

They're rolling out the new Windows



Is Version 8 a
twist in the road or
a path to the future?

Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. Attending were Richard Corzo, Annette van Ommeren, Andy Woodruff, Elizabeth Talian, Jim Scheef, Bruce Preston, Lisa Leifels, Richard Teasdale. Guest: Charlie Bovaird.

The minutes of Last Meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand 10/1/12	\$5,444.69
INCOME	
Dues	\$210.00
Bank Interest	\$0.24
Total Income:	\$210.24
EXPENSES	
Resource Center Phone	\$80.40
Newsletter Postage	\$45.50
Renewal Letter Postage	\$5.76
Door Prize for October	\$30.84
DSL ISP Service (15 months)	\$585.00
Total Expenses:	\$747.50
Balance on hand 10/31/12	\$4,907.43

Membership Report

General Meetings

Sep: - Google Voice, etc.
Oct: - Os X Mountain Lion
Nov: Mobile Apps Dev

	SEP	OCT	NOV
Paying Members	128	129	129
w/ e-mail addresses	113	114	116
New Members	0	1	0

IN THIS ISSUE

DIRECTORS' NOTES	2
HELP LINE	3
REVIEW: TRENDS IN MOBILE APPS	4
PREVIEW: WINDOWS 8 & NEW OFFICE	5
BUCKY MILAM CARTOON	5
SIG NEWS & NOTES	6
DECEMBER CALENDAR	7
ASK DACS	8
GET CREATIVE WITH TEXT BOXES	9
PHOTO-GRAPHIC MEMORY	10
FUTURE EVENTS	12

DACS.DOC

Printed	100	100	100
Mailed	73	72	71
Mailed - Member	52	51	51
Mailed - Other	6	6	6
Mailed - Free Library	14	14	14
Attendance			
Seat Count	45	37	27
Members Signed-In	37	27	26
Visitors Signed-In	6	8	1

Old Business

1. General meetings

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

- December 4: Jay Ferron - Windows 8. Preview: Jim Scheef, Review: Richard Corzo

- January 2 (WEDNESDAY): Marc Polansky from McCarthy Observatory - Astronomy and Computers. Venue is to be determined. Preview: Allan Ostergren, Review: Richard Teasdale

- February 5: Drew Kwashnak - Cloud Storage Services. Preview: _____, Review: _____

- March 5: Toni McKeen - Genealogy. Preview: _____, Review: _____

- April 2: Laura Nute of Lynda.com and Kevin Corcoran of CTDLC.org - Online Learning. Preview: Elizabeth Talian, Review: _____

- May 7: John Patrick - State of the Internet. Need to review publicity well in advance.

• Possible future topics:

- Presentation on Facebook. Jim has run into a brick wall trying to reach anyone that can represent Facebook, either directly or via user community etc. Lisa found that an individual in a Hartford business group had presented on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest etc. and will investigate further.

- Jeff Robbins - Drupal expert. Jeff is interested in doing a presentation but is not able to commit to a date at this time. Andy will follow up early next year.

- Twitter? Lisa will look into the topic. Sean mentioned someone he knew, Jennifer M. Scott, who uses

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).

Postmaster

Send address changes to Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc., 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430.

Editorial Committee

Managing Editors: Richard Teasdale
Ahmad Asgharian
Production Editor: Allan Ostergren

Contributors

Charles Bovaird Richard Corzo
Drew Kwashnak John Lansdale
Rob Limbaugh Bruce Preston
Jim Scheef Annette van Ommeren

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)

Nonprofit groups may request permission to reprint articles from *dacs.doc* or <http://www.dacs.org> by sending e-mail to reprints@dacs.org. Reprinted articles shall credit the copyright holder and a copy of the final publication shall be mailed to:

Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc.
27 Ole Musket Lane
Danbury, CT 06810-8232
Attn. Reprints

Links to articles reprinted on the web can be sent to: reprints@dacs.org

Technical Support

dacs.doc is prepared using PageMaker 7.0 and Acrobat 9.0. Software packages used to publish *dacs.doc* include: Microsoft Windows 7, Office 2007, TrueType fonts, Calendar Creator 8.0 for Windows. Internet access provided by *Mags.net*

