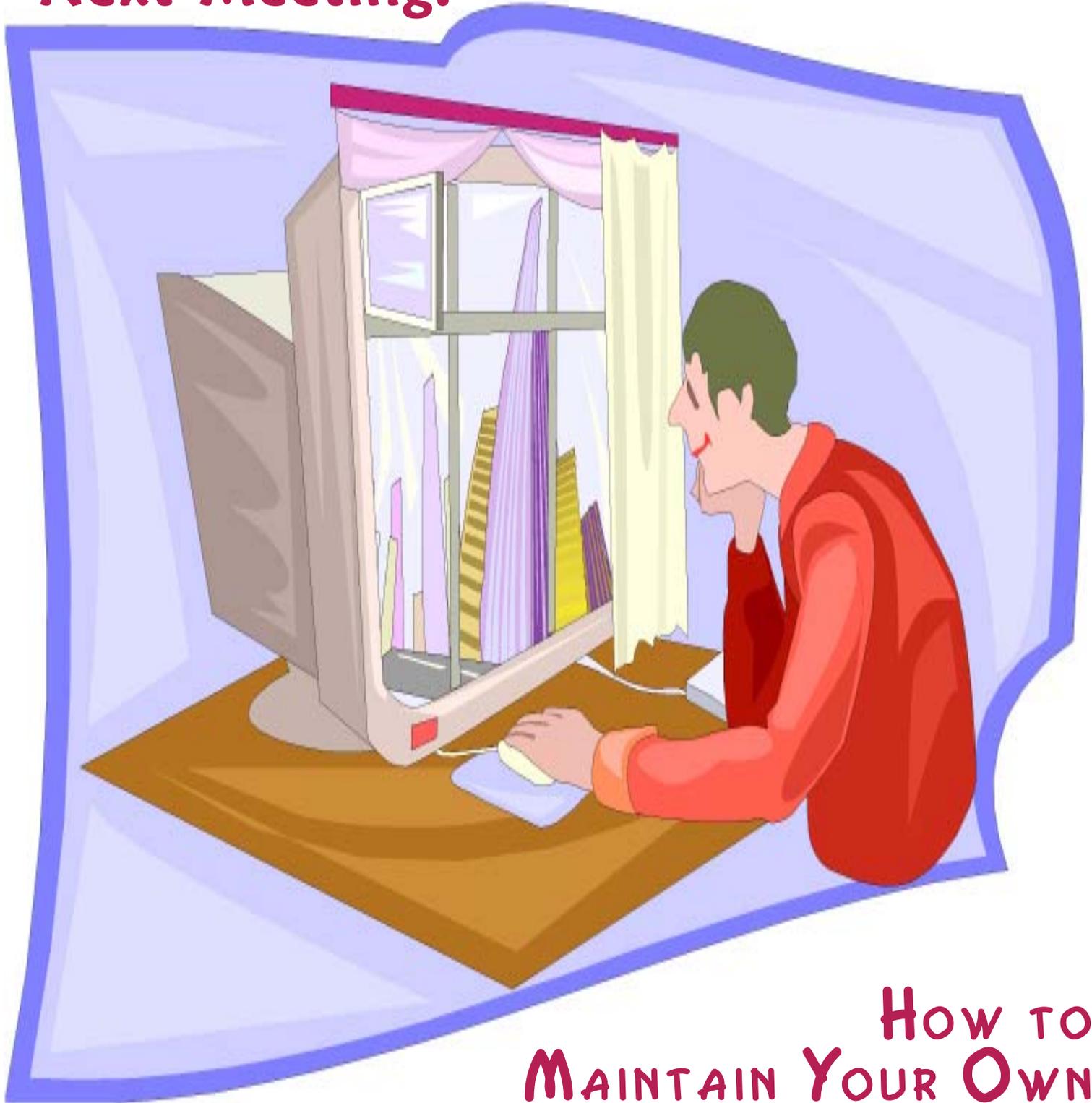


Next Meeting:



HOW TO
MAINTAIN YOUR OWN
WINDOWS MACHINE

Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. The meeting was called to Order at 7:15 p.m. Attending were Richard Corzo, Jim Scheef, Lisa Leifels, Elizabeth Talian, Drew Kwashnak, Andy Woodruff, Bruce Preston, Dave Green.

The Minutes of previous Meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report - January, 2012

Balance on hand 1/1/12	\$5,641.40
Income	
Dues	\$386.05
Bank Interest	\$0.49
Income - Total	\$386.54
Expenses	
Insurance	\$785.00
Resource Center Phone	\$70.59
Newsletter Printing	\$85.00
Newsletter Postage	\$48.75
Renewal Letter Postage	\$5.20
Total Expenses -	\$994.54
Balance on hand 1/31/12	\$5033.40

The treasurer submitted a 2012 budget to the board.

Membership Report

	DEC	JAN	FEB
Paying members	141	139	139
w/ email addresses	136	133	135
New members	1	1	2

General Meetings

DEC - Live Music Rec: Woodruff/Henderson
 JAN - OS Demo (1): Corzo/Scheef/Kwashnak
 FEB - OS Demo (2) - Corzo/Scheef/Kwashnak

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	Dec	Jan	Feb
Attendees	33	36	27
Members Signed In	31	27	27
visitors signed in	2	6	1

DACS.DOC

	100	100	100
NL printed	100	100	100
NL mailed	76	76	76
NL mailed-memb	56	56	56
NL mailed-other	6	6	6
NL mailed-free lib	14	14	14

Old Business

1. General meetings

- February 7: Jim Scheef, Drew Kwashnak, and Richard Corzo-Windows, Mac, and Linux comparison-part 2. Preview: Richard Corzo, Review: Elizabeth Talian & Lisa Leifels.

- March 6: Rob Limbaugh-Windows Tuning. Preview: Richard Corzo Review: Bruce Preston (See DACS Forum thread <http://forum.dacs.org/thread-352.html> if you have further suggestions for Rob to cover.) What would be our backup plan if Rob is late getting back from his trip? Backup: Bruce has 18 freeware utilities that he could demonstrate.

- April 3: Mike Kaltschnee-Tablets. Preview: Lisa Leifels; Review: TBD (Mike has iPads and Nook Color running different Android versions.)

- May 1: John Patrick-State of the Internet. Preview: () Review: ()

- June 5: Patrick Libert-Music Services. Preview: () Review: () (Pandora, Spotify, iTunes Match, Amazon Cloud Player)

Possible future topics:

- Andy contacted Google and they are willing to provide a speaker. We asked them for someone to speak on Google Apps (Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Sites, and Google Docs) and Google Voice.

- Smart Computing - "Presentation in a box"-needs about 8 weeks of notice. Held in reserve.

- Apple - Lion OS, other offerings (Dave Marra?)

- Artificial Intelligence - from Alan Turing to Eliza to Watson. Bruce to develop targeting July or August.

- Cloud storage services - Dropbox, box.net, Skydrive, Mozy, Carbonite, YouSendIt, etc. Drew will look into a comparison of functionality etc., hardware

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 3

Membership Information

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



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Apple User Group

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

HelpLine

Our former telephone HelpLine has been replaced by our web-based DACS Community Forum at <http://forum.dacs.org>. We have topic-specific forums where DACS members can post questions. Questions may be answered by SIG leaders or other DACS members. If none of the categories fit your question, just post it to the Ask DACS forum.

Topic

Microsoft Access
.NET Programming
Digital cameras/scanners/image processing
Content Management Systems
Linux
Mac and iPhone/iPad/iPod touch
PC maintenance

Forum

Access SIG
ASP.Net and C#VB.Net SIG
Digital Imaging SIG
Drupal SIG
Linux SIG
Apple SIG
PC Maintenance SIG
Virtual Computing SIG
Web Site Design SIG
Windows SIG

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 2

supported (i.e. Windows, Mac, Linux, smartphones, etc.) Jim and Richard would help with the smartphone support. Richard will set up a thread on the DACS forum.

