



Meeting Preview

Make Beautiful Music on Your PC

Voyetra Gives PC Composers a Digital Voice

UNTIL RECENTLY you had to have a Macintosh to make music on your computer. But now all that has changed, thanks to Voyetra Technology, which has come to the rescue with a number of new products for the vast majority of PC users yearning to produce that major opus.

Digital Orchestrator Pro sets a new standard for professional desktop music production by adding dozens of new features to Digital Orchestrator Plus, Electronic Musician's best digital audio sequencer of 1997.

As a MIDI sequencer, Digital Orchestrator Pro is unsurpassed. In addition to intuitive drag-and-drop editing and powerful transforms found in the "Plus" version, the program adds a graphic controller editor, step record, and other enhancements.

As a digital audio editor, Digital Orchestrator Pro lets you create multitrack recordings from external audio sources. Digital audio and MIDI tracks exist side by side in perfect sync, making song editing a snap.

Voyetra's flagship digital sequencer is the fastest, easiest, most intuitive way to create music on a PC—and at a price you can't afford to pass up!

To see what Voyetra has to offer, come to the April 6 General Meeting of the Danbury Area Computer Society. The 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

Microsoft Does Windows ... Again

Newest One Will Be Better Than Ever

by Wally David

IF YOU ATTENDED the March General Meeting of the Danbury Area Computer Society, you got a glimpse into the future. And the future is improvements in the key areas of overall product quality, Internet functionality, entertainment features, and support for the latest hardware.

Angelo Correa of Microsoft had a vast array of trusty PowerPoint slides that he used to put us to sleep with. Actually, that was not his intention, but I know a lot of people were quite bored with the slides and wanted to see Windows 98 in action. In fact, I nudged the guy sitting next to me and got him to ask Mr. Correa what the new OS actually looked like. So, after he got the message, we were able to see him put Windows 98 through its paces.

One of the key features is Internet integration. With the Integrated Internet Shell included in Windows 98, Internet access becomes a seamless part of the user interface. Users will no longer have to learn multiple applications, one to look at their local information, an-

other to look at their local hard drive or network, and unquestionably another to use the Internet or intranet. With the Integrated Internet Shell, Windows 98 unifies this process into one utility to universally view local, network, intranet, and Internet data, so you can get to the information you need faster and easier.

Windows 98's advanced Internet browsing functionality provides the easiest, fastest, and most entertaining way to browse the Web. This is done via advanced browsing capabilities such as AutoComplete, enhanced Web searching, improved favorites, navigation history on the Forward/Back buttons, and improved printing. Support for all major Internet standards including HTML, Java, ActiveX™, JavaScript, Visual Basic® Scripting, and major security standards. You get improved performance with Dynamic HTML, a just-in-time Java compiler, and basic code "tuning."

Correa stressed that Microsoft used extensive focus group research to determine what was important to users. When users are asked the biggest problem they have

Continued on page 4

President's File

As you may recall, the April DACS board meeting marks the election of officers for the 1998-99 year. In accordance with our bylaws, the Board of Directors will elect these officers, whose charge is to conduct the day-to-day business affairs of the DACS. We are indeed fortunate to have a fine group of members willing to lend their leadership talents to help. Since the Board meets the Monday after our general meeting, you may find out who has been elected before the May program meeting by visiting our Web site.

Looking Back

These past three years that I have had the privilege of being president of DACS seemed to fly—and not due to any great skills of mine. Rather, I must attribute the pleasure and any accomplishments of my term to the help of an inner core of people who have quietly volunteered to do what has needed to be done.

There is no way I can mention everybody who has made a difference. Let me simply say thanks—to everyone who has done the little extra.

Thanks

Thanks to the programs we bring to the monthly General Meeting. Thanks primarily to the efforts of Jeff Setaro, we have enjoyed the presentations of a wide spectrum of programs. Due to Jeff's coordination we also have our

annual presence at PC Expo in New York.

Thanks to the efforts of Gene Minasi we have the use of the Danbury Area Hospital for our General Programs.

Thanks to Ed Heere and all the Board Members for their dutiful attention to the needs, goals, and planning necessary to guide DACS. With the permission of the Board, we have also introduced several related-technology presentations from industry leaders like Ken Olsen, CEO Emeritus of DEC. We learned from Mike McCarthy of Photronics in Danbury how photomasks are used to define the circuitry of a semiconductor; from John Shamaly how SVGI (Silicon Valley Group Inc.) of Wilton makes the equipment that Intel and others use to etch our shrinking chips; and from ATMI's (Advanced Technology Materials Inc. in Danbury) Dean Hamilton, who last May shared with us what they are doing to develop new materials that will be key to many of the next generation of technology Internet devices that will be ubiquitous in four or five years.

We have seen industry contributions from some of our members, such as Jerry Metcoff and Dave Wilson who through MidCore Software have developed modem-sharing technologies that allow Internet Users to use two modems to double their surfing speeds.

Through what has become a yearly presentation by John Patrick, Vice President of Technologies of IBM, we have learned what is and will be the Internet of a Universally Connected World.

Thanks to the friendly moderations of Bruce Preston at Random Access, we have had an opportunity air our questions and have our confusions and frustrations turned into learning sessions packed with ideas to make our computing easier.

Thanks to the pre-meeting preparations of Wally David, we have had an opportunity to learn about new and timely Web sites. These work sessions have helped us absorb the Net in little doses without intimidation. Thanks to Wally's work, we have developed Dacs-mail, or broadcast e-mail messages of upcoming meetings and special events. Thanks for the reminders.

