Next Meeting: March 3

How to start an online business in your spare time

President's File

DUES INCREASE - Last chance to renew your membership or recruit a new member before dues increase on April 1st.

Tag line

Your opinion counts. We need a *short incisive tag line to define our mission that will be used consistently* with 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". Do you agree, or do you think we should use something else? Please let us know at *http://dacs.org/feedback/*.

Our newest Board member

Tom Zarecki was unanimously elected at our February 4th Board meeting to fill the vacancy left by Bruce Preston. *Tom is an adjunct marketing professor at WestConn and very active in social media and broadcasting. He has been a member for less than a year but has contributed much valuable insight for DACS. We are looking for his fresh ideas that will reinvigorate DACS now and into the future.*

Marketing 315

Lisa Leifels and I participated in an Advertising and Social Media class (MKT 315) at Western Connecticut University, with Tom Zarecki. Tom set this up as an exercise for the entire class of 28 students, to serve as an Ad agency for DACS and two other non-profit organizations. Lisa and I are very excited at the reception we got and the excellent questions the students asked. We are looking forward to follow-up meetings in a few weeks and their recommendations near the end of the semester.

Membership committee

Richard Corzo recently spent an entire weekend completing the CiviCRM switchover from Drupal to WordPress. CiviCRM is the platform on which the membership committee maintains our membership base, mailing list, and direct mailings. "Civi" will supercede the Access database that has been maintained by Charlie Bovaird for more than 20 years and will be used now as a backup and for membership analysis. WordPress is the platform used for our website. We will soon be ready to look into more fully integrating the two.

Upcoming Events

Bring a friend to our meetings. Learn how to supplement your income by starting an online business (March 3rd), make more effective use of social media (April 7th), and get updated about the Future of Healthcare and the Internet. What topics would you like to know more about? Don't forget our new meeting time is 7:30 pm and starts with our main presentation. Don't be late.

25th anniversary

We need more of you to work with Cathy Quaranta to plan and make this yearlong celebration a success. This will 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. Talk about your ideas with her at the check-in table at our next general meeting or let her know by email.

Small Business Workshops

We are co-sponsoring a series of four Small Business Workshops with SCORE. The topics are: "Your Marketing Tool Kit", "Keys to a Great Website", "SEO Deep Dive", and "Branding." These are being hosted by the Danbury Library and started on February 10th. Judging from the attendance of DACS members at the first workshop, it is apparent that many of you are interested in starting or running a small business more effectively, so these free workshops and others like them should be of particular interest to many of you. It is not too late to register for the remaining workshops. Find more on our website at *http://dacs.org/small-business-workshop-series/*.

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

- Dick Gingras, President

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

Directors' Notes

A MEETING OF YOUR board of directors was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. Attending were Dick Gingras, Cathy Quaranta, Bert Goff, Lisa Leifels, Richard Corzo, Jim Scheef. Guests: Tom Zarecki, Bruce Preston.

The meeting was called to Order at 7:08 PM. Minutes of the Last Meeting were accepted.

Opening Comments

• New workshop series planned for April on using MS Office suite being developed by joint effort from Microsoft, SCORE, and DACS that will later evolve into an ongoing "DACS Only" workshop series. Dick would like these to evolve into DACS workshop presented independently by DACS.

• Lisa and Dick participated in an Advertising and Social Media class (MKT 315) with Tom Zarecki. Tom set this up as an exercise for the entire class of 28 students to serve as an Ad agency for DACS and two other non-profit organizations. Lisa and I are very excited at the reception we got and the excellent questions the students asked. We are looking forward to a follow-up meeting in a few weeks and their recommendations near the end of the semester.

Old Business

1. Membership committee

a. Richard C. worked over the weekend and got CiviCRM now working properly, including recording of bounced e-mails due to bad addresses.

b. Sign-in at GM: Guests fill in Google form, members just check sheet.

c. Distributed press releases. Richard C. set up Richard Teasdale so he can do mailings and reports.

d. Need to finish backup process.

e. Need to get SSL certificate installed on Bluehost.

f. Discussion as to whether there is a need to bump Bluehost service to "Pro" level. Taken off-line.

2. Marketing committee status

a. Dick requests members to briefly comment on definition of the Roles and activities of this committee

b. Committee met and discussed pre-GM planning, 'tag line' study, look at Meetup data for such things as "What are you interested in?"

3. Program committee

a. Dick requests members to briefly comment on definition of the Roles and

Meeting Review

Digital Mapping & Orienteering

By Richard Teasdale

AT THE DACS FEBRUARY 2015 general meeting, long-time DACS member, Ed Hicks, gave us a wide-ranging overview of the subject of maps and map-making. The broad theme of Ed's talk was the revolutionary changes in the world of maps that have been brought about by computers and the internet.

