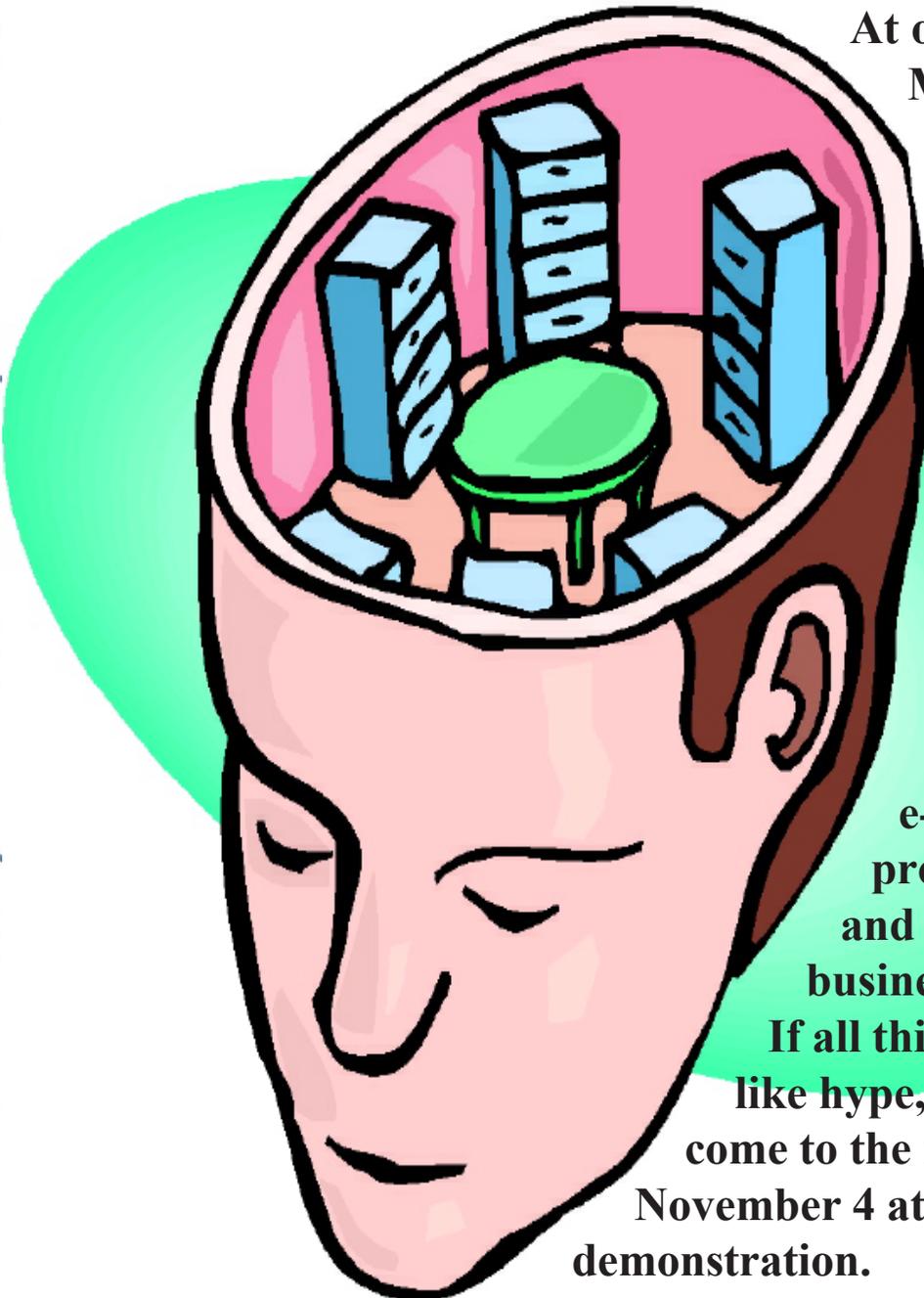




November 2003

Volume 14, Issue 11

Minding Your Business With Microsoft Office System



At our next General Meeting, Microsoft will unveil its new Office System 2003 - a fully integrated set of tools to help you organize and grow your business. Learn how to maximize your productivity, coordinate staff activities, organize contacts, manage e-mail, create more professional documents, and make critical business decisions.

If all this hoopla seems more like hype, don't flip your lid... come to the meeting on Tuesday, November 4 at 7 PM, for a hands-on demonstration.

President's File



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS VERSION 1.5

DACS Board openings

As I mentioned last month, December is our elections month. This is when you, the members, elect the people who manage DACS throughout the year. Two directors have indicated that they do not wish to run for reelection, so we will have some vacancies to fill. Being a director involves one meeting a month on the Monday following the general meeting. At the directors' meeting we discuss the status of programs for upcoming general meetings, the club's financial status, how to promote and grow the club and all sorts of interesting topics. We often become embroiled in debates over some issue or another but the outcome has always been a healthy and functioning club. Over time, most directors take on additional projects that interest them and benefit the club. Thru all of this, being a director is a chance to share your skills while learning new ones. It can also be an impressive addition to your resume. If you would like to see DACS become an even better organization, send me an email at jscheef@dacs.org.