Thanks to Charles Bovaird, we have a convenient way to update our e-mail addresses, pay our dues, and pick up winning raffle tickets as we sign in at each meeting. Many others, including Larry Buoy, Elaine Chacho, Jim

IN THIS ISSUE

MUSIC ON YOUR PC	1
WINDOWS '98	1
PRESIDENT'S FILE	2
HELP LINE	3
DIRECTORS' NOTES	4
DACS "U" SCHEDULE	4
NEW MEMBERS	4
CRAFTS ONLINE-QUILTING	6
INTERNET PROVIDERS	6
SIG NOTES	8
CALENDAR	9
CREATE WEB PAGES	10
KEEP IT CLEAN	11
THIS OLD PC	12
TECH EXPO	13
RANDOM ACCESS	14
CLASSIFIED ADS	15

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The editors welcome submissions from Dacs members. Contact Frances Owles, at 860-868-0077 (jones@ct1.nai.net) or Allan Ostergren at 860-210-0047 (dacseditor@aol.com). Advertisers, please contact Brad Altland 203-357-4007 (brad.altland@gccapital.com)

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Jeff Setaro
APCUG Liaison
748-6748

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DACS Voice Line: (203) 748-4330 • **Resource Center:** (203) 791-8532

Web Site: <http://www.dacs.org> • **BBS:** (203) 791-8532

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?

d = day e = evening

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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Windows 3.1	Nick Strother	(203) 743-5667	(e)
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WordPerfect	John Heckman	(203) 831-0442	(e)

Ragsdale, Al Vail, and Vince Tichy have helped at the front desk and with our database, greeting us and making us feel welcome as we enter our general meetings.

Thanks to Allan Ostergren, Marc Cohen, Frances Owles, Dan McLeod, and all the others who give up countless weekends and family time, we have an award winning newsletter that everybody misses if/when the Post Office delivers it after the first of each month. Due to the prolific writings of members such as Mike Kaltschnee, Wally, Jeff, and Bruce, we have interesting content about past, present, and future meetings, as well as related Internet and computing topics.

Thanks to Jim Schema, Chris Sales, Diane Greenwald, Marlene Gaberel, Charlene, Jeff, Brad, Bobby, John, and many others, we have a Web site that has received award recognition from the InterGalactic User Group Conferences.

Thanks to the community involvement of members Charles Bovaird, Phil Dilloway, Vince Tichy, Bobby Curtis, Allan Ostergren, and countless others who have worked on programs such as Computers for Kids and Voice for Joanie, we have been able to earn and maintain our good citizenship.

Thanks to the Danbury Public Library and Diane Greenwald, we have a meeting place for our special New-to programs and many of our SIG meetings.

Thanks to the SIG leaders, we have a wealth of Special Interest Group sessions to enhance our knowledge, enough to create spousal 12-step groups to address concern over DACS Addiction.

Thanks to the efforts of early DACS leaders such as Dick Gingras, who arranged for our Resource Center, we have a home for our Board Meetings, SIGS, newsletter, and Internet work sessions.

DACS has kept us current with the evolving nature of the computer—from a computational comptometer to a dynamic Graphic WorkStation, to the Internet Communications Device into which it has been morphing.

Thank you DACS. Thank you DACS leaders. It has been my pleasure and honor to represent you for the past three years.

—TOM MCINTYRE
DACs PRESIDENT

Directors' Notes

DACS' Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting at the Resource Center on March 9, 1998, at 7:30 pm. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, David, Gingras, Heere, Ostergren, and Setaro. Also present was Jim Scheef. Chairman Ed Heere presided, and Secretary Larry Buoy kept the records of the meeting. The minutes of the February board meeting were approved.

Finance & Membership

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current combined checking and postal account balances of \$10,134.18, postage on hand of \$215.52, and accounts receivable of \$71 for a total cash position of \$10,426.70. Current membership is about 670.

GM Presentation Procedure Change

Chairman Heere commented on aspects of the March 3 general meeting that may have created unwanted impressions upon the many visitors present. He suggested that when presentations are expected to attract a large numbers of visitors, the usual opening segments of those meetings be abbreviated and that presenters be asked to postpone question and answer periods until the end of the presentation. The directors concurred.

Election of Officers

The Board was reminded by Chairman Heere that at its next meeting officers will be elected for the ensuing year. Known candidates for office were reviewed. Also reviewed were prospects for the responsibilities of public relations for DACS.

Adult Ed Web Directory

Jim Scheef announced that preliminary forms and a database had been designed for the on-line adult education directory previously authorized by this Board for linking to its Web page.

Zip for Resource Center

A discussion was opened regarding the advantages of having a zip drive available on the computer installed at the Resource Center, principally for assimilating copy for the newsletter and for transporting work done thereon to other computers. It was unanimously agreed that an internal zip drive be installed.

—LARRY BUOY

ANNOUNCEMENT!

DACS U. Classes Rescheduled

Class: Introduction to Windows 95

New Date: Monday, March 23, 6 Sundays, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: DACS Resource Center, 198 Main St., Danbury
Instructor: Ben Carnival
Tuition: \$35 for DACS members + Manual \$5 = \$40, payable at first class.
(Non-members must join DACS: regular membership \$25, electronic membership \$15)
Type: Lecture and Exercises
Materials: Manual
Sign-up: Contact Charles Bovaird, 203 792-7881, aam@eci.com or aam@mags.net.
Class Size: Limited to 20 students; 16 signed up so far.

