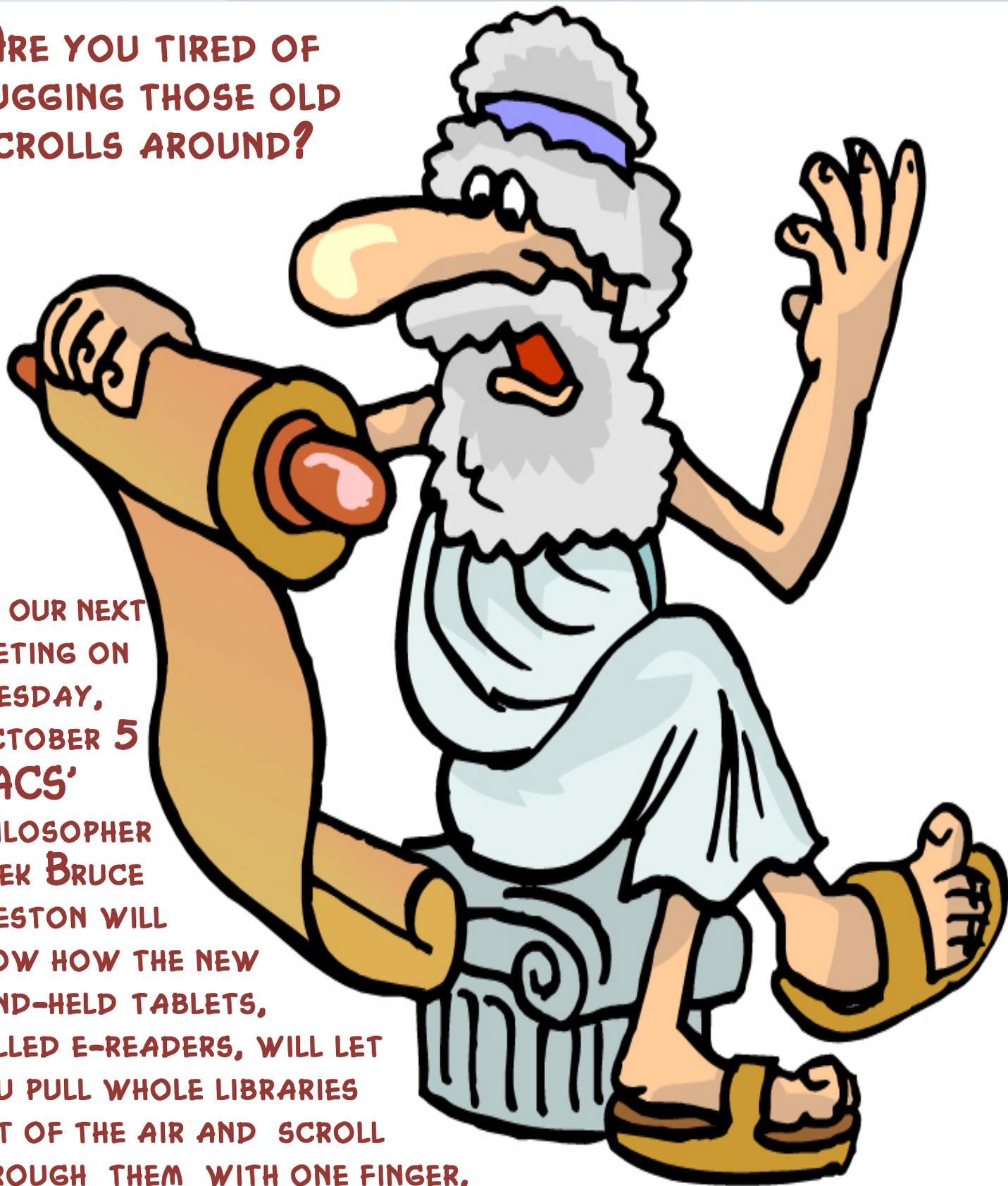


**ARE YOU TIRED OF
LUGGING THOSE OLD
SCROLLS AROUND?**



**AT OUR NEXT
MEETING ON
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 5
DACs'
PHILOSOPHER
GEEK BRUCE
PRESTON WILL
SHOW HOW THE NEW
HAND-HELD TABLETS,
CALLED E-READERS, WILL LET
YOU PULL WHOLE LIBRARIES
OUT OF THE AIR AND SCROLL
THROUGH THEM WITH ONE FINGER.**

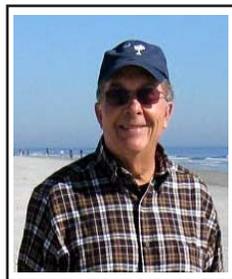
From the Editor

Apple Dreams!

By Patrick Libert

Bravo Dave Marra

Let's dispense with the "You're prejudiced" comments right now. Yes, I love Macs.



Dave Marra has the uncanny ability to condense a multi hour instructional session into a little more than an hour presentation as he showed us all the abilities of the latest Mac OSX, Snow Leopard.

I have been using this latest version for almost one year but

Dave's presentation highlighted my relative ignorance of its capabilities. It's back to square one to spend some time with all the Apple tutorials and hints at apple.com.

October Presentation

Bruce Preston's upcoming presentation on e-Readers will undoubtedly be another of those "don't miss it" general meetings.

