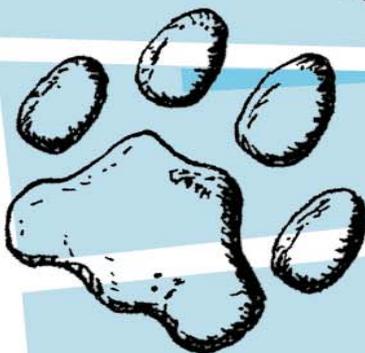
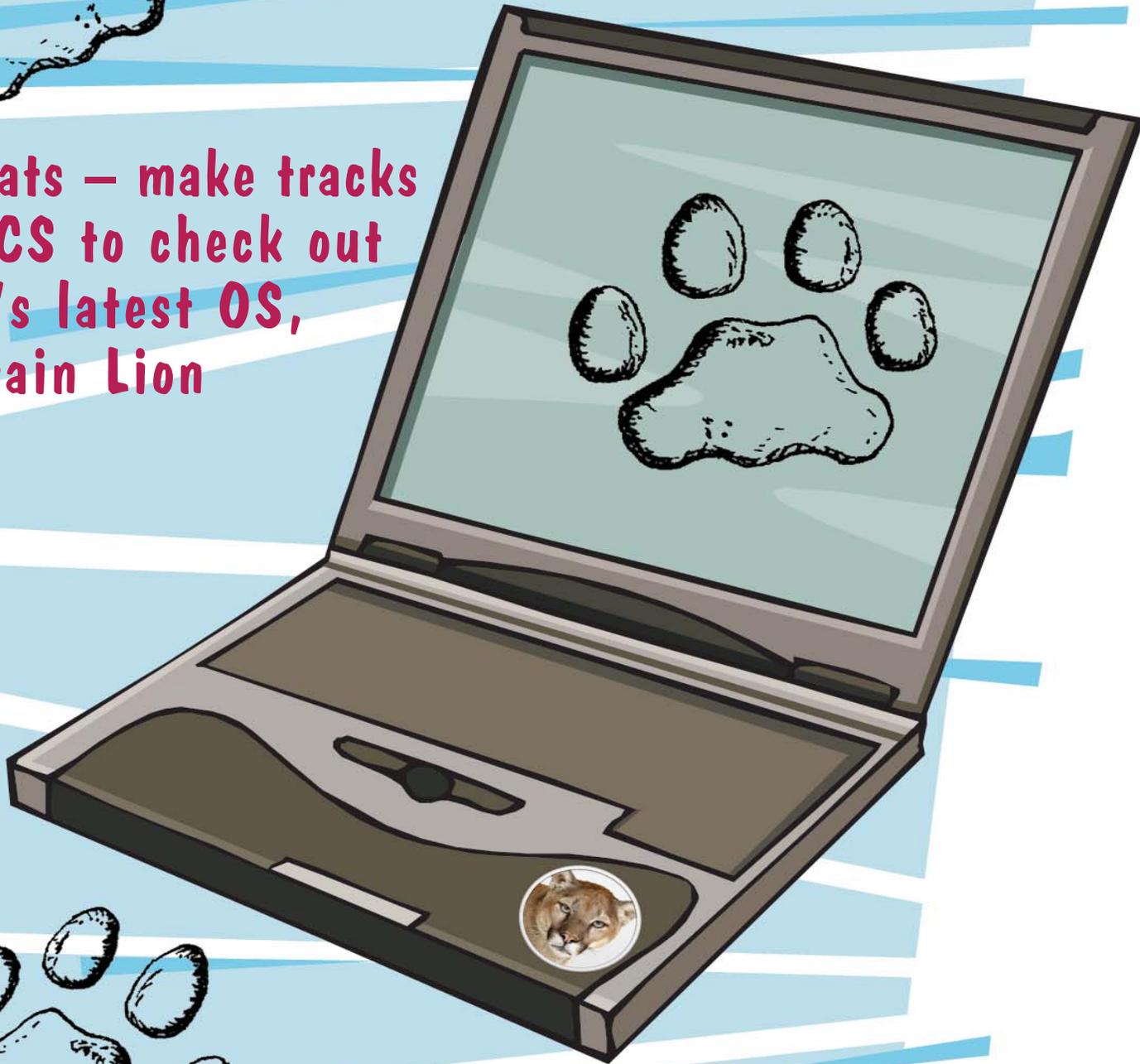


**At our next meeting
on October 2:**

**Cool cats – make tracks
to DACS to check out
Apple's latest OS,
Mountain Lion**



Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM.

