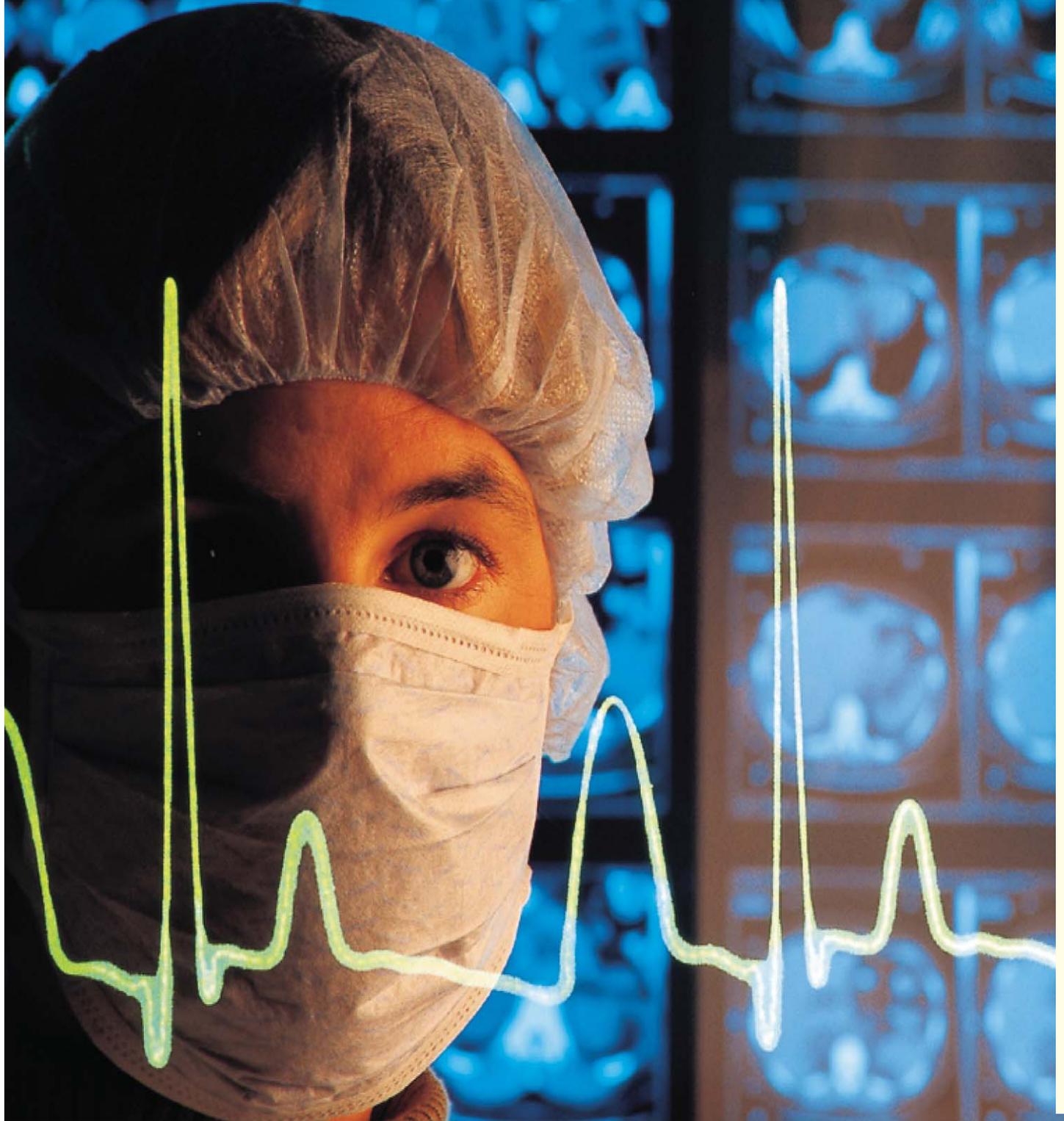


**Next Meeting: John Patrick, Former IBM VP
for Internet Technology on:**

The Future of Health Care and the Internet



Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013. Attending: Richard Corzo, Richard Teasdale, Jim Scheef, Andy Woodruff, Lisa Leifels, Bruce Preston, Drew Kwashnak and Annette van Ommeren. Visitor: Charlie Bovaird. The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

The minutes of last meeting were accepted as published in DACS.DOC.

Treasurer's Report

DACS Treasurer's Report for March, 2013

Balance on hand 3/1/13 \$4,296.01

INCOME

Dues \$480.00
Bank Interest \$0.17
Total income: \$480.17

EXPENSES

Resource Center Phone \$82.93
MeetUp 6-month fee \$72.00
Newsletter Postage \$45.54
Renewal Letter Postage \$14.76
Total expense: \$215.23

Balance on hand 3/31/13 \$4,560.95

Membership Report

FEB 5 - Cloud Storage - Bill Saturno
MAR 5 - Genealogy - Toni McKeen
APR 2 - On-Line Education - Lynda.com

	FEB	MAR	APR
seat count	34	43	36
members signed in	28	32	31
visitors signed in	5	11	5
Paying members	126	127	122
w/email address	113	112	107
new members	1	1	0

DACSDOC	FEB	MAR	APR
printed	100	100	75
mailed	67	67	65
mailed-memb	47	47	46
mailed-other	6	6	5
mailed-free lib	14	14	14

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Old Business

1. General meetings

• April 2: Laura Nute of Lynda.com - Online Learning. Preview: Elizabeth Talian, Review: Annette van Ommeren

• May 7: John Patrick - State of the Internet. Preview: Jim Scheef, Review: Richard Teasdale - Press releases will go out.

• June 4: Jennifer M. Scott - Twitter. Preview: Lisa Leifels Review: Andy Woodruff

• July 2: Bruce Preston - PagePlus X6 Desktop Publishing. Preview: : Drew Kwashnak Review: suggest Allan Ostergren

• Possible future topics:
◦ Presentation on Facebook - Jim has worked with another organization (AMC) and they have gotten volunteers to post about 3 times a week. It is a long-shot as a meeting topic, but he hasn't crossed it off possible topic list yet.

◦ Jeff Robbins (Drupal expert) - Jeff is interested in doing a presentation but is not able to commit to a date at this time. Andy contacted him in January to let him know our calendar is full the first half of this year. Andy will follow up in May and ask that he let us know when he will be near the area. (He resides in Rhode Island.) This is a "long shot" as to a presentation. Andy will revisit.

◦ Demonstrate apps for mobile devices-smartphones and tablets. This could be a meeting with multiple presenters for a full session, or it could be a small segment after Ask DACS. The iBook (Apple iTunes store), "The Telegraph: 500 Must Have Apps" would be a good resource. Richard Corzo tried to demo the Windows 8 app News Bento, an RSS news reader, but was thwarted twice by the hospital projectors.

