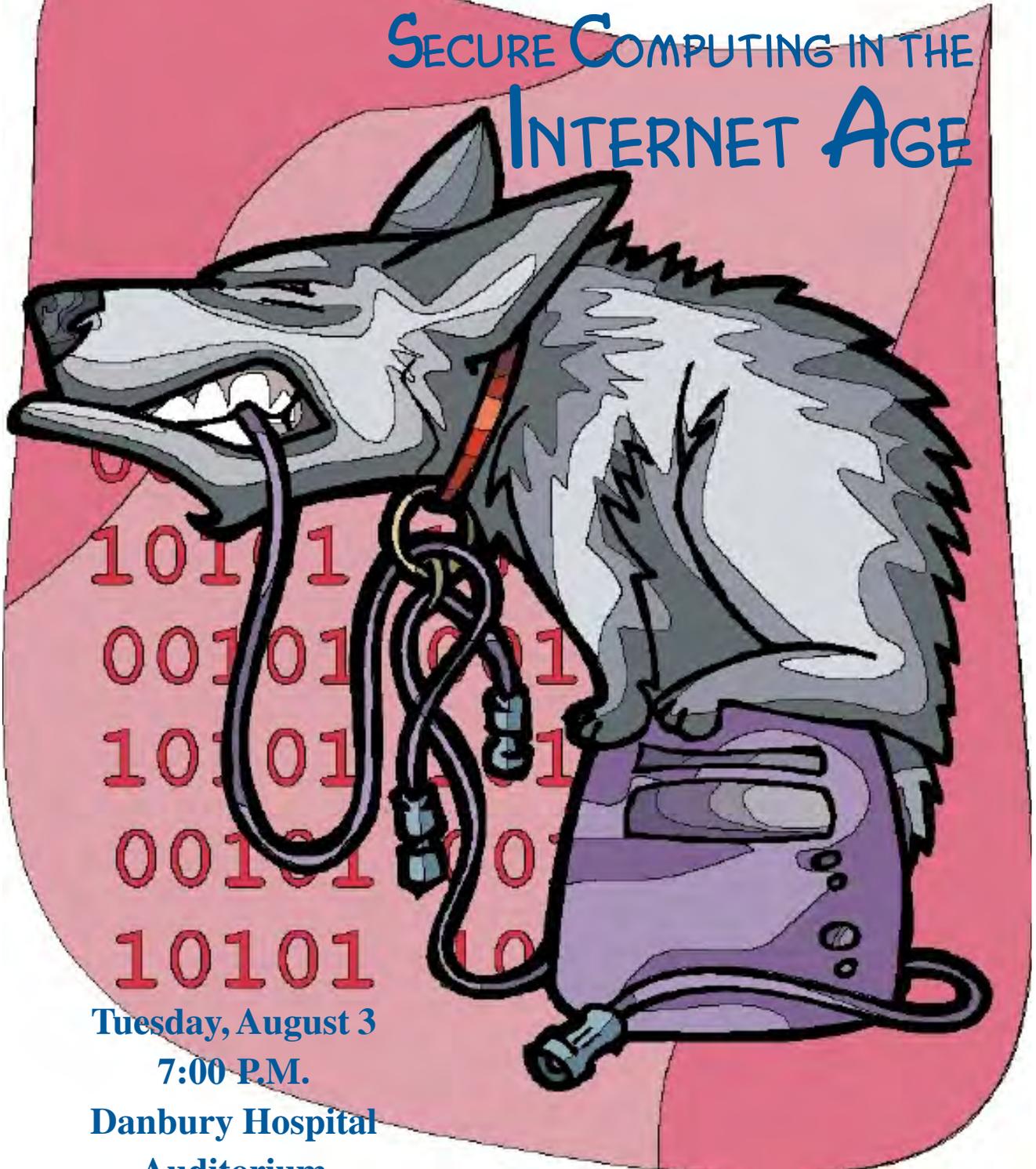


AT OUR NEXT MEETING...

SECURE COMPUTING IN THE
INTERNET AGE



Tuesday, August 3

7:00 P.M.

Danbury Hospital

Auditorium

President's File



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS VERSION 2.2

Some Member Benefits - Hey, let's network!

THERE ARE lots of benefits (and some hazards) associated with being DACS president. One of these is that people (1) assume that I know every DACS member personally and that (2) every DACS member is an expert in something. While the latter is probably true, I come up woefully short on the former. As a consequence, I get a number of calls each month from people looking for help. If I can provide that help in a few minutes over the phone, I try to do so. However, after turning down any number of callers, I finally decided that we should do something about this situation.

So, somewhere in this issue is an 'ad' announcing a directory of member services. All right, we'll come up with a better name, but here is the scenario: I get a call from someone— anyone— who has a problem with their computer. They want someone – anyone – to help them solve that problem. They are even willing to pay for this help. They wonder if there might be a DACS member who could help solve their problem. Now I know from number 2 above that somewhere there is a DACS member, probably several, who can solve their problem in few moments. However, because I'm so inadequate on number 1 above, I can't send the caller to an appropriate DACS member.

Now, let's extend this a little as we need not limit this to computer-related busi-

nesses. If I need someone with a backhoe to do some excavating (and I do), I'd just as soon hire a DACS member to do this work as anyone else. That's where a member service index comes in. If we have an index of member-run businesses, I can refer callers to that list, or even use it myself.

Electronic Voting

This fall may people around the nation will all be treated to a first encounter with electronic voting machines. Never before has our nation made such a big change all at once in how we vote as a large part of the country experience in November. I wish we were going thru this monumental change at a less critical point in our history. Will we be able to trust the results? I'm not so sure. Try this: type "e-voting" into your favorite web search engine and read a few of the items you find. It will scare the living bejesus out of you. See if this sounds like a good idea: we all vote and then a private company takes all the ballots in a closed room, does the count and then destroys the ballots before anyone else can confirm the results. This is exactly what will happen this fall in all states that adopt paperless electronic voting. So far Nevada is the only state to actually implement electronic voting machines with a paper audit trail. A California law requiring the paper trail is still in the courts. Ohio has halted deployment of paperless machines.

To find the status of electronic voting in Connecticut, I looked on the Connecticut Secretary of State web site. There are three documents that talk about a test of voting machines in five Connecticut towns. To get a more up-to-date status, I called the Secretary of State office and learned that Connecticut will require electronic voting machines that provide an audit trail. I'm now trying to learn exactly what that means. A bill approving the purchase of new voting machines was vetoed by Governor Rowland so we will not have new voting machines until the 2006 elections.