Ed is a mapmaker and the owner of Orienteering Unlimited, Inc., which, from its base in Somers, NY, offers map-making and related services.

The presentation began with a review of some of the reasons why people use maps. There are lots of kinds of maps. Although navigation is the commonest use for maps, few people have been taught how to use a map correctly for that purpose.

Many users of online maps do so through Google but Microsoft's Bing also has good maps via its Bird's-Eye service. Bird's-Eye provides pictures of each location from 4 different directions: north, south, east, and west. Open Street Maps, Mapquest, and Google Earth are other examples of online map websites that are commonly used.

Sometimes maps can give an interesting perspective on how a location has changed over time. Ed mentioned a website which contains historical maps of Westchester county, N.Y., some going back as far as 1881. In the early days, atlases were financed by property owners who wanted their names to appear on the maps. Plots of land whose owners declined to contribute appeared unnamed on the map.

Historical perspectives can also be gotten from websites which provide aerial photographs. (Most so-called "satellite" photos are actually aerial photographs.)

New York State re-photographs about one quarter of the state every 3 years. Connecticut also has a collection of maps and photographs, hosted by UConn's MAGIC library (http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/).

Ed described some of the standard elements of maps (conventional and digital). He then went on to explain the two main types of image file that digital maps consist of: raster and vector.

He also described the difference between geo-referenced maps and "paper" maps, which basically is the presence or absence on the map of a coordinate system that measures positions on the surface of the earth. The most commonly used coordinate system is latitude and longitude, but there are others.

Maps can indicate three north directions - most people are familiar with two of them: "True" north, which is the direction to the North Pole, and Magnetic north, which is the direction to the north magnetic pole. Since the North Pole and the north magnetic pole are at different points on the earth's surface, the difference between the two north directions, known as "declination", varies from place to place. Another complication is that the position of the north magnetic pole is constantly changing. There are various websites, e.g. NOAA, that can be used to determine the declination, given a particular place and time.

Some compasses have the ability to store the declination value so that when they are used with a map, the true north reading is seen automatically and does not have to be calculated manually.

The third north direction, Grid North, relates to the rectangular grid that results from projecting the curved surface of the earth onto the plane surface of a map. The projection unavoidably results in some distortion on the map. Grid north, which corresponds to the edge of most maps, is therefore slightly different from true north.

Ed reviewed the pros and cons of using a GPS device for navigation.

He then discussed cartography, the process of making a map. Traditionally done by hand, maps are now created using one of three types of software: Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Computer-Aided Design (CAD), and specialized illustration software.

The data used to make maps come from a variety of sources. One of the most fascinating of these is the new technology, LI-DAR, which is transforming the business of map-making. Light Detection and Ranging is a technique based on the use of lasers, to measure distances to topographical features. Light has a much shorter wavelength than radio waves and so is able to provide much more accurate distance measurements than radar.
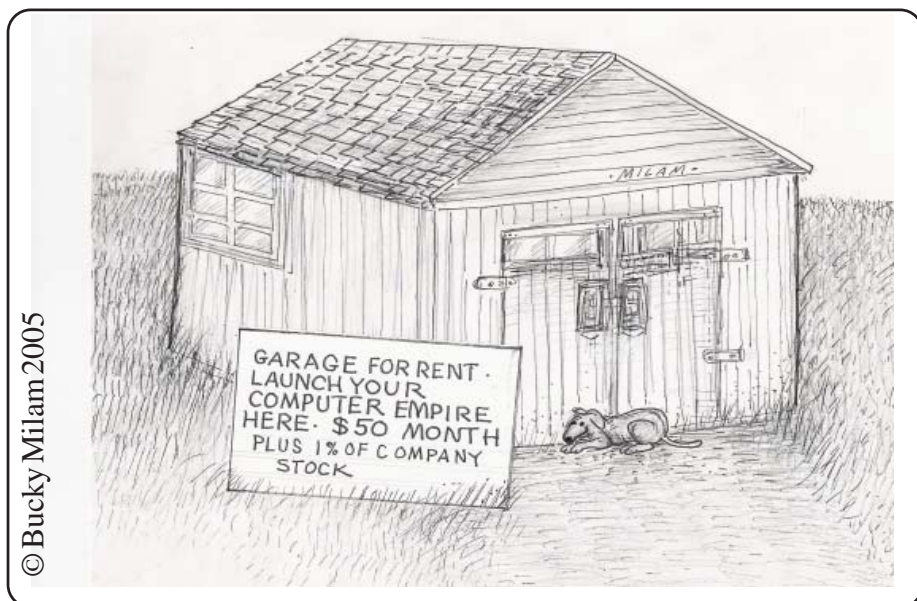
Ed described the steps by which Orienteering maps are made, then rounded out his presentation by talking about the sports of Orienteering and Geocaching.

