



DACS.doc

A Computer & Technology Newsletter

February 2015

Volume 26, Issue 2

\$2.00

Next Event: February 3:

Does digital mapping muddle your mind?



Find out how map apps, orienteering
tools, and tricks can
point you in the right direction



President's File

WHAT IS A SIG? Many of us get asked that question frequently by prospective new members. It is an acronym used for many years, especially by computer clubs, to mean Special Interest Group. At our most recent Board meeting we decided that it is time to retire the SIG acronym in favor of



monthly workshop. Workshops are commonly used by many organizations and no one should need to ask "What is a workshop?" It will take us time to break the habit and some SIG (oops! I mean workshop) leaders need to get used to the change, but it will come naturally over time. A special workshop is a single occurrence and a workshop series is a fixed number of sessions.

Dues increase - Out of necessity, your board voted to increase dues. This is the first dues increase since 2008. Expenses have gone up, membership has dropped, and we have been bleeding our treasury every year. Please read the article on the dues increase found elsewhere. We will follow the same precedents from 7 years ago and put this into effect on April 1st with a special renewal offer for everyone if done by March 31st.

Tag line - We need a short and memorable tag line to describe DACS that will be used consistently in our newsletter, website, social media, email, and all printed material. I like and have been using "*From mobile to desktop, we inform, enlighten, and educate*". Others are of the opinion that it should be lighter like "*What's new, now and next...in tech - Smartphones - Tablets - Laptops*".

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What do you think would be a good tag line? Please let us know at <http://dacs.org/feedback/>. Your opinion counts.

Big shoes to fill - Just a few days ago I received a letter of resignation from a good friend and longtime DACS member, Bruce Preston, as corporate Secretary and Director, citing health and personal reasons. I have known Bruce since the early days of this organization and have always admired his work ethic and many contributions he has made to DACS. I remember the many excursions we made together to PC Expo in New York and other events, in the early days. He has always been at the forefront of technology (he introduced me to the Palm Pilot, the 1st real handheld computer), hosted the early "Ask DACS" sessions, led the Access SIG for many years, and ran many other special workshops, exhibits, and other activities. Most recently he has been involved with indexing 17 years of our newsletters in preparation for our 25th anniversary. As many of you know from reading this column over the past year, few people have been recognized as much as Bruce; he will be sorely missed. I have asked Bruce and he has agreed, to stay on for another month as Secretary and Board member, until we can find someone to fill his shoes. He will hopefully continue to make his much appreciated contributions into the foreseeable future.

First Night Danbury - The celebration is over for Danbury's First Night festivities and we were happy to participate. Many thanks to Mike Kaltschnee and Jon Gatrell from the Danbury Hackerspace for hosting DACS at the Innovation center, to Cathy Quaranta, who organized this at very short notice, and to Richard Teasdale and Charlie Bovaird for working our table and talking to prospective DACS members. The effort continues to prepare for our 25th anniversary - we need more of you to work with Cathy to plan and make this yearlong celebration a success. Our objective is to create a much broader awareness of DACS, as we participate in new activities and create collectables of interest to DACS members and the general public.

Small Business Workshops - We are co-sponsoring a series of four Small Business Workshops with SCORE. The topics will be: "Your Marketing Tool Kit", "Branding", "Keys to a Great Website", and "SEO Deep Dive". These are to be hosted by the Danbury Library, starting on February 10th until March 31st. Many of you should have already received more information about these workshops from my direct mailing to you this month and it will appear elsewhere

Membership Information

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

The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Richard Teasdale (dacseditor@dacs.org). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 (aam@mags.net)

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Apple User Group

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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

on our website. Judging from the attendance at the **excellent presentation by John Barry** last month, it is apparent that many of you are interested in making more money on the job or running a small business, so these free workshops and others like them should be of particular interest to you. What topics would you like to know more about?

Don't forget that our **new meeting time is 7:30pm** and starts with our main presentation. Don't be late.

From mobile to desktop, we inform, enlighten, and educate.

- Dick Gingras, President

Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2014. Attending: Dick Gingras, Richard Corzo, Jim Scheef, Lisa Leifels, Cathy Quaranta, Bert Goff, Bill Saturno, Andy Woodruff, Bruce Preston. Guest: Tom Zarecki.

