

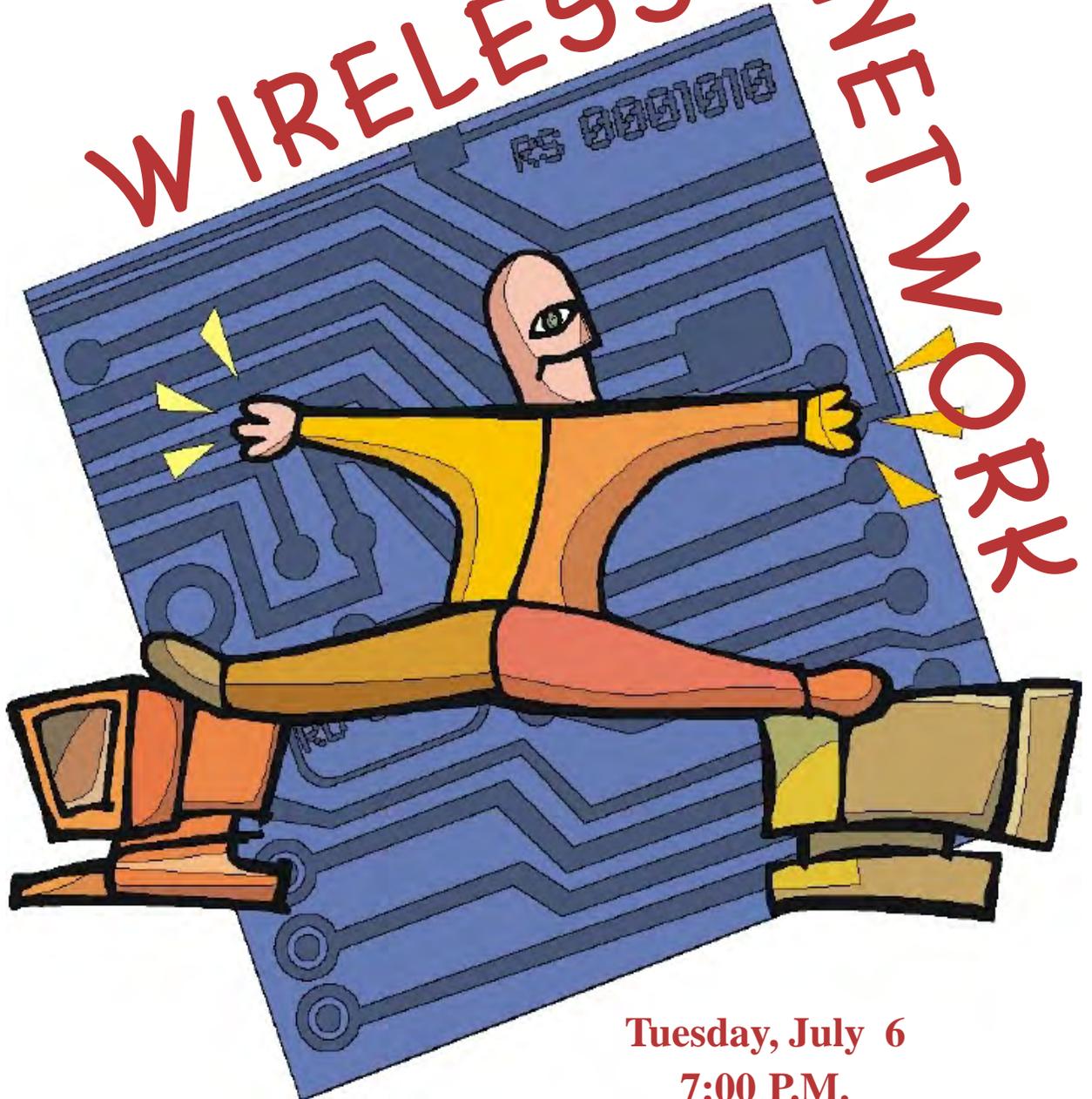
July 2004

Volume 15, Issue 7

AT OUR NEXT MEETING...  
SETTING UP YOUR OWN

WIRELESS

NETWORK



Tuesday, July 6

7:00 P.M.

Danbury Hospital Auditorium

Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc.

# President's File



## PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS VERSION 2.1

### An order of succession

Elsewhere in this issue is a short list of 'job openings' within DACS. This is a more targeted attempt on my part to get more people involved in our club. Please note that I said "our club" as in it's your club, too. I've known most of the current board members for many years and we can be a cliquey group. I'd like to see the group of people who are "really involved" grow, because if this club is to grow, it's critical that more people work for its success. Please note that all of these positions are ones where you can learn as you go. No one is expected to jump in water that might be too deep. So even if you think you don't know anything about publicity or editing or desktop publishing, don't hesitate to email me at [jscheef@dacs.org](mailto:jscheef@dacs.org) or Allan Ostergren at [dacseditor@dacs.org](mailto:dacseditor@dacs.org) because you can learn on the job.

There is one more job that needs to be filled as well. That is "Executive Vice President". There is no such title in the club right now, because we have never had this position. The Executive VP is the person who will become president when I step down at the end of this term. Yes, I am announcing now that this is my last year as DACS president. I do not want this decision to leave the club in a lurch, so I'm asking for someone to volunteer to be president a year before taking office.

Being the Executive VP is a chance to get the feel of being DACS President before without jumping in feet first. I will continue

to do what I do for the coming year while working closely with the Executive VP to ensure a smooth transition. And I plan to remain on the board of directors for at least one year after the change in officers. Writing for the newsletter is the best part of this job, so I'll continue to write articles or a column even after I step down. That's about as much as I can do to ease the pressure on the next president.