Unknown to many Americans, Orienteering is very popular in Scandinavia (where it originated) and in other parts of Europe. Orienteering contestants use their map-reading skills to navigate from point to point, competing to arrive at the finish line first. Ed described some of the techniques that experienced orienteers use.

Orienteering maps are very detailed and must be accurate and up-to-date. Ed's company makes many of the orienteering maps used in the Danbury and Westchester areas.

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt that has grown up in recent years, based on the wide use and availability of GPS devices and systems. A geocache is a hidden box whose location coordinates are given on the geocaching website (http://www.geocaching.com/). Treasure hunters use their GPS devices to find the box and record their discovery.

The evening concluded with a Q&A session.

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Meeting Preview

Start an Online Business in your Spare Time

by Dick Gingras

MIKE BROOKS HAS been running his own online business for over 10 years. He has taught people all over the world how to market themselves and make money online. Here is a great opportunity to learn from an expert on how to start a sideline business in your spare time. In this presentation you will learn about the different kinds of online business you can start and how to get started today. It may be for a safety net, a source of extra income, or a full time business. If you've been thinking about starting your own online business, this workshop is a must for you.

Mike will explain what running a business is really like and share his own war stories. He will discuss:

- How to start without spending a ton of money.
- What you need for a marketing/business plan.
- Different online models and the reality behind what it takes to make them work.
- How to identify the right fit for you.
- How to determine the "Hungry" market, understand who you are selling to, and what the "sales funnel" might look like.
- The reality of what you may need to do in the future as your business ramps up.

Mike Brooks is President, CEO, and Chief Nuclear Chowder Head at Nuclear Chowder Marketing. For the past five years he has been personally responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue flowing into a select group of businesses through their Internet Marketing strategies. For the five years prior to that, Mike was responsible for the same thing at the martial arts school he co-owned, which is where he fell in love with direct response and Internet Marketing. He is a prolific author, speaker, and very active podcaster, with nearly 80 5-star rated podcasts to his credit, available on iTunes and his website at *http://nuclearchowdermarketing.com/category/nuclearpodcast/.*

There will be ample opportunities to ask questions and to network afterwards. This topic may be a catalyst to start a monthly workshop series for DACS members, devoted to small and start-up business issues.

DACS General Meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium and are free and open to the public. Members and prior attendees are encouraged to extend invitations to anyone interested in this topic. The March 3rd presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m.

After the meeting, everyone is invited to the Danbury Hospital Praxair Café for additional networking.

Back to Basics

When You Want to Learn How

By Richard Durand

ONE THING I HAVE found out the hard way is that sometimes knowledge just has to be demanded. On a number of occasions, I have paid good money for educational classes, shown up and patiently waited to be filled up with the useful knowledge I was seeking, and when the class was over, I had more questions than when I started.

Or, don't you just love how this happens? Software companies provide pages and pages of printed safety and warranty information and then for instructions one gets something like, "When the Install screen appears, follow the prompts." What do the prompts mean? How does one decide which of the offered alternatives to select? Blank out. Or has anyone ever said to you as a new computer user, "Oh, just download such and such a program for that"? I have heard this myself and managed to download what was suggested and then found myself flummoxed. Why isn't anything happening? Oh, you're saying the downloaded program has to be installed first. Now, how do I find what I downloaded, which downloaded file is for installing, what drive and folder should the program be installed to, how is the installation carried out, how should it be set up, how does the program work, etc.? The questions can just cascade.

These are probably the most extreme examples that can be cited but the point is that one must be aware that this can happen and when it does, one must be prepared, however tedious and frustrating it may become, to obtain step-by-step detailed instructions. The answers may be in manuals or computer books or in the "Help" file or from telephone tech support, and sometimes from another computer user or club member.

And if the answers are things you already know and/or are not helping, make sure you identify exactly what you are trying to find out and keep looking and asking questions. In the search for knowledge, be demanding both of your sources and of yourself.

And if you are the one helping someone else with a computer situation, try to find out how much he already knows and then give step-by-step instructions as detailed as seems necessary. As I've written in these pages before, there is much technical background knowledge that is just not worth pursuing for the average computer user.

But if you pick your battles and can narrow down what you really need to know, usually in the way of detailed instructions, you can concentrate your efforts and go all out to get what you need to know.