New Web Design SIG

Last month saw the opening meeting of the new Web Design SIG and it was a lot of fun. Anna Collens, an independent graphic designer in New Fairfield, brings the artistic side of web site "programming" to DACS — something missing for the last few years. The SIG meets on the third Tuesday each month. Anna has set up a web

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site with a schedule of topics at www.annagraphics.com/sigsite/.

Hurray for Charter!

Generally speaking, no one loves their cable company, so this is something I never thought I would say, but Charter deserves a big heap of praise for the stand they have taken on RIAA subpoenas asking for personal information about alleged music file swappers. A news article in the October 13, 2003, issue of Information Week reports that Charter Communications is the first cable company to join Verizon Communications and Pacific Bell Internet Services in refusing to answer subpoenas issued under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). It is Charter's position that these subpoenas violate the constitutional rights of their customers. Verizon was compelled to answer the subpoenas in a ruling by a US District Court in Washington, DC. Verizon has appealed.

This issue is already at the appellate level in our judicial system and will undoubtedly reach the Supreme Court in the next year. Stay tuned. These are your digital rights on the line here. Of course, a repeal of the DMCA would save the lawyers all this trouble, so write your congresspeople and tell them what you think.

In the interests of full disclosure, I should say that I own stock in Charter Communications which should indicate the value of any financial advice you might read in this column.

Smart Computing

For years I ignored Smart Computing magazine as something for beginners. In the last few months I received a couple of sample issues and have changed my tune. This magazine has easy to read articles for all levels on topics not covered by other computer magazines. The cover articles in the current issue (November, 2003) is on "Spam, Scams and Spyware." Rather than dive into a technical analysis of programs like Ad-Aware, they talk about various scams on the Internet, how to recognize them and what to do if you think you are being victimized. In the section on spyware, they give specific, easy to follow instructions on how to tighten security on your computer. The last part is on hoaxes, how to spot them and even some history. Enjoyable reading on timely topics — how can you lose?

Hard Drive Failure

That most dreaded of all computing events has hit me again. One of the hard *President's file, Continued on page 4*

Membership Information

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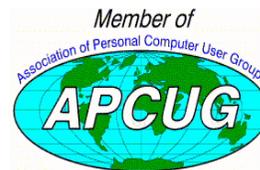
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SIG COORDINATOR: Don Neary (203) 746-5538

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)
Multimedia	Ed Fitzgerald	(203) 222-9253	(d e)
Newdeal	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	(d e)
Paradox	Alan Boba	(203) 264-1753	(e)
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 Resource Center on October 13, 2003, at 7:00pm. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Cohen, Gallichotte, Keane, Ostergren, Preston, Scheef and Setaro. Also present was Jamie Yates. Jim Scheef, President, presided. Larry Buoy, Secretary, kept the record. Minutes of the last meeting held on September 8, 2003 were presented and approved.

Treasurer Charlie Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$17,527.65, consisting of bank and postal accounts of \$17,408.61 plus postage on hand of \$119.04. Subtracting liabilities of prepaid dues in the amount of \$6,477.00 left a net of \$11,050.65. He also reported current membership of 414, and remarked that response to the member survey solicited by email and printed in the September newsletter stood at 29.

Reopening discussion of possible future presentations for General Meetings resulted in suggestions of Assistive Technology, not limited to the requirements of the Voice for Joanie SIG, internet surfing of museum sites, computerized control of hobby and special skill activities (for example, embroidery), a program by Ed Heere, hacking tools, the use of Yahoo and/or eBay, possible government agency representatives and genealogy. The foregoing led to a lengthy discussion of determining what our membership (or potential membership) is seeking in DACS activities that could benefit their computer experience.

The establishment of a membership blog site was suggested by Jim Scheef and the pros and cons thereof were discussed, with no definitive action taken. Jeff Setaro reported that registration of DACS and its appropriate SIGs with Microsoft's Mindshare program had been confirmed.

President Scheef then reminded the meeting that, at the Annual Meeting of the Membership to be held in December, a slate of six directors must be elected for a two-year term and that terms expiring as of that meeting will be those of Messrs. Buoy, Cohen, Ostergren, Preston, Scheef and Setaro. Allan Ostergren announced that he would not stand for reelection, Marc Cohen that he would be willing to step down and Larry Buoy that he would appreciate being re-

Directors' notes, *cont. on page 4*

President's file *continued from page 3*

drives in my server died last Wednesday morning. Naturally, it was the one with the operating system on it so the machine is pretty dead. Ironically, a few months back I started the process to migrate off the drive that has now failed to a spare drive which was already installed. This server is the domain controller for my network (in other words it runs Active Directory), so recovery is not quite so straight forward. I suspect that this will become at least one article for *dacs.doc* once the server is back up and running. In the meantime, you can read about my last server failure in the series of articles *Server Won't Boot*, beginning in June, 2001. Right now, I have restored the operating system (Windows 2000 Server) and Active Directory is running again but the server will not allow any other machines on the network to connect—except when using terminal services. Needless to say, I'm working with Microsoft Support on this. This server also runs Exchange Server, so a side effect of all this has disabled most of my email. If life without email is hell, then I'm in purgatory right now, with access to only web-based email like Yahoo. Ain't 'puters fun?

