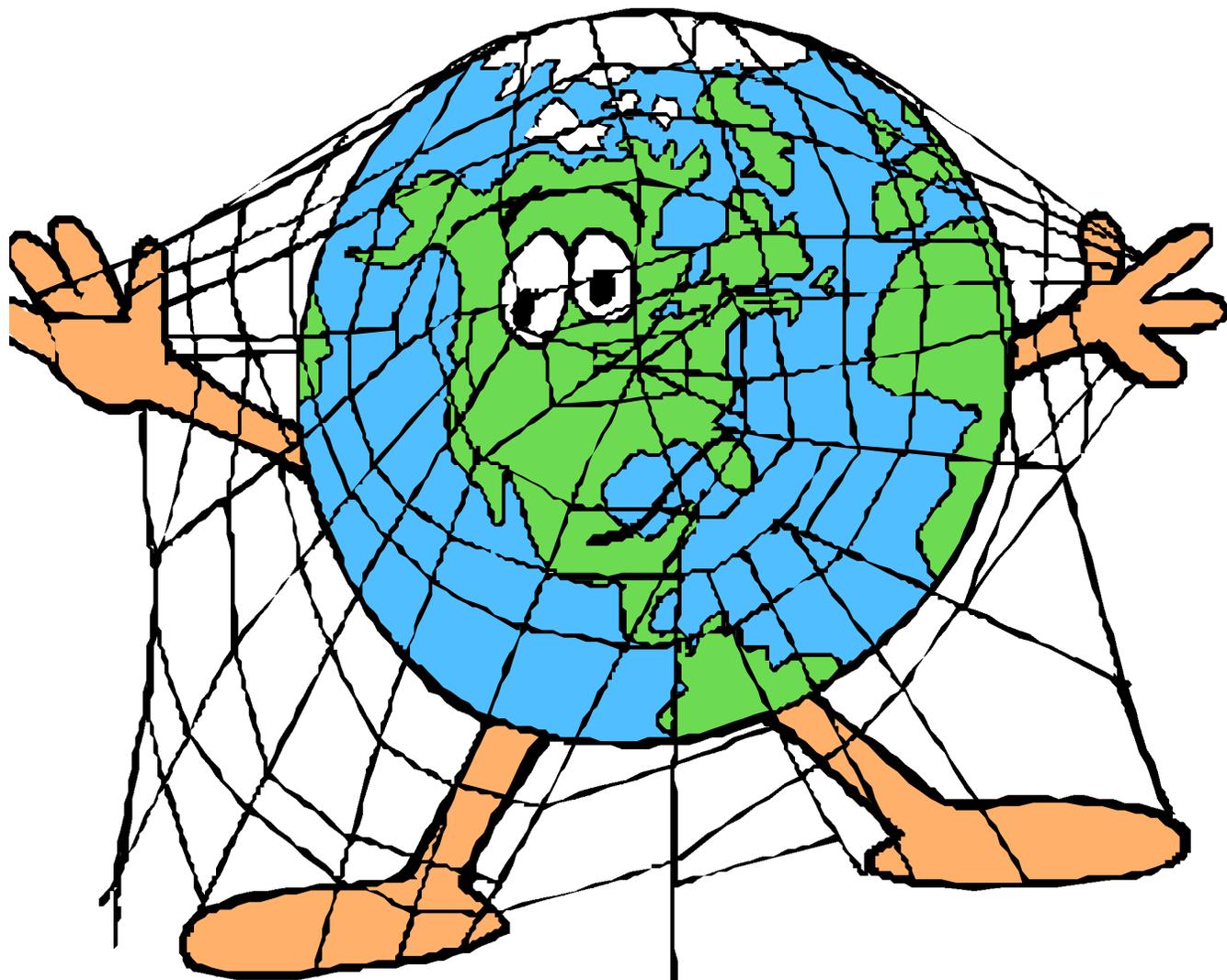




# De-Babelizing the World Wide Web



Does the Internet leave you tangled in tech talk? At our next General Meeting, DACS president Jim Scheef translates computer geek into plain and simple terms and unravels the mystery of the World Wide Web.

# President's File



PRESIDENTIAL  
RAMBLINGS  
VERSION 1.0

DACS is organized like a corporation in that the membership elects a board of directors and then the directors elect the officers.

At the April board meeting, all of the current DACS officers were re-elected which means that I get to be your president for another year. Now I don't want this to sound like an Academy Awards acceptance speech, but I would like to thank the directors, the SIG leaders, our general meeting speakers and everyone who worked this past year to make DACS successful. This year's accomplishments include:

1. A new SIG concentrating on microprocessors.
2. Revised the club bylaws to reflect current practice for director terms.
3. Reviewed the club's liability insurance.
4. Added a disclaimer and changed the reprint policy for the newsletter and the web site.
5. Implemented permanent email addresses for all club offices and personal email addresses for all officers and directors (e.g.: treasurer@dacs.org and bkeane@dacs.org).
6. Found really great replacements for three directors who resigned or did not want to run for re-election.
7. Many truly excellent home-grown general meeting presentations.

These accomplishments don't belong to me but to the many people who helped throughout the year.

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Some goals that are still on the to-do list:

- Reactivate the MAC SIG.
- Start a gamers SIG.
- Offer *dacs.org* email addresses to any member who wants one. Email would forward to the member's "real" email address. This would make members independent of their ISP.

• Implement some an online message board facility as part of our web site where members can network on topics from hardware and software to job postings by employers and recruiters.

- Gradually move DACS toward a more business-like structure where jobs are spread out among more members giving more people a chance to participate and build our club.

If any of these interest you, communicate!!!

## Trenton Computer Festival

One of my favorite computer-related events of the year happens the first weekend in May. The Trenton Computer Festival ([www.tcf-nj.org](http://www.tcf-nj.org)) dates back to 1976 and the very beginning of the personal computer industry. It isn't even in Trenton anymore, but the outdoor flea market remains the most fun you can have shopping for computer bargains anywhere. Go early on Saturday for the most variety or go on Sunday and wait for the vendors to start giving stuff away rather than pack it up to take home. Either way you'll have a blast. A couple of years ago the festival moved to the Raritan Convention Center in Edison, NJ—several exits closer and easier to get to. Here's my big hint to enjoying TCF—I wear a backpack to carry my purchases. It leaves your hands free to play with more stuff!

Oh yes, there is also a regular indoor "computer fair" like the one at West Conn and elsewhere around the state, but TCF is much larger. With more vendors there is more competition and hence lower prices. And if you have time, there are educational conferences running all weekend. The talks range from how to back up your hard drive to "The Cognitive Question: Human and Computer Thought". Trenton is an experience you just can't miss.