The meeting was called to Order: 7:20 PM. Minutes of the Last Meeting were accepted

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 12/1/2014 \$3,475.75

Income:

Dues - Check/Cash	
(5x\$30+5x\$45)	\$375.00
PayPal (1x\$30):	\$30.00
PayPal fee: -	<u>\$0.96</u>
Total Income:	\$404.04

Expenses

APCUG Annual Fee: \$50.00	
Insurance (annual): -\$113.00	
Newsletter	
Postage & Supplies:	\$42.70
Printing:	\$78.00
Resource Center	
Phone & Internet:	\$72.03
Renewal Postcard Postage	
& Supplies:	\$11.22
Total Expenses:	\$140.95
Ending Balance:	\$3,738.84
Bank Balance:	\$3,654.09
PayPal Balance:	\$84.75
Confirmed Balance:	\$3,738.84

Membership Report -

Charles Bovaird

General Meetings

Nov 4 - Secure Digital Computing -
Bruce Preston

Dec 2 - 3D Printing - Julia Truchsess

Jan 6 - Job Outlook John Barry

Directors' Notes Cont. on page 11

Meeting Preview

USING "MAP APPS": NEVER GET LOST AGAIN!

Fun Session Simplifies Lives — a True 'Map Adventure' Program

By Tom Zarecki

Digital maps are everywhere these days, yet most people struggle to use them on their phones or in their cars.

Ed Hicks, a pioneer in digital mapping education and the owner of Orienteering Unlimited, Inc. will offer an interactive and fun presentation on the use of mapping



technology and "orienteering in everyday life" at the next general meeting of DACS, on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, in the Creasy Auditorium at Danbury Hospital, starting at 7:30 P.M.

"From road maps to weather maps, blueprints to floor plans," said Hicks, "there are basic skills in digital mapping that everyone should have, if only to navigate their way through their world easier and faster!"

In addition to his talk, everyone in the audience will get up and participate in real-world exercises, designed to "get you oriented" to today's digital maps, so that you learn how they work and how to work them yourself.

"GPS" should mean
"getting places simply"

Ed has been a DACS member since the 1980's and has spoken at DACS meetings in the past, but he's returning with a message: "The mapping landscape has changed big time!", and his presentation will include ways to work the "maps app" that comes with your iPhone and other smartphones.

He will also offer tips and advice on using Google Maps and other mapping software packages, on the go on your mobile device, which can help you out in your everyday life.

Ever teach your kids
to read a map?

These days, other than as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, young people are rarely, if ever, given training and practice with digital map technologies. That means that someday as adults, they still won't know the basics of "personal navigation". Now's the time to stop this trend, and get yourself (and your kids) the orientation they need to use digital map apps quickly and accurately.

Stop being map challenged!

Ed is a retired New York State science teacher who pioneered the outdoor education and computer programs for his school district in the 70's, 80's and 90's. He was the founder of Orienteering Unlimited in 1979. Ed has led Map Adventure programs with countless schools, camps, youth groups, corporations, and teaches two 3-credit graduate courses on the subject. He has produced over 100 orienteering-quality maps of state parks, camps, conference centers and educational campuses.

DACS Special Presentations are free and open to the public. Plenty of free parking. DACS meetings are held in the Creasy Auditorium of Danbury Hospital. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. After the meeting everyone is invited to the Danbury Hospital Praxair Café for additional networking.

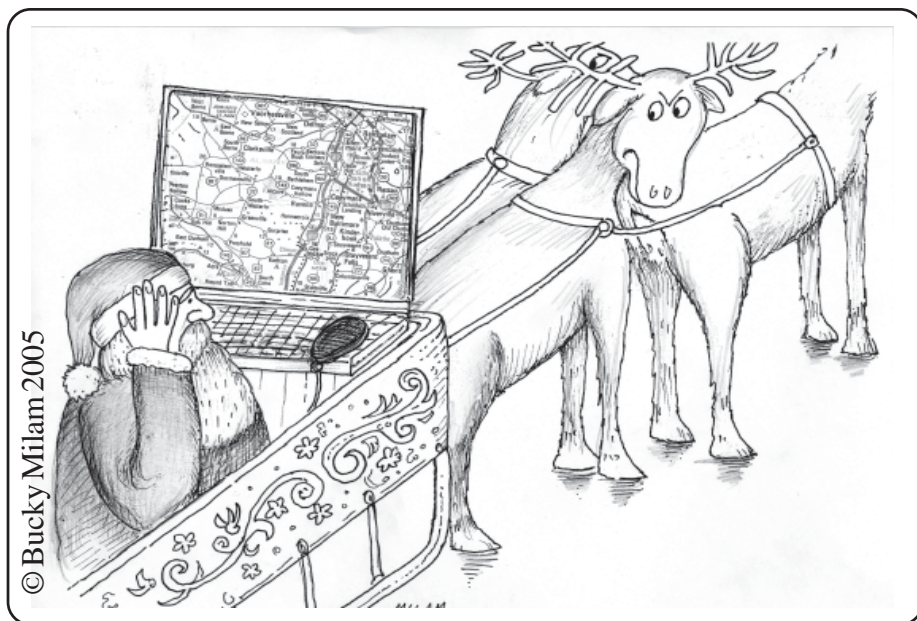


DACS Community Forum

Ever wanted to ask a question and get an answer without waiting for the next general meeting? How about sharing news with other DACS members, or communicating with fellow participants in a SIG you attend?