—JIM SCHEEF
DACSPREZ@DACS.ORG

Directors' notes, *continued from page 3*

lieved of his Secretarial post and, concomitantly, directorship.

The meeting then considered a lengthy email message from Sherry Zorzi, APCUG Region 1 Advisor, regarding the success story of the Cajun Clickers Computer Club, particularly a recent "Open House" and how it was organized. A few points of interest were discussed before it became obvious that an in depth discussion would consume more time than available and the subject was tabled to allow more consideration of adapting the subject for DACS or in cooperation with other groups.

Jim Scheef advised the meeting that Resident Services, an ancillary organization of the Danbury Housing Authority, had requested DACS to sponsor a number of guests for its Christmas Dinner. The amount of each sponsorship was quoted at \$20.00 and, after discussion, it was unanimously agreed to sponsor ten guests for such event.

—LARRY BUOY, SECRETARY

Meeting Preview

Minding your business with Microsoft Office

By M. Gaberel

MICROSOFT'S presentation to DACS at the November 4, 2003 general meeting will be on the topic of its Office product. I have been using the Microsoft Office software for years now, and I was wondering what Microsoft can add to the products?

At home I have Office XP, and at work Office 2000. For sure, I never use all the features of Office products I have access to on a daily basis. I was reading through the upgrade that Microsoft added to Office 2003. Microsoft has a page that specifically shows the features as either new to Office 2003 or improved (see the link from DACS' web page) and I noticed the following upgrades that I found to be of interest:

• Word editing restrictions

Lock down portions of your Word documents to prevent anyone from editing your work. You can allow reviewers to make changes, but only if they turn on revision marks. Or you can make the entire document read-only with key portions that can be edited only by specific individuals." At work, I put some documents on the network, but they are either full share or read-only. It would be very convenient to be able to put some portions to be edited only by certain people.

There are also new items in Outlook that sound most convenient as follows:

• Arrange by conversation

Arrange your Inbox by conversation (or thread) to see all messages on a particular topic, all conveniently grouped together. You can even quickly move or delete entire threads." As I cannot remember all that happened six months ago on a particular topic, this new feature would evidently be very helpful.

• Quick Flags

Flag messages by priority or time sensitivity, and then find them in whatever folder they reside. You no longer have to keep email messages in your Inbox to remind you of action items." As communi-

cation is done or confirmed with email oftentimes, to be able to flag messages that are not in my inbox would be a real convenience.

• Search Folders

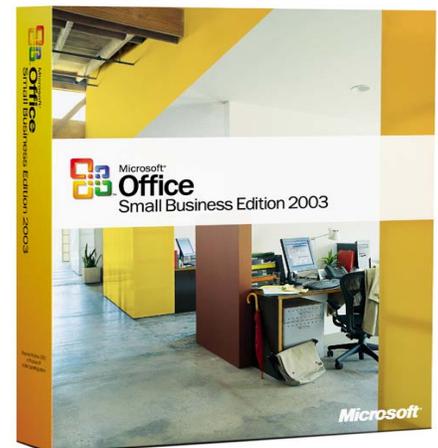
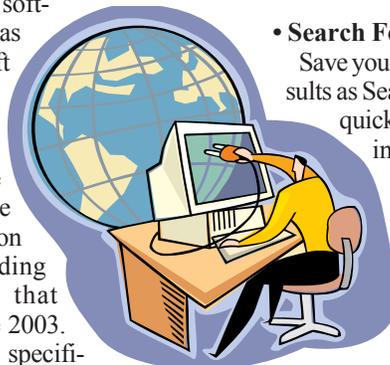
Save your Outlook 2003 search results as Search Folders that you can quickly access instead of having to search again each time. Store the resulting email messages in any folder, and still access them quickly." Every day I need to search emails for topics that need to be re-evaluated. To be able to save those searches would be a real time saver.

Many more features will be explained and presented at the November general meeting. The above, however, are features that I would find most useful in my day to day activities.

The biggest challenge, of course, is to convince my boss to upgrade the software.

The general meeting will take place on November 4, 2003, as usual at Danbury Hospital Auditorium, starting at 7 pm with computer related questions and answers, followed by brief club announcements. The Microsoft presentation will start at 8 pm. The general meetings are free and open to the public. More information is found at dacs.org.