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

The Minutes of Previous Meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand 8/1/12	\$5,711.84
INCOME	
Dues	\$268.83
PayPal Reimbursement	\$45.00
Website Ad	\$50.00
Bank Interest	\$0.24
Total Income:	\$364.07
EXPENSES	
Resource Center Phone	\$76.39
Resource Center Security (3 mo.)	\$79.60
Newsletter Printing (2 mo.)	\$170.00
Newsletter Postage	\$46.80
Renewal Letter Postage	\$6.40
CT Annual Corp. Fee	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$429.19
Balance on hand 8/31/12	\$5,646.72

Membership Report

(added after meeting)

General Meetings

Jul - Microsoft Store
 Aug - Robots & Beyond
 Sep - Google Voice, Google Apps, Google Attendance

	JUL	AUG	SEP
seat count	32	22	45
members	29	20	37
visitors	3	2	6

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Paying Members	132	132	128
W/e-mail Addresses	117	116	113
New Members	0	0	0

DACS.DOC

printed	100	100	100
mailed	74	73	72
mailed members	54	53	52
mailed other	6	6	6
mailed library	14	14	14

Old Business

1. General Meetings

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

October 2: Dave Marra - OS X Mountain Lion. Preview: Richard Corzo, Review: Frank Kromer

November 6: Joe Mazzeo & Dr. James Marcus - Trends in Mobile Apps. Preview: Bruce Preston, Review: _____

December 4: Jay Ferron - Windows 8. Preview: _____, Review: _____

The first Tuesday in 2013 is January 1. Because of uncertainty of availability of other days at the hospital until the schedule is established in late December, we have decided to cancel the January meeting.

° Online Learning, focusing on personal or professional enrichment courses rather than academic. An example would be the offerings of Linda.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 contacted Laura Nute from Lynda.com and Kevin Corcoran of CTDL. Laura Nute has committed to appear at the April meeting. She is also looking at including something on Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org>) - Universities sign up to use their tool to offer courses. There are roughly 115 free course offerings today - about 40 of which seem to be computer related. She is looking at the March time-frame, unless Lynda wants to do a full hour in an earlier timeframe, and DACS is interested.

° Bruce contacted Toni McKeen, who has agreed to speak on genealogy. She has committed for March.

° Cloud storage services - Dropbox, box.net, Skydrive, Mozy, Carbonite, *Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 3*

Membership Information

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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 Richard Teasdale (dacseditor@dacs.org). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 (aam@mags.net)

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Credits

Puma paw prints image in cover page graphic courtesy of Tuschezeichnung von MichaTP



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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

YouSendIt, etc. Proposed by Drew. This would be a comparison of functionality and platforms supported (i.e. Windows, Mac, Linux, smartphones, etc.). Could Drew pull this together for February? Jim and Richard could help with the mobile device support. Richard set up a thread on the DACS forum.

◦ 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. Jim's search on Facebook to date has not yielded any results whatever, so he plans to broaden his search.

◦ Jeff Robbins - Drupal expert. Andy recently sent email to ask Jeff about his interest level and schedule availability for a presentation in 2013. Andy will follow up.

◦ Jim is working with Allan Ostergren about a possible tie in with the astronomy observatory group working out of New Milford H.S. such that they might show computer control of the telescope and capture of images.

2. Open positions

◦ The membership chairperson/greeter position is still open.

◦ Rob Limbaugh has relocated out of the area, so we need to find a new board member to replace him. Richard discussed with a possible candidate, but he declined.

◦ Patrick Libert plans not to run again when his board term ends in December.

3. 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/>.

◦ Does Lync conferencing work for everyone?

4. Bruce Preston had requested a solution to holding remote SIG meetings such as the MS Access SIG. Bruce tried AnyMeeting.com, Zoom.U.s and Microsoft Lync. All worked acceptably, however Lync corrupts his Outlook 2003 requiring a repair process every time Outlook is opened when Lync is installed. Recently he indicated that Mikogo is free again, so this is no longer a problem. He used Mikogo for the Sept. 11 SIG meeting.

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 5

Meeting Review

Beyond Google Search

By Bruce Preston

GOOGLER WAS FOUNDED in September, 1998. Its first and best-known product is Google Web Search, which is now responsible for processing over one billion search requests each day. Google has not been satisfied by just being King of the Search, it has broadened its offerings with such things as Google Mail, Google Image Search, Google StreetView, Google Maps, etc.

At our September 4th General Meeting, Google Product Specialist Millicent

Branca gave us a tour of many of Google's other offerings, which fall into three major categories: Google Voice, Google Apps, and Google+.

Right up front, note that access to all of these capabilities must be linked to a Google Mail account. So, if you don't have a Google Mail account, now may be a good time to go to www.gmail.com and sign up for one – it's free.