At first blush, we may be OK here in Connecticut; I'm waiting for a return call from the Secretary of State office. However, Connecticut is very unlikely to be a deciding state in the coming Presidential election. We need our Congress People to act to ensure that all states have verifiable voting results in this and all future elections. Call your Representative and Senators and urge them to cosponsor bills requiring that all voting

Ramblings, continued on page 4

Membership Information

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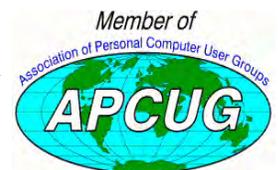
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Applications & Hardware to enhance *dacs.doc* are welcome.



Don Neary
APCUG Liaison
203-746-5538

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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 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 your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on July 12, 2004. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Cohen, Gallichotte, Keane, Preston, Scheef and Setaro. Also present was Larry Buoy. President Jim Scheef presided and Secretary Larry Buoy kept the record. Minutes of the meetings of this Board held on May 10 (as corrected) and June 7, 2004 were approved.

Treasurer Charlie Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$16,347.97, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$16,223.81 plus postage on hand of \$124.16. Subtracting liabilities of prepaid dues in the amount of \$6,075.00 left a net of \$10,272.97. He also reported current membership of 389.

A general discussion of the state of the computer industry itself and its effect on user groups and their membership interests was followed by the specifics of programs for the balance of this year's General Meetings. Jim Scheef advised that he was trying to determine if there would be any possibility of a program by Microsoft for November and Jeff Setaro stated that John Patrick, so far as he knew, would be available for December. The only constructive suggestions with commitments to follow through were from Jim Scheef to contact David Pogue of the New York Times regarding a presentation and from Jeff Setaro to try to firm up John Patrick for December's presentation and ask if he can provide any leads to other possible presenters. Jeff also would contact Mike Kaltschnee regarding any possibility of his making a presentation.

Briefly discussed was possible cooperative programming with other groups, followed by discussion and recommendation that an article requesting response from any members wishing to list their business or personal computer skills in the newsletter, whether on a volunteer or for hire basis, to supplement or replace the current "Help Line." It was suggested that any such listing be posted to the DACS Web Site on a trial basis before possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Jim Scheef asked for and received a consensus that DACS member volunteers be sought for work on a Web Site application form for students seeking registration of a science project with

DIRECTORS' NOTES, Continued on page 4

Ramblings, *Continued from page 2*
 machines provide a paper audit trail. In the House, ask that they sponsor HR2239 (Holt – D, NJ) rather than HR4187 (King – R, IA) which is a far weaker bill. The Senate has three bills pending. The best is S.2313 (Graham/D, FL – Clinton/D, NY – Boxer/D, CA) which is already a compromise bill. The weakest is S.2437 (Ensign – R, NV). You may notice a correlation between party affiliation and the strength of the bills.

Yes, I did a bit of digging into all this. If we value our democracy, then this issue is more than important – it's critical. If you do nothing else, visit the VerifiedVoting.org web site and just read a little.

—JIM SCHEEF
 dacsprez@dacs.org

Directors' Notes, *Continued from page 2*
 Science Horizons. He also stated that the sign designating a DACS parking slot at the Ives Center had been obtained and delivered but remained uninstalled. It was also agreed that the membership application form as it appears on the Web Site, in dacs.doc and as presented to prospective members at General Meetings should be coordinated and updated.

Charlie Bovaird advised that the Danbury Volunteer Center is working on a facility and program whereby the non-profit corporations or groups in the area can cooperate and network. He also advised that IBM had established an "IBM On-Demand Community" supplying volunteers for mentoring students, etc.

—LARRY BUOY

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.

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

Meeting Review

Look, Ma No Wires!

By Allan Ostergren

THE LAST TIME DACS had a presentation on home networking, I saw a member leaving early. I asked if she had learned something about wiring her home, and she replied "enough to know I should hire someone to do it for me." Well, for the novice, wireless networking isn't exactly a piece of cake either, but DACS gurus Jim Scheef and Bruce Preston,

certainly layered it up with plenty of icing.

With dozens of presentation slides, including outlines, schematics, photographs and screen shots, Jim and Bruce covered every aspect of setting up a home network. This ranged from definitions, terms and concepts, all the hardware needed, sample configurations, a



"hands-off" demo, clues to what can go wrong, and guidelines on how to go back and do it right the next time.

Now, most of these things really are complicated; so Jim and Bruce had to skim through much of the details. The real focus of the presentation was to walk through the set-up of a basic wireless network, with the completion underscored by an on-stage "hoop trick" showing that there was no physical connection between the network and its operators.

ALLAN OSTERGREN is editor of dacs.doc, a former president of DACS, and not afraid to ask someone else to help with the technical stuff.

A Little Network

Using a HUB or a SWITCH, you can connect two or more computers and share data on disk drives, printers, etc.



Rec: Sample Configuration

A Bigger Network

Add a Broadband Connection (Cable or DSL) and use a ROUTER to let all get to the internet



Rec: Sample Configuration

Physical Setup



Rec: Wireless 10

Next Meeting

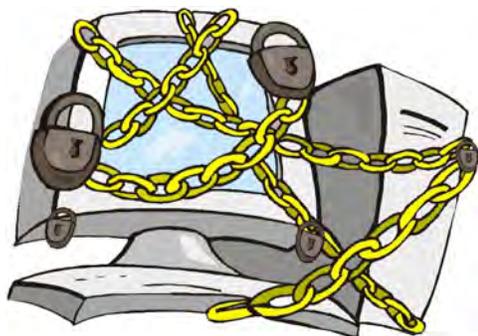
Secure Computing in the Internet Age

By Marlene Gaberel

AT THE AUGUST 3rd DACS general meeting, Jeff Setaro, a DACS officer and DACS own virus expert will present on the topic of securing our computing in the Internet Age. Jeff will describe the differences between viruses, Trojan horses, and worms. He will elaborate on malware and spyware and the "zombie" problem. Jeff will recommend anti-virus software, personal firewalls and how to use safe computing.

From a personal viewpoint I'm interested to find out the latest on spyware and malware and how best to protect my computer, now mostly used by my younger teenager son. His older brother has now moved on to owning his own mobile equipment. My younger son has been spending a large portion of his after school and vacation days on AOL instant

messages talking to his friends in town. Are there risks in receiving malware and spyware from AIM?