RICHARD DURAND *is president, Wisconsin All-computer User Club, WI (www.wauc.us; rgdurand (at) yahoo.com)*

This article was published in the February 2014 issue, WAUCtalk, and is distributed for reprint by APCUG member user groups.

Workshops

Workshop NOTES: March 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: Mar 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: Mar 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: Mar 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: Mar 17

Workshops News & Events

Apple. We reviewed Microsoft's current offering of Office apps on iOS (iPads and iPhones). Microsoft first dipped its toe into iOS when it offered the free OneNote app, a rich text, drawing, and rich media note taking app, back in 2011. Then about a year ago, in spring 2014, Microsoft brought out touch-optimized versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint for Apple's mobile devices. These were designed from the beginning with a touch interface, unlike the versions for Windows 8, which were designed primarily to work with a mouse and keyboard and secondarily with a touch screen that was available on some Windows 8 machines. Initially the Word, Excel, and PowerPoint apps were offered free for viewing documents, while editing required an Office 365 subscription (http://products.office.com/en-US/), which allowed access to Office on a few different devices and computers you might own. Then, last fall, Microsoft updated the three apps to allow most editing features for free, with only a few features reserved for those with a paid Office 365 subscription. For example, the track changes feature that keeps track of edits made by multiple people, is only available for those with a paid subscription.

Just this past month Microsoft added to the collection its Outlook app, which is their combined e-mail, calendar, and contacts app. They had bought the small company behind the Acompli app and rebranded it as Outlook. It works of course with Microsoft Exchange accounts that are common in workplaces, but also with some popular services like Gmail and Yahoo!. In fact, after our Apple monthly workshop meeting they quickly updated it to work with any IMAP-capable e-mail service, such as AOL, or probably whatever e-mail service your internet provider offers. (IMAP is the protocol that mirrors your e-mail locally, but always keeps e-mail on the server so that it is available from any device or computer you have. Contrast this with POP—post office protocol—that downloads your e-mail to a specific computer, so that it may not be available on some other computer you have.) Aside from combining e-mail, calendar, and contacts, Outlook's most prominent feature is the way it sorts e-mail into "Focus" e-mail versus "Other" e-mail. Focus e-mail is likely to be e-mail from people you are in contact with, whereas Other is likely to be mass mailings from companies or websites you have done business with. Outlook can also send large attachments in your e-mails as links to cloud services such as Microsoft's own OneDrive, Google Drive, Box, or Dropbox.
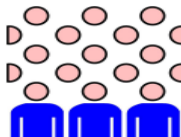
The last item we discussed was a useful application to consult when something goes wrong on your Mac. One of our members reported getting pop-up messages related to a NAS (Network Attached Storage) device that he no longer owned and wondered where they were coming from. One suggestion I had was to take a look at the log messages in the Console application, found in the Applications:Utilities folder. These are generally pretty cryptic and mainly of interest to software developers, but might give you a clue as to the source of an error you are experiencing.
—*Richard Corzo*
Workshop Notes, *Cont. on page 10*

March 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 **Small Business Workshop Series** Danbury Library 6-7 PM *http://dacs.org/small-business-workshop-series/* **Apple** 7:00 PM Richard Corzo *macsig@dacs.org*	11	12 **Membership Committee** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	13	14
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 **DACS.DOC Deadline**
22	23	24	25	26 **Mobile Devices** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef & Richard Corzo *mobilesig@dacs.org*	27	28
29	30	31 **Small Business Workshop Series** Danbury Library 6-7 PM *http://dacs.org/small-business-workshop-series/*				

	Feb 2015								Apr 2015					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
								26	27	28	29	30		

File Management

Easy Basic Backups

By Jim Cerny,

UNFORTUNATELY, it is not a perfect world and, as you know, any mechanical device can fail. Because your computer and/or your hard drive can fail, everyone (this means you) needs to take the extra step on a regular basis to make sure that you have a good backup. I am always surprised at the number of people who just don't do backups at all - they will have a real problem if something goes wrong. There have been many "backup" articles written and I would encourage you to read some of them. But the purpose of this article is just to give you the basics first and then you can decide what further steps you need to take and what more information you may need. H ere is the "basic backup" information:

1. Why do I need to do a backup? - In case your computer or hard drive fails

.2. What is a "backup" anyway? It is simply a copy on another memory device.