Class: Introduction to LOTUS 1-2-3 release R5W for Windows.

New Date: None. Canceled for lack of enrollment.

Note: DACS U. classes were announced for the first time at the March general meeting. Those who signed up at that time should call or e-mail Charlie Bovaird (203) 792-7881 or aam@eci.com to confirm their commitment to attend. Signup will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. If requests exceed class limits, additional sections will be scheduled. If a class is undersubscribed, it may be canceled.

DACS New Members 2/15/98 thru 03/22/98

- 1) James Costello
- 2) Ronald C. Geck
- 3) Robert A. Grover
- 4) Randall L. Hitchens
- 5) Thomas Insinna
- 6) Joseph E. Kelly
- 7) George H. Krampetz
- 8) Ralph C. Langham
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- 12) Russell E. Schaus

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need to renew your DACS
membership—now!

Windows *Continued from page 1*

with the World Wide Web, the Number 1 response is getting the information they need. Windows 98 addresses this problem by providing a mechanism to automatically select and schedule downloads of the information you care about. This enables you to see what has changed on a Web site without physically visiting the site and even allows you to view the site when you are not connected to the Web.

Windows 98 also contains lots of tools for online communication. Outlook™ Express is a full featured e-mail and news-reading client. Microsoft NetMeeting™, a complete Internet conferencing solution providing standards-based audio, data, and videoconferencing functionality. Personal Web Server (and the Web Publishing Wizard) provides an easy way to publish Web pages on intranets or the Internet. Microsoft FrontPage is a WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) HTML editor based on the editing tools in Microsoft FrontPage.

Another groundbreaking feature is the Troubleshooting Wizards. These Wizards can help you quickly diagnose and solve technical problems with Win-

dows 98. Troubleshooters are scenario-based walk-throughs that the user can customize to their situation by choosing the answer that fits their situation. The Troubleshooting Wizards included in Windows 98 address the following areas: Network, Modem, Startup Shutdown, Print, DriveSpace 3, Memory, MS-DOS Programs, Display, DirectX, Sound, The Microsoft Network, Hardware Conflict, Dial-Up Networking, Direct Cable Connection, and PC Card.

Because Correa spent a lot of time taking questions during the main part of his presentation, he ran out of time. However, he was able to show us so many glimpses of what Windows 98 has to offer, he really whetted the appetite of most of the people in attendance. Windows 98 is slated to hit the stores in June of this year. In the meantime, you can check out Microsoft's Web site at www.microsoft.com for more information on Windows 98, including how to take part in the public beta testing program.

WALLY DAVID is a member of the Board of Directors of DACS and also a member of the dacs.doc editorial committee. He is a System Support Specialist for Labatt USA, at their U.S. headquarters in Norwalk. Contact Wally via e-mail at wallydavid@myself.com.

Spring PC Expo Events

This June will find APCUG in New York City.

We are holding our first event in conjunction with PC Expo. This APCUG Event is different from our Comdex events in several ways. We have reduced the surcharge for non-APCUG-member groups to just \$25, in an effort to reach out and attract other PC and Macintosh groups to see what APCUG does. In addition, this event is not only the two days before a major tradeshow, it also follows a major regional computer event, NYPC User Group' InterGalactic 11.

So if you come in Friday evening, June 12, you can catch the one day InterGalactic event on Saturday, June 13, and then two

days (June 14 and 15) of APCUG RoundTable sessions on various topics of interest to User Group officers, followed by three days of PC Expo (June 16-18), with APCUG Vendor Events in the morning and in the evening, and you will have all day at the show, and not have to leave to come back to the hotel for a lunch event.

For more information on this event, please see <http://www.apcug.org/events/pcexpo/spring98.htm>

Don Singleton djs@ionet.net
(918) 622-3417 President, Tulsa Computer Society <http://www.tcs.org>

Chairman, APCUG Spring PC Expo Events <http://www.apcug.org/events/pcexpo>

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LOTUS NOTES

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Computer Quilting Is Not for Squares

by Sandy Harrison

MY FAVORITE Web site is one I found after a recent visit to Kauai and an advertising visit to the Kapaia Stitchery (well, maybe more than one visit). On my return home, I found I wanted to know more about Hawaiian Quilting, so I surfed the Web until I found www.Paokalani.com. This site combines examples of Hawaiian quilting squares, history of the art form, family history, photos and anecdotes. Located in Honolulu, Paokalani offers quilting classes, which are regularly held at Queen Emma's Summer Palace and occasionally at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Log on if you want to know more. I think you will be as delighted as I was.

Computer literate quilters might want to take a look at another interesting Web site, QuiltPro.com. You can download a demo program, containing a sampling of all the features of the complete program, QuiltPro v.2, which sells for \$95 and can be purchased on the Web site, from distributors nationwide (see directory on the

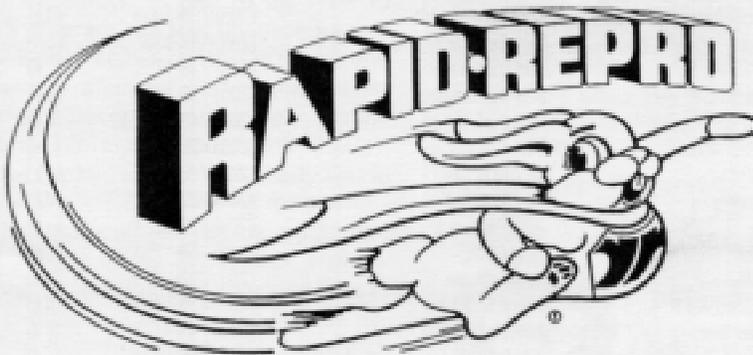
site), or direct from the company at P.O. Box 560692, The Colony, TX 75056. Fax (972) 235-75056.

