



June 1999

Volume 10, Issue 6

<http://www.dacs.org>

Preview

DACS presents a choice in operating systems

You are a Mac or Intel-based computer user and you wish that an alternative operating system was available, or you hope for an OS that works on both platforms. On June 1, 1999, DACS will present BeOS, which may just answer your yearning.

While Intel-based machines most often use a Windows operating system, from Windows 3.1 to NT or 95/98, and Macintosh computers are based on the Mac operating systems, BeOS can be used by both platforms.

Be Inc., the maker of BeOS, is the brainchild of Jean-Louis Gassée, former President of Apple's product division.

BeOs has several important features that you will discover at the DACS presentation, but one typical feature is simplicity. BeOS developers are continuing to put emphasis on simple and elegant solutions to programming problems.

A typical strength of BeOS is digital media, called the "Media OS." But the OS has other practical tools, such as Internet, with the necessary devices to communicate. Some are built-in, and others are from third parties. BeMail, is BeOS' own mail client. It automatically handles e-mail and attachments. NetPositive is BeOS' built-in browser which permits the user to see the web faster and more efficiently. BeInformed is a newsreader of newsgroups; and Felix permits access to the Internet and to your own computer. BeOs even includes a Web server.

Up to nine workspaces can be set up with BeOs, each with its own color depth and screen resolution. Designing a Web page, and wanting to know what it looks like at 640x480, 800x600, or 1024x768? Simply launch the Workspaces tool and drag it from one screen to the next. Set up different windows across

the workspaces, and switch between them quickly with keyboard shortcuts.

BeOs includes a basic word processor called StyleEdit. Two third-party suite programs are also available. When it is time to play games, BeOS has an exceptional handling of the requirements for games, with video, 3D graphics, and sound.

Come to the DACS meeting on June 1 and discover for yourself all the features BeOS has to offer. DACS is a 550-member computer society representing PC and Mac users in the greater

Danbury region. Its general meetings take place the first Tuesday of the month at the Danbury Hospital auditorium, 24 Hospital Avenue. Meetings, which are open to the public, begin at 6:30 p.m. with casual networking, followed at 7 p.m. by Random Access, when members can ask their most pressing computer questions. The featured pre-



sentation starts at 8 p.m.

DACS members include beginners, intermediates and expert users. Special Interest Groups meet throughout the month, covering specific computer topics from Web page building to word processing, using both Windows and Macintosh platforms. Check the calendar and SIG page at DACS Web site (<http://www.dacs.org>) dacs.doc, the club's award-winning newsletter, or read answers by DACS to common computing questions in Wednesday's High Tech section of the Danbury News-Times. DACS voice mail can be reached at 203 748-4330. Come to the July 6 general meeting, when OnTrack Data Intl., will tell us all about data protection and recovery.

President's File

“Anyone who says he knows what’s going to happen next January 1 probably doesn’t really understand the problem.” Those paraphrased words from former DACS president Tom McIntyre were the central message of our Y2K-II conference last month, and one which was echoed by each of the distinguished panel of conferees. Although there was shared confidence that critical services would remain available or that interruptions would be short and few, no one could really predict how events would unravel as the Year 2000 approaches and gets underway. Although never stated directly, perhaps the clearest management principle one came out of the conference with was “redundancy . . . redundancy . . . redundancy.”

Planning and organizing an event like Y2K-II seemed almost as daunting as navigating the millennium itself. Ed Heere, Wally David, and Marlene Gaberel performed yeoman service in publicizing the event through radio interviews and contacts with the news media. Chamber of Commerce President Steve Bull sent out fliers to the Chamber membership, while Ancell School acting Dean Ron Benson helped publicize the event among WestConn students and faculty. Gene Minasi assisted in providing hospital facilities and equipment, and WestConn’s Audio/Visual Department helped in videotaping the conference.

With all the publicity, we booked an extra room at the hospital with closed-

circuit video to handle possible overflow. The fact that overflow crowds did not materialize may say something about the public’s growing indifference about Y2K alerts, but not about the need for redundancy in planning.

If you missed the conference, look for more on the DACS Website and on your local cable channel. We have some great video takes that deserve another run.

InterGalactic/PCEXpo

Once again, it’s PCEXpo time. That annual pilgrimage of cyber phreaks to see the latest and greatest in computer technology will be held at New York’s Javits Center from June 22 to 24. The Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) will again be holding its InterGalactic User Group Officers Conference on the weekend before, and will be cosponsoring a number of PCEXpo events for UG leaders.

Wish us luck at InterGalactic, as we compete once again for the annual APCUG newsletter and Website awards.

Postal Service

I almost couldn’t believe my eyes when I received my May newsletter five days before the General Meeting last month. If the Postal Service deserved our ire when the .doc was late (my April issue arrived two weeks after May’s), then they now deserve our cautious praise. More on this later.

The BeOS or EndOS?

For those who thought Windows was the only game in town, come to our June General Meeting for a presentation on the next upstart operating system. Like Linux, BeOS is attracting a growing phalanx of business users who yearn for an open system that they can tweak to their own needs. Whether home users will run down to try it out, or even care for another choice, it will be good to see what the competition is coming up with. But if you are looking for another duel of the titans, check out where the real money is going in future operating systems: the Internet.

—ALLAN OSTERGREN
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Membership Information

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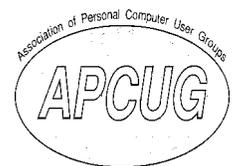
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HelpLine

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

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Directors' Notes

The Board of Directors' monthly meeting was held at the Resource Center on May 10, 1999. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Heere, Ostergren and Setaro and Mrs. Gaberel. In the absence of Chairman Wally David, Ed Heere acted as Chairman and Secretary Buoy kept the minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on April 12, 1999 were approved as presented to the meeting.

Finance & membership

Treasurer Bovaird reported combined checking and postal account balance of \$15,415.45 and postage on hand of \$58.50 for a total of \$15,473.95 with no accounts payable outstanding. He also reported estimated current membership of 578 and costs of \$100.00 for the videotaping of the May 4 Y2K Symposium.

RC SCSI installed

Ed Heere stated that the new SCSI card and cable had been installed in the principal PC at the Resource Center and that the scanner now worked.