I have tried my friend's Kindle and played with the iPad at the Danbury Apple store; that is my only current involvement with these new "gadgets." Personally, I enjoy reading from a traditional book or magazine but I can see why many would prefer an e-Reader.

Having attended several of Bruce's general meeting presentations, this upcoming one will be the best comparison

of the current models and their technology.

Tuesday, October 5, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Center across the hall from the Danbury Hospital Auditorium. Be there!

Get Involved!

Not one Board meeting goes by without the introduction of a new idea or a new activity in which DACS should get involved so that this society can continue to be a stimulating experience to its members.

Often, we formulate the "how" we will get involved but what we lack is member participation.

Like any viable organization, success depends upon having team participation, which in our case, means volunteers. Come on! Be team players and have fun with us planning new programs and activities.

All offers are welcome; just contact any DACS board member.

New Members

Michael Martin

Michael Palmisani

Mark Bassell

This is Your Last Newsletter

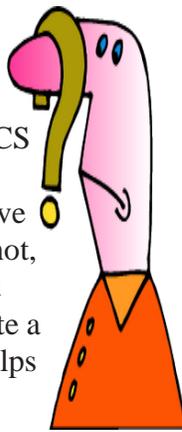
If the membership date on your mailing label reads

**EXP8/3/2010
or earlier**

You need to renew your
DACS membership

NOW

Are you up to your nose with computer questions?. DACS Special Interest Groups may have the answers. If not, let us know, and we'll try to create a new SIG that helps you find them.



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Membership Information

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The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Patrick Libert at 860-567-9586 (dacseditor@dacs.org). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 (aam@mags.net)

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



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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/E-mail	
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(e)
ASP.Net	Chuck Fizer	cfizer@dacs.org	
C#, VB	Chuck Fizer	cfizer@dacs.org	
Electronics	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
Interface-Instrumentation	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	(d e)
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Malware	Jeff Setaro	(203) 748-6748	(d)
VB.Net, Visual Basic	Chuck Fizer	cfizer@dacs.org	

Directors' Notes

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held Wednesday, September 8, 2010. Richard Corzo called to order at 7:15PM, having a quorum consisting of Richard Corzo (President), Patrick Libert, Annette van Ommeren, Andrew Woodruff, Charlie Bovaird, Jim Scheef, Drew Kwashnak, Bruce Preston (Secretary). The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report

Cash and Bank accounts	\$5995.43
Postal stamp inventory	38.87
Total Assets	6034.30
Prepaid dues (past 1 year)	51.25
Total working funds	\$5983.05

Total paying members	165
Regular (R)	106
w/mailed DACSDOC	59
Free mailed DACSDOC	22
Total mailed DACSDOC	81
Printed	100

Old Business

1. General meetings

Sept. Mac Snow Leopard - Review: Patrick Libert

Oct: eBook Readers - Preview: Richard Teasdale; Presenter: Bruce Preston; Review: Richard to ask Jeff Setaro and/or Chris Crowl
Note: It will be in the Conference Center room across the lobby from the auditorium;
Nov: New Trends in Digital Cameras; Preview: Richard will ask Chris Furey; Presenter: Gary Spring; Review: Andrew Woodruff

Dec: Open, John Patrick had to re-schedule Jan 2011: Open

Feb 2011: State of the Internet; Preview: TBD; Presenter: John Patrick; Review: TBD
Note: John will remote from Florida – possibly using iChat and Google Talk, two circuits to support screen display and video conference.

2. Open positions

a) Membership Chairperson: The duties of the position are: greet members and visitors at the monthly General Meeting, mark attendance check list, distribute drawing tickets, provide attendance counts to the treasurer, distribute membership information to visitors, describe reasons for joining to prospective members, etc. The membership chairman need not be the treasurer, but may assist in collecting membership fees at GM if member submits payment.

SIGS, Cont. on page 5

Meeting Preview

eReaders

By Richard Teasdale

AT THE DACS GENERAL meeting on October 5, DACS board member Bruce Preston will bring order to the confusion when he talks to us about the who, what, when, where, why, and how-to of eReaders and eBook data formats, and demonstrates some of the more popular devices on the market. Bruce will review what's available, discuss some of the pros and cons, and comment on the pricing of eBook devices and eBooks. He will also speak about audio books. (Bruce wrote at length about audio books in the March 2009 edition of dacs.doc, available for download from www.dacs.org.)

The past decade has seen explosive growth in the use of battery-powered portable devices for the processing and communication of information: laptop computers, tablet computers, mp3 players, cellphones, digital cameras, GPS navigation devices, etc.

One of the newest gadgets is the eBook reader (also known as eReader or eBook device). eBook readers make it possible to take with you the equivalent of an entire library of books when you travel. Of course, one can do the same with a laptop

computer but an eBook reader is smaller, lighter, and more convenient to carry than a laptop. Furthermore, many e-readers use e-ink technology, which has a number of advantages over the LCD displays used by laptops and other equipment.

eBooks are cheaper than conventional books and hundreds of thousands of titles are now available. They may be obtained anywhere where there is an internet connection (or even without one, if your eReader has 3G capability), so users need no longer go to a bookstore or wait for delivery of a conventional book purchased online. eBook readers provide a new channel of distribution for other print media: all major newspapers and magazines can now be downloaded in eBook formats.