I don't want to sound melodramatic, but if no one willing to take my place, the club could fail. Like I said three paragraphs back, the club needs more people working for the success of the club. If I'm the only person in the whole club willing to be president, then the club should disband, donate the treasury to worthy charities and we all go do something else. I would sure hate to see that happen.

### On a lighter note

The September general meeting will host a presentation by Amber Coffin from Smart Computing Magazine. I've been subscribing to this magazine for about a year now and it's better than good. While the magazine claims to be aimed at the ordinary PC user—the full title is Smart Computing In Plain English—it covers all aspects of home computing, from how to protect your computer from power surges to high end graphics cards and flat panel monitors. Each issue has a section for new products, a set of theme articles that cover a particular topic in depth, and shorter articles of news and tips. Don't miss this meeting!

### Awards and tributes

Last week Tim Berners-Lee received the world's largest technology award, the Millennium Technology Prize from the Finnish Technology Award Foundation. This long over due recognition honors Mr. Berners-Lee for his 1989 invention of the Hypertext Transfer Protocol which we abbreviate today every time we browse the web as the "http" at the start of every web address. This protocol because a universal standard for one simple reason—it was not patented.

How different would the world be today if there were ten or five or even just two incompatible, competing versions of internet-enabled hypertext programs? The web would not be the single entity it is today, linking everything together. Instead you would need to figure out if the site you wanted was on the Microsoft web, the IBM web, the Apple web, the AT&T web or maybe some other. Then you would try to remember how to use the search feature of that particular web, and see if your subscription

Ramblings, *continued on page 3*

## Membership Information

*dacs.doc*, ISSN 1084-6573, is published monthly by the Danbury Area Computer Society, 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430. Annual subscription rates: \$25 to regular members, \$20 to students (included in dues).

### Postmaster

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

## Editorial Committee

Managing Editor:	Allan Ostergren
Associate Editor:	Ted Rowland
Production Editor:	Marc Cohen
Technical Editor:	Bruce Preston
Public Relations:	Marlene Gaberel
Editor-at-large	Mike Kaltschne

## Contributors

Charles Bovaird	Larry Buoy
Richard Corzo	Marlene Gaberel
Jim Scheef	Frank Powers
Richard Ten Dyke	

DACS, its officers and directors assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any article, advertisement, or other item in this newsletter.

The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Allan Ostergren at 860-210-0047 ([dacseditor@dacs.org](mailto:dacseditor@dacs.org)). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net)).

Nonprofit groups may request permission to reprint articles from *dacs.doc* or <http://dacs.org> by sending e-mail to [reprints@dacs.org](mailto:reprints@dacs.org). Reprinted articles shall credit the copyright holder and a copy of the final publication shall be mailed to:

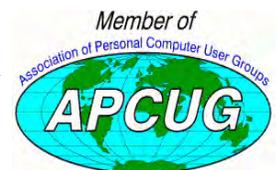
Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc.  
4 Gregory Street  
Danbury CT 06811-4403  
Attn. Reprints

Links to articles reprinted on the web can be sent to: [reprints@dacs.org](mailto:reprints@dacs.org)

## Technical Support

*dacs.doc* is prepared using an AMSYS Pentium 733 and HP LaserJet 4 Plus printer. Software packages used to publish *dacs.doc* include: Microsoft Windows 98, Office XP, TrueType fonts, Adobe PageMaker 7.0, CorelDRAW 8.0, Calendar Creator+ for Windows *dacs.doc* file transfer security provided by AVP. Internet access provided by *Mags.net*

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



Don Neary  
APCUG Liaison  
203-746-5538

## IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS	2
DIRECTORS' NOTES	3
HELP LINE	3
REVIEW - 3-D ANIMATION	4
PREVIEW - W--FI	5
SIG NEWS & NOTES	6
CALENDAR	7
PC RUN COMMANDS	8
DACS NEEDS YOU	9
RANDOM ACCESS	10

## Officers

**PRESIDENT:** Jim Scheef (860) 355-0034 ([dacsprez@dacs.org](mailto:dacsprez@dacs.org))

**VPs:** Gene Minasi • Marlène Gaberel • Jeff Setaro

**SECRETARY:** Larry Buoy • **TREASURER:** Charles Bovaird

## Directors

[dacsboard@dacs.org](mailto:dacsboard@dacs.org)

Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	<a href="mailto:cbovaird@dacs.org">cbovaird@dacs.org</a>
Howard Berger	(860) 355-9837	<a href="mailto:hberger@dacs.org">hberger@dacs.org</a>
Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	<a href="mailto:mcohen@dacs.org">mcohen@dacs.org</a>
Anna Collens	(203) 746-5922	<a href="mailto:acollens@dacs.org">acollens@dacs.org</a>
Marlène Gaberel	(203) 426-4846	<a href="mailto:mgaberel@dacs.org">mgaberel@dacs.org</a>
John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	<a href="mailto:jgallichotte@dacs.org">jgallichotte@dacs.org</a>
Bill Keane	(203) 438-8032	<a href="mailto:bkeane@dacs.org">bkeane@dacs.org</a>
Frank Powers	(203) 791-1140	<a href="mailto:fpowers@dacs.org">fpowers@dacs.org</a>
Bruce Preston	(203) 438-4263	<a href="mailto:bpreston@dacs.org">bpreston@dacs.org</a>
Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	<a href="mailto:dacsprez@dacs.org">dacsprez@dacs.org</a>
Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	<a href="mailto:jasetaro@dacs.org">jasetaro@dacs.org</a>

## Committees

**NEWSLETTER:** Allan Ostergren: (860) 210-0047 ([dacseditor@dacs.org](mailto:dacseditor@dacs.org))

**PROGRAM / WEB MASTER:** Jeff Setaro (203) 748-6748

**APCUG LIAISON:** 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](mailto: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) 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/Dreamweaver	Anna Collens	(203) 746-5922	( 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 of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. was held at the corporation's Resource Center, 198 Main Street, Danbury, Connecticut, on Monday, 7 June 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Anna Collens, John Gallichotte, William Keane, Bruce Preston, James Scheef, Jeffrey Setaro, Being a Quorum.

