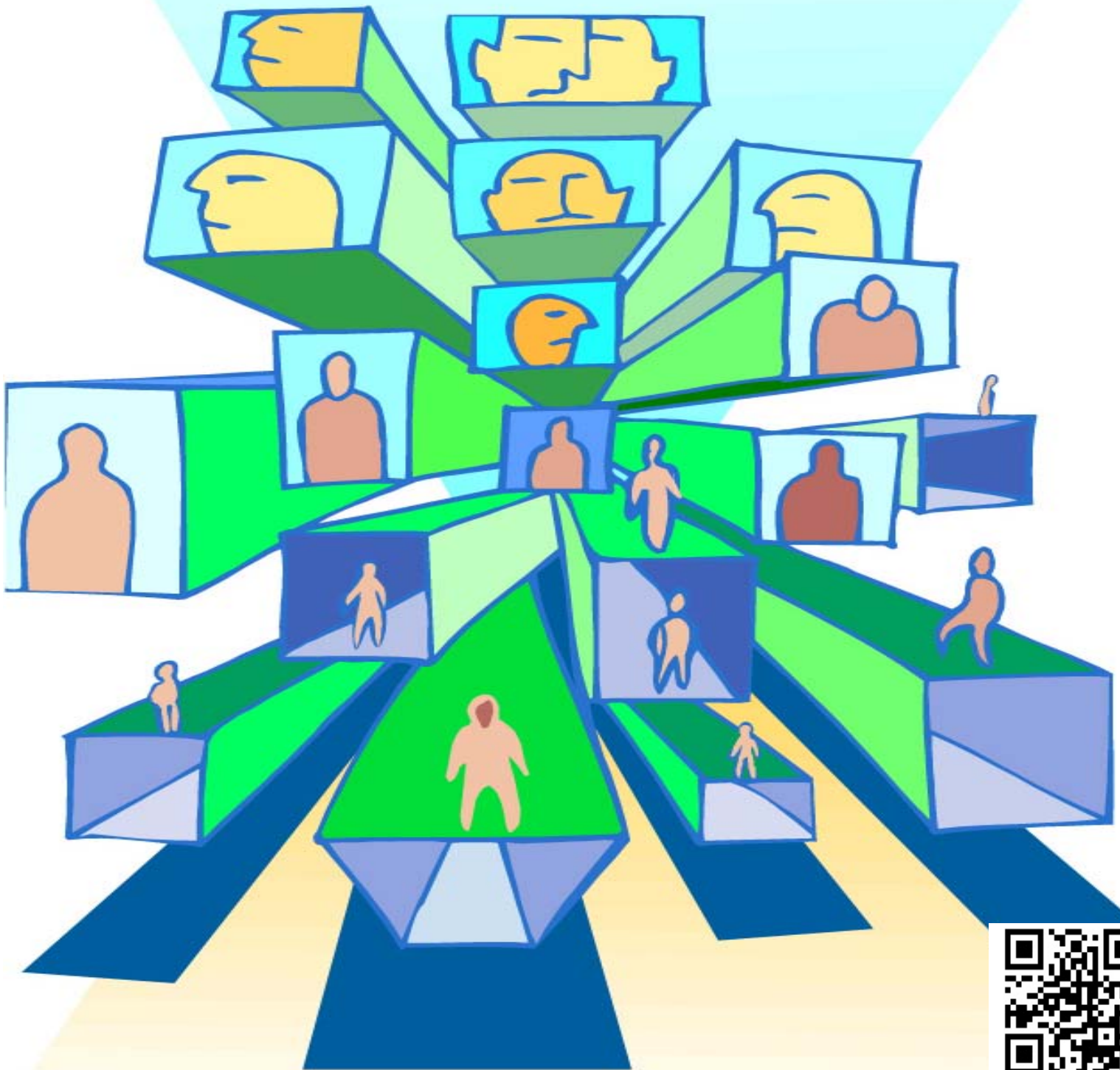Next Event: August 5
Protecting Yourself, Your
Computer and Your Identity"

President's File

IAM WRITING THIS column while enjoying the beautiful summer weather outside on my deck and looking forward to my upcoming vacation. I am reminded of how tethered we are to our computers and the internet, even on vacations. Smartphones are ubiquitous and tablets are catching up. They are powerful computers that challenge the capabilities of notebook computers of not that long ago. Like notebooks, they are susceptible to many of the same online vulnerabilities as well as some new ones.

Protecting yourself, your computer, and your Identity are ever-increasing concerns today and they form the topic of our August 5th general meeting. You and your invited guests will learn what you can do to reduce your online vulnerability.

This month I will again ask each of you to download a poster for this event and find a place where it will be seen. We need to spread the word about DACS. We have some great presentations that many more people would enjoy and learn from if they only knew about us.

Virtual Technology Conference

The Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) will again be offering their Summer Virtual Technology Conference (VTC) to DACS members, on August 16th. You must pre-register at *http://bit.ly/APCUG-2014-Summer-VTC-Register*. You will receive more info during the registration process. The last quarterly VTC, on May 3rd, was packed with great presentations in the form of webcasts. Past presentations are freely available on the

APCUG YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/apcugvideos.

Remember When

It's been 45 years since Neil Armstrong set foot on the Moon! Did you know that some smart phones today have 2 million times more memory than the navigation computer used on the lunar lander to get there!