The DACS Community Forum (<http://www.dacs.org/forum/>) is another benefit of being a DACS member, and it's open 24/7. Once you register there you'll be able to post questions, answers, and comments. You can even set up an RSS subscription to be notified of updates to the forums.

Try out the DACS forum today!



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Meeting Review

The Current Job Outlook and How to Land the Best Job

by Sean N. Henderson

A SAVVY CROWD OF technology professionals swelled the audience at the Danbury Hospital Auditorium for the January 6 DACS meeting on job opportunities in the tech industry. The presenter, John Barry, owner of ITech Consulting Partners (<http://www.itechcp.com/>), gave an informative talk and Q&A on the current job outlook and what skills are needed by the industry.

John began his presentation with some statistics - such as 36% of employers looking to increase full-time employees (FTE) in 2015. He also indicated that permanent positions are increasing.

He further went on to list the industries looking to increase FTEs, including the technology, healthcare, and insurance sectors.

John also listed some technologies his company has determined to be in demand. This list included open source configuration management (E.g., Puppet), cyber security, handling and utilizing big data, SQL/RDBMS alternatives (NoSQL), SaaS-based customer relationship management (Salesforce), high

availability and distributed computing (Hadoop), and even Python.

John was the bearer of good news in this tough economy - unemployment is just 2.7% for tech jobs, compared with 6.1% overall. His own company is seeing market improvement, including an increase in demand for FT versus contract, and companies exercising contract-to-hire.

The topic moved on to job boards - of which John cited *Dice.com* as the number one IT job board. According to research by *Dice.com* and ITech, emerging fields include cloud-and-mobile search, managing and interpreting big data, alternative energy, and anti-terrorism.

So what are the expectations of employers of job seekers? John indicated that a bachelor's degree is required for most positions, and that certificates in project management (PMP), Scrum Master, and CISSP are desired. Also certificates in MSSE, CCNA, OCP, and Java.

Of the list of top 10 jobs requiring college degrees, 3 of the positions were tech related - software (app) developer, network-and-systems administrator, and Web developer.

Median hourly earnings for software developers are in the mid-\$40-per-hour range, and 40% of software developer positions go unfilled.

Other good news for DACS members was that over 50% of employers are expecting to hire IT in 2015, and of those, financial services represented 42% of the firms.

One important aspect of job searches is the consideration of consulting versus a permanent position. Consulting offers the advantages of being able to work for different organizations, opportunities to learn new skills, and higher compensation. The drawbacks are lack of benefits, specialized skills required, and sporadic work. Additionally, someone who has had many

consulting assignments may find it hard to transition to full-time. Permanent positions offer the opportunity to develop in-depth skills in a specific technology, additional training, additional compensation, paid time off, and unemployment compensation if laid off. The disadvantages of permanent positions were listed as skills possibly growing stale, and exposure to elevated office politics that exist in structured organizations.

John indicated that the presentation slides could be located from his LinkedIn profile. Regarding LinkedIn, John mentioned that it is important to have a profile on this professional social media networking site and, at the minimum, to fill in the summary area. Despite all the job boards and other automation, personal in-person networking remains the number one way to find a job.

Other ways to find a position include working with recruiters. When working with recruiters, John suggested that referrals go both ways, and one way to keep in touch with a recruiter is to provide them with leads and referrals as well.

Benefits of working with recruiters include their knowledge of jobs not yet listed on job boards, direct access to hiring managers, and more detailed knowledge about positions and companies than is listed on a job posting.

During the last few minutes of the presentation, John gave some reasons to consider ITech Consulting Partners as a potential recruiter - which included experienced individual recruiters with long careers, better understanding of critical qualifications, resume improvement, and long-term relationships with clients-and-past-candidates.

John introduced two recruiters from his firm, Amanda Blair (recently awarded Under 30 Rising Star) and Joi Naui, Sr. Technical Recruiter.

During the Q&A following John's presentation, there were many questions. One attendee asked in which positions can one "write their own ticket?" John thought that positions related to security, NoSQL, and Python, were possibly such positions. Other questions from recent graduates, job changers and part-timers were about how to get their first tech job. The answers from John and other attendees centered on the theme of having demonstrable skills - and that volunteering, or having a side project, extra classes or demonstrations were valuable in this regard.

After the meeting, instead of the normal restaurant, attendees were invited to casual networking at the hospital's café.



Workshops

Workshop NOTES: February 2015

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: Feb 10

Digital Imaging. All about digital cameras, retouching, and printing using various programs.

[Note: Ken Graff is relocating in Florida. SIG is suspended until further notice

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: Feb 18

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 fourth Thursday 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center

Next Meeting: Mar 26

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>).

Single Board Computers Workshop. Explores various small cheap computers like Raspberry Pi, Arduino, Netduino, Beaglebone, and more. Meets on third Thursday at the DACS Resource Center.