## Hardware Hacking

With the Microprocessor SIG off to a good start, is there interest in a SIG on hardware hacking? This would include such fun things as running Linux on a Microsoft X-

*Ramblings, continued on page 4*

## Membership Information

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

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



Don Neary  
APCUG Liaison  
203-746-5538

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**SIG COORDINATOR:** Don Neary (203) 746-5538

**RESOURCE CENTER:** (203) 748-4330 **WEB SITE:** <http://www.dacs.org>

## HelpLine

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

**d** = day   **e** = evening

Program	Name	Phone #	
Alpha Four	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
AOL	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	( e )
AutoCAD	Peter Hylenski	(203) 797-1042	( e )
C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	(d e)
Clipper	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
COBOL	Charles Godfrey	(203) 775-3543	( e )
Dbase/DOS	Alan Boba	(203) 264-1753	( e )
DOS	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
Electronics	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Focus	Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	( e )
Hardware	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
Interface-Instrumentation	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Macintosh OS	Matthew Greger	(203) 748-2919	(d e)
Microsoft Access	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
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PASCAL	Duane Moser	(203) 797-2716	( d )
Photoshop 5.5, 6, 7	Annette Collens	(203) 746-2340	( e )
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) 798-9996	( d )
Viruses	Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	( d )
Visual Basic	Chuck Fizer	(203) 798-9996	( 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 Regional Center on Monday, April 7, 2003. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Cohen, Keane, Powers, Scheef and Setaro. President Jim Scheef presided and Secretary Larry Buoy kept the record. Minutes of the previous meeting (March 10, 2003) were approved with corrections.

Treasurer Bovaird reported combined bank and postal account balances of \$18,035.48, plus postage on hand of \$160.75, for a total of \$18,196.23 in liquid assets, less a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$7,330.00, leaving a net of \$10,866.23. He also reported current membership of 450.

Again, the opening discussion centered on presentations for General Meetings in addition to that on researching ancestry via the Web scheduled for June. Jeff Setaro announced that he had a commitment from Gene Barlow to make a presentation on PowerQuest programs in October. Jim Scheef offered to prepare a program on "How the Internet Works" for May and Bill Keane was asked to arrange a presentation related to applications for Linux for July. Suggestions for expanding the use of posters advertising General Meetings were solicited, resulting in the possible use of the Interlibrary network for distributing such posters and efforts to prepare such posters in a more timely manner.

President Scheef announced that he had submitted a list of free industry magazines, discount offers, etc., to Jeff Setaro for inclusion in the benefits of membership list on the DACS Web Site and had a few additional user group offers to add thereto. Also briefly commented on was the apparent lack of enthusiasm for the free business card ads in the newsletter.

Mr. Scheef then announced that he was attempting to recruit a committee to activate the availability of a "permanent" email address for members and asked for an update on obtaining a machine to replace the current server at the RC. Charlie Bovaird stated that no suitable machine had become available to date.

It was verified that the form of disclaimer for liability for articles, etc., appearing on the DACS Web Site, as adopted at the last meeting of this Board, had been entered into the Web Site and that the Copyright Notice portion thereof had been incorporated into the newsletter.

*Directors Notes continued on page 4*

**Ramblings, continued from page 2**

box game machine, or adding a hard drive to an I-Opener to turn an Internet appliance into a complete PC. I've been toying (no play on words here!) with both projects and I'd like to hear from anyone with similar interests. If there is enough people respond this could become another SIG..

**Rumors of  
"Anti-VPN" Laws**

During Random Access at the April general meeting there was some brief discussion about laws that would prohibit the use of VPN (Virtual Private Network) technology on the Internet. I did a little searching on Google as I could not believe that TPTB (the powers that be) would allow the primary security tool (millions of dollars in savings) to become outlawed. Well, it seems that could be the side effect of a law in Michigan that is intended to protect the interests of service providers like cable companies. This law and similar legislation in other states seems to be aimed at activities that could be interpreted as "theft of services" or ac-

tivities that could endanger the national security— take your pick. Some of these laws increase the penalties if encryption is used and thus apply to VPNs. It appears that plugging in a hardware router to protect your computer(s) from the bad guys may be a crime in some states that could put you in jail. How could this be when the FBI was just here telling us to protect ourselves and our families online? The increasingly broad language used in these bills (legislative attempts to stay ahead of new technology and the threat of terrorism) bans the use of NAT (network address translation) as a technique "to conceal... from any communication service provider ... the existence or place of origin or destination of any communication." (Additional legalese removed for the sake of brevity.) [quoted from SlashDot.org]. I'll include some links in the electronic version of this column on [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org).

These laws are the product of over zealous state legislators who want to "do something". Unfortunately they (like Congress?) often don't understand the ramifications of their actions when

technology is involved. Unfortunately there is a group of "interests" who do understand the side effects of these laws and still encourage their enactment— Hollywood and the Music Industry. So we (yes, us) need to remain vigilant and write to our legislators and Congress people when these issues arise. Legislators and their staffs don't take the time to understand the unintended effects these bills can have. We need to help them understand before the damage is done.

JIM SCHEEF  
DACSPREZ@DACS.ORG

**Directors Notes continued from page 3**

The directors then considered electing officers to serve until April of 2004. Since there were no nominees other than the incumbent officers, it was unanimously agreed that the current officers be re-elected to serve until April of 2004. They are: James Scheef, President; Marlene Gaberel, Gene Minasi and Jeff Setaro, Vice Presidents; Charles Bovaird, Treasurer and Lawrence Buoy, Secretary.

— LARRY BUOY

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## Meeting Review

# Virus Prevention and Computer Security

By W. D. Loring

OUR APRIL GENERAL Meeting fell on April Fools Day, and while Jeff Setaro's style was seasonally light, the subject matter was quite serious.

In the first part of the program, our resident Virus and Security expert described the four main threats to computer security: viruses, Trojan horses, worms, and hoaxes. A virus is a program that copies itself and infects other programs by modifying them or their environment. He noted that any patch which comes by email purportedly from Microsoft is in fact a virus (MS never distributes patches by email). Trojan horses are programs that do something intended by the creator but not documented for, and usually not wanted by, the user. They can, for example, steal passwords, provide a backdoor to a computer, or trash some, or even all, files on a hard drive. Worms are self-contained programs (or sets of programs) which copy themselves to other computers—usually through network connections. In recent years these have become a particularly common form of malware. The final type, hoaxes, are not codes but simply false warnings designed to trick you into wasting your and your friends' time and often into deleting some obscure (but occasionally necessary) file. They usually use a 'news release' format quoting IBM, MS, or some other authority and ask you to pass it on to everyone.

The four main defenses are Anti-Virus software, Personal Firewalls, Firewall Appliances, and Safe Hex. Anti-Virus programs are reactive, they can only respond to threats they know about so must be updated frequently, and still leave the chance that you will get a new virus before they know about it. Personal firewalls are software programs which filter communications between your PC and the internet. Firewall

appliances and routers are hardware devices, especially for use with broadband

connections, to monitor connections between your PC or local network and the internet. Safe Hex is Jeff's term for your personal protective actions. His major recommendations were to install and use anti-virus software and personal firewalls; use the Windows and Office update sites to keep your system patched; never open attachments from strangers or when unsolicited or unexpected until the sender confirms that

they were intended; back up important files and folders frequently; use strong passwords; and download and install programs with care.



