



DACS.doc

A Computer & Technology Newsletter

July 2015

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Next Event: Tuesday, July 7

The walls protecting Americans' most precious data have been breached. What we can do to secure our identity and our vital information.



President's File

THE VIDEO RECORDING of Tom Zarecki's Social Media April presentation will be



available on Charter Cable community access channel 192.

Tuesdays, July 2 & 9 at 3 pm and Thursdays, July 4 & 11 at 8 pm.

It will appear on their YouTube channel after the July 11 airing at <https://www.youtube.com/user/CommunityVision21>.

Some of our members can't attend our monthly meetings and have asked if there is some way they could attend remotely. This is why the last 3 General Meetings have been recorded. I hope to produce a recording of our meetings on a regular basis but we need your help! I encourage everyone who wants to learn to create or edit better video, whether it's from your smart phone or using professional equipment, to participate in a new Video workshop that will be hosted at Charter headquarters in Newtown, CT. To learn more just send me email at VideoWorkshop@dacs.org.

Tell us what new presentations you would like to see or email us directly at programs@dacs.org. If you like what we are doing, please help to spread the word about DACS, our excellent presentations each month, our new video productions, and the workshops we run and co-sponsor with other groups throughout the month. Use social media to spread the word. Speaking of which . . .

The second in the series of Social Media workshops will be on Wednesday, June 24th at our Resource Center. Tom will continue

where he left off with Twitter and will explore more in depth how to use and benefit from each of the popular social media applications as the workshop series continues.

I am pleased to announce that we have two WCSU interns helping us at DACS - They are seniors majoring in Management Information Systems and are both on the Dean's list. They (and I) are being mentored by Jim Scheef and Richard Corzo, learning the fundamentals of Apache, PHP, MySQL, CiviCRM, and Wordpress. We hope to give them valuable and marketable skills they can use when they graduate next May and look forward to their assistance to document and fine tune our system as part of their training.

25th anniversary - Let's make this year-long celebration a success. We want 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. Talk about your ideas with Cathy Quaranta at the check-in table at our next general meeting or let her know by email.

Enjoy your summer.

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

- Dick Gingras, President



2015 APCUG
International Computer &
Digital Technology
Conference
September 25-27, 2015
Las Vegas, Nevada

Whether you are a computer or mobile device user, your preference is for Windows, Mac or Linux, or your fingers do the walking on an Android or Apple mobile device, there will be something that will interest you.

Workshops include: Digital Photography, Microsoft's Windows Server, "iPad instead of a PC," Facebook, Instagram, Linux, Internet Security, Social media, "Traveling with your iPad," plus many more.

Look for more details on the DACS Website

Membership Information

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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 Workshop leaders or other DACS members. If none of the categories fit your question, just post it to the Ask DACS forum.

Topic

.NET Programming
Digital cameras/scanners/image processing
Content Management Systems
Linux
Mac and iPhone/iPad/iPod touch
PC maintenance
Smartphones & Tablets
Virtual machine software
Desktop publishing and website design
Windows

Forum

ASP.Net and C#VB.Net Workshop
Digital Imaging Workshop
Drupal Workshop
Linux Workshop
Apple Workshop
PC Maintenance Workshop
Mobile Devices Workshop
Virtual Computing Workshop
Web Site Design Workshop
Windows Workshop

Directors' Notes

Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS)
Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
DACS Resource Center – 198 Main Street,
Danbury CT

Date of meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Opening and recurring monthly activities

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm by D. Gingras.

Last meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Current membership (D. Gingras):

29 grace members + 95 regular members
= 124 current members

Attendance at June general meeting:

29 + 4 guests from charter = 33 total attendance

Treasurer's report (Bert), submitted separately.

Related discussions to treasurer's report include:

- Revenue continues to increase.
- \$340 deficit this month due to...
 - \$149 SSL certificate for 3 years, and also
 - lower dues, this month only via paypal, no checks received.
- Emails have not been going out on schedule.

