



Meeting Preview

Clear the Decks

CONCERNED that your hard disk is becoming cluttered with files you don't need or don't want? Need more space on your hard drive? Windows commonly waste or under-utilize your hard disk space. Data and applications are stored on your hard drive in "clusters," and the problem with today's huge-capacity hard disks is that the larger the cluster size the more space is wasted on your hard disk.

Do you worry that in uninstalling unnecessary files and programs you may unintentionally delete something important from your system? The next DACS general meeting tackles hard drive performance and management with a presentation by Quarterdeck. (<http://www.quarterdeck.com>). A representative will present Partition-It, a new utility specifically designed to help you compartmentalize today's large hard drives, and CleanSweep Extra Strength, which will recapture valuable hard drive space by safely uninstalling unwanted programs and files.

Partition-It optimizes your computer's storage capacity by dividing it into slimmer, more manageable

sections—without the need for backing up, and without putting your data at risk. With Partition-It, you can automatically divide your high-capacity drive into many smaller partitions, giving you more space, better organization, and more control!

Partitioning a hard drive used to be both difficult and risky. You had to back up and remove files, reformat the drive, then finally restore your valuable data and applications. With Partition-It, it's all-automatic. First, Partition-It scans your drive to calculate the optimal cluster size for maximum storage. Then, the Move-It Wizard helps you move data and applications between partitions with just a click of the mouse. There's no need to back up anything. You can even create a custom partition just for your online applications and eliminate clutter from downloads.

CleanSweep Extra Strength thoroughly and safely removes old or unwanted programs. It also finds the widest variety of files for safe removal, including more Internet debris—Internet "cookies," ActiveX controls, browser plug-ins, etc. It provides extensive Internet file

Clear the Decks Continued on page 4

Meeting Review

Adobe Presents ...Web Tools for 1998

PageMill update and new ImageReady

by Jack Corcoran

THE DACS General Meeting in July covered what may be the hottest topic in the computer field today,— tools for generating Web pages. Philip A. Nelson, account manager of Adobe's Graphics/Internet Division, led us through a demonstration of two of these tools, Adobe's PageMill and ImageReady.

The first half of Phil's presentation covered PageMill 3.0, an Adobe standard product that is exactly what its name says, a Mill to grind out Web Pages. It provides a table (a kind of a grid) into which you can type text and drop graphics, Java applets, text, animations, and most anything else from your multimedia treasure chest. Once elements are positioned on the table, a comprehensive

set of PageMill tools and commands are available for manipulating and modifying the elements to give them that dazzling effect that will catch and capture the Web surfer.

What PageMill actually does is generate the HTML code that structures the page. You actually don't really need PageMill at all, but then you would have to read the HTML manual and do stuff that resembles programming. You also would also have to visualize the page layout in your head. For \$100 (street price) you don't have to do any of that stuff, and you get substantial Web page management capabilities as well.

Adobe Presents Continued on page 4

President's File

July and August is normally the summer doldrums for DACS, the time when many of our SIGS shut down for the season and the .doc slims down or gets gorged with filler. Not so this summer. Thanks to our stalwart core of writers and the persistence of our editorial staff, we have a full newsletter and the makings for another one in September. But sure as monsoon rains dissolve to drought, we'll soon be back at the well asking for more. Have an idea you would like to share? Talk with us about it, or send us an E-mail at dacseditor@aol.com.

Apple seeds new growth

One of our most dedicated writers, Mike Kaltschnee, takes his byline this month from the recent MacWorld Expo in New York. It seems the Mac-over that Steve Jobs has accomplished has dispelled much of the doom and gloom and put the lie to reports of the imminent death of Apple. The fact is, with so much dedicated support from Mac users upgrading to the latest and greatest, Apple should be good for many more years of growth. Now, if only some of our own Mac mavens can get back on the soapbox and revive our Macinations column in *dacs.doc*.

Be a DACS ambassador

Ok, so you don't like to write, and think you don't have the time to volunteer. Here's a way you can still help by becoming a DACS ambassador. Simply stop by at the next monthly meeting and pick up a few extra copies of the newsletter. Then give those newsletters to friends who you think might like to become members or to business associates who might be looking for a place to advertise. Tell them about the great programs we offer and the member services we provide, and suggest they check out our Web site. Bring them to a meeting and sign them up, and I'll give you an honorable mention in this column.

More access to Random Access

Do you have a burning computer question but can't make it to the monthly meeting? Send your query to askdacs@aol.com. Our resident guru, Bruce Preston, will posit it at the next meeting and print an answer in the next issue of *dacs.doc*.

—ALLAN OSTERGREN
dacsprez@aol.com

Directors' Notes

THE MONTHLY MEETING of the DACS Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, July 13, 1998. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Cohen, David, Heere, McIntyre, Ostergren, and Setaro. Also present was Brad Altland. Chairman Wally David presided. Secretary Larry Buoy kept the records of the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board held June 8 were approved with minor correction.

Finance & Membership

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported combined checking and postal account balances of \$11,492.09 and postage on hand of \$139.36, a total of \$11,631.45, with current membership of 603.

dacs.doc

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DACS, its officers and directors assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any article, advertisement or any other item in this newsletter.