- Digging into Facebook.
- Smartphone comparisons.

2. Open positions

• The membership chairperson/greeter position is still open. Jim is in the process of implementing CiviCRM as a mechanism for board members to have access to membership data, create e-mails etc. He will work on it during the Drupal SIG.

3. 2011 income and expense report/budget for 2012-Dave Green and Finance Committee (Andy Woodruff and Richard Corzo) have come up with a design that David will implement.

4. Andy Woodruff, Drew Kwashnak, and Richard Corzo installed the display for the Bethel Library; the duration of the exhibit is to be up through the end of February.

5. We discussed putting some of the tri-fold brochures up at locations at locations that are likely to have computer enthusiasts such as WCSU, Henry Abbott Tech, Heritage Village, etc...

6. Elizabeth has looked into establishing a group on the MeetUp.com site. Members look for local events by doing a search on distance, keywords, etc. If their search matches up, they would see the DACS presence which would direct them to the DACS.org site for details. Elizabeth's cut on it is that it is expensive as well as labor intensive.

New Business

1. We have approved Dave Mawdsley as the new Linux SIG leader replacing Jim Ritterbusch.
2. Through APCUG we are now receiving a quarterly shipment O'Reilly books and e-book certificates. Jim will renew our Microsoft User Group Kit.
3. Website changes: Added AddThis bar with social networking "like" buttons on a few pages, as suggested by Bruce and Jeff. It supports Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc. At

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 4

Charlie's suggestion we added a top-level menu item (buttons on left) for Join DACS in addition to the menu item under About DACS and the link on the right. Membership form download links are now at the top of the Joining DACS page.

4. Hog Advertising accepted our pricing for a DACS website ad. They have signed up for 6 months at \$50. Annette created a graphic version of the ad.
5. Patrick Libert added DanburyPatch at <http://www.patch.com/> to our publicity list.
6. Neil Corday has requested a DACS member who could give a presentation on computer-based scams for the Danbury Commission on Aging at the Danbury Senior Center on May 2. A couple of board members have provided links on the subject. Can we provide or suggest a speaker?
7. Richard will modify our PayPal payment profile to provide an option for a nonprofit corporate membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

—Bruce Preston



Do you have a burning computer question, but can't make it to the meeting, or just never seem to get your hand up in time? Email your inquiry to Jim Scheef, the answer guy, at askdacs@dacs.org, and your question will be taken up at Ask DACS at the next meeting.

Meeting Preview

How to Maintain Your Own Windows Machine

By Richard Corzo

SURE YOU USE YOUR Windows machine to do all kinds of things that you want to do; but there are things you need to know and do to keep it running well. You can find out what those things are at our Tuesday, March 6 general meeting. Former DACS president Rob Limbaugh will explain a number of important things you should know about your Windows machine. You might also think of this presentation as "How to be your own Windows system administrator."

Rob is a systems administrator for the company where he works, and was the leader of the former Windows SIG; so this is a great opportunity for us to benefit from his expertise. You might also remember his last DACS presentation in January 2010, introducing Windows 7 when it first came out.

Rob will explain how to set up user accounts (administrator and standard) and talk about the things he personally changes or loads on a new machine. You may find some of them useful for your own situation.

One thing we all need to do is back up our machine as preparation for the day when we lose access to our data – either from a hard drive crash, or even just accidental deletion. Rob will describe some different backup methods available to us.

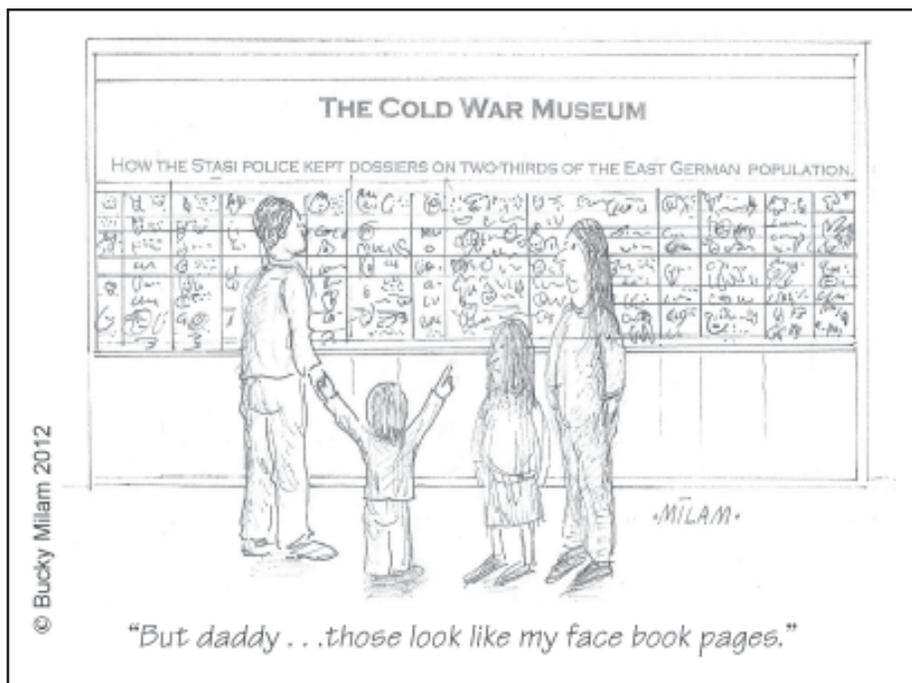
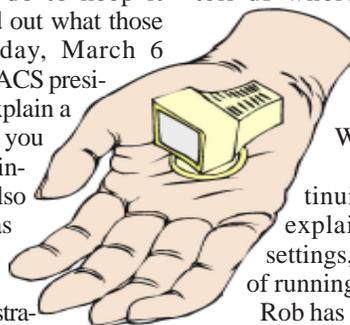
Since some of us are recent converts to Windows 7, and things have moved around from release to release, Rob will tell us where to find things on our Windows machine. This will include where user files are stored by default, and we'll get a tour of the Windows 7 control panel.

Safe computing is a continuing concern, so Rob will explain User Account Control settings, as well as the importance of running an antivirus program.

Rob has promised to leave plenty of time for questions. So think about everything you always wanted to know about Windows, but were afraid to ask. If your question isn't already answered during the presentation, you'll have the opportunity to ask afterward.

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. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

DACS General Meetings are free and open to the public. Members and prior attendees are encouraged to extend invitations to anyone interested in this topic.



Meeting Review

Side-by-Side — Part 2

By Elizabeth Talian and Lisa Leifels

At the General Meeting on February 7th, Richard Corzo, Drew Kwashnak, and Jim Scheef continued their Side-by-Side presentation of Mac, Linux and Windows. This follow-up of their co-presentation centered on managing Digital Images and Digital Music with each operating system.

To begin, Richard demonstrated iPhoto (<http://www.apple.com/ilife/iphoto/>), which comes with every Mac and is used for organizing digital images. When the Mac user imports photos (from a digital camera, storage device, or another location on the same computer) to iPhoto, the group imported becomes an 'Event' with all the photos kept together under a default name. (The 'Event' group is similar to an 'Album' in other software.)