James Scheef, President, presided. In the absence of the secretary, Lawrence Buoy, John Gallichotte was asked to keep the record of the meeting.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of this Board held on 10 May 2004 were not available for reading.

Treasure, Charles Bovaird, who was not present had prepared the treasurer's report and forwarded a copy to James Scheef, President. Jim reported current cash assets of \$17165.03 plus postage on hand of \$140.40 for a total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$17305.43. Subtracting liabilities of pre-paid dues in the amount of \$7362.50 resulted in a net balance of \$10083.33. He also reported current membership of 393.

The sign required by the Danbury Housing Authority mentioned at last month's board meeting was investigated and an order placed by Jim. We are currently awaiting delivery.

An announcement of the upcoming wireless networking meeting did not properly reflect that it is Bruce Preston & Jim Scheef who will be the presenters has been noted and corrected.

Attention was turned to upcoming meeting subjects and presenters were discussed without resolution.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned early.

—JOHN GALLICHOTTE

### Ramblings *continued from page 2*

was up to date. Yes, the world would be a very different place. This award is more than justified. In fact it's embarrassing that the award is only one million euros.

—JIM SCHEEF  
[dacsprez@dacs.org](mailto:dacsprez@dacs.org)

## Meeting Review

# 3-D Animation The Future is Now

**I**F YOU GREW UP with Walt Disney's Fantasia—or wish you had—you'll wish you hadn't missed the presentation on 3-D character animation at the June 8<sup>th</sup> DACS General Meeting. Dr. William Joel, Director of the Center for Graphics Research at Western Connecticut State University led an enlightening, if not wholly animated, discussion of the latest techniques behind Shrek and other blockbuster 3-D cartoon productions.

3-D Character Animation is the use of computer graphics to create three-dimensional characters. Like 2-D animation, it relies on a knowledge of acting. Unlike 2-D animation, it requires a sense of 3-D space. This involves painstaking recreation of articulated figures, with a forensic scientist's understanding of skin, hair, clothing, facial expressions, acting & Emotions. Efforts are made to simulate real body features and to articulate them as they would function in the real environment. Among the difficult challenges are translucent skin color and texture, limits on movement of joints, differentiation of individual hairs, and complex facial expressions indicating emotions such as sorrow, anger, fear, joy, disgust and surprise.

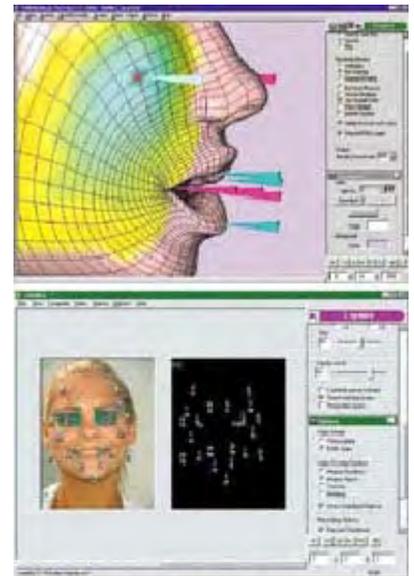
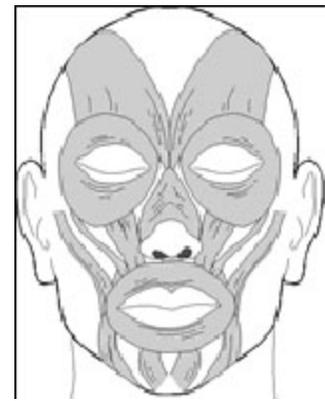
The future is truly awesome, with 3-D animation becoming ubiquitous on the Web, and new software giving the home user access to tools only movie studios and graphic designers once had. Unfortunately, all this power in the hands of amateurs will likely give bad taste and bad design equal billing with the creations of our great film makers.

This was not your typical DACS meeting. Dr. William J. Joel did not show us how to use any specific

software; in fact, he didn't even tell us what software they use at West Conn until he was pressed during the question and answer period. What he did do was discuss how animation has changed over the years, how computer animation has come into its own in recent years and what it takes to produce an animated video. A knowledge of the basic concepts of animation, he explained, will enable you to use any software available.

Note that the issue here is not "how to produce" but "what it takes to produce" an animated video. There is a big difference. Dr. Joel described the process he teaches his students at West Conn. This includes story boarding, character development, and the fine arts side of animation - acting. When an artist tells a story through an animated character, the artist is acting through that character. The artist must convey emotion, not just the story lines.

It was unfortunate that Dr. Joel could not play any of the videos produced by students due to a lack of software on the podium PC; and without an Internet connection, he could not activate the links to animation Web sites.