Google Voice: Years ago it was common for a household to have a single phone number. Now it is common for an individual to have several phone numbers - a basic cell phone or smartphone, perhaps a phone built into a car such as OnStar, a direct-in number at work and maybe even a plain old 'land line'. Google Voice lets you obtain a free telephone number in an area code of your choice, or perhaps a 'vanity' number whose last four digits spell out something such as, say, DACS. You may then publish and link this number to your other numbers such that a call to the Google Voice number rings one or more of your other numbers so that no matter what device you are near you get the call. Google Voice offers many of the additional features that we have come to expect such as Caller ID, voice mail, call screening and, oh yes - toll-free calling in the U.S. and Canada, and pennies per minute for foreign calls. It also has some features that you might not find elsewhere such as voice transcription, where a voice mail is converted to a text message and sent to specified destination(s). You may also customize how calls are directed based upon criteria such as time of day or who placed the call, and even customize the voice mail welcome message based upon who placed the call.

You can even block callers, who will get a "number is out of service" message.

Google Apps: Google Apps is a category of offerings such as Google Mail, Google Docs, Google Drive and Google Calendar.

Google Mail: By now you should be familiar with Google Mail. It is a free electronic mail service, with many features you may not find in a traditional e-mail service. For example - Google does an excellent job at blocking SPAM. It has

a very good search mechanism so that you can find an e-mail based upon your search specification. You may view e-mails in a 'conversation mode' rather than having to hunt through your collected e-mails. There is a built-in chat capability. You get 10GB of space for messages and attachments. It works with smartphones, etc. Lastly, as mentioned, your Google Mail credentials are needed to access many of the other Google products that relate to your account.

Google Docs: I had been exposed to the Google Docs a few years ago, but had no idea as to its real capabilities. In my situation I was one of several contractors using a shared Excel-compatible spreadsheet to track bug fixes on an extensive project. Anyone with access to the account may modify the files in-place using a web browser client. The document types supported are word processing, spreadsheet and presentation; the files are Microsoft Office compatible formats should you want to copy them to your machine for local processing.

Google Drive: You may define an 'in the cloud' Google Drive and store your files there. Then by installing the Google Drive app on your computer(s) or mobile device(s) you may access the files via your internet connection of any type. Changes to the files are made using your software on your device and are synchronized to the Google Drive. From there the file(s) are 'pushed' to the other devices such that things stay synchronized. Millicent mentioned real-time update where you see changes made by your collaborators as you work.

Google Calendar: When you create a Google Calendar you have the option of making it available to others as well as ac-

cess rights to items in your calendar. Your calendar may consolidate entries from others' calendars. You may assign a color code to different calendars so you can see where an entry originated. Events may trigger actions such as sending invitations or reminders. You may use Google Calendar to identify a common time available for multiple participants and thus schedule a meeting. Google Calendar may be synchronized with a client-based calendar such as in Microsoft Outlook. Many people use Google Calendar as the master calendar such that it can synchronize the desktop's calendar (e.g. Outlook) with the calendar on mobile devices such as iPad, iPhone, Blackberry, etc.

Google+: This is a collection of components that generally fall into the social media category. It includes Google Hangouts, Google Circles, and Google Events. Google Hangouts is a video conferencing and chat capability that supports up to 10 simultaneous participants. It includes screen sharing and even doodling. My understanding of Google Circles is that it is a mechanism whereby you may define 'circles of contacts' such that you may restrict who sees which of your postings, unlike (say) Facebook where it is essentially all or nothing. For example, you could create a family circle, a professional circle, and a client circle. You post to your account, and Circles determines who sees the posting based upon their circle membership. Google Events is a mechanism for publicizing events, distributing invitations and so forth.

Millicent wrapped up her presentation by answering questions from an enthusiastic audience. I for one am going to take a further look at these capabilities.

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>.

Meeting Preview

Introducing OS X Mountain Lion

By Richard Corzo

DACS IS LUCKY TO HAVE Apple's Dave Marra back again, this time to update us on Apple's latest desktop operating system, OS X Mountain Lion. Dave was last with us to introduce Snow Leopard (10.6), and since then OS X has shown the influence of Apple's iPhone operating system, first in the Lion (10.7) release, and now in Mountain Lion (10.8). Since his last visit Apple has also replaced its MobileMe cloud service with iCloud.

So now the world's most advanced desktop operating system gets even better. Packed with over 200 innovative new features, OS X Mountain Lion includes iCloud integration, for keeping everything up to date across all your devices and for easy setup of your Mail, Contacts, Calendar, Messages, Reminders, and Notes. It includes the all new Messages app, which brings iMessage from the iPhone to the Mac. Also borrowing from the iPhone, the new Notification Center streamlines the presentation of notifications and provides easy access to alerts. Mountain Lion adds system-wide Sharing, to easily share links, photos, videos and other files quickly by way of services like Twitter and Facebook. Dictation, which borrows the speech recognition-but not the artificial intelligence-of Siri on the iPhone, dictates text anywhere you can type. AirPlay Mirroring, another feature first found on the iPhone, is an easy way to wirelessly send what's on your recent Mac to an HDTV using Apple TV.