I still have this question in mind from late last winter when I found my usually fast responding computer and internet connection working like molasses. In addition, the printer was giving all kind of error messages when used. To resolve

the problems, I did an in-depth scan disk, an updated virus check and a complete defrag of my computer hard disk, but to no avail. I suspected that something had installed itself in my machine since I had also lowered briefly the privacy level on the Internet explorer in order to allow access for a new multiplayer game. Either the brief time IE was not on medium to high security or something in AIM that day attacked my computer. I was stumped

for a while after none of the usual remedies worked. I remembered however reading a recent article from the New York that just addressed that issue. I went back to the article and downloaded Ad-aware from Lavasoft – program that Jeff will mention in his presentation according to his preview. As soon as it was installed Ad-aware cleaned all the junk that had accumulated. In less than one hour my computer was back to its normal self and out of the morass.

Now in addition to keeping my anti-virus up-to-date, I also keep the anti-spy, ad and mal ware software up to date and regularly use it to clean my hard disk. Another topic that I'm looking forward to be addressed by Jeff is how best to set up hardware router/firewall. I may have a lot to optimize in that regard and unfortunately I was not able to attend the July meeting in setting up routers to network computers because I was away on vacation but I hope that Jeff will elaborate on this topic.

As usual the meeting will be at the Danbury Hospital Auditorium starting at 7.00 p.m. with computer questions and answers and brief club announcement. The main presentation will start at 8.00 p.m. All general meetings are free and open to the public. Do not hesitate to invite a guest with you. For more information on the meeting, please check DACS web site at DACS.org.

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

Optimize your broadband experience with MSN®!

At its next monthly meeting on August 26th, the PC Users Group of Connecticut (TPCUG) will host a presentation on MSN Broadband, featuring Richard Katz. DACS members are welcome to attend the festivities. The meeting is at the Trumbull Library at 33 Quality Street in Trumbull

Come see demos of the latest features and tools built on Microsoft technology that will enable you to take advantage of all your broadband connection has to offer. You'll learn how to manage and share your digital photos, and explore new ways to communicate and interact with family and friends online. You'll also learn how to help protect yourself and your family from unwanted junk e-mail, harmful viruses, pop-ups and more. And, you'll get a sneak preview into some of the advanced features of MSN Messenger, an industry leading instant messaging client.

The hour-long presentation will include Q&A and the chance to win some great prizes. Everyone who attends will receive a MSN token for four free months of MSN Premium Internet Software - no obligation required!

From Danbury, go I_84 East to Exit 9, Route 25 South. Go left off of Exit 9 onto Park Street, then right onto Daniels Farm Road. Turn right onto Route 127 North. Go approximately 1 mile. Quality Street angles to the left. Library is on the right.

An Antivirus Alternative

by Richard Corzo

MOST NEW COMPUTERS come with an antivirus program good for 90 days or some other expiration period. Then you have to renew your subscription to continue getting updates to the antivirus database. My computer was no exception and came with Norton AntiVirus 2002. Each year around renewal time I look around to see if there might be any alternatives that I should consider. In the past I tried or at least downloaded some others such as McAfee, Panda, F-Secure, AVG, Kaspersky, and Norman. I have a multi-boot machine with both Windows 2000 and Windows XP, so I would usually use my Windows 2000 partition as a guinea pig to try something new. I never found myself happy with the alternatives. Sometimes they were too aggressive or pestering in their desire for me to register or purchase them or related products. Sometimes I couldn't figure out how to set up e-mail scanning based on vague instructions to change my POP e-mail server host to 127.0.0.1 in my mail program, with no further explanation. Or sometimes they seemed to discourage purchase by individuals. I always gave up and wound up renewing my Norton subscription.

This year I tried something new and actually liked it. At one of those sites where users comment on software reviews, someone praised avast! Antivirus over Norton. I had never heard of it, but decided to take a peek at their Web site (<http://www.avast.com>). I saw a logo for a 100% Virus Bulletin award for some recent month. I had heard that Norton usually does well on these monthly tests of virus detection. Then I noticed that the company was based in the Czech Repub-

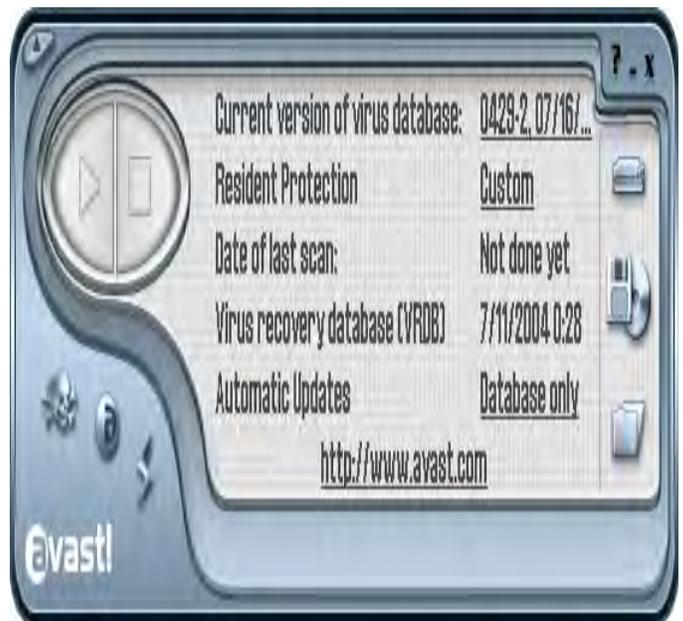
lic, which is home to a Java software development program I use at work (IntelliJ IDEA by JetBrains, if anyone is curious). I really like the IDEA program, so I thought maybe there are some more good Czech programmers out there.



when I installed avast!, to set up e-mail virus scanning. Otherwise you can start it anytime later from the Start menu Programs folder where the avast! program shortcuts are installed. There is an automatic option which automatically reconfigures your e-mail programs, an option to remove protection, and a manual option which allows you to choose which e-mail accounts to reconfigure. I initially chose the automatic option, but found I later had to go back and remove the automatically configured protection and use the manual option. I use both Microsoft Outlook and Netscape Mail. The program also supports Out-

look Express, Eudora and some others. The problem I ran into was the non-standard netscape.net account in Netscape Mail which doesn't use standard ports for getting e-mail. When I went back to use the manual configuration option, I just excluded that particular account, which I barely use anyway. By comparison Norton does not require any user intervention nor make any visible changes to your e-mail settings, although I can't be sure that it handled the netscape.net account any better. If you look at your e-mail program's settings for your e-mail accounts after running avast!'s wizard, you can see the changes it makes to the mail server address and user name. The changes are documented in the help should any manual fix up be required.