Included in this software are patterns for 1,000 quilt blocks and hundreds of borders and sashes, with templates that can be printed out, complete with a 1/4-inch seam allowance. You can design your quilt right on the screen, using the QuiltPro pallet of fabric patterns and colors. Or, if you have a scanner, your own fabrics can be scanned into the database so you can see exactly how the finished quilt will look. Block and quilt sizes can be changed, fabrics changed, and borders and sashes changed, added, or eliminated on the fly.

Among the other features included are calculation of fabric requirements (a big savings!). Now you can create an entire quilt without wasting a scrap of fabric! I can't wait to try this program on my stash of Hawaiian fabrics.

SANDY HARRISON is a new contributor to the dacs.doc and can be reached at sandyharrison@juno.com

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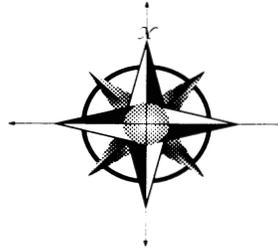
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WANTED SIG NOTES EDITOR

We need an editor to assume the mantle of our award-winning DACS SIG Notes and calendar pages. Responsibilities will be to coordinate with SIG leaders and to edit monthly notes. A pleasant phone voice and/or enforcer experience is most desirable.

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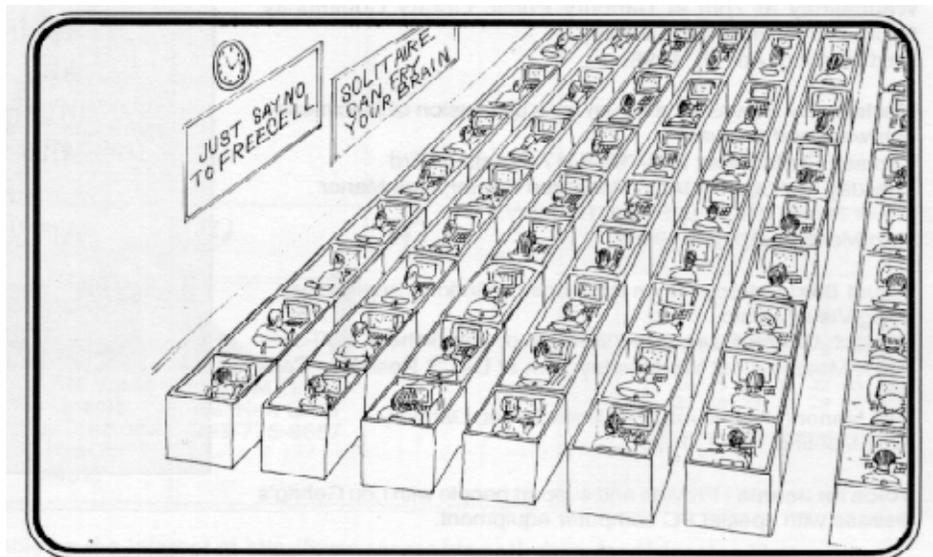
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Special Interest Groups

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: Apr 14, 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 following the General Meeting at 7:30pm at Don Pearson's house, North Salem, NY.
Next Meeting: Apr 8, 1998.

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

Contact: **Allan Ostergren**, 860-210-0047 or **Marc Cohen** 203-775-1102. Meets on Thursday following monthly general meeting at
7pm at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor(lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.
Next meeting: Apr 9, 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: Apr 16, 1998.

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

Contact: **Ken Graff**, 203-775-6667. Meets on last Wednesday at 7pm at Best Photo, Brookfield.
Next Meeting: Apr 29, 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: Apr 15, 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 (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.
Next Meeting: Apr 21, 1998.

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

Contact: **Chuck Fizer**, 203-798-9996 or **Jim Scheef**, 860-355-8001. Meets on 1st Wednesday 7pm at DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.
Next Meeting: Apr 1, 1998.

Voice for Joanie - Provide and support 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: Apr 28, 1998.

Wall Street - New Windows stock marketing software.

Contact: **Phil Dilloway**, 203-367-1202. Meets on last Monday at 7pm at the A. G. Edwards office, 42 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury.
Next Meeting: Apr 27, 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 DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.
Next Meeting: Apr 10, 1998. Register with Ben first.

SIG News

Internet

When Did Vacation Planning Get So Easy?

Book your next plane trip, check out hotels around the world, or just see what's happening close to home in Boston & New York. It never was as easy. As it is on the Web and we'll see how at the next DACS Internet SIG on Wed. April 15.

The SIG meets from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Danbury Public Library, 170 Main St.

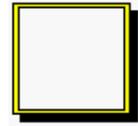
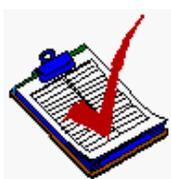
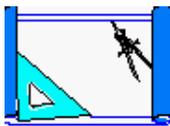
For more information, contact Diane Greenwald 797-4505 or dmg@danbury.lib.ct.us.



APCUG is planning a Spring Event for June 14 and 15, following NYPC's InterGalactic on June 13 and just before PC Expo on June 16-18. The APCUG event will be held at the New Yorker hotel in NYC. Look to www.apcug.org for further information.