◦ Note that we have had trouble getting any Windows 8 machine to work with the hospital projectors. We may need to schedule any Windows 8-related topic for outside the hospital. Bruce pointed out that at one time we used the DACS projector in the hospital, we will try that. It will require an extension cable to get from the stage to the projector situated either on the stage center or by first row of seats. Richard will look at the "500 Must Have Apps" published by the Telegraph (a U.K. newspaper.)

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 3

Membership Information

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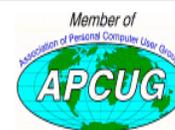
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Applications & Hardware to enhance dacs.doc are welcome.



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Apple User Group

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HelpLine

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

Topic

Microsoft Access
.NET Programming
Digital cameras/scanners/image processing
Content Management Systems
Linux
Mac and iPhone/iPad/iPod touch
PC maintenance
Smartphones & Tablets
Virtual machine software
Desktop publishing and website design
Windows

Forum

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

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 2

◦ Jim is pursuing a presentation on Electronic Medical Records, etc. Danbury Hospital is leading edge on this topic. Jim was referred to the hospital's CIO, Jim has communicated with CIO's secretary who understands our request and will investigate finding a presenter suitable for our request.

◦ Office 2013 later this year? Microsoft has backed off the one machine only per purchase (no transfer to replacement machine). Presentation should include pricing options - purchase vs. subscription, etc. We could ask Jay Ferron or the Microsoft Store, or we could do a workshop in the Microsoft Store like we did for Windows 8. Because of the hospital's projector problem with Windows 8 we may want to use the Microsoft Store.

◦ Describe/demo the Apple TV device or perhaps the rumored Intel product. Explain watching TV using a broadband connection but not a cable TV subscription, such as via Hulu Plus, etc. This is close to Mike Kaltschnee's presentation of perhaps a year ago, so we will table for a while.

◦ Microsoft Surface Pro (the Intel-based Microsoft tablet that will also run Windows desktop applications in addition to 'apps'). Perhaps this should be included within a Windows 8 presentation as it probably is not enough for a full presentation.

◦ Windows Blue - is it an incremental upgrade (Windows 8.1) or a different name for a service pack? We will watch it.

◦ Bruce suggested repurposing an old machine (such as an XP era machine since XP support is being sunsetted) to a machine that runs a variant of Linux such as one of the Puppy releases. He had recently converted a very sluggish netbook to one that runs impressively fast. Richard Corzo will contact Dave Mawdsley and Jim Ritterbusch to see if they would be interested in a presentation.

◦ Something on Shutterfly?

◦ Something on Pinterest?

◦ Animation software - such as an Anime package. At one time we had someone from WCSU, need to investigate. We will keep eye open at Hacker Faire etc.

◦ a tour of Windows Live Suite: Photo Gallery, Movie Maker, Mail, Writer (blogs) etc.

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 13

Meeting Review

Laura Nute of Lynda.com®

By Annette van Ommeren

**YOU KNOW THE FEELING.—
STRESS AND FRUSTRATION
SET IN AS YOU TRY TO LEARN
NEW SOFTWARE AND THE DEADLINE
IS LOOMING**

But wait.. There's help!

Log onto Lynda.com® and find clarity, answers, and relief in the multitude of online teaching courses - one of which is sure to save the day. How does this "online learning" really work, and is this for *YOU*?

At the April general meeting DACS welcomed Laura Nute, the North East representative for Lynda.com®. She treated us to a comprehensive presentation about the organization, including a short history, a demonstration of the web interface, and comments about the future direction of the company.

With over 2.5 million subscribers and an inventory of over 94,000 teaching videos, Lynda.com® has become a leader in the online learning environment. The high quality of the teaching videos, the accessibility and the ease-of-use attract members such as individuals, businesses of all sizes, schools, universities, and governments.

Laura gave us a glimpse into the company's beginnings. Lynda Weinman, co-owner and founder started as a book publisher in 1995. She saw a need for teaching tools in the early days of digital Desktop Publishing and web development, and her colorful and easy-to-understand software instruction books were hugely popular. The company followed up by expanding into a 'bricks and mortar' training facility offering live classroom courses. However, after 9/11 and the ".com" bust in the early 2000s, the demand for classroom education slowed and people resorted to self-study at home. With the ever growing trend of online video use, new technology and wider availability of broadband, Lynda believed online-video courses to be the most effective way to reach her students. The Lynda.com® website has expanded ever since, and offers several subscription plans giving access to every conceivable software or technique title, with the entire library accessible under a single subscription.

We were treated to a tour around the Lynda.com® website interface. Laura explained how courses are organized, and how they can be found - by subject, software name or author. At the request of an audi-

ence member, she entered a search term to find where this might be covered in a course. The results highlighted the search words found in the text transcripts of a course video best matching that specific search term.

She also showed us several useful options, such as creating bookmarks, sharing playlists, editing video player preferences, submitting feedback, and the ability to send a question. One can even download a nice printable Certificate testifying all videos in a given course have been viewed!

Courses can be watched and reviewed anytime, anywhere with a broadband connection, including on mobile devices. (m.Lynda.com®) An iOS App is also available. There are no tests required, no exams, no pressure or stress! Not only do the videos show hands-on techniques with software simulation, but word-by-word text transcripts are available, as well as downloadable exercise files used in the course. (Access to the exercise files usually requires premium membership.) Presenting the information in multiple forms (visual/audio/text) allows the user to absorb and understand the content in the most effective way.

New courses are added almost daily, and subscribing to the newsletter alerts one to the latest offerings. As soon as major software updates are released to the public, chances are Lynda.com® already has a

course ready for viewing. However, Laura assured us that Lynda also keeps quite a few legacy courses available - if those older software versions might still be in use. (Even as far back as Photoshop 6, released in 2002!)