3. What should I back up? This is good question. I do not backup my entire "C" drive, I only backup those files that are important to me - those files I NEED to keep. I do not backup my software/programs. For example, I have many documents (files) which I created using the Word program. Well, I can use someone else's Word program and their computer in an emergency to open those files from my backup device. I can also use "Open Office" to open those files. I just need my files which I have backed up and a computer that has Word or is connected to the internet. Get the picture? A backup is also great when you get a new computer and need to put all your files in it. I backup everything in the "My documents" and "My pictures" folders - that is, I backup all the files I have in "My documents" and all "My photos". I do not backup "My music" or "My videos" because I don't have any of those that are important to me. You do NOT have to backup your email or anything that you have saved on the internet cloud (such as on Google Drive, or Dropbox for example). Certainly you may choose to use the internet cloud as your backup device. NOTE: Photos and videos take up MUCH more space than other files -see below.

4. How often should I do a backup? As often as needed so that you do not lose anything important. I do a backup every three or four weeks.

5. How do you do a backup? I use either an external hard drive or a thumb drive that plugs into a USB port on my computer. (I don't recommend using CD or DVD disks for doing backups as you will probably run out of space on the disk and have to use too many of them.) I just connect my drive, create a new folder on the drive called "backup 7-31-2014" (the date). Then I just open the Windows Explorer and drag the entire "My documents" folder to that backup folder, and then do the same for "My pictures." It takes about 20 or 30 minutes, but you can do other things on your computer in the meantime. While the files are being copied, you will see a green bar lengthen from left to right until the copy is complete. There is also a time estimate shown which is usually inaccurate.

6. How much space do I need on the device? To find out how much space you are using now on your "C" drive for any folder, open up the "Windows Explorer" program and, on the list of folders in the left column, find "My documents". RIGHT-click the mouse on that folder to get a pop-up menu, then left-click on "properties". You will see how much space that folder is taking up and that is how much space you will need on your backup device to copy it. It will also tell you how many files are in that folder. My "My documents" takes up about 300 megabytes. My "My photos" takes up well over 6 gigabytes. So I will count on needing about 7 gigabytes of memory for EACH backup. If you get an external hard drive, pay the extra bucks and get a one-terabyte drive and you will have lots of space. Or you can get a 32 or a 64 gigabyte thumb drive which, for me, can easily hold my last two backups.

7. How many backups should you keep? I only keep the most recent two backups. After I create a new backup, I delete the oldest from the device to save space.

8. Anything special about photos? Yes, they take up much more space. On my computer, my pictures take up almost twenty times the space of my documents or other files. So, I handle my pictures differently. I only keep the last two years of pictures on my computer. Every year I copy the oldest photos (from three years ago) to CDs and put them in my photo album. If you have really special photos, you should back them up with your other files and not put them on a CD. I have heard stories that CDs may not last forever and can deteriorate.

Are there other choices or ways of doing backups? You bet. There are programs that you can buy or download from the internet that can automatically do the backups for you. Sometimes backup programs come with the memory device you purchase. There is "the cloud" option too, where you can put your files on the cloud and let that company keep them for you (i.e. such as using Google Drive or Dropbox). But their free space is limited and you may have to pay for more space. Perhaps one of these other ways will be more to your liking, but by all means do your backups. One of the worst-case scenarios is that your computer quits working, you decide to buy a new computer, but you cannot move any of your files to the new computer because you didn't make any backups! Every once in a while, ask yourself: "What would I do if my computer quits working?"

JIM CERNY, is 2nd vice president, Sarasota PCUG, FL (www.spcug.org, jimcerny123 (at) gmail.com).

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!

Systems Check

Two Ways to Install
Windows 10 Technical Preview

By Jim Scheef

I JUST INSTALLED the Microsoft Windows 10 Preview - twice. The first install was a piece of cake and I urge you to try it with a few caveats – keep reading. Microsoft has created a consumer-oriented (that would be "technical consumers") portal for the Win10 Technical Preview called Windows Insider. Joining this should be your first step as there is much information and this is how you get the install files. This article is about installing Win10. It is not about the benefits, features, good or bad performance, or anything like a review of Win10. All that is for you to find on your own and then write about here in DACS.doc.

The Win10 install process is very much like Windows 8, which is to say smooth and straightforward. The system requirements give several supported alternatives:

1. A clean install on an empty hard drive, as in a new machine.

2. From Windows Update as an in-place upgrade to your existing Windows installation.

3. As a virtual machine.

4. Installed on a separate partition with dual boot.

Note that the Technical Preview edition will expire on April 15th so if you want to try, get crackin'!

Option #1 is the easiest if you have a not-too-old PC or laptop available. My second install was on an ASUS Transformer Book T100TA. This is a convertible tablet so the basic install was from a USB memory stick and required that I locate all the Win8 device drivers. More on this later.