On the matter of passwords, Jeff provided some suggestions. Use letters and numbers, including random upper and lower case letters, and some symbol characters as well. Dictionary words can be OK if separated by numbers or symbols but non-words are even better. The numerical part should not be something obvious like your phone number or birthday. The combination, however, must be something that you can remember easily because it should NOT be written down. As an example of such a password he gave Alfa\_6813&zUlu.

Other recommendations included disabling file and printer sharing when using broadband, not storing user names and passwords in the web browser, deleting spam and chain emails (without either forwarding or unsubscribing), and turning off the computer when not in use.

The concluding section of Jeff's presentation dealt with security in the enterprise, and could be summarized simply as 'be very paranoid.' Do not, for example, permit personal software or email, and disable access to online chat rooms and web-based mail services.

His final thought was "Security is a process, not a destination."

*WILLIAM LORING is a former president of DACS and a member going back to the very early days.*

## Let DACS Promote your Business

DACS is offering members free space to advertise their small businesses in the business card section of the colored insert in dacs.doc. This offer is being made subject to space available, and cards will be rotated each month to guarantee equal access.

Please send your cards to DACS at 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430, give to any board member, or e-mail graphic image to [dacseditor@dacs.org](mailto:dacseditor@dacs.org).

**Sorry**, but postal regulations require that ads be computer related, and specifically forbid ads for Credit, Insurance or Travel Services.

# Search Engines

## Google The little engine that could

By Mike Kaltschnee

**O**CCASIONALLY YOU REACH a point where you mistakenly assume everyone knows about something, and by making this assumption you deprive the person you're dealing with of a really neat thing. In this case, it's Google ([www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com)).

If you aren't using Google for your searches, start immediately. In case you already are, keep reading—you might find out some interesting (or obscure) things about the #1 search tool on the Web.

I was lucky enough to be there early in the evolution of the Web. Not quite there for Mosaic, but long before my Mom asked me to get her to Home and Garden TV's Web site ([www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com)). Back in the old days we used to use Yahoo and Altavista, Excite and Lycos to find stuff online. I still use Yahoo, primarily because my DSL account includes free disk space on Yahoo, but also for maps, people searches, and other specialty searches. However, a relatively new company, Google, does 95% of my online searching.

Two college friends founded Google, like Yahoo, HP, Apple, and other great companies. They even spent time in a garage, a sign of great companies like HP and Apple (I'm seeing a pattern here). Unlike most privately held Internet companies, they are profitable. They make money by licensing their search technology and, in the opposite direction Web advertising is running, in small, almost unnoticeable ads.

Google is great because it returns sites extremely relevant to your search. If you've never used Google before, try it now. They're so confident in the results they even put an "I'm feeling lucky button" on the main page.

Google returns better results than any other search engine because of the simple genius of the engine. They developed

"PageRank" technology, which bases the responses on a number of things, but most importantly on the number of sites that point to a site. They figured a site would be the best-based depending on how many people linked to it. Since this basic premise, they've had to keep evolving it to prevent cheaters and improve results.



The speed and power behind Google comes from 10,000 Linux-based computers that work together and provide answers in less than 0.2 seconds. Think about the incredible task of creating a system that searches 3 billion text documents and returns answers in less than a second.

Google has crept into our language. It's now popular to "Google" someone. You can actually find amazing information about someone by searching for them at Google. Sites have sprung up with games using the Google engine:

**[www.Googlewhack.com](http://www.Googlewhack.com)** - Find two words that return one response from Google (squirreling dervishes or panfish interrogation).

**Google Smackdown** - ([www.onfocus.com/googlesmack/down.asp](http://www.onfocus.com/googlesmack/down.asp)) - Compare the number of results between two search terms (Bush vs. Osama is 14.3 million to 1.3 million - Bush wins).

**[www.Googlism.com](http://www.Googlism.com)** - Find out what Google thinks of you.

Google has spawned a book "Hacking Google," published by O'Reilly & Associates (352 pages!), and numerous Web sites on using, programming, and improving your results. The risk of trying to trick Google could get your site banned for life, so be careful if you're trying to increase your results.

Google is so successful that Yahoo, an early supporter and customer of Google, has announced that they are creating a better search engine than Google. This is a parable about watching your enemies,

but watching your business partners more closely.

Google releases new and mostly experimental search tools in Google Labs. This is where you can try out experimental searches, such as the Google Viewer, which returns your search results in a series of scrolling Web pages. A product is released from Google Labs when they figure out how to make money from it.

Google just bought Pyra Labs, creators of Blogger.com. This is an interesting purchase—a logical extension of Google's attempt to create an index of the entire Web. Blogs are the latest source of news and information, and adding the interesting world of Blogs to Google will only make our search attempts more complete.

Google has even become my newspaper. Check out [news.Google.com](http://news.Google.com). A beta product, it searches 4,500 new services and creates a unique perspective on the news. By keeping track of the frequency of stories, it can post the most relevant news automatically (no human editors). You have to see this to believe it.

I have nothing but admiration for this company that has focused on one task and done it better than anyone before them.

By the way, in case you were wondering, a googol is the mathematical term for the number 1 followed by 100 zeros (source: [Google.com](http://Google.com)).

---

MIKE is a DACS member who can't remember how many nibbles in a byte. You can tell him: [mikek@demorgan.com](mailto:mikek@demorgan.com).

### Google Quick Facts

- 200 million searches per day
- 3,083,324,652 web pages indexed (3 billion+)
- 425 million images indexed
- 700 million Usenet messages
- 10,000 computers power Google
- 800+ employees
- 87+ hours are spent evaluating each new employee
- Google was profitable in 2001
- The company chef used to cook for the Grateful Dead
- Google News searches 4,500+ news sources worldwide

## Meeting Preview

# Debabelizing the Internet

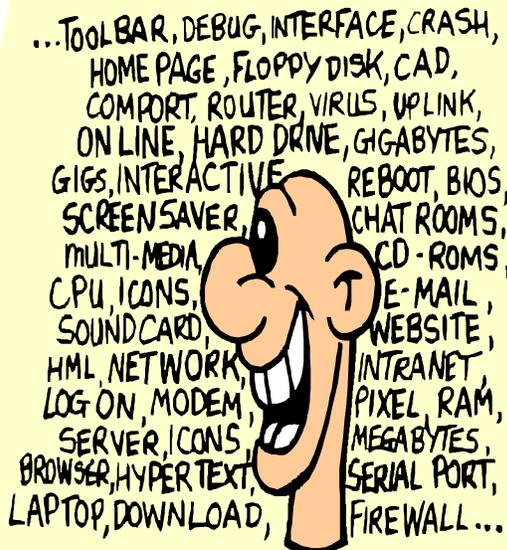
By M. Gaberel

**T**HE DACS MAY 6TH general meeting will be another home grown production. This time it will be Prez Jim Scheef on the podium, speaking about the intricacies of the Internet.