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



Patrick Libert
APCUG Liaison
plibert@dacs.org



Apple User Group

Officers

DACS GENERAL NUMBER: (203) 744-9198

PRESIDENT: Richard Corzo dacsprez@dacs.org

VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAMS: vpprograms@dacs.org

SECRETARY: Bruce Preston • **TREASURER:** Dave Green

Directors

dacsboard@dacs.org

Richard Corzo	(203) 797-1518	rcorzo@dacs.org
David Green	(203) 797-8682	dgreen@dacs.org
Drew Kwashnak	(203) 910-6605	dkwashnak@dacs.org
Lisa Leifels	(203) 416-6642	lleifels@dacs.org
Bruce Preston	(203) 431-2920 (days)	bpreston@dacs.org
Jim Scheef	(860) 355-0034	jscheef@dacs.org
Elizabeth Talian	(203) 733-2805	etalian@dacs.org
Richard Teasdale	(203) 794-6170	rteasdale@dacs.org
Annette van Ommeren	(914) 232-0149	avanommeren@dacs.org
Andy Woodruff	(203) 744-9588	awoodruff@dacs.org

Committees

NEWSLETTER: Richard Teasdale: dacseditor@dacs.org,

PROGRAM: vpprograms@dacs.org

WEB MASTERS: Richard Corzo (rcorzo@dacs.org), (203) 797-1518

Annette van Ommeren (avanommeren@dacs.org), (914) 232-0149

PRESS RELEASES: Richard Teasdale (pr@dacs.org)

APCUG LIAISON: Patrick Libert (plibert@dacs.org)

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Charles Bovaird: aam@mags.net

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

HelpLine

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

Topic

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

Twitter heavily for her business (<http://www.workforceengine.com/>).

◦ Bruce could do Desktop Publishing in June or July

◦ Jay Ferron said he could do a presentation on Office 2013.

◦ Years ago we did "Surfin' Safari" as a segment about interesting websites. Perhaps now we could do something similar with mobile devices - smartphone and tablets - what apps are found to be interesting, entertaining, etc. This could be a 'forum' type meeting with multiple presenters for a full session, or it could be a small segment after AskDACs.

2. Open positions

• The membership chairperson/greeter position is still open. The greeter has these responsibilities:

◦ Sign in members

◦ Sign in visitors, ask how they found us

◦ Accept dues

◦ Distribute raffle tickets

• Jim Scheef has composed a draft welcome email to be sent to new members. He will submit to board for review by email. Charlie and Jim will meet to work on the database.

• We need someone to send out monthly press releases. The press release need not be as detailed as the meeting preview, although it would help if some of the information be made available to our PR person. Newspaper lead time for events such as ours is considerably longer than the lead time for DACS.doc. We will shoot for having the information to the media three weeks in advance. Richard has an email list from Patrick, Drew has a file in the Yahoo! group that has the print addresses we have used in the past. Richard Teasdale will take the lists and set up the distribution process.

3. In addition to our general meeting, we posted our first SIG meeting (Mobile Devices) on Meetup and got one new visitor, new to DACS as well. We will continue to post more meetings during our six - month sign-up. Bruce will compose an announcement for the MS Access SIG virtual meetings.

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 5

Meeting Review

Trends in Mobile Apps

By Lisa Leifels

ON TUESDAY, November 6th, we were very fortunate to have Joe Mazzeo and Dr. James Marcus from Crossfire Consulting give us a joint presentation on the current trends in mobile computing. Crossfire Consulting is based in Yorktown Heights, New York and is a full service information technology company that develops software, places people in IT jobs, and now offers courses in building Advanced Websites and Mobile Apps. One of the reasons Crossfire began educating students in the latest mobile technology was because they were having trouble finding people with the skills they needed to do the work that their customers demanded.

The meeting started off with a few statistics showing some of the current trends from the year 2011:

- Webmail usage was down 32% for 12-24 year olds.
- Nine out of ten internet users visited a social networking site each month.
- YouTube served up 4.5 billion videos per day, which is 1.8 per person per day.
- Android has reached 56% of the smartphone market, iPhone is second at 31%.