The newness of this technology can be seen in the profusion of devices and the tremendous number of data formats being used for eBooks. A quick look at the relevant Wikipedia articles shows a mind-boggling array of devices and formats. Anyone planning to purchase an e-reader is faced with selecting from many possibilities. To make the decision even more complex, some devices with eBook capa-

bilities can be used for additional purposes, e.g. an Apple iPad does web browsing, e-mail, and other tasks.

Mr. Preston is president of West Mountains Systems, Inc., a database consulting firm in Ridgefield. He is a frequent contributor to dacs.doc, bringing sharp insights to a variety of information technology subjects, and eReaders will not be the first topic on which he has presented at DACS meetings. At May's general meeting, Bruce demonstrated to us how to use WordPress. He also is leader of the Access SIG.

Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS) is a registered nonprofit and has been serving the region since 1990. Members receive an award-winning newsletter, members-only workshops and events, and access to volunteer phone support.

As a reminder, our General Meetings are free and open to the public so invite anyone you know who would be interested in this topic.

DACS meetings are normally held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. Due to a scheduling conflict at the hospital, October's meeting will take place in the new conference room on the other side of the lobby directly across from the auditorium.

Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. with registration and casual networking. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with a question and answer period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and a short break. The featured evening presentation begins at 8:00.

Meeting Review:

Snow Leopard (Mac OSX 10.6)

By Patrick Libert

THERE IS NO DOUBT in my mind that Dave Marra, Apple Inc. Senior Systems Engineer, is one of the best presenters I have seen in my life.

His return visit to DACS on September 7 did not disappoint me.

Dave began his presentation with a historical review of all the Mac OS X operating systems from Puma to the latest, Snow Leopard. Instead of being a major upgrade from Leopard (OS X 10.5), Snow Leopard is a refinement and it is priced accordingly at \$29. The emphasis is on refinements of each component, maximizing the use of the latest technology such as that of the latest Intel 64-bit processor, and optimizing the exchange capabilities of the OS with the Windows OS.

Dave pointed out that 90 percent of the Leopard components were refined in Snow Leopard leading to a faster and more re-

sponsive Finder, a 50% increase in Java performance and a marked speed increase with the use of the browser, Safari.

Regarding the use of the latest technologies, Snow Leopard is optimized for the Intel dual core and quad core 64-bit processors. This allows developers to use all the available cores and to create applications that will use the RAM on video cards if needed (OpenCL).

Dave went on to demonstrate many of the latest Mac OS capabilities such as:

- **Exposé** – the ability to maneuver between open windows using the function keys.

- **Trash** – SL has a “put back” function to replace a deleted item/file to its origin.

- **Services Menu** – has been expanded and offers many new options in the open application.

- **Speech Capabilities** – Dave gave an example where a spoken track can be added to iTunes.

- **Preview** – Dave showed all the capabilities of this application and how it can be easily used as a pdf reader.

- **TextEdit** – This app can be used for transformation of text and to set up automatic text correction/substitution.

- **Safari** – The latest version of this browser can display bookmarks as a wall of sites rather than as a simple list. A new “reader” function in the address bar, allows one to read an article or web page with all the extraneous material removed.

- **QuickTime X** – the latest version has multiple recording capabilities: video, voice audio, and screen. It also allows one to use video trimming of a recorded segment.

There were many other references to other applications of this refined OS. As Dave mentioned, his presentation was the condensed version of what he presents to schools and businesses over several hours.

Even though I have been a Mac user for almost twenty years, I was amazed at how much I learned from Dave's presentation.

Bravo!

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

b) Need backup/replacement for Treasurer - Charlie to write up treasurer's position.

3. Using Drupal for the DACS Web site - Annette is ready to put it on a shareable site. Jim wants to put it on a Windows/Apache platform (rather than IIS), provide different port for testing. Jim wants to work with Rob to make sure it is a secure installation. Annette will need ftp access. Discussed alternative mechanisms for transferring documents/templates from Annette's development machine - ftp, remote drive, etc.

4. Scholarship committee— Jim needs to call schools now that summer vacations are over.

5. Status update on e-mail sent from Web server/DACS forum - Jim reports it is resolved.

6. Membership info required when member joins using PayPal. Charlie has password, Annette will do code modifications to capture the additional information requested - name, address, phone, e-mail. etc.

7. Mechanism for sending multiple copies of DACS.DOC to libraries - Danbury library does not have ability to do a distribution to other libraries via inter-library mail service. They do have back issues. We will look into using electronic distribution once Drupal site is live, i.e. opening up private areas to library accounts.

New Business

1. From Jim Scheef: The Mags.Net servers are now managed/operated by Chris Furey's company and are being replaced by virtual machines which will have different mail server software. Converting from the software configuration previously used by Mags.Net has proven to be problematic as it will be difficult to establish the various aliases and forwarding IDs as currently used. Jim (and probably Rob) is going to investigate setting up our own SMTP/POP3 system on an in-house VM platform.