Chamber of Commerce event

Comments were made regarding the recent Danbury Chamber of Commerce "Gathering" on April 29, to which DACS was invited and did participate, and its effectiveness with respect to DACS participation in joint efforts. Establishment of alliances with other local business groups for mutual benefit was also discussed.

Y2K Symposium

Comments were also made about the Y2K Symposium of May 4. Charles Bovaird gave a brief synopsis of attendance by estimated total (215), DACS members, and those visitors who registered.

News-Times Q&A

Discussed next was the weekly Q&A column appearing in The News-Times, specifically the dearth of questions for the last week in which the column appeared. The subject is to be discussed with Mark Langlois, business editor of the N-T, including possible use of questions from DACS' own Random Access.

Mac for the RC

Further to the matter of having Macintosh equipment available at the Re-

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Directors Notes *Continued from page 3*

source Center for the use of the Mac SIG (or any other member), it was announced that a DACS member had offered a "loaner" iMac for the Center. Ed Heere offered at least some software for it.

Advertising

President Ostergren announced that an initial national advertisement had been placed in the May issue of dacs.doc as a result of the arrangements made through APCUG and that commitments have been made for two additional national advertisements.

PC Expo & InterGalactic

Jeff Setaro informed the other members of the Board of the status of planned participation by DACS in the forthcoming (June) InterGalactic and PCExpo events. While participation in InterGalactic events, particularly Saturday, June 19, was planned, the new policy of the PCExpo organizer in withholding free space until all paying exhibitors had been accommodated made it difficult for user groups to make advance arrangements for participation. As of this date, there is a probable 50/50 chance that DACS will be offered space.

Need a Hand

President Ostergren announced that Frances Owles had expressed her desire to phase out her commitment as Managing Editor of dacs.doc. He asked that all members of the Board consider ways and means of streamlining the preparation of the newsletter and relieving its deadline angst for those involved.

—LARRY BUOY

Habitat for Humanity Needs a Pentium

Your local Habitat for Humanity affiliate needs a computer. Housatonic Habitat for Humanity expects to launch three new homes this winter—two in Sandy Hook and one projected for Danbury. Maintaining our growing database and our financial records is impossible with our current setup: two PCs—a 286 and a 386. We have been promised a new computer by IBM, but to achieve even minimum efficiency in our office, we desperately need another computer to network with it. Would anyone be able to donate a Pentium computer to this hard-working, worthy organization? Please contact Linda Wescott at 203 743-1662 or 203 431-1392.

New Members

04/17/1999 thru 05/17/1999

- 1) JoAnne Albanesi
- 2) Ed Buckley
- 3) Richard DelPivo
- 4) Eugene C. Giorgio
- 5) Jeffrey Kass
- 6) Thomas R. McLean
- 7) Parker Moreland
- 8) Sanjay N. Pai
- 9) Leo Schneider
- 10) Robert Sharp
- 11) Gene H. Weiner
- 12) Charles White

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Meeting Review

Preparing for Y2K

*'Twas the tick before 2K
And at every site,
Not a user was sleeping
They all were up tight.*

*The systems were programmed
With infinite care,
In hopes that disaster
Would never hit there.*

Our May meeting was the second Y2K conference presented by DACS. The presentation was structured to the concerns of individuals and small businesses, which is the essence of DACS membership. The meeting was organized and presented by DACS. The format was a panel of six people who live and work in the greater Danbury area or Hartford with each presenting a unique concern for Y2K preparation.

Our panel moderator was DACS's own Ed Heere, President and CEO of AMSYS Computer, which he founded. Ed has been a major factor in almost every facet of DACS over its entire existence. For the May meeting, Ed once again contributed his insight and technical knowledge of the computer industry. He emphasized right up front that "Y2K compliance" is only in the eye of the beholder, Y2K readiness is what it really is.

Our first panelist was Bob Mitchell, Department of Information Technology in Hartford. Bob told us about the extensive work that the state of Connecticut is doing both to get the state government prepared and to provide support services for CT residents and businesses. He cited the state web site <http://www.doit.state.ct.us/y2k> which contains a treasure of very useful and practical information. As did all the panelists, Bob emphasized planning and testing, His viewgraphs hammered "test, test, test".

Fred Rhines was our second panelist to speak. He is with READY Intelligent Staffing, a technical personnel agency which he started. Fred told us that it is currently quite difficult to fill the demand for IT workers because the needs of the companies are so specific. He projected the need for another million people through 2005, computer scientists, system analysts, and programmers. The

newer requirements tend towards familiarity with Visual Basic more so than Cobol.

Lori Scott of Danbury Health Systems directs the Y2K preparations for Danbury Hospital. She presented a very detailed account of what is involved when management takes potential risk very seriously. Danbury Hospital has made Y2K preparation a priority and has fully supported the project for more than two years. Lori explained that a responsible Y2K plan must be both thorough and comprehensive. There must be extensive dialog with suppliers, testing their systems to your requirements, not theirs. Lori emphasized that a meaningful plan must be total and the focus must be on managing the risk. The slides she displayed were a convincing demonstration of what a Y2K plan can and should be.

Next on the program was Bill Stax, Regional Manager of Connecticut Light and Power. He gave us the management type report that CL&P is now 84% compliant with completion expected by June 30, and they feel confident that power will be there when needed. Bill spoke from a manager's perspective and introduced the wider implications of preparing for whatever may happen. He told us that CL&P is reviewed by five regulatory agencies for readiness. They are not scheduling any maintenance activities for "that night", they will be at full staffing and on storm alert. Interestingly, they predict that they will only see 40% of the peak load that night because everybody who can, will switch to their own power backup systems.

Paul Estefan is Director of Civil Preparedness for the city of Danbury. Y2K is just one more item on his agenda, with his concern being on the physical problems of civil preparedness. No vacations will be allowed over the 2K transition, and contingency plans are in readiness for no lights, no heat, no gas, no telephones, and anything else in the realm of possibility. Paul gave us the assurance that Danbury will be ready just in case the "grid" (everything) goes down.