April 1998

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
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Calendar and SIG Notes are available on the Internet at <http://www.concentric.net/~dwmcleod/signotes.htm>

Web Pages

Create Your Own Web Page, Really!

By Mike Kaltschnee

THIS MONTH I'd like to help you understand how Web pages work, and the best way to learn is to actually create one of your very own. It's not hard to do; in fact, it's only a little bit harder than writing a letter (or a DACS column).

The easiest Web page is done using a recent version of Microsoft Word, preferably 7.0 (you can also use WordPerfect if you desire). You simply type the document as you normally would, select "File" from the menu bar, then "Save As HTML." Put the resulting file somewhere on your hard disk you'll remember, such as your "My Documents" folder. The name of the file is very important: It should be kept to eight characters and end with ".htm".

To view your first Web page, load NetScape Navigator or Internet Explorer. Under the "File" menu, select "Open" or "Open File in Browser." Select your file. Viola! You have just created your very own Web page. You can even get fancy, adding clipart or photographs from your digital camera or scanner. Just remember to keep the layout simple, because the Web doesn't support all of the fancy features in Microsoft Word. Safe things to use are tables, indents, alignment, bold, and italics.

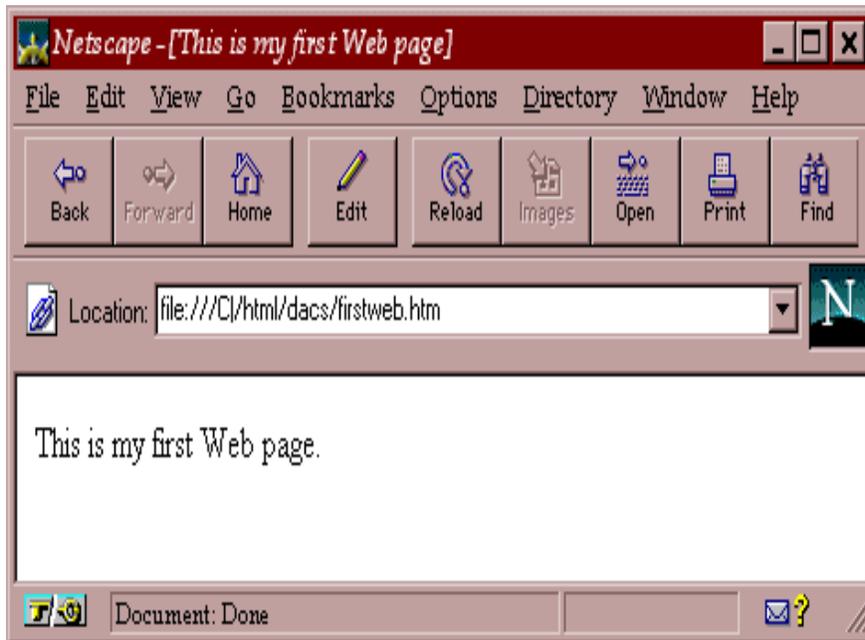
To understand how Web pages really work, we'll need to use Notepad. Run Notepad and type the following in exactly as it appears, including the right and left wedges.

```
<html>
<title>This is my first Web page</title>
<body>
This is my first Web page.
</body>
</html>
```

Save the file as "firstweb.htm." Run your Web browser, and load the file ("Open" or "Open File in Browser"). It should look like Figure 1.

The words in the "<" and ">" brackets are called tags, and there are about 20 tags to learn if you are going to create Web pages. Don't con-

. . . in fact, it's only a little bit harder than writing a letter. . .



fuse HTML with programming; it's a lot simpler and you don't need to be a "geek" to create Web pages. You just need to pick up a good book on Web authoring. I recommend anything by Laura LeMay, but you can find a book that speaks to you at Borders or Barnes & Noble.

The only way to get good at Web page creation is practice, and lots of playing.

A great Web site for tutorials and tips/tricks on Web page authoring is www.htmlgoodies.com. You can also use a trick to learn how someone created a site that appeals to or awes you. Anytime you see a page you like, simply select the "View" menu in your Web browser, and select "View Source." You'll see all of the tags, and the secrets behind the page will be revealed.

If you want to learn about Web graphics, I've put an old DACS column online that teaches all about images. You can view the pages online at www.demorgan.com/seminar/graphics.html.

A great tool for creating Web pages may be the same program you're using to view them. Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator now include Web authoring tools. I use Netscape when I want to put a quick and easy page together. It even has a "Publish" feature that will move your Web page to the Internet. To get started, just use "File" and "New Document."

The final step in creating a Web page is to publish it on the Internet. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to pay anything for space on the Internet if you don't want to. Free space is available for non-commercial Web pages at several great locations. Geocities (www.geocities.com) calls it "homesteading," and you put your pages in the same area as others of the same interest, hobby, or type. Tripod (www.tripod.com), is another place where you can post your pages, without paying a dime.

The term for publishing your pages is called "FTP," which stands for File Transfer Protocol. Don't let it scare you; it's just the copy command of the Internet. If you're using a Web authoring program such as Hot Dog, Navigator, FrontPage, Fusion, PageMill, or any commercial program, it should easily allow you to transfer your files to the Web. If you're using Word or Notepad, you can download a great program for FTP called "WS FTP" from www.shareware.com.

So, now that I've got you started, get your Web pages online. When you're done, send me the URL. The reason the Web has grown so quickly is that it's so easy to get your ideas, hobbies, interests, stories, and more published so the whole world can see. I know 13 year-old Web publishers as well as 50-plus-year-old grandmothers who have put whole Web sites together. I'm looking forward to seeing *your* pages.