Postcards encouraged to be sent to those at end of grace period.

d. Changing registration procedures at general meetings, so DACS can be more proactive to find lapsing members or those needing renewals.

e. Discussion of credit card swipe mechanism to get credit card info at general meetings, or create QR code for simple connection.

Meeting Discussions

Long discussion on subject of numerous people attending John Patrick's session who did not want to register and how to get their email info. No conclusions.

Discussion of the closing moments of last night's meeting done by host Tom Z in an organized, professional manner.

Discussion of post-meeting raffle items changing to not feel/look like cheap items.

Program Committee Update

Next month's presentation topic: Internet/cyber security, by Ira Wilsker.

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 11

Meeting Review

Video Production – with Charter Community Channel 192

By Cathy Quaranta

VIDEO PRODUCTION was the topic of the June General Meeting, but sharing the stage and the spotlight was a “revitalized” DACS. The presentation was a clear example of the new emphasis on increasing technical skills, creating new workshops and building the DACS community.

Tom Zarecki started the meeting with some DACS info about the new workshops and then introduced the feature presentation – ‘Video Production’ by the local Charter Community team – Greg Van Antwerp, Franny Hannigan, Mark Ingram and Lindsay Kelkres.

Just a minute for some background – to give you an idea of what goes into ‘revitalizing’ DACS – and prepping for this presentation –

- In April, Franny came to video the DACS Social presentation,
- In May, some of the DACS Board members went over to the Charter Community Studio and offices in Newtown for a tour and quick training session,
- and now, DACS Board member Lisa Leifels is taping and producing the June meeting.

The Charter Community team presented several things –

- Greg introduced public/community television
- Franny explained the training sessions
 - Mark demonstrated the equipment
 - Lindsay helped Lisa with the video recording and taking pictures

Greg Van Antwerp loves working with the community and promoting community television. The ‘C’ in CTV is for Communications and Community. This is a community project, bringing people together and getting people to work together. Greg explained that the Charter Community studio and offices are in Newtown, CT. The coverage area includes 14 local towns and arrangements can be made for others. Community Television is also known as ‘Public Television’ – sharing local events – public meetings like DACS meetings and workshops. It is for niche audiences – people’s opinions and hobbies, not mass communications. New producers are needed – to create and share things in their communities. The CTV online hours are from 9am to

10pm most days, and the Community Bulletin Board list of events runs when there are no shows. The Community Bulletin Board repeats numerous times throughout the days and weeks.

There was a dual purpose at tonight’s meeting – teaching and producing – learn some new skills and then watch the final product replay online. Three DACS Board members went to the Charter studios to learn about video production and prep for this meeting. A BIG THANK YOU to DACS Board member Lisa Leifels and Charter staffer Lindsay Kelkres, for videotaping the meeting. They will be editing it for broadcast on the Charter Community Channel 192. Stay tuned to dacs.org and Communityvision21.COM for more information to watch the online replay!

Greg mentioned that the presentation started with a brainstorming session, to (re)start the Digital Imaging / Video Workshop / Special Interest Group. Tech and video are moving so fast these days. Charter CTV is now on television channel 192, transitioning from 21, and on Youtube as well. Another tech change is that Youtube and Facebook are now used to express community interests. Charter is expanding its Community outreach training. By the time this article hits the press, the Charter Community Summer Training classes will be in their second week of video production.

Franny Hannigan has been with Channel 192 for 3 years now. He went through the training, his dream came through, and he became part of the team and now coordinates the video production training department. Franny came to video the April DACS meeting and tonight he gave some highlights of the training sessions and current programs. The ‘Studio 21’ music show passed the 50 shows mark – showcasing local musicians of all levels. There are many parts and roles in video productions – and there is a need for citizen volunteers. Last Thursday was the graduation celebration for the Winter/Spring training session. The new Summer training program is starting in two days – Thursday, 6/4/2015. Training sessions are FREE – 15 weeks of hands-on experience – fundamentals like editing, the rule of thirds, three point lighting, two studio and two truck shoots to create a show. The ‘Primitive Technology: Maple

Sugaring’ video clip was the first made using a student’s iPhone. Other sample shows included ‘The Bee Show’ from Woodbridge Farm and Farmers Market, the Still River Ramblers from Brookfield, American Chopper, and Project Runway. The Charter Production Training class was awarded the 2014 Beacon Award for Excellence in Education.