Do you remember the IBM OS/2 vs Windows NT 3.1 "shoot-out" in 1993, sponsored by the HAL-PC user group? DACS held a special meeting at IBM's auditorium in Southbury to watch this. You may want to take a trip down memory lane and follow this link to see this famous video: *http://blog.chron.com/techblog/2014/06/hal-pc-once-the-nations-biggest-computer-user-group-is-no-more/#24655101=5*.

A lot has changed since then. At a time when DACS membership was around 900, HAL-PC was the largest user group in the USA, sporting more than 6,500 members. HAL-PC ended its long history this month. According to sources, "HAL-PC failed to keep up with the times. Its members grew older and their interests didn't expand". Another symptom and reason given for its demise was apathy resulting in fewer volunteers. We are 100% volunteer driven. If we lose volunteers, we slow the engine that keeps us moving forward. Nobody wants DACS to suffer the same fate as HAL-PC. Your board of directors and I are committed to expanding the group and making it more relevant to more people. That's why it is VERY IMPORTANT that you step forward and see what you can do to help out. We have open opportunities available. Please consider becoming more active by taking advantage of these opportunities. Contact us at opportunities@dacs.org if you want to participate in the DACS renaissance.

Open Opportunities - Urgently Needed

• **DACS meeting ambassador and Greeter**. Bob Green has been the smiling face behind the desk, faithfully keeping attendance and registering guests at our general meetings. He has been doing this for quite some time. He needs a break from it and would like someone else to step up to handle this. Please let Bob know you would be happy to do this or email me at *Opportunities@dacs.org*. Thanks.

• We need one or more individuals to work with our technical team to integrate the membership data housed in **CiviCRM** with our new web site using **WordPress**. This can be **a great addition to your resume.** The ideal person will be familiar with **CiviCRM and WordPress** or **Drupal** (our current CMS). Nice to have some exposure to **MySQL, Linux web servers, Apache, PHP, and Bourne shell scripting**. What's most

Bill Saturno   APCUG Liaison
wsaturno@dacs.org

HelpLine

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

Topic	Forum
.NET Programming	ASP.Net and C#/VB.Net SIG
Digital cameras/scanners/image processing	Digital Imaging SIG
Content Management Systems	Drupal SIG
Linux	Linux SIG
Mac and iPhone/iPad/iPod touch	Apple SIG
PC maintenance	PC Maintenance SIG
Smartphones & Tablets	Mobile Devices SIG
Virtual machine software	Virtual Computing SIG
Desktop publishing and website design	Web Site Design SIG
Windows	Windows SIG

important is your **desire to learn what you don't know**. If you or someone you know wants to learn more about this very important opportunity, please get in touch with me at *Opportunities@dacs.org* and attach your resume.

• If you are already using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest, Meetup, or LinkedIn, and have suggestions for how we can use social media to create word of mouth marketing for DACS events, please contact me at *PR@dacs.org*. We need to seize this opportunity to entice more potential members to experience DACS.

• We could be utilizing our resource center much more and there are many available time slots. If you would like to see a SIG started, please send a message to *NewSIG@dacs.org*.

Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Attending were Dick Gingras, Andy Woodruff, Lisa Leifels, Jim Scheef, Bruce Preston Bill Saturno, Bert Goff.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance on Hand: 6/1/2014	$3,546.22
INCOME:	
Dues	$105.00
TOTAL INCOME:	$105.00
EXPENSES	
Newsletter:	
Postage & Supplies	$112.67
Printing	$156.00
Newsletter Subtotal:	$268.67
Renewal Postcard Postage & Supplies	$10.20
Phone & Internet	$71.63
Resource Center Subtotal:	$71.63
TOTAL EXPENSES:	$350.50
Ending Balance on Hand: 6/30/2014	$3,300.72
Bank Balance	$3,216.85
PayPal Balance	$83.87
Confirmed Balance	$3,300.72

Board Meeting topics

1. Recognized Lisa and Andy for organizing the Hackers Fair and Bruce for conducting the XP to Ubuntu workshop.

Meeting Review

Picking a Good Camera
is More Than Just Pixels

By Andy Woodruff

KEVIN RABITO PRESENTED a review of camera types, features, and purchasing criteria. Kevin does professional photography on a part-time basis, and he is a former President of Candlewood Camera Club.

The presentation continued beyond our usual ending time, mostly due to an abundance of questions from the audience.

Kevin suggested that we should consider a camera as a "tool". Therefore, before considering what camera to purchase, we should start by asking ourselves why we want this "tool". Do we want a tool that is simple to use, or do we want a tool that will offer many controls and features? What are our skill levels in being able to effectively utilize some more advanced controls? Do we want to increase our skills? And of course, how much do we want to spend? The answers to these questions will point us in the right directions.

Kevin described three categories of cameras that are available, in order of increasing cost:
- Point and Shoot Cameras
- Crossover Cameras
- Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Cameras

Kevin provided an overview of features to consider in a buying decision. He discussed the sensor sizes that are utilized in various types of cameras. He recognized that the number of megapixels in the image size is one of the most promoted features in camera advertising, but pointed out that the number of megapixels is not the whole story in defining the resolution of images from a camera. The sensor size, the optics, and even the internal software affect the resolution.

He also described camera sensitivity, measured in so-called ISO. While we may have been happy in 1975 to use 400 ISO camera film, modern digital cameras can typically provide ISO of 3,200 or 12,000 or even 200,000 for special applications.

Kevin also covered various other camera features, including shutter speed, exposure compensation, and camera metering modes.

Then he moved on to lenses. He provided a short course in f-numbers and focal lengths.