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@gecapital.com)

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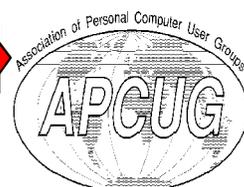
Software packages have been provided to *dacs.doc* staff by:

Microsoft Windows 95, Office 7.0, TrueType fonts
Adobe PageMaker 6.5, CorelDRAW 6.0, Calendar Creator Plus for Windows, *dacs.doc* file transfer security provided by Dr. Solomon's Antivirus Toolkit

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

IN THIS ISSUE

QUARTERDECK	1
PAGEMILL	1
PRESIDENT'S FILE	2
DIRECTORS' NOTES	2
HELP LINE	3
DILBERTISMS	5
WINDOWS 98	6
NEW MEMBERS	6
INTERNET PROVIDERS	6
MAC IS BACK	7
SIG NOTES	8
CALENDAR	9
TIPS & TRICKS	12
WEB SPICE	13
RANDOM ACCESS	14
CLASSIFIED ADS	15



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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 #	(d) (e)
Alpha Four	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	(e)
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Meeting Reschedule & 2000 Bug

President Ostergren announced that the "Upgrade or Buy New" special meeting to be hosted by Ed Heere had been rescheduled to Wednesday, August 26, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at the Danbury Library. Ed reported on his participation in a locally broadcast talk show discussing the "The Millennium Bug."

New to ...

Potential New to . . . programs were discussed with Windows 98 and viruses as subjects for September and October.

ACSS & Nonprofit Proposals

President Ostergren reported a proposal by the Association of Computer Support Specialists (ACSS) to waive its own membership requirement for any DACS member enrolling in an ACSS course in return for an advertisement in *dacs.doc* at a reduced fee. Allan also asked for general authorization from the Board to negotiate with other nonprofit groups for agreements of mutual benefit, subject to approval by the Board. With Jeff Setaro abstaining, both actions were approved.

Server, HelpLine, YR2K

Allan stated that, in the absence of Frances Owles, discussions of the procurement of a server to augment DACS' on-line presence using the Library's server should again be tabled. Larry Buoy reported on progress with updating the HelpLine. DACS involvement in the YR2K subject was discussed at length, the board agreeing that a special general meeting be planned for October in a panel format with moderator, bumping the New to . . . program on viruses to November.

NVHEC Program Director

Wally David said he had been contacted about help in finding a Program Director for a Naugatuck Valley Higher Education Center satellite program for high-technology imaging to be conducted at the Putnam Imaging Center. It was suggested that the NVHEC place an ad in *dacs.doc* and that the position be announced at a general meeting.

—LARRY BUOY

Clear the Decks *Continued from page 1*

cleanup with InternetSweep. Quarterdeck has also added the Quarterdeck Safe to CleanSweep 4.0. Users can now run Fast & Safe without being concerned that important work or personal files may be accidentally deleted during a scheduled cleanup. The Quarterdeck Safe provides an extra level of protection for important files by allowing users to denote specific critical file types that get filtered out and sent

to the Safe from the Windows 95 Recycle Bin when the Recycle Bin is emptied. The files are secured in the Safe, and only the user can remove them. Now business professionals, for example, who create a plethora of MS Office documents, never need to risk losing a critical work-related file due to accidental deletion by the user.

The DACS general meeting, held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Danbury Hospital auditorium, 24 Hospital

Avenue, is free to the public. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with casual networking. At 7 p.m. join Random Access, a short question and answer session fielding members' computer problems. This is followed by a short business meeting and the main presentation at 8 p.m. For more information about DACS and its SIGs (Special Interest Groups that meet throughout the month to discuss specific topics), see <http://www.dacs.org>.

Adobe Presents *Continued from page 1*

As for browser integration, PageMill is intimately linked with Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Netscape aficionados will have to play a few games to use PageMill effectively, but it's doable.

The second half of Phil's presentation covered Adobe's new product, ImageReady. This program is a tool to help you create spiffy graphics for Web pages. It is essentially a stripped-down version of Photoshop with specific features for Web pages, aimed at SOHO and the general user rather than the graphics professional. But it includes about all the Photoshop features that the SOHO level user would use anyway. At a street price of about \$190 compared to \$600 for Photoshop, it is a great deal and will probably sell very well. It will also initiate a lot of users who will eventually move up to the full version of Photoshop.

Phil made several incidental remarks worthy of note. He pointed out how Adobe is establishing a user interface for its various products that has as much similarity, common icons, and consistency as

possible. This is great marketing and is as welcome by users as it is by Adobe salespeople. The similarities become evident when you look at the sales brochures for ImageReady, Photoshop, Illustrator, and others.

Phil also told us that later this year Adobe will come out with Web tools at the professional level. This promises an easy upscale move for Web developers who start with PageMill and ImageReady.

On the lighter side, Phil suggested we produce and distribute our newsletter with Acrobat. Mmmm ... did he not know we use Adobe's Pagemaker for page layout and that DACS members can already download the.doc from our Website using Acrobat?

Phil's presentation was warmly received by the DACS audience. He spoke well and was in complete control of his material. It was obvious, however, that a one-person show in which the presenter has to type in all the input and talk at the same time drags. Previous DACS

meetings where there have been two people, one at the keyboard, say, and the other talking, have been much more effective in keeping the audience locked into the topic. Rule #1 for a salesman is never stop talking, but if you have to cope with key entry mistakes and system glitches, you can't keep the gab going. Phil's hour and a half presentation dragged because of that. At the end of the PageMill coverage there were ten minutes of questions from the audience. At the end of the ImageReady part, there were no questions at all.

The presentation was also more of an in-depth demo of system features than a wine tasting. This was fine with the Webbies, of whom there were many in the audience, but Phil was preaching to the choir. He missed the opportunity to show the rest of us just how we would use PageMill and ImageReady when we get ready to launch our own home page.

JACK CORCORAN is a retired computer programmer who has distant memories of doing real work with a computer rather than making pretty pictures but prefers it this way.

NEW TO COMPUTER UPGRADES

Should you upgrade your existing computer or buy a new system. There are many things to consider before making this decision. New CPU's, new motherboard chipsets, new RAM types, Y2K considerations, Windows 98, new style video boards etc. etc. etc.