2. Possible Tech Fest participation October 9th - we want to participate - PPT slide show such as at General Meetings, poster(s) and brochures and photos from Film Festival, print extra copies of October newsletter. Drew and Patrick to put together proposal to submit to Tech Fest organizers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

—Bruce Preston



TECH FEST

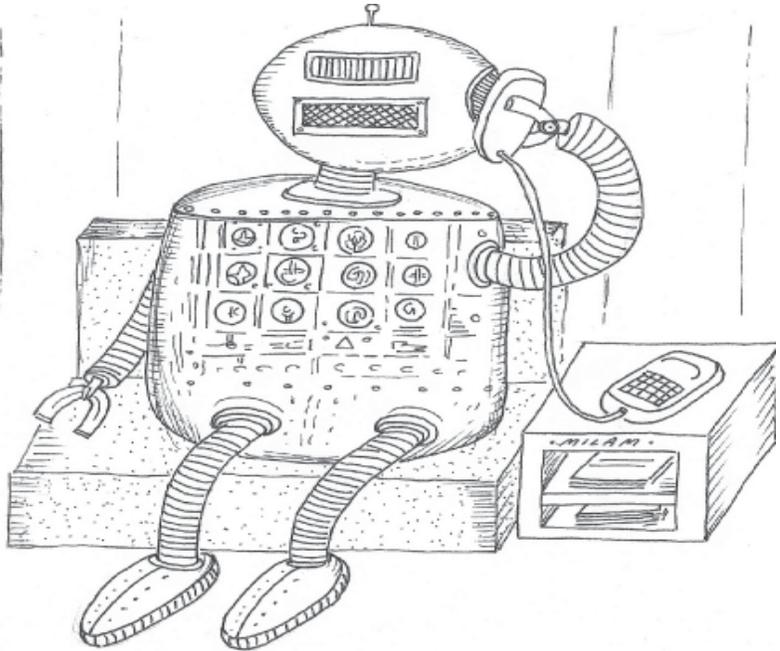
WHERE TECHNOLOGY MEETS APPLICATION

Exhibits include: communications trucks, CSI unit, electric cars, telescopes, robots, Segway rides, solar energy, computers, games, and more.

FREE FOR ALL AGES
Saturday, October 9th 2010
1:30 - 6:30
Nonnewaug High School
5 Minortown Road
Woodbury, CT 06798



WWW.TEAMBETA.ORG/TECHFEST



© Bucky Milam 2010

"You don't understand... I don't want to talk to a real person, I want to talk to a machine!"

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: October 2010

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

Contact: Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920 (*bpreston@dacs.org*).

Meets on 2nd Tuesday, 7p.m., by virtual connection.

Next meeting: October 12 (check Website for technical details)

ASP.Net. Focuses on Web site/server application development using Microsoft Visual Studio, C#, VB, Javascript and SQL Server programming tools. Starts with Random Access, followed by a programming discussion with examples.

Contact: Chuck Fizer (*cfizer@dacs.org*).

Meets 1st Wednesday, 4-6 :p.m. and 6-8 p.m. in a virtual session. (Note change below)

Next Meeting: October 6 at DACS Resource Center

Drupal. Covers all things on Drupal, the open source content management system (CMS).

Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@dacs.org*).

Meets on the second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center, or go to the DACS Community Forum (<http://www.dacs.org/forum/>) within the Members-only area.

Next meeting: October 14

Digital Imaging. 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: October 27

Jobs. Networking and jobs search

Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).

Meets by e-mail.

Next meeting: TBA

Linux. Provides Help in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.

Contact: Jim Ritterbush, *linuxsig@dacs.org*

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

Next Meeting: October 20

Mac. Focuses on all aspects of the Mac and iPhone operating systems.

Contact: Richard Corzo (*macsig@dacs.org*).

Meets 1st Thursday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: October 7

PC Maintenance. Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.

Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).

Meets irregularly, announced by e-mail.

Server. Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook. SIG is on hiatus and presently merged into the Drupal SIG.

Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@telemarksys.com*), or go to the DACS Community Forum: <http://www.dacs.org/forum/>, within the Members-only area

VB.Net. Focuses on Smart Client Windows application development using Visual Studio, VB, C# and SQL Server programming tools.

Contact: Chuck Fizer (*cfizer@dacs.org*) or Greg Austin, 845 494-5095 (*greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org*).

Next Meeting: October 6

Web Design and DTP. Learn about Adobe software for web, graphics and desktop publishing.

Contact: Annette van Ommeren (*avo@annagraphics.com*).

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: October 19

SIG News & Events

dotNet and C#VB. The dotNet and C#VB SIGs met at the DACS resource center. Our topic was JavaScript and Html programming, somewhat off topic for the dotNet and C#VB SIG meeting, but nevertheless an important and interesting aspect of web programming.