Kevin told us about the newest technology that has become available in cameras, including:
- built-in WiFi that transmits photos directly to a cell phone or computer
- mirrorless cameras that are similar to DSLR cameras and have many DSLR-like features, but in a smaller size
- add-on lens arrangements that attach to Android phones and provide better photos than are available directly from the phones.

After reviewing our reasons for wanting a camera and studying the features of various cameras, Kevin recommended that we actually hold a selected camera in our hands before purchase. He warned against buying mail order without holding and trying the camera. Is it too heavy or awkward to hold? Are the control buttons and menu easy to use?

It was clear that many in the audience were thinking of camera purchases because there were many specific questions. We stayed late to hear Kevin's answers to these questions.

Kevin invited interested people to attend The Candlewood Camera Club and visit its website *http://www.candlewood camera.org*. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, except in the summer. Kevin can be personally contacted at *www.Kevin Rabito.co*m.

Do you have a burning computer question, but can't make it to the meeting, or just never seem to get your hand up in time? Email your inquiry to Jim Scheef, the answer guy, at *askdacs@dacs. org*, and your question will be taken up at Ask DACS at the next meeting.
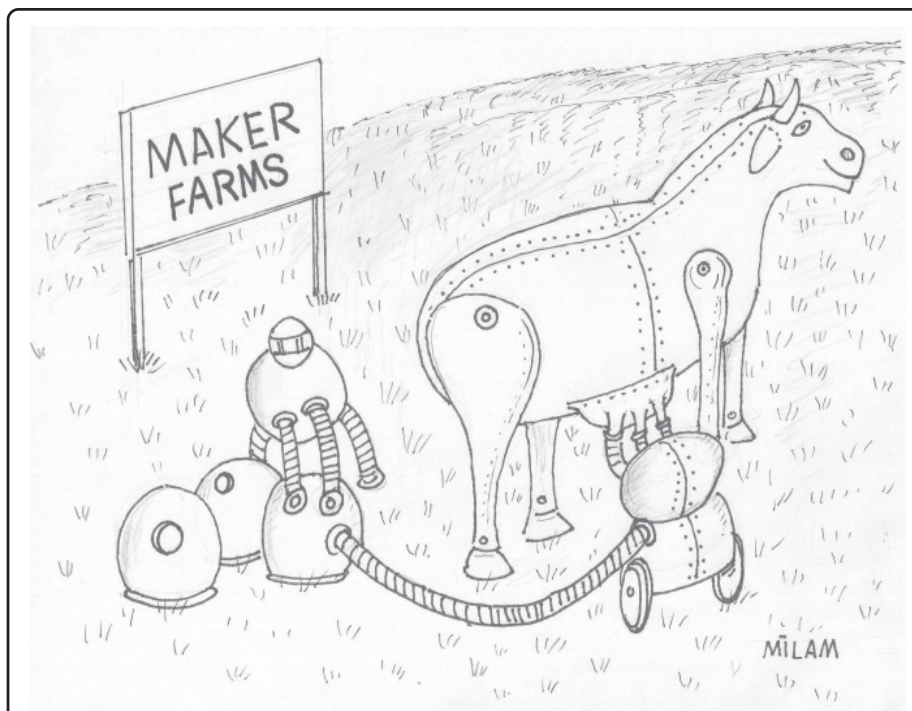
The Maker movement gets down on the farm

Meeting Preview

Protecting Yourself, Your Computer and Your Identity

by Bruce Preston

IT USED TO BE SO SIMPLE. In the 'early days' of DOS you booted from a floppy diskette in the A: drive. You then ran programs either from that diskette or replaced the media in the A: drive with a program diskette. Your data were typically on the B: drive.

Then someone discovered that they could modify the boot tracks on the system drive and install a virus. The virus would load into the system memory and then 'infect' any other bootable media put into the A: drive. At first the 'payload' of the virus was somewhat innocuous: self-replication to other media. And so began the anti-virus industry and the cat-and-mouse battle between the virus authors and the anti-virus software publishers.

Originally, the only way to get a virus was to introduce it via removable media and replicate. But eventually it went to 'the dark side' with payloads that could alter or destroy data. Malware could be injected in ways other than via the boot sector – for example there was a macro virus that appeared in Microsoft Word. It changed the operation of Word such that files could only be saved as templates (.DOT) rather than regular documents (.DOC). Now, with the ubiquitous availability of broadband access to the internet, web pages and/or e-mail with active content, it wasn't long before Microsoft Outlook (and Outlook Express) got the nickname of "Microsoft Petri Dish", as they never met a virus they wouldn't nourish. Other avenues of introduction included opening up machines for peer-to-peer file sharing, especially music sharing – remember Napster, etc.? There are now many paths to getting unwanted and malevolent objects into your computer. Organized crime has recognized easy money and has gotten involved, for example a whole new category has appeared called "Ransomware." If you visit an infected site a drive-by install of malware encrypts your files and you are given a limited time to pay a ransom (typically $300) to get the decryption key. If you don't pay within the payment period, the decryption key is deleted and your files can never be restored unless you have a backup on other media not connected to the infected computer.