Marlène Gaberel is a DACS board member and VP for Public Relations. You can e-mail her at: marlene_gaberel@yahoo.com.



Meeting Review

The Hard Facts on Hard Drives

By John Gallichotte

AFTER A BRIEF discussion about some of the changes taking place, Gene Barlow got us thinking about our hard drives with a query of what really happens when we erase files and data that we no longer need? He went on to describe a recent news report about a group that obtained a number of used and/or discarded drives and found many cases of private information including credit card information.

Gene explained the importance of using products such as Secure Clean 4.0 an individual file scanning and deletion utility and Wipe Drive 3.0 a proven hard drive sanitizing solution rather than simply deleting the file. Both products are available from White Canyon Software. A members only 50% discount is described in the October Dacs Doc. If you missed it go get last months copy or check at dacs.org.

Full and proper protection of our hard drives must include a plan for regular backup of files and data. Replaceable media such as tapes and CDR/CDRW and DVD are often used however they fall short with the increasing capacity of modern hard drives. With drives near or over 100 GBytes a simpler, faster, easier method of backup is required.

With a large drive there often is sufficient unused space to have a second copy of the system files and data. Rather than simple coping of files a more elegant method should be used. PowerQuest Corporation well known for the products Partition Magic and Drive Copy also makes a lesser know product called Drive Image. In operation a backup is made by creating an image of the entire hard drive with only a very few keystrokes. A separate partition is created to contain the drive image. In practice it is recommended that the system and data files be contained in their own partitions. Data files, which change more frequently than system files, can be imaged (a backup) independently.

With a backup performed by creating an image of our files and data Gene went on to describe more advanced methods which provide addition protection and convenience. With larger drives additional partitions can be created to hold more than one image of the system or data files. Hav-

ing more than one backup covers that case where a current backup is made only to find a corrupted file on the active system is in the backup. With two or more copies it is possible to go back to an earlier backup.

Other strategies are required and come to mind if in addition to your desktop computer there is also a laptop. If your backup image is on another computer we achieve additional protection. If the drive in one computer falls completely we have a full backup on our other computer. Another variant when two computers are involved and budget does allow for the purchase of an additional drive for each computer a single external drive can be shared between the two computers. It can be cheaper buying a single large drive in an external enclosure than two smaller ones.

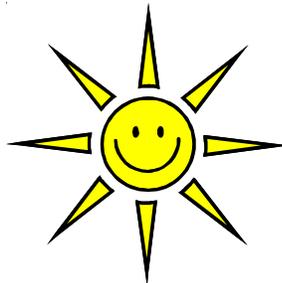
As we pondered the possibility of various backup schemes and wondered how we were going to remember what we had just heard copies describing all of the software discussed and ordering information was passed out to those in attendance. During the presentation Gene had mentioned many of the features of Drive

Image and a new product V2i Protector V2. The hand out describes each of the products offered along with special pricing finally. A question and answer session brought out the fact that Drive Image v7 is for XP only however a copy of the prior release is included in our special discount bundle. Noteworthy are two products called Discover Your HD and Backup Your HD. A question was asked to compare V2I Protector V2 and Drive Image V7 (both were the same price). The answer was that the Dacs member only special price for Drive Image V7 includes a copy of the 2002 release of Drive Image which works with Win98. V2i Protector V2 has the ability to mount the backup image as a separate drive permitting individual files to be recovered rather than the entire image.

To help you take advantage of the WhiteCanyon products, we have created a URL and code for your User Group. The User Group Advantages web page can be found at www.whitecanyon.com/usergroup.php. Please note that this page cannot be accessed from WhiteCanyon's main web page. Once you have accessed the User Group Advantages page, enter your User Group code UGID* in the login box.

*This is members only offer. Members should contact the webmaster to obtain our group ID number. Please include your name and membership number in you e-mail.

JOHN is a board member and a long-time veteran of DACS.



Senior Center wants Computer Volunteer Instructors

The New Fairfield Senior Center located in the Heritage Plaza (next to Curves) is looking for responsible volunteers with knowledge of Windows / Word / Photoshop / Internet, to teach 8 weekly 1½ hour classes in Winter 2003/4. The Sunshine Computer Center has 8 Win-XP PCs. Please contact Kathy Hull if interested at n.ffld.senior@snet.net 203-312-5665. For more information about the center, surf at:

www.volunteersolutions.org/vcswc/volunteer/agency/one_191914.html.

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: November 2003

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

Contact: Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920 (bpreston@mags.net).

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

Next meeting: Nov 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: Bill Keane (wbk@mags.net) 203-438-8032.

Meets on the second Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

Next meeting: Nov 12

dotNET. Programs for Web site/server.