The import is very easy - drag and drop into iPhoto. The still photos and/or videos are copied from the source, and given an Event name taken from the original folder. When no name exists at the source, the Event is named by date. Richard demonstrated how easy it is to move (drag) photos from one Event to another - handy when your camera holds multiple real life events (a birthday party and your walk in the woods a few days later). When importing from a camera, a USB connection will normally do the trick. (If you have trouble, first check that the camera is turned on). iPhoto will automatically open. You can choose to import all or selected images, and leave them on the camera or delete them at the same time (see Graphic 1, at right).

One of iPhoto's most interesting and possibly unique features is its ability to organize and retrieve photos by (1) face, as well as (2) place. So, if you want to see all your pictures of Jimmy to make his birthday gift, you can identify one and iPhoto will find the others! The place feature was demonstrated briefly, and involves adding a geo-tag (if your camera or phone hasn't done so already). You can use this feature to get to all of your shots at a particular location. iPhoto also allows you to create other tags - perhaps all swimming pools or beach images or pics of grandma's house. Apparently iMovie (not demonstrated) will do similar things with video.

Still images can be edited right in iPhoto. Rotate, enhance, straighten, are

among the standard choices. Crop has a list of target sizes and formats, which looks great for quickly creating wallpaper or a postcard, for example. iPhoto always

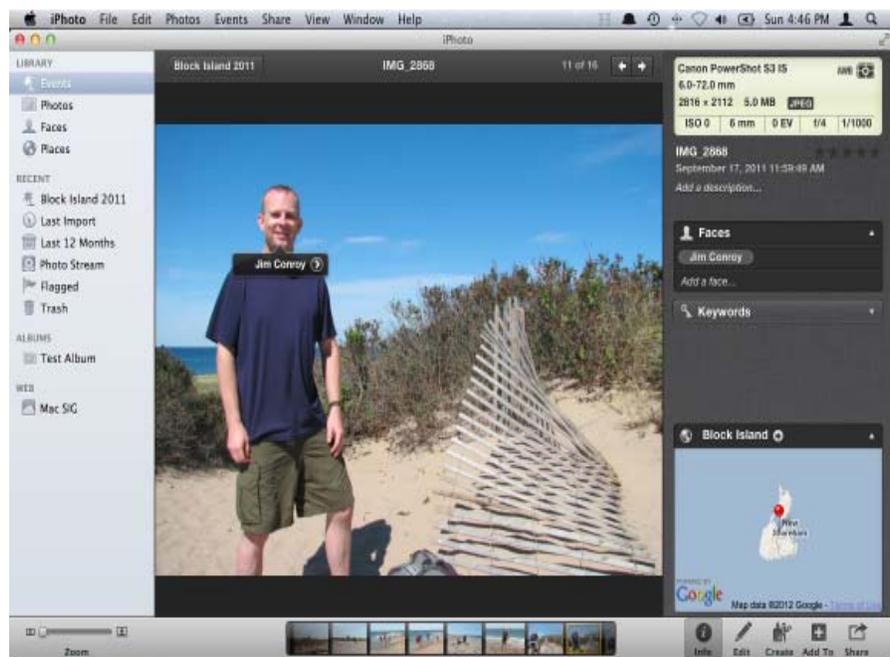


remembers your edits, but also always retains a copy of the original image, and makes it easy to 'revert to original' should you choose it. Some basic share options (e-mail, Facebook, Flickr, etc.) are available directly from iPhoto.

Jim Scheef was next up and presented Windows Live Photo Gallery, the freeware from Windows Live. Very much like the Mac option, it begins by organizing images by date. Ease of organization is built in through separation of 'Shared Pictures' and 'My Pictures' folders. Photo

Gallery offers the same kinds of simple editing seen on the Mac, and may have more built-in editing options. Jim demonstrated special effects like converting to mono-color and sepia-tone prints. He also mentioned that the tool has a built-in way to stitch photos together. Other software, like Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, will offer additional editing and cloning options. Windows Live Photo Gallery also offers geo-tagging, captioning, and descriptive tags. One noteworthy feature seemed to be the ease and breadth of sharing options available from PG - Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, etc. Jim demonstrated the ease of getting prints via 'share album'.

Drew took over next - demonstrating with Linux's Ubuntu 11.10. Default in Ubuntu, Shotwell, is the equivalent software to the two previously described digital image management programs. The interface is reminiscent of the i product, with colorful contemporary graphics. Like iPhoto, Shotwell imports images to separate folders and groups the import by date into 'Events'. Events can be navigated using thumbnail 'album view' in the main window or the organizational tree of events/albums in the left sidebar. You can rename an event, and the change will not affect the actual folder's name. One remarkably appealing feature of Shotwell is the way it communicates with your camera device. Shotwell's import option recognizes which photos you have already imported, and offers the option to 'hide photos already imported' as well as to import all or only pictures selected in the viewer.



Graphic 1: iPhoto

A menu at the bottom of the screen offers the most commonly used edit features including rotate, crop, and others. Adjustments are available at a click for some additional and appealing features like 'exposure' and 'saturation'. You can go picture to picture in Shotwell's editor, or edit a group at once - to rotate or enhance, for example. Shotwell will also remember the changes, while the original image is accessible in file manager, unchanged. Drew demonstrated Shotwell's 'export' feature to save your picture with the changes applied to another location.

Drew demonstrated using tags to organize photos. Tags can be applied to pictures in different Events, and when selected from the sidebar will show only those pictures with that tag. Creating nested tags with groups is also easy as drag and drop. When tags are nested you have the ability to view the pictures of the specific tag or all of the tagged pictures in that group.

Shotwell does not offer facial recognition or location recognition (yet). Linux makes it easy for users to change default directories and similar preferences. With Shotwell, you can easily 'publish' images to Picasa, Flickr, Facebook, or the like (see Graphic 2, above right).

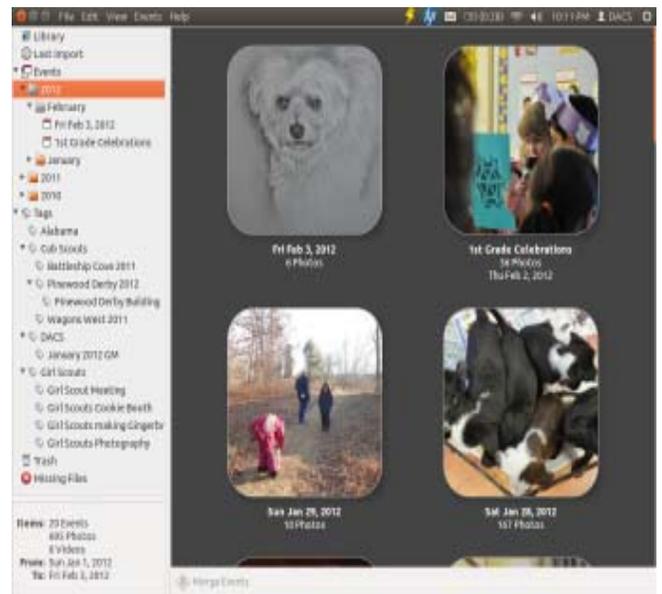
Drew continued with Linux into the second part of the evening's presentation (Digital Music), giving us a quick look at Banshee, the open source default media player with Ubuntu. Accessible from the panel's volume control you can play a playlist or control playback from Banshee or open the program. Creating a playlist can be as simple as dragging a song, album or artist to a playlist. Banshee also has the ability to play video. Banshee provides easy access to Amazon's MP3 store for purchasing and downloading MP3s, or you can rip your own CDs. Internet radio is available (Graphic 3, at right).

Ubuntu One is the Linux music store and cloud file synchronization service which will allow you to share your music files across all of your computers and to stream your music to your mobile phone. Music purchased through the Ubuntu One Music Store is automatically placed in your Ubuntu One account for downloading and playing. One of Drew's favorite features of Banshee is the 'minimode' where you can play music while you work - and always be able to access it or modify the volume via transparent window (Graphic 4, below right).