Contact: Jim Scheef (jscheef@dacs.org), or go to the DACS Community Forum: <http://www.dacs.org/forum/>, within the Members-only area

Next Meeting: Feb 19

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: Feb 17

Workshops News & Events

Apple We reviewed the ways to sync and back up an iPhone or iPad to be prepared in case you should ever lose your device. Before getting into that, we went into iCloud settings and enabled Find My iPhone. This enables your lost or misplaced device to be located from another iOS device using the Find My iPhone app, or any computer with a browser by going to <http://www.icloud.com>. You can play a sound or display a message for the finder to call another number. When you have given up on the device or suspect it has been stolen you can request that its contents be wiped the next time it connects to the network, so you don't have to worry that someone will access all your information.

Next we went into iCloud settings again to see where to enable iCloud Backup. This backs up your photos and most of your device's data to iCloud. You can restore to

that device after going into Settings > General > Reset > Erase All Content and Settings, or to a new iOS device during initial setup.

Next we explained iTunes backup to your computer, which is the most complete backup. You may optionally encrypt your backup, in which case your passwords will also be backed up. You can sync and back up via a USB cable connected to your computer, or over Wi-Fi when your device is connected to a power source. The backup takes place automatically as the first step of the sync process. With iTunes you can choose which photos, videos, music, and apps to copy to your device. If you downloaded any media directly to your iOS device, they will be transferred to your computer for safekeeping.

—Richard Corzo

Let's join heads!




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. Just 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 . . .?"

February 2015

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3  General Meeting 7:00 PM	4  Board of Directors 7:00 PM	5	6	7
8	9	10  Apple 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org	11	12 Membership Committee 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	13	14  DACS.DOC Deadline
15	16	17  Web Design & DTP Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM avanommeren@dacs.org	18  Linux 7:30 - 9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley linuxsig@dacs.org	19 Single Board Computers Workshop 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Jan 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mar 2015						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Windows Pain

The Economics of XP Conversion

By Russ Merritt

WITH THE MICROSOFT decision to drop all support for their XP Operating System, those still using XP now face the decision of what to do. Do nothing? Convert to Windows 7? Or to Windows 8? Or buy a new computer.

To do nothing invites some risks to be considered. If all you do is play some computer games like solitaire and maybe prepare private correspondence that you print and mail - then the only risk is computer failure, and that has always existed. If, however, you use email or do any transaction on the Web, then there is the unknown risk of virus attacks. The risk is unknown because the vulnerability of the current XP system is unknown. It is assumed that there are yet unknown ways that XP is open to virus attack. What is known is that Microsoft will make no further changes to XP to fix those problems when they do occur.

So then perhaps you should consider converting to Windows 7 or Windows 8. Step one is to turn to Microsoft for advice. They have two free programs that can evaluate your computer. To find this support - from your search engine enter Windows 8 Upgrade Assistant or Windows 7 Upgrade Adviser. This will lead you to the free upload site for either test. Use the one that addresses your choice of the Operating System. Or run them both, if you are thinking about making a choice based on the capability of your current computer. Don't be too disappointed if you find that you cannot convert to either system. Your PC is a little old, and technology has advanced at a rather rapid pace.

Assume your equipment can handle an upgrade. At Amazon on April 16, 2014, the following prices were quoted:

Windows 7, Home Edition: 64 bit - \$99.99; 32 bit - 89.99; Professional Edition: 64 bit - \$139.99; 32 bit - \$129.99; Ultimate Edition: 64 bit - \$189.99.

Windows 8.1, full version - \$133.28; Windows 8.1 Pro, full version - \$173.35

One thing is known about upgrades from XP - any upgrade must be a clean install. That means the hard drive will be erased. To prepare for this, an external copy of all data must be made before the upgrade is started. Once the upgrade is complete, the data can then be copied back into the computer, but all programs will have to

be re-installed. There is an unknown risk here. The older programs may not run on the newer Operating System. The other factor is - do you still have the installation disks for all your programs? Some unknown costs are at play here.

Also unknown is the impact of a new operating system on external equipment such as printers. Will they still work? If not, can you download new drivers so that the equipment will be operational?

Next Question. Can you do all this or are you going to have to hire some help?

The other option is buy a new computer. If your needs a basic and simple, a new computer could cost as little as \$300.00 and there's been some on sale recently for under that figure. In my opinion, you will need 4 gigabytes of RAM. Storage (hard drive size) that comes with your new PC will be big enough for your immediate needs (maybe even big enough forever). You may not get a CD/DVD drive, and if you need one with what you do, buying an external CD/DVD drive would be the answer - maybe \$30.00 or so. There might be some compatibility issues with old CRT monitors, but with the newer flat screen monitors, they should work with any new PC (check on the monitor's cable connections, just to be sure).

