



## Next Meeting

### **DEC Unveils Enhanced Workstations**

WHEN MANY PEOPLE THINK of a workstation, they think of a PC. Well, think again. Digital has rolled out a revolutionary new line of personal workstations in which the PC is merely the core. This new family of systems was designed and built to maximize your business productivity. You get outstanding workstation performance, a choice of operating systems, dazzling graphics, and the industry's only CISC-to-RISC upgrade. A representative from Digital Equipment Corporation will be on hand at the January 6, 1998, General Meeting of the Danbury Area Computer Society to tell us all about Digital's line of workstations.

Digital's new workstations offers a range of choices to meet various performance needs today. It boasts a highly scaleable design to support the most demanding application requirements as they evolve. For Windows NT users, choose the i-Series, featuring Intel Pentium Pro and Pentium II processors with MMX

technology and highly scaleable multiprocessing support. Or opt for the a-Series, built on the superpowerful Digital Alpha processors. For the most demanding UNIX applications, choose the au-Series, featuring Digital Alpha processors running Digital UNIX.

The i-Series design means three things: performance, performance, and performance. Its Pentium II processor with MMX technology enhances the performance of complex media-intensive and communications applications. And for compute-intensive, threaded applications like MicroStation0 and 3D StudioMax, it's easy to add a second processor. With two processors, you dramatically improve throughput and maximize system performance.

The DACS meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with casual networking at the Danbury Hospital auditorium, 24 Hospital Avenue. The monthly business meeting starts at 7 p.m., with the presentation beginning around 8 p.m.

## Meeting Review

### **Power Corrupts Tame It with APC**

by Wally David

AS MORE AND MORE COMPUTERS FIND their way into homes and offices, so does the chance of damaged equipment. American Power Conversion (APC) is a leader in the effort to make the world safe for your computers and peripherals. Himanshu Patel of APC came to the December General Meeting of the Danbury Area Computer Society to tell us how power can be dangerous to our computers and show us how APC's products can protect them.

Unfortunately, Himanshu was unable to show us anything. He had two LCD projection displays but neither was working, and his notebook computer could not synchronize with the DACS LCD panel. Undaunted, Himanshu decided to wing it, launching into his presentation without the aid of his multimedia presentation slides. He explained the dangers presented by the very power the computer needs to run. That same power can severely damage or even destroy equipment. All of the information in Himanshu's presentation, and this article, can be found at APC's Web site, which is [www.apcc.com](http://www.apcc.com).

Sags, also known as brownouts, are short-term decreases in voltage levels and the most common power problem. They are usually caused by the startup power demands of many electrical devices (including motors, elevators, and shop tools). Electric companies use sags to cope with extraordinary power demands. In a procedure known as "rolling brownouts," the utility will systematically lower voltage levels in certain areas for hours or days at a time. Hot summer days, when air conditioning requirements are at their peak, will often prompt these brownouts. A sag can "starve" a computer of the power it needs to function and cause frozen keyboards and unexpected system crashes, both of which result in lost or corrupted data. Sags also reduce the efficiency and life of electrical equipment, particularly motors.

Blackouts, which are a total loss of power, are caused by excessive demand on the power grid, lightning storms, ice on power lines, car accidents, back hoes, earthquakes, and other catastrophes. If a blackout occurs while your computer is on, current work in RAM or cache is lost. The

See **Power** on page 5

# President's File

AT THE DECEMBER GENERAL meeting, six Board directors were elected for two-year terms. We welcome (or welcome back, as the case may be) Bruce Preston, Allan Ostergren, Marc Cohen, Jeff Setaro, Frances Owles, and Larry Buoy. The talents and energies of these directors will enable DACS to continue to grow and provide exciting programs in the years ahead.

## Snowed out

The downside of planning programs between December and February is what makes Santa's sleigh glide—snow. It came a little faster, a lot heavier, and lasted longer than we expected on Wednesday, December 10. That was the day of our advanced e-mail meeting. For the few who managed to dogsled in, we apologize for the late cancellation.

If there is an upside to this, it is that we learned there is a great interest in e-mail, so much so that we have rescheduled the advanced e-mail program for Wednesday, January 14. If we get the slightest hint that the weather will be nasty enough to force us to cancel, we'll e-mail you to let you know.

## "New-tos ..." revisited and revamped

Since the "New-to ..." programs have been so well received, we have decided to add to the series by offering a "New-to ..." program each month, weather permitting. On Wednesday, February 11, we will offer a New-to-Windows program. You can

expect to be guided through the basic interface and the management of files and documents, learn how to customize the interface and how to use the tools found in the Control Panel, and much more.

On March 19, we will be circling back to the Internet with our New-to-the-Net program. Starting with a discussion of the Internet's origins, you will then learn how you can set up a dial-up icon to your network provider, followed by an overview of browsers, search engines, bookmarks, and e-mail.

The new-to programs provide an excellent opportunity to introduce a spouse, neighbors, and friends to the Danbury Area Computer Society. We hope you'll take advantage of the programs and share them with potential new members.

## Bring in the noise

With the advances we're expecting in the computer industry in 1998, we look forward to a year of exciting programs. The trade presses suggest we can expect to see Moore's Law continue its outreach. Chips are being developed to perform at 1000 MHz, and bandwidth for many will expand to fractional T1 service via xDSL and cable alternatives. This may spur new interest in videographic and digital communications.

The controversy of the viability of the Internet or network computer may continue, but we will invariably see many new Internet communications devices appearing. The new materials that are able to retain nonvolatile memory suggest it won't be too far into the future before we see the computers of the next millennium. They will likely have no boot requirements. Complete operating systems, programs, and data will all be resident instantly, as soon as power is applied. All will reside within a single chip instead of in the hard drive, thus reducing the power requirements and shrinking the size of the computer. The devices that will bear intelligence capabilities and their potentials can only be imagined.

On a more personal note, we trust that you had a safe, happy and fun holiday with your family and friends. The DACS Board, our officers, and I wish you the best of the new year and all it brings.

— TOM MCINTYRE  
mcintyre@eci.com

# dacs.doc

## Membership Information

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

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## Committees

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**Program:** Wally David 203 790-7286 **Newsletter:** Frances Owles: 860 868-0077  
**Membership:** Jim Ragsdale 203 743-2039 **WEB Page:** Jeff Setaro 203 748-6748

## HelpLine

Volunteers have offered to field *member* questions by phone. Please limit calls to the hours indicated below. Days means 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; evening means 6 to 9:30 p.m. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are calling. HelpLine is a free service. If you are asked to pay for help or are solicited for sales, please contact the *dacs.doc* editor; the person requesting payment will be deleted from the listing.