Not long after installing avast! a man's voice announced, along with an instant messenger-style pop-up window, that my virus definitions had been updated. I thought that was kind of cool, but you can configure the settings to suppress any sounds if you like. You can also tell the program whether you have a permanent connection to the Internet, to facilitate virus definition and program updates. The on-access protection consists of several providers: the basic one for when files are accessed, separate ones for Outlook mail versus other Internet mail programs, instant messenger activity, and perhaps a less common feature—peer to peer file sharing programs such as Kazaa or WinMX. There are two versions of the program: Home and Professional. The Professional version adds script blocking



in supported browsers, i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape, and Mozilla.

You can do manual scans any time and with the Professional version you can schedule the scans to be run automatically. The first time I ran a scan with avast! it found a Trojan in my Internet Explorer cache, which apparently had been there for some time and had never been discovered by Norton in all the years I had been running it. Of course this is just anecdotal evidence and is not a sufficient reason by itself to choose one antivirus program over another. It's possible that I could run avast! for some time and then

try Norton later and have it catch something missed by avast!. A second warning I got from avast! that Norton didn't give me was during e-mail scanning. A regular news summary e-mail I get from Business Week was flagged as having an "I-frame" which is an HTML construct that can potentially, but not necessarily, be dangerous. The URL referenced is displayed, and if you deem it benign, you can click to add it to a list of permitted URLs so you won't be warned next time. Some days later I got a spam e-mail with the same warning, so of course I didn't add the referenced URL in that case and just deleted that e-mail.

The Home version has just a "simple" interface from which you can view status, initiate scans, set basic settings, and update the virus database. The Home version is free and just requires registration to use it beyond the 60-day trial period. The Professional version adds an "enhanced" interface option, which allows more detailed access to settings, and from which you can set up scheduled scans, which aren't available with the Home version. The Professional version costs \$39.95 with one-year of updates, with discounts for 2- and 3-year terms.

One setting I like is the ability to have it display the items it scans in real-time in the lower right portion of your screen. This can be separately configured for the different on-access protection providers. After turning this on for all the providers,

I soon turned it off for the file access protection and script blocking, but left it on for e-mail scanning. Whenever something is being scanned the little system tray



icon, which is a ball with the letter "a", rotates to let you know it's working. I appreciate this kind of subtle feedback.

After trying avast! for a week or so I was impressed enough to purchase the Professional version as a replacement for Norton. That turned out to be a bit more of an adventure than I expected. From their Web site's purchase page you can click on a "buy now" button which takes you to the share-it! service. Things seemed pretty routine until I got to the part where I had to enter my e-mail address in order to receive a license key. I was informed that I couldn't use a "freemail account" (such as hotmail or yahoo). In fact that is the only type of e-mail account I use for e-commerce purposes. So I was initially deterred from purchasing this software program.

I eventually regrouped and clicked on a different link for distributors and resellers and found some in the USA. They all seemed kind of like small-time operators that didn't particularly instill confidence in me to make the purchase with them. One I tried was about to send me to a site in China and warned me to click on the English link on that page. I decided not to go there. I finally wound up choosing the first reseller on the USA list, Rick "The Computer Guy". This site also seemed a little iffy with its "under construction" signs, but it would allow me to use any e-mail account I liked, so I threw a little caution to the wind and purchased it there. I

got a nice confirmation e-mail telling me my credit card would be charged for the agreed amount, but I didn't have a license key yet to show for it. Fortunately a follow-up e-mail came the next day with the license key, and it actually did work. Whew!

So would I recommend this antivirus program? I like it for myself and feel it would be suitable for someone who is computer-savvy enough, for example, to know how to look at their e-mail program's settings. For the computer novice I think something like Norton AntiVirus is probably more suitable. The purchasing experience was a bit more painful than it should have been for the Professional version, but that ultimately turned out well for me. You can always go for the Home version which, for non-commercial purposes, is completely free with registration. Also note that there are Linux and PDA versions of the program.

RICHARD CORZO is a computer programmer who loves to tinker with operating systems. He has recently developed a fascination for the Mac OS, and has become leader of a revived DACS Mac SIG. He can be reached at macsig@dacs.org.

New Members

new members from 5/17/4 to 7/12/4

- 1) Drake Smith
- 2) Dianne & James Barkley
- 3) James Galloway

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

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EXP 05/2004

or earlier

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Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: AUGUST 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: AUG 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: AUG 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: AUG 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: AUG 15

LINUX. Helps in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. AUG 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: AUG 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: AUG 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: AUG 27

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

Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@teleAUGksys.com*)
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: SEP 9

VISUAL BASIC. Develops Windows apps with Visual Basic.

Contact: Chuck Fizer, 203 798-9996 (*cfizer@snet.net*) or Jim Scheef, 860 355-8001 (*JScheef@TeleAUGksys.com*).
Meets 1st Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: AUG 1

WALL STREET. Examines Windows stock AUGket software.

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

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

Contact: Anna Collins, 203-746-5922 (*acvo@annagraphics.com*).
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Sep 21

SIG News & Other Events

Macintosh. We started the meeting with a question from a member who wanted to transfer some files from her old Macintosh Quadra to a new PC. With no Ethernet, FireWire, or USB ports, options are limited, but she had a modem and a dial-up account. We suggested getting a free Yahoo e-mail account and using the Briefcase feature to upload the files and then download them to her PC.

Then we had our special guest from Apple, Debra Dawson, who described the new Apple Authorized Business Agent program for anyone who is interested in selling Apple products as part of their business. For anyone who missed the July meeting I have handouts that I can pass out at the next meeting in August.

We also covered some more home networking topics. I showed how to change the workgroup name, which by default is WORKGROUP on the Mac, but usually MSHOME on the Windows PC. Just go into Directory Access in the Utilities folder, click the lock and enter your password to make changes. Next select SMB (otherwise know as Windows networking) and click the Configure... button. On the next dialog type in the desired workgroup name. You will find it a convenience to have both Macs and PCs in the same workgroup.

We also demonstrated how to share printers on the network. On the Mac with a USB-attached printer, just enable Printer Sharing in the Sharing page of System Preferences. Then on another Mac go into the Printer Setup Utility and check the box under the In Menu column next to the shared printer. Then any application on that Mac can print to the shared printer by selecting it in the print dialog.