The final panelist was Tom McIntyre, Senior Vice President-Investments and Trust Specialist at A.G. Edwards' Danbury office. Tom has been a major factor at DACS over the years. He, along with Dick Sperry, developed dacs.doc from a simple newsletter to a contender for national rec-

ognition, he was President of DACS for four years, and served for many years on the board of directors.

Tom introduced reality to the discussion by quoting, "Those who can keep their head when all about them are losing theirs, just don't understand the problem". He told us that while the financial community is better prepared than other groups, many people, especially in other countries, actively reject the Y2K problem. On the other hand, a number of scams are currently preying on the panic prone. The Fed is even printing an extra quantity of new currency, in anticipation of those who will prepare for Y2K by stuffing their mattresses.

The general message coming to us from all the panelists, and especially Ed, is that the problem is real, but manageable. The way to cope is plan, test, and have Plan B around just in case.

Several gems emerged during the evening. The total cost of handling Y2K is estimated at \$1.5 trillion for preparation, followed by another \$1.5 trillion after 2000 for litigation. My favorite, however, was the observation that although Russia has not been very active in preparing, there probably won't be any nuclear warheads inadvertently set off in our direction. No source was cited for this reassuring information.

As moderator, Ed ran a tight ship. All the panelists got their allotted time slot and there was a lively windup of discussion and questions. The meeting demonstrated that local talent and a relevant topic can deliver the information content that we want from DACS meetings. Congratulations are in order to Ed and Tom for organizing this meeting and making it meaningful to us.

Tick !!!

*When out on the Net
There arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my screen
To see what was the matter.*

*When what to my wondering Eyes
should appear,
But an AOL message
That made it all clear.*

*"The worst is all over,
There's not much more strife,
Happy 2K to all,
Now go get a life."*

CORCORAN@snet.net is an old, retired computer programmer who claims he never used a two digit year field.

Pirates of Silicon Valley - Gates vs. Jobs

By Mike Kaltschnee

At Fall Comdex I was handed a flyer for an upcoming movie on the cable channel TNT called "Pirates of Silicon Valley." At first, I was amused by the picture of Noah Wyle (from the television show E.R.) and Anthony Michael Hall (Weird Science) as Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. I realized immediately that this would be an interesting way to look at the history of how personal computers came to be such an important part of our lives.

I entered the computer business at the same time the movie begins. I bought my first Apple II+ computer in 1981. I had already been following the growth of Apple Computer and the two founders, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. Their story inspired me to purchase one of their computers for more than \$2,000, and it only had 48K of RAM and a floppy disk drive (think of what I could get for that today!). Bill Gates was another inspiration but quickly became an evil figure due to his method of doing business.

The movie opens with Steve Jobs filming the famous "1984" commercial (with Ridley Scott) showing an Orwellian view of people who use IBM computers. It is strange at first seeing Noah Wyle as Jobs, but he quickly grows on you as the charismatic and driven individual he is. He has studied Jobs and says he liked him, but he also saw him as a manipulator and a perfectionist.

Anthony Michael Hall is excellently in the role of Bill Gates. He has all of the characteristic Bill mannerisms down pat, such as the rocking back and forth, the frumpy clothes, and the disheveled hair. He does a great job of portraying the bright but clumsy Gates, even to the point of looking completely ridiculous in one scene and almost purely evil in another.

In the course of the two-hour movie, we see Jobs and Gates mature as businessmen, observe their successes and failures, and even get a glimpse into their personal lives. Very little new information is revealed in the movie, but it does a great

job of putting two decades of the computer business into perspective.

Two supporting roles are worth mention. Steve Woniak (Joey Slotnick) is the brain behind the Apple computer. He is playful, creating things to either impress or make people laugh. Paul Allen is Bill's sidekick, dutifully putting up with Bill's trashing of his new car or pretending to be him on a business call. Both do a great job of playing off of their partners, helping us understand the personalities behind the genius of Jobs and Gates.

The surprise in the movie is Steve Ballmer, brilliantly played by John Dimaggio. Steve Ballmer is a college friend of Bill Gates who constantly harasses him about his lack of a social life, and then winds up as president of Microsoft. He helps lighten the movie as it starts por-

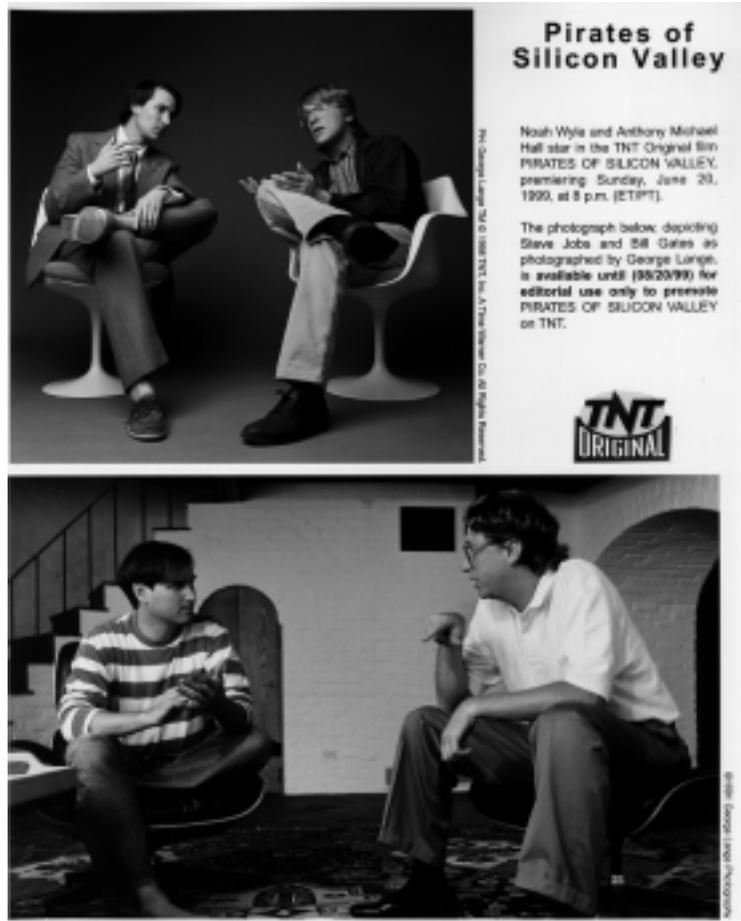
traying both Jobs and Gates as harsh, domineering, and ruthless leaders. One memorable scene involves Ballmer teasing Gates about his choice of pickup lines.