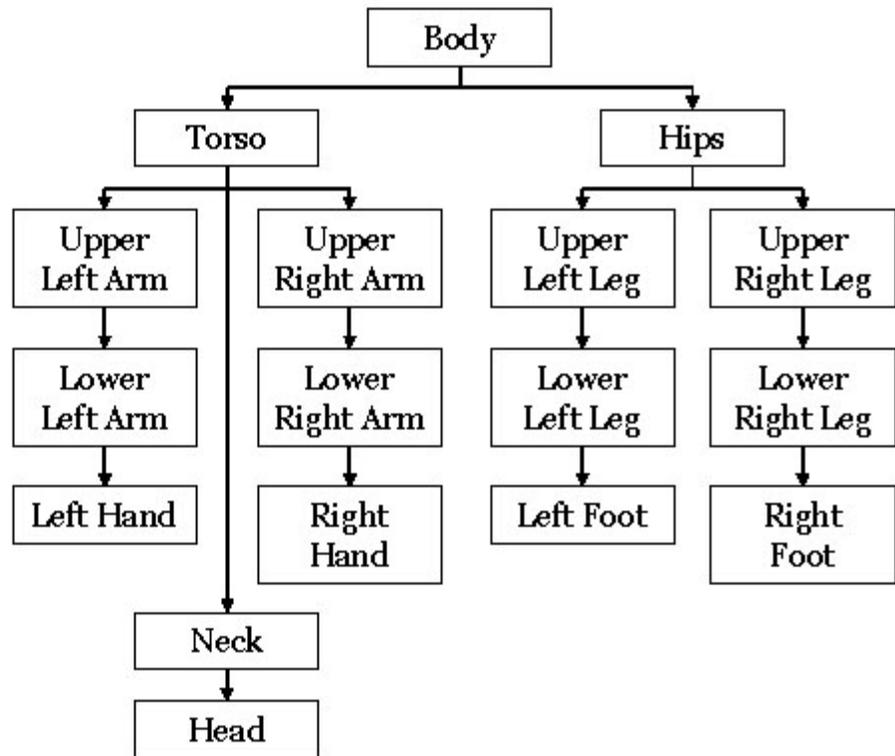


An actor wearing markers (bottom) provides the basis for FamousFaces lip syncing. A NURBS model (top) shows adjustable markers (red and blue pointers), picked up in a videotape session.



# Articulated Figures

- Body parts are jointed (articulated) and form a hierarchy



## Next Meeting

### Wireless Networking for the Adventurous

**W**IRELESS (or WiFi) is one of the comparatively new Internet capabilities that made the cross-over from the domain of technobabble to consumer speak. This is evidenced by the fact that you can walk into any Staples, OfficeMax, or Costco store and purchase the wireless equipment you need. It permits a computer (most often a notebook) to roam within the range of the WiFi signal and maintain a connection with other machines connected to the



network. With that connection established, the notebook may make use of shared resources, such as a broadband (cable or DSL) connection to the Internet, printers, or data on other machines.

At the July General Meeting of the Danbury Area Computer Society member/officers Jim Scheef and Bruce Preston will demonstrate how to set up a home or small office wireless network, or add wireless capability to an existing network. They will cover such top-

ics as the different standards and capabilities, and identify the different components—router/firewalls, access points, network cards for desktop or notebooks. This will include the steps necessary to configure the router so that it can control the broadband connection, and configure the client machines so that they can find the router.

WiFi connections are not secure by default, so a portion of the presentation will discuss the various privacy considerations as well as methods for securing your connection and data.

The meeting will take place at Danbury Hospital Auditorium starting at 7.00 p.m. with computer related questions and answers, followed by brief club announcements. The main presentation is scheduled to start at 8.00 p.m. For directions and additional information, please check <http://www.dacs.org>. The meeting is free and open to the public.

# Special Interest Groups

## SIG NOTES: July 2004

**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:** JULY 13

**ADVANCED OPERATING SYSTEMS.** Explores OS/2, Linux, and NT operating systems. For info, follow link to Don's site on *dacs.org*.

**Contact:** Bill Keane (*wbk@mags.net*) 203-438-8032.  
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.  
**Next meeting:** JULY 14

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

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

**Digital Imaging.** All about digital cameras, retouching and printing.

**Contact:** Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 (*graffic@bigfoot.com*).  
Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.  
**Next Meeting:** JULY 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:** JULY 15

**LINUX.** Helps in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. JULY 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:** JULY 21

**MACINTOSH.** Focuses on all aspects of the Mac operating system.

**Contact:** Richard Corzo (*macsig@dacs.org*)  
Meets 1st Thursday at DACS Resource Center at 7 p.m.  
**Next Meeting:** JULY 1

**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:** JULY 27

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

**Contact:** Jim Scheef (*jscheef@teleJULYksys.com*)  
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.  
**Next meeting:** JULY 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@TeleJULYksys.com*).  
Meets 1st Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.  
**Next Meeting:** AUG 1

**WALL STREET.** Examines Windows stock JULYket software.

**Contact:** Phil Dilloway, 203 367-1202 (*dilloway@ntplx.net*).  
Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.  
**Next Meeting:** JULY 26

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

**Contact:** Anna Collens, 203-746-5922 (*acvo@annagraphics.com*).  
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.  
**Next Meeting:** JULY 20.

# SIG News & Other Events

**dotNet.** The first session of the dotNet sig met at the resource center at 4pm. The agenda was a review of earlier issues and an interface presentation by Greg Austin. The session started with our familiar random access questions. As always, the questions are meaningful because they are prompted by current work and require current answers. It should be noted that my MSDN subscription will expire at the end of the month, so questions about MSDN were very appropriate. We found a site where you can purchase it for about \$700 after rebate. Since then, Microsoft contacted me to join their ISV program, whereby they will supply a universal subscription to MSDN for \$300—an option I chose in order to learn more about ISV's. The \$700 site is *softwaremoreusa.com*.

Greg's presentation involved using a Microsoft set of ADO type Interface classes for database access. The significance of his work is the apparent ease of switching between databases. He reviewed two of his class implementations for accessing SQL server and also MS Access. The presentation was very clear and easy to follow, as Greg presented the idea using familiar list and text boxes to display input and results. Greg, thanks very much for the good work! We look forward to Greg's next presentation at the August meeting. At that time he will explore another of Microsoft's software code application blocks.

Subsequently, we embarked on one of John Lansdale's problems involving the establishment of proper execution scope for his server side monitor program. At issue was how to modify his PHP code so that it could be compiled by the C# compiler as a codebehind. There were many suggestions, but John took them home to refine the result.