Option #2 is not for the faint of heart, as this irrevocably installs a beta version of Windows over your existing system. If this sounds good to you, be sure to investigate all the system requirements thoroughly as there will be no coming back. On the other hand, this in-place upgrade option does not even re-

quire you to download the ISO. It's like baking cookies from those refrigerated tubes in the supermarket – really, really easy unless something screws up. This process is likely a preview of the "free upgrade" promised for users of the "consumer" versions of Win7 and 8.

Option #3 is my favorite as there is no commitment beyond time and disk space. Of course you must be running Windows 8 Pro to use Hyper-V, but there are other "more free" hypervisors available. Hypervisor stuff is beyond our scope.

Option #4 is a middle ground. It may take some work to create a 100GB partition on your hard drive (my suggested size, not the official requirement). Once installed Win10 will run without the performance penalty imposed on a virtual machine.

Ok, the fun part starts here. My first Win10 install was a guest virtual machine on Hyper-V running on a Windows 8.1 Pro 64-bit laptop, Core i7 processor (4 cores) and 8GB of RAM. I was pleased to see that Microsoft also supports Win10 as a guest machine under Virtual PC on Win7. This was not an option for the Win8 Preview. While I have not investigated other hypervisors, I suspect the preview can be installed and run on VirtualBox (Oracle), VMWare Workstation and Parallels Desktop on the Mac, among others. Note that the host computer needs to have some "umpf." My laptop works fine with one VM running, but gets slow when I run two VMs simultaneously.

The install process I followed is:

1. Download the ISO file from Microsoft. I would not trust any other source and your favorite search engine will find a million. I chose the 32-bit version because it requires less RAM.

2. Create a new virtual machine and virtual hard disk. The exact buttons you click to do this will vary with your hypervisor. I gave the VM 2GB RAM and made the virtual hard drive 100GB using

the "dynamically expanding" option. This means the virtual disk file is only as big as the programs and data it contains. After installation but before adding any application programs, the physical file is a little less than 8GB.

3. Start the VM and let it fail with no operating system found. This finds any mistakes you made configuring the VM now rather than half-way thru installing the OS.

4. Now point the VM's "CD drive" to the ISO downloaded earlier. There is no need to burn it to a physical DVD disk.

5. Start the VM. You should see the Windows install start up. I always choose a custom install, but after pointing to the empty virtual disk, the install will run without further intervention thru at least one reboot (I minimized the window). No codes, no questions, no errors.

6. When you see the login screen the install is complete. Naturally it wants a Microsoft account. While this is not necessary, if you use a Microsoft account on your regular machine, using it now will save a lot of time as Windows will replicate many of your settings to this new "machine". In fact I suggest using the same account that you used to join Windows Insider.

7. By default the VM will have a network adapter that will connect to your local network over the host computer's existing network connection. The VM will obtain an IP address the same way as the host machine, probably via DHCP from your router.

8. Naturally your mileage may vary but, with any luck, you are now ready to play with Windows 10.

Even running under Hyper-V, I was able to change the screen resolution to full screen on the fly. Used this way, the fact that there is a VM involved becomes transparent. Minimizing the VM makes it quick to switch between "machines".

Another advantage to using my Microsoft account was that OneDrive is available so there is no need to copy any data to the VM's virtual disk. It's also possible to share directories on the host machine with the VM.

After a couple of reboots, there was a popup that Windows updates were available. Using the search in the Start menu, I opened Windows Update. Since I had not yet set any preferences for how updates should be installed, I had to search. Very quickly I had a list of three updates: one for the technical preview, one for the IE Flash Player, and new defini-

tions for Windows Defender. All very cool. After playing with Win10 this way (large monitor and separate keyboard) and then seeing a DACS member at the general meeting using Win10 on one of his tablet computers, I wanted to try Win10 on a smaller machine. To get some ideas for how this would go, I watched a few YouTube demonstrations installing Win10 on tablets. Naturally they all made it look super easy, so I decided to install Win10 on my ASUS Transformer Book (Model T100TA).

This second install meant replacing the original Windows 8.1 installation with Win10. This would be an all-out no-going-back option #1 installation with a few twists. Since there is no DVD drive on a tablet, the installation files need to be on a bootable USB thumb drive. Any such memory stick larger than 4.5GB will do. This process will reformat the drive, so you must first remove any files that you want to keep. I think the drive I used is 8GB. Put the drive in to a USB port. Next download UNetbootin.exe (unetbootin.sourceforge.net/). It is very helpful when installing Linux, but it can copy any ISO to any drive. The program requires no installation; simply put it somewhere and run it. Select the "Diskimage" option and navigate to the Win10 Tech Preview ISO file you downloaded earlier. Make sure target USB drive is the correct drive letter and click OK. A few minutes later, the USB drive will be a bootable Win10 installer.