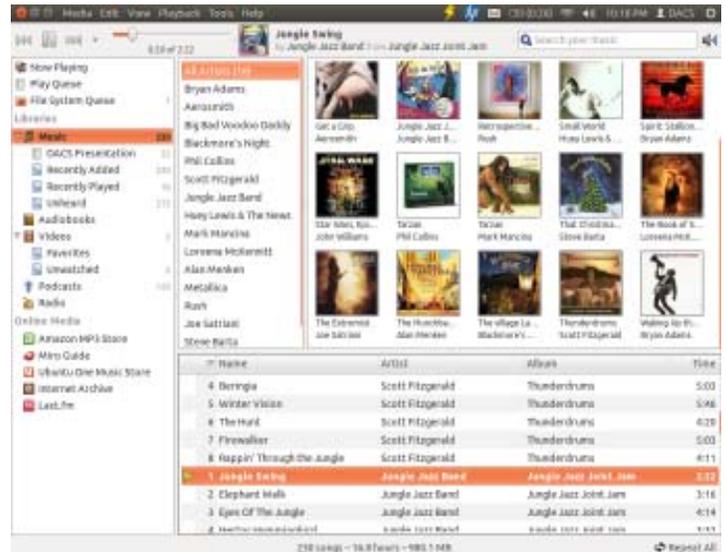
Windows' default music player is Windows Media Player, and Jim treated us to a little "Beach Boys" by way of demo. Media Player appears to have excellent connectivity with internet radio for live listening, which Jim employs to listen to public radio - both local stations and Vermont, for example. Just enter the URL of the stream, which will then open in Media Player. Jim freely admits, however, that iTunes has a lot to offer for managing digital music collections.

Apple's iTunes (<http://www.apple.com/itunes/>) is probably the best known digital music interface, and Richard took the helm again for a short demo. Richard mentioned one important thing to recognize -- that Apple's default music extension is ".aac", while '.MP3', the more versatile and universal file type, is an option you will need to select. iTunes' interface offers multiple views, including 'Cover flow', which is a lot like flipping through album covers. The 'Playlist' view allows you to utilize iTunes' dj or locate music for your current mood. You can easily create and edit Smart Playlists or create manual ones. You can also sample music before you buy, and download music from anywhere and drag it into your iTunes library. By entering your Apple ID to enable Home Sharing, you can access your music libraries on multiple devices, and with an Apple TV, you can connect your iTunes playlist to your TV or stereo. (Of course, you may need to come to a future DACS general meeting to get help with that!)

Many thanks to Richard, Jim, and Drew for an informative and good natured competition among operating systems during these last two meetings!



Graphic 2



Graphic 3



Graphic 4

File Management

Backup – Image, What’s the difference?

By Phil Sorrentino

THIS TOPIC CAN BE very confusing because of the similarities and the differences between backups and images. Backups and Images are similar in that they are both copies of something. The difference is in the “what” and the “how”. Normally, a backup is thought of as a copy of a file or a folder or a collection of files and folders (that is the “what”). The backup copy is just a copy, an exact duplicate and is not processed in any way (the “how”). The backup files can be used by any programs that could use the original files. The reason for having a backup file is to restore a file if it is accidentally destroyed or deleted.

An Image, on the other hand, is a copy of the Operating System and all of its components (referred to as the Operating Environment), as they exist in the memory of your operating computer (that’s the “what”). The Image can only be created by an imaging program (the how), and the image created can only be used by that same imaging program. The reason for having an image is to be able to re-install your “Operating Environment” if, or rather when, a virus or hardware problem makes your system unusable.

The topic can also be confusing because people, and even the literature, often use the terms backup and image in confusing ways. Often you will see or hear the term “backup image” which is meant to refer to a copy of an image. Well, an image is already a copy of something, so is this an image or is it a copy of an image? In order to keep things straight, I have tried to use the term “backup” to mean an exact copy of a file that needs to be saved. (I know that sometimes backup copies are “zipped” or compressed to save space, but those files are no longer exact copies of the originals and are not directly usable, so I would not call them backups, I would have to call them “zipped backups” or “compressed backups”, to be accurate.) And I use the term “image” to refer to the resultant file (or file collection) that is produced by an imaging program such as Ghost, or Acronis True Image, or Macrium Reflect, or even Windows 7.

To be completely protected against potential problems (viruses and/or hardware problems) you have to address both issues, backup and image. You have to backup all of your important files, those that you really do not want to lose, and you have to have an image of your Operat-

ing Environment for re-installation when needed. (Just as a point of interest, Windows 7 includes the ability to do both, via the Backup & Restore Control Panel.)

The files to backup are those that you have created or collected, such as your pictures, music, videos, Word documents, and spreadsheets. Any file that you would really be hard pressed to reproduce, if it was lost, is a good candidate for backup. How often to backup is dependent on the file in question. Files that are changing daily should probably be backed up daily, but files that don’t change need only be backed up on some weekly or monthly schedule. For backups, in general, follow “Chicago Politics” advice and backup early and often.

Also, be aware that there are many ways of backing up your files, since it is only a Copy operation. However, there are many programs that make the job quick and easy. If you have a folder of pictures and you only add a few pictures to the collection weekly, then there is no need to copy all of the pictures each week, you only need to backup the new pictures. Backup programs such as Microsoft Synctoy, and Synchronagic, check the collection of files to be backed up against the last backup and only copy the new files or those that have changed since the last backup. These programs make the backup process quick, efficient and so easy that you will probably do it often enough. By now you are probably feeling that you have got the idea of backup, but where do you put these backup files? The best place for backup files is on an external hard drive that is normally not connected to the computer. Right before you are ready to backup your file collection, connect the external hard drive and fire-up the backup program and run the backup task. After the backup is finished disconnect the external drive and put it away in a safe place.

Creating an image is a little more difficult than creating backup files because imaging is not just a simple Copy operation. Because an image is a copy of your operating computer memory, the program must know a lot about the architecture of the memory. This is very specialized knowledge and is the essence of an imaging program. The imaging program must be installed on your computer for use in creating an image. And, it must create a bootable disk to be used when your system is not operating correctly. The image it creates can usually

be put on a system drive (other than the C: drive), or an external hard drive, or a number of DVDs. The image created is usually a very large collection of files that may total from 20 to 60 GB. The imaging process can take many hours depending on the size of the image and the amount of compression that is selected. Imaging is a very lengthy process, and it creates such large files, so you probably only want to do it when absolutely necessary. A new image is only necessary when the Operating Environment changes, when you add or delete programs, or when you update your operating system. You may not add or delete programs very often, but the operating system is updated, at least monthly, so you might want to create a new image every 3 or 4 month or whenever a big change is made to the Operating Environment.

So you can see there is a great difference between Backup and Image. But, both are necessary if you hope to completely recover from a future hardware failure or malware infection.

PHIL SORRENTINO is president, of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida (www.spcug.org; president@spcug.org)

This article appeared in the December 2011 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor, and is distributed for publishing by user groups.



DACS Community Forum

Ever wanted to ask a question and get an answer without waiting for the next general meeting? How about sharing news with other DACS members, or communicating with fellow participants in a SIG you attend?

The DACS Community Forum (<http://www.dacs.org/forum/>) is another benefit of being a DACS member, and it’s open 24/7. Once you register there you’ll be able to post questions, answers, and comments. You can even set up an RSS subscription to be notified of updates to the forums.

Try out the DACS forum today!

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: March 2012

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: Mar 14 (check Website for technical details)

Apple. 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: Mar 1

Digital Imaging. All about digital cameras, retouching, and printing using various programs.