What conclusions can we draw from these measurements? Does this mean email is on its way out? We've often been told to watch young people to see where technology is headed. By now most of us have figured out if you want to get the attention of a teenager, you're better off sending them a text message, instead of an antiquated email. Facebook and Twitter do seem to be everywhere you look, and who doesn't enjoy watching a video on their handheld device, which is always with you and much more convenient. Although there are more people who own Android devices, Steve Jobs would be happy to hear that most of the apps that are purchased are for people who own an iPhone.

It was interesting to hear the story about how Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, was one of the early pioneers of cloud com-

puting. Jeff Bezos started asking questions about the business, people, and power, and discovered that hardware and software make up 82% of his company's costs. At



one time Amazon had a data center everywhere they had a warehouse, which was getting to be expensive. He realized that the hardware and software costs were going to come down over time, and that with the use of virtualization technology his costs would eventually be reduced. A lot of the utility companies in many states give businesses inexpensive rates for power. Data centers started popping up in the states that gave away free power. It takes about 7 people to man a data center 24x7x365. Jeff Bezos consolidated Amazon's data centers to reduce their expenses. Then he made the wise decision to commercialize what he learned, and in 2002 Amazon Web Services came into existence. Amazon may have been one of the first companies to use the cloud, but the cloud is lowering the costs for everyone on the web.

Now that the majority of consumers are using multiple devices, Crossfire believes in the 1'-2'-10' design rule, which refers to the distance between a screen and a person's face. A smartphone is usually about a foot away, the tablet and desktop computer are about 2 feet away, and a television is approximately 10 feet away. First, design your website for a smartphone; second, design it for a tablet; and finally, design your site for a desktop, which was referred to as a boat anchor in the presentation, since you can't take it with you. Most people would prefer to be looking at a website that looks appealing when it is viewed in a way that is presentable on all of your devices. In general, mobile consumers use less of the 'classic' web, which consists of webmail, weather sites, map sites, PDF's and multi-page documents, preferring to use apps, video, Instant Messaging and SMS.

The audience was eager to hear more about the two courses that Crossfire is currently offering. The first one is called

Building Advanced Websites & Basic Mobile Apps, and it began on September 8, 2012. It is held on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and goes through February 3, 2013. The second course is Building Native Mobile Apps for Android & IOS Devices and began on September 10, 2012. It is held on Monday evenings from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm and goes through January 28, 2013. The first course is not a prerequisite for the second, and both are taught at the Crossfire headquarters in Yorktown Heights, NY. The next session will be starting in March of 2013.

The best part of all was finding out that there is no tuition fee – but keep in mind that the classes are limited to 40 students on a first-come, first-qualified basis. And the reality is, nothing is ever really free. If you do decide to take one of these courses, you must make the commitment to attend the classes and do the homework, which takes approximately 8-9 hours a week outside of class. The class is filmed and you do have the opportunity to review and replay the parts that you may have missed. The class is set up to use an Eclipse environment for version control, which is similar to most work environments. Their current students range in age from 21 to 75. Crossfire believes that it's possible for anyone to learn this new technology if they put the time into it. The teachers at Crossfire were blown away to find out that after only 16 weeks of class their students actually got jobs.

It may be human nature to resist change, but deep down we all know that we live in a world that is constantly changing—and if we don't at least acknowledge this, we will be left behind. It's hard not to notice the growing number of people who are using smartphones and tablets for working, shopping, and traveling, and all kinds of tasks that used to be done on a laptop or desktop. With the high unemployment rate constantly in the news, it's encouraging to hear that there are job opportunities available for people who are willing to put the energy into learning something new. It's good to see that a company like Crossfire is embracing the recent changes and has transformed itself from a company that solely created software to a company that teaches people the skills that are needed to be successful in today's world. If you would like to learn more about what Crossfire has to offer, you can go to their website at CrossfireConsulting.com.

Meeting Preview

Windows 8 and new Office

By Jim Scheef

THIS MONTH, after several preview versions, Microsoft has released Windows 8 – the latest version of Windows. To explain it all to us, our speaker will be Jay Ferron, CEHI, CWSP, CISSP, CRISC, MCITP, MCSE, MCT, MVP, NSA-IAM. Come learn about Microsoft Windows

base menu features integrated desktop search, which can help you find and launch almost anything on your PC. Just type in a word, a name, or a phrase, and Search can find the right file for you. But more than that, the new start menu makes it very easy for you to navigate across all of the installed applications on your PC. Learn the new desktop tricks that make it easier to work with multiple documents.

