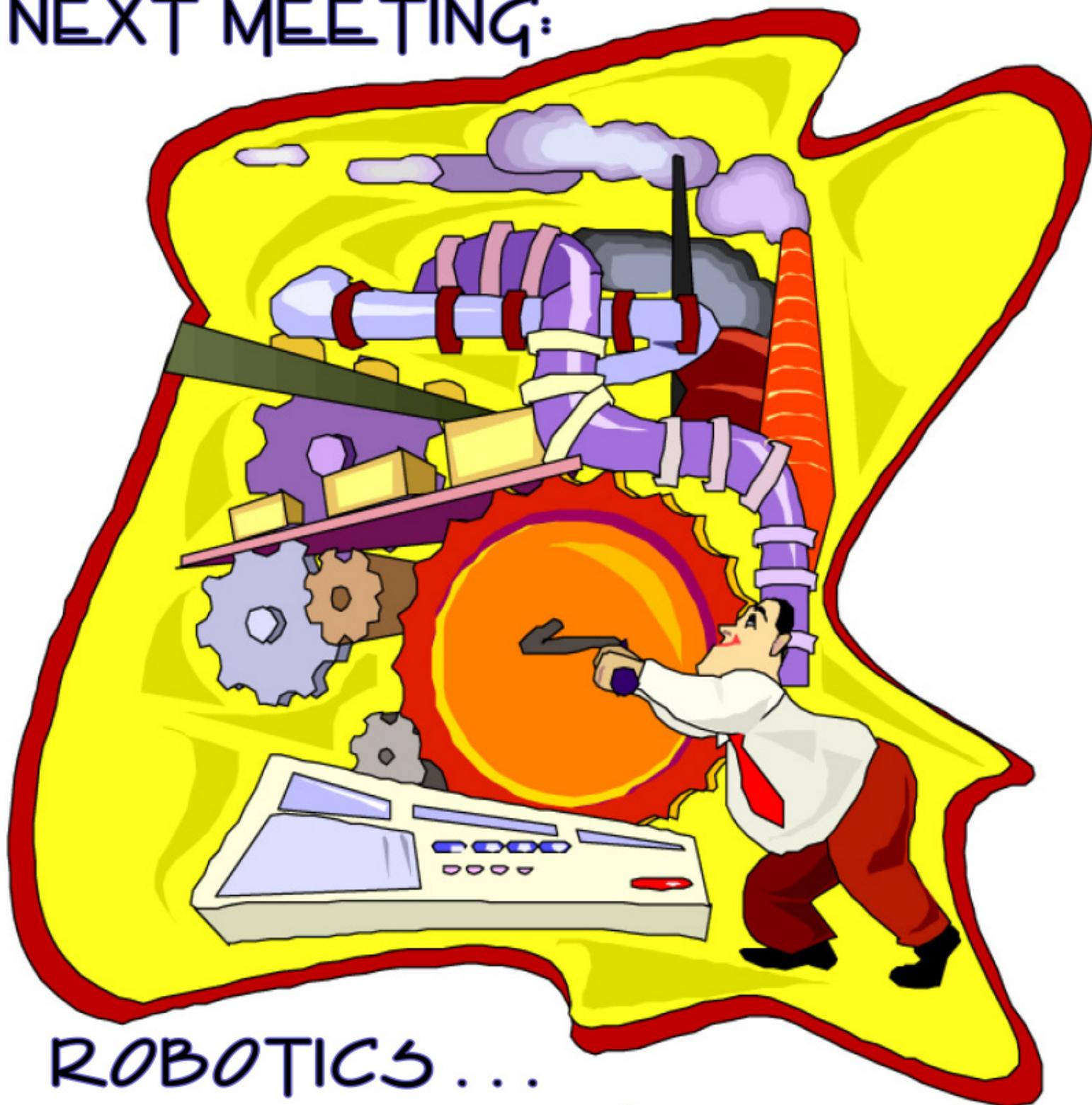


NEXT MEETING:



ROBOTICS ...