A DACS NEW TO seminar will be held on Wednesday, August 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at Danbury Public Library. Ed Heere, DACS director and president of AMSYS Computer, will discuss all the alternatives. Ed will show some new technology and also give some ideas of pricing, availability and compatibility of this new technology. After attending this informative FREE seminar you should be able to make an informed decision to BUY or UPGRADE.

Dilbertisms

From the web

A magazine recently ran a "Dilbert quotes" contest. They were looking for people to submit quotes from their real life Dilbert-type managers.

Here are some of the submissions...

As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks.

(This was the winning quote from Fred Dales at Microsoft Corp in Redmond, WA.)

What I need is a list of specific unknown problems we will encounter. (Lykes Lines Shipping)

E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business.

(Accounting manager, Electric Boat Company)

This project is so important, we can't let things that are more important interfere with it.

(Adv/Mktg manager, United Parcel Service)

Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule. No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them.

(R&D supervisor, Minn Mining & Mfg/3M Corp.)

My Boss spent the entire weekend re-tying a 25-page proposal that only needed

corrections. She claims the disk I gave her was damaged and she couldn't edit it. The disk I gave her was write-protected.

(CIO of Dell Computers)

Quote from the Boss:

"Teamwork is a lot of people doing what 'I' say."

(Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)

"How About Friday?"

My sister passed away and her funeral was scheduled for Monday. When I told my Boss, he said she died so that I would have to miss work on the busiest day of the year. He then asked if we could change her burial to Friday. He said, "That would be better for me."

(Shipping executive, FTD Florists)

"We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees."

(Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division)

We recently received a memo from senior management saying: "This is to in-

Dilbert Continued on page 11

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EOE

Windows 98

Windows 98

Another view of Microsoft's latest OS

by Richard Corzo

THE RELEASE of Windows 98 has been downplayed by Microsoft and many others, but I was still interested enough to buy it on June 25, when it was first released. I knew it wasn't going to be revolutionary like the change from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95, but for me Windows 95 was getting long in the tooth and I was ready for an upgrade.

Installing the OS

The installation for me was relatively smooth and painless. I had decided to take a conservative approach by installing Windows 98 in a separate directory on another logical drive. Aiding me in this effort was System Commander, a multiboot utility. (See my separate article on this product.) When I completed the installation in about an hour's time on my Pentium II, I could go back and forth between 95 and 98 as needed.

The only installation problem I encountered was Windows 98's failure to recognize my network card. It recognized that I had an Ethernet card but not the specific brand or model. Everything else it recognized flawlessly, including the make and model number of my plug-and-play monitor! I remedied the network card problem by installing the Windows 95 driver I had, and manually adding the NETBEUI protocol, which allowed my Network Neighborhood to work. For some reason Windows 98 had only included the TCP/IP protocol bound to my network card.

Dual interface options

With everything up and running the user interface was pretty much as I expected. If you've installed Internet Explorer 4.0 with the Active Desktop,

you've seen most of the changes already. By default, the classic Windows 95 interface is preserved—you still double-click on an icon to start a program or open a file or folder—but you also have the option of turning on the Web-style interface in which icons are underlined like links on a Web page and you just single-click to start them. I had already gotten used to this with IE 4.0, so I turned that on right away in Settings / Folder Options.

If you use Web style you do have get used to a twist in multiple selection. Instead of Ctrl-Click to select multiple items, you have to use Ctrl-hover (i.e., press and hold the Ctrl key and then hover briefly with the mouse pointer over each item you wish to select). If that's too weird for you, you can always go back to the classic-style interface.



Internet Explorer integration

You've probably heard about the integration of the Internet Explorer browser into Windows 98. Now, for instance, there is an address bar in every folder window on which you can type a file path or a Web address. There is also a Favorites menu item, which can contain shortcuts to files, programs, or the traditional Web shortcuts from Internet Explorer. These Favorites are also available right from the Start menu.

What about Netscape?

So what happens if you're a Netscape user and would like to use that browser instead? Netscape actually runs very nicely under Windows 98. Just install it, and on the Netscape startup when it asks you if you want to make it your default browser, say yes. Then when you click

Win 98 Continued on page 10

Local Area Internet Providers

AT&T WORLDNET	800-967-5363
CLOUD 9	914-682-0384
CONCENTRIC NETWORKS	800-745-2747
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DELPHI INTERNET	800-695-4005
EARTHLINK	800-395-8425
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INTERNET84	203-830-2122
INTERRAMP/PSI	800-827-7482
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MICROSOFT NETWORK	800-386-5550
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Further information?

Call Jim Finch @ 203 790-3654

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- 1) Jonathan Chew
- 2) Tania DiCostanzo
- 3) Stuart R. Laub
- 4) Daniel LaVoie

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

If the membership date on your mailing label reads

EXP 06/1998

you need to renew your DACS membership—NOW!

Macinations

The Mac Is Back

By Mike Kaltschnee

B EING a devout Mac fan, it is with no small amount of joy that I write this month's column. Long left for dead, even by some of the faithful, it was a major coup last summer when Steve Jobs came back and usurped the CEO slot at Apple. Was the magic still there? Could even he save Apple? Only time could tell.

Almost a year later, the results are in. Apple has been profitable for the last three quarters, this time raking in more than \$101 million in profit. The stock is now double the price from when he arrived (about \$37 on July 17), and the company is already expecting a profit for the year.

Apple has a great lineup of machines, with names you can remember, and their advertising is awesome, aggressive, inspiring, and even interesting (Who were those people in the "Think Different" commercial?). More important, they are getting people excited again about Apple. When's the last time you were excited about that Compaq or Windows?