Contact: Chuck Fizer (cfizer@snet.net). Meets on 1st Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Nov 5

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

Contact: Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 (graffic@bigfoot.com for the details). Meets on last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Nov 26

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: Nov 20

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

Contact: Bill Keane (wbk@mags.net) 203-438-8032

Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Nov 19

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: Nov 25

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: Nov 13

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

Next Meeting: Nov 5

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: Nov 24

WEB DESIGN. Explores popular applications for designing and creating Web sites.

Contact: Anna Collens, 203-746-5922 (acvo@annagraphics.com).

Meets on third Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Nov 18.

SIG News & Other Events

DotNet. The .Net SIG meetings for September and October both had a spirited random access sessions. After all of the encouragement we've put out on using .Net either C# or VB, people are begin to consider the environment and ask questions as noted below in the scatter of questions. A focus for the last two sessions has been our tutorials on the concept of classes. What they are and why and how are they used. Initially we talked generally about the classes contained within .Net. Our application has been an on going web program development, so we looked at the classes used to create web forms.

Claude Prevots continues with his capture of the details as follows.

Our September session began with some extended comments on troubleshooting in dotNET programs for Web applications. Permissions in SQL Server must be properly set for the code to access and use a database. Besides Windows authentication and server login definition, there is also an ASPNET user to be identified to the server when a user program is managing data. For this complex issue, there are several corrective measures to notice and check. They are: (1) code impersonation, (2) create a special login with requisite permissions, (3) set defaults in Web.config, (4) set defaults in machine.config, (5) turn on Remote User functions in machine.config, if need be. The Help system should be consulted, and the best ones are in dotNET SDK and Framework 1.1.

To deploy solutions, Front Page Server Extensions must be installed in the server to enable a project to be copied to another machine. There are two approaches, to use a copy action or to use Xcopy, and the target machine must have Web.config properly set.

Error handling routines have changed from VB6 to dotNET. In VB6 a routine is headed with the inscription "On error go to" but with dotNET an exception handler must be constructed. Chuck illustrated this approach with a sequence of code blocks headed with the inscriptions, "Try", "Catch", and "Finally".

After a thorough review of troubleshooting tips, Chuck went on to a discussion of the notion of class in dotNET. An important point to notice is the instantiation of one or more objects that are available in a class. A programmer must declare an object in order to use it. Chuck presented a simple program with a form to illustrate this process in which a class is identified in a namespace, an instance of an object is defined, and a use of that object is made, encompassed with events invoked with a constructor and a destructor. Values of a set of variables were displayed in a label on a form. A button was added to activate the display on demand. Another short discussion went forward with an illustration of effects of defining a class as public or private. An important value of these illustrations is to let the audience see examples of the correct syntax for working code in C# as a lesson for future development of applications. It is also useful to view correct code to appreciate core concepts that are seen again and again in working programs.

Then at the October meeting we continued with the following:

Our session began with some random questions that energized discussion. The topic was Web services and the structure and placement of its code. A salient point made by

Sig Notes, [Continued on page 11](#)

November 2003

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Reflections

A Trip Down Microsoft Office History Lane— Another Day At The Office...2003

By Bruce Pechman

WITH THE IMMINENT release of Office 2003, and the newly branded Microsoft Office System, I started to ponder the Office family pedigree from a historical perspective. It seems there are so many configurations, releases, editions, and individual applications that make up the Microsoft Office System family. I wanted some answers to some very pressing questions. Instead of reviewing Office 2003, I uncovered and compiled some interesting anecdotes and facts about the Office family pedigree in general.

You will probably see oodles of reviews about Office 2003 ad nauseam in the months to come, so sit back and enjoy the “sideshow.” I would like to thank Lisa Robbins with Waggener Edstrom and Aaron Ricadela from Information Week for providing me with historical information that made this article possible.

Let’s start off with a trip down memory lane for some Microsoft Office firsts. According to a Microsoft white paper “Key Events In Microsoft History,” the very first incarnation of Microsoft Word took place on 9/29/83. On this date, Microsoft introduced its full-featured word processing program, Microsoft Word for MS-DOS 1.00. OK, that might be too far back, but the first release of Microsoft Excel for Windows occurred on 10/6/87. Excel was a smash hit and just nine years later on 5/17/96, Microsoft reported that more than 30 million people worldwide use Microsoft Excel—making it the most popular spreadsheet program of all time. Wondering about the roots of PowerPoint? PowerPoint was actually developed by a company called Forethought, Inc. and was acquired by Microsoft on 7/30/87. Speaking of PowerPoint, according to the Nerdy Books newsletter, “there are over 250 million PowerPoint users and approximately 30 million presentations are given every day.” For you database fans, Microsoft announced

the availability of Access Database for Windows on 11/16/92 at Fall Comdex.