AND BEYOND

Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Attending were Richard Corzo, Annette van Ommeren, Bruce Preston, Lisa Leifels, Drew Kwashnak, Elizabeth Talian, Jim Scheef, Andy Woodruff, Dave Green

The Minutes of Previous Meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Balance on hand 6/1/12 | \$5,827.50 |
| INCOME | |
| Dues | \$251.49 |
| Bank Interest | <u>\$0.23</u> |
| | \$251.72 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Resource Center Phone | \$76.24 |
| Newsletter Printing | \$85.00 |
| Newsletter Postage | \$47.45 |
| PayPal Chargeback Fees | <u>\$65.00</u> |
| | \$273.69 |
| Balance on hand 6/30/12 | \$5805.53 |

Membership Report

(added after meeting)

General Meetings

May 1: State of the Internet: John Patrick
 June 5: Artificial Intelligence: Bruce Preston
 July 3: Microsoft Store: Microsoft

| | May | June | July |
|--------------------|-----|------|------|
| seat count | 45 | 22 | 32 |
| members signed-in | 37 | 22 | 29 |
| visitors signed-in | 8 | 0 | 3 |

| Membership | May | June | July |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|
| Members | 138 | 131 | 132 |
| with e-mail address | 129 | 122 | 117 |
| new members | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| | DACS.DOC | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----|-----|
| printed | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| mailed | 75 | 74 | 74 |
| mailed to members | 55 | 54 | 54 |
| mailed - other | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| mailed - free library | 14 | 14 | 14 |

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Old Business

1. General Meetings

o July 3: Microsoft Retail Store. Preview: Richard Corzo, Review: Elizabeth Talian

o August 7: Robotics and Beyond - Paul Chayka & Mike Morrissey. Preview: Bill Saturno, Review: Jim Ritterbusch

o September 4: Tom Schonder of Google - Google Apps (Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Sites, and Google Docs), Google Voice, and Google+. Preview: Lisa Leifels, Review: Bruce Preston

o October 2: Dave Marra - OS X Mountain Lion.

o Possible future topics:

a. Cloud storage services - Dropbox, box.net, Skydrive, Mozy, Carbonite, YouSendIt, etc. Proposed by Drew. This would be a comparison of functionality and platforms supported (i.e. Windows, Mac, Linux, smartphones, etc.). Drew may be able to pull this together for November or December. Jim and Richard could help with the mobile device support. Richard set up a thread on the DACS forum.

b. Presentation on Facebook. Jim suggested having someone talk about how to configure the security, privacy issues, what does "Like" accomplish, the difference between a group and a page.

c. Windows 8 - perhaps Jay Ferron

d. Jim will see if he can find a Facebook ambassador.

e. Online Learning, focusing on personal or professional enrichment courses rather than academic. An example would be the offerings of Lynda.com. Annette said that Udemy.com has courses on a number of topics. Harvard and MIT have teamed up to offer free online courses. Elizabeth will continue to investigate this topic and try to find a speaker by emailing some of these companies directly.

f. Jeff Robbins - Drupal expert. Andy has contacted him. Jeff is interested in doing a presentation but is not able to commit to a date at this time. Andy will follow up again in August.

g. Bruce has initiated discussion with a former colleague who runs a private educational program for unemployed/underemployed IT professionals. They are focusing on mo-

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 3

Membership Information

dacs.doc, ISSN 1084-6573, is published monthly by the Danbury Area Computer Society, 27 Ole Musket Lane, Danbury, CT 06810-8232. Annual subscription rates: \$45 to regular members, \$30 electronic access (included in dues).

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

The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Ahmad Asgharian (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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Apple User Group

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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
Smartphones & Tablets
Virtual machine software
Desktop publishing and website design
Windows

Forum

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

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 2

bible applications, but also looking at possible other general interest topics.

h. Bruce may be able to find someone who could talk about processing Hubble data.

i. Bruce may have a person who would do an overview of Genealogy.

2. Open positions

o The membership chairperson/greeter position is still open. We need a position description to distribute to assist in recruiting. Membership should be separated from greeting task.

3. Jim has loaded membership data into Drupal/CiviCRM and has been working on sending group e-mails. We sent out an e-mail for Mike Kaltschnee to invite members to take a survey on his proposed Danbury hackerspace.

4. Member Mike Kaltschnee is continuing to plan a 'hackerspace' or 'makerspace' for Danbury. He held a second planning meeting on June 4 in the Resource Center. Andy Woodruff has attended the two planning meetings and has offered his thoughts on the possible integration of the hackerspace group into DACS. Andy suggested that we form a steering committee to gather additional information and make a recommendation to the board. Richard, Andy, Jim and Drew volunteered to be on the steering committee. Andy invited Mike to have a meeting with DACS, and Mike will get back to us when they are ready.

5. We have a one-year subscription with Microsoft Office 365. The portal is <https://portal.microsoftonline.com> and our SharePoint Team site is <https://dacs.sharepoint.com/>. Which board members have not yet confirmed their access? Does Lync conferencing work for everyone?