*Can we add your name to the volunteer listing?*

Program	Name	Phone #	
Alpha Four	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
AOL	Marc Cohen	(203) 775-1102	( d e )
APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	( e )
AutoCAD	Peter Hylenski	(203) 797-1042	( e )
C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	( d e )
C ++	Reg Charney	(914) 833-0762	( d e )
Clipper	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	( e )
COBOL	Charles Godfrey	(203) 775-3543	( e )
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Interface -Instrumentation	Andrew Woodruff	(203) 798-2000	( d e )
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WordPerfect	John Heckman	(203) 831-0442	( e )

## Directors' Notes

DACS' Board of Directors held its monthly meeting at the Resource Center in Danbury on Monday, December 8, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Cohen, David, Gingras, McIntyre, Ostergren, Preston, Setaro, and Mrs. Owles. Also present was Dan McLeod. President Tom McIntyre presided; secretary Larry Buoy kept the records of the meeting. The minutes of the November 10 meeting were approved. New directors Frances Owles and Larry Buoy were welcomed.

### Finance and Membership

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current checking and postal accounts of \$13,798.05, receivables of \$1,165.00, and postage on hand of \$151.16 for a total cash position of \$15,114.21. He also reported current membership of 652. With respect to the ongoing mailing problems, Mr. Bovaird reported that he had been informed that second-class mail is available only to volume mailers and that the first-class rate for the newsletter would be 55 cents per piece.

### New Equipment

Jeff Setaro advised that the search for a new projector for use at general meetings continues. After discussing the feasible choices remaining, the board unanimously voted that a new projector and carrying case be purchased, at Jeff's discretion, with total cost not to exceed \$6,000.

Further discussion of the proposed purchase of a digital camera for the primary use of preparation of the newsletter was had, with Dan McLeod offering insights into the practical limitations and advantages. It was decided that the issue be tabled pending further research.

### Insurance

Treasurer Charles Bovaird advised that our present insurance coverage would soon terminate and outlined its provisions, limits, and historical background. The board voted to renew the current policy.

### Other matters

Allan Ostergren suggested that revisions to several of DACS' internal responsibilities and activities might be considered to make the organization more effective.

A short discussion ensued regarding the value of DACS' membership in the

*Continued on page 4*

**DIRECTORS' NOTES** *Continued from page 3*

Association of Personal Computer User Groups.

The Board then addressed the issue of how best to determine and serve the needs of, as well as attract, new members. Included were distribution of questionnaires and their analysis, suggestions for new subjects for the "New to ...," series and the inclusion of lead-ins to more advanced classes or related SIGs, and a repeat of the Boot Camp sessions. It was also suggested that the Board consider, at its next meeting, revisions to the Help Line. that appears in dacs.doc.

The local chapter of the Web Girls, a Web designer group, had requested the use of the Resource Center for a meeting or meetings, and it was agreed that such use be granted.

— LARRY BUOY

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**DACS New  
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- 1) David Clark
- 2) Richard Jablonski
- 3) John T. Stein
- 4) J. G. Tolmoff
- 5) Adam Trimborn
- 6) Sally Vaun

If the membership date  
on your mailing label reads  
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**THIS IS YOUR LAST  
NEWSLETTER.**

You need to renew your  
DACS membership now!

**E-MAIL NOTICE**

65% of our paying members have reported valid email addresses to us.

Meeting notices are sent to these members via email the week before the general meeting.

If you have an email address and do not get these notices, send an email message to [aam@eci.com](mailto:aam@eci.com) saying you would like to receive these timely notices.

**Local Area  
Internet Providers**

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Earthlink	800-395-8425
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On The Net	203-270-6388
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**Power** from page 1

hard drive File Allocation Table (FAT) may also be lost, which results in total loss of data stored on drive.

A spike, also referred to as an impulse, is an instantaneous, dramatic increase in voltage. Like the force of a tidal wave, a spike can enter electronic equipment through AC, network, serial, or phone lines and damage or completely destroy components. Spikes are typically caused by a nearby lightning strike but can also occur when utility power comes back on line after having been knocked out in a storm or as the result of a car accident. Catastrophic damage can occur to hardware and data may be lost.

Surges are short-term increases in voltage, typically lasting at least a fraction of a second. Surges result from the presence of high-powered electrical motors, such as air-conditioners and household appliances in the vicinity. When this equipment is switched off, the extra voltage is dissipated through the power line. Computers and similar sensitive electronic devices are designed to receive power within a certain voltage range. Anything outside of expected peak and average voltage levels will stress delicate components and cause premature failure.

Electrical noise, more technically referred to as Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) or Radio Frequency Interference (RFI), disrupts the smooth sine wave one expects from utility power. Electrical noise is caused by many factors and phenomena, including lightning, load switching, generators, radio transmitters, and industrial equipment. It may be intermittent or chronic. Noise introduces glitches and errors into executable programs and data files. Below are some figures from APC's Web site, dealing with the cause of computer problems. The source for the information is Contingency Planning. As you can see from the distribution below, power problems are the main culprit.

- Power Failure/Surge: 45.3%
- Storm Damage: 9.4%
- Fire or Explosion: 8.2%
- Hardware/Software Error: 8.2%
- Flood & Water Damage: 6.7%
- Earthquake: 5.5%
- Network Outage: 4.5%
- Human Error/Sabotage: 3.2%
- HVAC Failure: 2.3%
- Other 6.7%

Now that we know what the dangers are and what they can do, what can be done? APC has a wide array of power protection products available. They range from surge-

suppressing power strips to uninterruptable power supplies (UPS) that can protect an entire data center. Simply put, a UPS is multiple outlet surge suppresser with a big battery. In the event of a spike, surge, or sag, the equipment is protected from harm. In the event of a blackout, the battery kicks in and allows you time to shut down your computer in an orderly fashion to prevent data loss.

Himanshu showed us a blackened piece of melted plastic and metal that hung from an electrical cord, which he had received at his office earlier that day. He said it was a UPS that had been plugged into an electrical system that had suffered a major power spike. All the computer equipment plugged into the UPS was completely unharmed. The UPS did what it was supposed

to do: It sacrificed itself and absorbed the massive spike. The only damage that extended beyond the UPS was a stain on the carpeting caused by the melting plastic of the case. This display elicited a strong reaction from the audience and drove home the reason that protection for computers is so important. Himanshu was happy to point out that APC replace the damaged UPS free of charge and that any equipment plugged into the APC UPS would have been covered for damages up to \$25,000.