As with the update plan above, the data from your old PC still has to be transferred and the programs installed on the new PC. How much help you will need with this step is determined by you.

So there you have the basics - buy and install a new Operating System or buy and set up a new Computer. There are extra costs you have to add as appropriate for which ever method you choose to solve the lack of support for Windows XP.

While the various electronic parts of a computer rarely fail, hard drives always do - it's only a matter of time. So, which solution appeals to you, investing in a new computer or updating an old one. This is an individual choice that only you can make.

RUSS MERRITT is secretary, *The Computer Club, Inc., Sun City Center, FL* (www.sccccomputerclub.org/, [ilonamerritt7201 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:ilonamerritt7201@gmail.com))

This article appeared in the June 2014 issue, The Journal, and is reprinted with permission for APCUG user groups.

There are Many Ways to Join DACS



Individual/Family Memberships

Annual membership dues are \$30.00 for individuals or for each family living at the same address. Annual memberships which include a printed newsletter are available for \$45.00 a year.

Corporate Membership

Corporate membership, which includes ten (10) electronic memberships, costs \$150 per year. Additional electronic memberships are available at \$15 apiece.

Nonprofit Corporate Membership is discounted to \$75 per year. For member counts over ten (10) add \$7.50 each.

Electronic Membership

An electronic membership includes all the privileges of a regular membership except for a hard copy of the dacs.doc newsletter. Digital versions of the newsletter may be downloaded via the DACS Website.

Corporate Sponsorship

Our Corporate Sponsorship program couldn't be simpler. Any advertiser who commits to a 2/9 of a page or larger ad in our newsletter, dacs.doc, for a period of no less than six consecutive months qualifies. The names of our corporate sponsors are listed in our newsletter and on our Website. (Where possible we will link to the sponsor's Website.)

If joining or renewing your membership by mail, the address is:

DACS, Inc.
c/o Bert Goff, Treasurer
65 Legion Rd,
New Milford, CT 06776

Commentary

I Want It Now!

By Greg Skalka

THIS MAY SOUND LIKE the utterance of a tantrum-happy young child, but it also seems to be the mantra of the modern computer and technology user. Our popular culture today is all about instant gratification, and this is spilling over into our technology. Everyone wants instant access to information, communications, finance and commerce wherever they are and no matter what they are doing.



While this is a rather tall order, tech companies are doing their best to grant us this wish. We are getting more connected and interconnected all the time. While this can provide great benefits, increasing our knowledge and security and saving us time and money, it can also be detrimental to us in many of the same ways. Are we trading away important aspects of our lives like privacy and individuality for speed and convenience?

The engine that drives all the increases in convenience in our lives is the Internet. Computers and tablets are powerful devices but are of relatively little use if not connected to the Internet. The Internet is the connection medium through which all our modern communications and access to information flow. The telecommunication

(phone) system was once the most powerful and far-reaching network in the world, but its demotion can be seen in the low percentage of time that the typical smart phone user spends in voice calls. The average smart phone is now being used mostly to check email, monitor social media, play games and provide directions, functions which utilize the Internet. Our desire for increased connectedness and higher connection speeds continues to be met by our service providers, be they cable, telecom or cellular. The promises of online conveniences like streaming entertainment, security camera monitoring and video

conferencing cannot be met without broadband Internet connections that are always live. Remember the days when you had to wait until the home phone line was free so you could use your modem to make your dial-up Internet connection? A down or even slow connection is now exasperating to the individual and death to a business. Today almost anyone in the United States can have a broadband connection. Cable companies have upgraded their systems, the phone companies have added fiber and the cellular providers have upped their "G's" or generations in data networking capabilities. Even those living off the beaten path in rural areas outside the reach of cable can get broadband through satellite connections, using technology developed by our local company, ViaSat. All this capability comes at a price, however.

Naturally, users were not satisfied to be connected only at home, so our tech industry gave us laptops to travel with. We wanted more portability, so they gave us Wi-Fi, tablets and smartphones. All this new stuff meant we had to buy more hardware (often of multiple kinds for multiple needs) and probably also get a cellular data plan. Now most connected folks pay around \$100 combined for home broadband and cellular data, and even more for a family. Though connection speeds keep increasing, so too do rates for service. Comcast buying Time Warner Cable can't be good for consumer costs. And we in this country pay more and get less bandwidth than a lot of other countries. Some countries may not have good water or sewer systems, but even the poor there have cell phones and five bars. We are getting Google Fiber in an additional 34 major U.S. cities soon, however (but still not in San Diego; I want it now!).

We couldn't get online while onboard, so the airlines are rolling out more in-flight Internet access (for a price). Google knew we'd find tablets and smartphones were not convenient enough, so they developed Google Glasses, and others are working on their own wearable computing devices. Our homes and appliances will soon be connected to the Internet (the IoT, or Internet of Things), so we can monitor our homes remotely and have our fridge tell us when we are low on milk. What these new devices will cost us in privacy and other social and civil issues is yet to be determined.