6. Bruce Preston has requested a solution to holding remote SIG meetings such as the MS Access SIG. Elizabeth said that Bruce used AnyMeeting for the June meeting. Richard recommended trying to use Lync at the July Microsoft Access SIG, since it's free and he thought it could do everything that Bruce needed. If there are Access SIG members that are not part of the Sharepoint team, they could

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 8

Meeting Review

Microsoft Store Fireworks Display

By Elizabeth Talian

WHAT A COLORFUL and intense venue for our July 3 meeting! A panorama of monitors using Adobe fiber optics wraps the walls of the new Microsoft Retail Store at the Danbury Fair Mall and surrounded meeting attendees.

Our DACS group seemed to fill and overflow the store's small 'theatre', but the meeting was a fun change of pace for many members. Unfortunately, sound was an issue for anyone not lucky enough to be situated well under the special sound controlling canopy, due to the activity level in

the store. Lots of Xbox game-playing teens and young adults trying out games and the Connect Sensor on those stunning wall monitors. Waving arms reflected in colors and motion on the NEC monitor tiles and game sounds combined to provide a sensory experience attuned to 4th of July fireworks.

Just to recap some highlights of Matt Evans' (the Microsoft Store "Teacher") presentation of the store to DACS members and friends: The Danbury store is the 20th Microsoft store of about 150 planned for the US and Puerto Rico (another planned for Toronto, we're told). Microsoft's goal with these stores, Matt says, is to repair its relationship with its customers. Microsoft claims 93% share of computers with its Windows prod-

ucts. Yet, MS does have issues with customer relations, as many of us can attest.

As part of that strategy, the MS store offers 15 minutes free diagnostics/support to any individual experiencing difficulty with any machine running a



licensed MS Windows product. After the 15 minutes are up (if your problem can't be found and corrected that quickly!), Matt said most people's problems can be fixed for \$99 plus any hardware, and that the work is done in-house at the store (backroom facility) with an average 5-7 day turn

time. In addition, the store offers 'Personal Training' through various contracts to address their finding that most people only access 20% of the potential of their Microsoft products. For \$199, one can get 1 hour per week of in-store training for one year. For those interested in more intense support, MS offers an 'Assure' plan on the various manufacturers' machines they carry, where they will facilitate work with those manufacturers.

Xbox 360 was discussed a bit (approximate price points \$199, \$299, \$399 and \$450) - the product MS initially sold at less than cost in order to gain game market share. Through the Xbox, one can stream video (Netflix, for example) to

most TVs without a pc. The store offers many manufacturers' machines (Sony, NEC, etc), and features computer related items including the Barnes and Noble Nook (with whom it has a partnership) and HP printers which offer dedicated addresses, allowing "print from anywhere" capability.

MS Surface was presented - MS's answer to the iPad. This tablet/slate series represents the first time in recent years that Microsoft is venturing into computer hardware production, beyond gaming and peripherals like mice and keyboards. Surface will be coming soon, in "two flavors" - "light" and "pro". The basic/light version, running the operating system Windows 'RT', Matt described as closest to the iPad, but will come with a full version of Microsoft Office. The Pro will run Windows 8 operating system and will run any MS software. Surface RT is expected to release at the same time as Windows 8, likely in October (before the holidays).

MS Signature program is unique to stores, Matt told us. MS opens each machine and preloads the MS software themselves. Nokia has an exclusivity Windows Phone 8 - immediate load time, no buffering, mobile op.

One of Microsoft's goals is the seamless integration of touch based products - with Windows phones, laptops and the new 'Metro' users interface. This product goal, of full seamless integration, is expected next year.

The community area of the store where our meeting and presentation were held will host any number of events in the coming weeks. Visit <http://content.microsoftstore.com/store/detail/Danbury-CT> for more information. The meeting was an interesting change and allowed many of us a look at a shop we might have waited much longer to see. Many thanks to the Board members who made the arrangements, and to Andy for the photos!





Meeting Preview

Robotics and Beyond

By Bill Saturno

GROWTH AND LEARNING of the human spirit will always endure. In a world of continuous budget cuts that close shop classes and diminish hands-on learning in our schools, new opportunities will rise elsewhere. One such opportunity is “Robotics and Beyond”, a not-for-profit science and engineering education organization in New Milford. They will be sharing their community success story with us and giving us some insight into their organization. Co-founders Michael Morrissey and Paul Chayka will introduce us to the group that they founded almost ten years ago, and discuss the programs that are in place today.

The organization’s founders have realized that too often, hands-on learning opportunities are not available in our schools (or at home), due to a variety of obstacles and limited resources. Robotics and Beyond’s mission is to introduce, capture, and retain the interest of students whose focus is in the study of the sciences. (This includes “STEM”, a support program to assist students who have an interest to pursue disciplines associated with Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics.)