This program will have lots of demos ...

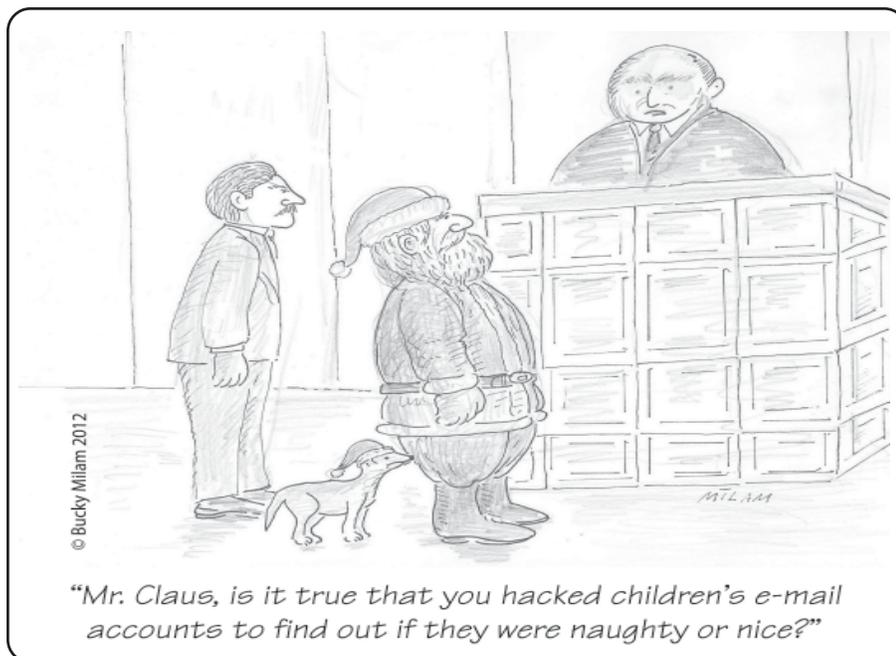
Beyond the new Windows, Jay will also give us a sneak peak at the next version of OFFICE. He promises to demonstrate how it will make your work easier. This presentation will have lots of demos and show off multiple hardware devices, including a TOUCH COMPUTER. After the meeting we can ask him what all those letters mean!

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 Q&A period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and a short break. The featured 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.



8 - the newest desktop operating system. Get an understanding of what's new and what's improved in the new Windows. Jay will cover it all starting from the hardware requirements you need to run the new OS. See the new user interface, security features, and much more.

Windows 8 introduces a breakthrough user experience and is designed to help you feel confident in your ability to view, find, and organize information and to control your computing experience. When you start using Windows 8, you will recognize a completely new way to work that is now faster, more streamlined, and more helpful than in previous versions of Windows. The Tile



Directors’ Notes, Cont. from page 3

4. Should we start a "Beginners" SIG? We concluded that it wasn't feasible for a SIG, but perhaps it would be a good topic for a 'workshop' that we hold from time to time. Since it isn't a SIG it would not have the requirement for DACS membership, but rather treat it as a mechanism to generate interest in DACS membership. Jim volunteered to do a workshop and Charlie volunteered to be an assistant. Date (and day of week for that matter, including possibly a weekend) to be determined.

New Business

1. Six board members are up for reelection in December. Four plan to run again: Richard Corzo, Dave Green (only committing for one year), Richard Teasdale, and Andy Woodruff. Patrick Libert and Elizabeth Talian are retiring, so we need to find two new candidates. I have contacted one candidate so far, but haven't heard back. Due to reduced membership the board is considering lowering the number of board members. The number of board members is not dictated by the ByLaws.
2. A new contact at the Microsoft Store has invited us back for a Windows 8 workshop or seminar. We will look at having a workshop to be scheduled in January - any Monday, or Thursday, Jan 17th appear to be open, Richard will explore dates with Microsoft. Note that as such it will not be a general meeting.
3. APCUG membership will be renewed.
4. It appears that our ISP service has changed hands and as part of that billing was messed up. We got a bill for past services in addition to the next 3 months. We will investigate switching our ISP to either cable or whatever variant of DSL might be provided to our facility.
5. It has been determined that the call drop-outs etc. that were happening during Skype conference sessions were due to an automatic volume control setting in some of the computers being used. Disabling this feature completely eliminated the call drop-outs.