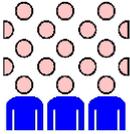
Our goal was to look into JavaScript programming and explore ways to debug our programs. For source material we used a page named tictactoe.html, which was found on the web. Initially our thought was to just create a program, but second thoughts emerged after giving the project more thinking so we looked on the web for help. Tictactoe.html is a web page that

consists of `<script>....</script>`, `<style>....</style>` and `<html>...</html>` code all wrapped up into a single page. Also, we used IE8 as the browser primarily for the debugger that's now built into the application. IE8 supports a new component aptly denoted as Developer Tools. Developer Tools can be invoked by the F12 key or from the tools menu. Also newly exposed to our development efforts is a code editor named Notepad++. Jim Scheef alerted us to this application that inserts itself nicely on the development computer. It is file type aware, hence it knows about .js, .css and .html files. The im-

SIG Notes, Cont. on page 11

October 2010

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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10	11	12  MS ACCESS 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. Bruce Preston bpreston@mags.ne	13  7:00 PM Board of Directors	14  7-9 PM Drupal Jim Scheef 860 355-0034	15	16  DACs.DOC Deadline																																																																																				
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Commentary

Circuit Writer Version 8.1

By Jim Scheef

Vintage Computer Festival - Mid-West

THIS PAST WEEKEND I traveled to Chicago for the Midwest version of the Vintage Computer Festival. VCF-MW (chiclassiccomp.org/vcfmw)



was a lot of fun. There are links to pictures on their website. One of the exhibits was an actual Xerox Alto (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerox_Alto), the first commercial computer (1973) with a graphical user interface.

This is the machine that inspired the Apple Lisa and Macintosh. The owner and several attendees worked most of the day trying to debug the machine. They thought they made progress and someday this near-cosmetically perfect machine may be returned to working condition.

The event was very different from the VCF East in Wall, NJ, run by my other computer club (midatlanticretro.org). This is not to say that one was better or worse, just different. The main difference was no admission charge which meant that people could stop in just to look around. A \$10 admission keeps such casual visitors out of VCF-E. There was no judging of the exhibits which meant there was no pressure on first-timers to build elaborate displays – just bring your stuff and have fun. Nevertheless, some displays were quite ambitious. There was a working IBM AS-400 mini-computer connected to the show's LAN. Those who wanted Internet access for their exhibit could participate in a LAN managed from a PC running Linux that acted as a router.

One of the larger exhibits was a display of a dozen ASCII terminals of various makes. The youngest was from the early-eighties. Several of these were connected to a terminal server that in turn connected to a MicroVAX 4000 running VMS 7. The uVAX had Internet access thru the Linux server. The critical missing piece was the text-only Lynx web browser program on the uVAX. With Lynx we could have browsed the web (text only, of course) from these vintage terminals. While some of us have shell accounts on other hosts, no one

could (or should) log into such an account using telnet, which was all that was available. Just wait 'till next year!

Another exhibitor was Vince Briel (<http://www.brielcomputers.com>) who makes several absolutely professional-quality single-board computer kits including Apple I and KIM-1 “work-alike” clones. My favorite is the Altair 8800 micro kit for \$199 exactly as pictured below, including the front panel and case. It is improved from the original, in that it includes VGA video and PS/2 keyboard connectors for I/O, so you don't need a serial terminal to run programs (bottom image). The front panel is fully functional, so it is possible to enter data and instructions using the switches, just like the original from 1977. Vince sells these kits at computer shows like VCF. At the vintage-oriented shows he runs workshops where you can build, solder and test your kit along with other hobbyists.

Airport Security

Thankfully both of my flights were uneventful. This was my first time at Bradley since the opening of the new security lanes and the new fees from the airlines. I normally check my duffel bag but when told it would cost \$25 to check a bag, I asked for my options. It seems I could carry my duffel to the gate where they would “valet check” the bag for “free.” The security x-ray check revealed my nail clipper kit. One item was a combination screwdriver, nail file and about 1.25” straightedge knife. Needless to say, my little kit is no longer complete. The rest of security check went smoothly as I wear sandals when flying in warm weather. I felt so much safer.

At O'Hare I had a choice between a lane with a traditional metal-detector and one of the new “virtual strip search” imaging machines, so I tried the new machine. After placing my sandals on the x-ray belt and dropping all my coins into a tray, I stepped into the machine. Those who have done this know that you are asked to raise your arms like a bandit in an old cowboy movie. There seemed to be a faint breeze then the machine was operating. When I stepped out, the TSA guy asked what was in my right pocket. He seemed almost uncomfortable looking thru my wallet which would never have been an issue in a metal-

detector. As you may recall, Michael Chertoff, former Secretary of Homeland Security, pushed hard to have TSA adopt these machines. Now Rapiscan, one of only two companies that make the full-body scanners to specifications required by the federal government, is a client of Chertoff Group, the security consulting company he founded after leaving the federal government. Read more at “Full Body Scanner Lobby: Michael Chertoff & Rapiscan” (tinyurl.com/y8oxq92) and “Ex-Homeland Security chief head said to abuse public trust by touting body scanners” (tinyurl.com/ye7h36a). Imagine a former government official getting rich as a lobbyist. How does this happen?!

Cyberwar

Cyberwar is back in the news as NPR begins a two-part series on the ethics of war in cyberspace (tinyurl.com/3x7ha7z). If some nation were to attack the power grid to disable a military base and put all of Florida in the dark for a month or two as a result, is that a war crime because it affects civilians? When is it ok to wage cyberwar? Should such an attack be considered an “armed attack” for which a conventional military response is appropriate? There are actually serious people sitting around very large conference tables worrying about this and similar nuances of war waged via TCP/IP. We have not experienced conventional warfare within the continental U.S. since the Civil War. Cyberwar could change all that and it would be over in minutes. Should that time ever come, I sure hope we're appropriately prepared.