Mark Ingram said that Video Production is THE BEST hobby you can ever do – you can use it to video all of your other interests. They are hooked for life. Mark demonstrated some of the portable equipment they brought to share. Three of the four primary pieces fit in one bag the size of a plane carryon. It includes a portable camcorder with an attached microphone, a wireless lavalier microphone and some cables. The fourth piece is an optional tripod that fits in another shoulder bag. The camera has automatic buttons and menu options. The studio has 3 cameras and a control room with monitors, a video switcher, graphics generator, audio mixer, and editing tools for video productions. Mark mentioned that there is no cooler feeling than being the director in the control room – or maybe using the 11,000 pound location truck and working other video crews like the WTMH HD Hummer crew at the Senate debate.

Greg showed some slides and pictures of previous training sessions – there has been a wide range of participants. The last class had 18 video production students. They produced 1 hour shows in 17 weeks for community access TV, Youtube and Facebook. There is no pressure and no money or equipment are required. Students are taught how to build audiences and how to be successful with content creating challenges. Video production is 50% art and 50% technology. Both are a process. Greg demonstrated Final Cut Pro v10 – the software tool they use for editing and producing the videos. There are three areas – a bin of clips on the left, the viewer window in the middle and a timeline section on the right. Final Cut Pro allows multiple users and producers to share files. Charter uses it on their Apple/Mac machines and he recommends getting extra RAM. Final Cut Pro costs about \$300 and it has a free 30 day trial option package so you can try it before buying it. Greg mentioned the sharing (producing) options – to the cloud, DVD burners and Facebook and then he demonstrated the Youtube sharing option.

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session with the audience. Some answers to the audience questions included:

- There are no statistics (no Nielsens) for Community TV. People do call in asking or more, some for series produced by a trainee.
- The programs are shared with Frontier channel 99 and a Comcast channel.
- The Facebook 192 page 'group' has the schedule.
- The Community Bulletin Board plays when they are not on the air.
- Non-Profit Organizations (like DACS), can't do ads, commercials or calls to action.
- The 'People in Action' show series is produced by one of the training session graduates.
- The equipment is HD, but the channel is not broadcasting in HD yet.

- All equipment is provided for the training sessions.
- You can bring your own equipment for additional training.
- Charter Community does not have a satellite or TriCaster equipment.
- Final Cut Pro is available on Mac and Windows machines.
- Other video editing programs are Sony Vegas Pro, Adobe Premier Pro CC and Windows Movie Maker.
- Add tags to your videos and clips to make them searchable.
- Vimeo can be used for larger files and Youtube expanded the length restrictions.
- The training sessions teach content management – how to size your new show –

- to get people engaged to watch a half hour or an hour.
- To increase interest, people can use Reverse Images or lighting options and/or add graphics.
- Different Resolution Formats effect the video quality – they use 1080x.
- Composition skills include camera angle, editing and graphics.
- PSAs (Public Service Announcements) are not usually done because they are too short (30 seconds), not enough air time or frequency. CTV is for more in depth, interview programs.
- New programs are shown four times – twice on prime time and daytime, over two weeks.