As a Senior Systems Engineer for Apple, Dave Marra has conducted thousands of technology presentations, keynote addresses and workshops for schools, Mac and PC user groups, businesses and other professional organizations across the United States and Canada. Certified as both an Apple Certified Technical Coordinator and an Apple Certified Systems Administrator, his specialty areas include digital multimedia, internet technologies, accessibility and Mac/PC integration. For more information about Dave, please visit his



web site at www.marrathon.com.

DACS meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. (Go to www.dacs.org to find directions and parking info). 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 p.m. 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.



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As the utility worker untangled the underground cable, it revealed a dark secret of the Occupy Cyberspace movement

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

5. We decided last meeting not to do another display at Danbury Library in September. Do we want to contact another library about a possible DACS display? Lisa is working with the Newtown Library.
New Business

1. Mike Kaltschnee updated Richard on the new Danbury Innovation Center which replaces his original Danbury hackerspace idea. He also updated the membership at the September general meeting. They will incorporate as a separate organization and not be a part of DACS. Using the former bank property next to the Danbury Library, they may open up as soon as first quarter next year. Those interested can still go to <http://danburyhackerspace.com/> where he has a survey specifically for interested DACS members.
2. We updated the DACS brochure and ordered 500 copies from Infinity Printing. The brochures are ready for distribution as we need them.
3. Jim made an announcement at the general meeting requesting a social media coordinator for Facebook, LinkedIn, and possibly also meetup.com. Jim did not get any nibbles after the meeting, but will continue looking for someone. The board approved an expenditure for MeetUp.com at the rate of \$12/month (6 months commitment) subject to our prior getting a person to commit to perform the updates. Elizabeth has a possible candidate.

Adjourned at: 8:45PM

—Bruce Preston

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: October 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: Oct 9 (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: Oct 4

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

Contact: Ken Graff at 203 648-9747 (thedigitalwiz@gmail.com).

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

Next Meeting: Oct 31

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: Oct 11

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: Oct 17

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: Oct 25

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: Oct 16

SIG News & Events

Apple. In September we took a look at OS X Mountain Lion (<http://www.apple.com/osx/>) and some of its features. We also helped a member migrate from his 5-year old PowerBook to his new MacBook Pro, starting with his e-mail.

As for Mountain Lion, the idea for the new Notification Center is borrowed from the iPhone. For each application that uses the notification center you can choose how you want to be notified of alerts, either in the upper right with a notification that automatically disappears after a few seconds, or a pop-up message that you need to dismiss in the center of the screen. If you want to view all the pending notifications, just swipe from the right, or click on the menu bar icon at the far right, to view the notification panel.

Also new in Mountain Lion are Reminders and Notes. Someone asked what the difference was between a reminder and a calendar entry. A reminder is usually a task that needs to be completed rather than an appointment or meeting that takes place at a specific time. Notes used to be tucked in to the Inbox of your e-mail accounts in the Mail application, but now is a separate application. Both Notes and Reminders sync with your iPhone and iPad or other Macs using iCloud.

Safari has now followed the example of some other browsers by unifying the address bar with the search box, so there's just one place to type in an address or search words. You can save web pages for reading later, even on another device because your reading list is synced with iCloud.

The new Gatekeeper controls what applications can be installed on your Mac. By default those are limited to applications from the Mac App Store or from developers who have registered with Apple. If you try to install some other application, you'll get a warning message that you'll need to dismiss before being permitted to install it.

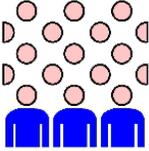
Be sure to come to the October 2 general meeting where Apple's Dave Marra will talk about even more features in OS X Mountain Lion.

Linux. As I write this in early September, the Linux SIG has been on hiatus during the two summer months. Because our meeting is later this month, I thought I'd mention some of the presentations for September and October coming up and then give a broad stroke look at what we've been up to so far this busy year. Our presentations vary considerably

SIG notes, Cont.on page 9

October 2012

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
	1	 <p>6:30 P.M. GENERAL MT G</p>	3	 <p>Apple 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org</p>	5	6																																																																																																										
7	8	 <p>MSACCESS 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Bruce Preston bpreston@dacs.org</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Board of Directors</p>	 <p>Drupal 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860 355-0034</p>	12	13																																																																																																										
14	15	 <p>Web Design Annette van Ommeren 914 232-0149</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Linux Dave Mawdsley 203 910-6477</p>	18	19	 <p>DACS.DOC Deadline</p>																																																																																																										
21	22	23	24	 <p>Mobile Devices Richard Corzo Jim Scheef mobilesig@dacs.org</p>	26	27																																																																																																										
28	29	30	 <p>7:00 PM Digital Imaging Ken Graff 203 775-6667</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Sep 2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></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> </tbody> </table>		Sep 2012							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							 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Nov 2012							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	
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Your Own Website

Bill Armstrong

WEB ADDRESSES (URLs) are not just for businesses. Many individuals prefer to have their own family address, such as *armstrongfamily.org* (I made that up). Here are some things to think about when considering this approach.