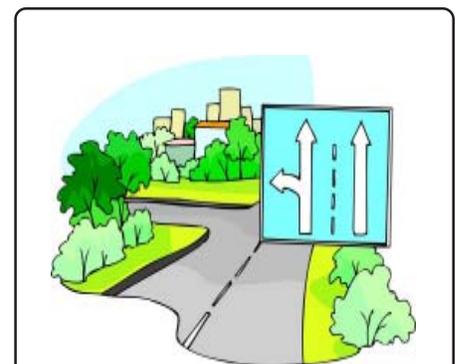
At the August Meeting, Robotics and Beyond will present an overview of the different programs they have created and share what they have seen provide effective results. A textbook always provides a solid foundation, but they will discuss their program of complimentary, practical, hands-on, learning with real-world projects. In today’s world of ever changing technology and limited resources, there is a great challenge to create an effective program in any field. The field of robotics is no different, and in many respects, presents an even greater challenge to success than other disciplines. Michael and Paul will discuss what is needed for effective curriculum and training development, and what to look for in relevant hardware/software selections when building a training course in the field of robotics.

In addition, Michael and Paul will bring some of their robots and software projects

along for exhibition during the presentation. They will showcase the different levels of technology that have been achieved by students who have participated in the program. This spectrum will include a variety from a simple, more basic, LEGO-designed system, through a more advanced microcontroller board level robot, built by students of a more advanced level. After the demonstrations, Michael and Paul are excited to discuss some of their upcoming offerings and programs, especially those which may be of interest to DACS members. At the end of the presentation, you will have an opportunity to ask any final questions about the Robotics and Beyond program.

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.

As always, the DACS General Meeting is open to anyone, so be sure to invite your friends and colleagues to this event - especially your acquaintances in the educational field who may have an interest in this fascinating and ever changing field of study.



Did You Know?

Danbury Hospital is undergoing renovations, and the parking access for the auditorium has changed. You can find up-dated directions and a map on the DACS Website.

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: August 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: Sep 10 (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: Aug 2

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: Aug 29 (at the Microsoft Store)

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: Sep 13

Jobs. Networking and jobs search

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

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

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: Sep 19

Mobile Devices. Focuses on smartphones, tablets, and e-readers of all makes and models.

Contact: Richard Corzo and Jim Scheef (Mobilesig@dacs.org)

Meets 4th Thursday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center

Next Meeting: Aug 23

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@teleAprksys.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: Aug 21

SIG News & Events

Apple. In June we looked at some options to replace the MobileMe gallery function. iPhoto has Flickr built in for posting photos if you have or create a Flickr account. Some online photo sharing services, for example Shutterfly and Photobucket, have an iPhoto plug-in available that you can download and install. Once the plug-in is installed, you should find an additional tab in the Export dialog.

If a plug-in is not available, you can export photos to the file system and upload them anywhere you like. I've tried uploading to SkyDrive, and I can share photos by sending people a link.

We also helped a member transitioning to a brand new MacBook Pro. He had gone through the process of transferring all his data, applications, and settings from his PowerBook. Unfortunately, some of his old applications did not work on his new machine running OS X Lion.

To give him an idea of the cleanup he was going to have to do, we deleted some Adobe applications, the correspond-

ing obsolete login items, and related preference files. This turned out to be a bit of work, and I started to convince him that a clean install of Lion would be preferable, followed by copying just his data. Then as he needed them he could install applications, obtaining the latest version available.

Another member reminded us that Lion could be freshly installed from the Lion recovery disk, a separate partition from the one you normally boot from. When restarting the Mac, hold down the Option key to see the list of startup disks and choose Lion Recovery HD

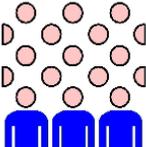
Mobile Devices. In June we covered apps and how to get them on your mobile device.

With iPhones and iPads it's straightforward. You go to the iTunes store either in iTunes on your desktop, or the App Store on your iPhone/iPad. Your iTunes account that you may already have from owning an iPod, will allow you to download or purchase apps.

SIG notes, Cont.on page 8

August 2012

Danbury Area Computer Society

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Jul 2012</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sep 2012</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div> | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | 1 | 2  Macintosh 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org | 3 | 4 |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 6 | 7  6:30 P.M. GENERAL MTG | 8  7:00 PM Board of Directors | 9 | 10 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18  DACS.DOC Deadline | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21  Web Design Annette van Ommeren 914 232-0149 | 22 | 23  Mobile Devices Richard Corzo Jim Scheef mobilesig@dacs.org | 24 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29  7:00 PM Digital Imaging Ken Graff 203 775-6667 At the Microsoft Store | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Upgrade to Windows 8 Pro

by Drew Kwashnak

IM SURE EVERYBODY has heard about Microsoft's Windows 8 by now, and maybe that if you buy a new Windows 7 computer between June (2012) and January next year (2013), you can upgrade to Windows 8 for only \$14.99. But what about the rest of us? Not everybody wants to rush out and buy a new computer just to get Windows 8 at such a discount. So what are these people to do?