We wanted instant access to our money and finances, and so the banks gave it to us. Now we can get cash anytime from an ATM machine, make purchases without cash by using credit or debit cards and get instant access to our account information at any time. If we want to deposit a check right now, we don't even have to drive to a bank branch or ATM. We can now just take a photo of the check with our smart phone and deposit it through a banking app.

With all of our financial information available online, it was just a matter of time before criminal elements took notice. Now you have to protect and remember lots of unique and complex passwords for all the banking, e-commerce and other online accounts you use, so you can keep your money and identity safe. Unfortunately it is not only in your hands to protect. Financial institutions and merchants that store your information on their computers can be targets for data theft. There is a lot the institutions could do to increase security, like multi-factor authentication and smart chip credit cards, but these things cost money. A few things they have been doing to help prevent fraud are useful but put the onus on the account holder. Most bank and credit card companies encourage their customers to set up alerts on their accounts to help flag suspicious transactions. I have set these up on my accounts and find them very useful.

I have my credit cards alert me, through an email and/or a text message, when a purchase is made without the card being presented to the merchant, as in an online purchase. This can help alert you to fraudulent account activity as soon as it happens. My Visa card is set up to send me an alert when a gas pump purchase is made. I use this card often at a particular low-cost gas station and am amazed at how quickly I am notified. After I swipe my card, enter my zip code and press the Enter button on the pump, I can't count to five before I feel my cell phone vibrating in my pocket with a text informing me of the transaction and location. That is pretty cool!

When we want to purchase something, we want it now. E-commerce has allowed the shopper to buy a much wider array of products online than is typically available in neighborhood stores, often at much lower prices. The one advantage for brick and mortar stores is the instant gratification of walking out with your purchase. Online merchants are working hard to minimize delivery time, offering one or two-day delivery for a premium. Amazon's Prime service provides two-day delivery for many items

for an annual subscription fee. Amazon knows we want even more and is looking at using predictive algorithms to preposition products you are likely to purchase in local warehouses and is even working on 30-minute delivery of small items by autonomous flying quadcopters. I can't wait (but I'll bet it won't be cheap).

Taco Bell is working to fulfill our desire for fast food right now. They plan to introduce a mobile ordering system later this year. Through their mobile app, already tested in five locations in Orange County, customers can place an order with the closest Taco Bell location and pay through their phone with credit or gift cards. The order can be picked up in-store or at the drive-through window, and the app will use GPS location to let the store know when the customer is near, so the order is ready and freshness is maintained. I'm not sure I want Taco Bell to know how far I am from their restaurants. Other chains are working on mobile apps of their own.

There goes more of our privacy in exchange for quick eats. When we want to watch a movie, we no longer have to wait to buy or rent a DVD (or Blu-ray) or go to a theater. We can watch our entertainment streamed to our computer, tablet or smart phone the instant we want it, in almost any location we choose. We can easily stay connected with our friends through social media like Facebook, allowing us to share our activities and see what everyone else is doing. Unfortunately, when watching other things happening becomes too convenient, doing things yourself can get pushed aside and lots of time can be spent in watching the Internet world go by, with little to show for it.

When we miss our far-away loved ones, we can not only speak to them, we can also see them, and at reasonable costs. The Internet has brought us VoIP, or voice over Internet Protocol, and along with it lower rates (often free) for long distance phone calls. Programs like Skype provide video calls at reasonable costs. And for those of us that can't wait until the afterlife to converse again with our deceased loved ones, a new start-up, Eterni.me, promises to help. Through access to a dead person's online interactions (chat logs, social network information, emails), they claim to use artificial intelligence algorithms to construct an avatar or virtual person that the living can interact with. It could be like online chat with a dead person. To satisfy our need for instant interactions with help lines and tech support, companies are working on similar

avatars with artificial intelligence (even more intelligent than Siri). When we need to talk to a person right now, the avatar would be there and not even require a salary. It would be good if they got to the point where I could not tell if I was talking with a person or a machine. It would be bad if they got to the point where I could not tell if I was talking with a person or a machine.

All these advances in convenience and quick access come at the cost of our data security and privacy. We can get quick answers to all our questions, get directions and compare products online, but we must realize that the Technology, computers and the Internet will continue to try to provide what we want (though perhaps not what we need), as long as there is profit in it somewhere for someone. Hopefully we can learn to use these advances for the betterment of ourselves

and others, appreciate them, and not become like spoiled children crying "I want it now!"