MIKE KALSCHNEE is a co-owner of DeMorgan Industries Corp., the leading developer of Web graphics (<http://www.webspice.com>), and also teaches Webmaster and Internet marketing classes at the Internet School in Naugatuck Valley Community Technology College. You can reach Mike at: mikek@demorgan.com

Keep It Clean!

A cardinal rule of computer maintenance

by Ken Fermoyle

IF CLEANLINESS is next to godliness, we computer users are an irrev-erent lot! That's the considered opinion of many computer maintenance and repair specialists. Dennis Orloff, a computer service engineer in Southern California for more than ten years, is one. Lyle Wood, who services computer equipment in Vancouver, British Columbia, is another. Technicians I know in several L.A. area computer shops agreed that dirty equipment is a common problem. Time after time when he was called in to fix failed ma-

chines, Orloff reports that he had to tell clients, "It's not broken. It's dirty!" Computers are a magnet to dirt; they can suck in dust from the air and major parts that need to be kept cool get coated with it. The result is overheating and poor performance, data loss, or even system breakdowns, notes Wood, honcho at the aptly named Ounce of Prevention Computer Services (www.ounceofprevention.ca), which now has franchises across Canada. "There is a common misconception among individual and corporate computer users that their machines are indestructible," says Orloff. "They don't realize that dust residues, skin oils and adverse environmental conditions do a lot of harm" to sensitive electronics and plastic materials. Experts agree that simple cleanliness and regular maintenance can mean longer, trouble-free life for computers, peripherals, and other office machines. It doesn't require a lot of time or money, either. All it takes is perhaps an hour of your time, a vacuum cleaner, CD and disk drive cleaners, compressed air duster, brushes, swabs, plus cleaning products available at most large computer and office supply stores, or via mail order. Orloff started ComputerBath, a company that offers a line of products designed to cover most cleaning needs. He developed Power Cleaner, a non-flammable, non-butyl, wipe-on wipe-off formula that "cleans, removes stains and shines, all in one step." The firm's Starter Kit (\$12) includes a can of Power Cleaner, special two-sided cleaning cloth, keyboard brush and long swabs for hard-to-reach places.

ComputerBath also has the most complete set of tools on the market in its Comprehensive Maintenance Kit (\$49.95).

Check www.computerbath.com for details. (The Marine Corps Information Systems requested a rugged "all-terrain" version for use in the field.) User Groups might consider investing in the kit and recouping its cost by having periodic "Keep It Clean" sessions in which members' computers are cleaned for a modest \$5 to \$10 fee.

Other companies that sell computer cleaning and maintenance products include ACL Staticide (www.aclstaticide.com), Allsop (www.allsop.com), Kensington (www.kensington.com/products), Keysan (www.keysan.com) PerfectData (www.perfectdata.com), Never use ammonia-based or abrasive household cleaning products on your computers or other office equipment! Start your cleanup by shutting off power. Dust computer system and work surfaces, including under the monitor, keyboard, printer, etc. Vacuum around the work area. Vacuum vents on the computer case and all peripherals. Remove the case cover and ground yourself by touching the metal computer chassis or, even better, wear a grounding strap. Blow out all debris from inside the case with a compressed air duster, being careful not to damage any of the wiring or electronic components. Concentrate on the vents, fan(s), power supply, diskette and CD-ROM drive openings. Use long cotton swabs to get into crevices. Replace case cover. Unplug your keyboard, turn it upside down and shake gently, then use a brush to clean between the keys. Remove screws that hold on the bottom and blow out dust and debris from the innards with the air duster. Replace the back. Follow a similar procedure with your mouse or trackball, except that you should use swabs and a safe cleaner made for the job to clean the ball and positioning rollers.

Clean your printer, too. Follow directions in your User Manual because different types of printers require different care. (This could be a subject for a future column if enough readers are interested.)

Now that the insides are clean, go over the exteriors. A cleaning product like ComputerBath should not be sprayed directly on surfaces. Spray it on a cleaning cloth, wipe on, then wipe off. Stubborn stains may require a second application.

Use a drive cleaner disk to clean floppy and CD-ROM heads every three to six months, depending on system usage.

Finally, make sure there are no kinks in cables and cords, and that all plugs and connectors are still properly seated after being disturbed during the cleaning process. Computers used in homes with pets

Continued on page 15



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Recycling Ideas

Getting This Old PC Doing What It Used To

Turning A PC Geriatric Into A Game Machine

by Marlene Gaberel

WHEN I bought a new computer, my first instinct was to give my old 486 to a charity while it was still worth something. But the rest of the family wanted to keep it, claiming they would still use it. My older son wanted to do his homework, the younger one wanted to play his old CD-ROM games, and my husband announced he would be reading his newspapers online. We kept the 486.

Soon enough, everyone discovered that Word spellchecked better in the new machine than in the old one, and that the Web was accessible faster with the new modem. The 486 sat there, lonely and little used.

On a January day when school was canceled, with the prospects of the kids coming back inside the house to play, I found an alternative to keep them out of my office and away from my computer. A few years earlier I had purchased a shareware game called Duke Nukem from Apogee. After my son had tried it from a copy I had downloaded from a BBS, I sent in payment to register it. After a while when my son tired of the game and moved onto CD-ROM activities, I removed it from my hard disk. But then last January I reinstalled it on the 486, and the kids played it like it was a brand new game.

At the same time I wondered if Apogee, the maker of Duke Nukem, still had available the older EGA/ VGA games. I remembered that we had tried some but had neither registered them nor deleted them from the hard disk. If those games were still available, I could turn the 486 into a gaming machine.