Meeting Preview

Internet Security

By Lisa Leifels

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2015, 7:30 PM

Location: Danbury Hospital

Creasy Auditorium

Presenter: Ira Wilsker

IT'S GETTING TO THE point that every time you turn on the news there is another story about a security breach that compromises a large group of people's personal data. The most recent attack involved at least four million current and former federal employees' social security numbers. In 2014, hackers penetrated Home Depot's computer network and stole their customers' credit card data and email addresses. In 2013, 40 million credit and debit card accounts were impacted by Target's data breach. This is the perfect time to learn how to protect yourself from these types of attacks. Please join us on Tuesday, July 7th at the Danbury

work and stole their customers' credit card data and email addresses. In 2013, 40 million credit and debit card accounts were impacted by Target's data breach. This is the perfect time to learn how to protect yourself from these types of attacks. Please join us on Tuesday, July 7th at the Danbury

Hospital to hear Ira Wilsker educate us about Internet Security and how we can keep our private information from getting into the wrong hands.

Ira has done several presentations on cyber security and cyber war. He has served APCUG as an advisor and director and is part of the Speakers Bureau. Ira has an MBA from the

University of Maryland and is an associate professor in the business department at Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont, Texas, where he teaches courses on business, law, and computers. Ira has also been writing the personal technology column every week for over 10 years for the Examiner newspaper.

Ira will give us a deeper understanding of what we need to be concerned with when we use our computers to do online banking or buy merchandise over the internet. He will help us answer the question, "Are we under a cyber attack?" He will be shedding some light on what the security industry has been well aware of, that the U.S. has been subject to a number of sustained cyber attacks for several years now. Most of the general population is unaware that our entire network of power grids, pipeline systems, water/sewer systems, air traffic control and other critical infrastructure has been compromised by terrorists and foreign powers.

Ira will be doing his presentation remotely from Texas, but he will be available to answer questions that come up by using Skype. This is a chance to learn more about the various hazards that we need to be aware of. This presentation is free and open to DACS members and the general public, starting at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, July 7th, in the Creasy Auditorium at the Danbury Hospital. There is plenty of free parking in the guest parking garage adjacent to the auditorium. After the meeting, everyone is invited to the Danbury Hospital Praxair Café for additional networking.



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

Workshops

Workshop NOTES: July 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: July 14

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

[**Note:** 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).

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: Sept. 16

Mobile Devices/Windows 8. 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: Workshop Suspended

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: July 16

Social Media: Master the basics of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Contact: Tom Zarecki 914-548-4948; email tomZshow@gmail.com.

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, usually at the DACS Resource Center, but check the monthly schedule.

Next Meeting: July 22

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: July 21

Workshops News & Events

Apple. In June we discussed the announcements that Apple made the day before at their World Wide Developers Conference. They announced the new features of the next version of iOS (iOS 9) and OS X (10.11), and their newest operating system watchOS 2, which will be an update for their recently-released Apple Watch.

The new version of OS X will be called El Capitan, after a rock formation in Yosemite National Park. Yosemite is the name of the current version of OS X running on Mac computers. Perhaps reflecting the close relationship in name, El Capitan appears to be just a refinement of Yosemite, and not a major update. There will be a Split View allowing two full-screen applications to appear side by side on the desktop, which could come in handy, for example, if you're trying to refer to some information in the Safari web browser while you're composing an e-mail in the Mail program. With the improved Mission Control you can more easily find a particular application among your open windows, and dynamically create a new desktop space. Spotlight will now be able to understand natural language queries you might type, like "all Word documents I created last month," but Siri will not come to the Mac (as some predicted, to process your spoken questions). Apple is also promising performance improvements in El Capitan.

Mac applications will also be improved in El Capitan. Apple Mail will allow you to access other parts of Mail when you have

opened a dialog to compose a new e-mail. The rather simple Notes application will be beefed up to compete with the likes of Evernote and Microsoft OneNote. You'll be able to add media to your notes, and instead of just bullets, there will be a checklist feature that allows you to check off items when completed. These will sync across all your Macs and iOS devices. The new Photos application (which recently replaced iPhoto) will support extensions that allow for more powerful editing of photos. Maps will now include public transit directions.

iOS 9 will run on the same iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch models that iOS 8 runs on, and will have a much-reduced footprint for installing it, make it easier to upgrade on models with limited storage capacity. A new News app, promising better formatting of magazines, newspapers, and now blogs, will replace the Newsstand app. The Notes app will receive the same new features being added on the Mac in El Capitan. Similarly the Maps app will gain transit directions, catching up with Google Maps, and will have a Nearby feature, showing establishments nearby. Wallet will replace the Passbook app to reflect its addition of store credit cards and loyalty/rewards cards. Apple Pay will add Discover card to the list of major credit cards already supported (American Express, MasterCard, and Visa), and you'll now be able to pay with some store credit cards.