Google and Bing and merchants are all keeping track of what we are asking for and about. Seeking online information about sensitive topics or items might create undesirable associations in the data they hold about us. And while a lot of tech jobs have been created due to the Internet, there have also been some job losses. Just ask the former bank tellers, video rental clerks, encyclopedia salespersons and retail store workers that lost their jobs due to the effects of the Internet

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Special Notice: Changes in Membership Dues

Our dues structure has remained constant for seven years. How many organizations do you belong to that have not raised dues for that long? As with any entity, there are basic operating costs to maintain services. For the past several months, the Board of Directors has discussed and analyzed our operating costs, membership benefits and expectations, and ways to close the widening gap between income and expenses. I invite every member to review the monthly treasurer reports included in every newsletter and on our website, for additional detail.

Our sources of income are membership dues (98%), donations, and ads placed in the newsletter and on the website. The key areas of expense for DACS are Newsletter, Insurance, web hosting, and maintaining our Resource Center, which is used for SIGs, special workshops, committees, and Board meetings. These key expenses make up more than 88% of our budget. In the 2014 calendar year our expenses exceeded income by more than \$800. Over the past 3 years we have outspent income by nearly \$2,000. DACS leadership does not receive any remuneration for our services and in many cases we pay for incidental expenses out of pocket. Keep in mind that we are extremely fortunate not to be charged rent for any of our meeting venues, else expenses would be much higher. We have already trimmed our expenses as much as practical without impacting services.

Your Board of Directors therefore voted at our January 7th Board Meeting to close the financial gap by increasing membership dues by 33%. We will follow the same 2 month advanced notice used with the last dues increase in 2008, with a special renewal offer.

Changes that will take effect on March 31st, 2015

- DACS Basic Membership dues will increase from \$30 to \$40 per year. Each member will continue to have the same benefits, including access to our forum, online PDF Newsletter, club related news via email, attendance at SIGs and workshops, and participation in any club-only related events, promotions, or activities.
- The printed and mailed newsletter subscription will add another \$20 to the basic membership dues. This still comes up short of our expense in printing and postage by about \$2 but is much closer to the real cost of the newsletter. So members who want a printed copy mailed will need to pay \$60 annual dues.

Every member may renew membership between now and March 31st at the current rate. So if you just renewed or joined DACS, you may renew for another year at the \$30 (or \$45) rate you are now paying, but you must do so by March 31st.

As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me directly at president@dacs.org.

—Dick Gingras

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

Attendance			
Nov	Dec	Jan	
31	34	51	seat count
28	23	22	members signed in
3	11	26	visitors signed in
0	3	3	presenter staff

Enrollment			
Oct	Nov	Dec	
115	113	109	Paying Members
111	104	105	with e-mail
1	1	11	New Members

DACS.DOC stats			
75	75	75	printed
12	12	16	pages
59	59	59	mailed members
5	5	5	mailed other
14	14	14	mailed free lib

Old Business

1. Membership committee

a. When we distribute press releases electronically we need CiviCRM configured to report that it has been opened. The process of distribution must be made a 'turn-key' process so that it may be launched with minimal need for Richard or Jim. Jim and Richard will implement once conversion from Drupal to WordPress is finished. Richard Teasdale will need to continue current process.

b. CiviCRM to WordPress integration - Jim and Richard will work on it at SIG meeting, Jan. 7th.

c. How many paid members do we now have? 114

Dick will generate definition of roles and activities of the membership committee (not of individuals that of the committee).

d. Dick wants to expand our Civi mailing list to include 1,600 additional recipients from Access database for GM and other announcements. He needs to know the data columns available in Civi so that he can generate the comparable data from the Access database. Jim said he would provide.

2. Marketing committee status

a. Committee should include all the talent we need for an effective promotion each month to compose and distribute meeting event posters. Annette for 'custom' graphics, Allan for access to clip-art subscription. Create promotional material such as new pamphlets, look for ways to identify how to promote DACS and our activities, evangelize at various merchant meet-ups and similar venues, capitalize on using social media, and send compelling press releases to print and non-print media, coordinate 25th anniversary activities

b. Dick needs definition of the roles and activities of this committee. (Again, not individuals, the committee.)

c. Considering different location(s) for meetings - Western Connecticut facilities, especially if we can do joint events. If so, then absolutely must give advance notice of the site change. We will try several times before we commit to frequenting a different location. Note: Hospital has reserved room across the hall for the period during which the auditorium is being remodeled.

d. Should send targeted e-mails after special events.

e. 25th recognition activities

f. Need PSA (Public Service Announcements) for DACS. Tom Z. says that students at Western could help write them and the Western radio station would broadcast them.

g. SCORE relationship -

i. DACS promotes the series of their sessions.

ii. DACS produce workshops on using Microsoft Office

h. Discussed promoting and participating in Microsoft workshop series at Microsoft store

i. Discussed participating in Danbury Chamber of Commerce's Merchant Mixture events.