Now let’s test your memory skills. How many versions of Office for the Win-

dows platform have been released? Would you believe seven! Sure—many of you knew about Office 97, 2000, Office XP and certainly the new Office 2003. But the other 3 lesser known are Office 3.x, 4.x, and of course, Office 95. For you trivia fans, Outlook first appeared in Office 97. Another first for Office 97 is what became known as the Office “Developer Edition.” This edition

was aimed at developers to learn how to build solutions with the new features of Microsoft Office 97. There are over one million developers who use Microsoft Office to build business solutions. In fact, according David Bennie, group Manager at Microsoft, there are about 245 million people worldwide that use Office products. It’s no mystery that Microsoft makes up 90% of the Office Suite market. Office 2000 introduced the option of a “Premium

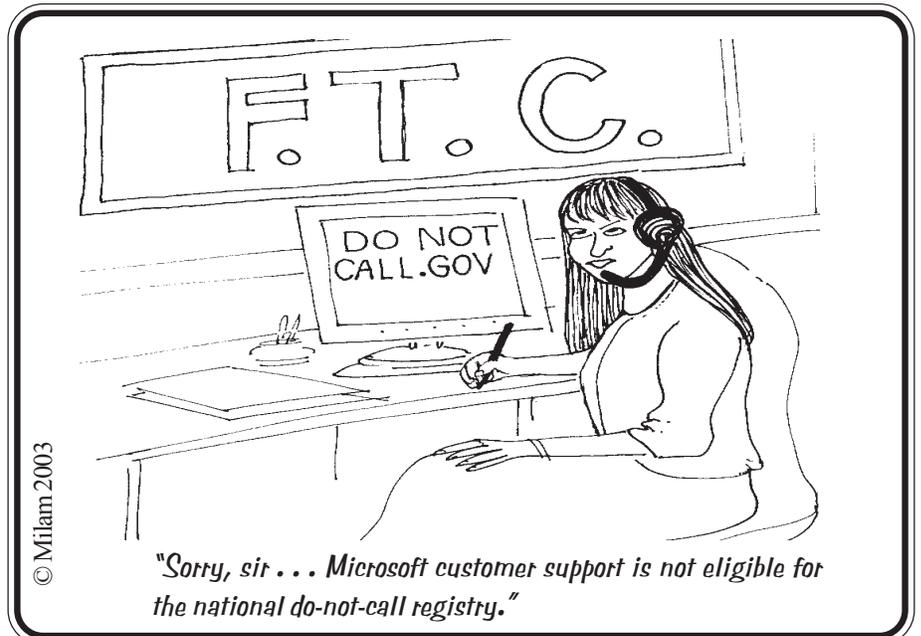
Edition” that bundled some previously stand-alone applications such as Publisher, Front Page, and PhotoDraw.

By the way, not included in Microsoft Office, but still considered in the “Office Family,” are Microsoft Project (first announced on 9/18/95), Microsoft Visio, and Microsoft MapPoint. If you are wondering about Microsoft PhotoDraw, Waggener Edstrom confirmed that no new versions are planned and the PhotoDraw team has been deployed to work on future Microsoft .Net technologies. New programs, depending upon the edition of Office 2003 you choose are InfoPath and OneNote.

You know the irony of all this nostalgia is these dates don’t seem all that long ago yet according to CNET, Office and other desktop applications accounted for 37 percent of Microsoft’s \$6.46 billion revenue in one quarter. According to Microsoft in 2001, approximately 55 percent of the world’s 120 million licensed Office customers still have the 97 version. Approximately 5 percent have Office 95, and the remaining 40 percent have Office 2000.

The future of the Office franchise is still very much a subject of speculation, but industry analysts say there is a good chance the next Office version may go by the moniker “Office.Net” and possibly adhere to the .Net platform’s subscription-based services model.

You can find **Bruce** on his Website, *The Musclemann of Technology*SM www.mrbicep.com. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.



"Sorry, sir . . . Microsoft customer support is not eligible for the national do-not-call registry."

Book Review

Web Services Essentials

By Mike Kaltschnee

WHEN THE COMPANY I work for said they were working on a new technology called Web services, I turned to O'Reilly & Associates to learn more about how they worked. They publish a book called Web Services Essentials, by Ethan Cerami (ISBN # 0596002246, 304 pages, \$29.95). Remember that DACS members get a 20% discount on O'Reilly books (send me an e-mail for the secret code). My bookshelf is filled with many of the O'Reilly animal-covered books that have helped me keep up with technology over the years.

A Web service is a program that is run on a Web server, typically by another Web server. Web services are self-describing and discoverable, which means there should be little or no human intervention when someone wants to access your Web service (unless there is a fee or license agreement required for use). Web services are a way for Web servers to communicate, typically using XML (extensible markup language). The final part of Web services is the transport layer, usually HTTP (hypertext transfer protocol — the same protocol used to view Web pages, hence the “http://” in <http://www.dacs.org>), but can also be SMTP, FTP, or even BEEP.

Web services work across virtually any platform on the Internet, including Windows, Sun, Apple, Unix, Linux, etc. Virtually every programming language has been enabled to work with Web services. Microsoft's .Net is based around Web services, demonstrating how important this technology is and will be in the future.