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*WALLY DAVID is a member of the Board of Directors of DACS and also on the dacs.doc editorial committee. He is the network administrator for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a nonprofit trade association for the gun industry. Contact Wally via e-mail at wallydavid@myself.com.*

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## Community Service

### Want to Donate a Monitor?

#### A Bridgeport High School needs your help

On Friday, December 12, Charles Bovaird, Phil Dilloway, and Marc Cohen, representing the DACS Community SIG, delivered 20 Windows-capable computers, complete with supporting hardware and software, to the Sheridan Alternative High School in Bridgeport. DACS became aware of this need through Jacqueline Cohen, an English as a Second Language (ESL) professional and also Marc's daughter, who is doing her student teaching at the school as part of a master's program in education offered by the University of Bridgeport. Jacqueline, who knew her school desperately needed computers, clued in Matthew George, coordinator of the alternative education programs for Bridgeport Board of Education. Mr. George was delighted with the idea and gave it a thumbs up.

About the time DACS received the formal request from Mr. George, the UPS Research Center in Danbury called us to say they had nine 486 systems available for adoption. These we added to 11 other donations we had acquired over the past four months from Ervin Levin Associ-

ates, an accounting firm in New Canaan, and Mrs. Steven Santuilli of Pound Ridge, New York. Mr. George said that the machines will be distributed among classrooms at Sheridan and integrated into the school curriculum for use by all interested students.

DACS supplied monitors to support six of the machines, but fourteen more are needed. Can you help? If you would like to donate a monitor (VGA or better) or, better still, your old computer, to the alternative ed. program, please contact Charlie Bovaird at 203-792-7881. Thanks.



*DACS reps Charlie Bovaird (left), Phil Dilloway (right), and Marc Cohen (taking this pic) delivers used computers to Bridgeport Board of Ed coordinator Matthew George (second from left), thanks to teaching intern Jacqueline Cohen.*

## Taxes

# Do-It-Yourself Tax Prep

by Robert Preston, CPA

**D**O YOU USE Home Depot for do-it-yourself projects because you know you can do it better and cheaper? And what about your taxes? Do you prepare them on the PC? If not, you're probably losing money, both in professional fees and in tax overpayments.

But I've got an accountant, you say, and I can't handle the complexities of preparing my own return. Bunk! The tax software now available for doing your own taxes is superb—powerful, easy to use, and has lots of built-in expert help and reference material. All you need to do is get your data (even if it's in shoebox format), sit down, rev up the computer, and you're off. The program will take you, step by step, through everything you need to prepare the return, including such exotic areas as depreciation and the alternative minimum tax.

Have any tax-related, IRS-oriented questions? Think you need a tax professional for the answers? Maybe not. The programs offer lots of online help, including complete instructions for all the forms, full text of the most common IRS taxpayer publications, and the advice and experience of professional gurus like Mary Spouse (former IRS group audit manager) and Jane Bryant Quinn, resource pros that may offer you the experience and ability equal or exceeding that of your current professional advisors.

Here are two more reasons to go it yourself: the time constraints accountant's face and electronic filing, both explained below.

Let's face it. The tax laws are complex in spite of Congress' "simplification" pitch. And each situation (yours in this case) is unique. Every taxpayer's situation has its own little subtleties and intricate questions to resolve. How can any accountant know all that has to be known about your situation and spend the necessary time on your account analyzing the various methodologies to minimize your taxes, (especially when most of the data for tax returns comes into an accountant's office during the same six-week period every year—late February through early April), and make a decent living? It's difficult. Take it from a CPA.

So, what happens. The accountant gets your data, puts it in a computer pro-

gram, and does the best possible job given the restricted amount of time that can be allocated to each return. That amount of time is limited by two factors:

(1) the number of returns the professional has to complete and

(2) how much the return can absorb in billing (fees).

Most accountants know any return will justify only so much in fees and know they must be careful not to run up too much time that can't be billed. Otherwise, the income from the practice will not justify the work performed, and the accountant might as well pump gas or flip hamburgers for a living. (This is why most attorneys don't do tax returns—not enough money in them.)

So how do you get around this problem? Do the tax return yourself (at least the initial draft), and spend enough time in its preparation to cover most of the angles and possible combinations of laws as they affect you. You can look at many more permutations than your accountant might have time for, and you'll reduce your professional fees significantly.

Want the return signed or checked by a CPA? No problem. Finish the return the best you can, copy the data file to a disk, and send the disk, via modem or snail mail, to your accountant for a final review. This way you're getting maximum

value for your accountant's time (you're not using his time for low-level data organization or putting together the basic return), and you'll discover if you missed any key tax principles. Have your accountant finalize the return, sign it, and zap it to the IRS electronically.

Why electronically? First, you'll get an e-mail acknowledgment from the IRS it was received; second, you'll eliminate one of the primary factors that triggers a preliminary audit, i.e., data errors, and third, you'll get your refund in two to three weeks, directly deposited into your account. Electronically filed returns can't have data errors, as they are proofed several ways before the IRS accepts them.

While some CPAs will accommodate this approach, others may not want to review your draft return, maybe saying it's too much trouble, or there's not enough money in it. What to do? Simple. Get a CPA who's into technology and thinking about the future—and you!

If you want to get a firsthand feel of how to do your own tax return before the current year's programs are released, most of the major vendors have specials on the prior year's software for minimal rates. The '97 releases should have excellent recaps of the recent tax law changes, in particular the ramifications involving IRAs and planning for educational expenses. Two leading programs to consider are TurboTax (Intuit) and TaxCut (Kiplinger). Both should have '97 releases arriving around the end of December or early January. Consider the CD-ROM versions to obtain the maximum online help and research capabilities.

Happy tax prep!  
ROBERT PRESTON is a regular contributor to *dacs.doc* on financial issues and software.

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## E-Mail

# Free E-mail for Bargain Hunters

by Mike Kaltschnee

**E**-MAIL is by far the most popular use of the Internet, with more than 90% of the estimated 70 million people online using it at least occasionally. I use it daily, if not hourly, to communicate with my partners, customers, dealers, suppliers, and even my Mom. If you have an Internet account (such as one from AOL, SNET, or North American Internet), you can send e-mail to anyone on the Internet, no matter where they are in the world.

I routinely send and receive e-mail to Europe, Asia, South America, Russia, and even Japan. I love it because I can answer it at any time, from almost anywhere, and I don't have to play phone tag.

If you don't have an Internet account, don't worry. A great way to get started on the Internet is to use a service like **Juno**, a free service that enables virtually anyone with a computer and a modem to send and receive e-mail. (And you don't have to have the latest and greatest models. A 386 with Windows 3.1 is adequate.)

The best way is to get the Juno disk is from a friend who has Internet access ([www.juno.com](http://www.juno.com)). Or you can call Juno direct at (800) 654-JUNO, but they will charge you \$8.82 if you order by phone. You will never have another bill from them because the service is totally free. But you will pay a price. Juno is subsidized by advertisers who pay for the service, so you'll have to endure their ads to get and receive your mail. I recently set a friend of mine up on Juno, and although they had almost no computer experience, they were quickly sending and receiving e-mail from friends in Connecticut and Lebanon.