Adjourned: 9:05

— Bruce Preston

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: December 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: Dec 11 (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: Dec 6

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: On hiatus until April, 2013

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: Dec 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: Dec 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: Jan 24

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: Dec 18

Let's join heads!

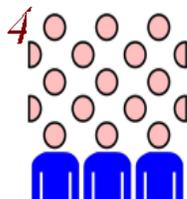
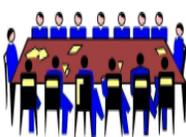
Do you have a special technology and an interest in sharing or discovering interest you would like to share or learn more about? Join a DACS SIG or start one. You don't have to be a nerd or a guru — just have a curiosity for what's out there



ing with others like you. Just send an e-mail to dacsprez@dacs.org, or talk to one of our officers at the next meeting, and say something like "I want to start a SIG!" or "Wouldn't it be nice if we had a SIG on . . .?"

December 2012

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Nov 2012</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></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> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jan 2013</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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		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			1
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																																																																																						
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																																																																																							
2	3	 <p>General Meeting 7:00 PM</p>	5	 <p>Apple 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org</p>	7	8																																																																																					
9	10	 <p>MS Access 7:00 - 9:00 PM Bruce Preston bpreston@dacs.org</p>	 <p>Board of Directors 7:00 PM</p>	 <p>Drupal 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034</p>	14	 <p>DACS.DOC Deadline</p>																																																																																					
16	17	 <p>Web & Graphics Design Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM avanommeren@dacs.org</p>	 <p>Linux 7:00 - 9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley linuxsig@dacs.org</p>	20	21	22																																																																																					
23	24		26	 <p>Mobile Device 7:00 - 8:00 PM Jim Scheef & Richard Corzo mobilesig@dacs.org</p>	28	29																																																																																					
30																																																																																											

November 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 – Has anyone installed Windows 8 and what are the impressions?

A – One member (Richard Corzo) said that he has installed the download version of Win8. He used the 32-bit version because there was no 64-bit driver available for his scanner. He had to download the driver for the Sound Blaster sound card in this desktop computer, as it was not on the Win8 DVD. Richard made the point that Windows 8 is “different” in that the Start Menu has been replaced by the Start Screen – menu items are replaced by colored tiles, some of which are dynamic and display information. His suggestion was that if you don't think you will like the new user interface, then stay with Windows 7 and save the cost in time, effort and dollars required to upgrade. This started a healthy discussion, which is covered in the following questions.

A review of Windows 8 is beyond the scope of Ask DACS, but some basic facts are needed to understand the discussion. Leading into these questions it helps to understand that Win8 has two “environments.” The old desktop is still there and the regular applications that we run on older versions of Windows are displayed on this desktop, however there is no ‘Start’ button. The new (Metro) interface is a screen of colored squares and rectangles called tiles that replaces the start menu we have known since Windows 95. These tiles replace the shortcuts in the Start Menu that launch applications. Clicking on the tile of a Metro (the code name used at Microsoft for the new interface) ‘app’ launches a program that fills the entire screen, no matter how large your monitor. Win8 comes with Metro versions of

many familiar applications as well as new. There are both traditional and Metro versions of Internet Explorer.

Q – How easy or difficult will the “typical non-computer-savvy” user find the transition to Win8?

A – Easy and difficult are relative terms, and the answer is always “it depends.” First, let's agree that “user friendly” is *what you know*. Once you understand how a program or a user interface (UI) works, you adapt and after a while, it becomes second nature. At that point it becomes “user friendly.” I believe those who remember the transition to Win95 will agree. Richard voiced the position that the transition to Win8 will be difficult because when you first look at the Start Screen, it is not immediately obvious what to do. I disagree. What could be more obvious than to click on the tile for the program you want to run? To his point, there are “magic corners” on the screen and there is nothing on the screen to indicate how these work after the hints that play during installation. However, there are only four corners, and you learn what is where pretty fast. I suggested that the Win8 “experience” is better if you use a Microsoft account as the login. Again, this is not obvious, and Microsoft would likely get in more anti-trust hot water if they were to make this even “recommended.” The account can be a Hotmail, Live, or other Microsoft login and password. Doing so activates many of the Tiles on the start screen. News will show your news categories; Weather will show weather at your location; Mail shows the number of waiting messages, etc.