We log onto the web without much thought of all the work being done in the background. As Jim put it, "Have you ever marveled when you type a web address into your browser and less than a second later a web page starts to display? What happens between the click and the finished web page?" Jim will explain how the Internet works in the background and follow up on network security.

Jim will demystify "many acronyms like IP, TCP, DNS, HTTP, FTP and more, all in simplified, hopefully non-technical En-

glish." How did Jim get the idea of this most interesting topic? He fielded ques-



tions from people at the Server and Networking SIG who wondered: "Now that I

have an Internet connection on my home network, how do I keep the bad guys out?" Jim decided to make it a little less dry than just explaining how to set up a router, and rather will explain how the Internet works; then it becomes easier to understand why a user can't plug a cable modem into a

hub and get the same benefits as a router. Jim says that it's easier to understand how the Internet works if "we have some idea why it is the way it is and how it got this way." He intends "to take the Internet from concept to current reality in large but easy to digest bytes" and "...along the way to look at concepts like packet switching and protocol layers."

The Internet is in our lives on a daily basis and to understand how it works can help us to appreciate what is behind the technology. Also, the presentation is timely for many of us, modem cable users, to learn more about home network security.

See you all at Danbury Hospital Auditorium on May 6th starting at 7:00pm, with computer related questions and answers followed by club announcements; the main presentation at 8:00pm. The general meetings are free and open to the public. Bring a friend.

**Marlène Gaberel** is a DACS board member and VP for Public Relations. You can e-mail her at: [marlene\\_gaberel@yahoo.com](mailto:marlene_gaberel@yahoo.com).

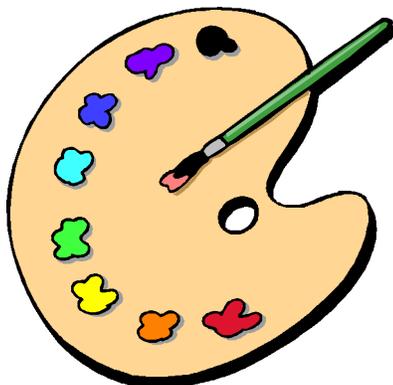
## Internet Tools

### HTML Basics -Part II

By Scott Preston

**I**F YOU have already seen my first article on HTML Basics, I introduced font size, and other tags. This article will introduce colored text.

If you have been to a website personally made, you may notice the creator changed the colors of the font. However, if the person used an HTML editor, the editor changes the color of the text for you. But if you are writing your own HTML, you need to know how to use the COLOR attribute in the FONT tab.



Colors may be specified using either a color name that is known by the browser (there are several dozen standard color names) or by specifying the mixture of red, green and blue using a number.

Here is a link to a table of the common color names:

[http://www.w3schools.com/html/html\\_colornames.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_colornames.asp)

Here is a link to a 'color picker' - click on the color bar, then click on the shaded box and it will give you the color number:

[http://members.aol.com/dbakerboys/applet/color\\_picker.html](http://members.aol.com/dbakerboys/applet/color_picker.html)

And lastly, here is a table of color numbers:

<http://www.lissaexplains.com/color.shtml>

Once you have selected the color, you put it into the FONT tag. All text following the tag will be that color until you put a /FONT tag.

```
<font color="green">Text in green</font>
```

```
<font color="#8470ff">Text in a light blue color</font>
```

Lastly, if you want to each letter a different color, there are utilities on the web which will write HTML for you. Take a look at <http://www.chamisplace.com/asp/tc.asp?stage=2>.

**SCOTT PRESTON** is 12 years old. He currently is the Technology Administrator for the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club. His father, Bruce, runs the Access SIG and Random Access in DACS.

## Special Interest Groups

### SIG NOTES: May 2003

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

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

**Next meeting:** May 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:** May 14

**dotNET.** Programs for Web site/server.

**Contact:** Chuck Fizer (*cfizer@snet.net*). Meets on 2nd Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center. Members' suggestions are welcome.

**Next Meeting:** May 7

**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:** May 28

**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:** May 15

**LINUX.** Helps in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Nov also be of interest to Apple owners using OS X.

**Contact:** Bill Keane (*bkeane.nai@rcn.com*) 203-438-8032 Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** May 21

**MICROCONTROLLER.** Investigates microcontroller applications from theory to hands-on implementation and member projects.

**Contact:** John Gallichotte, 203 426-0394, (*tlclotus@ieee.org*). Meets on 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** May 27

**SERVER.** Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook.

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

Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next meeting:** May 8

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

**Contact:** Chuck Fizer, 203 798-9996 (*cfizer@snet.net*) or Jim Scheef, 860 355-8001 (*JScheef@Telemarksys.com*).

Meets on 2nd Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** May 7

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

**Contact:** Shirley Fredlund, 203 770-6203 (*voiceforjoanie@juno.com*).

**Next Meeting:** Look for announcements.

**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:** May 26

## SIG News & Other Events

**dotNet.** The dotNet SIG was well attended as the program begins to demonstrate more concrete examples of web programming using the .Net Framework and the IDE. We started with random access fielding questions about how to: use the IDE, access a project, deploy an application and how to find your way through the object library. Then the session continued with example applications as documented here by Claude Prevots documentor extraordinaire.

The SIG meeting began with a note of enthusiasm emitted from an important announcement. The application to manage an organization now has its database located on a separate server, in contrast to its prior location on a laptop. Next time we should see the roles functions activated. These are exciting developments for the usability of the application.

To illustrate the use of a data control in a client-server environment, our Web guru took an example from CustomerEditor in his kit bag. To capture the user changes from the client, this editor uses a viewstate and a postback buffer. This viewstate is enabled and the changes reflected in the postback buffer are detected by comparison with the content of the viewstate. What was sent by the server is compared with what was returned by the client to see what changes must be committed to the database. This example illustrated what action takes place

with a datagrid as a control. When changes have been updated in the database, the page can be put back on the client in updated form.

The mainstream of the discussion resumed with an exposition of the main features of added developments in the Web application for management of an organization. There must be flexibility in definition of roles to allow its adaptation to the needs of different organizations. Roles can be defined in more than one organization. For example, one use could be in a ski club, and another use could be in a cycling club. In addition, there can be more than one use in a single organization. For example, a director of a ski club could manage membership rolls and could also manage schedules of events.

Our grand finale for this exposition was a display of the new Web page of the application. The drop down lists of choices did not need timers because an adjustment of screen resolution and definition of their sizes resolved the need for constant display while a choice is made by the user. A cheer went up for the colorful Web page that announces the invocation of the management tool.

dotNet meeting ended with a trip to the pizzeria.