If you already have an Internet account and are looking for a second e-mail

address, there are many alternatives. You might want the second e-mail address for business or home use, or for getting information from newsgroups (see below). Some of the services claim to offer a "lifetime" e-mail address. Check out [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com), [www.netaddress.com](http://www.netaddress.com), or even [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) for a free second e-mail account. There's even a list of free e-mail services if you search on "free e-mail" at [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). I'm considering using a Web-based e-mail service when I go to Hong Kong at the end of the year, I'll just forward my e-mail to that account and read it using my brother-in-law's account in Hong Kong. If you're curious about how to forward your e-mail, it depends on what type of account you have, so be sure to ask your Internet service provider.



### Mail filters

Filtering the mail you receive is important if you're like my partner who gets hundreds (yes, I've seen it) of e-mail message every day. He subscribes to many different mailing lists, and uses e-mail to keep in touch with dozens of clients at a time. The filtering ability exists in almost every e-mail program, including Eudora, Netscape Mail, and Microsoft Internet Mail (what I use).

To filter your mail, you must already have folders set up for the different types of mail you want to automatically file. I have folders called "humor," "DACS," "WebWork," and many others. You simply tell your e-mail program that you want to put any message with "DACS" in the subject field into the folder called "DACS." That's it. If you get stuck, check with the online Help file in your e-mail program.

### Newsgroups

Newsgroups are another type of service that your Internet service provider might offer. North American Internet (800-952-INET) offers more than 28,000 different newsgroups, which are simply

mailing lists on a wide variety of topics, including politics, religion, sex, computers, jobs, life, practical jokes, and much more. Almost any topic you can think of has its own newsgroup, and even some topics your haven't. You can use a newsgroup reader to see the messages, or you can subscribe to them. Check the instructions that came with your Internet account for information on how to access newsgroups.

### Spam

This month Allen Ostergren, our underpaid and overworked DACS editor, asked me to write about unwanted e-mail, commonly known as "spam." Unlike the pink, canned meat product, spam is simply an offer for a product or service that you did not request. And unlike an unwanted fax, which is illegal, spam is not a crime.

I get several unwanted messages a day, and although it only takes me a minute to delete them, it is still a pain. Unlike direct mail delivered by the Post Office (analog mail), which really doesn't cost you anything to throw away, you are paying for your Internet connection. Some people argue that since it costs you money, spam should be illegal. Others argue that it really doesn't cost you anything, and provides businesses with a way to market goods and services. The debate rages on, and the battle is being fought in court. One solution is to filter your mail (as described above) and read only what you want.

I like to hear from people who read these columns, so feel free to send me mail at [mikek@demorgan.com](mailto:mikek@demorgan.com). Just don't try and sell me anything, otherwise you'll get deleted!

MIKE KALTSCHNEE is a co-owner of DeMorgan Industries, the publishers of *WebSpice 1,000,000 Page Design Edition* ([www.webspice.com](http://www.webspice.com)).

### A partial listing of free e-mail services:

- Bigfoot [www.bigfoot.com](http://www.bigfoot.com)
- Excite [www.excite.com](http://www.excite.com)
- HotMail [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com)
- Juno [www.juno.com](http://www.juno.com)
- Lycos E-mail [www.lycos.com](http://www.lycos.com)
- Yahoo E-mail [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

Note: All of the services above (except Juno) require a separate Internet account.

## Special Interest Groups

**Access-** Design and implementation of solutions using Microsoft Access database management.

Contact: **Bruce Preston**, 203-431-2920. Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7pm at AMSYS Computer, Ridgefield  
Next Meeting: Jan 13, 1998.

**Advanced Operating Systems** - Studies using, exploiting and developing OS/2, BSD UNIX and NT operating systems.

Contact: **Don Pearson**, 914-669-9622.

Meets on Wednesday of the week after the General Meeting at 7:30pm at Don Pearson's house, North Salem, NY.

Next Meeting: Jan 14, 1998.

**Desktop Publishing-** Edits and produces *dacs.doc*. Anyone interested in the art of newsletter publishing is welcome.

Contact: **Allan Ostergren**, 860-210-0047.

Meets on Thursday following monthly general meeting at 7pm at the DACS Resource Center, 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next meeting: Jan 8, 1998.

**Education-** Coordinates DACS education classes.

Contact: **Charlie Bovaird**, 203-792-7881. Meets as needed.

**Financial** - Discusses various investment strategies emphasizing careful selection to maximize profits and limit risk.

Contact: **Will Toll**, 203-270-1519, or **Paul Gehrett**, 203-426-8436. Meets on 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm. Edmond Town Hall, Newtown.

Next Meeting: Jan 15, 1998.

**Graphics** - Learn to create and print quality images.

Contact: **Ken Graff**, 203-775-6667.

Meets on last Wednesday at 7pm at Best Photo, Brookfield.

Next Meeting: Jan 28, 1998.

**Internet** - Acquaints DACS members with all aspects of Internet.

Contact: **Diane Greenwald**, 203-797-4505.

Meets on 3rd Wednesday at 7pm at Danbury Public Library Community Room, 170 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Jan 21, 1998.

**Macintosh** - Serves as a forum for a discussion of Macintosh hardware and software..

Contact: **Chris Salaz** 203-798-6417.

Meets on 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm. DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor, 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Jan 20, 1998.

**Visual Basic** - Focuses on developing Windows applications using Visual Basic.

Contact: **Chuck Fizer**, 798-9996 or **Jim Scheef**, 860-355-8001.

Meets 1st Wednesday 7pm at DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor, 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Jan 7, 1998.

**Voice for Joanie** - Provides and supports people with Lou Gehrig's disease with special PC computer equipment.

Contact: **Shirley Fredlund**, 860-355-2611 x4517.

Meets on last Tuesday at 7:30pm. Datahr, Brookfield.

Next Meeting: Jan 27, 1998.

**Wall Street** - New Windows stock marketing software.

Contact: **Phil Dilloway**, 203-367-1202.

Meets on last Monday at 7pm at A. G. Edwards, 42 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Jan 26, 1998.

**Windows** - Explores all phases of Windows 95 and 3.1.

Contact: **Ben Carnevale**, 203-748-1751. Meets on the 2nd Friday at 7pm at Senior Employment Center, 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Jan 9, 1998. Register with Ben first.

**Word Processing** - Learn word processing techniques.

Contact: **Vince Tichy**, 203-746-7690. Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm at DACS Resource Center, Ives manor (lower level), 198 Main, Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Jan 13, 1998. Register with Vince first.

## Additional SIG Notes General

The SIG Notes and Calendar are available on the Internet on Dan McLeod's home page. Changes from the SIG Notes and Calendar printed in ***dacs.doc*** will be shown in ***red*** and ***italics***. The Internet address for the SIG Notes and Calendar is: <http://www.concentric.net/~dwmcleod/signotes.htm>. Please type it precisely as shown and use only lower case. Comments on the Internet SIG Notes would be appreciated by E-mail at [dwmcleod@concentric.net](mailto:dwmcleod@concentric.net).