In the next meeting on August 5 we will follow up both our own home networking series and the wireless topic at the last DACS general meeting with a session on wireless networking on the Mac. Among other things we'll demonstrate the use of an Airport wireless networking card.

Server and Networking. We had a fun meeting where we reviewed wireless networking and discussed all the topics that Bruce Preston and I couldn't get to in the general meeting. During the discussion we reconfigured the 802.11b access point in the Resource Center and then looked at the Linksys router/AP I use at home. I brought in four books on wireless that I am finding very helpful:

1. Building Wireless Community Networks by Rob Flickenger (O'Reilly, 2002)
2. Windows XP Unwired, A guide for Home, Office and the Road by Wei-Meng Lee (O'Reilly, 2003)
3. Linux Unwired, A Complete Guide to Wireless Configuration by Roger Weeks, et. al. (O'Reilly, 2004)
4. Jeff Duntemann's Wi-Fi Guide, 2nd. Edition by Jeff Duntemann (Paraglyph Press, 2004)

I'll review these books in a separate article.

ACS members are invited to join the Server SIG email list at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BackOffice_DACs/.

The Server and Networking SIG will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 9th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

SIG NOTES, Continued on page 15

August 2004

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
1	2	 <p>7:00 P.M. GENERAL MTG</p>	 <p>4 PM Internet Prog. 7 PM Visual Basic Chuck Fizer 203 798-9996</p>	 <p>Macintosh 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org</p>	6	7																																																																																																	
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29	 <p>7:00 PM WALL STREET Phil Dilloway 203 367-1202</p>	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jul 2004</th> <th colspan="7">Sep 2004</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Jul 2004							Sep 2004							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3			1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30		
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Book Review

Dancing Barefoot and Just A Geek - Books by Wil Wheaton

by Mike Kaltschnee

I'M A GEEK but not a trekkie. I was into plenty of geeky-type stuff growing up, including *Star Wars* and even *Dungeons & Dragons*, but I never caught the Star Trek bug. So how did I wind up reviewing two books by a Star Trek (*Next Generation*) actor? I discovered www.WilWheaton.net, an online diary or blog, created and written by him. I was drawn into his brutally honest struggle with his acting career, family life, and stories about his experiences as a young actor. Rarely do we get such a detailed look inside the life of a celebrity.

Wil Wheaton shares everything online, including his fears, failures, triumphs and joy. We get a chance to peek behind the curtain and read about the daily issues that an actor, father, writer, and husband face, we begin to realize that the famous deal with the same issues we do. He's a real person, and he's a geek (the rare celebrity that actually runs his own site).

I watched as he published his first book, *Dancing Barefoot*. He screwed up orders, went to book signings, and still managed to sell 3,000 copies out of his house. It was no surprise that a major publisher, O'Reilly, signed Wil — only a small percentage of the 750,000 books published each year sell more than a handful of copies. He's a catch for any publisher since he writes books that sell. What surprised me was that O'Reilly, known for publishing programming books, would publish the geek autobiography of a thirty year-old.

Wils has built up some impressive geek credentials. Waiting for acting jobs

bored him to death, so he learned HTML and PHP, and he runs Unix on his home machines. He's hosted the ultimate geek show, *TechTV*, and even posted to

Slashdot. He was an early blogger, and his site gets thousands of visitors per day.

Dancing Barefoot is a short book with large type, but well worth the hour or two you'll spend reading Wil's stories. There are five stories he reworked from his Web site and put into print. I have to admit that I passed over the book when it first came out, figuring it was a trekkie book (and since I had been

reading his blog I knew the stories). Sure, he talks about Trek conventions, co-stars (the infamous William Shatner, too), and the "cult of Trek," but you'll also see someone who faces the death of a loved one, gets far too many rejections, and grows up and takes responsibility for his life and cares for his family.

Just A Geek takes us further into his life (with much smaller type and more than 200 pages now). Wil's an actor (*Stand by Me*, *Next Generation* and a slew of independent films), voice talent (he's Aqualad on *Teen Titans*), a geek (he was a developer for Newtek and actually knows what binary code is), a writer (his blog and these books), and most of all, a family man.

Here's a small bit from *Just A Geek*, where Wil talks about succumbing to the lure of cash for doing an infomercial, something that could end his acting career but would enable him to provide for his family:

"Accepting that I was THAT GUY was more liberating than painful, and it took the shame away from doing that infomercial. My career wasn't really over, it had just changed. I didn't worry about what critics said. I was worried about feeding my family. I didn't worry about landing an acting job. I looked forward to writing. Like all the other things I'd agonized over, the process of making the decision took more time and energy - and was more painful and scary - than the result."

All of the stories in both books are available on his blog, so you can see if his style of writing appeals to you before buying the books. He rightly claims that he has re-written and edited them, and they are now presented in a format you can read at the beach without worrying about the batteries in your notebook computer.

I highly recommend both of Wil's books, but if you have to start with one I suggest *Just a Geek*. It's rare that someone is willing to share the journey that led them through the defining part of their life, revealing the mistakes and successes along the way, and sharing the good with the bad. It's a personal look into a public life.

MIKE is a geek who will someday publish his very own great American geek novel.

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

Become a DACS Presenter

A Linux That Works Xandros Desktop Linux

Review by Jim Scheef

AFTER BEING CHIDED more than once by one of our SIG leaders (who shall remain nameless) about how I am still using the rather outdated Red Hat 8 on my laptop, I decided to try something new. If you haunt the magazine section at the bookstore like I do, looking for interesting reading, you've seen the British magazine *Linux Format*. On my last trip to Borders, I noticed a more technical version called *Linux User & Developer*. Both magazines are a fun read, as they put a distinctly 'different' slant on the news and issues surrounding Linux and open source software. What makes *Linux Format* stand out on the shelf is the two or three CD-ROMs attached to each issue. Issue 39 of *Linux User & Developer* (I guess they don't use months over there) came with two full Linux desktop distributions. The one that caught my eye, and got me to cough up the \$11.99 price, is the business-oriented Xandros Desktop OS 2.

Xandros Desktop is a Debian-based distribution that has two really key differences from all of the Linux variants I have tried: (1) it's not free and (2) it actually works. Here is what I found when I did the install:

- It installed without a hitch on my many-years old 300MHz Winbook. X-windows worked from the get-go, although I had to move the mouse from the PS/2 port to USB. Since this is a pretty new laser mouse and it was plugged in thru a USB to PS/2 adapter, the switch was not a big deal. This was the only hardware issue!