On August 5th at our General Meeting Bob Gostischa will return to talk on the topic of *"Protecting Yourself, Your Computer and Your Identity."* Some of you may remember him from his presentation in August, 2011 when he introduced the Avast! product line. Much has changed since then – Avast! now protects devices (computers, smartphones, etc.) for more than 219 million users. Bob will discuss safe computing and communications practices, many of which are applicable no matter which product line you use. However I suspect that he will use Avast!'s products as examples. They have three tiers:

Avast! "Essential Anti-Virus" is a free package. It provides basic real-time protection against viruses, spyware such as key loggers, root kits, browser hijackers etc. These attacks on your computer can lead to identity theft. If you are unfamiliar with some of these terms:

∘ Key loggers track your activity, looking for such things as account names, numbers, login credentials, etc. and send the information to the hacker's site.

∘ Root kits attach themselves to the operating system in a stealth mode and thus may make changes to components of the operating system, including providing remote access.

∘ Browser hijackers change the operation of your web browser, often re-directing you to sites other than you intended. This can include changing search results to a site where the attacker can further infect your machine with really malicious code.

Moving up to the subscription "Internet Security Suite" adds a secure connection layer for use when making on-line payments, visiting a financial institution, etc. It also adds a firewall capability, as well as anti-spam and anti-phishing components.

The "Premiere" subscription adds an updater for 3rd-party software, i.e. it periodically looks for patches or new releases of software on your machine. It adds a remote access capability and a military-grade data 'shredder' for complete removal of data from storage media.

I have used Avast!'s products for years and am quite happy with them. Some of the things that I like are:

∘ They have a small footprint. They don't consume large amounts of RAM.

∘ There is no perceptible delay in opening or saving files.

∘ Avast! updates the 'signature' database frequently. In some cases it updates several times a day. This is important because there are many 'zero-day' exploits, where malware is created as soon as Microsoft issues a patch. The virus authors write exploits that attack machines that have not yet had the Microsoft patch applied. The sooner you get the signature database updated the better your chances of blocking a zero-day exploit.

∘ They are easily configurable.

∘ For basic protection the price (free!) is right.

But nobody is perfect. There are very few things about Avast! that I don't like. For example it periodically tells me that there are plug-ins in Firefox that it doesn't like. I know what they are and I *need* them. I would like to be able to tell Avast! that I don't want to be told about them again. That way if/when something new gets in there I will see that it is new and decide what to do about it. It also installs the Google Chrome web browser without giving me the opportunity to decline. It is easy enough to remove it I suppose, I just prefer Firefox. So I intend to be at the meeting to broach the subject during the Q&A if needed. See you there?

DACS meetings are usually held at Danbury Hospital auditorium. (Go to *www.dacs.org* to find directions and parking information.) Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration and casual networking. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. with a Q&A period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and a short break. The featured presentation begins at 8:00 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

DACS General Meetings are free and open to the public. Members and prior attendees are encouraged to extend invitations to anyone interested in this topic.

Bob Gostischa

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: August 2014

Apple. Focuses on all aspects of the Mac and iPhone operating systems.
Contact: Richard Corzo (*macsig@dacs.org*).
Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Aug 12

Digital Imaging. All about digital cameras, retouching, and printing using various programs.
Contact: Ken Graff at 203 648-9747 (*thedigitalwiz@gmail.com*).
Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Aug 27

Drupal. Covers all things on Drupal, the open source content management system (CMS).
Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@dacs.org*).
Meets on the second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center, or go to the DACS Community Forum (*http://www.dacs.org/forum/*) within the Members only area.
Next meeting: Look for future announcements.

Jobs. Networking and jobs search
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Go to DACS Community Forum (*http://forum.dacs.org for job listings*).

Linux. Helps in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.

Contact: Dave Mawdsley, linuxsig@dacs.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Sep 17

Mobile Devices/Windows 8. Focuses on smartphones, tablets, and e-readers of all makes and models.
Contact: Richard Corzo and Jim Scheef (*Mobilesig@dacs.org*)
Meets 4th Thursday 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center
Next Meeting: Aug 28

PC Maintenance. Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.
Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@mags.net*).
Go to DACS Community Forum (*http://forum.dacs.org*).

Server. Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook. SIG is on hiatus and presently merged into the Drupal SIG.
Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@telemarrksys.com*), or go to the DACS Community Forum: *http://www.dacs.org/forum/,* within the Members-only area

Web Design and DTP. Learn how to work with HTML, CSS, CMS Systems, WordPress, SEO and more.
Contact: Annette van Ommeren (*avo@annagraphics.com*).
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Aug 19

SIG News & Events

Apple. In order to do maintenance on your main Mac hard drive, you may need to boot into the Recovery partition. This partition is hidden from view in Disk Utility, but you can boot into it by restarting your Mac and holding down the Option key. This will show you a list of bootable disks on your machine. (On newer Macs Command + R is supposed to boot directly into the Recovery partition.) Choose the Recovery HD partition and when you boot to that partition you will be shown a short list of utilities. Disk Utility will allow you to perform a Repair Disk on your main Mac hard drive, which you won't be able to do when booted from that Mac partition. You can also install OS X from the Internet, or restore from a Time Machine backup, if something happened to your Mac OS X installation.

If you have other bootable partitions, such as Boot Camp running Windows, you can choose one of them from the list of bootable disks on a restart, or you can choose one from the Startup Disk system preference when you are running OS X.

We also covered how to control notifications on an iPhone/iPad. Notifications may appear on your lock screen, the notification screen (pulled down like a window shade by swiping down), in a banner at the top of your screen, a badge number on an app icon, and possibly accompanied by a sound. To control which apps give you notifications and how, just go into Settings > Notification Center on your iOS device and scroll down to find an app you want to con-

trol. You can choose an alert style (none, banner, or pop-up) as well as whether alerts will appear on the lock screen and/or the notification screen.