Q – Has anyone heard of limitations using multiple monitors with Win8, due to the tablet or touch-screen orientation of the UI?

A – Richard said that he had read of ‘issues’ due to the magic corners; but this will be a good question for Jay Ferron, our December speaker, who will talk on Windows 8.

D – Richard also mentioned a Logitech touchpad (tinyurl.com/bp6tolp) to replace (or supplement?) a traditional mouse. The videos on the Logitech website give a good idea how their products work with Win8. Sure, touchscreen devices are available – at a price. Touchscreen monitors, laptops and all-in-one PCs are all available, but are not cheap.

Q – Is there a way to get the ‘traditional’ start menu in Windows 8?

A – Of course! Many developers have produced programs that give you a start button and pop-up menu. With the caveat that I have tried only one of these, here are some menu programs and a registry hack. The programs attempt to add a start menu on top of the Metro interface. Some provide additional fancy features and tweaks. Many of these were developed and tested on the preview editions of Win8, so they may, or may not, work as planned on the retail version.

1. Registry Tweak (tinyurl.com/dym15wf) disables Metro interface and returns the menu.

2. Windows Start Menu Vistart 8 (lee-soft.com/vistart) works with Win7, Vista and XP as well as Win8.

3. Stardock Start8 (tinyurl.com/6tkkmg) Another start menu program.

4. Power 8 (tinyurl.com/cucznmw) – from Kiev. You might want to try this in a throwaway installation.

5. Pokki (pokki.com) – found this in a David Pogue column in Win8 (tinyurl.com/9ammrk7) and tried it using the Consumer Preview edition; it worked well, but I will try others.

Q – I found that my Nook Tablet does not have the copy and paste function that we commonly use almost everywhere else. I often find this annoying. How common is it for an

Android device to not offer copy and paste? For instance, does the Kindle tablet have copy and paste?

A – In the absence of a response from the audience, I offered that both of my Android devices, an Asus Transformer tablet and a Droid 3 phone, have the copy and paste function; however, the implementation is different on each device. A

member offered that in many cases it is the app that does or does not support copy and paste.

Q – Does anyone know of a website that shows what areas have power?

A – The CL&P website (cl-p.com) has a map showing power outages by town. The map was available the day after the hurricane.

[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!]

Word Processing

Get creative with Text Boxes

By Nancy DeMarte

WHEN YOU USE Microsoft Office, you create and edit text all the time. Word, of course, is dominated by text; Excel and PowerPoint both use text in many of their functions. All recent versions of Office also include a tool called a "text box" for special uses of text. Let's find out what it is and how to use it.

A text box is a specialized shape in which you can enter text. It functions outside the regular margin constraints of a document and can be moved or resized as needed. A text box is useful for adding a caption to a photo or annotating a diagram or chart. If you want to emphasize an important statement in a document, you can use a text box to repeat the statement in a "pull quote" and locate it in an unexpected spot, such as along a margin (known as a Sidebar) or across columns in the document. Its flexibility makes a text box useful in many situations.

Text boxes have most of the same properties as shapes. In Word 2007 and 2010, when you click the Insert tab, then Text Box, you open the Text Box gallery of 36 preformatted text boxes, as well as the "Draw text box" option. If one of the preset boxes meets your needs, click to insert it into the document. Older versions of Word lack this gallery, but you can still draw a text box, which is most often my choice. Click "Draw text box" at the bottom of the gallery. Then click anywhere in your document where you want the text box to appear and drag diagonally down the page to the right to create the text box. At first the box covers a portion of the normal text. This is because the default text wrapping setting is "in front of text." If you don't want the text box to hide the document text,

select the text box so "handles" appear around the box. At this point, the Text Box Tools Format tab appears on the ribbon. Click Format, and then Text Wrapping in the Arrange group. Change the setting to Tight, which will position the text box within the existing text and also allow you to move the text box. Do this by clicking an edge so a crossed arrows icon appears and dragging it to a new location. You can also resize the box by dragging an edge or corner. To enter text in the box, replace the informational text with your own.