I highly recommend this movie to computer-industry people, although I believe nontechnical people would enjoy it as well. The movie goes out of its way to avoid industry jargon, and may even gloss over some things that I felt could have been explored in more detail. It is, however, a fascinating view of an incredible time. As Steve Ballmer points out in the movie, one single meeting with IBM created incredible wealth for Microsoft. You have to see this movie to fully understand the blunders and triumphs that brought us to where we are today.

Since I've always wanted to be a movie critic, I am finally getting my chance: I rate Pirates of Silicon Valley (TV 14): 4 1/2 out of 5. Definitely worth watching.

Pirates of Silicon Valley will be on TNT on June 20 at 8:00 p.m. Check your local listings for channel information. There will also be several encore broadcasts. Visit <http://tnt.turner.com> for more information.

Mike Kaltschnee is a founder of DeMorgan Industries, the leading developer of Web graphics at www.WebSpice.com. You can reach Mike at: mikek@demorgan.com.



Mac Group Network Launches New "Announcement" Lists

The User Group Network (UGN) has announced the opening of two new e-mail discussion lists for Mac users everywhere... "Announce" is a new e-mail listserv specifically for announcements from commercial, shareware and freeware developers. "Rumors" is a new email listserv for tips, tricks, questions, discoveries, discussions, and, of course, rumors.

Where's the best place to find spam-free information? The User Group community... of course.

"After the closing of the Evangelist, we've had literally hundreds of Mac users commenting the loss of that important source of new product announcements," says UGN spokesman Fred Showker, "so we've launched the Announce list to help fill the void." All Macintosh developers are invited and encouraged to join the list and post releases and specials for their products and services.

The UGNN recommends joining and posting an introduction.

To subscribe, send an email to: Announce-on@lists.user-groups.net Upon subscribing you will be sent instructions and information.

"RUMORS" is ramping up as a "free-for-all" list for discussions, discoveries, tips and tricks. To subscribe, send an email to: Rumors-on@lists.user-groups.net Upon subscribing you will be sent instructions and information.

Online submissions are being accepted at the UGN news provider site: [News-Serve.net](http://www.news-serve.net) — vendors and developers are invited to utilize that facility as well: <http://www.news-serve.net/news-center/announce.html>

For online information about all the User Group Network Lists visit: <http://www.user-groups.net/ugcommunity/subscribe.html>

Apple Rolls Out Mac OS 8.6

Jobs announces free upgrade to 8.5 users

by Geoff Duncan

Today at Apple's annual World Wide Developer Conference (WWDC), Apple Interim CEO Steve Jobs announced the immediate availability of Mac OS 8.6. Mac OS 8.6 is an incremental update to the Macintosh operating system that introduces some new features and capabilities, addresses a number of known problems, and lays a foundation for future Macintosh models. Mac OS 8.6 has the same system requirements as Mac OS 8.5: any Macintosh system that originally shipped with a PowerPC processor and that has at least 24 MB of RAM. www.apple.com/macos/til.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11386

TidBITS Continued on page 11



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• 11216

Special Interest Groups

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

Contact: Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920. Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 7p.m. at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury. **Next meeting:** June 8.

ADVANCED OPERATING SYSTEMS. 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:** June 9.

EDUCATION. Coordinates DACS education classes.

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

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

Contact: Ken Graff at 203 775-6667. Meets on last Wednesday, 7p.m., at Best Photo, Brookfield. **Next Meeting:** June 30.

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES. Discusses various investment strategies, emphasizing careful selection to maximize profits and limit risk.

Contact: Paul Gehrett (203 426-8436). Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Edmond Town Hall, Newtown.

Next Meeting: June 24.

INTERNET. Acquaints DACS members with the Internet.

Contact: Larry Stevens (LStevens@usa.net) or Richard Koser (rkoser@worldnet.att.net). Meets on 3rd Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury. **Next Meeting:** June 16.

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:** June 15.

VISUAL BASIC. Develops Windows apps with 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:** June 2.

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: June 29.

WALL STREET. Examines new Windows stock market software.

Contact: Phil Dilloway (203 367-1202). Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury. **Next Meeting:** June 28.

WEBSITE DESIGN. Designs and maintains dacs.org, 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:** Not until August.

WINDOWS. Explores all aspects of Windows 95 and 3.1.

Contact: Ben Carnevale (203 748-1751 or e-mail W1VZT@aol.com). Meets on 1st Friday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, Ives Manor (lower level), 198 Main Street, Danbury. **Next Meeting:** Fall of 1999.

SIG News

ACCESS. The Access SIG continues with its split program—the first hour devoted to generalized database instruction, the second to problem solving.

INTERNET. At our next meeting, representatives from the Danbury Public Library will present "The Librarian's Resources on the Internet." It would not be an exaggeration to refer to the whole of the Internet as a resource for librarians, in much the same way that the entirety of a library's print collection serves as such. Yet in either case, librarians always strive to find those particular resources whose information is both authoritative and timely. Reference Librarian John O'Donnell, and Tony Booth, Coordinator of Library Technology, will present some World Wide Web sites on a variety of topics they have found to be particularly useful. Attention will be paid to the quality of the information presented, as well as to the site's ability to refer the researcher to other sources of information on the subject. Join us, ask questions, and tell us about any WWW sites you have found to be informative and helpful.

JOB NETWORKING (New SIG proposal from Peter Canevari, who is willing to lead this group if enough members show interest.)

The computer industry has become a dynamic arena for everyone involved with it. Employers and employees both have their needs and their "dream" situations. The best way to match everyone's dream situation is to use career networking. There are many reasons why this type of networking is needed. 1) Companies large or small have different needs now (long- and short-term projects, permanent situations, word of mouth (friends telling friends) etc.); 2) the IT Field is very complex and diverse (programming, Web development, networking, Help Desk, etc.); 3) the job market is very tight now, almost at a drought condition. As the trade magazines predict, it won't get any better. A Job Networking SIG could benefit a lot of people and businesses. I am willing to be a clearinghouse for people looking for positions and companies needing their services. E-mail me at pcanevari@snet.net if you are interested.