Workshops., Cont. on page 11

July 2015

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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12	13 Online Business Workshop 6:30 - 8:30 PM	14  Apple 7:00 PM Richard Corzo macsig@dacs.org	15  Linux 7:30 - 9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley linuxsig@dacs.org In hiatus until Sept	16 Single Board Computers Workshop 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	17	18  DACS.DOC Deadline																																																																																											
19	20	21  Web Design& DTP Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM avanommeren@dacs.org	22  Social Media Tom Zarecki 6:30 - 8:00 PM tomZshow@gmail.com	23	24	25																																																																																											
26 PR & Marketing Committee 6:30 - 8:30 PM	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																												

Backup Tools

Memory Cards

By Dick Maybach

USB MEMORY STICKS and Secure Data (SD) cards are the most convenient media for transferring data among computers. Both are compact, inexpensive, and rugged and have capacities of up to several Gbytes. Above this, you have little choice but to use a considerably larger, more fragile, and more expensive external hard disk. CDs and DVDs are less expensive, but are larger, more fragile, and have lower capacities; moreover, fewer modern portable PCs have optical media drives than in the past. Finally writable optical media have reliability issues, especially if they are subjected to high temperatures or humidifies. It's also true that memory sticks and cards experience fatigue in that they will fail after a finite number of write operations. However, the limit is so large that you can ignore them for devices used for the applications we're discussing here, although it is a consideration for internal solid state disks.

For many years, I've carried in my keycase a USB memory stick with two partitions, one with a bootable diagnostic operating system and the other with a FAT32 file system that is available to Linux, OS X, and Windows. Thus, I always have with me a computer toolkit and a means of transferring files. (If you do the same, make the first partition the FAT32 one. While a PC can boot from any partition, once Windows is running it can read only the first partition on a memory stick. Other operating system don't have this limitation.)

We have seen three generations of Universal Serial Bus (USB) devices. USB 1 has a top speed of 12 Mbits/s, which because of protocol overhead results in a practical data transfer rate of about 1 Mbyte/s. Such devices are now obsolete. USB 2 claims a speed of 480 Mbits/s, and protocol overhead reduces this to no more than 35 Mbytes/s, but only the fastest memory sticks can approach this. Finally, USB 3 has a maximum transfer rate of 5 Gbit/s, which could allow transfer rates of over 600 Mbyte/s, but this is faster than what current memory chips and readers can achieve. Actual test results show that, depending on the reader, USB 3 memory sticks are at most twice as fast as USB2 devices, and in some cases the difference is negligible. The good news about USB is that there are few compatibility issues; you will experience reliable data transfers with almost any combination of memory stick and reader

The Secure Digital Card (SDC) situation is more complex, as it includes four families and three physical sizes. The families are SD (standard capacity), SDHC (high capacity), SDXC (extended capacity), and SDIO (which combines storage and input/output functions, such Bluetooth). There is also an SDXC family that is designed for use in video cameras and uses the proprietary Microsoft exFAT file format. The three sizes are standard (32 x 24 mm), mini (21.5 x 20.0 mm), and micro (11.00 x 15.00 mm). Adapters are available that allow the use of mini and micro cards in standard slots. Early SD cards had an "x" rating, where x was equivalent to 1.2 Mbit/s; for example an 8x rating implied a read speed of $8 \times 1.2 = 9.6$ Mbit/s (about 1.2 Mbyte/s), with write speeds being substantially slower. Modern SD cards have a class rating that implies a minimum read and write speeds.