Microsoft has announced that they will be selling Windows 8 Pro Upgrade for only \$39.99. This will upgrade your Windows 7, Windows Vista, and even Windows XP machines to Windows 8 Professional! Of course this isn't going to suddenly make your monitor a touch-screen, but if you want all of the latest goodies from Microsoft and the future of Windows without buying a whole new machine, then this sounds like a perfect solution for you.

This upgrade is a download and to be available when Windows 8 becomes generally available to the public on October 26, 2012.

This does beg the question, especially if you are using an older machine that is still quite capable of handling Windows 7, how well will Windows 8 run on your machine? If you remember when Windows 7 came out, they offered an Upgrade Assistant which would scan your system and let you know what issues Windows 7 might have, what peripherals were not supported, and how "good" the user experience might be. It seems they may be doing the same thing for Windows 8 as well. The initial wording on the Windows Blog makes it sound like you have to purchase the upgrade before you get the Assistant, but I am pretty sure they will offer it before you put any money down.

What does this Upgrade mean for your current data? That all depends on what you are upgrading from.

DISCLAIMER:

Back up All of your files prior to ANY upgrade. No matter how easy and safe it is supposed to be, things happen in an instant and all your data can be gone faster than you can say "Poof!"

• Windows 7 users can bring along their Windows settings, personal files and applications. Windows 8 is supposed to run all Windows 7 applications so this should work pretty cleanly and be the easiest migration

(see disclaimer above).

• Windows Vista users can bring their Windows settings and personal files, but no mention about your applications.

• Windows XP users can bring their personal files along, and that's it. Even this I am suspicious of, since my time of upgrading from Windows XP to Windows 7. Best bet is to make sure your files are backed up before proceeding. When Windows 7 superseded Windows XP, the directory scheme changed from C:\Documents and Folders\<username>\My Documents*.* to the simpler C:\Users\<username>*.*, and having to move all of the file and application settings to their new locations would have been such a headache.

So with only a \$39.99 price tag to upgrade, Microsoft makes it pretty easy to get into their new flagship operating system for the power users, early adopters, and technology curious. Even though my laptop does not have touch-screen capabilities, the low price tag and Windows XP option just may be enough to entice me to give it a try.

So, when Windows 8 comes out this October (2012), are you going to upgrade?

Source:

Blogging Windows Upgrade to Windows 8 Pro for \$39.99: <http://windowsteamblog.com/windows/b/bloggingwindows/archive/2012/07/02/upgrade-to-windows-8-pro-for-39-99.aspx>.

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

be emailed a link. Lync 2010 can be downloaded from the Microsoft.com portal, which can be accessed from the SharePoint team site.

7. We'll plan on making a DACS poster and pamphlets available at the Robotics and Beyond (<http://www.roboticsandbeyond.com>) summer camp in July and August. Jim Scheef has these in his possession.

New Business

1. Ahmad will be unavailable as copy editor for the week following the newsletter deadline, so Richard Teasdale will fill in again this month. As always, newsletter submissions should go to dacseditor@dacs.org.
2. As time permits we would like Patrick to document what is done to publicize the general meetings so that a backup person could step in when necessary.
3. Sometimes need information is not getting into the weekly e-mails to the membership. Richard needs to work out a process with Charlie.
4. We still are having difficulties with the internet connection in the Resource Center. Richard will see if a DSL modem that he has retired may operate better than the current one. In addition, Jim suggests taking down the servers in the cabinet and simplifying the infrastructure. Currently the server is only providing DHCP service which could be provided by the router.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM

—Bruce Preston

SIG Notes, Cont. from page 6

With Android it depends on your device manufacturer and the type of device. They may steer you to a store with a very limited selection or limit the device to their own store. For instance on a Nook, only the Barnes & Noble Nook store is available. You can't install another app store on a Nook. One member's tablet had a store called GetJar, with a very poor selection of apps. During the meeting we were able to install the Amazon Appstore on her device and from there we were then able to install apps that were not available from GetJar. This approach opened up additional possibilities and is likely to work on many Android devices.