Once a text box is created and located in the document, it can be formatted in many ways. To format the text, select it, and a small version of the Font group on the Home tab will appear. Use these tools to change the font style, size, color, and other attributes. (You can also click the Home tab and use the full set of options in the Font group.) To format the text box itself, select it and use the tools on the Text Box Tools Format tab. For example, you can fill the box with a color, remove or change the border styles, make the text read vertically, or add special 3-D effects.

In Office 2007 and 2010, text boxes are not limited to a rectangular shape. You can add text to any of the items in the shapes gallery. Click Insert - Shapes and click a shape. Click in your document and draw the shape in the same way you drew the text box. Change the text wrapping to Tight as you did above, then right click inside the shape and choose "Add Text". The large number of shape choices gives you many options for text boxes. Another approach is to begin with a classic text box, even after it is filled with text. Select it, which opens the Text Box Tools Format tab. Click Format

and select "Change shape," which opens the shapes gallery. Click a new shape, and the text box transforms into that shape with all its contents intact. Another interesting possibility is inserting a photo or piece of clip art into a text box. With the text box or shape selected, click the Insert tab - Picture. Click the photo you want, then Insert. The photo appears in the text box, resized to fit. The same steps work to insert clip art, charts or tables within text boxes.

Text boxes can be rotated for a dramatic effect. In Office 2010, select the text box, and click and drag the little green rotator circle above the box to rotate it left or right. In Word 2007, for an unknown reason, classic text boxes cannot be rotated, even though shapes can. One way to work around this problem is to create a text box, cut it using the Cut command on the Home tab, and then paste it as a "Picture (Windows Metafile)" using the Paste Special command option under the Paste icon.

Occasionally, you might create a text box in Word that you'd like to reuse at a later time. You can save it by selecting the text inside the box and then clicking Insert and the arrow under the Text Box icon. Choose "Save Selection to Text Box Gallery."

Besides Word, text boxes appear in Excel and PowerPoint 2007/10. Neither program contains a text box gallery, but each has the "Draw a Text Box" tool, which gives you all the functions that Word does, including rotation. You can also start with a shape and include text by right clicking and using the "Edit Text" command.

Have a little fun. Create a few text boxes in your next document, spreadsheet or presentation.

NANCY DEMARTE is a regular columnist (Office Talk), Sarasota PCUG, Florida (www.spcug.org; ndemarte @ Verizon.net).

This article appeared in the September 2012 issue, Sarasota PC Monitor, and is distributed for reprint by user groups.

Candidates



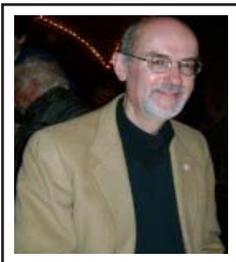
Richard Corzo (incumbent) – Richard Corzo (incumbent) – Richard Corzo has been a computer programmer for over 30 years starting on IBM mainframes and working his way down to personal computers and now doing web applications. He's been a PC user and DACS member since 1993, a Mac user since 2000, and has written many articles on operating systems and utilities for the DACS newsletter. He has been leader of the Macintosh/Apple SIG since the spring of 2004, and is interested in keeping DACS current with the latest technology. In April, 2010, Richard became DACS president.



David Green (incumbent) -- A longtime member of DACS, Dave is the current DACS treasurer. He worked on IBM mainframes as a systems programmer and systems analyst for many years. Since retiring in 2001 he served as treasurer of the Connecticut Choral Society for six years and as treasurer of DACS for two years. He was born in Michigan and has three children and seven grandchildren. A resident of Danbury for 32 years, he established the 501(c)(3) status of his local homeowners association. He plays trombone in the Danbury Community Orchestra and the Danbury Trombone Outfit.



Bill Saturno – Bill Saturno is a lifelong technology enthusiast and retrocomputing hobbyist. He has been a member of the Connecticut PC Users' Group in Norwalk and CreativeTech, an association of technology professionals, and is a co-founder of Danbury Hackerspace and Connecticut Hackerspace. He would bring to the board an extensive experience in online networking and video conferencing. Bill is currently working as Senior Account Executive at D&R/Boar's Head Provisions, with past experience in the cellular/digital data industry, as well as experience in NYC dot com startups. Previously, he served as Promotions and Marketing Director of WRKI/WINE/WAXB/WPUT.