Both Google and Amazon have made Web services available. When you visit Amazon.com, you are running programs on their Web server from your Web browser to search and order books. Amazon made some of their programs available to other companies, who are doing very interesting things with the Amazon Web services. One example of how powerful this concept can be is www.yes.net, which enables you to buy music that is playing on your local radio station at Amazon - while you're listening!

In the case of my company, we've developed Web services our

partners can use to get access to our images (I work for the stock photography agency www.IndexStock.com). Our partners are printers, software developers, and companies that use photos as part of their product offering. In the old days, we used to send photos on CD to them, and they would add them to their product. This was time-consuming and limiting — we have 650,000 photos, and it would be hard to send all of them to all of our partners.

We have set up two Web services, “Image Search” and “Image Download.” One of our business partners can add a search Web Service in as little as a few days to their product, giving them access to all or part of our image collection. We have more than a terabyte of photos, so the partner is saving time and storage costs by using the Web service. Once an image is needed, they can use our Image Download Web Service to access the photo at a variety of sizes.

I picked up Ethan's book with high expectations. O'Reilly books are typically

the best on a topic, and I wasn't let down. Ethan spends a lot of time going over the intricacies of the four major Web service components: XML-RPC (XML remote procedure call), SOAP (simple object access protocol), WSDL (Web service description language), and UDDI (universal description, discovery and integration). The examples are well thought-out and he explains key topics clearly.

The major issue I have with this book is the heavy use of Java, which I have only a tiny bit of experience with. With more than 90% of computers today running some form of a Microsoft operating system, I expected more .Net examples. If you are interested in a more detailed book, you have several choices for specialized .Net, Perl, or even Macromedia Flash Remoting, all available on www.ora.com.

This book is for people with a technical or programming background, and I recommend learning more about XML before venturing into the interesting world of Web services. More information on Web services can be found at:

www.w3.org/2002/ws/;
<http://webservices.xml.com/>;
www.xml.org;
www.Microsoft.com/webservices;
and
www.ibm.com/developerWorks

Web services are changing my job, making it faster and easier for our partners to get access to our images (and making it faster and easier for us to sell more photos). I like where all of this technology is going!

MIKE can be reached by e-mail: mikek@demorgan.com. He hasn't setup a personal UDDI service — yet.



Random Access

October 2003

Bruce Preston, Moderator

MEMBERS 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. I have a digital camera that supports SD/MMC (Secure Digital/MultiMedia cards) cards. I can read an SD card on my machine but not an MMC. What is the difference between them?

A. Other than ‘one works, one doesn’t’ no one could come up with an explanation. It was suggested that you might look for help in the ‘Photo Equipment’ chat board on eBay.

Q. I have a digital camera that has a memory card, and a card reader, but I don’t know how to get the image from the camera into the computer.

A. When you connect the USB card reader to the PC, it will be detected and assigned a drive letter - usually the next letter after your CD ROM drive. Open up a copy of Windows Explorer, minimize My Documents (or Desktop) and expand “My Computer”. Minimize drive C by clicking the ‘-’ next to it. You should now have a list of drives - including one for the card reader - it will have ‘Removable Media’ as a label. Double-click it - you should see a folder in the right window of Windows Explorer named DCIM (Digital Camera Images). Open it. You should now see a folder with the brand of your camera. Open it, and you will see your images as files or thumbnails, depending upon your folder options. With most image editing software you can then drag-and-drop the file(s) into the editing window of the program. The reason for the DCIM is that you may also use the media card on some other device, such as a smart phone or music device.

Q. Any comments on the latest flaw in Internet Explorer?

A. After a bit of a discussion trying to identify which flaw you meant, it

was determined that you were talking about the various ‘spooftrojans’ that claim to be ‘the latest update’ from Microsoft. Microsoft does not ship updates, or include them in e-mails, etc. Your best course of action is to frequently do a Windows Update and download the fixes from there. Note that many of the frauds look very seductive - they link to Microsoft sites, etc. but the ‘payload’ often is a site that if you look closely comes from eastern Europe. If you subscribe to Microsoft Security Alerts, (and you know who you are) then you will be familiar with their delivery mechanism.

Q. We are using QuickBooks - Multi-User. Is it possible to set it up so that only a single user has access to the checkbook in Windows?

A. It is not a function of Windows - it must be activated within QuickBooks. If you aren’t set up to ask for an account and password from within QuickBooks, then you must start there.

Q. I am looking at a Centrino notebook, one at Staples looks interesting, is about \$200 less than other machines that I’ve looked at, but only has 256MB of RAM. I don’t want to purchase over the internet. Comments?

A. 256MB is a bit small. You should check to see that it has stuff on it that you might have assumed is there - for example, does it have a floppy drive, does it have a parallel port - or do you need a port replicator to get these capabilities? Also, have you compared bundled software?