Most Android devices use Google Play (formerly Android Market) as their default app store. If you're not locked into one app store, you may be able to get Google Play and/or the Amazon AppStore. In addition to finding the app store on your device, there is usually a website version of the same app store. The version of Android on your device is another factor. Most, but not necessarily all, app stores check any selected app for compatibility with your device.

Richard Corzo and Jim Scheef

Knoppix Live CD

By Cal Esneault

ABOUT SEVEN YEARS ago, I was introduced to Xandros GNU/Linux by the Cajun Clickers. Like most distros then, it required a full installation onto the hard drive, a step for which I was not ready. Knoppix, a GNU/Linux system developed by Klaus Knopper of Germany, was then a rare version, in that it could run from a CD without modifying the hard drive (known as a "live" CD). Knoppix allowed me to explore and appreciate Linux without having to jeopardize my existing system.

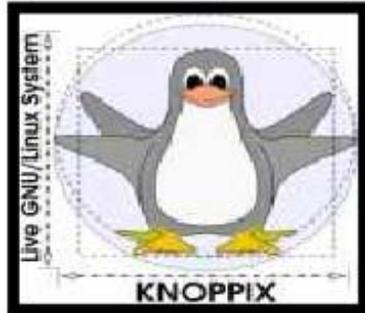
Since then, almost all major distros offer downloads with "live" media choices that allow you to preview the OS and optionally install the OS directly from that media.

The strength of Knoppix is the excellent hardware detection and minimal configuration to get a working system. It shines as a system rescue and maintenance tool for working with other systems. For example, it can mount and access most other Linux or Windows partitions automatically. While it can be permanently installed, it is typically used with "live" media (CD, DVD, USB, ...). Advanced methods exist to modify or give "permanence" to Knoppix, and many experts remaster their own customized versions.

I downloaded and burned a copy of the latest CD (iso Knoppix 6.7.1). A

screenshot of the desktop menu and 3 open applications is shown below.

Currently Knoppix uses a lightweight



32-bit LXDE desktop (see my November 2011 article on LXDE). PCManFM is the file manager, and Iceweasel is the Internet browser. With this configuration, Knoppix hardware specs should allow it to run on older systems.

Surprisingly, it includes the powerful (and bulky) GIMP and LibreOffice programs. My biggest surprise was that it included Compiz compositing manager which gives tremendous graphics effects for screen "eye candy." See below an intermediate screen as an application window dynamically explodes into squares during application exit.

While this is interesting for those with modern graphic cards, my experience was that it made less powerful systems hang-up and require reboot. I solved this by using the cheat-code "knoppix no3d" at the boot prompt to restrict Compiz and give a working desktop.

Knoppix is an example of the unique combination of software that can be assembled when the distro is the work of a single developer. For example, there are tools for system and network administrators, applications for system rescue and repair, and a version for blind users (based on ADRIANE). Since my first

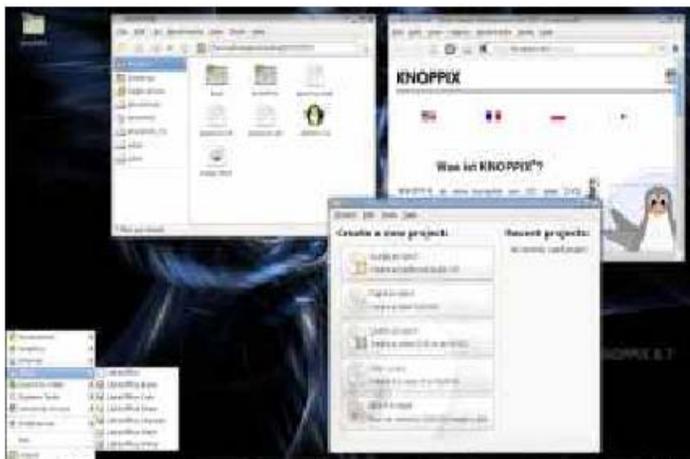
encounter, Knoppix has introduced over a dozen versions with use of many new concepts (early to use KDE 4.x, early to use LibreOffice, etc.). This distro is a utilitarian system suited for experienced Linux users who want to learn more about their systems. Learn more by visiting www.knopper.net/knoppix, or look for Knoppix in the top search boxes at www.distrowatch.com.

CAL ESNEAULT is president, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA, and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGs (<http://cccclinixsig.pbwiki.com>); www.clickers.org; cnewsletter@cox.net).

This article appeared in the April 2012 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News, and is distributed for reprint by other user groups.

Membership has its Privileges!