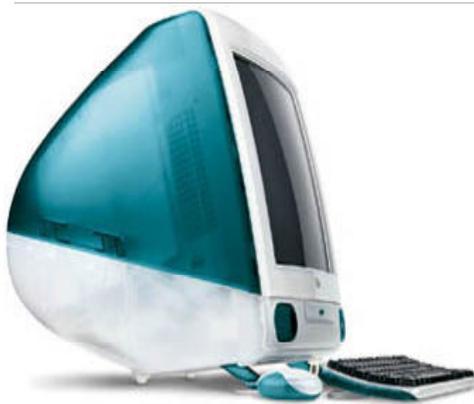
So, how did Steve Jobs fix Apple? Yes, he laid people off, but that only fixes things short-term. He killed the Newton, but that only helped with the focus (they only sold 200,000 of them—it really was a distraction). He changed the product lineup from more than 10 different (and hard-to-keep-track-of) names to two. (The G3 Macintosh and the G3 Notebook are easier to remember than Performa, Quadra, PowerMac, etc.) I had a huge wall chart with the different model numbers to help me keep track—and I'm a Mac consultant!

Jobs also killed the clones, which at first glance, seemed like suicide for Apple, but looking closer, he saved Apple from companies that were using Apple technology and paying almost nothing for it. Worse yet, they were eroding the high-end market, where Apple was supposed to be making the big money. Steve saved Apple from a bad deal. He knew Apple should be making money at the low end.

One of the most important things Jobs did was to stop thinking that Microsoft was the enemy. At Macworld last summer he stunned the audience when who should appear (by satellite), more than 40 feet high, but the "devil" himself. Bill Gates and Steve had worked out a deal, and the joint announcement elicited boos from the crowd. How could Steve cut a deal with Microsoft? How could he "sell out" Apple?

In reality, Microsoft is the largest Apple developer. It's rumored that Microsoft makes more on every new Mac than Apple does. The deal resulted in the Mac getting the new version of Office long before Windows, and even gave investors some confidence that Apple would survive.

The sure sign of change at Apple is the iMac. Without a doubt this is going to be the hottest computer this fall—a complete, \$1,200 computer that includes all the software and hardware a consumer needs to get on the Internet, and even includes a built-in monitor. A strik-



ing new design, without a single straight line, the translucent iMac is awesome.

At first I enjoyed admiring the design, and then I used it. "Whoa!" is right. Fast, sleek, sexy. Apple has caused a stir, not unlike the fervor over the new VW Beetle. If Apple can do this a few more times, we might see 8% to 10% market share again.

Is the danger over for Apple? Not yet, but remember that the company is selling billions (with a "b") of dollars worth of computers every year. A company like Apple doesn't just go away. But Steve Jobs must salvage the shrinking market share (currently 4%), attract hot new products from developers, and introduce innovative products. Something I believe he can do. At Macworld, he spoke of dealing with one perception at a time. The first perception he worked on involved whether or not Apple would survive. Now he's working on innovation.

I hope Jobs succeeds. This business is too boring without Microsoft having Apple to innovate for them. Just take a look at Windows 98, where the new big feature is something that has been on Macs for more than eight years—multiple monitor support. Yeesh!

I hope Steve brings some fun, innovation, and energy back to this business. We sure need it.

MIKE KALTSCHNEE is a founder 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.



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Special Interest Groups

ACCESS. Designs and implements solutions using Microsoft Access database management.

Contact: Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920. Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7p.m. at AMSYS Computer, Ridgefield.

Next meeting: August 11, 1998.

ADVANCED OPERATING SYSTEMS. Uses, explores, and develops OS/2, BSD UNIX and NT operating systems.

Contact: Don Pearson, 914 669-9622.

Meets on Wednesday of the week following the general meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Don Pearson's office, North Salem, NY.

Next meeting: August 12, 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 3rd Thursday, 7:30p.m., Edmond Town Hall, Newtown.

Next Meeting: August 20, 1998.

GRAPHICS. Create and print high-quality graphics and images.

Contact: Ken Graff, 203 775-6667. Meets on last Wednesday, 7p.m., at Best Photo, Brookfield.

Next Meeting: Fall 1998.

INTERNET. Acquaints DACS members with the Internet.

Contact: Diane Greenwald, 203 797-4505. Meets on 3rd Wednesday, 7p.m., in the Danbury Public Library Community Room, 170 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: Fall, 1998.

MACINTOSH. Discusses Macintosh hardware and software.

Contact: Chris Salaz 203 798-6417. Meets on 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: August 18, 1998.

VISUAL BASIC. Develops Windows apps using Visual Basic.

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

Next Meeting: August 5, 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, 7:30 p.m., at Datahr, Brookfield.

Next Meeting: August 25, 1998.

WALL STREET. Examines new Windows stock market software.

Contact: Phil Dilloway, 203 367-1202. Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at A. G. Edwards office, 42 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury.

Next Meeting: August 31, 1998.

WEB SITE DESIGN. Design/maintain the DACS Web site.

Contact: Jeff Setaro, 203 748-6748. Meets on 2nd Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: August 12, 1998.

WINDOWS. Explores all aspects of Windows 95 and 3.1.

Contact: Ben Carnevale, 203 748-1751. Meets on 2nd Friday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury.

Next Meeting: October 9, 1998.

SIG News

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 lowercase letters. Send your E-mail comments on the Internet SIG Notes to Dan at dwmcleod@concentric.net.