In the later session starting at 7pm we looked at the issues surrounding the use of the Microsoft Treeview control on a web page. The control is part of the IWebControls.dll package. The entire package provides web page controls for Treeview, Multipage, TabStrip, and ToolBar. We had previously used and displayed the TabStrip and Multipage control implemented in another commercial application we developed. This is our first foray with the Treeview. The most important consideration to note is that the documentation for the IWebControls is at best, POOR! The documentation is really a marketing document telling you what you can do with the controls, but not how to accomplish it. Secondly, we tried to download the controls from Microsoft only to learn that it was nearly impossible to find them. It was more than one of those situations where you had to confirm you wanted to download the item 20 times, you also had to guess where else the controls might be. After concerted effort we found the controls and downloaded and subsequently implemented them. Its interesting to note here that you can go into any one of thousands of libraries in the world and with the exception to language, use the same technique to find a volume. Thank God for a guy named Dewey (I'm sure glad he wasn't named Gates). Any way, the marketing documentation left almost everything to the imagination. Of course, the simple 2 line program worked, but our situation requires a WHOLE lot more to provide adequate use of the control. We finished our session with a few simple examples.

The dotNet SIG will be in recess during July. We will resume in August. At that time, Greg Austin will present another Microsoft application block, and I will present a completed Treeview control complete with javascript code for executing the thing in the browser rather than in the server. The

SIG NOTES, *Continued on page 9*

# July 2004

## Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jun 2004</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aug 2004</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p>  <p>Macintosh 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">3</p>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																				
27	28	29	30																																																																																							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																				
29	30	31																																																																																								
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">4</p>  <p style="color: red;">Independence Day</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">5</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">6</p>  <p>7:00 P.M. GENERAL MTG</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">7</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">8</p>  <p>7:00 PM SERVER Jim Scheef 860 355-0034</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">9</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">10</p>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">11</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">12</p>  <p>7:00 PM Board of Directors</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">13</p>  <p>7:00 PM Access Bruce Preston 203 431-2920</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">14</p>  <p>7:30 PM Advanced OS Bill Keane 203 438-8032</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">15</p>  <p>7:30 PM INVESTMENT Paul Gehrett 203 426-8436</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">16</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">17</p>  <p>DACS.DOC DEADLINE</p>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">18</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">19</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">20</p>  <p>Web Design Anna Collens 203 746-5922</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">21</p>  <p>7:30 PM LINUX Bill Keane 203 438-8032</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">22</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">23</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">24</p>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">25</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">26</p>  <p>7:00 PM WALL STREET Phil Dilloway 203 367-1202</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">27</p>  <p>7:00 PM Microcontroller J. Gallichotte 203 367-1202</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">28</p>  <p>Digital Imaging Ken Graff 775-6667</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">29</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">30</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">31</p>																																																																																				

# Photography

## Use Run commands for fast access to almost everything

By Linda Gonse

**D**ID YOU KNOW that the Run command is the Swiss Army knife of Windows' built-in apps? Using it can make your computing time move along more quickly and smoothly.

Available since Windows 3.1, the Run command is often overlooked by users except as an option for installing programs, although techies use it frequently to access various system diagnostics and information.

But, the average computer user should take a closer look at Run for its versatility to start programs and utilities, to open files and folders, to open web sites (when connected to the Internet), and as an alternative to placing shortcuts on the desktop.

To use Run, left click on the Start button. Click on Run. If you hate to take your fingers off the keyboard to access Run, you can avoid using the mouse by pressing the Windows key on your keyboard and the letter "r". Commands are typed into the open box.

For example: In the open Run box, type msconfig to give you quick access to the Startup Configuration tab. Click on the StartUp tab, and check or uncheck boxes of programs you want to run on Startup. (You will be prompted to restart your computer. If you want your custom startup to take effect immediately, click OK.) Msconfig is one of the Run commands you will probably use often.

Following are other Run commands for you to try out. (If you get hooked on Run, you can search Google for "run commands" to find others. There are lots of them! Many will include "switches," familiar to DOS users, that will allow some of the commands to be customized.)

- calc (opens calculator utility)
- cdplayer (opens cd player)
- charmap (opens character map utility)
- clipbrd (opens clipboard utility)
- command (opens DOS window at command line)
- defrag (opens defrag utility)
- drvspace (opens drive space utility to compress drives, etc.)
- dxdiag (for DirectX, sound, input devices, joysticks, etc. info)
- freecell (opens freecell game)

- mplayer2 (opens Windows Media Player 6.4)
- msconfig (accesses programs that run on startup)
- mshearts (opens hearts game)
- msinfo32 (accesses system resources info)
- notepad (opens program)
- regedit (accesses command to edit the registry)
- rsrctr (loads resource meter utility in system tray)
- scandskw (accesses scan disk utility)
- scanregw (registry scan)
- sndrec32 (opens sound recorder)
- sndvol32 (opens sound volume utility)
- sol (opens a solitaire game)
- sysedit (accesses the System Configuration Utility)
- sysmon (opens system monitor utility)
- win.ini (accesses file that loads some Windows components)
- winipcfg (displays Internet connection/adaptor info)
- winver (displays the Windows version installed on the computer)
- wmplayer (opens Windows Media Player)
- wordpad (opens program)
- wupdmgr (connects to Windows update)

Using the Run box can also give you a jump start on addressing your email messages. Go to Run and type in `mailto:<desired email address>` and press OK. (Example -- `mailto:editor@orcopug.org`.) Your e-mail application will open to display a blank new message that already has the email address