Become a member and support DACS. Each member has access to the Community Forum, where they can post questions, the newsletter online in PDF form, group related news via email, SIG meetings, online forums, and any group-only related events, promotions, or activities. There is also an option to receive a mailed newsletter. For information on how to join DACS, see <http://www.dacs.org/aboutdacs/joining.htm>.



Ask DACS

July, 2012

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 - Will there be a Windows 8 SIG?

A - The answer is a definite and resounding maybe. A special interest group (SIG) for Win 8 is a great idea, but the SIG needs someone to volunteer to lead it. This is a good time to discuss what it takes to be a SIG leader. Most SIGs meet monthly in the DACS Resource Center so a willingness to show up each month, is a top quality. Certainly, some knowledge of the subject area is helpful, but being an expert is not mandatory. A good SIG leader can simply be a moderator to lead the discussion on some topic each month. For Windows 8, there will be so much news coverage, that the material will simply present itself each month. If you want to learn about Windows 8, then volunteer to lead the SIG

Q - How compatible will Windows 8 be with Win 7?

A - Only a few people present had tried either of the Win 8 preview editions, so I gave my opinion based on my limited experience with the Consumer Preview. My expectation is that anything that runs on Win 7 will also run on Win 8 except for older Windows applications. Each new Windows version sheds support for the trailing edge of older applications. A key question to ask: is there still an XP-Mode to support older applications? Win 8 introduces a new programming model for "Metro-style apps". Where this will lead is anyone's guess - only the final release version will give the answer.

Q - Windows 8 will be available in two versions: one for the Intel/AMD x86 chips and another for the ARM processor called Windows RT. The latter is aimed at mobile devices. How does this affect compatibility?

A - My understanding is that Win RT will

run only special apps available from an online "Windows Store," much like the Apple model. A quick search online did not find any definitive information about the availability of third-party apps like alternate browsers, etc. Again, only time will tell.

Q - How does the ARM processor differ from Intel/AMD x86?

A - The ARM processor architecture is a reduced instruction set computer (RISC) instruction set architecture developed by ARM Holdings which licenses manufacturers to produce the actual chips. ARM stands for Advanced RISC Machine. It has been targeted for low-power embedded applications and can be found in many automobiles, home appliances, and industrial machinery. The Wikipedia article on ARM (wikipedia.org/wiki/ARM_processor) makes good reading.

Q - Will Windows RT devices running on ARM work on regular Wi-Fi?

A - Yes, many Android phones use ARM processors, and they all work on Wi-Fi, so this will not be a problem.

Q - I'm having trouble using the libraries in Windows 7. How can I turn them off?

A - When I first started using Win7, I wanted it to work like XT; so I, too, fought using the libraries feature. Had I not missed the meeting when Richard Corzo explained how they work, I could have saved myself some angst. Once you understand the libraries, you'll probably agree that they are a valuable feature. Win7 libraries allow you to group folders (even from networked drives) that contain similar types of files (documents, music, pictures, videos or anything else!) and use them as if they

were all in one place. If you are so organized that your files are already in a place you prefer, you can add that location to the default library location and get the library advantages of easier access to your files. In my post-meeting research I found a nice tutorial that explains how to use libraries on [HowToGeek](http://HowToGeek.com) (tinyurl.com/ygop2fu). That said, there is a registry hack on the same site (<http://tinyurl.com/8y8cdl2>). The hack consists of two RegEdit files contained in a Zip file. After extracting the files, double-click on the *DisableLibrariesFeature.reg* file; the RegEdit program will run and change several registry keys. After you log off and back onto your machine, the library icons will no longer show in Windows Explorer. The other file, *EnableLibrariesFeature.reg*, will turn the libraries back on. [There was some interesting discussion at the meeting, but the noise in the store made it impossible to hear this on the recording; so all I can present here is my post-meeting research.] While not directly tied to the libraries, the search function in Win7 makes it trivial to find files, programs and emails by typing the name of a file (or the content of documents and emails) into the search box on the Win7 start menu. This search feature depends on the indexing process that runs continuously in Win7.

Q - Which is better among cloud storage-synchronization services: Box or Drop Box, or Microsoft SkyDrive?

A - First off, this is an impossible to answer question. There was healthy discussion at the meeting as various members defended their favorite service or offered suggestions. The bottom line is that each service has a niche where it excels. Some are best on one particular platform, Microsoft has a handy comparison chart (tinyurl.com/78wgx3o) showing several such services that (surprise) shows how superior SkyDrive is to the other services. The SlashGear blog has a comparison that includes some additional services like SugarSync. Some services support more mobile platforms (Android phones and tablets, iPhone, iPad,

Macintosh, Windows). Regular desktop Linux is the only platform where cloud support seems hard to find. Even Google Drive lacks direct Linux support. Ubuntu Linux has a cloud service called Ubuntu One that supports Windows, Android and iPhone. Security and encryption was another discussion. The only consensus here was to read the fine print in the various user agreements.