- Class 2 - 2 Mbyte/s
- Class 4 - 4 Mbyte/s
- Class 6 - 6 Mbyte/s
- Class 10 - 10 Mbyte/s
- UHS Class 1 (U1) - 10 Mbyte/s
- UHS Class 3 (U3) - 30 Mbyte/s

UHS cards are intended for HD video recording and require slots designed for them.

Because of their wide ranges of performance, there are significant compatibility issues with SD cards, and this is made worse by the shoddy quality of many low-cost readers, including some incorporated into laptops. Before purchasing an SD card, check the re-

quirements of the device that will use it. New cards may have greater capacities than older devices can address. Version 2 of the SD spec changed the interface, with the result that new cards may not work in old devices, and old cards may not work in new devices. Finally, you should avoid SDX and UHS cards unless you are using hardware and software that specifically requires them.

I prefer USB memory sticks to SD cards for transferring data among PCs.

- On USB sticks the connector pins are protected, while on SD cards they are external where they can become dirty and can allow static electricity to damage the card.
- Most USB sticks have a mounting point that allows them to be carried in a key case or on a key ring; SD cards do not.
- Every modern computer has USB connectors, but most desktops lack one for SDCs. I have seen claims that after-market SD readers for desktops and those included on many laptops are not reliable, and some have damaged cards.
- The small size and black color of SD cards makes them easy to lose.
- USB sticks are thicker and appear to be more rugged than thin, plastic SD cards.
- There are fewer compatibility issues with USB memory sticks than with SD cards.

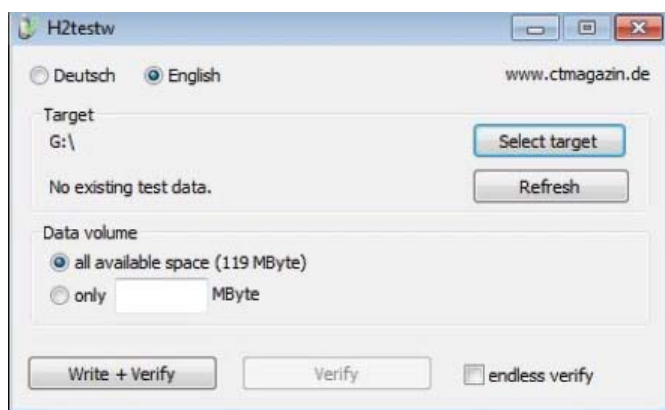
However, SD cards are the standard removable storage element for cell phones and digital cameras.

All the above assumes that you buy name-brand devices from established and reputable dealers. There is a lot of counterfeit merchandise floating around, USB 1 devices with USB 3 labels, low-speed SDCs with high-speed labels, and low capacity

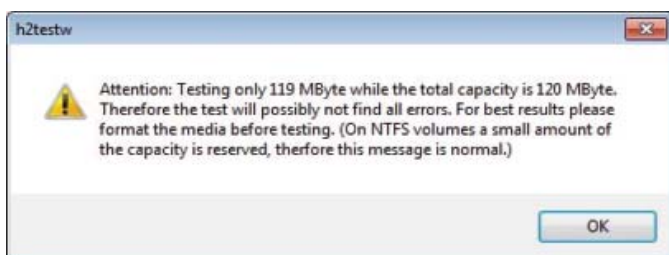


ones with high-capacity labels. Some of the latter, will lie about their capacities to your file manager; a claimed capacity of 16 Gbytes doesn't mean it can actually store that amount. If you find a really low price, it may be a bargain, but the only thing you know for sure is that it's cheap.