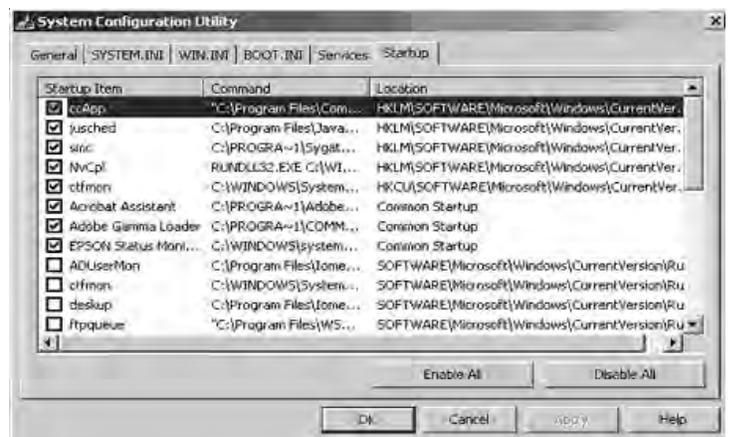
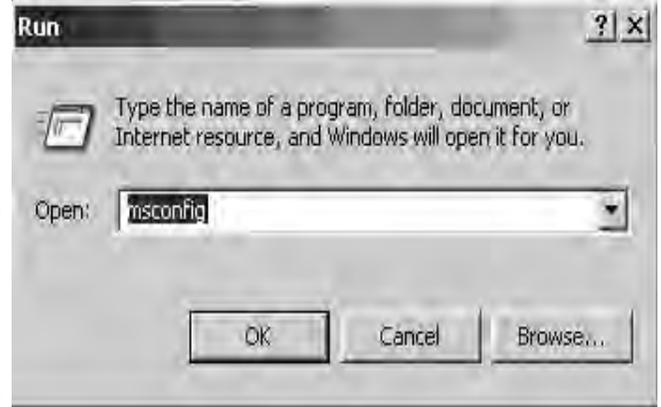
you typed in the 'To:' field! You can even check websites by typing in a web address in Run. (Ex-ample-`http://www.orcopug.org`.) When connected to the Internet, you will be whisked to wherever you want to go.

Among the switches you can type in the Run box to customize tasks are `attrib`, `move`, and `xcopy`. DOS command and switches, and instructions on how to use them in conjunction with Windows Run, are at [http://www.Techiwarehouse.com/DOS/XP\\_DOS\\_Tutorial.html](http://www.Techiwarehouse.com/DOS/XP_DOS_Tutorial.html), and <http://www.computerhope.com/msdos.htm#02>

As you type commands in the Run box, a list of your Most Recently Used (MRU) commands--a history of the commands you've used--accumulate. The growing list can come in handy, because you can just click on any command to activate it without retyping it.

On the other hand, you may not want to wade through a long list, or you may not want others to have access to the visible commands. In these cases, you need to clear the MRU commands. Here are two ways you can do that.

1. Right click the start button and go to properties. Click on the radio button



next to Start Menu and click on the Customize... button. Then, click on the Advanced tab. Locate the Run box and check the box on the left. Then, click on clear history.

2. You can navigate to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RunMRU. This is where you will find all the commands in the Run history. Delete the ones you don't want. But, backup the registry first!

---

LINDA GONSE is Editor, Orange County PC Users' Group, California

This article is provided by the the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.

## DACS Wants You

It's people that make this club go and DACS has several positions that need people to fill them:

**Secretary** – Board-level position. The person is responsible for recording the minutes of our director's meetings. Should be able to attend almost all board meetings (held on the Monday following the first Tuesday each month). Larry Buoy, our present Secretary, will train the new volunteer and help fill in when necessary. We have a tape recorder to help ease the process.

**Associate Editor** – Help our editor produce the monthly newsletter and learn editing, document layout and desktop publishing skills in the process. Our newsletter has won numerous awards over the years; you can help maintain that tradition. No writing skills are needed and we have all the software.

**Publicity Editor** – Help prepare and distribute meeting announcements to the area newspapers. You would be helping our VP of Publicity, in this vital job.

To apply, send an email to [dacsprez@dacs.org](mailto:dacsprez@dacs.org). DACS is an equal opportunity volunteer organization.

### SIG NOTES, *Continued from page 6*

main focus of the meeting will be how to approach and implement browser programming in order to provide a much better user experience. Until then!

**Macintosh.** We had a lot of ground to cover in the June 3 meeting. We discussed home networking with Macs and PCs. We concentrated that night on using wired networks (using Ethernet). If you have a broadband connection, that is, either cable or DSL, you'll need to buy one of the many home firewall/routers from vendors like Linksys, D-Link, or Netgear. Many routers have a Web administration tool that allows you to set it up from either a Mac or PC by pointing a Web browser to the router's IP (internet protocol) address, for example, <http://192.168.0.1>. The router must be connected via Ethernet to your DSL or cable modem, and your Macs and PCs are then each connected to the router. An excellent site that reviews networking equipment and has great networking tutorials is <http://www.practicallynetworked.com>.

Once the physical network is set up, you'll probably want to set up file sharing. This is done on the Mac (running Mac OS X) by going into the Sharing panel in System Preferences and checking the Personal File Sharing box. If you have PCs as well as Macs, you should also turn on the Windows sharing check box. If you have a USB printer connected to that Mac you can share it by checking the Printer Sharing box. Checking these boxes in the initial Services tab of the Sharing pane also turns on the corresponding boxes under the Firewall tab. You should switch to the Firewall tab to verify this, and then click the Start button to start Mac OS X's built-in software firewall. The software firewall is better than nothing, but only helps protect that particular Mac and is no substitute for the greater protection of the hardware firewall built into a home router, which protects all your Macs and PCs at once. With the file sharing set up, users on the home network can view files placed in the Mac user's Public folder inside the home folder. Inside the Public folder is a Drop Box folder, which is the only place by default that another user on the home network can place files for the Drop Box owner to use.