### **SIG Activities**

A number of SIG's have not been meeting regularly and have been dropped from the January SIG Notes. If enough member interest is shown in the SIG topic they could be reactivated. Call the SIG leader to show interest in the SIG topic. The following SIGs have been dropped from the SIG Notes until further notice:

**APL-** Call Ed Shaw at 203-762-3933(day).

**Beginners & DOS-** Call Herb Deutsch at 203-438-3367.

**Community-** Call Charlie Bovaird at 203-792-7881.

**Hardware Support-** Call Ed Heere at 203-438-1500.

**Lotus Notes-** Call Bill Miller at 203-790-7155.

**PowerBuilder-** Call Steve Harkness at 860-355-0748.

**Virtual Reality-** Call Ed Fitzgerald at 203-222-9253.

Herb Deutsch would like to know if anyone is interested in learning Adobe Photoshop. Interested members should call Herb at 203-438-3367.

### **Macintosh**

The SIG will be looking at genealogy applications and demonstrating the latest version of Reunion 5.0. February will feature a CAD program, and March MacIntax.

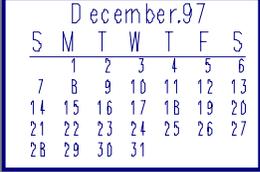
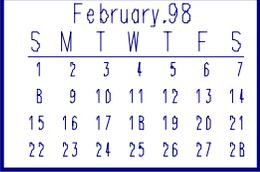
### **VB**

The December meeting started with random access and general questions about VB compilation and compilers in general, and then continued with a discussion of the virtues of compiled p Code and compiled VB DLLs. Also, we discussed the potential pre-compilation capabilities of VB 5, to be released by Microsoft early next year. Jim Scheef then gave an insightful demonstration of a print program and the code and coding style behind it. This prompted discussion about coding styles, e.g., what to put into teas modules versus the form module; the concept of generalized code in class modules, and the use of OLE servers and their value as programmed objects.

The topic for the January meeting will be accessing the WEB for information about VB, tools, shareware, freeware and tips, etc.

# January 1998

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 				1	2	3
4	5	 <p>7:00 PM General Meeting: Danbury Hospital</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Visual Basic: Chuck Fizer 203-798-9996</p>	 <p>7:00 PM DTP: Allan Ostergren 860-210-0047</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Windows: Ben Carnevale 203-748-1751</p>	 <p><b>NEWS LETTER DEADLINE</b></p>
11	 <p>7:30 PM DACS Directors Mtg</p>	<p>7:00 PM Access: Bruce Preston 431-2920</p> <p>7:30 PM Word Processing: Vince Tichy 203-746-7690</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Advanced Operating Systems: Don Pearson 914-669-9622</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Financial: Will Toll 203-270-1519</p>		 <p><b>SIG NOTES DEADLINE</b></p>
18	19	 <p>7:30 PM Macintosh: Chris Salaz 203-798-6417</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Internet: Diane Greenwald 203-797-4505</p>	22	23	24
25	 <p>7:00 PM Wall Street: Phil Dillaway 203-367-1202</p>	 <p>7:30 PM Voice For Joanie: Shirley Fredlund 860-355-2611 x4517</p>	 <p>7:00 PM Graphics: Ken Graff 203-775-6667</p>	29	30	31

## Microsoft Addresses Justice Department Accusations

REDMOND, Wash.—Oct. 21, 1997—In direct response to accusations made by the Department of Justice, Microsoft Corporation announced today it will be acquiring the Federal Government of the United States of America for an undisclosed sum. "It's actually a logical extension of our growth," said Microsoft chairman and CEO Bill Gates. "It's a positive arrangement for everyone."

Microsoft representatives held a briefing at the Oval Office with US President Bill Clinton, and assured members of the press that changes to US Government policy will be "minimal." The United States will be managed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corp. An initial public offering is planned for July 4 of next year, and the Federal Government is expected to be profitable by 1999, according to Microsoft president Steve Ballmer.

In a related announcement, President Bill Clinton stated that he had "willingly and enthusiastically" accepted a position as vice president of USA Operations with Microsoft, and will continue to manage the United States government, reporting directly to Microsoft chairman and CEO

Bill Gates. When asked how it felt to give up the mantle of executive authority, Clinton smiled and referred to it as "a relief." He went on to say that Gates has a "proven track record," and that US citizens should offer Gates their "full support and confidence."

In his new role at Microsoft, Clinton will reportedly be earning several times the \$200,000 annually he currently earns as US president. Gates dismissed a rumor that the US Capitol be moved to Redmond as "silly," though he did say he would make executive decisions for the US government from his existing office at Microsoft headquarters.

Gates did say, however, that the US House and Senate would "of course" be abolished. "Microsoft isn't a democracy," Gates said, "yet look how well we're doing." When asked if the rumored attendant acquisition of Canada was proceeding, Gates would only say that Microsoft doesn't comment on unannounced products.

Microsoft representatives closed the conference by stating that United States citizens will be able to expect lower taxes, increases in government services, dis-

counts on all Microsoft products, and the immediate arrest of all executive officials of Sun Microsystems Inc. and Netscape Corp.