WEB SITE DESIGN

The topic for the next meeting: The Nuts & Bolts of Web Site Design. At its August meeting the Web Site Design SIG will get back to basics and discuss the nuts & bolts of creating a Website. Topics Will include Site Mapping & Directory Structures, Using Stock Art, and the use of Frames & Tables. Contact: Jeff Setaro @ 203-748-6748 or jasetaro@sprynet.com

VISUAL BASIC

At the July meeting we reviewed code from one of Jim Scheef's programs. Jim discussed techniques in code to make the controls on a form adjust automatically to a change in the size of the form. This happens when the user maximizes or resizes the program window. Attendees requested prizes for the bugs found during the demonstration. We also discussed the basics of database access from a program. Jim showed how RDO can be used against an Access database (subject to the limitations of the Access ODBC driver). Rich Rosner talked about how he records real-time test results using VB. This led to a discussion of how summarized test results might be stored in a database for comparison over time. Future meeting topics: August: COM and DCOM; September: The Basics of Active Server Pages; October: Visual Studio 6 and VB6. The VB SIG is open to new VB programmers as well as experienced developers. Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

WINDOWS

Congratulations to the students who successfully completed the Windows 95 course on May 7, 1998. Certificates were sent to: Val Blasi, Phil Dilloway, Lina Feliu, Barbara Foley, Rudy Gondar, Marie Greene, Robert Greene, Bill Guire, Emile Harp, Mathias Hettinger, Heinz Hall, Reuben Kreider, Louis Pante, George Peters, Ray Salmanca, Chris Salaz, and John Schmieder. Special thanks to Charlie Bouvaird for use of facility, arrangements, and scheduling, and SIGleader / instructor Ben Carnevale. Windows questions during the summer break? E-mail Ben at FFJM69A@prodigy.com.

August 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>

Win 98 *Continued from page 6*

on a Web shortcut in the Favorites folder or elsewhere, Netscape will start up automatically instead of Internet Explorer. You will also get Netscape if you enter a Web address in the Run box on the Start menu or from the optional address toolbar on the Windows 98 taskbar. However, if you've got a folder window open and type in a Web address in the address bar, you'll get Internet Explorer rendering the page inside the folder window, with Netscape nowhere to be seen.

Running other programs

How well does Windows 98 run other programs? To check this out, I uninstalled an application under Windows 95 and installed it under 98 as I needed it. As expected everything worked fine, but I did run into a problem: Any program that tried to access the floppy disk drive would hang. I found the solution in the Microsoft Knowledge Base at <http://support.microsoft.com>. I had an older version of Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit that conflicted with Windows 98. I've since obtained a newer version that solves the problem.

My Documents

One new and sensible change to the user interface is that the My Documents folder is now a system folder right on the desktop. You may be familiar with this folder in Microsoft Office applications, but now it's built right into the operating system, so it is easy for a novice to find his or her document files and have a handy place to put them.

MS Plus features

If you're familiar with Microsoft Plus! for Windows 95, essentially all its features have been included in Windows 98, except for the Pinball game. This includes the popular Desktop Themes, which has two brand new themes: Baseball and Jungle. The screen appearance improvement options such as "Use large icons" and "Show icons using all possible colors" now appear on the Display properties page entitled Effects. And the System Agent has been replaced by the nearly identical Task Scheduler.

Built-in utilities

Another area of improvement is in the built-in utilities. The Backup program now supports most tape drives, including the previously unsupported category of SCSI tape drives, as well as backup to a hard drive or diskette. A powerful Sys-

tem Information tool is also included. Categories of information are Hardware Resources, Components, and Software Environment. For example, under Components/Problem Devices, the SI tool informed me that the secondary IDE controller had been disabled. This was something I had done on purpose to save an IRQ, but it's nice to know that System Information might also catch unintentional problems. From the Tools menu you can invoke other new tools such as the System File Checker and Registry Checker.

FAT32

Windows 98 now makes available to everyone the more space-efficient FAT32 file system. Previously this was available in the OEM Service Release of Windows 95 bundled with new computers but not in the retail version of Windows 95. Windows 98 includes a conversion utility, which I tried on my Windows 98 partition. FAT32 uses smaller cluster sizes and overcomes the 2 GB limit imposed by the FAT16 file system we've used for years. When I converted my 690 MB partition, I gained 60 MB of free space!

Be aware that other operating systems such as DOS and Windows NT don't support FAT32 (although support is planned for the next version of NT due sometime next year). And you may need to update low-level file system utilities such as Norton Utilities or Partition Magic, if you haven't already done so.

Defrag

A more sophisticated defragmentation tool uses information collected over time on the loading patterns of your programs, which don't necessarily load as a sequential file as assumed by traditional defragmentation programs. The trade-off for faster program loads is slower defragmentation times.

System update tool

Since we know operating systems are bound to require updates over time, Windows 98 has conveniently included a Windows Update tool, which connects to the Internet to look for updates available for your system. To get you familiar with this process, the Windows Update Web page will show you a nice "Route 98" desktop theme that you can download, and once you've done so, it

won't show up any longer under available updates.

Hardware support

Improved hardware support is included with Windows 98. It takes advantage of the MMX instructions in newer Pentium and all Pentium II processors. Support has been added for DVD-ROM drives and USB (universal serial bus) ports. If you've bought a computer in the last year or so, then you probably already have USB ports. These were designed from the beginning to chain multiple peripherals such as scanners, mice, and digital video cameras, and automatically have them recognized by the operating system without a reboot. Hopefully, manufacturers will quickly start releasing USB versions of their peripherals now that Windows 98 is released.

An under-the-covers improvement is in the TCP/IP protocol stack used for Internet connections. It is supposed to improve throughput due to faster error recovery on the connection.