Linux. July Report of the Meeting at the DACS Resource Center [No Aug. meeting. and the next Linux SIG meeting: Sept. 17th at 7:30 PM]

Tonight's meeting included two presentations: 1. "Getting SSH to Work Between Computers," a how-to presentation; and 2. "A Look at Fritzing," a presentation showing off the latest features of simple wiring displays with Fritzing.

1. "Getting SSH to Work Between Computers" (establishing permissions for SSH so that file transfers can be made)

SSH (Secure SHell) is a private/public authentication system for two computers to share files via SCP (Secure Copy), SFTP (Secure FTP) or RSYNC (Secure Synchronization). Linux is very secure on individual computers and that strictness of authentication extends when computers need to connect.

The SSH discussion was about solving the authentication requirements so that computer A can transfer files with computer B and vice-versa. The primary issues are: 1. generating the private and public RSA keys on the source computer, and 2. importing the public key into the destination computer. SSH can be established without having to complete a pass-

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Jul 2014 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**Sep 2014** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		**1**	**2**
3	**4**	**5** **General Meeting** 7:00 PM	**6** **Board of Directors** 7:00 PM	**7**	**8**	**9**
10	**11**	**12** **Apple** 7:00 PM Richard Corzo *macsig@dacs.org*	**13**	**14** **Membership Committee** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	**15**	**16** **DACS.DOC Deadline** **Summer Virtual Technology Conference 1-5 PM**
17	**18**	**19** **Web Design& DTP** Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM *avanommeren@dacs.org*	**20** **Linux** 7:30 -9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley *linuxsig@dacs.org* **Cancelled**	**21**	**22**	**23**
24	**25**	**26**	**27** **Digital Imaging** 7:00 PM Ken Graff 203 648-9747 *thedigitalwiz@gmail.com*	**28** **Mobile Devices** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef & Richard Corzo *mobilesig@dacs.org*	**29**	**30**
31						

User Group News

Hands-on Virtual Technology at APCUG Summer Conference

By Richard Teasdale

APCUG'S FREE 2014 SUMMER Virtual Technology Conference (VTC) will be held on Saturday, August 16, from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight time. The sessions are 50 minutes in length and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions via a chat window. Videos from earlier conferences can be found on APCUG's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/apcugvideos.

To register for this VTC, go to: http://bit.ly/APCUG-2014-Summer-VTC-Register

To view the presenter bios and, after the conference, to download the handouts and get links to the videos, go to: http://apcug2.org/content/vtc12

VTCs are a great way for members to expand their technology experience and be introduced to new skills. Below are the sessions that are currently scheduled.

For further information, email virtualconferences@apcug.org

TRACK 1

File Networking and Storage (David Williams, Secretary, Online Services and Programs, Central Iowa Computer User Group)

Folders are not just for "My Documents" anymore, you can store files anywhere you want to. We will show you how to set up a network, set up storage devices and to organize your folders.

Online Group Deals and Other Savings (Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group)

Everyone likes to save money and Greg will show you how to do that with group deal sites — something that has become immensely popular and successful for all parties involved. Find out about how the deals work, the benefits, the restrictions, the gotchas, and more. Greg will also describe how you can celebrate your birthday with freebies and discounts.

Easy Desktop (Wil Wakely, Past President, Seniors Computer Group)

Easy Desktop replaces the Windows desktop with a menu system as opposed to the thumbnail picture Icon system; however, it does require one to be able to read English. EDT has 9 pages of menus with each page holding up to 72 entries. Each entry can be a program, folder, document, picture or title. Come hear how you can eliminate desktop icon clutter, organize your programs and reduce your computer frustrations, especially with Win8.

UG Session – Is What Happened to HAL-PC In Your Group's Future? (Judy Taylour, President, SCV Computer Club; Hewie Poplock, APCUG Rep & Program Chair, Central Florida Computer Society)

HAL-PC was once one of the world's largest PC user groups and a founding member of APCUG. They will be gone in a few weeks – selling their equipment, closing their office, etc. HAL-PC failed to keep up with the times. Its members grew older and their interests didn't expand. Does this apply to your group?

TRACK 2

Social Media Matters! Using social media to increase your marketing muscle (Tamera Rousseau-Vesta, Community Strategy Manager)

VCE-The Virtual Computing Environment

This session will focus on how to use social media as a way to build membership and increase collaboration within your organization. Tamera will highlight tools, tips and tricks to make social media a valuable part of your marketing and communication efforts.

Linux is like Cars (John Kennedy, Member and Co-host, Linux Help Desk/SIG, Licking County Computer Society)

One of the many "concerns" about Linux is that there are so many different versions/distributions (or distros as Linux users call them) that a new user doesn't know which one to use. And they wonder why there are so many, since they are used to only having one version with Windows and Macs. I reply, "Why are there so many different makes/models of cars?" The answer is that everybody doesn't like the same thing in a car, and that's the answer in Linux as well. In this basic presentation, I will show/explain what the main differences are in the many Linux distros, and (just like in cars) how you might decide which version is the one you might want. With Linux being a free operating system, you can try out as many versions as you want until you find the one that just fits you. Join me for an enjoyable trip around the "Linux showroom" and see for yourself what it's all about.

Editing Photos on Your iPad (Sheila Bigel, eBlast Committee Chair, Central Florida Computer Society)

The iPad has a large number of apps that will allow you to improve your photos. There are apps that provide basic photo editing features such as adjusting brightness, contrast, etc. Many apps provide a multitude of filters for special effects. Other apps allow you to add borders, text, clip art and create collages. This presentation will show a few apps that are fun, easy to use, and are free or nominally priced and will allow you to enhance the photos on your iPad.