I looked up Apogee on the Web (<http://www.apogee1.com>) and found their site. Some old favorites such as Commander Keen, Crystal Caves, and Halloween

Harry were still available. The minimum requirement for those DOS games are low compared to today's games. While Apogee has new games available that run on Pentium machines (the latest Duke Nukem on CD-ROM, for instance), they also offer the older EGA and VGA games.



There is a picture on the Apogee page for each game available. My kids chose two of them: the sequel to Duke Nukem and (the name sounds more terrible than the game really is) Alien Carnage (formerly Halloween Harry). We printed out the order form from the site and sent it in with our payment. All of Apogee's products can be purchased directly online.

To install the new games I had to fidget a bit since one required more free memory than was available. I used memmaker to send some applications to upper memory. The new games have surprisingly good graphics and make use of the Sound Blaster to produce nice background music.

Although these games cannot be called "educational," kids really enjoy playing them just for fun. According to my kids, the Apogee games are as good as the Nintendo games that some of their friends own. Since the games we ordered are DOS-based, I had to teach the children how to navigate between them using the commands CD\ and CD .. (Change Directory). In this Windows world, DOS has been relegated to a mere program, seldom used nowadays. If my kids do not learn anything else playing the Apogee games, they at least earned a few DOS commands.

MARLENE GABEREL is a regular contributor to *dacs.doc* and the assistant Webmaster for *DACS'* own Web site, *dacs.org*.

Remember When?

Computer was something on TV from a science fiction show
A window was something you hated to clean
And RAM was the cousin of a goat

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a musical engagement
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 1/2' floppy
You hoped nobody found out

Compress was something you did to the garbage...
not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
you'd be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead.

ANON from the internet. Forwarded by Doug Friedman former dacs member now living in Atlanta GA.

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 saying you would like to receive these timely notices.

Trade Fairs

Blockbuster'98 TechExpo Breaks Records!

—New York, NY, March 17, 1998

TECH EXPO continues to produce the Northeast's largest and most successful technical job fairs in New York and New Jersey. The '98 winter Tech Expo events broke records with over 2,300 attendees at the New York event and over 1,500 attendees at the New Jersey show. Tech Expo is also now a "must-attend" for I/T professionals and hiring companies alike in Philadelphia, PA, Stamford and Hartford CT. Though many competitors have emerged in the career fair industry due to high demand for technical employees, Tech Expo not only survived but has doubled its attendee and exhibitor records.

This Spring, High Tech professionals can expect the same top companies and abundance of career opportunities at Tech Expo'98. Admission is FREE to all experienced computer professionals.

Following are the locations, dates, and times for second-quarter events:

New Jersey

Tues. May 5th: 10am - 6pm The DoubleTree Hotel, 200 Atrium Dr., Somerset Travel Directions call: (908) 469-2600

Connecticut

Thurs. May 7th * 10am - 6pm The Stamford Sheraton, 1 Stamford Place, Stamford Travel Directions call: (203) 967-2222

New York

Tues. May 12th * 10am - 6pm The Sheraton New York, 7th Avenue at 53rd Street, NYC Travel Directions call: (212) 581-1000

Pennsylvania

Wed. May 20th * 10am - 6pm The Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch St, Philadelphia Travel Directions call: (215) 418-4989

Connecticut

Wed. June 3rd * 10am - 6pm The Sheraton Hartford, 315 Trumbull St,

Hartford Travel Directions call: (860) 728-5151

Virginia/DC

Tues. June 9th * 10am - 6pm The Sheraton National, 900 S. Orme St, Arlington, VA Travel Directions call: (703) 521-1900

By attending this event, candidates are able to save months of interviewing and traveling time by attending this FREE, mega job fair. Experienced technical

professionals meet face-to-face with decision makers from the nation's leading technical employers. These hiring managers and recruiters have the power to open doors

to new and exciting professional opportunities in the world of computers, the Internet, and high technology.

Participating companies will be interviewing for positions including Computer Programmers, Software Developers, Analysts, Software and Network Engineers, Systems Architects, DBA's, Tech Support, Marketing & Sales in Technology & much more, ranging from Junior level to Senior levels.

*candidates urged to bring
many copies of
their resume.*

ADMISSION is FREE. Technical job candidates are strongly urged to bring many copies of their resume. Business attire is requested. Updated information on our events can be accessed by visiting our Internet Web site at: www.tech-expo.com. For more info call 212-655-4505, ask for Marc Camporeale, Executive Vice President of Marketing. Our fax is: 212-655-4501. TECH EXPO is produced by Job Expo International, Inc. 276 Fifth Ave., Ste. 1103 NYC, NY 10001

These companies were recruiting at our last shows!

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Random Access

Instant replay: March 1998

Bruce Preston, Moderator

Q: *In Windows 95 I can't get into the properties page for my display. When I right-click on the desktop and then select "Properties" it just ignores it. The board is identified as an "S3." There is also an icon in the toolbox (near the clock) with a display, and if I click on it to change the resolution, all of my icons become the default "Microsoft Windows."*

- A. You have the wrong display driver installed for the display, so it isn't responding. There are a couple of ways to fix it. In both, before you do anything you should examine the display adapter to identify the make and possibly the model (by looking at the identification markings on the chips.) Then visit the display adapter manufacturer's Web site and download the most recent set of drivers. Usually the files are in a single "self-extracting" .EXE file. Extract them into a temporary folder, and read the ReadMe file if there is one. Note that S3 is not a display adapter model but the type of chipset used by the manufacturer of many display adapters. Another very common chipset is Cirrus Logic.