Stability & bugs

One promise of Windows 98 is improved reliability compared to Windows 95. Perhaps this is true, but it is still possible to hang an application. It is supposed to be a better platform for running Internet Explorer 4.0, but I found it has some of the same bugs as running IE 4.0 on Windows 95. For instance, I like the new Thumbnails view for viewing graphics files, but there is a bug that will crash the folder window if you try to rename a file in Thumbnails view. Another bug introduced with Service Pack 1 for IE 4.01 (the latest level included with Windows 98) is that the thumbnails appear in a single vertical column. You're supposed to be able to click Refresh to get around this, but I find this can also crash the folder window.

Web TV

One geeky new feature that is still on the bleeding edge is the convergence of PC and TV in the new Web TV for Windows program. If you don't have a TV tuner card in your system but have an Internet connection, you can at least download daily program schedule updates for your local cable system, so you can find out if you're missing anything on TV while you're sitting at your com-

puter. Of course, if you do have a TV tuner card, you're supposed to be able to tune to the channel you select from the program guide. I've been following the Internet newsgroup microsoft.public.win98.webtv on this subject, and it sounds like there are kinks to be worked out before everything function smoothly, even if you get the ATI All-In-Wonder Pro video/TV tuner card that was Windows 98's target hardware for this feature.

...

So is Windows 98 an essential upgrade? No, not for everyone. But it is a nice-to-have upgrade for anyone who uses the Internet or has a recent machine. If you've still got a 486 (the minimum stated requirement is a 486DX/66 with 16 MB of RAM) or old Pentium 60, 66, or 75 that hasn't been upgraded, you're better off saving your money toward a new computer. For further information check out <http://www.microsoft.com/windows98>.

RICHARD CORZO is a computer programmer currently working for Packard BioScience Company in Meriden, CT. He has been working with 32-bit PC operating systems for the past six years. You can contact Richard at rcorzo@ibm.net.

Dilbert Continued from page 5

form you that a memo will be issued today regarding the subject mentioned above."

(Microsoft, Legal Affairs Division)

One day my Boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on. I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He said "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!"

(New business manager, Hallmark Greeting Cards.)

Speaking the Same Language:

As director of communications I was asked to prepare a memo reviewing our company's training programs and materials. In the body of the memo one of the sentences mentioned the "pedagogical approach" used by one of the training manuals. The day after I routed the memo to the executive committee, I was called into the HR director's office, and told that the executive vice president wanted me out of the building by lunch. When I asked

why, I was told that she wouldn't stand for "perverts" (pedophilia?) working in her company. Finally he showed me her copy of the memo, with her demand that I be fired — and the word "pedagogical" circled in red. The HR manager was fairly reasonable, and once he looked the word up in his dictionary, and made a copy of the definition to send back to her, he told me not to worry. He would take care of it. Two days later a memo to the entire staff came out - directing us that no words which could not be found in the local Sunday newspaper could be used in company memos. A month later, I resigned. In accordance with company policy, I created my resignation memo by pasting words together from the Sunday paper.

(Taco Bell Corporation)

This gem is the closing paragraph of a nationally-circulated memo from a large communications company: "(Company name) is endeavorily determined to promote constant attention on current procedures of transacting business focusing emphasis on innovative ways to better, if not supersede, the expectations of quality!"

(Lucent Technologies)

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGER

Permanent part time position in regional planning office for person with geographic information system background. Mapinfo experience preferred, ArcView or possibly CADD experience may also qualify. Knowledge of land and water resources and an artistic eye a plus. See www.wcsu.ctstateu.edu/~hvceo/maps.htm.

Compensation is \$375 per week based upon 25 hours per week, with paid vacation and pension. Flexible hours possible and can work with retired person's schedule. Send resume with details of experience to Jonathan Chew, Director, Housatonic Council,

Old Town Hall, Routes 25 & 133, Brookfield, CT 06804,
or call 203 775 6256.

Tips & Tricks

Final Exam Time Exercise for Win 95

by April Miller Cripliver (Boot Camp Commandante)

NOW'S THE TIME to prove your muster. You have had ample time to study and practice my Windows 95 Tips and Tricks (Sergeant April's Secret Files), which have appeared in the past three issues of dacs.doc and should be ready for a test. If you can complete this exercise, I pronounce you a Win 95 competent with a good command of the Windows 95 GUI (Graphical User Interface). Good Luck!

Make sure you have two blank disks before starting.

1. Start Windows 95
2. Get into Explorer and create a FOLDER from drive C: called EXERCISES. Then close all windows.
3. Open up Wordpad (Maximize it). Open up Paint (Maximize it). Open up Solitaire (Maximize it).
4. Switch into Wordpad and type "I like this class. It's fun!" Save the file as "MY LETTER," and put it in the EXERCISES folder.
5. Switch into Paint and create any small picture you want. Save the file as "MY PICTURE" and put it in the "EXERCISES" folder.
6. Close down Wordpad, Paint, and, yes, Solitaire.
7. Change the wallpaper on the desktop to any wallpaper you want.
8. Create a shortcut on your Desktop to access DRIVE A: Rename the shortcut FLOPPY DISK.
9. Create a shortcut on your Desktop to run Solitaire.
10. Put a blank diskette in drive A. From Explorer find C:\Program Files\MSOFF97\Clipart, and select any five files. Copy these files to Drive A: (HINT: use SEND TO.).

11. Close down all open windows.
12. Get a listing of DRIVE A: Close all windows.
13. Using the easiest way known, open MY LETTER (Hint: remember it was one of the last 15 things you did).
14. Close down WORD.
15. Change your wallpaper to NONE and your color scheme (Appearance) to WINDOWS STANDARD.
16. Delete the folder you created called EXERCISES and all files in it. Close down all windows.
17. Make a copy of your diskette from Step #10. (Hint: Right-click your 3½ floppy disk and choose COPY DISK).
18. Using the START/FIND, determine where Word is stored (the executable filename is WINWORD.EXE).
19. Now that you found the .exe, make a shortcut on your desktop to it.
20. Customize the START button so that Word is now added to the top of it.