Contact: Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 (graffxx@gmail.com).

Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Spring 2012

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: Mar 8

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: Dave Mawdsley, linuxsig@dacs.org

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

Next Meeting: Mar 21

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

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

Go to DACS Community Forum (<http://forum.dacs.org>).

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

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: Mar 20

SIG News & Events

Apple. At the February meeting we answered questions from a new Mac user and took a look at VMware Fusion.

One SIG attendee bought a new Mac that came with OS X Lion, and I was curious as to what recovery options were available since Lion doesn't come on a disc. He said it also didn't come with Lion on a USB flash drive. We looked up Lion recovery and read that on new Macs pressing command + R during startup will launch into the recovery partition. From there it's possible to run Disk Utility and reinstall Lion over the network.

We also looked at VMware Fusion 4 (<http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion/overview.html>), which has been updated with better Lion compatibility and allows you to run Windows on your Mac at the same time as you run your Mac programs.

It's possible to switch USB devices between your Mac and the virtual machine. However, I explained how it was possible to share a USB printer and leave it attached to your Mac.

First of all you can set up your printer using CUPS (Common UNIX Printing Support). Browse to <http://localhost:631/> on your Mac and in the Administration tab add a printer corresponding to your local USB-attached printer. Set it up with a RAW device driver, as you will let the Windows machine format the print job rather than the Mac.

On your Windows machine use Bonjour Print Services for Windows (<http://support.apple.com/kb/DL999>) to discover the Mac-attached printer on your network. Then add the Windows printer using the print driver appropriate to your printer model.

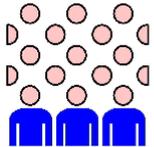
Linux. At our February Meeting at the DACS Resource Center we featured Arduino, an open-source electronics prototyping platform based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software, which is taking the electronics hobby fan by storm these days. With its relative ease, displays of light and sound, devices with motion detection, infrared signaling and sensing, motion control, and even communication it is in the realm of inexpensive experimentation. All this is possible because of microcontrollers such as Arduino that have large amounts of easily accessible features with an accessible learning curve; your own computer is needed for all this!

The first topic by me, which took most of the session, was about using the Arduino Uno microcontroller to display temperature readings and then to display various readings such as high and low temperatures over a time period. The readings were recorded at the 60-minute, 120-minute, 180-minute and 360-minute time intervals. This was a thermometer with a temperature reading history.

SIG notes, Cont.on page 15

March 2012

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Disaster Relief

Recovering Data from a "Dead" Hard Disk

By Bruce Preston

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW is a musician/composer. About a month ago the hard disk on the old desktop machine (Windows XP SP3) that he uses gave him a BSOD (Blue Screen of Death) upon booting. While he had backups of most of his things on a newer machine, there was some data that hadn't made the most recent backup. He tried booting with Safe Mode – it didn't get past the Windows logo screen before hitting a BSOD again. We tried putting the hard disk in an external drive enclosure so that we could access it from a working computer. Upon opening "My Computer" it stalled for several minutes before finally showing that there was a disk present, but it couldn't show any contents. The fact that the drive at least tried to boot (getting as far as the logo screen) indicated to me that the drive was probably physically OK but had a data problem.

There are services that will recover data from physically damaged or data corrupted hard disks, but they typically cost over \$500 just to take a look at the drive. We decided to see if we could get data off of the drive using consumer-grade data recovery software. I did a search of the web and found that EaseUS.com has a "Data Recovery Wizard." I have had favorable experience with their free Partition Manager, so I decided to give it a trial. The free download trial/demo version will examine the drive and tell you if the data can be recovered, but will only bring back something like 10MB of data. To actually recover all of the data you need the purchased version. So, figuring that there was nothing to lose, I downloaded the trial version.

When you are attempting to recover data from a drive, it is important that you never write to the drive, as you may overwrite space occupied by an otherwise recoverable file. Since installing software involves writing to a drive, you need to install the software on a different drive.

For this reason it is advisable to install the software on a fully operational machine and attach the damaged drive to the machine via an external drive enclosure, which typically uses a USB 2 interface. Alternatively you could install the drive within a desktop, but I find this to be a nuisance. External USB enclosures are available for the older PATA (a.k.a. IDE/ATA) drives or the newer SATA technology. USB 2.0 enclosures for 3.5" drive (desktop size) cost about \$20 to \$25, 2.5" drive enclosures are about \$6. The 3.5" has a

"brick" power supply; the 2.5" draws power from a pair of USB ports. I purchased mine years ago at a MicroCenter store; you may order them from www.microcenter.com. I have also seen them on eBay.

The drive with the problem was a Western Digital WD800 – 80GB. We expected it to have about 40GB of data total, including the OS and installed programs. I had a spare 160GB drive in a second external enclosure that had about 140GB of free space, so I decided to use it to receive any recovered data.

When I launched the trial/demo version of the EaseUS Data Recovery Wizard it showed me all of my desktop's physical drives and partitions within. It also showed the problem drive as E: and said that it had 3 partitions (2GB unallocated, 60GB allocated but not formatted (oh really?)) and about 10GB formatted FAT32. Clearly the data was on the second partition, and the third partition was presumed to be the Dell recovery partition.

The program offered to do an analysis and recovery. Since the directory was damaged, I couldn't select specific file recovery, so I selected "Partition Recovery" and pointed to the second partition. There was immediate encouragement – as I could see recognizable names of folders and files fly by on the screen. After just under an hour it reported that it was 100% confident in recovering files and folders, as well as being able to recover "raw files". I looked up its definition of "raw files" – these are constructed chains that may include

deleted files, but most importantly may contain cross-links to space occupied by other files. Essentially, I think you only want to work with raw files as a last resort.

We decided to purchase the full product. There are two versions: the \$69.99 version will work with typical Windows formats, the \$79.99 "Pro" version adds other formats including Mac and the multiple Linux formats. While I only have a virtual Linux machine, I figured that for \$10 I might as well get the Pro version against the possibility of needing it in the future. The software will work with PATA -IDE/ATA drives, SATA, USB external hard drives, solid state drives, and USB flash drives.

After downloading and providing the registration key delivered by e-mail, I launched it and had it do the analysis again. (I could have saved the analysis from the trial version, but didn't.) I had created a folder on the target drive named "Recovered" and told the software to place recovered files and folders there. It took just under three hours, but when done, the folder "Recovered" in my F: drive looked identical to the original drive's C: structure and Windows indicated that the folder structure contained 41GB. There was also a "Raw Files" folder. The total amount recovered was listed as 110GB – interesting as the physical drive is only 80GB – but explainable when you consider the definition of raw files.

The first thing that I did was burn to DVD the contents of the several "My Documents" folders within XP's "Documents & Settings" structure, as there were several accounts on the XP machine. Having moved his critical data to his new machine, we then went through folder-by-folder and gathered other files from other locations such as "Application Data" etc. We skipped the thousands of files that had been in C:\WINDOWS and the thousands of files in "Temporary Internet Files" – these were mostly .JPGs and .GIFs of 2 or 3KB. There was no point in trying to move applications as these typically need to be installed from installation media.

Once we were completely satisfied that we had recovered everything that he wanted, we used EaseUS's Partition Manager to delete the three partitions from the old hard disk. We then created a single partition and formatted it as NTFS. He is now using that as a backup drive for his new machine, and promises to do more frequent backups.

What we don't know is what caused the initial corruption of the drive in the old machine. Scanning the recovered data with anti-virus and anti-malware came up clean. We didn't try to scan the

It's alive!



recovered registry, I'm not sure if that can even be done. My guess is that his almost 10 year old machine just had some sort of hardware glitch that damaged the directory entries for the drive.