**Server.** The April meeting was a wild flurry of demonstrations of how "X" works. In this case "X" means X-windows, the display protocol used to draw the GUI on Linux. More specifically, X on Linux is XFree86, the X-windows implementation of the XFree86 open source project. The history of this organization, one of the few open source projects to actually form a corporation, is as interesting as the software itself, so I refer you to their web site [www.xfree86.org](http://www.xfree86.org). Even the name itself is a play on words.

During the demonstrations, we saw how a graphical Linux desktop consists of many layers, starting with the X server, adding a window manager, and one or many client programs. Since the client programs are separate from the X server and talk over a 'network' (using the loop back interface when everything is on one machine) it's easy to run the client program (for example, a word processor) on one machine and see the display on another machine across the room or across the world. Of course

*SIG Notes Continued on page 15*

# May 2003

## Danbury Area Computer Society

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# Software Review

## Windows Media 9 & Microsoft Plus – Digital Media Edition

By Frank Powers

**M**ICROSOFT IS OUT TO win over the hearts of music, picture, and video fans and with the advent of Windows XP, Windows Media 9, and the new version of Microsoft Plus – Digital Media Edition they may well be on their way. If you followed my earlier articles on *Digital Music Distribution*, you may remember that I have not been a big fan of Microsoft Media Player. My preferred format for digital music is still MP3 but I can't deny the inroads that Microsoft has made into the digital media market over the last few years. The new Windows Media 9 player and codecs do sound very good, and over the next year or so I think it is possible that the Microsoft juggernaut may very well put the MP3 format to pasture. Why? Because they have both integrated their format into the majority of digital video and music hardware as well as the fact that they have produced a very robust set of tools that allow the average music and video aficionados to produce excellent digital media productions with ease.

### What you will need

At a minimum you must be running one of the multiple variations of Windows XP. You will also need to download the new Microsoft Media Player 9. From a hardware perspective, any computer that can run Windows XP can utilize the Windows Media tool set. Today's computers all have adequate sound capabilities, so an add on soundcard like the Turtle Beach Santa Cruz or Creative Labs Audigy is not a necessity, however to take advantage of Windows Media 9's ability to play back multi-channel surround sound or to fully enjoy DVD playback with Windows Media 9 does require a sound system capable of playing back 5.1 surround sound. A good set of speakers or a connection to your home stereo is also a plus for enhanced stereo music playback.

### Overview of Windows Media 9

You can't really talk about the new Plus add-on without mentioning some of the new features available in Windows Media 9. Here's a link to download the new Windows Media 9 player:

<http://windowsmedia.com/9series/home.asp>

See box for what Microsoft has to say about the new feature set:

### Microsoft Plus – Digital Media Edition

You can download this new add-on for \$19.95 directly from the Microsoft site or save yourself \$10.00 or more by purchasing it at any of the typical software stores or online venues. The Microsoft link is:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/plus/dme/dmehome.asp>

What's included:

- Alarm Clock
- Analog Recorder
- Audio Converter
- CD Label Maker
- Dancer
- Party Mode
- Photo Story
- Sync & Go

### Toys for the Kids & College Dorms

#### Alarm Clock

If you fall asleep at your computer and / or if your computer is set up in your bedroom, the *Alarm Clock* program may be for you. For the rest of us, it is a cute little app that will never be used.

#### Dancer

I have to admit I was intrigued by how realistic these dancers were. If you want to learn some new dance steps, or if you just like eye candy, the range of dancers will provide some fun and ideas. Microsoft has dancers for everything from Hip-Hop to Ballroom. For most of us, a few minutes will suffice, but young teens may find these dancers great for parties. Watch out for drive space however. It will take over 670 mb's of storage space to download all of the available styles.

#### Party Mode

This tool will allow you to configure a full screen graphic and combine it with an auto playlist or playlist you have created. The useful stuff here is the ability to cross-fade tracks. This feature is what the pro DJ's use, lowering the volume of

the tune that's finishing while increasing the volume of the next tune up. Parents may find a useful place for this tool if they have a networked audio system that plays there music library through their home stereo.

### Toys for the rest of us

#### Audio Converter

If you don't mind using the WMA file format or if you have a portable device that will only accept WMA formatted files, this tool is a easy to use way to get all your files into the WMA format. Windows Media 9 has introduced a new format – WMA Lossless. This format reduces a CD audio file to approximately ½ the original size without any loss of fidelity. Similar to other lossless formats on the market, such as SHN, this is a great format for preserving audio files. Unfortunately, I have found no way to utilize it with the *Analog Recorder* mentioned below. I see no reason to use this format on anything other than analog recordings, so you would first have to use another program such as Cool Edit or AudioSurgeon (see my earlier Digital Media series for info on these) to make a wave file, and then use the *Audio Converter* to cut down the size of the wave file to approximately 50% of the original.

#### Analog Recorder

This is a simple to use program to record LP's and tapes to the WMA format. It will automatically set recording levels, and even split LP's into individual tracks. If you don't like messing with settings and just want a simple way to record analog formats to digital ones it doesn't get any easier. The downside however is that you can only record to the WMA format. Unfortunately, wave and / or WMA Lossless formats are not available in the program. My advice, don't use it. You'll end up with compressed files that will never sound as good as the original format.

#### CD Label Maker

This program is as good as any I've worked with. It only comes with one background image, but it has a huge collection of label templates to work with. It also allows you to utilize your own jpg, bmp, or gif image as a background file.

#### Photo Story

This program makes Plus worth looking over. If you have a large collection of digital picture files and are looking for a

way to make slide shows with narrations and background music that can be played on a PC, look no further. It is simple to use, and has a great subset of features, the most exciting of which is a filter that automatically creates motion in a still image. What happens is each shot is zoomed in and out creating an illusion of motion that is quite pleasing. Big thumbs up for this module!

### Sync & Go

If you own a Pocket PC this module alone is worth the cost of Plus. It allows you to download news and music from the internet while your Pocket PC is connected to its cradle. You obviously also need to have your PC connected to the Internet when doing this. I have used this to download news from MSNBC, NPR, and USA today on a daily basis. You can then watch the video at your leisure when not connected. When your business meeting doesn't start on time, you can while away the extra minutes catching up on the latest news of the day, well this mornings news anyway. And if your music library is in WMA format, you can use *Synch & Go* to download new playlists and tunes to your storage media. You will need a media card for storage (Smart Media, Compact Flash, etc) to save both the news files and music files. A unintended extra is that you can also archive the news files to your hard drive. Being a news junkie, it has been great to save the NBC evening news files of such events as the tumbling of Saddam's statue in compressed WMV format.