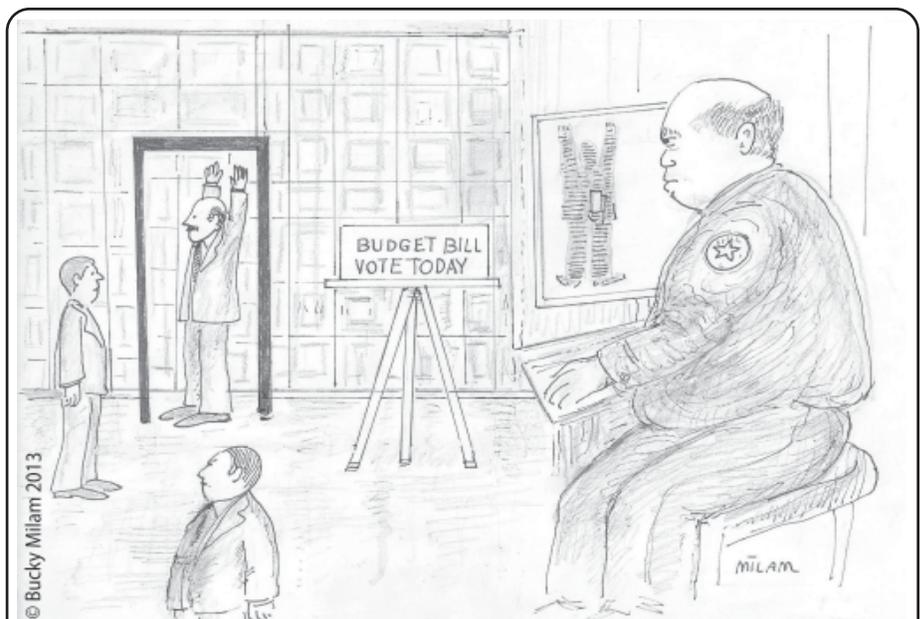
Laura also played one of their "The Creative Spark" videos. These beautifully produced short documentaries are meant to inspire and ignite our own creative spark. They give us a glimpse into the minds and processes of a few of the over 300 teachers, all experts in their respective fields.

Laura wrapped things up by telling us that Lynda.com® recently acquired www.video2brain.com, a European online learning organization with many similarities to Lynda.com®. This will allow Lynda.com® to branch out into the European and worldwide market, with courses offered in different languages such as German, French and Spanish.

There are other large online education organizations on the internet, but what sets Lynda.com® apart is the emphasis on making learning fun, intuitive and accessible. The amount of information available on the website - for less than \$1/day - is quite staggering. Take a look at all the course offerings (<http://www.Lynda.com/software/all>), view a couple of the free videos offered on each course, and sign up for a 7-day trial* (www.Lynda.com/trial/plans) to start enjoying the benefits of Lynda.com®.

*Remember to actually cancel the membership if you do not wish to continue.

Many thanks to Laura, her engaging and informative presentation gave us a thorough understanding of the benefits of Lynda.com® and online learning.



As a budget vote draws near, a security team is set up to scan senators for hidden riders or earmarks they might want to insert in the legislation

Meeting Preview

John Patrick on Health Care and the Internet

by Jim Scheef

FOR OUR NEXT GENERAL Meeting we welcome John R. Patrick back to DACS to speak on “The Future of Healthcare and the Internet”. I believe I’ve attended just about every one of John Patrick’s presentations to DACS. My favorite recollection from

John’s presentations dates back to December, 1998, his seventh visit. When he started to talk about how the Internet must be “always on”, he stopped and asked, “Have you seen these wireless network cards? They’re the size of a credit card and they make your computer wireless.” Those may not have been his exact words, but as John held up his laptop so we could see the end of his Wi-Fi card,

I do remember his next words: “This changes everything!” And so it did! John saw how enabling the Wi-Fi technology would be to making the Internet “always on” and available everywhere even when the technology was still prohibitively expensive for the typical home user. John’s

vision and insight are why we want to hear from him as often as possible.

John Patrick joined IBM in 1967 and rose thru various sales, marketing and management positions. In 1992 he became Vice President of Marketing for Personal



Systems and in 1995 was named Vice President of Internet Technology, a position he held until his retirement in 2001. Today Mr. Patrick’s interests range from the Harley Owners Group (HOG) where he is a Life member, to the Danbury Hospital (Western Connecticut Health Network) where he served as a member of the Board of Directors for nine years, the Online Computer Li-

brary Center (OCLC), and the future of healthcare and the Internet, which will be the topic of his presentation at our May 7th General Meeting. Mr. Patrick’s Internet credentials are legion: a founding member of the World Wide Web Consortium at MIT in 1994, a founding member and

past chairman of the Global Internet Project, a member of the Internet Society, a senior member of the Association for Computing Machinery, and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. His book, *Net Attitude*, is required reading on the future of the Internet and the attitudes needed to capitalize on it. John’s blog is at patrickWeb.com and you can follow him on twitter @johnpatrick. His Wikipedia entry has even more.

Today’s Internet has new issues and concerns and as always, John is there. His blog, patrickWeb.com, carries several recent articles that may offer a preview of his presentation, among these “Electronic Medical Records: Do They Reduce Healthcare Costs” (tinyurl.com/bgvam5s) is especially relevant. Other issues include cyber security for both enterprises (like the hospital) and our national infrastructure. Join us for what will undoubtedly be a fascinating look at the Internet of today and the future.

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

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



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 . . .?”

Internet Tools

Windows Lab Avoiding Web Ads and Cookies

by Penny Cano

WEB ADVERTISEMENTS OFTEN take up half of the real estate on a webpage. Supposedly, they entice the viewer into buying the products. In actuality, they help to financially support the host website. Cookies, on the other hand, are outwardly invisible. They are put on your computer by websites to identify you. There are good cookies and bad cookies. A secure website (bank, credit card, prescription order, etc.) requires a cookie (good) on your computer to verify your identity. You cannot use the website unless you have their cookie. Public, retail, and other non-secure sites put tracking cookies (bad) on your computer to do things like determine which websites you frequent so they can customize all those ads to what they believe are your interests. Personally, I like to avoid both intrusions. Here is how it can be done on the two browsers I use, Internet Explorer and Firefox.

Firefox is the easiest because there are add-ons you can download and install from . On the Firefox toolbar, select Tools/Add-ons/Get Add-ons.Mozilla.org/ (Figure 1).

The two I find most useful are Adblock Plus and NoScript. Adblock Plus doesn't require setting changes other than to be sure the updates are automatic. NoScript installs easily, but it takes some personal interaction to make it work to your advantage. Many ads on websites use Java script, Flash player, or other tools for the animation. NoScript gives you the option to choose which of these scripts you want to allow.

The two I find most useful are Adblock Plus and NoScript. Adblock Plus doesn't require setting changes other than to be sure the updates are automatic. NoScript installs easily, but it takes some personal interaction to make it work to your advantage. Many ads on websites use Java script, Flash player, or other tools for the animation. NoScript gives you the option to choose which of these scripts you want to allow.

If an unknown script is attempting to execute, there is a yellow warning bar at the bottom of the Firefox window. Pressing the small "S" in the lower right corner of the status bar pops up a menu that allows you to trust (permit) scripts or block them. Usually I make "Untrusted" websites with "ads" (msads.net, adrevolver.com) or "click" (doubleclick.net), etc., in their name. If you make a mistake and block something

you need, you can always press the "S" button and go back and "Trust" the script (Figure 2).