There are two phases that both have to be completed:

- Get your own web address (a yearly charge)
- Get some business/ISP to host your address (a yearly charge)

Getting your own web address is accomplished by searching on the web for a web address vendor, such as <http://www.networksolutions.com>.

They are the original authorized vendor (many others are now available). Here you may do a search to discover what addresses are available. Many URL extensions are now available, in addition to .com, .org, and .net.

Finding a business to host your site is easy also. Try Googling "web hosting" to find many. You might also con-

sider local Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

You will have to inquire about the hosting costs. Most companies offer a low-cost hosting that includes basic services, such as email accounts, limited disk space for storage, etc.

In many cases, these two items merge into one, by companies that specialize in doing both and charging you one fee. Examples are:

iPage	BlueHost
FatCow	Inmotion
Hub	GreenGeeks
JustHost.com	HostMonster

Here's a website that reviews them and more: <http://www.top10hostinglist.com>.

Most of these all-in-one sites offer ways for you to create a website for yourself. Their scripting services will assist you.

If, however, you want the ease of using Google Sites, as we do in the LVCG, that can also be done. Our website is www.lvcg.org, hosted by PAETEC (formerly Fast.net) and on it we have a "redirect script" that sends

every visitor to our Google Sites website. We can have many people able to add and edit stuff, and customize it easily. Our webmaster, George Palmer, has given two classes recently about how to create your own site in Google Sites. You may find that it is easier to work in Google Sites than in the tools offered by the hosting site.

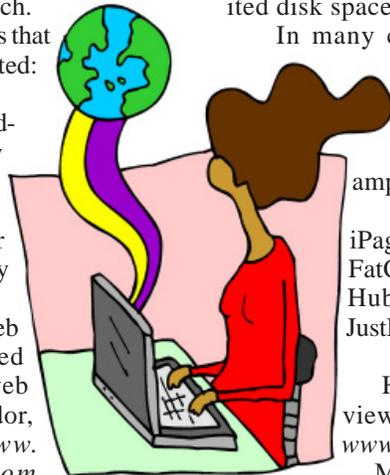
However, redirecting to Google Sites does not give you email services. You could check with the hosting companies to see if there is a way to redirect web-based traffic to another address (your Google Sites website), and still give you the ability to have, access and manage email services using your own web address.

Be careful of limited time offers. I saw one that was \$3.50 per month for the initial period, and then jumped to \$7-8 per month. It did include a free web address (URL), so that's probably still a good deal. Also review their "uptime" and "speed" statistics for the various sites.

Having your own website address is a nice feature, and many consider it well worth the expense. It is a little work to do the maintenance needed, but that is minimal.

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DACS Wins APCUG Awards

by Richard Corzo

DACS is a member of the Association of PC User Groups, a nationwide organization linking the computer and software industries with the user community. Each year in June, APCUG holds a contest among its members that submit their websites and three newsletter issues from the past year. The user groups are divided into small, medium, and large groups by membership, and judged on the basis of design quality, breadth of content, and relevance to user group needs. This year, DACS won first prize in both of the large group newsletter and website categories.

DACS has earned APCUG newsletter awards a number of times over the years, most recently in 2007, and as our Internet presence grew, we also placed as runner-up in the website contest in 2007. This is the first time both media efforts have earned top honors in each of the website and newsletter contests in the large group category! In the height of the user group phenomenon we were considered a medium-sized group. Our current status is a measure of our leadership and dedication in the face of declining user group membership.

Congratulations to DACS webmasters, Annette van Ommeren and Richard Corzo for taking first place in the APCUG website contest among large groups. Congratulations also to our outgoing newsletter copy editor Ahmad Asgharian and layout editor Allan Ostergren for taking first place in the newsletter contest. I'd also like to thank all those who contributed articles in the past year. This is an impressive achievement and I hope everyone realizes what a great resource DACS is for its members.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new newsletter copy editor Richard Teasdale.