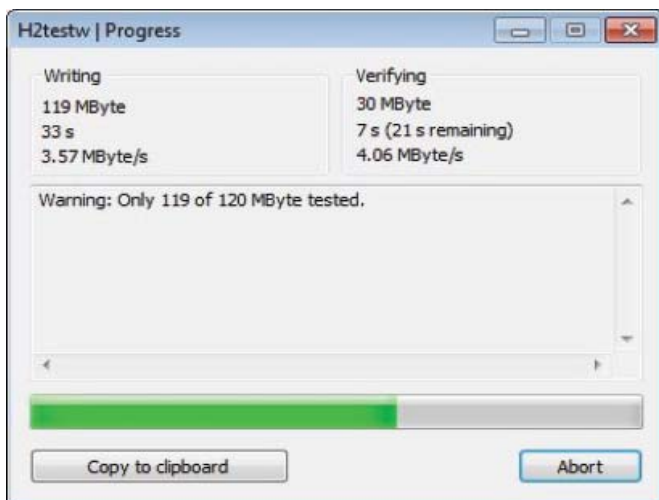
You can use the Windows program H2testw, available at <http://www.heise.de/download/h2testw.html>, to test any SD memory card or USB storage device to find its capacity and data transfer rate. (The Web site is in German, but you can run the program in English). Just download the zip archive, unpack the program and its German and English readme files into the directory it creates. (The program is self-contained and runs from its directory; you don't install it.) Click the "English" button to obtain the first screen; then click the "Select target" button and choose the device to test. (I used an old, tiny USB stick for this demo, because although slow, its 120-Mbyte capacity means it's quick to test.) The process will destroy any data the device holds, so save anything important first. Start the test by clicking the "Write + Verify" button.



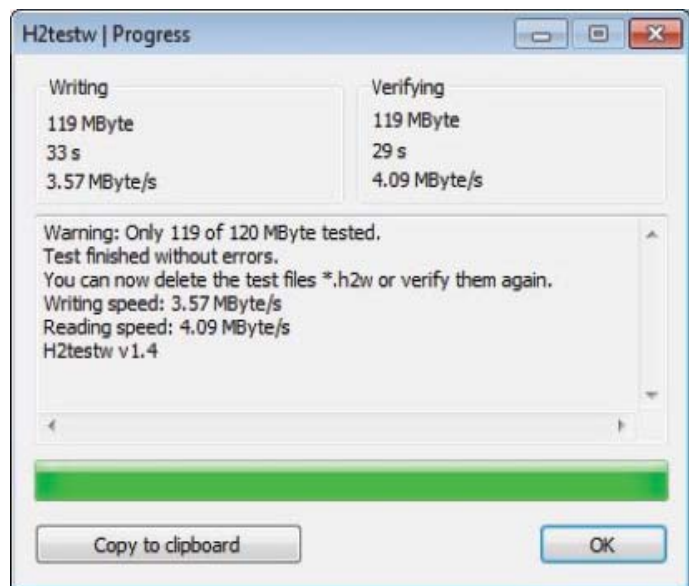
You may see the warning shown below, which appeared in this case on a device that was formatted to FAT32. If this is the only such message the test produces, you can ignore it.



The following screen shows the test in process.



Here are the complete results, showing the actual device capacity and its read and write rates. Note that you have the option of copying them to the clipboard.



After you click OK, you'll see the following screen. Note that the "Write + Verify" button is grayed out. The device is now full of test files and you can run only the read test. As message in the previous screen says, you will have to delete these to rerun the write test.



With this software you can verify the capacity and ensure that it works well. The speed measured however depends on both the stick or card and the host device. The tiny capacity of the device in this example resulted in a test time of about a minute; expect much longer times for modern multi-Gbyte devices. Nevertheless, it's worth taking the time to check a new SD card before trying to use it in your camera on a trip to Europe.

DICK MAYBACH is a member of Brookdale Computer Users' Group (NJ n2nd (at) att.net; www.bcug.com).

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Tips for Trips

Traveling with Technology

By Jim Cerny

SO, YOU HAVE A TRIP coming up, maybe you will be doing planes, trains, and automobiles. Or maybe you are going on a cruise (lucky you!) and you are wondering if you should take your computer, iPad, or iPhone with you. Well, the answer is yes, and don't forget the power charging cords, adapters, and ear-phones too. So what can you expect about using these devices when you travel? Let's start with the iPhone or "smart phone".