The third Add-on I find useful is BetterPrivacy which lets you choose which cookies to accept or deny. The same rule applies in choosing which website's cookies - deny "ads," "track," "click." et c; accept "Discovercard," "Chasebank," and the like. Internet Explorer provides more of a challenge to block ads and cookies. I have not found an Add-on for IE that allows you to choose which scripts are allowed or blocks ads and tracking cookies on a wholesale basis. So it takes more effort on the user's part to accomplish the same thing. Somewhere in the IE settings there is a check box that says to tell websites you do not want to be tracked. But many of the websites do not honor this.

Also, you can use InPrivate Filtering ("Safety" button or under "Tools" on the menu) to block some sites. The most effective

way I have found to block ads in IE is not in the IE settings. I use the Parental Control settings in my Virus/Internet Security suite. I use TrendMicro Titanium Internet Security. Under Parental Controls, I block the general category of "Web Advertisement," but that doesn't get everything (Figure 3).

There is also a section of the Parental Controls that blocks individual websites. The same rule applies here as in Firefox - if the name includes "ads," "click," etc., it's usually a "Block."

Cookie blocking can be done with IE settings under Tools/Internet Options on the menu or the Internet Options icon in the Control Panel. Initially, it is a pain in the neck, but worth it in the long run. On the Privacy tab chose the "Sites" button. If you already know the name of the website whose cookie is to be blocked, you can enter it and choose "Block" (Figure 4)

If the website doesn't work right without the cookie, you can always come back and remove the block. The next part can be annoying at first. On the Privacy tab choose the "Advanced" button. Check the box to "Override automatic cookie handling" and mark "Prompt" for First-party and Third-party cookies. Now, each time a website tries to put a cookie on your computer, a Privacy Alert box will pop up. Hit the "Block" button (Figure 5).



Figure 1



Figure 1

Figure 2

They are persistent and you may try 20-40 times before the website loads. But if you can do everything you need to do while denying the cookies, the next time you visit the website and the box pops up, you can check the box that says "Apply my decision to all

cookies from this website." Then when you choose block, the website is added to the "Sites" list and you won't get the alert again. If you do this, after a while you will get few alerts and the cookies will automatically be blocked.

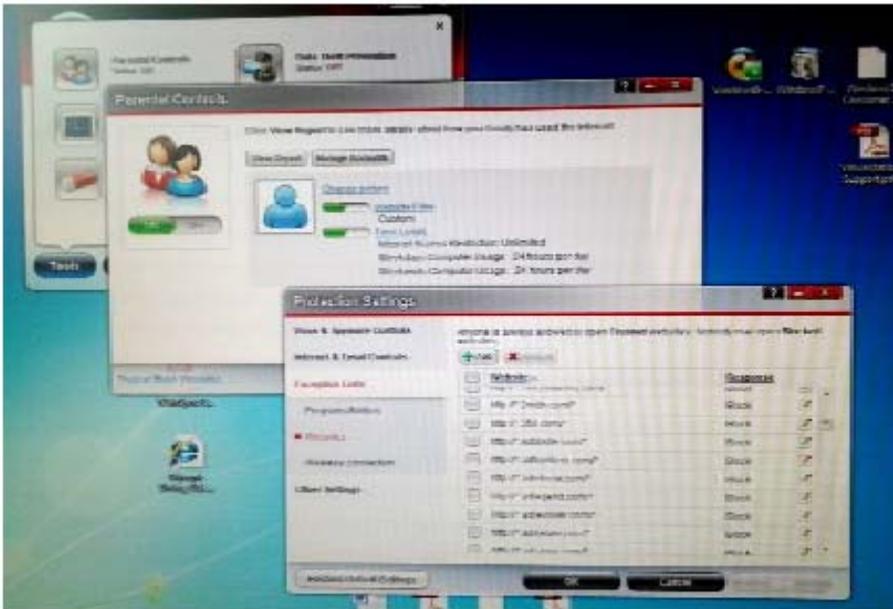


Figure 3

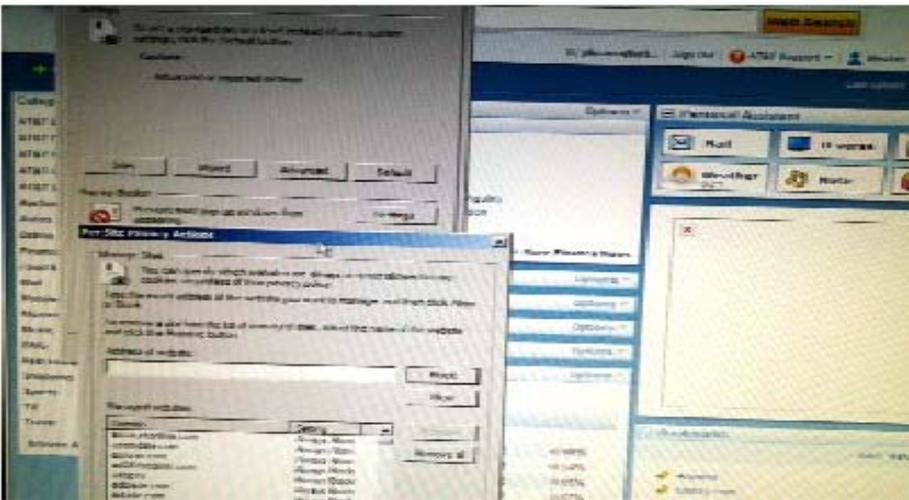


Figure 4



Figure 5

PENNY CANO is a member of the *Cajun Clickers Computer Club* and *Instructor for the Dumb & Dumber Workshops*

This article appeared in the November 2012 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News (www.cccc.org; ccnewsletter (at) cox.net), and is distributed for publication by user groups.

There are Many Ways to Join DACS



Individual/Family Memberships

Annual membership dues are \$30.00 for individuals or for each family living at the same address. Annual memberships which include a printed newsletter are available for \$45.00 a year.

Corporate Membership

Corporate membership, which includes ten (10) electronic memberships, costs \$150 per year. Additional electronic memberships are available at \$15 apiece.

Nonprofit Corporate Membership is discounted to \$75 per year. For member counts over ten (10) add \$7.50 each.

Electronic Membership

An electronic membership includes all the privileges of a regular membership except for a hard copy of the dacs.doc newsletter. One copy of the newsletter will be mailed to the principal contact, but digital versions may be downloaded via the DACS Website.