Richard Teasdale – Richard Teasdale is retired from a long career in Information Technology during which he played various roles, ranging from Programmer to Project Manager, Systems Analyst to Unix Administrator. He began his career programming mainframe computers but more recently worked on servers and PC's. He currently does website support work as a volunteer for a number of non-profit organizations. A long-time resident of Ridgefield, Richard moved to Danbury in 2010. A member of DACS for several years, Richard now serves as copy editor for the newsletter and website, and has recently assumed responsibility for monthly press releases sent to area publications and media stations. A Drupal user, he is endeavoring to assist with development of the DACS Drupal website. Since October 2012, he has served out the board term vacated by Rob Limbaugh.



Andy Woodruff (incumbent) – Andy Woodruff has been on the DACS Board since 2010 and a DACS member since 1991. He also has previous experience on the boards of nonprofit organizations of various sizes. He served five years as a Board member and Chair of the Finance Committee at an organization that is much larger than DACS and runs a 7-figure budget (www.rowecenter.org). He also chaired the startup committee that wrote organizational bylaws and obtained IRS 501(c)(3) status for a new nonprofit organization (www.ctswing.org). Andy has dual careers as an engineer and professional cellist, both on a contracting basis. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has degrees in physics and electrical engineering from Brown University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Andy participates in the Web Design, Drupal, and Digital Imaging SIG's.

Notice of the Annual Meeting of
Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc.
to be held at 7:45 p.m.
Tuesday, December 4, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. will be held at the auditorium of the Danbury Hospital, 24 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of electing directors. The number of directors is fixed at ten individuals in two alternating classes of five. Each class serves for a term of two years. The individuals named above have agreed to stand for re-election or election to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Members to be held in the year 2013.

If you do not plan to attend the meeting, please return the attached proxy to:

Danbury Area Computer Society
4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430
to arrive prior to December 4, 2008 and express your preferences.

Your presence in person and participation in the meeting would be appreciated. Come and hear not only what we did this year, but what, with your help, we hope to do in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Bruce Preston, Secretary

Ballot

I (we) hereby appoint Bruce Preston or Charles Bovaird proxies to vote in my (our) stead at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2010 at 7:45 p.m. as follows:

The election of the following to serve as directors for a term of two years and until successors shall be elected and shall qualify (vote for no more than six):

- Richard Corzo
- Bill Saturno
- Andy Woodruff
- Dave Green
- Richard Teasdale

• _____

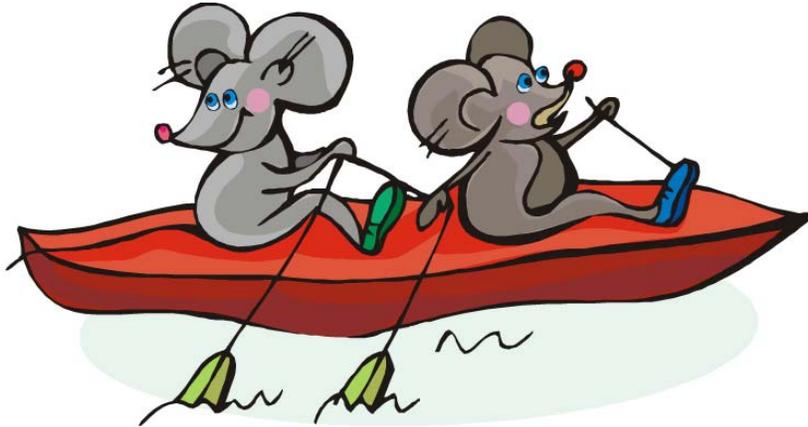
Signature(s): _____ / _____

_____ / _____ / _____

(Membership in DACS is a family membership. If there is more than one member in your household, all please sign.)

Signed _____

Dated _____



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:

December

Jay Ferron
Windows 8

January

Marc Polansky
Computers and
Astronomy

Wednesday, January 2 –
Check for updates

February

Drew Kwashnak
Cloud Storage
Services

March

Toni McKeen
Genealogy