Altair 8800 full view



Altair 8800 front panel

System Tools

Diskeeper 2010 Professional

By Terry Currier

THE DEFRAG THAT comes with Windows works okay, but is slow. Plus with Vista or Windows 7 I don't get a visual of what it is doing so I don't know how long it will take. I just get the message that it can take minutes or hours. Enter Diskeeper to speed up the job and I can see what it is doing.

With the new 2010 there is a new feature they call IntelliWrite technology to prevent fragmentation even before it begins. I will tell you that I tried it first on my main computer with XP. It has RAID 0 on it (not my choice), but something was wrong with its compatibility. It kept accessing the drive, and it was not the IntelliWrite. When I was trying to find the reason I turned it off. It still happened. I thought I had an answer in taking out System Mechanic. It did work for a while, but still came back. How do I know it was Diskeeper? Well, when I brought up Task Manager and ended that process it stopped each time. I did a search to see if anyone reported such a problem, but no one did, and there was only praise of Diskeeper.

Now, when I switched it over to my other computer with Windows 7, no problems. It is running smoothly, and I even have the IntelliWrite feature turned on. After recording a TV show in HD (10Gb file) and then deleting it, I like to go in and defrag that large gap. The three main features:

- IntelliWrite™ fragmentation prevention technology prevents up to 85% of the fragmentation suffered by every system. It intelligently writes contiguous files to the disk, so system resources are not wasted creating fragmentation.
- InvisiTasking® technology is a real-time background processing technology that allows Diskeeper 2010 to defragment your system as fragmentation occurs, even during heavy traffic times - without using active system resources. InvisiTasking eliminates the need for scheduling and administrator attention.
- I-FAAST® 2.0 (Intelligent File Access Acceleration Sequencing Technology) accelerates file access times to meet the heavy workloads of file-intensive applications. Utilizing a specially formulated technology, I-FAAST closely monitors file usage and organizes the most commonly ac-

cessed files for the fastest possible access, up to 80% faster.

Other features of Diskeeper include:

Paging File Defragmentation - defragments the paging file. You can help maintain peak Windows performance, and help Diskeeper run better at the same time.

Master File Table (MFT) Defragmentation - defragments the Master File Table (MFT). The MFT is used

by the NTFS file system to locate files on a volume, so fragmentation of the MFT slows the retrieval of files on the disk, whether these files themselves are fragmented or not. Defragmenting the MFT will improve the overall performance of the volume.

If you scroll down on Diskeeper you will see more information. The Dashboard tab displays details about Fragmentation Prevention and Automatic Defragmentation, the health of your volumes, the idle resources that Diskeeper uses to accelerate volume performance, and other useful defragmentation information. The Dashboard tab includes these sections:

System Improvement

This section of the Dashboard tab relates to your entire system and shows the percentage of improvement Diskeeper has provided in file read and write access time since the previous day.

IntelliWrite™ Fragmentation Prevention

This section of the Dashboard tab explains that IntelliWrite increases system performance by preventing fragmentation before it happens.

System Fragmentation Prevention Graph

This section of the Dashboard tab shows system fragmentation prevented by IntelliWrite in real-time. In the graph, fragmentation prevented every second, within the last minute, for your entire system, is displayed in green. The scale on the left side of the graph pertains to the number of fragments that have been prevented and the scale along the top of the graph pertains to the seconds in the last minute.

Statistical Information for Selected Volume(s) Since the Previous Day

This section of the Dashboard tab shows statistical information for selected volume(s) since the previous day. The columns of the table include the name of the selected volume(s), whether or not IntelliWrite and Automatic Defragmentation are enabled, the number of fragments prevented, the number of fragments eliminated and file read/write time % improvement.

Volume Health and Recommendations

This section of the Dashboard tab includes an evaluation of the overall health of the volume, the reasons for that rating, and recommendations for improving or maintaining the reliability of the volume.

Automatic and Manual Defragmentation Status

This section of the Dashboard tab shows when either Automatic Defragmentation with InvisiTasking® technology or Manual Defragmentation are active on any volume on this computer. When the indicator light is green Diskeeper is actively processing files on one or more volumes.

Idle Resources Used by Diskeeper

This section of the Dashboard tab shows the idle resources available, the idle resources used by Diskeeper for both Automatic and Manual Defragmentation, and the resources used by other process on the computer. This graph clearly illustrates how Diskeeper I-FAAST Performance Gains and Throughput Rates.

Displayed only on Diskeeper editions that include I-FAAST®, Intelligent File Access Acceleration Sequencing Technology feature, this section of the Dashboard tab provides statistical information about I-FAAST Defragmentation Jobs and the related performance improvement. The values shown in this section are based on measurements taken during I-FAAST processing, and they show the potential performance gain you can expect from the selected volume, as well as the actual measured throughput rates for the volume.

You can download a 30-day trial of Diskeeper or purchase it for \$59.96 at www.diskeeper.com

TERRY CURRIER is President, WINNERS, Windows usER Group, California. The article appeared in WINNERS Notepad, February - March 2010 Issue. <http://www.windowsusers.org/winnersug@aol.com>

Ask DACS

September, 2010

Moderated and Reported by By Jim Scheef

WE WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM the floor at the start of our General Meetings. In addition, members who are not able to attend the General meeting may submit questions to askdacs@dacs.org. We will ask the question for you and post the reply in *dacs.doc* and on *dacs.org*. Please provide as much information as possible, since we can't probe during the session.