### Final Thoughts

The big issue I have with the tool set is they are all Windows Media centric. Alarm Clock, Dancer, Party Mode, and Photo Story will utilize MP3 files, but the Audio Converter and Analog Recorder will only render to the Windows Media format. If you use Windows Media already then the tool set is excellent. The *Photo Story and Sync & Go* modules are enough to justify the \$19.95 full price if you have digital photos and or a Pocket PC. The rest of the tools are mainly for the novice audiophile and or the teen / college set. For that reason, the program may be a great choice for a graduation gift for someone getting ready to hit the college dorms, and /or a young teen that enjoys learning new dance steps. If you are after a robust set of audio tools however, stick with the recommendations I made in my earlier series. MusicMatch,

AudioStation, and or Pyro are much better choices for true audio junkies!

**FRANK POWERS** has extensive digital music experience working for companies like *Voyetra Turtle Beach, Inc* and *Sam Ash Music* as well as composing his own material and running an Internet radio station. Frank is available for digital music

consulting and can be reached by email at: [frank@franks.americana.com](mailto:frank@franks.americana.com). You can find out more by visiting his website at <http://www.franks.americana.com>.

He also can be heard on the Internet at Frank's Americana™ Live365® Internet Radio station at [www.live365.com/stations/fpowers](http://www.live365.com/stations/fpowers).

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## What Microsoft is saying about MS Plus

1. **Fast Streaming** —get instant-on, no-interruption streaming for broadband users, effectively eliminating buffering time when connected to a server running Windows Media Services 9 Series. For dial-up users, the new player dramatically improves streaming responsiveness and reliability. (All supported OS versions)
2. **Mini-Player & Full Screen Audio Modes**—frees up space on the desktop, making it easy to control playback of music and video from the taskbar or via full screen controls. (Windows XP version)
3. **New audio effects including Crossfading & Volume Leveling**—Crossfading enables you to create radio-style transitions in your playlists by overlapping song endings and beginnings. Volume leveling minimizes the volume difference in playlist items by equalizing the volume. (Windows XP version)
4. **Queue-It-Up**—instantly add new music to your current playlist queue with one click. (All supported OS versions)
5. **Variable Speed Playback & Media Link**—Control the speed of audio or video without changing the pitch and tone perfect for quickly getting through a long video, or for aiding comprehension. Use Media Link to Email links to your own highlights from streamed news, presentations, home movies and more. (Variable Speed Playback on Windows XP, and Media Link on all supported OS versions)
6. **Info Center View for WMA and MP3 Files**—view artist details, ratings, lyrics, related news and radio stations, and even discover downloads and videos in the Now Playing window. (Windows XP version)
7. **Advanced Tag Editor for WMA and MP3 files**—supports over 35 media information tag types, including pictures, lyrics, mood, comments, and even synchronized lyrics. (Windows XP version)
8. **Smart Jukebox Organization**—Features including file and folder monitoring keep your library in sync across multiple folders, drives, even networked PCs. (Windows XP version)
9. **Auto Info**—Automatically add or fix album details such as composer, year, genre, and album art for your existing WMA and MP3 collection. (Windows XP version)
10. **Auto Playlists**—enables the creation and editing of smart mixes that automatically update to reflect new additions or changes to your Media Library. You can also edit and personalize over a dozen presets or add your own. (All supported OS versions, creation and editing of Auto Playlists on Windows XP)
11. **High performance CD burning**—lets you easily and quickly burn audio CDs with Volume Leveling. Burn music and video content as data on a CD-R for backup or playback in Windows Media-compatible DVD players, car stereos and portable CD players. (Audio CD burning on all OS versions, audio CD burning with volume leveling and data burning on Windows XP)
12. **Support for Windows Media™ Audio and Video 9**—Windows Media Audio and Video 9 offer breakthrough audio and video quality at any bitrate, with a 20% boost in quality compared with Windows Media Audio and Video 8. New audiophile-grade features such as WMA VBR, WMA Professional (24-bit, 96khz, 5.1+ channel), and WMA Lossless deliver unparalleled quality and flexibility. (All supported OS versions)
13. **5 Types of Plug-ins**—For maximum personalization, a new plug-in model makes it easy to add audio and video effects, new UI features, rendering formats, skins, and visualizations to your player. (All supported OS versions)

# Software Review

## SpyPC

By Richard I. DiFranco

### Spy or Surveillance Software

I HAD HEARD OF spyware before, but I thought help desks used it to look at and take over remote terminals.

SpyPC is different. SpyPC is monitoring software. It is used for monitoring computer usage. It is not a firewall, although SpyPC can be used to block designated Web pages. SpyPC can be used in a visible mode or an invisible mode. You might consider using SpyPC if someone else is using your

computer, or if you have shared computers on the shop floor. Monitoring might be useful in police work. Parents may want to install SpyPC to monitor what the kids are looking at on the Internet.



### What does it do?

In essence, SpyPC produces log files but I did find it to be feature rich. Here are some brief descriptions of SpyPC's major features:

**Window Recording:** The window title, the start date and time and how long the window was viewed are recorded. The log entries are grouped by user and time.

**Application usage:** Name of the program, the Path to where the executable is located and the cumulative time that the program was run since the beginning of record keeping.

**Screen Shots:** SpyPC can be set to take screen shots at intervals. One-minute intervals seemed to be a good test. The screen shots that I had SpyPC take on my PC were a little blurry but they were recognizable and appear to be quite useful.

### Security Features

SpyPC, in addition to keeping log files, has several security features. These features and settings are meant to protect

the PC from changes and to keep users out of certain programs. They are:

**Lock Ctrl-Alt-Del:** This eliminates use of Ctrl-Alt-Del and eliminates the task manager. The computer cannot be shut down.

**Hide Desktop Icons:** This eliminates all shortcuts from the desktop. The desktop is just a plain screen. The user is forced to use the Start menu to run any programs.

**Remove wallpaper:** I'm not sure why removing wallpaper would be a security issue but that is due to my own ignorance. Perhaps wallpaper hides things.

**Preserve shortcuts from the desktop:** Any new short cuts will be removed on exiting Windows. According to the Documentation, there is a reference list of required shortcuts. This list is accessible by "clicking ok on the Security Options screen" I was not able to find the list or the Ok button.

**Lock Explorers right click menu:** This locks the user out of several useful activities such as renaming, deleting, or copying. Certain other options are still available, such as opening, through other means.

**No New software:** This option effectively prevents installing new executables. This option would, of course have to be suspended for system administrator or SMS to install legitimate new programs.

### Advanced Security Features

The advanced settings are said to be for Policy control. A partial list includes the following:

**Disable Run dialog:** This is the run window on the start menu

**Disable MS-DOS:** Prevents access to MSDOS and prevents DOS programs from being started from Windows

**Disable Find:** Disables the find option from the start menu

**Protect task bar properties:** Prevents access to the Taskbar Properties

**Disable system changes:** Removes part of the System Properties tabs in Control Panel.

**Disable Control Panel:** Complete removal of access to Control Panel.

**Disable Registry editor:** Stops the use of Regedit.exe

### Internet Options

Although I have listed many features and options already, I do want to point out some Internet settings. Internet usage control is relevant today.