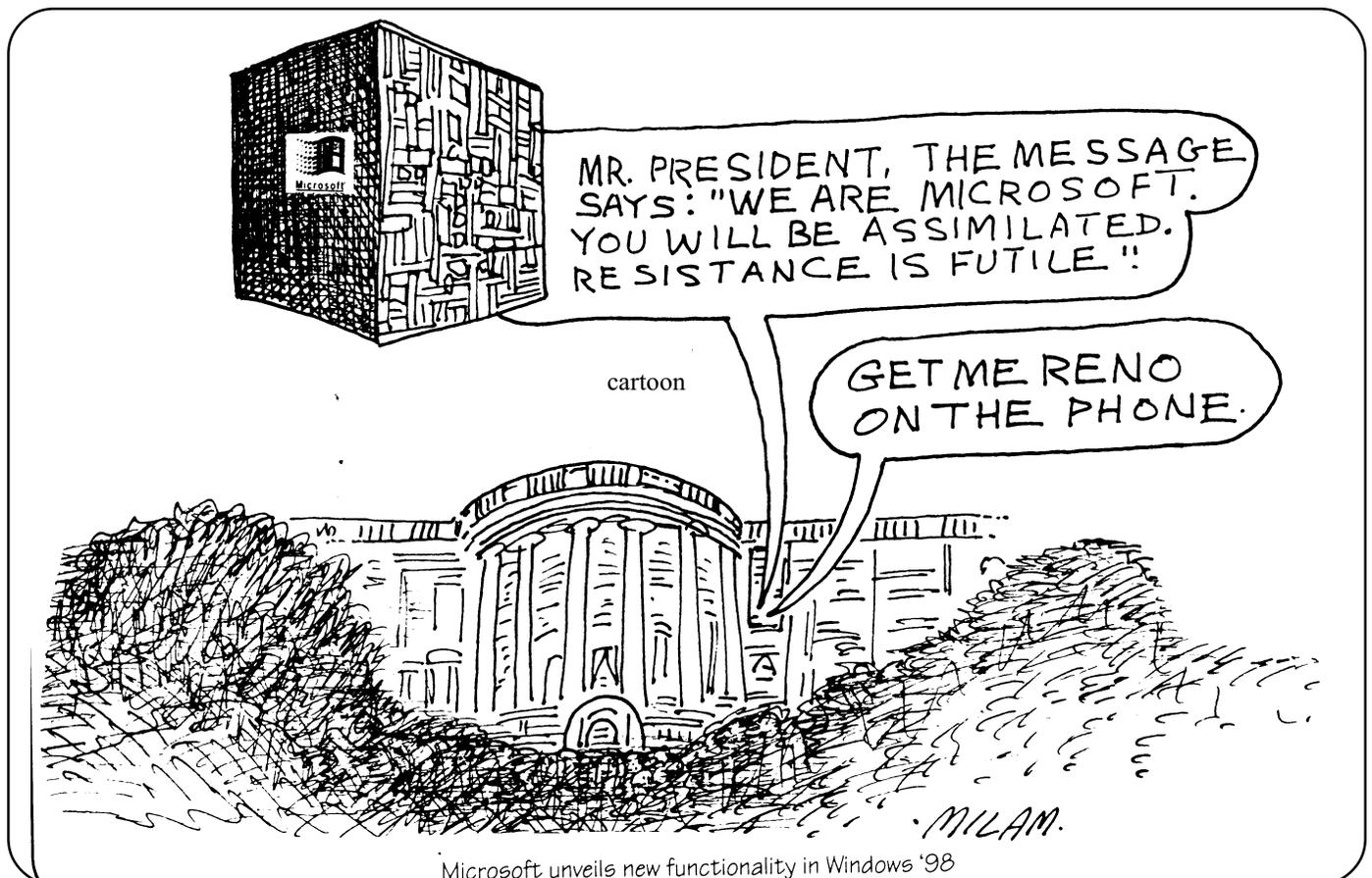
### About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers, and democratic government. The company offers a wide range of products and services for public, business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing and mostly free society every day.

### About the United States

Founded in 1776, the United States of America is the most successful nation in the history of the world, and has been a beacon of democracy and opportunity for over 200 years. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the United States is a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation.

*"The United States of America" and "Microsoft" are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.*



Microsoft unveils new functionality in Windows '98

## Member Tracks

### Midcore Update

**A** while back we profiled Midcore Software, the Danbury company developing modem-sharing technology. Jerry Metcoff, a co-founder and vice president, and Dave Wilson, a co-founder and president, and both DACS members, demonstrated an earlier version of their software at one of our general meetings. What are they up to now? Growing Midcore wrote the software that Boca Research, developers of superfast modems, is using to run their new duo-modem. Excerpts of the Boca press release describing the new product follows.

BOCA RATON, Fla.—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Nov. 11, 1997— Boca Research, Inc. today announced that it has developed a new data communications product that combines two 56K fax/data modems on a single board, allowing data transfer rates at near-ISDN speeds. The product will ship in mid-December. Tony Zalenski, Boca's President and CEO, commented, "We have positioned the DynamicDuo to bridge the gap between today's 56K modems and the digital technology of the future.

The DynamicDuo was specifically designed for the home Internet surfer who wants fast, easy Internet access without incurring the cost of today's digital technology." Mr. Zalenski continued, "It was important to us to make this technology available to end users now and at a cost-effective price. Unlike our competitors' products, end users do not have to wait for their ISP to upgrade their infrastructures to obtain accelerated Internet download speeds. End users can use the modem the day it is installed. They simply install the hardware and software and obtain an additional ISP account. It is that simple."

The end user needs a modem connection and an additional phone line and ISP account. If the ISP currently supports K56flex, the ISP does not need additional switching equipment in order for the modem to achieve the potential 112K download rate. If the ISP does not support K56flex, the modems will fall back to a 33.6K protocol to achieve a rate of up to 67K. Jackie Miller, Boca's Vice President of Marketing and Purchasing, added, Boca will bundle the 112K DynamicDuo

modem with a customized version of MidCore Software's MidPoint Teamer software with Modem Teaming and Download Doubler features. The Modem Teaming feature acts as a manager of both 56K modem connections, directing each modem to constantly request and download Internet data files.

The Download Doubler feature is responsible for splitting individual files and graphics in half, receiving one half through one connection while receiving the second half in parallel through the second connection. In addition, Boca will bundle an upgrade with the modem that allows for two users to simultaneously access the Internet at up to 112 Kbps.

**David Wilson**, President of MidCore, said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our company. By bundling our software product with Boca's new, high-end Internet access product, we are able to quickly raise our product's market awareness." In the event a phone call comes into one of the telephone lines and if call-waiting is a feature of the line's telephone service, one of the 56K modems will automatically drop its Internet connection to allow the end user to answer the call or fax. Meanwhile, the other modem will retain the Internet connection. When the call is completed, the modem automatically redials and restores the high-speed Internet connection.

## Volunteers Needed

Do you have a couple of hours each week to make a difference in the life of a technologically disadvantaged adult or child? Try volunteering!

Technology is the future of many jobs, and Americans are beginning to understand the importance it has in our lives as we head into the 21st century. Yet to avoid a digital divide between the technological haves and have-nots, we need to ensure that everyone has access to computer technology. This is the idea behind Frosty Homestead Apartments, Computerized Learning Center (CLC).

Frost Homestead Apartments is a US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) moderate income community, owned and operated by New Samaritan Family Housing of Waterbury, Inc. a private non-profit organization founded in 1971. This 63 unit complex, located in the east-end of Waterbury, is home to 159 residents including 48 children. It is a stable and secure community where over 40% of the residents have resided for ten or more years. A close working relationship has been established between the CLC and the Waterbury School system to promote educational opportunities and job training for adult residents of the program.

Volunteers are needed to teach classes and serve as mentors, tutors and coaches. Individuals willing to teach a class or workshop on the Internet or a business application software package are encouraged to enroll. One-on-one mentors are especially sought to establish a long-term relationship with the children.

Financial assistance is also needed to off-set start-up costs. In addition to making straight financial contribution, donors have the option to participate in the SNET Community Connections program. When you sign up for SNET All Distance as your long distance telephone provider, SNET will make a quarterly contribution to the CLC equal to 5% of your long distance calls. Even if you already are a SNET All Distance customer you can still sign up for Community Connections to assist the CLC.