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If joining or renewing your membership by mail, the address is:

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c/o David Green, Treasurer
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Danbury, CT 06810-8232

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: May 2013

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

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

Meets 2nd Monday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: May 13

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: May 29

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: May 9

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. Helps 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: May 15

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: May 23

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

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

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

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

Contact: Jim Scheef (jscheef@telemarrsys.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: May 21

SIG News & Events

Apple. In April our member who had migrated from a PowerBook to a new MacBook Pro last July was still having some lingering problems in his new OS X Lion system. He was unable to save an edit to one of his files. I asked him to select Get Info from the context menu (right click or Ctrl click the file) and look at the permissions for the file. There are three permissions, one for the user, one for the group (for example, staff) to which the user belongs, and the last permission for everyone else. What we saw was very odd because no matter how long we waited, the group permission kept saying "Fetching..."

I did a web search to see if this was a problem experienced by others and found this very interesting page on CNET's MacFixit site, "File group permissions constantly displaying 'Fetching...' in OS X." This was indeed a known problem for some who had migrated from a previous version of OS X. The solution first involved entering a Terminal command to set the proper group for the user. Then it required rebooting into the Recovery partition and starting the "resetpassword" utility there to reset the permissions in the home directory. Finally after booting back into the main OS X partition, it advised opening Disk Utility and run Repair Permissions.

This process indeed fixed the problem he was having with the file (which was in his home folder), and also appeared to help with a problem he was having in updating GarageBand.

We moved on to my scheduled topic which was to take a look at an antivirus program for the Mac. I had read about some Mac malware that had invaded some Mac machines at Apple and Microsoft and wondered if I might also be at risk. I remember being prompted in the past to update my Canon printer drivers. I was now suspicious as to whether that was legitimate, since software updates are now part of the Mac App Store.

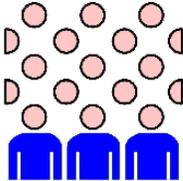
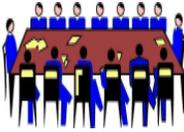
Since I was familiar with the Windows version, I decided to try the avast! Free Antivirus for Mac (<http://www.avast.com/free-antivirus-mac2>). It was in the form of a .dmg (OS X Disk Image) file that contained the application. After installing the application into my Applications folder, I opened it and ran a scan on my Mac. It took a while but basically only found Windows malware in the spam it found in my e-mail folders. You wouldn't want to accidentally pass this malware on to your Windows-using friends, but it wouldn't directly harm your Mac. It's hard to say whether running an antivirus program is necessary on the Mac, but it's nice to know that there is an option to do so.

Linux. April's busy meeting was spent on a presentation of "Meet the Raspberry Pi", a demonstration of its capabilities, a demonstration of a second Raspberry Pi at the meeting, and a discussion of the capabilities and issues that the Raspberry Pi cigarette-sized computer has. (<http://www.raspberrypi.org/> and <http://www.element14.com/>)

SIG notes, Cont.on page 10

May 2013

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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	 Apple 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org		 Linux 7:00 -9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley linuxsig@dacs.org	 SQL Server Study Group 7:00 -8:30 PM Sean Henderson 203-837-7068		 DACS.DOC Deadline																																																																																											
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"Meet the Raspberry Pi" (short name: RPi)

First up was a LibreOffice Impress slide show used to describe the RPi as a network-capable computer using a 2GB SDHC card (minimum--my RPi uses a 4GB SDHC (4) card) for its hard drive, along with 512MB RAM onboard. The RPi connects to TV's or computer monitors via an HDMI or an RCA video out (yellow cable). It also has a mini-din audio out jack for earphones and connects to a router from its Ethernet jack. All this for just \$35, which may help to explain why over 1,000,000 RPi's have been sold so far. If you need cables and peripherals, you'll have to buy them too.

Power is supplied via a micro USB cable with a regular flat A



end of a USB cable and special B end with the micro portion. Thus AC power from a wall outlet converts to +5V DC. However, the RPi uses only 3.3V of the 5V internally. This tends to be the case with all modern electronics crammed into smaller and smaller spaces. Tiny components require less current and/or voltage, and thus generate less heat. Computers and laptops use multiple voltages for different components. Motors for spinning drives generally need 12V, while slots or other components use 5V or 3.3V.

The RPi operates on a Linux Debian version of "Wheezy" called Raspbian for an LXDE (Lightweight X11 Desktop Environment) that is very similar to the look and feel of a KDE Linux desktop. The RPi comes with a minimum of software to make the initial Linux install as easy as possible. Once my RPi settled in, I got numerous (103) updates and upgrades from the Internet repositories used by the RPi. This was to bring it up-to-date from just the February installation image. Later I downloaded gedit (text editor), gnumeric (spreadsheet), CUPS (Common Unix Printing System--for connecting to printers) and ccrypt (for encrypting and decrypting documents) It's nice that this open-source software is free.

What makes the RPi really a capable experimenter's computer is the availability of a +3.3V supply pin, a ground pin and seven general purpose input/output pins (GPIO) designed for connections to an external circuit. External circuits tend to use 5V, 12V or more so care must be used to voltage divide them down to 3.3V, so as to not burn out the unit. Best practice is to carefully verify the circuit board connections pin by pin, verify power and ground connections, the voltages to the RPi are at or below 3.3V and to verify that all the program code works before powering up any project. I like to work from a diagram made using LibreOffice Draw or the free online service of Circuit Lab. (<http://www.circuitlab.com/>).

As an example for using the GPIO pins, I designed and connected a temperature sensor circuit using only 3.3V on all components that could be used to report temperatures in Celsius or Fahrenheit to the display, using a Python program on my RPi. My circuit design allows up to seven other devices to connect to a weather station. (wind speed, barometric pressure, humidity, etc.) Since programming the GPIO pins uses Python already installed on the RPi, the full capabilities of Python can be utilized right away. Other scripting languages can also be used if the software environments for them are first installed on the RPi.

After my presentation and demonstration, attention turned to a second RPi brought by another of our 6 attendees. This RPi was configured to start up in a special environment to use remote connection protocols. We got to look at how it used the environment and connected to remote servers. This RPi could be used to monitor and control multiple servers or computers.

The two RPi's brought to the meeting exposed a bit of the huge experimenter potential for the RPi: low cost installations in schools, RPi's as servers, RPi's as controllers for home heating, air conditioning and security, as an inexpensive office computer, running a beer brewing installation, monitoring refrigeration in market, etc.

The May 15th meeting topics include: continued discussion of the RPi, Beginner's Guide to 'htop', and Vulnerability Scanning with 'lynis'.

If these things touch any of your interests, join us at our next meeting in the DACS Resource Center at Ives Manor. Bring your laptop, Arduino or Raspberry Pi and show us a thing or two. Our meeting topics vary considerably depending upon the needs of the attendees.