While that completes, make sure you have the device drivers for your tablet. I did not do this in advance and had a semi-functional tablet after the Win10 installation completed. The YouTube demos did not need any additional drivers; again, your mileage may vary. I found the ASUS drivers for my ASUS tablet on their website. I downloaded twelve files for the core system board, video, audio, Bluetooth, touchpad, etc. Some drivers came with an install program, others installed using Device Manager in Control Panel. As I installed more drivers, all the tablet stuff started to work, like the touch screen – to my great relief!

So far the tablet is working quite well. Win10 has two user interfaces; one is closer to Win8 and is more suited to the smaller screen of most tablets while the other is very desktop-oriented and should satisfy most Windows 8 haters.

One final caveat: don't install this on your main computer as the primary operating system. If you have only one machine that now runs Windows 7 or 8, use the virtual machine or dual boot options to preserve your current operating environment until the final version is released later this year. For now, you must assume that there will not be a smooth upgrade path to the final release version and that this installation will be toast when the technical preview edition expires on April 15th.

So do I like Win10? Honestly I have been too busy writing this article to find out. Ask me at a meeting.

Workshop Notes, Cont. from page 6

Single Board Computer. Our first meeting was a great success with fifteen attendees plus myself. Attendees ranged from neophytes to years of professional experience with embedded systems. Wow, talk about diversity!

At our next meeting, Harvey Schneider will show two of his projects. One is an environmental monitor that records temperature and humidity, and calculates dew point every 5 minutes. Data is both stored on an SD card and sent to a serial port. The other project is a stepping motor test fixture designed to help determine the best operating mode for motors to be installed on a 3D printer. Thank you, Harvey, for volunteering to be the first for show-and-tell.

If there is time following Harvey's projects, I'll demonstrate the initial setup process for a new Raspberry Pi.

The big news in the world of open source hardware is the new Raspberry Pi 2. It is claimed to be 6-times faster than any existing Pi, and there will be a version of Windows 10 for the new board. Don't get all excited, this will be a version of Windows Embedded tuned for robotics. For a little more explanation, go to *http://www.cnet.com/products/raspberry-pi-2-model-b/*. The processor is a quad-core ARMv7 with 1GB of RAM. A comparison chart with the new model can be found at *http://www.lifehacker.com.au/2015/02/the-raspberry-pi-2-is-faster-more-powerful-and-available-right-now/*, plus an older chart with various other boards at *http://www.makershed.com/pages/microcontroller-comparison*.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 19th at 7 pm in the DACS Resource Center.

—Jim Scheef

activities of this committee

  b. Feb: GM - Ed Hicks – Orienteering – Tom Zarecki review (?)

  c. Upcoming events

  d. Mar: GM – Mike Brooks - Starting a Small Business in your spare time

  e. Apr: GM - Tom Zarecki – Tips &Tricks for Using Social Media – Facebook, FourSquare, LinkedIn, Meetup, Twitter, Instagram

  f. May: GM: John Patrick – State of Internet and Health

  g. Can we see if for each presentation

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

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

 4. Web site status

 a. SSL certificate – Jim will get Bluehostto install our certificate.

 5. Amazon Smile status – no activity seen by Bert

 6. Insurance status – Bert reports we are now covered by The Hartford, better coverage for less.

New Business

 1. New addition to DACS Board, because of vacancy created by Bruce Preston's resignation.

  a. I nominate Tom Zarecki, because of his expertise in marketing, social media, and the many contributions he has already made on behalf of DACS. Moved, seconded. Approved by Board unanimously..

 2. New Recording Secretary needed. Need not be a board member; still open.

 3. Communication overload alternatives – eliminating duplicate, triplicate emails. If someone is on multiple mailing lists, as most of us are, we will all get a copy from each mailing list. Possible solutions:

  a. DACS Forum – it is perceived to be easier to use than SharePoint and already exists on our website.

  b. SharePoint – we have it but no one knows how to use it well enough to teach it.

  c. Facebook private page – exists but no one knew it was possible. Why start yet another methodology?

 4. To be effective, we need somebody to train everyone how to use whatever tool we choose. Maybe a desktop share with practice session preceded by a YouTube overview. Whatever we choose will need to be setup and organized. No one stepped forward to organize this.