All in all it was a satisfying experi-

ence in being able to recover his data. It also makes me wonder if I have discarded a couple of "dead" drives over the years that had the same symptoms - recognized as a drive, but inaccessible data. Perhaps they could have been put back into

some sort of functional use. I never would use a drive more than a few years old in a system, but find them useful for temporary or occasional use such as the transient target for recovery or to assist in the migration to a new system.

Internet Privacy

Are you being followed?

By Linda Gonse

YOU MAY NOT EVEN suspect you are being followed. But, as many as 60 ad networks may be tracking you on the web right now! What's more, they may be selling personally identifiable details about you.



ment says it developed an Opt-out Tool "in conjunction with our members for the express purpose of allowing consumers to 'opt out' of the behavioral advertising delivered by our member companies." To this end, NAI offers a YouTube video on their home page showing you how the Opt-out Tool works. (You can also see the enlarged video before you go to their site at <http://bit.ly/ruQt9S>)

Basically, the Opt-out Tool, which will not be installed on your computer, examines cookies (small text files) on your computer and identifies those member companies that have placed an advertising cookie on it.

When a member company's cookie is identified by the Opt-out Tool, you simply check the box next to the company name. If you are strongly motivated (or highly frustrated), check the "Select All" box! Then, click the "Submit" button, and you're done. The cookies will be removed for the selected companies and your opt-out status will be automatically verified.

Go to the NAI website at <http://bit.ly/sNMIj0> to get the opt-out process started.

There are two caveats:

1. Opting out of a network does not mean you will no longer see online adver-

tising. But, the network from which you opted out will no longer be tracking you personally and displaying ads that are "tailored to your web preferences and usage patterns." Isn't that the idea?

2. Networks voluntarily allow opting out. It isn't a legal mandate. Also, technical glitches may occur. Cookies from any of these networks may reappear. So, use the Opt-out Tool regularly.

Quantcast Measurement and Advertising does not participate in the National Advertising initiative, but also offers you the ability to opt-out of their ads based on your interests.

Quantcast claims it doesn't store your IP address or any other personally identifiable information. "But, if you prefer not to receive interest-based content and advertisements enabled by Quantcast and not to have Quantcast measure your pattern of website visits or other online media consumption, you can opt-out by using our opt-out tool" at <http://bit.ly/vNAXOB>.

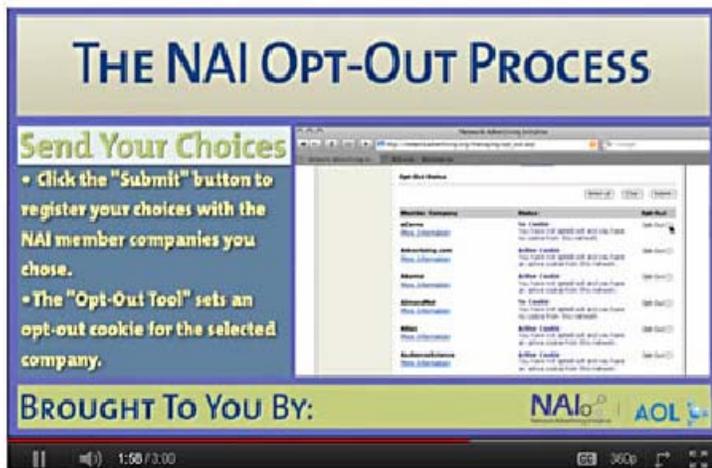
Opting out is the only way you can avoid being tagged, tracked and tempted by advertisers who know your purchasing history. By opting out you can end hunting season by advertisers who are determined to bag your money.

LINDA GONSE is editor and Webmaster, Orange County PCUG, California (www.orcopug.org; editor@orcopug.org).

This article is from the December issue, nibbles & bits, and is distributed for publishing by other user groups,

If this disturbs you, you can put a stop to it. You can quickly opt out from advertising networks — each has multiple clients! — with just a few mouse clicks.

The National Advertising Initiative (NAI) is a cooperative of dozens of online ad networks that track you. An NAI state-



Criteo More Information	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Pixel Media More Information	No Cookie You have not opted out and you have no cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
DataLegix More Information	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
DataXu More Information	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Datenics More Information	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Networks (AppNexus) More Information	Active Cookie You have not opted out and you have an active cookie from this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated Networks (DoubleClick) More Information	Opt-Out Cookie You have opted out of this network.	Opt-Out <input type="checkbox"/>

A few of the networks that may have placed one or more cookies on your computer.

Back-up Tools

Using SANDBOXIE to Safely Browse the Internet

By Jim McKnight

Editor's note: Sandboxie employs a computer security process that isolates untested programs to avoid infection from malicious code. This article covers version 3.60.. The current release is version 6.4.

General:

ONCE SANDBOXIE IS set up, all you have to do is click the Sandboxie Icon on the desktop and



your regular Internet Browser opens safely in a sandbox.

Sandboxie uses your regular Internet Browser to go on the Internet without the fear that you will be tricked into infecting your PC by malicious websites, or by infected downloads.

Although Sandboxie does some amazing things with many kinds of programs, this article focuses on using the Sandboxie program to make your Internet browsing safe from malware infections.

The tips in this article are for the FREE version of Sandboxie. The paid version offers many bells and whistles, but for safe Internet browsing, the FREE version is adequate. Be aware that some programs do not play well with Sandboxie. For details, see: <http://www.sandboxie.com/index.php?KnownConflicts>

Nag Screen:

The only downside to the FREE version of Sandboxie is that 30 days after installation, a Nag screen pops up most every time you use it with a 5 second delay telling you that the Nag delay will go away

permanently if you buy Sandboxie. (Currently about \$42.00 for a lifetime license that works for all your PC's (as an Individual owner).

Help and Tutorials:

For an overview of what a sandbox is, go to the <http://www.sandboxie.com> home page. Also, see the Sandboxie Help pages at: <http://www.sandboxie.com/index.php?HelpTopics>

See this Tutorial video set (3 parts; About 20 min total). It is very good: <http://www.securitytube.net/video/578>

You can get to the 6-part "Getting Started" tutorial for the Sandboxie program/s at any time, as follows: (Double-click the Sandboxie Control Icon on the Task bar > Help > Getting Started Tutorial)

DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL SANDBOXIE

You can download the Sandboxie program from: <http://www.sandboxie.com> During the installation, you may be notified of software compatibility conflicts between Sandboxie and some other program/s. You will be asked to give permission to automatically change some configuration settings to fix it. Just click OK. Note: You can get to this screen anytime: (click Sandbox > Configure > Software Compatibility).

SETTING UP SANDBOXIE TO "AUTO-DELETE" FILES

By default, Sandboxie does NOT Auto-delete anything. Everything is saved in the sandbox until you delete it.

I highly recommend setting up Sandboxie to "Automatically delete contents of sandbox" when the sandboxed browser is closed. This will delete all browser changes, add-ons, downloads, and program installs (including malware) each time you close Sandboxie.

To set up Sandboxie to always Auto-Delete:

1) Double-click the Sandboxie Control Icon in the System Notification area.

2) In the Sandboxie window; click Sandbox > Default Box > Sandbox Settings > Delete > Delete Invocation).

3) Click to check the box for _ Automatically delete contents of sandbox, and click OK.

NOTE: "Auto-delete" usually does not include manually downloaded files. They are kept in the sandbox until you manually either Recover them or Delete them.

Manually Delete Everything in the Sandbox

Double-click the "Sandboxie Control" system tray Icon, then; (click Sandbox > Default Box >Delete Contents) Close the Sandboxie Control window.