3. Program committee

a. Upcoming events

i. February - Video Streaming - Tom Joiner - Andy has already submitted preview.

ii March - Orienteering - Ed Hicks - Preview: Tom Z

iii. April - TBD

iv. May - John Patrick - change meeting time to 6:30 per his request - approved. Must publicize extensively.

b. Can we see if for each presentation

i. The presenter can help us publicize the event as we did for our GM yesterday

ii. If the topic may lead to formation of a new work shop or series of workshops

c. Discussed the new meeting format and ways to improve it.

i. Many participated in "Networking" after the presentation.

ii. Adjourning to the hospital café rather than Chili's was well received perhaps 20 did so.

4. Web site status

a. SSL certificate - Jim to check with Bluehost to see if a self-signed certificate be assigned to just one subdomain.

b. Bert reports that PayPal non-profit discount is in place

c. Bert reports that there was no Amazon Smile activity yet.

5. Bert update on new insurance policy - although they had negotiated lower pre-

mium, liability portion went up considerably negating much of the expected reduction in premium. He will follow up to see why it didn't match his quote etc.

New Business

1. Extensive dues increase discussion - as with many other organizations the cost of printing and distributing a hard copy newsletter is draining our treasury. It was decided that we need to increase membership dues to \$40 with \$20 premium for hard copy newsletter. Voted and approved.

2. Informal conversations with prospective members indicates that the term SIG is jargon that means nothing. We are going to change terminology to "monthly workshop" for recurring events, or just 'workshop' for one-time events. This will take place immediately.

3. Comparatively brief discussion as to use of "tag lines" on documents, electronic or printed. The discussion is to be continued via the forum under the Marketing Committee.

4. The topic of communication overload was discussed. There are way too many copies of messages being sent back and forth with copies to people who need not be copied. As in the past there is also 'topic creep' such that a thread of messages may go off on a tangent and it becomes harder to find as the subject line no longer is pertinent. Dick will distribute the structure of the distribution lists and make sure that lists do not nest, etc.. Board and committee members are asked to please be considerate as to which distribution list is used or just address to a specific individual as appropriate. Reply to the group should be used judiciously. Another problem is that the 'From:' on receiving message addressed to the group inconsistently does not show the originator - soe times it is just "on behalf of" and others it is silent. Please sign your messages within the body of the message.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM with many open items untouched due to running out of time..

—Bruce Preston

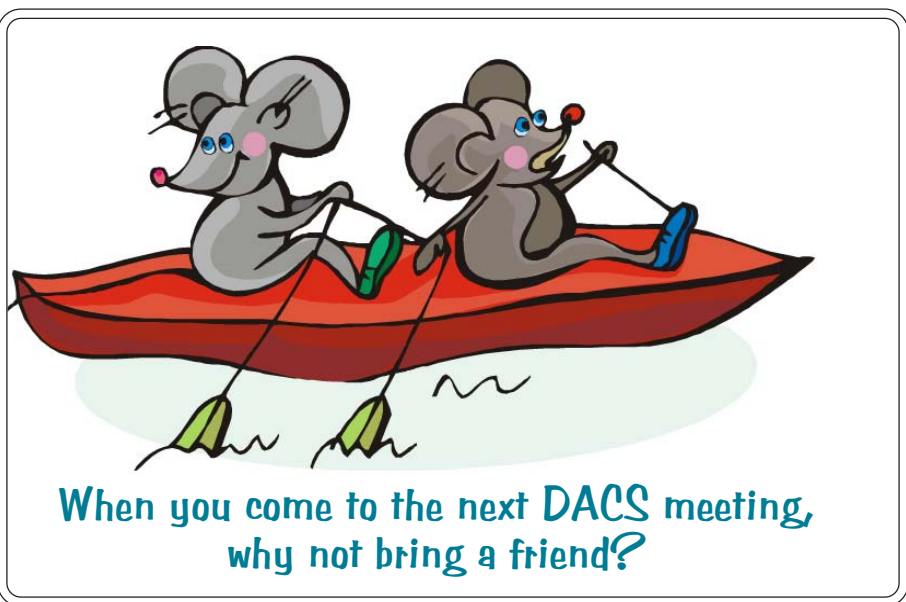
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dacs.doc

Danbury Area Computer Society
65 Legion Rd
New Milford, CT 06776

The logo for 'Voice for Joanie' features a stylized eye with a blue iris and black pupil, with several thin lines radiating from it. Below the eye is a small illustration of a desktop computer with a monitor and keyboard.

**Voice
for
Joanie**

Help give the
gift of speech
Call Frank Ruiz
at 203 770-6203
and become a
Voice for Joanie
volunteer
www.voiceforjoanie.org

Future Events:

February 3

Ed Hicks on Map Apps

March 3

Tom Joyner
Video Streaming
Technology

April 7

TBA

May 5

John Patrick
Future of Health Care
and the Internet

Special Meeting Time: 6:30