To learn more about this exciting initiative, call Ed Hayden, Project Administrator or Linda Bernegger, On-Line Service Coordinator at 203 574.5456.

Linda Bernegger Frost Homestead Apartments 16 Mortimer Street Waterbury, CT 06704 203 574.5456

# Office 97

## A Pain in the Apps. Fighting Office 97 Annoyances

by John Heckman

**W**OODY LEONHARD must be a thorn in Microsoft's side. Author of numerous best-selling books on Microsoft products, including *The Hacker's Guide to Word for Windows* and *The Mother of all Windows 95 Books*, he is nevertheless merciless when it comes to what he views as the "annoyances" of the most recent Microsoft products. Woody's new series (written with co-authors Lee Hudspeth and T.J. Lee) can be grouped under the rubric



"The association between the image of a dodo and Office 97 is a trade-mark of O'Reilly & Associates, Inc."

"Microsoft Annoyances." Titles include *Office 97 Annoyances*, *Word 97 Annoyances*, *Excel 97 Annoyances* ... you get the idea.

Woody's preface to *Office 97 Annoyances* sets the tone: "Microsoft keeps asking us all, 'Where do you want to go today?' " Are they kidding? You know where you want to go today; we know where you want to go today; the only group that seems to be unclear on this issue is Microsoft. You want to get your work done, flip your PC's power switch to that lovely OFF position, call it a day, and go home!

The series provides concrete suggestions and workarounds that will let you "get your work done" faster and more efficiently by fixing some of the shortcomings of the Office 97 products.

When Microsoft released Office 97, there was little if any provision for backward compatibility. This problem led to a brouhaha that eventually caused Microsoft to publicly apologize for the "inconvenience" it had caused end users. Windows magazine went so far as to remove Outlook from its WinList of recommended products.

The *Annoyances* books tell you where to download the most recent patches and where to look for patches issued after the books were published. In particular, Microsoft has issued a converter that allows users to save Word 97 files in previous formats (wrdcnv97.exe at <http://www.microsoft.com/word>). The authors strongly recommend that you check [www.microsoft.com/officefreestuff](http://www.microsoft.com/officefreestuff) regularly for new patches and download them for products you use. Other sites are listed in the box concerning Microsoft sources.

### Vital Changes

Each book in the series has an early chapter on "Vital Changes" that describes what default settings work best and which ones to turn off. These include:

- Disable Fast Find in Win 95. We've had nothing but trouble with it.
- Turn off FastSave in Word 97. It leads to bloated files and can cause text to disappear.
- Get some third-party anti-virus software (Norton, McAfee, Dr. Solomon's, IBM). The anti-virus warning that Microsoft provides does nothing to prevent or fix viruses.
- How to avoid some of the vagaries of the AutoCorrect and Autoformat features.
- Turn on the Paragraph and Tab markers. This is strongly recommended; in Word, all formatting markers are hidden in the paragraph markers.
- Customize your startup folder and menu and work through various default settings so you can choose the ones you like (which may not be the same ones Bill Gates likes).

### Web Sources for Office 97 Info

SOURCE	CONTENT
<a href="http://www.halcyon.com/cerelli">www.halcyon.com/cerelli</a>	Information on Win 95 bugs and customization
<a href="http://www.slipstick.com">www.slipstick.com</a>	Information on Outlook and MS mail applications
<a href="http://www.nd.edu/~@crunge/word.html">www.nd.edu/~@crunge/word.html</a>	Links to Word and WordPerfect sources
<a href="http://www.wopr.com">www.wopr.com</a>	Woody Leonhard's site. Contains answers to a lot of questions, shareware, and other goodies.
wow@woprcom (send e-mail with nothing on subject line)	This subscribes to Woody's Office Watch, a free weekly e-mail bulletin of bugs, fixes, and suggestions for Microsoft products.
<a href="http://www.wordinfo.com">www.wordinfo.com</a>	List of Office 97 easter eggs and how to activate them.
<a href="http://www.primecomputing.com">www.primecomputing.com</a>	Gives answers for questions concerning Excel, Word, Office 97, etc.
<a href="ftp://microsoft.com/softlib/">ftp.microsoft.com/softlib/</a>	List of all Microsoft files that can be downloaded. Softlib.exe is an Access database, index.txt is text file.
<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/officefreestuff">www.microsoft.com/officefreestuff</a>	Lists free programs and routines that can be downloaded. Some are valuable, others not. Caveat emptor.

- Change the very useful Office Short-cut Bar to reflect options you use most often, including adding (gasp!) non-Microsoft products to the bar.

### Useful Suggestions

The books walk the user through modifying what they call the “demoware” toolbars that ship with Office 97 products (good for flashing demos, not much good for working) so that the options you use most frequently are displayed. They also include sections on realistically assessing the danger from viruses (and how to combat them) and give you detailed suggestions concerning specific features. For example, the *Office 97* book describes exactly how to run a Word mail merge against Outlook information (it’s easy to make a mistake). It lists the programs and items contained on the CD-ROM that are not installed with a standard installation, as well as all ValuPak items.

The only way to disable pop-up tips for toolbar icons, we are told, is to do so from Excel. If you disable them in any other application, they are re-enabled any time you open Excel. If you’ve ever tried to do this without knowing this particular glitch, it can drive you crazy.

All suggestions are interspersed with running commentary, featuring expressions like “bunk,” “relatively brain dead,” “utterly useless but very sexy marketing garbage,” and so on. No doubt your favorites (once you get used to the style, which takes some doing) will correspond to the parts of Microsoft products you find most annoying. My personal favorite is the comment that VBA/Word “harbors more bugs than a Louisiana bayou.”

### VBA Routines

Why bother with it? As usual, the authors are quite up front about this: “That’s an awfully good question,” they say. “The answer is, simply, that VBA/Word is so powerful—so capable of overcoming Word’s most annoying problems”—that everyone stands to benefit from using it. Basically, Leonhard et al have a Dr. Strangelove approach to Office 97: Stop worrying and learn to love Microsoft.

Some of the VBA routines that are included in the books are powerful and extremely useful. More of them, available free on Woody’s wopr.com site, include a “ShowAll” routine that lists all of Word’s built-in command names; a way to disable Word’s “float over” default; a macro to toggle between Excel’s formulas and results display, and a “shape grab-

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  - Visual Basic, MS Access
  - COBOL, PL/1, DB2, CICS, MVS, VAX
  - Visual C++, OLE, ODBC
- Technical Support/Help Desk
  - DOS, Windows, Windows NT, OS/2
- Project Management/Business Consultants
- Data Modeling
  - Bachman, ADW, IEF, Case Tools
- Internet Development
- Focus
- SAS
- PowerBuilder Development

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For more information regarding opportunities throughout North America, please call: 1-800-375-2084

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ber” macro that allows you to select more than one shape in PowerPoint.