Next
Virtual Technology
Conference
Saturday, 08/16/14
@ 1 PM ET

Conference Schedule
& Information
go to www.apcug2.org/content/vtc12

2. Discussed suggestions for 25th year celebratory events and preparation.

3. We need to list all of DACS assets and replacement costs. Bert said he would do it by September. During discussion it appears that the projector is the only high-value current asset, we discussed scrapping much of the obsolete items in the resource center such as 32-bit processor computers, the rack cabinet, 10/ 100 switches and routers, etc. New Milford will accept electronics for recycling at no charge.

4. In the past much of the Board Meetings have concentrated on determining program for general meetings. The board feels that it should concentrate on long-term goals, especially increasing membership, and have a program committee work on identifying general meeting content. Dick asked Lisa to be on committee. Bruce will attend if it can be a virtual meeting. Andy also likes idea of virtual meeting as it doesn't require investment in travel time. Dick will set up a distribution list for program committee. With that Bruce can create a Skype group for conference calling. It was also suggested that we name Steve Harkness as "DACS Evangelist as he has demonstrated skill in spreading the word about DACS with door-to-door canvassing of local area businesses.

5. Discussed revenue producing options:

a. Bert will investigate as to whether a portion of dues qualifies as IRS tax deduction. If so we should so state on web enrollment form etc.

b. Discussed pro/con of "Amazon Smile" click-through program for non-profits, etc. (see *http://smile.amazon. com/about*) Bert will look into it. Jim asked if it would be viewed negatively by advertisers in DACS.doc? Consensus was that Amazon is targeted for 'goods' where DACS.doc advertisers tend to be 'services'.

c. Bill will put together a sheet with suggested types of advertizing we might offer.

d. We are a 501c3 non-profit and as such we can accept tax deductible contributions of cash or property. Do we have the required forms to give to recipients? Bert will create one.

e. Re-establish and revise Newsletter Ad rates. Deferred until we get Bill's sheet (c above)

f. Dick would like to create Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorship levels

i. Corp membership dues linked to annual Bronze sponsorship prerequisite ($150)?

ii. Still based on advertising?

iii. Web site ad links

Comments: Four levels may be overkill. Jim suggested linking sponsorship to 25th anniversary of club.

g. Solicit relevant area retailers to offer 6-month DACS membership free with purchases > $xxx. This would be a one-time per family offer. Bill will write up an implementation plan.

6. Benefits of membership include SIGS and our award winning newsletter. Dick has heard several people comment "Why join when I can get the newsletter free online". Since dacs.org website has undergone an overhaul, it is planned to have a MEMBERS ONLY section that provides added value such as current DACS.doc newsletters, a membership directory that can be edited by each member, upload photos, surveys, SIG notes/code/scripts, links to special offers (such as APCUG discounts, computer/tablet/smart-phone discounts from area retailers), etc.

i. Annette distributed an e-mail that described the currently available but not implemented mechanism for authentication. If we implement this the follow-on would be to integrate authentication to CiviCRM such that members would be able to post to forum, update their profile, etc.

ii. For visitors to site: Collect first name, last name, and email at a minimum with other optional info (TBD) User is sent an automated email with temporary password and instructed to respond. What additional material would they then be able to access?

iii. Dacs.org opens with the login screen and instructs new user to assign a permanent password and granted access. (Later, when we are integrated with CiviCRM, if user is not already a member the user is encouraged to join DACS to get extended access.

At this point we digressed into production of videos promoting DACS consisting of recorded general meetings etc. We went off on a tangent as to distribution rights especially if post-production was done at Comcast or Charter facility.

7. Public Relations push:

a. Press release mailing status - Did newspapers print our GM press releases. If not we need to understand why!

Ridgefield Press: No (Bruce checked)
Danbury News-Times: No (Bruce)
Newtown Bee: Yes (Dick & Lisa)
New Milford: No (Jim)
Others? Need to check with Richard T. to see which other media outlets received press releases for John Patrick and the Camera meetings.

b. Web site - share links with other sites including SCORE, Hackerspace, Candlewood Camera Club, GM presenters' websites, etc

c. Social media - radio & cable TV e.g. WXCI (WestConn), cumulus.com (i95) Berkshire Broadcasting (WLAD) Comcast, Charter, etc. New member Tom Zarecki has contacts here and will approach.

d. Social media - internet: e.g. HamletHub.com, Patch.com, etc. We will look to Tom Zarecki again.

8. Discussion of future meeting topics.

As reported earlier, the determination of general meeting programs will be handled by the program committee. A few assignments for preview and review were made and are reported here:

○ August 5: Protecting yourself, your computer, and your identity (Avast! evangelist) Preview: Bruce or Steve H, Review: Steve or Bruce

○ September 2: Constant Contact Preview: Lisa, Review: _____

○ October 7: Orienteering Preview: Bill, Review: _____

○ November 4 T.B.D. Preview: _____, Review: _____

Note: The program committee will take up these items, and in the future only ready-to-go items will be reported to the board and show up in the minutes. Only items discussed during this board meeting will be listed here.

○ "Meet the SIG" segment between the Ask DACS session and the featured presentation. - We have been through the active SIGS so we will suspend this component of the general meeting for a while unless a new SIG is formed.

o Wait for rumored Apple announcement of a bio-monitoring capability. o Bill Saturno may have access to someone who has Google Glass, and perhaps other health-related wearable devices.