 5. Tag line discussion, contest? Marketing Committee is working on it.

 6. New Ways and Means committee to determine how to increase revenue. This topic will be discussed at next Board meeting

  a. WHY –

   i. Clean up, paint, discard accumulated junk we don't need, replace non-functional furniture and equipment with something that works for us and makes our home presentable to prospective members and guests (see item 4 in Ongoing Discussions)

   ii. Design and print new pamphlets and flyers

   iii. Purchase DACS promotional items for resale or for raffle (tie in to DACS 25th)

   iv. Have the reserve we need to make things happen

  b. HOW –

   i. Sponsors from people or organizations that may benefit from a targeted audience (see item 3 in ongoing discussions below)

   1. Recruiters – job placement

   2. Web Designers

   3. Developers

   4. Manufacturers and national retailers

   5. Organizations such as banks and others that have set-asides for supporting local (501c3) groups such as DACS, local businesses, etc.

   ii. Reselling "value added" items such as thumb drives with DACS content, DACS branded items such as hats, mugs, jerseys, and license plate frames that can be sold at GMs, work shops, and fairs.

   iii. Dues increase (done)

Ongoing Discussions – Everyone was asked to be prepared to discuss these at our next Board meeting

 1. General discussion on How do we increase membership and attendance and what role should each of us play to accomplish this?

 2. Solicit more suggestions for 25th year celebratory events and preparation. – We are already celebrating! - … or are we? Great ideas about commemorative DVD of newsletters, videos, Industry timelines of events, DACS milestones, etc. – We just need to make it happen!

  a. Brainstorm further and discuss how we can best use this occasion to promote DACS and attract new members.

  b. Should we form a "DACS Quarter Century" sub-committee?

 3. DACS Sponsors – If you look at many other non-profit organizations in the area you will notice that many of them list sponsors on their websites and mailings. In addition to financial assistance and services they provide, it also establishes more credibleness to the organizations.

  a. Discuss how to attract sponsors and how they can help us. What is our USP?

  b. Possible sponsors are Danbury Savings Bank, Union Savings Bank, Score, etc.

  c. Current sponsors Microsoft store, Apple store

  d. Discuss best way to display this

 4. We still need to list all of DACS assets and replacement costs. Charlie and Bert have already itemized all our physical assets at the Resource Center. We only need to Verify or reestablish $$ value (if any!):

  a. Who is available to do this? ____ Bert, Jim, Charlie,

  b. February? Let's settle on a date:___

 c. Determine best way to donate or discard items we don't need. Publish in a special mailing?

 5. CiviCRM WordPress integration:

 a. Drew Kwashnak is managing the project and attempting to get the Civi Dev Team (virtual) meeting date

 b. Drew has set up a "sandbox" on BlueHost consisting of CiviCRM/ WordPress. Transfer a subset of the current CiviCRM membership data to test and determine how to integrate with dacs.org.

—Dick Gingras

Membership has its Privileges!

Become a member and support DACS. Each member has access to the Community Forum, where they can post questions, the online newsletter in PDF form, group related news via email, SIG meetings, online forums, and any group-only related events, promotions, or activities. There is also an option to receive a mailed newsletter. For information on how to join DACS, go to *http://www.dacs.org/aboutdacs/joining.htm.*

dacs.doc

Danbury Area Computer Society
65 Legion Rd
New Milford, CT 06776
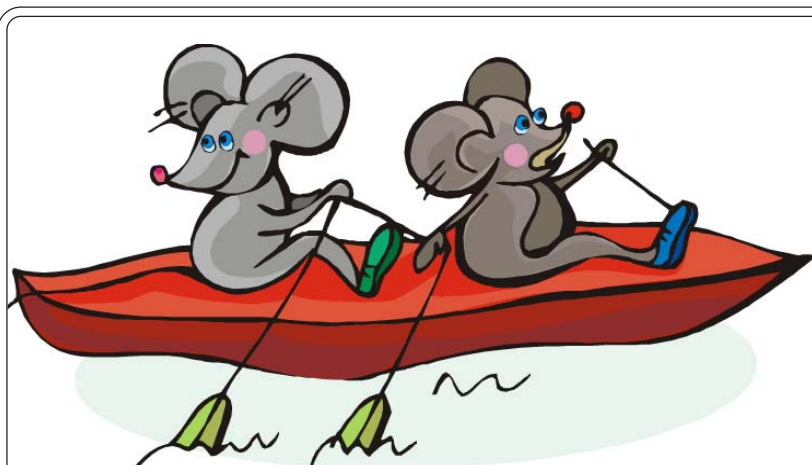
When you come to the next DACS meeting, why not bring a friend?

Future Events:

March 3
Start an Online Business in Your Spare Time

April 7
Tom Zarecki – Using Social Media

May 5
John Patrick Future of Health Care and the Internet
Special Meeting Time: 6:30

June 2
TBA