For all Word’s power, if learning a programming language (which is what VBA is) is a prerequisite to making it truly productive, I’m not at all convinced that this is an acceptable tradeoff for most users. But if you are using Office 97 or any of its pieces on a regular basis, the *Annoyances* books can make your life a lot easier.

The series is published by O’Reilly and is available in (some) bookstores, from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), or from [oreilly.com](http://oreilly.com).

JOHN HECKMAN is president of Heckman Consulting, a Norwalk-based systems integration firm that specializes in the legal industry. John will be teaching a class entitled *Optimizing Computer Use for Small Businesses at the Norwalk Community Technical College in the spring of 1998.*

## Donations Wanted

**Keyboards, Displays, Controller Cards, Hard Disks and Printers, Software.**

**For PC's XT's & AT's.**

**To be used for upgrading donated computers for distribution to schools and other non-profit organizations in need of computer equipment. Call Charlie Bovaird 792-7881**

# Random Access

## Instant replay: December 1997

Bruce Preston, Moderator

**Q. I just added a new modem. Windows 95 detected it, but it assigned it to COM4 instead of COM2, where the replaced modem was. How do I change the setting to COM2 so I don't have to change all of my application settings?**

A. Since the old modem was still in the Windows registry and thus holding onto COM2, Windows 95 assigned it to COM4. To fix it, go into Control Panel, System/Device Manager and remove both modems, thus freeing both ports. Then run the Add Hardware wizard to have it find the new modem.

**Q. My PC has a bus mouse and an internal modem (on IRQ2). I need a serial port for use by the APC UPS system to notify the machine when there is a power loss so that the system can be shut down.**

A. We asked the representative from APC, who was present for the evening's presentation. He said the software doesn't care which COM port is used; it can use any serial port at any address and with any IRQ. Call APC tech support line at (800) 800-4272 or visit their tech support Web page at [www.apcc.com](http://www.apcc.com). In the search area, type in IRQ.

**Q. I have a 486-DX/2-66 machine whose BIOS keeps losing its data—hard disk table, floppy drive assignments, and the like. If I set them manually the machine will then boot. Isn't the battery rechargeable and shouldn't it keep the data?**

A. The battery may be rechargeable but will eventually be unable to accept a charge. You need to replace the battery. If the battery is socketed, it should be a relatively easy matter. If it is not socketed, you may remove it by clipping the leads (keep track of polarity!) and attaching the ones from a new battery.

You might want to use "micro grabbers," miniature alligator clips available at Radio Shack or any electronics supply house. There was some concern expressed about

matching the battery to the charging circuit on the motherboard, or disabling the charging circuit. Some motherboards have pins for "external battery." If you are not willing to do this on your own, a technician may be willing to do it for you, but bear in mind that it then becomes a question of economics as to whether you want to put dollars into an older machine.

**Q. I was trying to get an old machine at work (Windows 3.1) to have a permanent swap file with 32-bit access. I went into Control Panel and activated the permanent swap file. When I then booted and started Win 3.1, it complained about the drive and locked up. I cannot get the machine to start Win 3.1 and turn on the permanent swap file and 32-bit access.**

A. Not all disk controllers from that era were able to support 32-bit access. Win 3.1 made the check box available, but that did not imply it had checked the hardware for compatibility. Boot DOS, then edit the SYSTEM.INI file and comment out these lines in the [386Enh] section: Device=\*wdctrl Device=\*int13, and make sure the line for 32-bit access, if present, reads "32BitDiskAccess=0."

**Q. I used to use SuperCalc, which had the ability to split the screen so the column headings or row labels didn't move when you scrolled through the spreadsheet. Does the same capability exist in Excel?**

A. Yes, it is in the Window drop-down menu, and is called "Freeze Panes." Put the cursor in the cell you want to be the upper-left of the scrollable area and select Window/Freeze Panes. That cell and those down and to the right will now scroll; the rows above and columns to the left will not scroll.

**Q. I am looking to purchase some 72-pin SIMM RAM for my machine. The motherboard specs call for "x2" or "x4." What are these identifiers?**

A. First, remember that with 486 series motherboards you need to put in pairs of SIMM, not just one. Having said that, the x numbers relate to the refresh rate—2000K and 4000K. You will not find many x2 SIMMs—although they are slightly cheaper they are not as reliable so they have disappeared from the market.

**Q. I have a printing problem using Netscape 3 Gold on my Windows 95 machine. When I go to a page with graphics or try to print, I get a message similar to "192 files in cache, removing them." The system then goes off for quite some time before anything happens. Can I control this?**

### Post Your Resume on the Internet

The Internet SIG is planning to provide DACS members with the ability to post resumes at our Web site. Resumes will be posted either in plain text or in HTML formats. It will be your responsibility to prepare the resume for posting, send it electronically, and notify us of change in status. The process for doing this is being developed. In the meantime, we would like to get an estimate of how many would be participating. If you are interested, be sure to send a note to Pat Jennings:

JPGF34A@PRODIGY.COM, or call him at 740-2351.

A. Yes. The cache is where Netscape stores pages and images it thinks you may come back to in the near future. By having them local, they do not have to be downloaded again when you press the "back" button. Netscape will keep using disk space until it hits the allocation limit, at which time it will clean up the old files. You can control the limit via: OPTIONS/NETWORK PREFERENCES/CACHE. You may also manually clear the contents of the cache.

**Q. I just put in a new main hard disk. I installed DOS, then Windows 3.11, then the Win 95 "Upgrade." All went fine. I started installing applications, and one of them offered to register by modem. When I then tried to use Netscape 3.0, I got this message: "The modem is in use by another program. Close the connection and try again."**

The Netscape dialer is not "TAPI" aware. TAPI (Telephone Application Programming Interface) is a standard that lets multiple applications share a

modem under the control of Windows 95. The other application(s) that might be currently using the modem are fax and/or mail programs, waiting for the modem to be called from the outside. You will need to turn these programs off before you use the Netscape dialer. Alternatively, replace the Netscape dialer with the MS Dialup Networking Adapter software, which is TAPI aware and will work with Netscape. Another option is to upgrade to the 32-bit Netscape Navigator and dialer.

**Q. I am going to be using SNET for my ISP instead of AT&T WorldNet. Should I get rid of my currently installed AT&T-variant Netscape?**

A. It would probably be cleanest if you uninstall the AT&T dialer, then install the standard Windows 95 Dialup Networking components, followed by your new Netscape 4.

BRUCE PRESTON moderates the Random Access sessions at the general meetings and leads the Access SIG. Contact Bruce at [bpreston@eci.com](mailto:bpreston@eci.com).

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