21. Hide the TASK BAR.
22. Using the FIND command, determine where Excel is stored.
23. Customize the START button so that Excel is added to the top of it.
24. OPEN up WORD (Maximize it) and then open up Paint (Maximize it). Create a picture. Use the four-step method to copy your picture into Word. (HINT: In Paint, choose EDIT/SELECT ALL, then EDIT/COPY.).
25. Close down both Word and Paint applications. Do NOT save anything.
26. Delete any shortcuts on the Desktop that you created today.
27. Empty the recycle bin.
28. UN-HIDE the TASK BAR.
29. Empty the contents of the START/DOCUMENTS menu.
30. Remove the shortcuts that were placed at the top of the START menu (from Steps 20 & 23 above). HINT: Begin by right-clicking the Task Bar, choose Properties, then go to the Start Menu Programs tab.

APRIL MILLER CRIPLIVER, a regular contributor and creator of our Boot Camp columns, is Director of PC Applications at Computer Education Institute in Chesterton, Indiana. Contact April at userfriendly@bigfoot.com.

Enter the DACS Toon Sweepstakes Guess the Meaning of July's Cartoon

DACS is sponsoring a contest for the best explanation of the hidden meaning in July's cartoon. Entrants should submit their explanation by email to dacseditor@aol.com under the heading "Cartoon Hidden Meaning", or hand it to any DACS board member or officer at the August or September General Meetings. Deadline for submissions is September 4. The member with the best explanation will receive an autographed edition of Bucky Milam's cartoon anthology, when published sometime in the future.

Web Graphics

Spice Up Your Website WebSpice Animations

By Wally David

YOU'VE ALL SEEN cool Websites. Great graphics and chock full of information. And those neat animated arrows, buttons, words, and objects really add pizzazz. Ever wonder where those animations come from?

There are a number of sources. You can labor for hours to create your own. First, you have to have the skill to come up with the basic graphic itself. Then, you need the software to put the graphic into motion to achieve the animation effect. Or you can 'borrow' them from someone else's Website. However, that is neither legal nor very nice.

So, if you don't have the skill to create animated graphics, and don't want to rip off someone else, fear not. WebSpice Animations, from DeMorgan Industries Corporation is just the ticket. One of DeMorgan's principals is none other than our own Mike Kaltschnee, a DACS member and (more than) frequent contributor to {dacs.doc}. DeMorgan's previous releases on CD are WebSpice and WebSpice 1,000,000, both spectacular collections of royalty-free backgrounds, textures, buttons, and other graphics for Web page creation.

Now, with WebSpice Animations, DeMorgan has put together a vast array of high-quality, 3D-animated objects, buttons, words, and arrows. Each image is provided in GIF format and comes in a variety of styles, colors, and motions. WebSpice Animations (WSA) spans two CDs and uses your Web browser for the interface.

When you put in the first CD of WSA, a startup screen pops up. When the Launch button is clicked, WSA fires up your default Web browser. DeMorgan has created a great interface. The Animation Selection Wizard guides you through the CDs to find

the animation you need quickly and easily. The wizard presents you with the choice of object, buttons, words, and arrows to start with. Click on any of the four choices, and you proceed to a page full of different types of images.

For example, by clicking on the Arrows button, you are presented with no less than 26 different arrow styles. Choosing an arrow style brings you to another page that lets you select from four motion styles: tumble, spin, bounce, and grow. From there, you move through pages that let you choose background types of

black, white, or transparent, followed by your choice of 25 different colors. Once you've decided on the image that you want, simply right-click on the image in the browser and save it to your hard drive. Then it can be easily inserted into your Web page.

There are other collections of images on the market for use in your Web page projects, but I really find that the combination of high-quality images and the easy-to-use Animation Selection Wizard makes

WebSpice Animations what I need when looking for images for my Web page projects.

For more information on all of DeMorgan's WebSpice products, check out their Website at <http://www.webspice.com>

Wally David, Chairman of the Board of DACS, is also a member of the newsletter editorial committee. He is a System Support Specialist for Labatt USA at their US Headquarters in Norwalk. Wally can be reached via E-mail at wallydavid@myself.com



CONTACT

of Danbury, CT

is a manufacturer, and worldwide provider of high performance equipment for surface mount and through-hole electronic assembly automation. In order to expand our product lines, we require additional support. The following opportunities exist for energetic, highly motivated individuals in our Danbury, CT facility.

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Responsible for C language program development and maintenance of real-time embedded systems. 2+ years experience using Windows '95/NT operating system, and experience with C, C++, WIN 32, Visual C++, MFC, and ODBC.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Participate in new product development using Windows '95/NT. The product will include the ability to maintain program database using Windows user interface in an embedded system. Position requires 2+ years experience using Windows '95/NT operating system, knowledge of WIN 32, and experience with C, C++, Visual C++, MFC, ODBC, RDBMS, SQL, OOAD, Multi-threading, Client-Server helpful.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Please mail/fax/e-mail your resume indicating position of interest to:

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Fax: (203) 743-0606

E-Mail: hr@contactsystems.com

EOE

CONTACT

Visit our Web Site at:
www.contactsystems.com

Random Access

Instant replay: July 1998

Bruce Preston, Moderator

LAST MONTH DACS initiated a new service for the many DACS members who are unable to attend the Random Access sessions at the general meetings. Now you may now e-mail your technical questions to askdacs@aol.com. Questions will be presented to the membership and responded to via this column. Please submit your questions by 6 p.m. the evening before the general meeting. Try to provide the level of detail as in the questions that appear in the column. We regret that we will not be able to answer individual questions personally.