Mobile Devices. In March Jim started the session by showing how to set up a sync folder for Microsoft's SkyDrive (<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/skydrive/>) in Windows 7 or 8. Installing the SkyDrive desktop application will create a local copy of your SkyDrive folder inside your home folder. It has Documents, Photos, and Videos subfolders for your own personal files, as well as a Public folder for sharing files with others. Any files you place in these SkyDrive folders will be synced across all your Windows and Mac computers running the SkyDrive applications. If you add, delete, or change a file locally or in the cloud (through the SkyDrive web interface), that will be mirrored in all the local copies of SkyDrive on your other computers.

In Windows 8 SkyDrive also has an app in the Windows Store. That app and the SkyDrive apps on Android, iOS, and Windows Phone devices are designed for the limited space on a mobile device, and therefore don't create a complete local copy of your SkyDrive. They do however allow you to navigate your SkyDrive and download individual files on demand when you are connected to a Wi-Fi or cellular network.

In the second part of the session Richard talked about apps that allow you to view or edit Microsoft Office files on your mobile device. Most likely your device has come with a viewer for Office files, as these are often received as attachments in e-mail. For instance my NOOK Tablet has QuickOffice Lite for viewing Office files. If you also need to edit Office files occasionally, you can download a third-party app from your device's app store since Microsoft doesn't offer Office for Android or iOS. For instance there is a full version of QuickOffice Pro available in the Google Play Store (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.qo.android.am3>), the Amazon Appstore for Android, and the Barnes & Noble NOOK Store. In my case I downloaded OfficeSuite Professional 7 (<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/officesuite-pro>

SIG Notes, Cont. on page 13



SAVE THE DATE

**Voice For Joanie
Fundraising Event**

CELEBRATE - LOVE - PEACE - FRIENDSHIP

Support Voice For Joanie in their quest to provide communication equipment to those who suffer from the paralyzing effects of ALS.

**Saturday, May 18, 2013
Pizza Plus - Magic - Music - Raffles**

**VFW Hall
11 Avery Road
New Milford, CT**



Digital Photography

The Demise of the Digital Camera

By Jerry Schneir,

Probably should have used one more adjective in the title, "inexpensive", so that the title would have read "The Demise of the Inexpensive Digital Camera". You only have to look around you at any party or gathering and see that the majority of the picture taking is being done by the guests with "smart phones". Relatively few cameras appear at these gatherings, so you might ask why? What has happened? What is happening to fuel this dramatic change?

By some estimates, smart phones account for over 50% of the cell phones in use today, and those smart phones all have built in cameras. And within the last couple of years, the cameras in those smart phones are getting much, much better. To prove my point you only have to look at two new products to be announced, one from Nikon and the other from Nokia, one a camera company the other a phone company.

The Nikon S800c combines a camera with Wi-Fi capability, even internet browsing. It will not be long before a phone is added to that device. Nokia on the other hand created a phone, the 808c Nokia PureView Pro which combines a phone with new digital technology. It dispenses with the usual scaling/interpolation model of digital zoom used in virtually all smartphones, as well as optical zoom used in most digital cameras, to vary the magnification and field of view. This new technology which is already in use by Sony in some of their more advanced cameras (Sony NEX F3), allows zooming without any lens elements changing positions. And amazingly enough, the results are really fantastic.

More and more camera manufacturers are equipping their cameras with the ability to transfer images from the camera to a phone, iPad type device or a computer directly, no wiring required. As phone manufacturers start to incorporate this new technology into their phones, the need for people to have both a smart phone AND a camera diminishes. Many manufacturers, aware of the missteps of Kodak in failing to recognize the change in technology (film to digital) and the eventual destruction of the company, are moving quickly to rear-

range their product offerings.

What will be showing up in the marketplace are more mid to high end cameras with fewer and fewer low end cameras. The reasoning is pretty simple, the camera phones, as good as they are getting, are still a very long way from producing images as good as those from the mid to high end range of cameras. If you take a close look at the camera offerings of today you may note the changes that are taking place right now.

Digital SLR cameras are moving in two price directions, up and down. Canon/Nikon/Pentax/Sony are locked in a battle in both the high end professional/semi-professional/dedicated amateur lines at one

end and the beginner/intermediary DSLR camera lines. However, this is an area that has fragmented greatly; new camera designs along with new technology are resulting in smaller and lighter cameras capable of producing results equal to that of their bigger cousins. I can hear the verbal challenges now to that statement, but I am noticing more

and more pros/semi-pros using this newer technology and reaping the benefits of fewer backaches from the lighter, pounds lighter equipment. These stark changes were brought about by the "mirrorless interchangeable lens cameras. In some circles these are referred to as CSC (compact system cameras) or ILC (interchangeable lens cameras) or EVIL (electronic viewfinder interchangeable lens cameras). Cameras in this mirrorless grouping are the Fuji X-Pro 1, the Sony alpha and NEX family of cameras, the Nikon J1/Vi cameras, the just announced Canon EOS M cameras, the micro four-thirds (mFT) line of cameras such as the Olympus OM-D5 and Panasonic GX1, and of course the entirely different Ricoh line of interchangeable lens AND sensor cameras.

In addition to those camera groupings another new collection of cameras has appeared, the large sensor fixed lens cameras such as the Canon G1 X and the Sony RX 100 along with the Fujifilm X10 and X100. I can see some questions arising about what constitutes a large sensor. To my way of thinking, sensors in the size range of 1/1.7



and larger meet that criterion, but just barely. But wait, the camera companies are also introducing more mid- to high-end point and shoot cameras such as the Panasonic FZ200, Pentax X5, Canon SD500, Nikon P7700, and Fuji SL300.

But if you look, you will see relatively little effort or money being spent on the inexpensive line of cameras, those retailing for \$200 or less. What you are seeing is product renaming with a change in camera color but very little in the way of any new features. What also appears to be happening here is that as the new models appear the older models are marked down substantially. As an example, Olympus Pen LP-2 was \$550 or more. It can now be had for about \$300 while the even older version, the LP1 is still around and going for a bit under \$300 and those are prices with the kit lens. The Fuji S4500 came out at about \$300, but today it can be bought for under \$200 and it came out in January of this year.

The economic downturn of the last few years certainly has played a part in the changing face of digital photography, making it less lucrative to introduce middling to low cost cameras and to focus on the mid to upper range of cameras with special features, such as better video, longer zoom ranges, great low light and high ISO ability. You will also be seeing a move away from the traditional CCD sensor to the CMOS and BSI-CMOS type sensor since these are far better suited to video and low light photography.

One other very bad thing is happening and that is the increase in camera complexity. I hear it almost every week from my students, "I can't understand the manual (if there is even one included), there is no index or the index is vastly incomplete, the booklet uses abbreviations without ever defining them, they seem to assume I know something when I do not, they don't explain a feature or how to use that feature." I have long maintained that the instructions are written by people whose native language is NOT English and may not even be photographers.