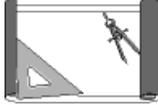
VISUAL BASIC. The May VB SIG meeting opened with Random Access, which continued through the entire meeting due to a missing projector cable. Fortunately we had some good questions. One of these concerned the various project types offered in the New Project dialog when starting VB 5 or VB 6. These range from 'Standard EXE' to 'ActiveX Control' to 'DHTML Application'. This led to a discussion of how the various EXE types load into memory for execution and how memory spaces are managed by the OS.

VOICE FOR JOANIE. SIG leader Shirley Fredlund says VFJ desperately needs volunteers. This needn't involve a great deal of time, but from time to time Shirley might have a computer problem she can't solve and would be grateful to have a patient and knowledgeable someone to call to describe the problem and have them walk her through it.

WEBSITE DESIGN. FYI the Web Site Design SIG will be taking it's summer vacation during June and July. The next meeting will be held on August 11. Following are the resources mentioned in the E-business presentation at the May meeting: Sites we talked about: <http://www.ibm.com>, <http://www.ibm.com/shop>, <http://www.skytel.com>, <http://www.clk.net>, <http://instant2.icaire.org>, <http://www.thawte.com>, <http://www.verisign.com>. Design resources: <http://www.builder.com>, <http://www.webmonkey.com>, <http://www.webreference.com>, <http://www.zdu.com>.

June 1999

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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I-Food

Recipes and Food on the Web

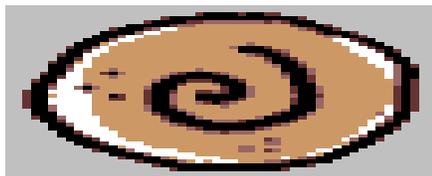
By Jacqueline Renee Cohen

Last weekend we had a barbecue at our house. We didn't want the standard fare of grilled meats, so we opted for marinated salmon kebabs, homemade pizza, and other scrumptious treats—including a raspberry meringue with fresh cream. The only problem we had was that we couldn't remember the proportions for the meringue. What to do with only hours before the 30+ hungry guests arrived? Search the Internet - what else!

While I was growing up, a corner of the kitchen in my parents' house was dedicated to cookbooks. Now I just have an electronic folder containing bookmarked recipe sites that lives in my Internet browser under Favorite Sites. The Internet has allowed me to save hundreds of dollars building up a cookbook library, and this article hopes to save you hours of time searching the Web by presenting you with 16 varied food-related sites with brief descriptions of each.

Many of the sites offer search mechanisms, categorized options, nutritional information, and loads of links. Some even allow you to e-mail recipes to friends and to establish your own recipe book of favorites. Many are compiled from reader contributions and encourage you to share your family secrets too.

<http://www.allrecipes.com/> This is a very user-friendly site. The printouts are excellent, and you can print them in either full size or recipe card format. A great site. Hats off to the Webmaster. It has many categories: soups, pastas, cakes, breads, cookies, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and soon a Chicken site. All of the categories exist as their own sites each with subcategories, including vegetarian, egg free, gluten free, etc. Nutritional values are not given.



<http://www.cookierecipe.com/> My favorite link from the above site! Like

allrecipes.com, this site doesn't give nutritional values, but, wow, what a site! Cookies are categorized in ways I never thought of and include many healthy, nonegg, gluten-free, no-bake, varieties. You've just gotta look!



Meals for You

<http://www.mymenus.com/> WOW! Most people have to hire a nutritionist and live-in cook to get the information this site provides in an easy-to-use format. It contains nutritional content, it's categorized, generates shopping lists adjusted to number of servings, offers choice of measurement systems, meal planning, and more. As I said: WOW!

Recipe Finder

<http://homearts.com/waisform/recipesp.htm> Interesting concept: you list ingredients and it searches for appropriate recipes (mostly sourced from established cookbooks). It's kind of slow but will probably improve with time. Check back in a month or so when you just don't know what to do with those three tomatoes, two potatoes, tofu, bag of peanuts, and carrots in the fridge. Homearts will find you a recipe or two!

YumYum.Com

<http://www.yumyum.com/> Quantity, not quality, is what makes this site impressive. You'll find more than 20,000 recipes. Need I say more?

Student Recipes

<http://www.yumyum.com/student/> Supplying you with the basics of cooking with simple instructions (the word "just" is used a lot!), this site should be a must bookmark for any students or anyone else just finding their way about the kitchen—or anyone who wants to cook up some easy meals! You'll find great simple recipes, which anyone can follow, and you

can print out the "basic kitchen tool list" for any first-time home-leavers.

Vegetarian and Fat-Free

<http://www.vegsource.org/recipe/> A great site with links to fat-free recipes. Very well categorized with lots of ethnic dishes. Many of the recipes are reader-contributed, which guarantees a wide variety from gourmet to grunge.

Diabetic

<http://diabeticgourmet.com/diabetic/dgrcp.html> The Diabetic Gourmet Magazine's site. Has superb recipes plus a link to their main page with excellent information for diabetics on topics other than food. This site is worth a look for anyone interested in healthy recipes, not just for diabetics.

Granny's Kitchen

<http://www.grannyskitchen.com/> I wasn't sure about adding this huge site until I went to the Hints and Tips page at <http://www.grannyskitchen.com/harchive.htm>, where I found great stuff! Dedicated to the Webmaster's grandmother. All grannies would be proud to have this site named after them!

Star Chefs

<http://www.starchefs.com/> For the budding gourmets, here are recipes of famous chefs, including: Jean George Vongerichten (Jean George's and Vongs) and Emeril Lagasse. James Beard Awards link, loads of recipes—and the essential gift shop!

Food TV

<http://www.foodtv.com/> If you are a fan of the Food Network, then you probably already know this site. Has great links to their programs, chefs, recipes, menus, etc.