ASKDACs: A placement firm has asked me to send a resume in ASCII. How do I convert from Microsoft Word to ASCII?

A. ASCII is the technical name for "plain text." From MS Word, select FILE, then SAVE AS, and choose from one of these four options: 1) TEXT ONLY, which will remove formatting but leave in some special characters such as typographic quote characters (open and close quotes). Each paragraph create one very long line of output--the recipient will have to do the "word wrap" on the file; 2) TEXT ONLY WITH LINE BREAKS, which will "fold" the lines at the same place as they were folded in Word; 3) MS-DOS TEXT, which removes formatting and will convert typographic characters to plain characters (i.e. no distinction between open and close quote marks); and 4) MS-DOS TEXT WITH LINE BREAKS, which will also preserve line wrap. Note that all of these files have the extension .TXT; you may examine any of the resultant files with the small word-processing program called Notepad found in the Accessories folder.

Q. I would like to remove HTML tags from a file. Is there a simple way to do this?

A. Select the text in the Web page, copy it, and then paste it into a word processor. There are also some freeware/shareware utilities that will strip the HTML tags from a

document.

Q. When I try to run MS Office 4.0's Word or Excel under Windows 3.1, I get the message "Application Error: Call to undefined dynalink." Other applications, such as PowerPoint work fine. Reinstalling Word did not fix it.

A. Dynalink is an older name for Dynamic Link Library, or DLL. A .DLL file is a portion of an application or the operating system that is shared by several programs. Since reinstalling Word did not fix it, you might try the following: 1) uninstall Word and Excel. This will modify the registry (or .INI files) and mark the DLLs as being removed. Then reinstall Word and Excel. Note that installation will not always replace a file if it has been damaged. If that doesn't work, then try reinstalling Windows. You might also look for the utility FDDLDS.EXE, which was published in PC-Magazine and thus should be on the Ziff-Davis Website. This utility will examine your system and identify any missing DLLs, as well as DLLs that exist but are not used by any programs. Commercial utilities, such as the Norton Utilities for Windows will also tune up a system and often can find missing files and/or identify problems. Note, however, that some may not be able to identify a damaged file, since they are only looking for a file with the correct name and date.

Q. Every once in a while when my machine is processing MPEG video, I get skipping in the audio. The machine is a P333 with 64 MB of memory and a 32X CD-ROM, so it is not likely that the machine is under-powered.

A. Check that you have the most recent video driver, since there have been cases in which it can interfere with MPEG. Then check to see if you have Microsoft DirectX, Release 5 or greater. You can get the DirectX drivers from the Microsoft Website,

and the prior releases had problems.

Q. In my Start / Programs menu, the items are not in alphabetical order. This happened after I converted to Windows 98. How do I fix this? The items list in the correct order if I examine the Start menu using Windows Explorer.

A. This is a new "feature" in Windows 98 and the Internet Explorer 4 interface. You can rearrange them by dragging items when you are looking at the Start / Programs menu!

Q. I have an HP-550C that will not pull paper into the printing area. Once paper is loaded, it works fine.

A. This is a commonly reported problem, found in other models (660, 800 were mentioned by members in the audience.) Try cleaning the rubber rollers with alcohol--this was reported by some to be a quick fix. Also make sure that the paper thickness lever (paper vs. envelope) is fully in the paper position. If it isn't beyond the detent, it won't work. Lastly, call HP: One member got his printer repaired/replaced under warranty after multiple complaints about this problem.

Q. When I download a very large file, my display goes into power saver mode. Moving the mouse, touching keys, etc., does not reawaken the display--I have to cycle the machine's power on and off.

A. Check in your system setup (CMOS Setup) and examine the power saver page. Check to see that it will wake when a serial port event takes place. This should keep it from going to sleep. (This is in addition to the settings available via the Windows screen property page.) Also, check to make sure that you have the latest driver for your video card, and see if there are drivers specific to your video display--the screen property page has provisions for drivers for both the video card and the display itself. Lastly, a simple workaround that will temporarily disable power saver is to just click on the START button. This will raise the Start menu, and while the start menu is expanded, power saving is disabled.

Q. Sometimes I E-mail a large PowerPoint presentation from my

work location to my personal E-mail account so I can work on it at home. If the presentation is large, my E-mail account gets "clogged" and I have to call my ISP (Erol's) to have them reset it.

- A. There are several things that might be happening here. Erol's may limit the E-mail maximum message size (or accumulated messages) it will contain. See if you can get it expanded. If you have an allowance for a "personal home page" that you aren't using, you might be able to exchange it for a larger capacity mailbox. Another possibility is that your E-mail client on your home machine may have a "do not download messages greater than X" setting. Such a parameter exists in Eudora, for example. Some users reported that Outlook Express times-out while receiving large files—it seems that it doesn't reset the timer when it is downloading files. Another possibility is to use

FTP from your office machine to put the PowerPoint file in your personal Web site area, and then use FTP from your home machine to download the file. Use FTP's PUT and GET commands. There are also utilities such as WSFTP (from www.ipswitch.com) and CuteFTP (from www.tucows.com) that let you drag and drop files between your machine and the FTP site.

Q. Is there a way that I can have a "print-to-screen" capability without having to go through the clipboard and then pasting into an application such as MS Word?

- A. Several shareware/freeware utilities were mentioned. All of the below will work with Windows 95, 98 and NT. They were found by searching www.winfiles.com using the keyword PRINTKEY: Printkey 3.0, <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Bay/3053/> Free, updated June 28, 1998, rated five stars by ZDNet

Software Library; Ultra PrintScreen 2.7, (<http://www.printscreen.com/>) \$19.95, updated June 3, 1998; and Hardcopy 10.1, <http://www.sw4you.de/>, Free.

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.

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