At the end of the meeting, for Mac OS 9 users, we showed a program called DAVE (<http://www.thursby.com/products/dave.html>) that will allow an older Mac to work similarly with Windows PCs in a home network.

In the next meeting on July 1, we will tie up some loose ends on the subject of home networking; so it will be another good meeting for members to bring their Mac or PC laptops. Bring your questions as well.

Also at the beginning of the next meeting, we will have a special guest from Apple to talk about the new Apple Authorized Business Agent Program. If you know of someone that has or is interested in forming a business that includes selling Apple products, please invite them.

**Web Design.** The June 15th Web Design SIG looked into some DHTML techniques and how it can enhance the user's interaction with a web site. By combining the power of scripting languages such as JavaScript, VBScript, layers, and Cascading Style Sheets, a plain HTML page can be transformed to provide user interactivity that is well supported by most up-to-date browsers. DHTML files are also smaller than comparable effects created by a Flash animation. Much of the code can exist in an external CSS file, which not only makes each page load faster, but the style sheet can be applied to as many pages as needed.

There are many free scripts available on the Web, and some demonstrations at the meeting showed how to take advantage of these free code snippets. Examples can include: background color or image changes, bookmark page, JavaScript roll-over buttons, calculator scripts, password protection scripts, interactive menu scripts, (drop downs etc.), message scripts (which appear with a click or roll-over), cookie scripts, counting visits, keeping track of visitors' actions, detect/redirect scripts, scripts to scroll text, time and date, and many more.

The July web design SIG will go back to the digital drawing board with regard to image manipulation. We will take a look at Adobe Photoshop Elements and explore the capabilities of Photoshop's economical baby brother.

Visit [www.annagraphics.com/sigsite](http://www.annagraphics.com/sigsite) for more information, links and notes of previous meetings.

# Random Access

June 2004

Bruce Preston, 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. (AskDacs@dacs.org) I have just gotten a 160GB external hard drive, and want to know if I should partition it, and if so, into what partitions. I currently have a 40GB and an 80GB internal drive and they are getting full. I use the system for video editing.**

A. If your operating system supports it (and since you've already got a 40GB and 80GB drive it is safe to assume that it will,) go with a single partition that fills the drive. You will pay a small penalty by having large allocation units (which affects the actual amount of disk space used by a small file) but with video editing you are not concerned with small files.

**Q. It appears that my machine has the Blaster worm. I don't open attachments that come in my mail, how did it get in?**

A. Internet worms can get into a machine via a network connection to a machine that has an 'open share'. It doesn't require e-mail, all you have to do is be connected to the internet with unrestricted access permissions to your drive.

**Q. (Follow-up) But I don't have a broadband connection - I'm on dial-up.**

A. Even so, you have a connection while on dial-up. It just took a few additional seconds for it to get in. The Blaster worm was discovered August 11, 2003 - so any up-to-date anti-virus or security release should have blocked it. To protect your system you must keep your anti-virus signature files up-to-date, and keep up with the Microsoft Critical Updates. For many 'exploits' the security update is released prior to there being something that makes use of the exploit.

**Q. The Internet Explorer that is on my new Windows XP desktop machine,**

**even though it is version 6, behaves differently than the Internet Explorer 6 on my Windows XP notebook machine. I am having problems with Java applets, specifically installing an IBM Terminal Services application.**

A. As a result of the settlement between Microsoft and Sun (the developer/licensor of Java) the newer releases of XP are shipped with Sun's Java Virtual Machine (JVM). That you are having a problem would seem to indicate a compatibility problem between IBM's software and the JVM. Just guessing - IBM may have made use of a 'Microsoft extension' - which is what caused Sun to sue Microsoft due to licensing violation. You will need to contact IBM to get a compliant release of the Terminal Services application.

**Q. I can not receive Microsoft Access database files as attachments in e-mails from a business partner. What is happening and how do I resolve it?**

A. It depends upon the level of Microsoft Office and Outlook (or Outlook Express) that you are running. In an attempt to control viruses that spread via VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) the mail products are now clamping down on attachments that might have evil code within them. Microsoft Office products (Excel, Word, Visio, Access, etc.) all support embedded VBA. Depending upon your release, you may either tell it to not block attachments, or have your partner change the extension from .MDB to .MDX prior to sending it, or perhaps the best mechanism would be to have your business partner put the database file in a .ZIP file and send it. A benefit of this is that the file size will often be greatly reduced.

**Q. I have a new machine and there is a commercial site that does not provide the full page when I browse to it. I get the "red-X" for page components, including the menu bar on the left and various images on the main page frame. On other machines the pages are delivered properly.**

A. We examined the page during the RA session and had no problem. Examining the page source revealed that there is Java script and/or Java applets. It is possible that your machine is blocking scripts due to the level of its security settings. In IE, take a look at TOOLS, INTERNET OPTIONS, and select the ADVANCED tab. There are check boxes that control what is permitted. A second possibility is related to one of the previous questions - you may have an incompatible JVM. Java and Javascript (two separate things) may be used to generate references to objects to be put on a page - if that mechanism breaks then you will get an unresolved URL - the 'pizza box' red-X.