Healthy Heart

<http://www.healthyfridge.org/mainmenu.html> Not many recipes but good tips on having a healthy fridge and a great "What should I choose chart?" at <http://www.healthyfridge.org/choose.html>

Diet Site

<http://www.dietsite.com/> <http://www.dietsite.com/nutr/index.htm> If you are dieting or planning to, or are just plain interested in the nutritional value of your current diet, give yourself an hour to get

into this site. It analyzes your diet, analyzes recipes, charts your progress, and provides RDA requirements and nutritional content of almost any food you eat. This is a really comprehensive site. It also includes sports nutrition, alternative nutrition, nutrition facts, and loads of information. The diet analysis is just a small part of this superb site.

Busy Cooks

<http://busycooks.miningco.com/> The Mining Company does it again with a one-page Web guide to quick references for recipes and food-related stuff on the Web. Check this out if you aren't too hungry and have time to play. I specifically like the Quick Complete Menus link.

There are hundreds of Web sites with recipes. Many are homepages, commercial sites set up by companies such as Ragu and Nabisco, even a site dedicated to "famous recipes" like Mrs. Fields cookies and McDonalds secret sauce (finding a few good ones took a lot of time). I have tried here to provide a varied list that allows for expansion by exploring each site's links. Explore, have fun, and bon appetite!

Besides teaching English in Hong Kong, JACQUELINE COHEN is presently writing for a restaurant guide to Hong Kong which includes reviewing three restaurants a week. Look for future articles on how to conduct successful Internet searches and other Web site lists. If there is a topic you are interested in seeing in this column, e-mail Jacqueline at JAQATAC@iname.com.

TidBITS Continued from page 7

Obtaining & Installing Mac OS 8.6

Mac OS 8.6 is available in two forms: a retail CD-ROM and a free online Mac OS 8.6 Update for Mac OS 8.5 owners. The CD-ROM should be available shortly from Apple for \$99 (and at lower prices from other vendors); people who purchased a computer with Mac OS 8.5 pre-installed can obtain Mac OS 8.6 on CD-ROM for \$19.95 through Apple's Mac OS Up-To-Date program.

www.apple.com/macos/up-to-date/

Apple's servers also offer the free Mac OS 8.6 update, which will upgrade any system running Mac OS 8.5 to Mac OS 8.6. The download is substantial, either as a single 35 MB disk image or as a series of 12 MacBinary segments. The Mac OS 8.6 Update is currently available only for the North American English version of Mac OS 8.5; localized versions should be

released in coming weeks. til.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11386

Installing the Mac OS 8.6 update is straightforward: the installer offers no custom installation options, so updating from Mac OS 8.5 is an all-or-nothing proposition. As with any installation of system software, common sense dictates that you perform a complete backup of your system before installing Mac OS 8.6. You should also disable any virus protection software and Norton CrashGuard (if installed) before updating to Mac OS 8.6.

If you have an iMac you may need to install the iMac firmware update before installing Mac OS 8.6; the installer won't work if your machine's firmware isn't up to date. The iMac firmware update will be in the CD Extras folder on the retail Mac OS 8.6 CD-ROM; the 1.2 MB update is also available online from Apple for free. In addition, if you have an Ultra Wide SCSI card, you should check with the card's vendor before installing Mac OS 8.6; some older cards need a firmware update to work with Mac OS 8.6.

til.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11177

Getting Ready for Team Play

Some of the most important changes in Mac OS 8.6 are invisible. Apple has reimplemented some lower levels of the Macintosh system software to support full symmetric multiprocessing. Current applications run under Mac OS 8.6 without any changes, but future applications can take advantage of new multiprocessing services to enhance their performance significantly on systems that have more than one CPU chip.

Although Apple hasn't made any official announcements, it's safe to assume Apple didn't engineer full multiprocessor support into the Mac OS solely to support the handful of older systems with multiple processors. In coming months, Apple is likely to announce new computers built around PowerPC G4 processors, which have been designed with both single- and multi-processor systems in mind.

Although I wouldn't expect an iMac with multiple processors anytime soon, Apple is likely to offer multiprocessor systems at the high end of the professional and server lines. Mac OS X, built on technologies acquired with NeXT, already supports symmetric multiprocessing; now applications developed for the Mac OS

will be able to take advantage of multiprocessor systems as well.

News You Can Use

Other changes in Mac OS 8.6 are more obvious, including Sherlock 2.1, an enhanced version of the lauded search tool that debuted with Mac OS 8.5. Sherlock 2.1 offers better support for SOCKS and proxy servers (including the capability to limit the number of network connections Sherlock uses when connecting to Internet search sites), and also offers a resizable Internet panel, so users no longer have to use ResEdit or apply patches to resize their list of Sherlock plug-ins. Sherlock 2.1 uses the Mac OS's new built-in URL Access tech-

MORE TidBITS Continued on page 13

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.

PROGRAMMER
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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Operating Systems

Microsoft Operating System Information

By Charles Bovaird

If you have ever installed new hardware on your WIN95 system you have visited the Control Panel via START, Settings, Control Panel route. After winding your way up, down, and around the Control panel you can usually find the item needed to perform the required task.

Two operations I wanted to do frequently were (a) to determine how much free space remained on my logical drives and (b) what was the release level of various software applications.

In my search I found a handy-dandy program hidden in WIN95 that provided more information than I wanted in a form that was easy to use. That program is Msinfo32.exe, the location of which you can find using START, Find. Note: WIN98 has a Msinfo32.exe but the information window displays are different than those illustrated in this article.

Upon execution of Msinfo32 we get the window "Microsoft System Information" (Illustration 1) with the system information displayed in Microsoft Explorer format. Behold, there were my ten logical hard drives listed with their available drive space I did note that the windows version displayed was 4.0.

The real version/release level was 4.00.950 B obtained by clicking on START, Settings, Control Panel, System.

Left click on "Printing" (Illustration 2) displayed the default printer and all the printer drivers and their release levels.

Left click on "OLE Registration, Registry Settings" (Illustration 3) displayed the release level of all the OLE components in the system.

Left click on "Applications Running" (Illustration 4) displayed all the applications running.

Left click on "Registry Settings" under Graphic Filters (Illustration 5) displayed all the graphic filters available for different file extensions like CGM, JPEG, EPS, etc.