SIG Notes, Cont. from page 6

with looks at new applications and operating systems, looks at the internals of computer software, administering and tending to the health of our computers, and various project and electronic issues. Our presentations are designed to generate a few different focuses or threads at each meeting but then to always allow for all sorts of side issues. We're easily distracted by the many topics which come up.

Our September topics include "Linux Logging Options", "Making Use of linkchecker", and "Blocking the Wirenet Trojan." These three topics relate to keeping track of what the computer running Linux has been up to, making sure that the links of webpages we write or manage are up-to-date, and strategies for mitigating risks of the first announced virus trojan affecting Linux computers. (The trojan affects Windows machines and Macs too.) Each of these topics will normally generate much lively discussion and perhaps some opposing positions.

While the topic list isn't yet complete, October's meeting on the 17th will have "Displaying Arduino Projects with

Fritzing" as one of the presentations. The Arduino, a small self-contained processor board, can interface with computers running Linux, Windows, or a Mac operating system. Fritzing is a topic related to displaying project diagrams in the format of schematics with symbols, pictorials with point-to-point wiring grids shown, or electrical project boards to be etched and soldered. The program is very easy to use. On the web, fritzing.org shows what this is about.

Finally, I'm always amazed when I look back at what our SIG has presented. Below is a partial list of topics covered. It's only a partial list because our discussions lead to other items brought up such as a problem computer brought to the meeting, an operating system that won't load, how to create dual boot options with Windows and a Linux distribution, how does Unity work, etc.

The table below shows what we were engaged with so far with our regular Linux users. If these things touch any of your interests, come join us on September 19th or October 17th at the DACS Resource Center in Ives Manor. Bring your laptop and show us a thing or two.

A First Look at Layers in GIMP -----	Beginner & Intermediate Photography Editing
The Use & Abuse of Bash History -----	Beginner & Intermediate Command Line
Demonstration of GNOME Shell in Ubuntu 11.10 -----	Intermediate "Under the Hood" with Linux
A Simple SED Lesson -----	Beginner & Intermediate SED
Arduino project: Temperature Sensor using an LCD -----	Beginner & Intermediate with the Arduino
Futzing with fstab -----	Intermediate & Advanced Command Line
Using PHP and HTML to manage a simple MySQL database -----	Intermediate knowledge of PHP & HTML
Stop Using ./ as in ./scriptname -----	Beginner & Intermediate Command Line
Using APTonCD -----	Beginner & Intermediate Burning CD-R's
Rosetta Stone For Unix -----	Intermediate & Advanced Administration
FreeNX, a Remote Desktop Tool -----	Intermediate & Advanced Administration
Recording Live Audio from the Internet Using Audacity -----	Beginner with Recording Live Audio
Report on the SouthEast LinuxFest in Charlotte, NC -----	Beginner through Advanced - Linux Conference

Mobile Devices. In August we covered the topic of e-books, how to find them and get them on your mobile device.

Unlike the PDF format, which is created with a specific page size such as 8.5 by 11 inches, a proper e-book will adapt to the size of the device on which you are viewing it, whether that be a smartphone, tablet, or dedicated e-reader. The two most popular public formats are epub and mobi. The proprietary e-book stores are based on these, adding digital rights management (DRM) copy protection. For instance Amazon's Kindle format is based on mobi, while Barnes & Nobles' NOOK is based on the epub format.

Older books in the public domain can usually be found in the non-DRM protected formats. More current books need to be purchased from one of the commercial e-book sellers such Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple (iBooks), or Sony. When choosing a vendor, you'll want to consider on what devices the e-books are available. Kindle and NOOK e-books are readable on the widest range including Android devices, iOS devices (iPhones and iPads), as well as on PCs and Macs. Apple's iBook format is only readable on an iOS device and not even readable on a Mac computer.

As one way of finding e-books and organizing your collection, I showed the Calibre e-book application (<http://calibre-ebook.com/>) which runs on Windows, Mac, and Linux. It has a large list of e-book sources, including the commercial sellers, from which you can search for a book. It will show you the formats that are available for a title. When you first install Calibre it will ask what device you have, and remember that so that it can convert an e-book to a format your device supports, if necessary.

Your device will typically have a way to purchase e-books right on the device through an e-book store. On Apple's iOS devices you can't do this directly in the e-reader app (Kindle or NOOK, for instance). Instead you must first use the Safari web browser to go the vendor's website, make the purchase, and then switch to the vendor's e-reader app to download the book to your device.

The other way is to download the e-book on your computer and connect your device to transfer it. This is where Calibre can help. There may be a particular folder on your device where e-books should go so that they'll be properly seen by your device.

September, 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 – The Google Safe Browsing Diagnostics page shows a lot of malware coming from Google. For example, when reporting on google.com, the first section says that google.com “is not currently listed as suspicious.” A couple of sentences later it says that “49 page(s) resulted in malicious software being downloaded and installed without user consent.” How do I make sense of these contradictions? How much of this should I believe?