**Q. I am getting a lot of "unable to deliver message" e-mails from mail servers. I did not send these messages, and they are addressed to people that I have never heard of. I am also getting messages from people I never heard of complaining that I am spamming them. What is happening here? Do I have a virus or a worm? My security updates and anti-virus software is up-to-date.**

A. You are seeing a side effect of a mass-mailing worm that has infected someone else's machine. These worms connect to your TCP/IP protocol stack and install a mail sending engine on the compromised machine, and then make use of the local address book, inbox, and temporary Internet files to provide targets for further infection. For e-mail distributed viruses and worms, they select an arbitrary address from the local machine, and use it to forge the "FROM:". So some machine that has your address in it (because they received an e-mail that you sent) has been compromised and is spamming the world and lying about who is doing it. What can you do about it? Not

much. If you are able to view the headers of the original bounced messages, you should be able to see the common source which would tell you what ISP is providing communications services to the compromised machine. If you find it, you can send a complaint to the ISP and they might shutdown the connection to that machine. However a search on Google revealed over 14,000 hits on forged addresses. The pragmatic approach is to delete the messages and wait for the compromised machine to be plugged.

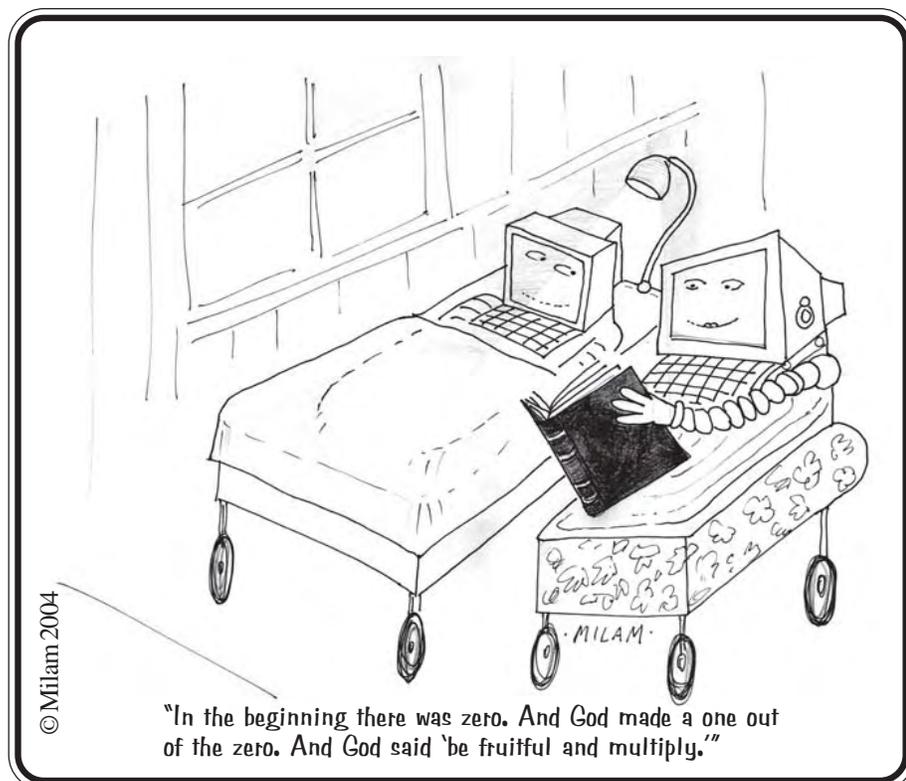
**Q. I have an early edition of XP Home on my machine. I am having problems writing to the CD via burner software. My machine has something called Direct-CD on it. When the machine boots I get a message that says that Direct-CD has been stopped.**

A. Direct-CD is part of the Adaptec EZ-CD Creator (which Adaptec sold to spun-off Roxio) that lets you use a rewriteable CD as if it were a floppy drive. It requires that you format the media, a process that takes about 45 minutes. It has been dropped from subsequent releases as it was (ahem) problematic. If

you don't use Direct-CD then you really want to uninstall it - just deleting it from your start up folder is not enough because it has components (device drivers) that it installs and need to be removed. You need to do a proper uninstall via Add/Remove Programs. Note that Direct-CD is not required for the normal burning process. Nero has a similar program (called In-CD). With the price of CD-Rs essentially free if you watch for rebates, there really isn't much reason to be using CD-RW media.

**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.

Are you hung up with computer questions?. DACS SIGS may have the answers. If not, let us know, and we'll try to a new SIG that helps fulfill your special needs.



© Milam 2004

"In the beginning there was zero. And God made a one out of the zero. And God said 'be fruitful and multiply.'"

## 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 Bovaid at 203 792-7881.**

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

For Sale. Palm M505 PDA w/ 16MB SD Memory card & case \$75.00  
Netgear DS104 4 Port 10/100 Mbps Dual Speed Hub \$15.00

Contact: Jeff Setaro @ 203-748-6748 or jasetaro@mag.net

## Let DACS Promote your Business

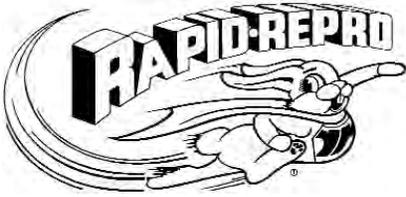
DACS is offering members free space to advertise their small businesses in the business card section of the colored insert in *dacs.doc*. This offer is being made subject to space available, and cards will be rotated each month to guarantee equal access.

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.

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

*For All Your Printing, Graphics, and Copying Needs*



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

## Voice for Joanie

Help give the  
gift of speech  
Call Shirley Fredlund  
at 203 770-6203  
and become a  
**Voice for Joanie**  
volunteer.

## Future Events

July 6 • Bruce Preston & Jim Scheef - **Setting up a Home Network**

August 3 • TBA

September 7 • Amber Coffin - **Smart Computing Magazine**

AMSYS.NET®

...making your Net-Work!

Consulting Services 

Network Solutions 

Application Hosting 

Internet Solutions 

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

AMSYS makes your Net-Work!... so that you can run your business!

AMSYS, Inc.  
900 Ethan Allen Highway  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Phone: 203-431-1500

# AMSYS