- The CD is a 30-day trial which is not noted anywhere on the magazine. It is on the CD in very small type. Actu-

ally this was my first clue that things would be different.

- I could actually print to my network printer on the first try! This is something I've been able to accomplish only one before in many, many, many tries.

- Installing and configuring wireless networking took a couple of pokes to find the right place to do the configuration.

- Windows networking actually works right "out of the box".

After walking thru the network setup wizard, I was able to browse the other computers on the network and copy files back and forth. Cool!

- The Linux machine could even join Active Directory domain on my net-

work so that file permissions became automatic when opening files over the network—just like Windows. And a directory share on Xandros opens up from Windows as well, although I don't have the file permissions quite right yet.

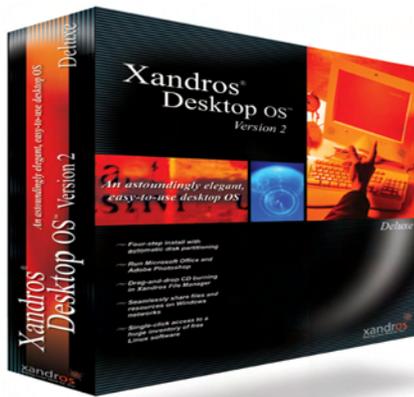
- Their update facility, called Xandros Networks, is almost as easy to use as Windows Update and seems to work just as well. This alone is worth the price.

Using StarOffice 7 on Xandros, I was able to open this very document from the server, continue writing and then save it back to the server – just as if I were using Microsoft Word® on Windows. Now I'm back on my other laptop running XP Pro to finish up.

The Xandros CD includes Cross-over Office which is supposed to let you run Microsoft Office on Linux. I haven't tried that yet. The distribution does include a really cool version of classic solitaire, the only computer game I actually play, and this version plays way better than the Windows version.

So is this distribution good enough to pay for? So far, I think so. There are several versions available on the Xandros web site (www.zandros.com) ranging from a free "Open Circulation" version (free when using a BitTorrent download only) to \$96.75 for the Business Edition, which is what is on the trial CD I installed.

JIM SCHEEF is president of DACS



Do the DACS General Meetings leave you thirsting for more? Find all that plus food for thought at the meeting after the meeting—the DACS PIG SIG.

Digital Photography

Digital Or Film ???

By Marc Cohen

T MOST PHOTOGRAPHERS Digital cameras look, feel, and shoot almost like film cameras. Both have a view finder, lens, light sensors, flash, and shutter release button. They both use common terms like ISO (International Standards Organization) sensitivity, shutter speeds, F/stop, focal length, etc. This is a misleading simplification.

CAMERAS

For the purpose of this discussion I am confining my observations to consumer digital cameras that mere mortals can afford. (Less than \$500.00) There are many high end cameras priced 2 to 5 times that amount.

While it is relatively easy to compare digital cameras to each other by their numbers, Film cameras can be compared by their relative merits. There is no easy way to do head-to-head, point-by-point comparisons between these two technologies.

The most obvious difference between the two is that digital cameras record the images electronically while conventional film cameras record the images on light sensitive film. But it doesn't end here.

The overall size and weight of my digital camera is much less than my 35mm film camera. The image sensor on my digital camera is about 1/4 the area of the 1" x 1 1/2" 35mm film frame. The smaller image size reduces the 10x zoom lens size to roughly 1/4 the size of a similar lens on the film camera; while it is effectively equivalent to an optical 38mm to 380mm zoom lens, its real focal length is about 9mm to 90mm. This lens covers a zoom range from a moderate wide angle to a substantial telephoto. There is an additional 3x digital zoom that feature extends the maximum zoom range to an equivalent 1140mm. Using the digital zoom utilizes a smaller (cropped) portion of the image sensor which lowers the overall pixel resolution of the image. Since you can crop the im-

age later using any photo editing program (with a commensurate loss of pixel resolution), I tend to ignore the in-camera digital zoom feature. I purchased two 256Mb memory chips with the camera and can record 195 maximum resolution exposures on each chip before needing to download the photos to my computer's hard drive or to a

CD (or both). I'm then able to recycle the chips for re use. The battery in the camera lasted for more than two days of shooting before needing recharging.

Most digital cameras do not have an ISO setting or a diaphragm controlling the lens opening. The ISO film speed rating and F/stop equivalents are controlled by the gain applied to the sensor. Only a few digital cameras have a shutter that is only used to protect the sensor from being blinded by bright light. In place of a conventional shutter, the sensor is switched on and off electronically at speeds unobtainable on most conventional cameras. The rapid switching of the electronic shutter, however, is free of the limitations of mechanical shutters. This permits many digital still cameras to take short video clips, limited only by the memory capacity of the image storage chip.

Images captured by the image chip are electronically processed and transferred to a removable storage chip. This clearing of the image chip and transferring of the image to the memory chip usually takes a fraction of a second, which can limit the rate of taking sequential pictures.

Photo (film purists) say that digital imagery can never surpass or even equal the tonality, resolution or color fidelity of silver halide crystals. While the Digital converts swear that pixel based images can capture more detail, greater dynamic range, and more accurate color. The answer is more subjective and more complex than just comparing the sheer size of film



granularity to the digital pixel count and the color accuracy measurements of the two technologies. Let's take a closer look at the arguments of each side.

FILM

Images on film are captured when light causes molecular changes in tiny silver halide crystals on the film, which are later developed and stabilized into visible images in a series of chemical baths. The smaller the crystals the greater the detail that can be recorded. However, there is a tradeoff here. Larger crystals are more photo reactive to light. Which leads to the great variety of film choices with different ISO sensitivity ratings, from a low speed rating of 20 through high speeds of 1600 and more. The finer the grain (Crystal) size, the lower sensitivity to light, but the more detail and tonality the film can record. The larger grain films record images at much lower light levels and records much less detail, with less tonality. Furthermore when the images are enlarged the larger granules can become obvious to the eye. Color film has three layers of silver halide grains sensitized to record different colors (red, green, and blue), which when combined create the full color image. The color balance (white balance) of the film is set for daylight or tungsten light when the film is manufactured. A single 35mm frame can contain an estimated 15 million silver halide grains. Film is analog, not digital, so each crystal is, within limits, infinitely variable. This allows film to record continuous tone images. The grains are more tightly packed than the highest density of pixels that can be placed on a digital image sensor.

Film has had 160+ years of development and improvements have brought us to the current state of film imagery as we know it today.