D – This month AskDACS began as I futzed to get my laptop working as intended on the hospital wireless network. My goal is to have three virtual machines available to demonstrate potential solutions. These virtual machines run Windows 7 Professional, Vista Business and, of course, XP. Each machine is running with “undo disks” enabled to make easier recovery from mistakes. My problem was getting network access for Win7 and Vista. My home network happily gives each virtual machine its own IP address. The hospital network was not so generous, so I changed the network setting so the base machine would provide NAT (network address translation) just like a home router. This way the laptop issues IP addresses to each of the VMs. We can explore this at another meeting, if desired. Once I got this working, someone asked about the hypervisor software. I am using Virtual PC (VPC), the feature included with Win7 Pro and Ultimate. VPC will not host a 64-bit operating system regardless of the underlying version Win7. Using a 64-bit version of Win7 on the host machine allows for more than 4G of RAM. Virtual machines can only use physical RAM so the more RAM installed in the host machine, the more virtual machines you can run simultaneously and the more RAM you can allocate to each of those machines. With 6G of RAM in the base machine, I can run three modest VMs at the same time – so bring on those questions!

Q – I have a website and was viewing the site using a Macintosh at a public library using the Safari browser. How many people use Safari?

A – Safari is the browser supplied by Apple as part of the Mac OS-X operating

system, so it is to Macs what Internet Explorer is to Windows. A survey of Mac users at the meeting showed that most used Safari for some to most of their web browsing. Most popular browsers are also available for the Mac, including Firefox, Opera, and Chrome. The website netmarketshare.com ranks Safari #4 at 5.16% of the overall browser market with Internet Explorer #1 at 60.4% (all versions of both). The bottom line is that any website that targets people who may use a Mac need to be sure that Safari users have a “good experience” when they visit.

Q – I'm helping a friend get online with an “older” XP machine with only 256M RAM. The ISP is Charter. I tried to download AVG antivirus and found that it does not support XP. Then I tried to get an email client. What is a good, free email client for XP? The machine seems to be made more complex by an OEM edition of Microsoft Works.

A – We had many suggestions. Someone suggested Avast as a better antivirus. A check shows both AVG and Avast support XP as well as Vista and Win7. The Mozilla Thunderbird email program was suggested as both free and easy to configure. Often the account wizard can figure all settings and render a useable configuration with no more than the user's name, email address and password. There were more suggestions for email but first we got caught up in how Microsoft Works seems to be controlling access to all other programs including Outlook Express.

After much questioning, suggestions boiled down to completely removing (uninstall) all of Microsoft Works since it appears that

it is not used. Then install (or reinstall) XP Service Pack 3 to ensure the Windows installation is close to current. I would then run Windows Update until it reports there are no further updates. From that point any email client can be installed and configured. To restore Outlook Express, use the Control Panel Add-Remove Programs applet (click Windows Components) to first remove and immediately reinstall Outlook Express to restore the default icon to the Start Menu. The Windows install CD may be needed to complete this process.

Perhaps the simplest approach would be to use the web-based email on the Charter Communications website to read and compose email. While it does leave the email on Charter's server, the email is accessible from any machine with Internet access. There was concern that this ties the user to Charter, which is true. I then repeated my long-running plea that everyone end ISP tyranny by moving to an email account that is not tied to any ISP. There are many such services available for free, including AOL (or AIM, my current favorite), Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, and many, many others. Most of these can be used with either a web browser or a “real” email client like Thunderbird (my current favorite). Note I do not suggest using the old AOL software. The “best” setup is AOL (or AIM) email using Thunderbird with the IMAP (internet mail access protocol) which gives the best of all possible worlds. Your email messages are downloaded to your PC (even synchronized on multiple machines) and are still backed up on the AOL servers. This automatic synchronization is a feature of IMAP and can be used with any service that supports IMAP including Hotmail and Gmail. Right now I do not recommend Yahoo Mail because it lacks standards-based IMAP support.

Last item is to be sure that XP Service Pack 3 is installed as XP without SP3 is no longer supported on Windows Update. This applies to anyone running XP on any machine.

Q – If I have more than one browser on my computer, do I have to designate one of them as the default browser?

A – The short answer is “no” but it’s easiest if one of them is the “default”. The default browser is the one that opens when you click on an Internet shortcut on the desktop. It is easy to change the default browser (or email program) using Set Program Access and Defaults. This is in the XP Start Menu by default or is always available in the Control Panel Add-Remove Programs applet. Vista and Win7 hide this function in similar but different Control Panel applets.

Q – I’m having trouble with a floppy drive that seems to stop working if not used for several months. Any suggestions?

A – Since almost any floppy disk is bound to be many years old, it can be difficult to determine if the problem is the disk or the drive. The normal PC draws cooling air in the front of the case and exhales it thru the power supply. Newer machines add extra fans blowing out the back of the case. This means that air – and dust – is drawn into the floppy drive with attendant problems. Searching for “floppy drive cleaning kit”, I found several sources for drive cleaning materials. As long as you are using 3.5” floppies, new drives are still easy to obtain. The older 5.25” drives are another matter.