A - Well, the short answer would be, “All of it.” But what it is telling us is far from clear. You can see the first page we looked at, tinyurl.com/667e5z, is the diagnostics page for the entire google.com domain. To get a frame of reference, we also looked at the same page for dacs.org (tinyurl.com/8fx83f8). First, from a practical standpoint, it would be highly ironic for Google to list itself as suspicious no matter how many items it found. This diagnostic page is confusing at best as there is no explanation of anything.

The first page gives statistics about pages within the Google domain that are infected with malware or that reference (link to) pages that are infected. Since Google is a search engine, the statistics likely include pages visited by the web crawler. This would explain the large number of pages “tested” – nearly half a million. If we assume this to be true, then the other numbers begin to make more sense as the malware is actually on sites in other domains. Occasionally Google search results will point to sites that contain malware. Those search results pages are within google.com and they do link to possibly malicious pages, so the statistics then make sense. It sure would be nice if somewhere they explained the criteria for listing a site as “suspicious”.

The key conclusion here is that Google should provide some documentation about what these numbers mean and how they are generated.

Q – If I have several browsers on my computer, how do I choose the one I want to run?

A – This can be confusing if you normally open your browser by clicking a shortcut on your desktop, either the Internet Explorer “e” or a shortcut to a specific webpage somewhere. A browser is just like any other program, and when you install a new browser, the installation program creates a shortcut in your Start Menu for that program. So, if you want to run Firefox, you can open your Start menu and navigate to and click the shortcut for Firefox. Just like sound and video players, you can make one of your browsers the “default” browser. The default browser is the one that will run when you click a webpage shortcut on your desktop or anywhere. As always, there are more ways to make this selection than we have space here to describe. One way is to run “Default Programs” (Win7 and Vista) or “Set Program Access and Default” (XP). A less cumbersome method is to start the browser you want from the Start menu, open the Settings dialog then find and check the option to make it the default browser. Also check the option to “always check for default”. These may not be the exact words and the option may not be easy to find, but dig and find it. Do this in all of your browsers. Now when you run any of the installed browsers, if it is already the default, it will just run and all is well. If it is not the default, it will ask you to make it the default. If you want to switch, say yes, otherwise say no. While this sounds

like a lot of clicking, it makes changing between browsers almost automatic. I frequently switch between Firefox, Chrome and IE and this is the easiest way I've found.

Q - Is there a free program I can run that will find and list all of the installed software along with the version number of each program?

A - Utilities suggested by members include:

- PC Wizard (cpuid.com) - According to their website, this program will generate a report with tons of information about your hardware, Windows installation plus any Microsoft applications, but a list of installed software is not one of the features. Includes bench-marking programs.

- Belarc Advisor (belarc.com) - Claims to build a “detailed profile of your installed software and hardware, network inventory, missing Microsoft hotfixes, anti-virus status, security benchmarks, and displays the results in your Web browser.” Belarc looks to be an answer to the question at hand.

Another option is Version Tracker

If your goal for listing the version numbers of the software installed on your computer is to find any available updates, then C/Net Tech Tracker (tinyurl.com/9nupwvf) may be a better option. It “is a free application from CNET that helps keep the software on your computer up-to-date and secure. TechTracker works by scanning the software installed on your computer and alerting you when updates are available.”

Q - Sometimes my computer starts doing something for a minute or so and during this time it is unresponsive. How can I figure out what is going on?

A - A member suggested What's Running (whatsrunning.net), a program that gives more information than the Task Manager program that comes with Windows. Another suggestion is Process Explorer (tinyurl.com/ys2zq2). There is now a free Microsoft product since Microsoft bought the SysInternals consulting group.

Windows guru author Mark Russinovich wrote this program that dives as deep as you can go into what's running on your computer. I recommend the SysInternals Suite of system utility programs at tinyurl.com/2ejfszf.

Q - What tools can anyone recommend for scanning for "registry errors?" [Caveat computer! The Windows Registry has evolved over the years into an exceedingly complex information store that is the nerve center of Windows. Be wary of programs that make promises that seem too good to be true.]

A - CCleaner (piriform.com/ccleaner) was mentioned as a product that scans the registry, shows any errors and then offers to fix the issues. It has free and paid versions. Another program mentioned was Iolo System Mechanic (iolo.com); cost is \$39.95 for the basic version.

Q - What does Check Disk do?