**Lock forbidden web-sites:** According to the documentation, you can build a list of web-sites that can be locked out. However, I was unable to get it to work.

**Browser time out:** This feature closed my browser and dropped my dialup connection on schedule after two minutes of inactivity.

**Internet usage logging:** Gives a flat count of how long the modem was connected or active in a twenty-four hour period. This is not detailed enough for billing purposes but good for tracking usage.

### Modes of usage

SpyPC can be used in two modes Visible or Stealth mode. That is, SpyPC can be installed on a computer and logging can continue without the knowledge of the people using the machine. Later, the logs can be viewed or copied or printed in a visible mode. SpyPC can be installed on a computer that is connected to a network, but there doesn't appear to be any special features for use on a network. It is intended for use on one PC.

### Company

SpyPC is distributed by Xelerate who licenses the product from Redhand Security Ltd. Xelerate's Web Site listed several other products:

- PDFmaker, a less expensive version of Adobe writer
- Steganos, a bigger security package
- Instantexe, a visual programming system.

There is a newsletter that they say is only sent out via email six times a year.

There were facilities at the web site for support, product registration, questions, and an FAQ section. There also is a facility for ordering software.

### Competing products:

I learned that SpyPC is not Spyware. Spyware has to do with embedding ads and banners in other software such as web pages. It sounds like a misnomer to me. SpyPC is really more of a Keylogger and I found several keyloggers on the Internet. Most of the brand names were unknown to me.

### Privacy Warnings

The Documentation has several warnings about unauthorized surveillance. Installing SpyPC on your own PC seems ok; maybe a little paranoid, depending on the circumstances but ok. If you install SpyPC on someone else's PC; you may need a golden parachute from the CIA. By extension, you don't know if someone has installed SpyPC on the computer that you are using.

The major features work as advertised and there really are many features. I do feel that the documentation could be better. There were certain features that I wanted to get working that just wouldn't like blocking certain web sites. I would be interested in hearing of anyone who has an application for SpyPC and how they used it. My interest is strictly academic, and I will keep it in complete confidence.

*RICH DiFRANCO has been a DACS member since the Brookfield library days. Programmed in FORTRAN, COBOL, and Paradox Now learning the new platforms as well as producing an occasional essay.*

Do you have special computer skills or a business that uses digital technology in interesting ways? Demonstrate your unique talents and expertise at a General Meeting.

**Become  
a DACS  
Presenter**

## VOICE FOR JOANIE Finds a New Home

Voice For Joanie, a non-profit corporation that provides assistive technology to people suffering with Lou Gehrig's disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or "ALS"), announces the relocation of its Connecticut headquarters to 4 Oxford Road, Unit D 1, Milford, CT 06460. At the new location Voice for Joanie will share the offices of the Connecticut headquarters of the ALS Association. The move will take effect on May 1, 2003.

Shirley Fredlund, founder and executive director of Voice for Joanie said: "We look forward to broader outreach through the Connecticut Chapter of the ALS Association, a national organization conducting research into ALS."

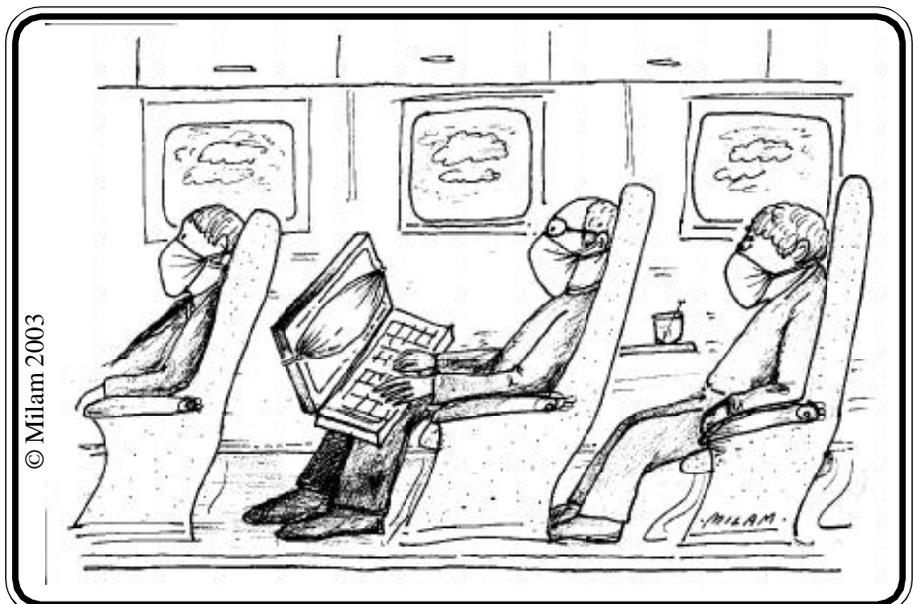
Voice for Joanie was founded in 1990 in memory of Joanie Margaitis, a Connecticut resident afflicted with ALS. For the last 12 years, Voice for Joanie has provided assistive technology, free of charge, to 385 people with ALS and other debilitating diseases in Connecticut and New York. The technology consists of computer-based voice communicators that allow people to use limited physical movements, such as eye-blinks, to speak with their family, friends and care-givers. Through technology, clients can express their basic needs, thoughts and emotions and maintain some control over their environment. The nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization is operated solely by volunteers.

The success of Voice for Joanie can be found in the testimonials of its clients:

Client Gail: "I now sit at my computer an average of 35 hours per week! I absolutely love it. I can't utter one intelligible word so I find great solace in knowing that I have some way to communicate. Without my computer, I would probably go crazy because I have the insatiable desire to be understood."

"What do I do on my computer besides communicate with my family? I run my household from shopping lists to planning for vacations and holidays. I write letters, poems and articles. I have freedom and creativity with this computer. I use it to converse with my family and guests. I even call family and friends and play happy birthday! I'm having fun."

"If you ever wonder what good you are doing, just read my letter over and over and over again! I couldn't live without Voice for Joanie."



# Random Access

April 2003

Jim Scheef, Moderator

**M**EMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE GENERAL MEETING may submit questions to "askdacs@dacs.org" by the day prior to the meeting. We will attempt to get an answer for you. Please provide enough detail, as we will not be able to ask for additional information.