Q. I upgraded to Windows XP and now my HP printer doesn’t have all of the functionality that it had previously. What happened?

A. The drivers that are bundled in XP are somewhat generic - they support common features across families of printers, but don’t get into the higher functionality. For those you need to go to the manufacturer’s web-site and download the correct driver. HP is very good about providing drivers for printers up to about 5 years old or so. Not all manufacturers do so - Epson, for example, did not provide Windows 2000 drivers for the Color Stylus 600 printer that I had that was less than a year old. The Microsoft driver would not support any paper sizes other than standard. During the RA session we went to the HP site, support, and found the driver. It was a self-extracting .EXE file that would expand itself and create the files for the driver install. There usually is a ‘SETUP’ or ‘INSTALL’ program. It is recommended that you download the file from the site into a folder ‘DOWNLOADS’ and a sub-folder named for the device.

BRUCE PRESTON is president of West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield, CT specializing in database applications. A DACS director, Bruce also leads the Access SIG. Members may send tech queries to Bruce at askdacs@dacs.org.



December is election time for the DACS Board of Directors.

Help support our team.

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Sig Notes, *Continued from page 6*

Chuck was that the proxy DLL must reside with the Web service in its /bin directory. There it serves for translation of a client request to invoke the specific functions in the service. Greg added some comments about placement, and Chuck expanded our view with a reminder that server and client functions can be on the same machine, or the server could be a remote machine. In the code for the Web service, proxy DLL is invoked by the directive "using" together with the namespace designator embedded in the DLL.

Greg Austin presented and discussed a graphics application he had built. He gave details of his coding strategy in the application, and showed how an application is invoked with its URL designator. He showed how economies of coding could be accomplished by using abstract classes which, though not having an instantiated implementation, could yet provide a "blueprint" for implementation with classes derived from the abstract class. An economy is that methods could be invoked in an implementation without coding details repeatedly. Greg also highlighted some useful sources to illuminate design issues. A good book is James Cooper, *C# Design Patterns*, ISBN 0-201-84453-2, and there is a useful Web site, <http://www.windowsforms.com/> on which a useful TaskVision project is presented.

Chuck concluded the session with a review of some recent development, the billing application in his User Roles system. We had an interesting journey through the code to discover a source for the curious invocation of a listing where a login panel should have been displayed. In debugging we saw that a default page is needed to catch a user who attempts to start a billing function without being logged into the application. All in all, we had a very lively session.

The VB6 SIG, now evolving into a continuation of the DotNet SIG, saw us refining and developing a better understanding of classes in general. The underlying goal for gaining a better understanding of classes is to develop better application programs employing the Object Oriented Program paradigm (OOP). We will continue on the class tutorial path in the coming months. In November, Greg Austin will delve a little deeper into interfaces as used in classes. Also, we will see more complete examples of OOP code in our on going application. Stay Tuned!

Server. The October meeting was more relaxed. Most of time we discussed Random Access questions about home networking issues. As SBC expands the areas where DSL is available, more people (including myself) have a choice between DSL and cable for high-speed Internet access. Further complicating this is the fact that you can choose your service provider when using DSL. In other words, you're not limited to the phone company to get DSL service. Indeed we had a short presentation from Mags Net, LLC, at the general meeting, a local Internet service provider of DSL connections. We also talked about the Server 2003 groups and how that will proceed. Now that summer is over, the Linux server project(s) will resume. The Linux server project will first build an email server to replace the SMPT server currently running on Windows 2000 Server. Oce we have that working, I would like us to set up a message board and a blog site.

The next Server and Networking SIG meeting will be Thursday, November 13th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center. See you there.

Web Design. The second meeting of the DACS Web Design SIG gave members plenty of information to digest! A demonstration taking a simple web page idea - from initial sketch to a page layout in Photoshop - showed the way to fine-tune the page design elements. Editable layers were explained as well as simple image editing and optimizing. Next up was a demo and overview of the Dreamweaver interface with some basic information about site set-up as well as starting an HTML page using the design initially created in Photoshop. Details will be posted on: <http://www.annagraphics.com/sigsite/> (Follow the "Notes" link for an overview of the subjects covered after each meeting.)

The focus for the November 18th meeting will be Tables and Image Slicing. The stability of HTML tables depends on attention to detail! Taking a close look at the HTML code, and knowing how tables are rendered in different browsers are critical to their effectiveness. A peek at the way Adobe Photoshop and Macromedia Fireworks handle image slicing, will illustrate the exiting design flexibility this technique allows.

Join us and learn how to make tables work for you!

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

New Members

from 7/25/03 to 10/17/03

- 1) Art Piper
- 2) Jeanne Carney
- 3) Edmund Kuter
- 4) Muktech Paliwa/

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Future Events

Nov 4 • Microsoft Office 2003

Dec 2 • John Patrick - "The Future of the Internet"

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