DIGITAL IMAGES

The birth of digital imagery doesn't have an exact date—the mid to late '60s is close enough—followed by a remarkable whirlwind of development and growth in a short time. Digital image capture is still almost in its infancy, having been around in labs and studios for a couple of decades, and becoming a practical consumer device in only the past 8-9 years. There remains considerable room for performance, interface, and image quality improvement, and these are prime targets for new technological breakthroughs. That said, the present state of development produces a remarkable level of image quality.

The image sensor is a silicon semiconductor that captures photons (light) and converts them to electrons is at the heart of all digital cameras. The electrons are once again converted to voltages which are measured and turned into digital data. All this is done in a microsecond and at a microscopic level. The CCD (Charge Coupled Device) is the standard against which all new sensors are compared. Image sensors continue to be re-designed and reinvented by Sony, Philips, Kodak, Matsushita, Fuji, and Sharp. Newer CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) sensor chips are moving into the mainstream of digital cameras. Both CMOS and CCDs were invented as solid-state memory storage devices.

A SIDE NOTE.

Like most digital development, the need for image sensors came from government intelligence and space programs in the '60s. Air Force and CIA satellites needed to be calibrated for scale. Shapes large enough to be seen from space were secretly mown into Western corn fields. (Yes! the mysterious crop circles were signs from space, but entirely human in nature.)

SENSOR CHIP

In a most simplified form I'll try to describe the sensor chip. Unlike the silver halide grains in film which are distributed on a flat plane and react to light striking the film from any angle, the pixels on a digital sensor require the light to strike the sensor at near perpendicular angles. To compensate, each pixel is covered by a micro lens to re-direct the light coming from the camera lens which is also optimized to meet the sensor requirements. Each pixel is also covered by a color filter (Red, Green, or Blue) to record the data necessary for the reconstruction of a color image. The pixels are arranged in rows with twice as many green filtered cells than the red and blue in order to match the sensitivity of the eye which is more sensitive to green light.

THE PIXELS ARE ARRANGED IN A BAYER PATTERN AS FOLLOWS

RGRGRGRGRG
 GBGBGBGBGB
 RGRGRGRGRG
 GBGBGBGBGB

The data is transferred row by row, ultimately to the memory chip where the image is reconstructed.

The scale of detail of a digital camera is measured in the total number of lines it can resolve before they begin to run together. A typical CCD can resolve 2000-3000 lines/inch. Fine grain color film can resolve 2200 lines/mm that's more than 50 times better than the raw resolution of Digital. In real life, despite the difference, the respective technologies are much closer than the numbers indicate. That is because of differences in the range of data capable of being reproduced by the various output devices: film, printers, and monitors. Although film has much higher resolution than digital, they both come up against an inexorable bottleneck: the output device. For film that's the number of lines photographic paper is capable of resolving; for pixels its the number of lines that can be resolved by ink jet printers or monitors. Both paper technologies are similar. The net result is that with all the extra resolution film captures, it will produce about the same amount of detail in print as is captured by an image sensor.

Regarding tonality, there is a tossup. While the analog film can by its nature produce greater tonality, digital technology can capture much higher dynamic range. Average film can record a dynamic range of about 4; that translates to about 6 or 7 f/stops (anything above or below that records as monochromatic black or white). Digital can capture 11 or more f/stops of data, roughly twice that of film. The extra dynamic range is useful only if

the output device can accurately reproduce it.

There are other technical differences that translate into digital or film superiority, such as color fidelity, saturation, white balance etc. At day's end, a good photographer can get equal quality from either technology. It is entirely possible to use a digital camera and the new multicolor ink jet printers to produce images that can rival Ansel Adams-like museum quality prints...

I have taken more than 2000 pictures with my new toy in Hong Kong and Thailand, and this spring while trekking along the Louis and Clark trail. The money saved in film, processing, and printing more than paid for the camera. The instant review and the ability to transmit photos are other reasons to go digital. When in Southeast Asia, I was never beyond the range of an Internet cafe, or in the Mid West a Wallgreens Drug Store, where I could get prints instantly from the camera chip or from a CD.

Stay tuned—the technology changes almost daily.

Before I sign off, I would like to credit, the following for the mass of information found on the web I especially thank Dave's many digital camera reviews found at www.imaging-resource.com, and the many articles by Sally Weiner Grotta and Daniel Grotta on www.cnet.com, and www.extremetech.com.

MARC COHEN is a professional photographer, a founding member and director of DACS and production editor of dacs.doc. A perpetual computer novice, he now finds himself a stranger in his own field.



Random Access

July 2004

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 get frequent questions from friends who are running software firewalls, such as ZoneAlarm – they get pop-ups saying that an application is trying to access the network, and they have no guidance as to whether to permit it or not. How do you determine if you should let it through? For example, today it came up with port 123 – what is that and how do you determine it. These products are advertized as being for consumer use, but how does a consumer determine whether to let it through?

A. There are a couple of approaches. The first is that the program usually identifies which program is trying to access the internet. You can open up a browser window (while the pop-up is still active) and go to Google and do a search on the application. More often than not, if the application is evil (spyware, malware, etc.) it will show up as such within the first couple of hits. The second thing to look for is to know whether it is something that you as a user have launched. For example, if you are in the process of doing a software installation, it is common for the installer to try to connect to the vendor’s site to register the product. However, if you are just browsing the web and this happens, you probably want to decline. If it just mentions a port number, you can look it up on a list of ‘well known ports’ such as this: <http://www.iana.org/assignments/port-numbers>—in this case port 123 is the network timer server port. This is probably innocuous, however be aware that there is spyware, such as Precision Time (by Gator or GAIN or now, Claria – they keep changing names), that while it states it will keep your clock synchronized with an official time standard, also has some not-so-good hidden functionality. By the way, if you want to keep your

PCs clock synchronized, take a look at <http://www.ntp-systems.com/symmtime.asp>

Q. If I have been hit by a worm, if I re-install the O/S, will that remove it?

A. If you do a re-install, it will be gone until you connect to the Internet, at which time it is highly probable that you will get the worm again. The reason is that unless you install the service pack, the worm will exploit the same vulnerability that let it into your machine in the first place.

Q. If I immediately reload saved data files after doing a clean install, can that install the worm?

A. If the worm infected files on your saved data, then it will be back.

Q. If I do a system restore from the DELL-provided CDs, will I be safe?

A. If the DELL CD pre-dates the release of the security release that fixes the exploit that the worm uses, then no, you will not be safe.