Method 1: When booting your machine, press F8 when you see the "Starting Windows 95" message (before you see the blue clouds). Select "Safe Mode," which will default you into the default VGA 640x480 display mode, which doesn't use the hardware-specific adapter. You should then be able to get into the display properties page and work your way through the "Change Display Adapter" wizard. Use the "have disk" option, and point it at the file(s) that you downloaded.

Method 2: Go to My Computer / Control Panel / System / Device Manager and click on the display adapter icon to expand the list (there is usually only one). It should list the identification of the adapter that Windows 95 Setup found and installed. Select it and delete it. Then

restart the machine. Windows 95 will then detect that you don't have a display adapter and try to identify the board. It will then install the driver it thinks is correct. If it offers you the option of specifying where the driver is, point it to the files you downloaded.

Comment: I had a similar problem with a Diamond Stealth video card. During install, Windows 95 Setup correctly identified that it was an S3 chipset but installed the wrong one. In my case, the machine would start but eventually lock up after putting the icons on the desktop.

Q. *When I connect to a Web page, can I only view the text?*

- A. Yes, there is a configuration parameter, usually under "Preferences," that sets Text Only or similar.

Q. *I just upgraded from Office 95 to Office 97, and Quick View no longer works.*

- A. The MS Word format changed in Office 97, and is incompatible with previous versions. You can download the "Word Viewer" from Microsoft for free (it is about 3MB in size). It is considerably faster than the old Quick View or using Word itself if you are just viewing.

Q. *We have an HP 870csi printer that is driving us crazy. It pulls the first sheet of paper in a ways then tells you that it is out of paper. If you clear the paper, it then shuts down the system.*

- A. The feed wheels may need to be cleaned or replaced. Take the machine to an HP Authorized Dealer. Members identified dealers in Stamford, Bridgeport, Danbury, and Brookfield. Call HP's 800 number, found in the manual or on their Web site www.hp.com.

Q. *Recently my machine started insisting that it examine the A: floppy for some time.*

- A. Some applications remember which drive was being used last. Put a floppy in, check the applications that are running, and see if any of them are looking at drive A:. Further questions revealed that you were running HiJaak for Windows 95, which has a feature called "Shell Extensions" that looks for graphic files to make thumbnail icons. This looks at all drives. Turn it off.

Q. *When I create a CD-ROM is there a way to insert text that will show up in Windows Explorer next to the CD-ROM's icon rather than the serial number?*

- A. It depends upon the CD-ROM writing software. You want to find software that will write the CD-ROM's volume label.

Q. *I recently changed my modem and now have a problem with WinFax Lite (Delrina era, under Windows 3.1). The transmission seems to start but at the last moment stops and hangs.*

- A. Your new modem is probably set to run at a higher speed than WinFax Lite can handle; your release of WFL and Windows 3.1 are from days when 9600 was a fast modem. The communications driver in Windows 3.1 cannot run reliably at speeds higher than 9600, and some say it doesn't work too well even then. You will have to slow down the speed setting for the modem when running WinFax, and/or replace the comm driver with a third-party communications driver such as KingComm, CommPro, etc. Look on the Internet, where you will probably find some freeware or shareware drivers that can handle speeds over 9600.

Q. *What is a .PDF file, and can it be loaded into PowerPoint?*

- A. PDF (Portable Document Format) is a file format published by Adobe. The "Reader" is in public domain. It is intended to be device independent and is commonly used for documentation and help files, etc. There are conversion programs that can change PDF into other formats, although no one could remember if PowerPoint could handle PDF directly.

Q. I have a 2-year old Packard Bell machine with "Fast Media" which is used in conjunction with an infrared port and a special keyboard. Now if I try to remove the special keyboard, I am dead - I can't even get into the CMOS setup to delete the configuration.

A. Only suggestion was to remove the battery for a few seconds and then boot with a "normal" keyboard. By removing the CMOS battery the machine will forget everything about its configuration.

BRUCE PRESTON is president of West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield, CT., specializing in database applications. A DACS director and moderator of the Random Access sessions at the General Meetings, Bruce also leads the Access SIG.

KEEP IT CLEAN Continued from page 11 may need special care, because fur from the animals can build up on or inside air intakes. This can create serious overheating in a hurry! One technician told me of a customer who had a Border Collie that curled up at her feet while she used her computer.

"She thought it was cute-until one day her system acted up and she called me in to see what was wrong. As soon as I pulled the mid-tower case out from under her desk I could see the problem. Dog hair had been sucked into the case and was clogging both the air intake areas and the fan cage! I cleaned it out well and everything was fine. She had called me soon enough to permanent damage, though her CPU's life might have been shortened by a few months."

Keep this in mind if you have a pet. Keep it out of your computer room and check your system regularly to be sure they are free of fur or hair balls. Keeping your system clean takes only a few hours a year, but could add years to its life!

KEN FERMOYLE (kfermoyle@earthlink.net) has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes & PC Laptop. He was co-host/producer of a radio show on computers and a partner in a DTP service bureau during the '80s. Fermoye Publications offers editorial, consulting. Copyright 1995-7 by North Orange County Computer Club. All rights reserved. Articles by NOCCC authors may be reprinted by other user groups without permission provided they are unaltered and the publication acknowledges the author thereof and NOCCC. Articles contained herein by authors from other organizations retain their original copyright.

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