This is a most interesting period in photography. Image quality and the ability to use high ISO settings or shoot in dim light has never been better. Cameras, at least the mid to high price cameras, have more features and generally perform much better. The next five years will see very significant changes in the photographic landscape, stick around, you may even like what you see.

JERRY SCHNEIR is a member of the Los Angeles Computer Society, California, www.lacspc.org; editor (at) lacspc.org.

This article is distributed for reprint by user groups.

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

2. Open positions

◦ We need a new APCUG representative to replace Patrick Libert, primarily to post to the APCUG website, field questions, receive quarterly postings, etc. Bill Saturno volunteered, but Richard C. wasn't able to find credentials yet for logging in.

◦ We also need a liaison with TechSoup-the fulfillment operation used by many software vendors for distribution to non-profits. The TechSoup function is to receive distributions of product announcements and distribute to the Board. This person would also be responsible for placing orders. Jim identified that Patrick was the contact, he will have to get the account changed. Jim Scheef volunteered.

3. "Beginners" Workshop? Workshop could be held from time to time. Jim volunteered to do a workshop and Charlie volunteered to be an assistant. Jim and Charlie canceled the proposed Feb. 27th meeting. Do we plan to reschedule? Should we hold a Windows 8 workshop instead for new users? Perhaps make an occasional mobile devices SIG meeting feature Windows 8. Another possibility is to have a session at the Microsoft Store - "Migrating to Windows 8". For now Jim and Richard will plan on doing it in the May meeting.

4. To help launch the Innovation Center and Hackerspace, the City of Danbury is hosting the Danbury Mad Hacker Social Media Conference, which will feature the Danbury Mini Maker Faire. Mike Kaltschnee has invited us to have a booth at the Maker Faire in June and we have accepted the offer. What should go into the booth? Something that isn't static? Something "Maker-ish" whatever that is? Example: Make a DVR with a Linux box? Richard will contact the Linux guys. This could be related to the next item - the discussion overlapped.

5. Separately Tom Carruthers asked to meet with us about possible participation in the Mad Hacker Conference June 8 and 9 in downtown Danbury. Tom says, "I have been put in charge of the task of organizing about 28-35 workshops, panels, symposiums and keynotes for the event. There will also be a Makers Fair on the green and at the Ice Arena as well as events,

keynotes and a big bash at the new Danbury Sports Dome located on Shelter Rock Road." Sean H. and Andy Woodruff are willing to do a music workshop, possibly in two sessions, one introductory and the second more advanced. Tom mentioned an interest in Google Docs as part of an open source office workshop, asking for a contact.

6. It looks like Jim was ultimately successful at renewing our initial one-year Microsoft Office 365 subscription, used by the DACS board. Our subscription status now shows an expiration of March 15, 2014.

7. Since we didn't elect a new president last month, we want to be on the lookout for a new board member with "presidential potential." Richard has a prospect in mind. We also discussed contacting former members who may be interested in re-joining. For example we might send an e-mail listing the next quarter's meeting topics, etc. The database used to drive our e-mail campaigns could handle it.

New Business

1. Sean Henderson has started a SQL Server study group concentrating on SQL Server 2008. They have had their first meeting, and they will perhaps have some online (Virtual) meetings.
2. Facebook page has been updated with appropriate graphics etc., thanks to Annette. We need someone to post the meetings. Annette will create an event once a month which propagates to those who have friended DACS.
3. From Charlie: We have received a request to update our telephone contacts for the security system at the resource center. Richard Corzo will do so.

Adjourned: 9:40

—Bruce Preston



DACS Community Forum

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

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

Try out the DACS forum today!

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>.

SIG Notes, Cont. from page 10

fessional-7-mobisystems) for my NOOK Tablet. It's also available in the Google Play store and Amazon Appstore. Typically there is a trial version you can try out before you decide to pay for the full version.

When choosing an app for editing Office documents, you should try out one of your more complex documents to see how well it is rendered. I had a Word document with embedded graphics. I found that OfficeSuite Professional attempted to render the graphics, albeit with some overlap of the text with the graphics, while QuickOffice didn't attempt to render the graphics at all and showed me just the text of the document. Another thing to look for is what cloud storage services are supported. Among other services, OfficeSuite Professional supports both the SkyDrive and Box services that I use, so I can view and edit Office files stored in the cloud and not just the ones I have locally stored on my mobile device.

Ask DACS

April 2013

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.

At this month's AskDACS, we reviewed questions posted at the AskDACS forum at DACS.org as well as solicited live questions from the floor of the meeting. An open discussion continued pursuing answers from other audience members. My role as moderator is to try to guide the discussion to a likely solution to the problems presented. The answers below include both the summary of discussion that took place at the general meeting as well as some (pre and post meeting) research.

Q – My work laptop running Win7 can't see my home network. It can't find the Network Attached Storage (NAS) device or any of the other computers (all running XP), but it can get on the Internet. What's wrong?

A – Since the Win7 machine can reach the Internet, it has an IP address and is talking to your router (see below for another possibility). I suspect that some of the Win7 "security" features are activated. Listed below are some things to check and fix. After each one, review the problem to see if what you want is working.

1. Make sure the Win7 machine has your network identified as a Home Network (trusted) and not a Public network (untrusted). Open the Network and Sharing Center (see Control Panel or click on the network icon in the system tray) and change the network "location" if needed.

2. Turn on Network Discovery. This is the default on a Home network, so the other computers should be visible once the network location is correct, but this is a domain computer so more may be needed (see TechNet tip below).

3. Enable File and printer sharing only if needed. I suggested this at the meeting, but it's the reverse of what is requested in that it makes the Win7 computer visible to the other computers on the network. Because this is a domain computer, File and printer sharing may

be "locked down."

Another off-the-wall possibility is that you are actually connected to a neighbor's Wi-Fi. This would also explain all of the symptoms.

Some companies require "more security" on their internal networks. Windows provides a means to enforce many registry settings all at once through "Group Policies", a feature of Windows networking since Win2k. These settings are loaded automatically when a computer becomes a "domain member" on an Active Directory Domain and are refreshed automatically. I found a TechNet tip (tinyurl.com/4sbkrjn) on the Microsoft website that explains how to change these settings on an individual computer. Since this setting could create a security vulnerability on the corporate network, making this change may be over-ridden when on the domain network (no problem here) or may not be permitted at all. If this setting is truly locked down, then you cannot see other computers on the network. In that case you must map network drives manually.

Q – What is Windows 8 "Blue"? Has it been released?

