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volunteer.

Future Events

December 5 • Future Visions by IBM's John Patrick
January 8 • Dan Powers, VP Linux Solutions, IBM Corp.
February 5 • Digital Imaging Tools by Ulead Systems

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AMSYS has been recognized as a leader in computer consulting, computer technology, computer services, Internet services and computer networking in the New York and Connecticut market for more than 14 years. AMSYS offers a one-stop source for complete MIS outsourcing: computer application hosting and support services to the small and medium size business owner.

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