Q. What are .PF files? I have quite a large numbers of them.

A. More than likely, these are ‘pre-fetch’ files. In Windows XP, Windows keeps track of programs that you run, and in an attempt to make things run/load faster, puts copies in a prefetch folder that it looks at during boot. The problem is that it isn’t real smart as to what to fetch into memory – it may bring in things that you really don’t want to run ever again. This page has a good discussion about it, as well as how to control it: <http://tech.schiesty.org/old/2004/04/11/000043.php> - In general, when you are looking to find out what a file extension is, you can look at www.fileext.com to see what applications make use of a file extension. There may be more than one, so you may have to look at several entries.

Q. AutoCAD uses .SCR files, and .SCR is also used by screen savers. Is there any way to control the file associations so that I get the right one?

A. You can get at it via Windows Explorer, TOOLS then FOLDER OPTIONS, then FILE TYPES. Once there, select the file from the list, and then EDIT the association. Alternate method – right click on a file of the type you are working with, and then in the menu, select OPEN WITH. You will get to essentially the same place, and you can then specify whether your application is to be the default application for that file type. If more than one application is associated with a file type, the right-click menu will list the several applications and you may select which one to use.

Q. When I installed Mozilla on my machine, it changed the icon associated with .JPG files to the Mozilla icon. How do I get it so that it uses the PhotoShop icon?

A. Method 1: Re-install PhotoShop and it should grab .JPGs.

Method 2: Go into file associations (as above) and associate PhotoShop.

Method 3: It is reported (but not verified) that the PowerToys package from Microsoft (an unsupported collection of utilities from Microsoft) has a mechanism within that will do this. There are different versions for different Windows releases (going back to Windows 95) - the easiest way to find the right one is to do a Google search on “Power Toys for Windows” and pick the appropriate one.

Note: icons are cached, so you might have to force a rebuild of the icon cache. The simplest way to do this is to boot into Safe Mode, as that process forces a rebuild.

Another nice set of free utilities that let you tweak your machine is Xteq Setup from <http://www.xteq.com/> These let you get at things (in a user-friendly way) that are normally only available by editing the registry, they aren’t in control panel property pages.

Q. If I typo a URL in my web browser, it takes me to a Lycos site on one machine, and to an MSN site on another machine. Both machines have IE 6.

A. It may be related to the DNS servers that are associated with the machine. If they can't find it, they may take you to an error page specified by the DNS server rather than one associated with your desktop.

Q. I notice that now that I am running my dial-up connection with an 'accelerator' that the graphic quality has greatly deteriorated. What gives?

A. The accelerator gets its speed boost by having a processor at the other end of your link (i.e. at your ISP site) perform compression on images. Image files have a palette within them that defines the colors in the image. The more detailed the image, the more colors in the palette. By reducing the number of distinct colors in the palette, there will be more adjacent pixels in the image that now have the same color, where before they were different. The internals of the file will now say, for example, "give me 300 dots of color 17", which only takes 3 bytes of data in the file, where before it might have said "give me 50 dots of color 17, 20 of color 16, 35 of color 17, 40 of color 18," which consumes 3 bytes for each color change. If enough colors are boiled down to one, the file will be greatly compressed in size and thus the size of the file that has to be transmitted through the dial-up connection will be reduced and the connection will appear to be faster. But as observed, this comes with a great loss in image quality. With most accelerators there is a way to force the image to be delivered unmodified - often by right-clicking it. Or, if it is a critical image, you could temporarily turn the accelerator off. You will find accelerators in many services - AOL, CompuServe, NetZero, Earthlink, etc.

Q. I installed V2I by PowerQuest. I must have hit a configuration option that causes a pop-up every time I boot

the machine. How do I get rid of the pop-up?

A. No one in attendance had seen this happen - your best shot at it is to try the tech support at PowerQuest. Note that PowerQuest has since been purchased by Symantec, it is not known whether the PowerQuest support is now (not) provided by Symantec.

Q. I am using PhotoShop Elements and a Canon digital camera. When I open an image by scanner, or load from the camera, or use Explorer and view the image, the colors look fine. But if I use PhotoShop Elements the colors are off. Any suggestions?

A. Did Elements put you through a display calibration when you installed it? If not, see if you can find the calibration routine. Are there default color balance settings being applied by Elements? Take a look at this link: http://www.dpreview.com/learn/?/Image_Techniques/Color_Correction_Speed_01.htm to see if you are perhaps set wrong. Are there optional color palettes available in Elements? The web design SIG will be examining Elements at their meeting on July 20th, you might drop in on them to see if they have any suggestions.

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.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

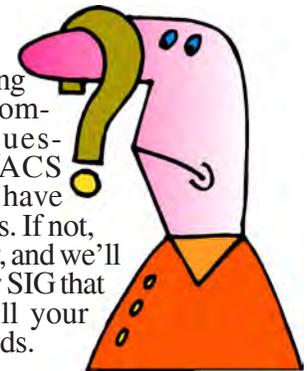
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Are you hung up with computer questions?. DACS SIGS may have the answers. If not, let us know, and we'll try to a new SIG that helps fulfill your special needs.



SIG NOTES, Continued from page 8

Web Design. The July 20th Web Design SIG looked into the Adobe PhotoShop Elements 2, an image editing program that offers many of the features of the more robust PhotoShop CS (\$649). Elements is mainly geared towards image editing for home use.

It allows the user to do many creative things with digital images, whether they are imported from a digital camera, scanned or stills captured from videos. Elements also includes most of the filters found in Photoshop CS, but not all the color correction tools. Preparing images for commercial offset printing can require CMYK conversions - and additional color corrections, which Elements does not offer.

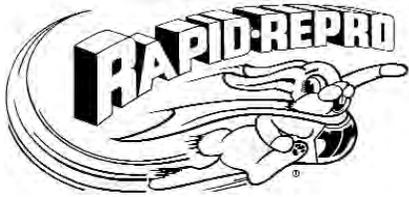
Automated features include making contact sheets and pdf slide shows, it even works as a simple HTML creator when making a 'gallery slide show' - a framed web page complete with thumbnails.

There will be NO meeting in August, but we will start again September 21 with an overview of the basic steps needed to set up a simple web site. From domain name registration to finding a suitable server.

Visit www.annagraphics.com/sigsite for more information, links and notes of previous meetings.

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Future Events

August 3 • Jeff Setaro on Secure Computing

September 7 • Amber Coffin - Smart Computing Magazine

October 5 • Bill Sweeney • IBM Prototype Internet Applications

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