A - Check Disk is traditionally a command line utility (`chkdsk.exe`) that has come with Windows, OS/2 and DOS since the very early days. The program reports on, and optionally fixes, the file systems on a disk, both hard drive and floppy. In normal mode, the program simply provides a report. Adding the `/f` switch tells the program to try to fix any errors it finds. It is always best to first get the report before fixing errors. The switch `/?` gives very abbreviated help. Exactly what the program does differs between the NTFS and FAT file systems. The Wikipedia article at wikipedia.org/wiki/Check_disk is actually quite interesting with stuff I never knew before. There is now a way to run Check Disk using the GUI with the results written to the Application Event Log. Ever wonder what happened when Check Disk ran when you booted up your computer? These results are also in the Application log. To find them, open the Application log in Event Viewer and filter or group the log for a source of 'chkdsk'. Unfortunately the results are no longer in the formatted lines presented by the command line version, making them hard to read.

[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!]

<http://www.dacs.org>

Social Networking

Closing the door on Facebook

By Linda Gonse

SO, YOU HAVE BEEN reading about more privacy concerns in Facebook. You have decided to close your account. But, unless you are aware of what this means and how to go about it, you may not actually close the account.



You should be aware, too, that you are not going to erase your existence in Facebook when you do close your account. Some people have the mistaken idea that after quitting Facebook their data will get old and vanish.

Know the facts. Familiarize yourself with Facebook's policies before you take steps to end your relationship.

There are two methods of closing a Facebook account. You can either deactivate your account or you can delete it. If you deactivate it, your account is closed immediately. Your information is saved as you left it in the event that you may want to return to it someday.

What's more, if you log into Facebook within 14 days of deactivating your account, it is automatically reactivated!

Deletion is another thing:
Not so easy

What does Facebook say about deleting the account?

If you do not think you will use Facebook again and would like your account deleted, keep in mind that you will not be able to reactivate your account or retrieve any of the content or information you have added. If you would like your account permanently deleted with no op-

tion for recovery, log in to your account and then submit your request here.

Prior to taking this option, you should delete any information you wouldn't be comfortable leaving behind. Note, too, that you are only submitting a request. The request goes into the system where it is regarded as a pending deletion request. Then what happens?

Once you have submitted a request to permanently delete your account, no further action is required on your end. Our system delays the deletion process in case you change your mind and no longer want to permanently delete your account. Note that logging in to your account again will undo a pending deletion request.

Once your account is permanently deleted, there is no way to undo this action. You will not be able to reactivate the account or retrieve any of the content or information you have added to it. (Source page: <http://on.fb.me/HiYHzI>)

You'll note that it does not say how long the deletion process is delayed, only that it will be.

Eventually, the account gets deleted. But, what actually happens when your account is permanently deleted? Here's what Facebook says. (The emphasis is mine.)

- You will not be able to regain access to your account again. (This should not be a surprise. That is the idea, right?)

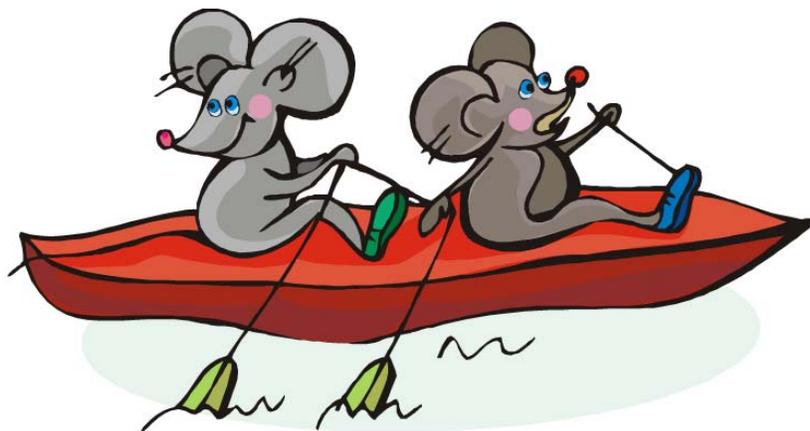
- MOST personally identifiable information associated with it is removed from our database. This includes information like your email address, mailing address, and IM screen name. SOME personally identifiable information MAY REMAIN, such as your name if you sent a message to someone else.

- Copies of SOME material (photos, notes, etc.) MAY REMAIN in our servers for technical reasons, but this material is disassociated from any personal identifiers and completely inaccessible to other people using Facebook. (Source page: <http://on.fb.me/HE95ab>)

Armed with this information and lowered expectations, you are now ready to close the door on Facebook.

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This article appeared in the April 2012 issue, Nibbles 'n Bits, and is distributed for reprint by other user groups.



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



Voice
for
Joanie

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

Future Events:

October

Dave Marra
Apple's New OSX
Mountain Lion

November

Joe Mazzeo & Dr.
James Marcus
Trends in Mobile Apps

December

Jay Ferron
Windows 8

January

Cancelled