Jim brought a different microphone/ speaker combination to the meeting and connected for use by Skype. The entire meeting went without Skype audio drop outs where people in the resource center weren't heard by Skype participants. We will acquire like components for virtual meeting usage. Purchase price is well within the discretionary authorization limit of the president.

Adjourned: 9:20PM

—Bruce Preston

Ask DACS

July 2014

Moderated by Jim Scheef

WE WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM the floor at the start of our General Meetings. The role of moderator is to try to guide the discussion to a likely solution to the problem. In addition, members who are not able to attend the General meeting may submit questions to *askdacs@dacs.org*. We will ask the question for you and post the reply in *dacs.doc* and on *dacs.org*. Please provide as much information as possible, since we can't probe during the session.

Q - I have a PowerPC Macintosh that is new to me but is obviously not a new machine. It boots and runs just fine on OS X 10.5. It also has Mac OS 9.2 installed in another partition, so I set it to boot OS 9.2 and it hangs as soon as the desktop is displayed. With the machine frozen, how can I switch back to OS X? [This was my own question, not from the audience.]

A - Richard Corzo, Apple SIG leader and our resident Mac expert, said to hold down the Option key when the machine first starts to boot. It will pause and display all of the boot options available; you can then change the boot location and let the boot process resume. When I tried this the next day, it worked.

Q - I have seen references to what seems to be a new Wi-Fi standard called "802.11 AC". Does anyone know how this is different from the "Wireless N" standard or others? Is this backward compatible with past standards?

A - At the meeting the consensus was that the AC standard is backward compatible with N, G and other standards. According to the WikiPedia article (*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE_802.11ac*), this is not correct. The article states that AC operates on the 5GHz band only, whereas 802.11N can operate in both the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands. The older standards also operate on single bands: 802.11A is 5GHz only and 802.11G is 2.4GHz only. In simplistic terms, the AC standard offers faster speeds over shorter range by using a wider frequency channel (80MHz or 160MHz) versus the 40MHz channel width used by high-speed N and 20MHz used by the earlier A, B, and G Wi-Fi standards. For a new AC Wi-Fi router/access point to be compatible with your existing devices, those devices must operate on the 5GHz frequency band using a protocol supported by the router. Caveat emptor! Read the specifications of any new device carefully to be sure it is compatible with your existing equipment. Once you open the box, it may be too late! In my discussion I have used the word 'channel' to mean the amount of spectrum used for a working connection between the Wi-Fi access point and your device (laptop, tablet, or phone). This is not necessarily the same meaning used by the FCC or device manufacturers. If you want to learn more, start reading with the basic Wi-Fi article at wikipedia.org/wiki/WiFi and then follow links to the many, many articles on related topics.

Q - When using public Wi-Fi, is there a good free program to use to increase your security?

A - Certainly when using any public Wi-Fi, your computer should be running a good firewall that has as close to zero ports open as possible. As we discussed this, we determined that the question was really about using a virtual private network (VPN) to encrypt data going to and from your computer. A VPN is a technique that creates an encrypted "tunnel" over the public Internet between your computer and a remote end point. The Wikipedia article is wikipedia.org/wiki/Vpn. Many enterprises require employees who work from home to use a VPN to communicate with the company network. All information on the Internet is carried in packets. Normally this data is sent "in the clear", so when using a public Wi-Fi connection, your emails (for example) are transmitted as plain text that can be captured and read by anyone on the same Wi-Fi who has with the required software. A VPN uses one of several encryption techniques to encode all data between your computer and the VPN end point. This "hides" your data from anyone snooping on that open Wi-Fi or anywhere else between your computer and the VPN end point. The end point of an enterprise VPN would be inside the company network firewall, thus keeping company information secure.

This same VPN technology is used by citizens of repressive nations like China, Saudi Arabia and Iran to "tunnel" past the censored Internet normally available in those nations. This allows them to reach the so-called free and uncensored Internet available to the rest of the world. Citizens inside such countries rely on volunteers on the outside to set up end points, also called proxy servers, which receive the encrypted packets, decrypt the data and pass it on to the intended destination such as a website. When the website responds, the process is reversed. The IP address recorded by the website is the address of the proxy, not the actual address of the user's computer. Anonymizer (*wikipedia.org/wiki/Anonymizer*) and Tor (wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor_(anonymity_network)) are two examples. The Tor network was in the news recently as the only method to reach the Silk Road website where it is alleged all sorts of illegal commodities could be purchased using Bitcoin. Further research is left to the reader. A member suggested a PC Magazine article on this topic (tinyurl.com/3cxfer6) that reviews nine free VPN services and the client software.

Q - Are there free services that will host a small website?

A - The free hosting service on Yahoo, called Geocities, was closed years ago. Apparently, Google offers something called "Google Sites" as a free service. I have used *Register 4Less.com* as my domain registrar for many years. They offer limited free web hosting as part of the domain registration service. I've never used it but your friend could use that for the cost of transferring his domain to Register4Less which would be one year of registration or $15. I've run websites from servers in my basement for many, many years. When I first started, I used a "dynamic DNS" service to point my domain name to

word query when the only file transfers are within an intranet. Otherwise, if the Internet is to be used between the computers, a strong password should be used. Details of the differences between the keys were discussed.