We then learned that the drives are Iomega Zip drives on both a Win95 machine and a Macintosh. The Mac can read and write a Zip disk but the Win95 machine cannot do either. Both drives have worked for years. Suggested debugging procedures included removing a printer that piggybacked on the Zip drive and setting the parallel port to ECP in the system BIOS. Also if both are external drives, swap the working drive from the Mac to the PC. Current drivers for Iomega Zip drives are still available on the Iomega website at tinyurl.com/367vcdm.

Discussion then turned to long-term storage. The best long term “media” is the cloud where you pay someone else to worry about drives

crashing or obsolete rotating media. If you insist on local storage, I would start to migrate everything to Blue-ray disks, although no one knows how long these disks will last or when they will become obsolete. Since the question started about floppies, sometimes the way the disk is formatted is part of what must be preserved. For floppy disks originally formatted using something other than a Microsoft OS, like a Commodore, Atari or something running CP/M, there are imaging programs that copy the disk sector by sector to an image file that can then be stored on a modern PC. To restore the disk, the process is reversed. In some cases, special floppy controllers are required to image unusual formats like 8” or hard sectored disks. Media obsolescence has been a problem for longer than there have been computers. Most large corporations migrated mainframe tapes from one type of tape to another and then to still another format as IBM and others developed newer, faster, higher-capacity tape formats.

Q – What is the lowest cost source for Microsoft Office? I need all of the applications including Access and PowerPoint.

A – The Microsoft website has information

on the various versions available and which applications are included in each (tinyurl.com/23oaj55). Only Office Professional meets the requirement of including the Access database program. Your favorite search engine can help find the lowest price, although even the discount seller I have used in the past does not discount Office. A member suggested buying the Microsoft Action Pack which includes all of the software needed to run a business, including Office. The Action Pack is a subscription product available only direct from Microsoft. You must be a Microsoft Partner (free at the lowest level) and meet a list of requirements qualify, like having an active website for your business. All the information starts on the Microsoft Partner Network at <https://partner.microsoft.com/US/partner>.

Disclaimer: Ask DACS questions come from members by email or from the audience attending the general meeting. Answers are suggestions offered by meeting attendees and represent a consensus of those responding. DACS offers no warranty as to the correctness of the answers and anyone following these suggestions or answers does so at their own risk. In other words, we could be totally wrong!

SIG Notes, Cont. from page 6

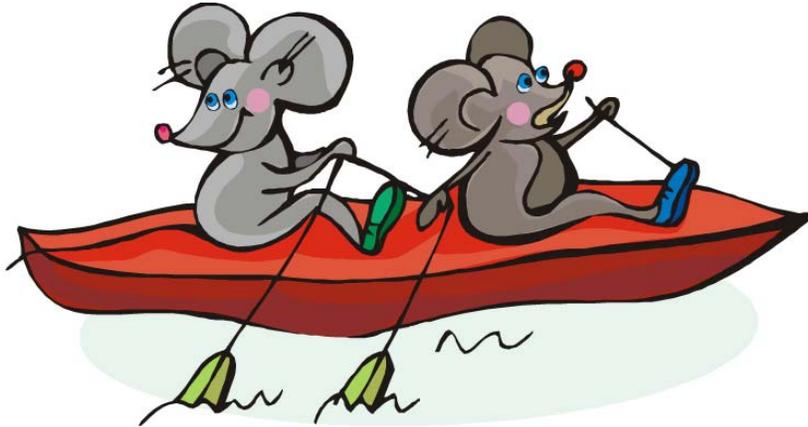
portant consideration here is the color-coding Notepad++ displays for the selected source code. A Notepad++ down load is available at www.sourceforge.net/projects/notepad-plus/.

With these tools in hand, we then proceeded to modify the tictactoe.html page and extract the JavaScript into a file tictactoe.js, extract the style into a file tictactoe.css and we removed these parts from the original .html file, creating a new tictactoe.html. To make the program actually work again, we added a <script> call for the tictactoe.js file and a <link> call for the tictactoe.css file. While making these changes we discussed the concept of a relative path versus a hard coded path. This comment information has been added to the new tictactoe.html file for reference sake.

The tictactoe.html program, besides playing the game with the user, also supports statistics that survive page invocations. It uses a cookie placed on the users computer for saving the statistics. This and other aspects of the JavaScript program will be topics for future meetings.

All of the files related to the SIG meeting are available. Let me know at cfizer@embarqmail.com if you want a copy.

For some reason, my Toshiba laptop would not display to the resource center projector. Now this is a new problem for the laptop. It’s probably the result of some Microsoft upgrade made since our last resource center meeting. I want to give many thanks to Bruce Preston whose new netbook saved the day. We downloaded Notepad++ to his netbook which also has IE8 installed. The netbook found the projector and with in seconds so we were able to have a successful meeting.



When you come to the next DACS meeting
Why not bring a friend?



Voice
for
Joanie

Help give the
gift of speech
Call Shirley
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Future Events:

October 5

E-book Readers
Bruce Preston

November 2

New Trends in
Digital Cameras
Gary Spring

December 7

TBA

January 4

TBA