Anyone wanting to become more familiar with the WIN95 operating system should want to begin with Msinfo32 on their own PC. Investigate the other options available in msinfo32 and discover additional information about your WIN95 operating system.

CHARLIE BOVAIRD is a longtime DACS director and the trusty, tireless and unflappable steward of the organization's membership database and treasury. You can e-mail Charlie at aam@mags.net.

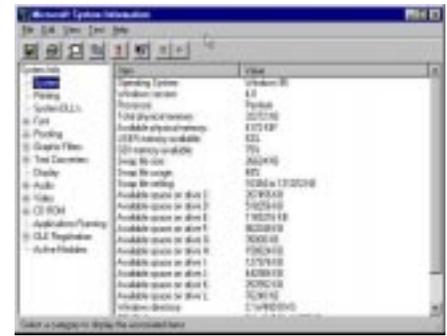


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

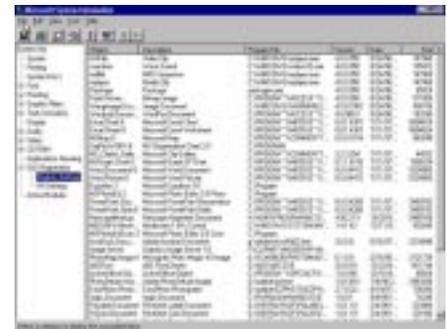


FIG. 3

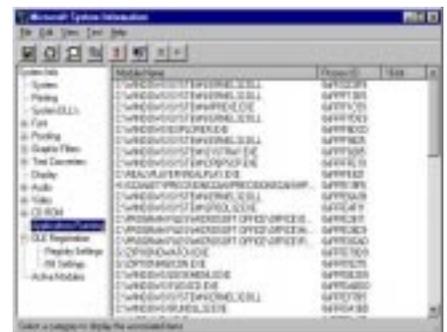


FIG. 4

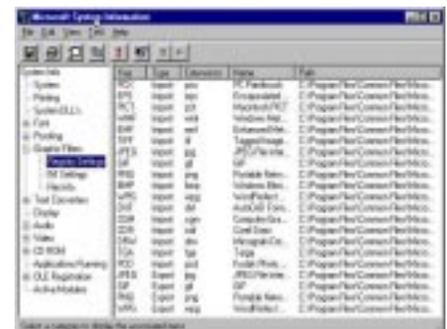


FIG. 5



Wanted !!!

Experienced MSCE as Partners or Instructors Operate a Danbury based learning center Please call 350-3038 mmath@freewweb.com

MORE TidBITS *Continued from page 11*

nology to connect to the Internet, which changes a few things about how Sherlock communicates with remote servers. Most existing Sherlock plug-ins will work with Sherlock 2.1 with no changes.

Sherlock's Find By Content feature can now index HTML and Acrobat PDF files, and you can use Finder labels to restrict indexing either to items with a particular label or to all items except those with a particular label. In addition, a new contextual menu item enables you to index a particular folder: Control-click a folder, then choose Index Selection from the contextual menu.

Mac OS 8.6 also includes LaserWriter 8.6.5 and version 1.2 of the Desktop Printer Utility. LaserWriter 8.6.5 is a significant upgrade that supports logging both print jobs and font utilization, enables you to set a preference for using either Type 1 or TrueType fonts, and can force fonts to be downloaded to a printer. In addition, LaserWriter 8.6.5 supports USB-based PostScript printers, and Desktop Printer Utility enables you to create desktop printers for either USB printers or printers you connect to over TCP/IP networks using the LPR protocol. Finally, LaserWriter 8.6.5 supports secure printing connections with print

servers under AppleShare IP 6.1 or later (although it obviously can't prevent someone from reading your document while rummaging through a printer's output tray).

DVD-RAM support gets a boost in Mac OS 8.6, enabling folks with DVD-RAM drives to format DVDs as Mac OS Standard (HFS), Mac OS Extended (HFS Plus), Universal Disk Format (UDF), or MS-DOS volumes. The MS-DOS option is available only the first time you format a DVD-RAM disk; subsequent formats must use a Macintosh format or UDF. Starting up from a DVD-RAM drive is not supported, so although you could install system software to a DVD-RAM disk, it wouldn't do you much good.

One under-the-hood addition I'm especially happy to see in Mac OS 8.6 is URL Access, a low-level component that allows programs to transfer information to and from the Internet using HTTP or FTP. I'll look at putting URL Access to work in an upcoming TidBITS issue.

Newly integrated, newly tweaked

Mac OS 8.6 rolls in items that were previously available separately. Support for

FireWire and USB devices is now integrated into the Mac OS installation, as is Game Sprockets, a collection of libraries that help game developers and better enable Macs to support game controllers. Mac OS 8.6 also includes Macintosh Runtime for Java 2.1.1, although Apple recently released MRJ 2.1.2 to address several issues in earlier versions. Mac OS 8.6 ships with QuickTime 3.0.2 but does not include QuickTime 4.0; preview releases are available from Apple.

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?bart=05326>

<http://www.apple.com/java/>

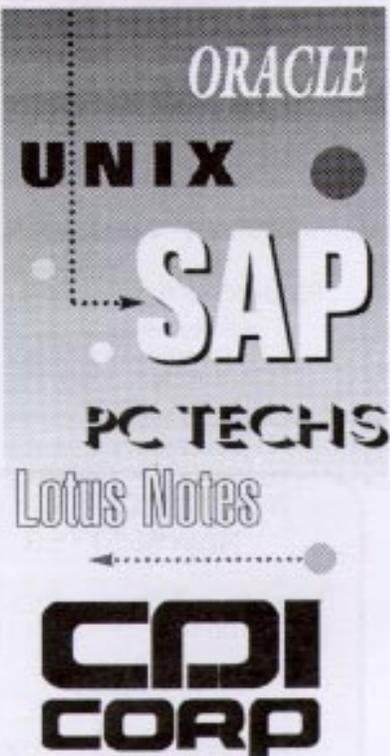
<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?bart=05368>

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/>

A few items receive touch-ups in Mac OS 8.6, including AppleScript 1.3.7 (which fixes a few minor bugs and adds Navigation Services capabilities, but doesn't address some long-standing issues) and the AppleShare client. If you're connected to an AppleShare server that goes offline, the image on 3D surfaces. The Graphing Calculator had gone essentially unchanged since 1994, but I still use it to demonstrate Macs—and even occasionally to do math. Version 1.1 of Graphing Calculator adds some fun features—I immediately pasted a photo of

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EDE

Random Access

Instant replay: May 1999

Bruce Preston, Moderator

Q. When I try to delete a folder in Windows 95, I get an "Access Denied" message. How do I delete it?

A. There are several causes: a) if a file in the folder is open, by an application (including a system application or process as the print spooler) or another user (if on a network), b) if there is a hidden file, c) it is a system folder (such as the Start Menu, or Recycle Bin, d) if the file is on a shared drive owned by another user and you don't have permission.