Save (Recover) Downloaded Files:

Sandboxie offers you the opportunity to save "for real" any downloaded files both after you download the file and when you close the browser. If you do not save them, they disappear when you close Sandboxie (but by default stay in the sandbox for you to recover or delete later). Saving for real is called Quick Recovery.

Each time you download files to the Desktop, you are usually (but not always) prompted to "Quick Recover" that file (save for real).

If you download files to anywhere other than the Desktop, you will NOT be prompted for "Quick Recovery". Later, you can get to the Quick Recovery (save for real) screen by double-clicking the Sandboxie Control Icon in the notification area, then select (Sandbox >Default Box > Quick Recovery). Click on the desired Item/s (to highlight them), then click either "Recover to Same Folder" or "Recover to Any Folder".

Last resort: If you are still having trouble saving a file "for real" AND if you trust the download website AND if you trust the file: Close sandboxie, browse to that site without Sandboxie, and download your file. Scan it for malware before using.



Exploring Downloaded Files

It is best to explore downloaded files that are in the sandbox by using the "Sandboxed" version of Windows Explorer:

1) Open the Sandboxie Control program by double-clicking its Icon in the System Tray.

2) Click (Sandbox > Default Box > Run Sandboxed > Run Windows Explorer).

Now, as you explore the system using Windows Explorer in sandboxed mode, you will see your downloaded and sandboxed files right alongside regular files in the same folder where you downloaded them. This can be confusing so hang in there.

Check Downloaded Files for Malware

There are two ways to scan downloaded files for malware:

1) You can get to the file using the sandboxed Windows Explorer shown above, then right-click the file and run your normal Anti-malware program scan on it to make sure it is safe before "Saving it for real".

2) Everything that is sandboxed is actually hidden in a folder called C:\Sandbox. Your antivirus scanner can be run against that folder and will inspect all the files in it for malware. It should then be safe to save those downloaded files "for real".

How do You Know if You are Running in the Sandbox?

Two ways:

Look for # (pound signs) before and after the Browser's name in the Title Bar.

Hover the mouse pointer near the top of the active browser window. If you are running in the sandbox, the window frame will be outlined in a YELLOW border.

Making E-mail Links Open in a Sandbox Browser:

My preferred way is to first open your default browser in the sandbox. Then if you click any links in your e-mail, they will open in the sandboxed browser.

If the default browser is not already open in the sandbox when you click an e-mail link, then the link will open the default browser WITHOUT being sandboxed.

Run a Different Browser "Sandboxed"

The Sandboxie Icon (Free version) always uses the system's "Default" browser. You cannot specify different browsers for the Sandboxie "Sandboxed Web Browser" Icon. (The paid version of Sandboxie has

more flexibility).

If you want to use a different browser with Sandboxie, you have two choices:

1) Right-click the desired browser Icon (Context Menu), then select "Run Sandboxed". Note: Depending on your Operating System, the context menu option for Sandboxie may not show up, IE: Quick launch Icons or the Start Menu Favorites Icons. It does always work with the Desktop Icons.

2) Change the Default browser:

- Close the sandboxed browser.
- Change the default browsing program to the one you desire. The method varies for different operating systems.
- Double-click the Sandboxie "Sandboxed Web Browser" Icon. The new browser should now open.

Changes to the Browser

With Auto-Delete turned ON, Sandboxie will NOT save your Browsing History or any added Bookmarks, or any other changes to the Browser when Sandboxie closes.

With Auto-Delete turned OFF, your Browser changes will be remembered, but only within the Sandboxie browsing session. If you open the Browser without Sandboxie, the changes will not be visible.

Permanent Changes

Any Browser customizations, such as (Add-ons, Favorites, Bookmarks, Toolbars, etc.) that you want to be permanently changed in your Browser, must be installed by opening the Browser **Without** using Sandboxie, and then making the changes. Otherwise, any changes you make will be sandboxed and will disappear.

Printing

Yes, you can print stuff as usual from your Browser (even PDF's from the sandboxed Adobe Reader).

Browser is Slow to Close

This is normal from time to time. Make sure there are no open windows hidden behind the main browser window awaiting user action.

Desktop Internet Shortcut Icons

If you like to use various different browsers to go on the internet, be aware that your regular Desktop Internet Browser Icons do NOT use Sandboxie to open them. To create new Desktop Internet Icons that WILL use Sandboxie to open a specific Browser program, try this:

Open the Sandboxie Control program by double-clicking its Icon in the System Tray. Click (Configure > Windows Shell Integration > click the "Add Shortcut Icons" button.).

Click OK a couple times until you get to the window titled "Sandboxie Start Menu Default box" and select "Desktop".

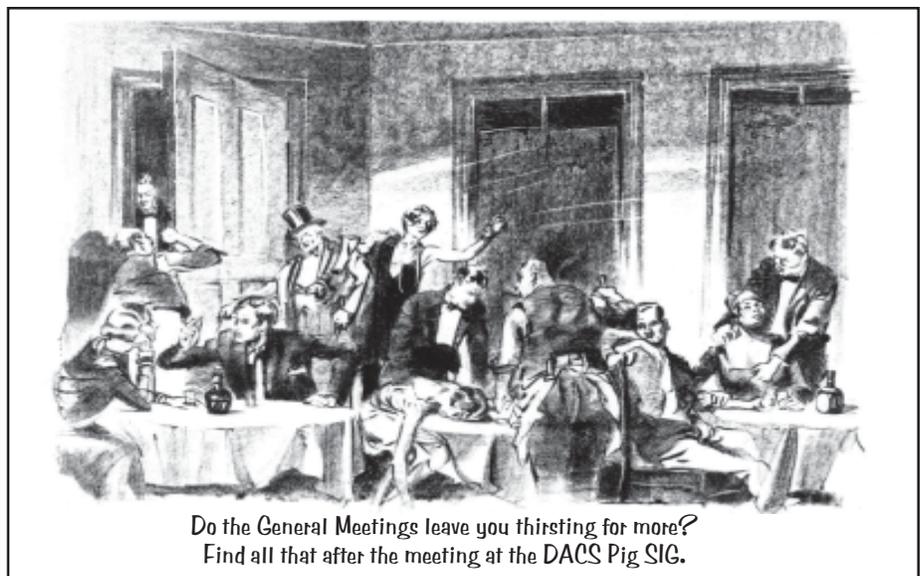
Click to highlight the desktop Icon you want to duplicate. The new Icon will immediately appear on the Desktop.

Be sure to rename each Icon after you create it. This is so Sandboxie will not overwrite it when you create another Icon.

www.sandboxie.com

JIM MCKNIGHT, is director, Los Angeles Computer Society, California. Jim can be found at www.jimopi.net; jim.mcknight@lacsps.org

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Do the General Meetings leave you thirsting for more?
Find all that after the meeting at the DACS Pig SIG.

Ask DACS

February, 2011

Moderated and reported by Jim Scheef

WE WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM the floor at the start of our General Meetings. The role of moderator is to try to guide the discussion to a likely solution to the problem. 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.

Q - How do I "eject" a thumb drive in Windows?

A - Eject is a term used with removable media like a CD. In Windows Explorer, if you right click on the drive letter for a CD/DVD drive, one of the options is "Eject", which will stop the drive and open the drive door/tray. On slot-loading drives, the CD is literally spit out. Hard drives, whether rotating or solid-state (flash), should be "stopped" using the little widget that appears in the Task Tray at the bottom right of the screen when a removable drive is inserted. Stopping the drive checks for open files and flushes the cache for FAT drives. In Windows 7 the icon has a USB plug with a green check mark and appears only when a removable drive is inserted. The danger from not stopping a drive before removing it from the system is that a file may be open, possibly resulting in data corruption or in the worst case scenario; the system is updating the master file table (MFT) of an NTFS drive or the file allocation table (FAT), which could leave the disk in an inconsistent state. Naturally, there is more than one way to do this task, but most people right click on the icon, a list of removable devices appears and you can click on the one you want to remove. A "Safe to Remove" message will appear if the device has stopped. If not, an error message such as "Drive cannot be stopped" or something similar will appear. In practice, if I know there are no open files and drive is "quiet", I often just rip it out of the socket. Windows will forgive you.