Also mentioned were the issues of using terminal in an iMac to generate the RSA keys (2048-bit encryption). Those procedures are basically the same with SSH already default installed on the iMac. However, on a Linux computer an administrator usually has to first install the open-source openssh-server and openssh-client packages before generating the keys. Each computer using the public key needs to have openssh-server and openssh-client installed as well.

For those interested in viewing the OpenOffice/LibreOffice presentation, visit http://madmod.com/sshstart.odp .

2. "A Look at Fritzing," (showing off the latest features of Fritzing)

The Fritzing presentation showed off the open-source application which is available for free download at fritzing.org. (optional donation requested at their site) In particular, the application showed an expanded selection of boards such as Arduino Uno and Raspberry Pi that can be used with a breadboard on the pictorial view.

Simultaneously, the pictorial view, when completed with all the components and wiring, automatically generates a schematic view and a PC board view for those needing one. Changes on one view affect the other two views. Thus for those people experimenting with controller boards and electronic circuits, Fritzing is a terrific tool to have.

We then turned our attention to the attendees interested in putting Linux on their computers. Dual booting with Windows was also discussed.

Next Linux SIG Meeting (no meeting in August)

At the September 17th meeting, no new presentations are scheduled as of the moment. However, attendees can certainly raise topics and issues as they feel the need to do so. We will continue to help with individuals migrating their older Windows computers to Linux. This typically is the Linux community's normal way of sharing which we mirror at our SIG.

Join us at our next meeting in the DACS Resource Center at Ives Manor. Bring your laptop, Arduino or Raspberry Pi and show us a thing or two. Our meetings are for the beginner, intermediate or advanced user, so topics vary considerably depending upon the needs of the attendees. Linux topics cover software and hardware along with the joys and sorrows of those using it. Check the DACS Forum (Linux) for updates.

Mobile Devices. In June we answered a question on Microsoft accounts in Windows 8. In Windows 8, accounts are based on an e-mail address so that it is possible to sync information using the same account on different machines. This is done using the OneDrive (formerly SkyDrive) cloud storage associated with the Microsoft account. (It is still possible to create a local-only account, like in Windows 7, if you prefer.)

A member had created an account using her ISP e-mail account, but later decided she wanted to use a different e-mail address/account. You may already have a Microsoft account through a Hotmail account, Outlook.com, use of Windows Live services, or an Xbox account. It would make the most sense to use an existing Microsoft account if you have one, but otherwise you can use any e-mail address to create one.

For the SIG member to go about switching accounts, we first created a new account with her desired e-mail address. Then it was a matter of transferring data from the old account to the new account. The Public folders can be used as a holding area to make the transfer. While logged in to the first account, she first cleaned up her desktop by moving some files into proper folders. Then she moved the data in her Documents, Downloads, Music, Pictures, and Videos folders (in her home folder under Users) into the Public Documents, Public Downloads, Public Music, Public Pictures, and Public Videos folders, under \Users\Public. She also moved some Desktop shortcuts and some Internet Explorer Favorites into those corresponding folders in Public.

After logging out of the old account and into the new, she then made the reverse move from the Public folders into her new home folder. The last step was to delete the old account in User Accounts of Control Panel.

the ever-changing IP address on my router. This worked surprisingly well even on the lowest speed Charter cable Internet service. Searching for "free website hosting" returned a lot of hits. Caveat emptor! Watch out if they ask for a credit card. A small site may be free until you get some traffic and then the costs for data traffic can escalate very fast.

[**Disclaimer**: Ask DACS questions come from members by email or from the audience attending the general meeting. Answers are suggestions offered by meeting attendees and represent a consensus of those responding. DACS offers no warranty as to the correctness of the answers, and anyone following these suggestions or answers does so at their own risk. In other words, we could be totally wrong!]

Do you have a special technology interest you would like to share or learn more about? Join a DACS SIG or start one. You don't have to be a nerd or a guru — just have a curiosity for what's out there and an interest in sharing or discovering with others like you. Send an e-mail to *dacsprez@dacs.org,* or talk to one of our officers at the next meeting, and say something like "I want to start a SIG!" or "Wouldn't it be nice if we had a SIG on . . .?"
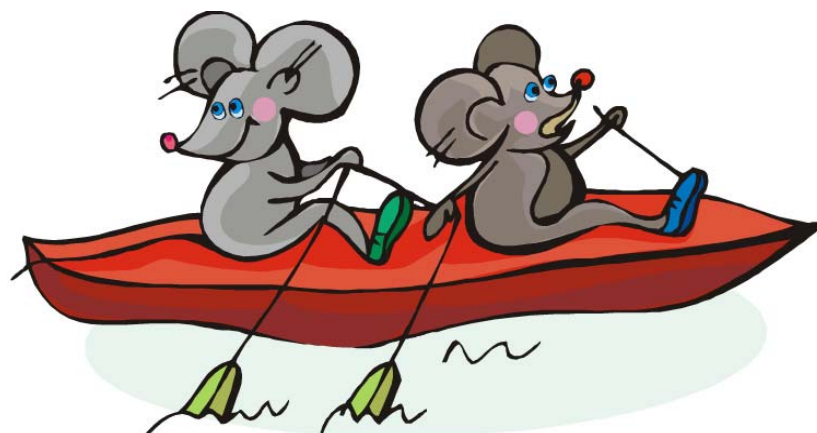
When you come to the next DACS meeting, why not bring a friend?

Future Events:

August 5
Bob Gostischa, Avast Software Protecting Yourself, Your Computer, and Your Identity

September
Ellen Williams Constant Contact

October
Ed Hicks Orienteering

November
TBA