A – One member suggested that Blue would become a series of small enhancements to Win8 to add features. These mini-upgrades will be sold rather than free. I had heard that Blue was the code name for the first service pack and that Win8 service packs will add new functionality rather than just fixing bugs or security holes as was the case under Windows NT and Win2k. None of this is exactly right. It turns out that Microsoft is leaking preview editions of "Plan B(lue)" every few weeks. After the meeting I did more research and found conflicting reports (naturally) that may be due to the timing of the various leaked versions or just plain speculation. Several reports said that Blue would

restore the start button and menu. A post on the betanews blog (tinyurl.com/c5ehmer) "Windows 8 Build 9374 brings 'Kiosk' mode, confirms 8.1 name" says there is no new start menu option but shows the name as "8.1 Pro Preview". Time will tell.

Q – I've been using Google Drive. Where do you look to see how much space I have remaining?

A – A member did some quick clicking and found this information is in the lower left corner of the window when you are logged in to Google Drive (drive.google.com). Indeed, in that corner of my "drive" shows "2% full". Immediately below that is a link to "Upgrade storage". Hovering over that link produces a popup "Using 139 MB of 5GB" and "0 MB in Trash" on two lines. 5GB is the default space for a 'free' account. Most of the blog posts I looked at were out of date, so I recommend using Google Help for details and costs of extra space on Google Drive.

Q – I heard that Crossfire Consulting (presenters at the November, 2012, General Meeting - dacs.org/archive/2012-12/review.htm) has discontinued their training program in web and mobile apps development. Has anyone heard anything about this?

A – From the discussion, it appears that Crossfire completed the sessions that ran into January of this year and that no new sessions have started or are planned for the immediate future.

Q – Has anyone migrated their Skype account to the new Microsoft version?

A – Microsoft purchased Skype last year and has now merged the functionality of Skype and Windows Messenger into a single application. Upgrading consists of installing the latest Skype software and adding a Microsoft Logon to your Skype account. Skype is available for Windows (XP, Vista, 7, 8, 8/RT, and Phone), Mac, Android (phones and tablets), iOS (including iPod Touch), Blackberry, "Skype-ready" cordless phones, Television, and PlayStation Vita. The Windows Messenger functionality adds free instant messaging to Skype. Windows Messenger already did computer-to-computer voice and video calls, so the merger expands that capability. You need a camera and microphone device

to use Skype on a television. This would be great to call the Grandparents on Christmas morning.

Q – I installed Windows 8 and it takes forever to boot up to the Modern Start screen and then takes a long time to switch to the desktop. Is there a way to have the desktop load while you're using the Modern user interface? The machine is a 3GHz Intel with 8GB of RAM.

A – This question created some confusion because the described behavior is so unusual. After some questioning the consensus was that Win8 is not properly installed because the switch between the Start screen and the desktop is instantaneous even on a slow machine. One member related a situation where a bad printer driver caused a 3-minute delay during boot up. Another member related how a bad printer driver caused Microsoft Word to repeatedly crash about a minute after opening. Removing the printer solved the problem. The recommended solution to this unusual Win8 problem is to first remove all printer drivers and check if that solves the problem. If not, then reinstall Win8 from scratch.

Q- Is anyone using Microsoft Outlook 2007 on Win8?

A – Office 2007, including Outlook, while not officially supported, should run on Win8. The next question is how to set up the email account.

Q – Another member related problems moving from one machine to another where his email messages were duplicated on the new machine. This became the next question.

A – There is no simple answer to migrating email to a new machine because there are an infinite number of combinations of Internet email providers, email clients and setup configurations. Even if the discussion is limited to Microsoft Outlook the number of possibilities is reduced to infinity minus five. Providing a detailed description is beyond the scope of AskDACS because there are simply too many variables. Bruce repeated his satisfaction with PC Mover (tinyurl.com/8zc3t3c), a program that will migrate “everything” from one machine to another, including email. The only downside is that moving to a new machine is an

opportunity to upgrade how you do things along with your hardware. Switching your email from POP to IMAP is worthy of a little time and thought.

[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!

Advantages of IMAP over POP

POP (Post Office Protocol) is the oldest email delivery transport in common use today. POP is designed to download your email messages to your email client and delete them from the server each time you connect to the email server. There is an option to leave the messages on the server, but there is no coordination between the client machine (your computer) and the server so messages can easily be duplicated.

IMAP (Internet message access protocol) was designed from the beginning to leave messages on the server. Storing a copy of each message on the client machine is optional. If you do keep the local copy, all of your email is automatically backed up between your computer and the server. The current version is IMAP4 which was published in the mid-1990s.

- Messages are synchronized between the client and server. There is no limit to the number of clients that can access a single mailbox, so your email will automatically synchronize to multiple machines.
- Folders and sub-folders synchronize as well as the actual inbox.

SQL Server Study Group

Thursday, May 16, 2013 7-8:30 PM

This evening study group is for the SQL Server 2008 Database Development Exam 70-433. It meets at the DACs Resource Center third Thursdays from March 2013 thru July 2013 from 7pm to 8:30pm. Attendees can expect help with practice exams, and get other support and encouragement for this test. Passing this single exam yields the MCTS designation. (Microsoft Certified Technical Specialist)

There will also be regular and ad-hoc online meetings for this study group, the schedule and particular technology to be determined.

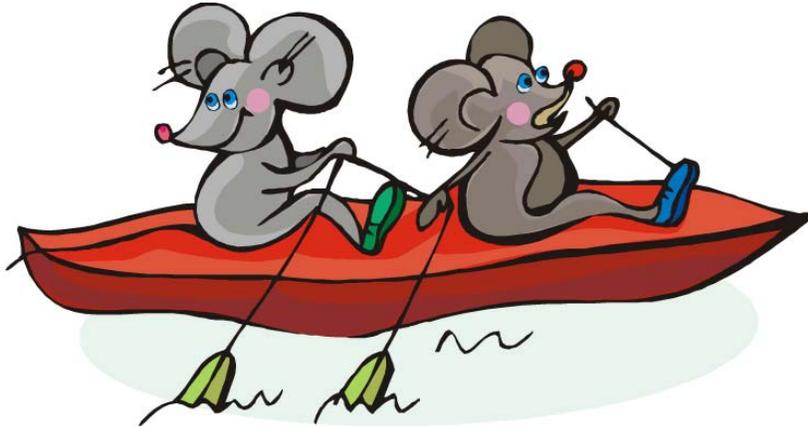
Location: DACS Resource Center in the lower level of Ives Manor at 198 Main Street, Danbury, CT, 06810

URL: <http://www.dacs.org/sigroups/study-group.htm>

Contact: Sean Henderson at 203-837-7068 or snh@seannhenderson.net



Do the General Meetings leave you thirsting for more?
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July

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Desktop Publishing

August

TBA