Q - Jim R paraphrased this question at

the meeting, but here is the question from his email: "We had an odd thing the other day, and it persisted for several days. We were shopping for a vacation on www.cheaptickets.com. Halfway through the shopping selection screens, it would suddenly reroute us to www.vast.com, a nondescript site that looks like one of those you get when it can't serve the page you requested.

This happened numerous times, on 3 different computers, Windows 7, Kubuntu Linux and Mandriva Linux, but was rather unpredictable as to when in the process that it would happen. Restarting, rebooting, etc. didn't help.

I eventually used a work machine that VPN tunnels to my work site, and it worked fine.

I have to think that it was something that my ISP (Comcast) was doing in their routing, but I can't imagine why. A similar re-routing happened months ago on a completely unrelated site.

A - This is "routing weirdness" to the n^{th} degree. In addition to the discussion at the meeting, one member was inspired to dig a little further. I have no confidence in any of the possible explanations offered at the meeting. These included the possibility the target site had made a recent change to its DNS and this change was propagating. This would be unlikely for a large commercial site and would not explain why it occurred on multiple computers over an extended period. The evidence does point to Comcast's DNS servers (see below) as using a VPN tunnel to an employer's network would use the

DNS servers at work, bypassing Comcast.

After the meeting Bill D. sent me a link to a Cisco support forum entry discussing "DNS Problem with Comcast Nameservers" (tinyurl.com/6wyzp73) that points to a configuration error in some DNS servers somewhere. Could this be the problem? It is the most logical possibility so far. The domain name system (DNS) is simple in concept but incredibly complex in the real world implementation. That it works as well as it does is one of the miracles of the Internet. And IPv6 is coming...

Q - I'm being prompted to install an update, what should I do?

A - There was much confusion over where the prompt was coming from and for what. We finally determined that the prompt was to install a newer version of Internet Explorer. How this update behaves is slightly different between Windows versions (XP, Vista, and Win7) and your setting for Windows Updates. Plus Microsoft has announced that it began pushing out IE version upgrades automatically starting in January. The goal is to have all Windows users on the latest version supported by their version of Windows. XP users will be upgraded to IE 8, while Vista and Win7 will get IE 9.

Back when Microsoft released IE7 as a "priority update" corporate customers resisted, so they were allowed to manage the update process using Group Policy. Meanwhile, MS backed off and made IE version updates "recommended". Up to this current change, the IE upgrade required the user click on a license agreement prior to the installation. Since I have not experienced an update under this new "automatic" policy, I don't know what user interaction is required, if any – but this is what I suspect the member asking the question is seeing: a prompt to proceed with the IE installation by accepting the license agreement.

Many users like me prefer to see

the updates included in each batch before they are applied. Thus I have Windows set to download new updates and then prompt me to install. Even with this setting, it will now be difficult to prevent installing a new IE version by accident. I like to keep Windows installations around with older version of IE for compatibility testing on websites. I suspect this will become an exercise in frustration.

Q - Some of my Facebook friends post meaningless stuff that I don't need to see. Is there a way to stop those updates?

A - Yes! Recently, Facebook added the option to "subscribe" to a person's updates. When this feature was first implemented, everyone was automatically subscribed to all of their friends. So you can now remain friends with some people while "unsubscribing" from their postings. The best part is that they will never know. To unsubscribe, go to the "problem" friend's page and uncheck the Subscribe box at the top of their page.

The new Subscribe feature also works to allow you to follow people like David Pogue, Walt Mossberg, or Steve Wozniak, the three people to whom I have subscribed rather than sending them a friend request. I suspect they really aren't interested in my grandchildren's activities, anyway.

To find more information about Facebook features and security, search the New York Times website. Using Google or Yahoo, you can search using "facebook site:nytimes.com". All of the search engines have advanced search features that are documented somewhere on the site - just look.

[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 8

Because the screen used a 16-character x 2-row LCD, displayed data had to be timed and then rotated for all the data to be shown. The method for creating customized characters such as the degree symbol was presented as well.

We discussed the components, the wiring required and the modified C/C++ program that was used. Later we examined how to use EEPROM's to read and write data values to the 512-byte available storage already on-board the Arduino. Software for writing object code for the Arduino is available for the Windows, Mac and Linux environments. The open source code is free (I'm a fan of that.) to download and install.

The Arduino main site at arduino.cc on the web is worth checking out; the site provides all the help, examples, free code and extensive resources that are available. Also, the next time you're in Radio Shack, check out the modules available.

The topics then shifted to news in the Linux world and what's happening to the desktops used in there. Drew Kwashnak gave us an update of changes involving KDE, Unity, Gnome and other desktop environments. At the moment changes to the desktops are coming rapidly. These changes then show up in the standard distributions such as Fedora, Suse, Ubuntu that are available to all users.

The changes to the desktop environments are welcomed by the developers, but not so much by the users; myself included. Despite this, in the near future we might get to use some really polished desktop environments.

Later I gave a very brief tutorial on using sed (stream editor) in the Bash shell for making wholesale substitutions in given page. Search and replace features of many word processor programs can be extended with sed on a Linux computer to make multiple substitution changes all at once.

I used it to convert upper case HTML tags to lower case. The coding of the Bash script is a bit strange at first, but the result is a great time saver over repeated search and replace. Though sed is used at the command line, it accomplishes much that standard programs cannot.

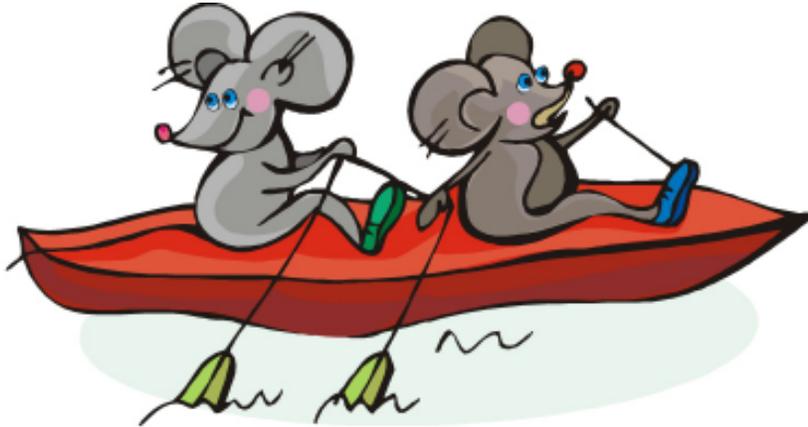
In summary, our meeting consisted of a mixed cluster of topics which very much characterized how our meeting went. Some items were not mentioned here.

Aimed for users at all levels, our topic targets varied greatly. Our topics and discussions were motivated by those attending and usually covered hardware and software issues. All were invited to discuss topics of their choice at the later meetings. I'm always interested to see what others can come up with.



Let's join heads!

Do you have a special computing interest you would like share or learn more about? Join a DACS SIG . . . or start one. You don't have to be a nerd or a guru— just have a curiosity for what's out there and an interest in sharing or discovering with others like you. Send an e-mail to dacsprez@dacs.org, or talk to one of our officers at the next meeting, and say something like "I want to start a SIG" or "wouldn't it be nice if we had a SIG on . . ."



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