Q. I moved several files to a ZIP disk. I don't have the disk anymore, and I don't have the files anymore either. They aren't in the Recycle Bin. What happened?

A. A move is not the same as a delete. Files only go into the Recycle Bin when you delete them, and then only when you delete them via a Windows application. (So if you do it from a DOS Command window, they aren't put in the Recycle Bin.) When you do a move, the file is copied to the destination file, and upon success, removed from the original location without placing a copy in the Recycle Bin. (Background information: Deleting a file from within Windows is the same as moving the file to the Recycle Bin; you have only one copy of the file to work with.) Next time, COPY the file to the ZIP disk.

Q. We need a peer-to-peer network, and want some sort of internal e-mail system. We have a web-site and can get the mail sent there to one machine, we would like other machines to see it as well.

A. Take a look at <http://search.internet.com/> and do a search on e-mail to get a list of about 130 e-mail systems reviews. Many of them are SMTP and POP3 servers, at prices from free for 5 mailboxes to several hundred for several hundred. Also, you might take a look at a hardware solution at <http://www.atronics.com/esspec.html> at the Internet Access

2000 e-mail server which expands one ISP mailbox (typically associated with a domain name, such as "xyz.com" into up to 250 local mailboxes (such as "sales@xyz.com") on your intranet. It works with any mail client, such as Eudora, Outlook, Communicator, etc.

Q. When I get multiple attachments delivered to my AOL account, I can't get at the individual attachments.

A. AOL doesn't deal with MIME attachments (the Internet standard) as AOL's system was originally written for a proprietary format. There is a freeware add on utility, "Aladin Expander" which can cure the problem -save the .MIM files to your hard drive, then drag and drop them onto Aladin Expander which will decode and display them. Others report that versions of WinZIP can unpack them.

Q. I get a problem booting from my hard disk. I can boot from floppy. I formatted the hard disk and re-installed the operating system (DOS) - it still doesn't work.

A. Make sure that the partition on the drive is set "active". Boot from floppy and then run an anti-virus program to make sure that the drive doesn't have a boot-sector virus. Since your drive is only a 250MB drive, it isn't likely to be a problem with an overlay manager such as supplied by Seagate and Maxtor.

Q. Is there any way in Windows to designate a file as being non-moveable so as not to mess up the anti-duplication mechanism used by some vendors?

A. Defragmentation utilities usually have an option called "exclude" which can be used to designate files that shouldn't be touched. Some of them know the commonly used files and look for them.

Q. How do I insert a page break in WordPad?

A. You can't. If you could, then people would use it instead of purchasing

Word. But seriously, we have tried inserting the form-feed key (decimal 12, entered by holding down Alt and then typing 0, 1, and 2 on the keypad) doesn't work. The character doesn't show up in the Character Map utility either. We created the character in NOTEPAD, but couldn't cut-and-paste it into WordPad, as WordPad evidently uses a different character set for displaying on the screen and only converts to text when it saves (as .TXT) or prints.

Q. I have an old Epson printer that can't print continuous vertical lines; they have minute zigzags in them. How do I fix this?

A. First, make sure that you have the most recent drivers—you can get them from the Epson Website. Check the "utility" page in the properties box to see if there is a head-alignment tool. Also, in the print dialog box see if there is an option (usually called "weave" or similar) which controls the speed vs. quality trade-off. The speed option usually lets the print head print bi-directionally, i.e., it also prints as the head is moved right-to-left. The zigzag can be caused by slack in the drive mechanism—printing in only one direction will reduce the impact of the slack.

Q. I have an old 386 computer and Quicken version 3. Is there a way that I can transfer files to Quicken 99?

A. Quicken 99 should be able to read the files. It probably will have to "convert" the files to Quicken 99 format, but probably can't convert them back to version 3 format.

Q. I have a small business. Should I use Windows 98, Windows NT, or Linux?

A. It depends on what you are going to be doing with the computer(s). If you need common business applications and need to share some files, then Windows 98 should be fine. If you need a large database, or have security requirements, then maybe Windows NT. If you have high volumes of transactions, and/or are going to be developing a custom application then perhaps Linux.

(Note: Linux is essentially Unix—it doesn't normally have a graphical interface unless you add one such as the Caldera shell.) There are "Office Suites" available for all three levels of products. Just remember, that as you move up in complexity/power (with Windows 98 being the simplest) your needs for technical support/expertise also will increase.

BRUCE PRESTON is the 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.

**PCE expo
June 22-24**

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one of my cats over an oddly modulating surface—so it's once again a great tool for showing off the Macintosh. Version 1.1 doesn't offer all the capabilities of the commercial edition of Graphing calculator, currently at version 2.2 and available for \$50. You can check out a demo at Pacific Tech's Web site.

<http://www.pacifict.com/>

Do You Need Mac OS 8.6?

Any decision about upgrading to Mac OS 8.6 is, of course, up to the individual. If you need some of the new features in Mac OS 8.6 and aren't fazed by downloading many megabytes of data, Mac OS 8.6 should be a safe decision. I've had few compatibility or stability problems while using Mac OS 8.6, and the price is right. On the other hand, if none of Mac OS 8.6's new capabilities appeal to you and you're happy with your cur-

rent system setup, don't feel compelled to upgrade right away—Mac OS 8.6 is a significant and worthwhile refinement over Mac OS 8.5 but doesn't offer profound new features.

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