**Q. Mouse control - "I have Parkinson's disease, normally no tremor. With the right hand over the mouse my ring finger is not always under my control and hits the right mouse button - quite a nuisance. Is there a program to change this to a double click requirement? The control panel mouse does not show a way.**

A. Suggestions include: (a) Increase the resistance of the right mouse button by placing something between the button and body of the mouse - a piece of a rubber band might work.; (b) Look at the Logitech web site to see if they offer any mouse control software. These would probably be found with program updates. It might be necessary to buy a Logitech mouse to gain any features offered.; (c) Prior to the meeting I did a search on Google and found nothing that offered this specific feature. I did find some hardware, like a "head mouse" that is intended for people who cannot use a mouse at all.; (d) During the break, some one from the Voice for Joanie group offered personal assistance and I will but both parties in contact.

**Q. After installing an application, [Windows] creates a group in the programs folder. When you click on Start and then Programs it lists them in order of when they were installed. Is there any way they can be put into alphabetical order? And is it the same for Windows 95/98, ME, 2000 and XP?**

A. Response summary: Click on the Start button and open the menu to the list you want to sort and right click anywhere on the list. Click "Order by name" on the context menu. This works on Win2k and XP. People in the audience said it works in Win98. It does not work with Win95, at least not on any Win95 I have ever used. Later Internet Explorer updates could possibly add this behavior to Win9x machines.

Questions from the floor (paraphrased and summarized):

**Q. What problems might ensue when using Epson printer paper in a Canon printer?**

A. It should work, but give less than optimal results, particularly over long time periods.

**Q. Is there a keyboard shortcut to start the windows screen saver?**

A. Suggestions: Lock the computer from the Ctrl-Alt-Del menu (NT, W2k, XP Pro), create shortcut to screen saver on the desktop (various opinions on whether/how this would work). Use a screen saver shortcut provided with Microsoft Office (impromptu testing found the feature was not installed on the test machine).

**Q. I have two compact flash cards that no longer work after being formatted using various format utilities (Windows, Canon, and a card reader). Each card was usable in its original device only (camera or card reader). When formatted in the card reader, the camera could not read the card and vice versa. After both cards had been formatted using both format programs, neither card works in either device.**

A. Discussion: Several people recounted similar experiences (for sympathy only). One suggestion was to take the cards to a camera store to see if they can read either card. Windows seems to recognize the cards when they are inserted in the reader (a drive letter is assigned) but then Windows says that the format is not correct. The audience consensus was that the cards have been permanently damaged by one format program or the other. Another possibility is that one reader device or the other has a bent pin which caused that format program to damage the

cards so they now fail in both devices.

**Q. How can XP Home be set to display directories with the file details by default?**

A. Open Windows Explorer or My Computer and make the listing appear the way you want it. On the View tab of the Tools/Folder Options menu, click the "Apply to all Folders" button. These settings are stored separately for Windows Explorer, My Computer, and My Network Places.

**Q. I purchased an external hard drive to use as a backup device for my notebook. How do I copy everything on the notebook to the external drive? Also, I was told that I must delete my virus checker in order to do this. Is this correct?**

A. Discussion (condensed from many responses): Two programs came up immediately: Norton Ghost and PowerQuest Drive Image. Both programs will make a copy of the notebook on the external drive. Both compress the notebook files into what looks like a single file. The person who said to "delete the virus checker" probably meant that the antivirus program should be disabled during the copy process. Some virus programs look for unusual activities and flag them as viruses. Such a large copy operation might fall into the virus software's definition of unusual.

JIM SCHEEF is DACS president..

When dining at the  
DACs Resource Center,  
please carry your  
leftovers out with you.



Thanks!  
The  
management

**SIG Notes** *Continued from page 8*

it helps a lot, if the network connection between to two machines is fast. We demonstrated this by running programs on "larry" the Resource Center's Linux machine with the display on my notebook.

Next we took a brief look at Cygwin, a UNIX programming interface that allows many UNIX (or Linux) programs to run on a Windows machine. The cool part is that there is a port of XFree86 for Cygwin, making it possible to use a Windows machine to run programs on a Linux machine. We demonstrated this as well, again using larry to run the client programs.

Additional resources on XFree86 and Cygwin will be included in the on-line version of the SIG notes available on DACS.org.

The next Server SIG meeting will be Thursday, May 8th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center. The topic will be how to set up a web server on your own machine using a DSL or cable modem connection to the Internet.

**VB.** the VB-SIG followed a pizza break between the dotNet-SIG and the VB-SIG meetings. We started here with a large contingent of inveterate VB programmers and seers. Random access kicked off the session with a programmer challenging question, how do you know when the user has changed data on the form so that some action could be taken by the program? We talked about capturing evidence of change at the form's control and posting the change where it could be interrogated at some central routine. This then gave rise for Chuck Fizer to exclaim

that he would post such a routine for interested users to acquire it.

Still to be done!

At virtually every meeting session there are questions about SQL Server-MSDE and the like. Such was the case at this meeting. Whats the difference between SQL Server & MSDE? A layman's answer, functionally, nothing. MSDE essentially contains all of the functionality of SQL Server. That means that it supports tables, views, stored procedures, relationships, indexes including clusters, constraints, etc. MSDE is a full bodied replica for SQL Server.

Well, then, what doesn't it have? Here the answer involves the operational aspects. Where SQL Server quickly rpsnds to a large body of users, MDSE's potency rapidly diminishes after 4 or 5 users ask for service. This degradation was built into MSDE by Microsoft. MSDE is eventually targetted to replace Access, and since Access is essentially a few or single user database the limitation was extended to MSDE. But for development and small deployment scenarios, MSDE is a good database and its free! SQL Server is supplied with tools such as the SQL

Enterprise manager, profiler, Data transformation Services, and other support programs while MSDE is not. But if you have access to these applications, they can be used with MSDE.

Then we proceeded to the code phase of the session, continuing with the Recipe application. This application has been revised again. We've determined that fewer forms are necessary as we currently envision the application, but this may change

again when the true program author Tish Barrow give us more information.

We had a problem updating recipes. The application was retrieving an ADO recordset, then updating a record or inserting a new record as required. We had a hiccup on the insert. ADO's default recordset configuration is Read-Only. So unless told otherwise it would not insert a new record. We ultimately learned from the on-line MSDN help that we needed ADO directives adOpenStatic and adLockOptimistic. These 2 directives issued with the rs.Open(...) provided the required db access functions needed to insert and update a recordset. And now we can insert recipes. At the next meeting we plan to proceed and add additional functionality such as Recipe directions. On a final note I think we all know how to spell recipe now. We were slow in learning the value of spelling particularly when different programmers are to work on the same program.



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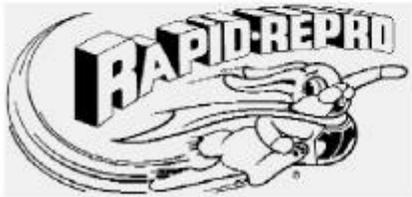
Leave hard-copy classifieds with Charlie, Marc, or whoever is tending the members' table at the meeting.



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## Future Events

May 6 • Jim Scheef - Debabelizing the Web  
June 3 • Steve Nickle, MyFamily.com, Genealogy

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