Personally, I use SkyDrive to synchronize files amongst my various desktop and notebook computers. I also want to sync part of this to an Android Tablet which Microsoft does not support. Fortunately there are other options. Searching on Google Play (formerly known as the Android Market) I found many third-party apps that support all of the various cloud options - even your network attached storage device at home! The moral is that there may be support for your mobile device even if it is not officially supported by the cloud service provider. For file sharing with other people, I use Box (box.com) and DropBox (dropbox.com). Box has a nice feature where you can make a folder open to the public as in www.box.com/jimstuff where I publish information about hikes and bike rides. These files may remain available for months, so synchronization is not needed - when something changes, I just upload a new file or version.

Q - Do any of the cloud storage services support file versions? Another way of saying this: do any services allow you to recover a previous version of a file after you have saved an update?

A - According to the Microsoft comparison chart (noted above), SkyDrive, Google Drive and Dropbox all support "track versions". Reading the fine print and some testing might be a good way to resolve this question if the feature is critical to your needs.

Q - How secure are these services?

A - This is something each person must reckon to their own satisfaction. Every service claims to be secure. Who would use one that said it is insecure? Every service that I have tried uses an SSL (*https*) connection to encrypt the data stream while it traverses the Internet. Some questions to ask - What kind of security do you want? Secure from

loss? Secure from peeks by the FBI? These are two very different types of security. One is data backup and recovery; the other is privacy (or secrecy). Both are legitimate needs. Without privacy there is no freedom. So, some more questions: Is the data encrypted when stored on the cloud servers? When is the encryption applied - before it leaves your computer or when it arrives in the cloud? One member suggested that sensitive data should be manually encrypted on your own computer before it is placed where it will be synchronized to the cloud. That way, you and you alone control the encryption keys. A cloud backup and storage service that claims "zero knowledge" of your data and its encryption is SpiderOak (spideroak.com). A free account allows 2GB of totally secret data while you can keep 100GB of secrets for \$10/month. This service also has impressive mobile features and looks to be a very interesting alternative, even if you don't wear a foil helmet.

Q - I heard about an email service called Reagan.com that promises not to scan, analyze, categorize or sell anything in your emails. Is this true?

A - It is true that *Reagan.com* does promise to not "copy, scan or sell one word of your email content." As always, the devil is in the details. An email address @reagan.com costs \$40 per year. The

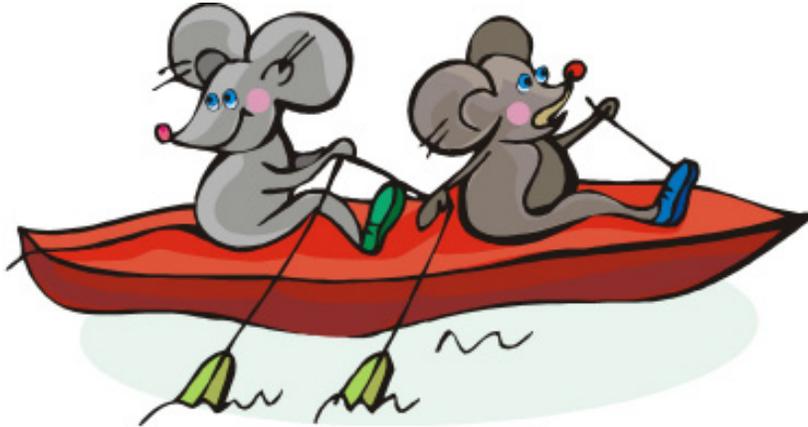
use of the Reagan name appears legitimate as "Reagan.com was founded through the efforts of The Reagan Group and a private venture management firm. Michael Reagan is the founder and Chairman of the Reagan Group, and the son of former President Ronald Reagan and actress Jane Wyman."

Q - Is a PATA hard drive the same as older ATA drives?

A - Yes, PATA or "parallel AT attachment" came into use when the SATA or "serial AT attachment" standard became popular. PATA, ATA and IDE (integrated drive electronics) and EIDE (enhanced IDE) are all equivalent when comparing drives produced at the same point in time. Over the years, the original IDE standard was updated several times becoming ATA-1, 2, 3, and 4. The "AT" initials refer to the IBM AT computer that introduced the standard. The Wikipedia article is wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel_ATA.

[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!





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Robotics and Beyond

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Google Apps

October

Dave Marra
Apple's New OSX
Mountain Lion

TBA