SMART PHONES use the cellular phone network to make phone calls AND they use a wireless connection to the internet too. (The wireless internet connection is called Wi-Fi). In order for you to make and receive cellular phone calls you have to be in an area where there is a strong enough signal to use it. Turn on your phone and you should be able to see a certain number of "bars" or "dots" at the top of the window which indicates your signal strength. My iPhone uses the AT&T cellular network and at the top left of my phone screen I see a row of five "dots" next to "AT&T". Naturally a strong signal is four or five dots and a weak signal is one or two. The dreaded "no service available" message means you are out of luck. Sometimes your phone will not work in an area of weak service (i.e. one or two bars or dots) but it seems that using your phone for texting in those weak areas may work.

Your smart phone also uses a wireless (Wi-Fi) connection for the internet. On my phone, also at the top of the screen, is a series of "arches" (a small dot with one or two arches over it, sort of like tiny eyebrows). This shows the signal strength of the Wi-Fi network. If both arches are there above the dot you have a strong signal, if just the dot with no arches, your signal is weak and may not work for the internet.

Remember, wireless Wi-Fi connections to the internet are almost all FREE (but may require you to enter a password to use), but using the cellular phone network is NOT free, and you pay monthly charges to use it.

iPADs and TABLET COMPUTERS are smaller than laptops and much easier to take with you on a trip. iPads come in two different types - one type can use EITHER the cellular network OR a Wi-Fi network to connect to the internet. The

other iPad (usually lower-priced) can ONLY use a Wi-Fi network. You do not usually use an iPad to make cellular phone calls, although you CAN use it to run Skype or other "apps" that use the internet to communicate.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS connect to the internet on a Wi-Fi network, not using the cellular phone network. (However, you can use your laptop AND a smart phone to connect your laptop to the internet using the cellular phone network. But let's not talk about that kind of hookup here). Your laptop will show you the signal strength of the Wi-Fi network you are using in the lower right of the screen (on my Windows 7 computer) or, on some computers, on the top bar on the screen. Look for an icon that looks like a small bar chart. Click on it with your mouse and it will open a window with your network connection information. If you are not connected to the internet at all, it will tell you and show you the Wi-Fi networks available to you, the strongest signal network first. Click on the one you want to join (when you are at a restaurant, library, or hotel) and you may have to enter a password to connect.

So are you confused yet? Let's see if I can summarize things up and give you the big picture. Basically what you need to know is "Am I connected to the internet?" and "How am I connected to the internet?" As an easy example, let's say I am traveling with my iPad. There are many "apps" (applications or programs) I already have installed on my iPad many of which are games or books I want to enjoy on my vacation. These apps are available to me whether I am connected to the internet or not. So, if I want to play a game like checkers (against the computer) or read my book, these are already on my iPad and I can play them anywhere anytime, even on an airplane. However, if I want to play checkers against a real opponent via the internet, or if I want to download a new book to my iPad, I need an internet connection to do that. Any Wi-Fi connection will let me do it. If, however, I am in an area with NO Wi-Fi available, AND if I have an iPad with cellular network capability AND if I am paying for cellular connection with my iPad, then my iPad will use the cel-

lular network to connect to the internet. This will result in charges (could be significant) for using the cellular network.

So no matter what device you want to take with you on your travels, you should understand how to find out on your device IF you are connected to the internet and HOW. There is really no reason to use the cellular network to connect to the internet if you can find a Wi-Fi spot that is free.

Whatever device you use I know you will be glad that you brought it along. Just using a free Wi-Fi connection provides you with the whole internet of entertainment and fun for you whenever you want -- and you won't feel "disconnected".

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Online Business Workshop

The Online Business Workshop was launched in April, 2015 to fulfill an interest of members to create an online stream of income. Led by Sean Henderson and Steve Harkness, the workshop meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Brookfield Town Hall, or in other area locations to be determined.

Meetings are informal, and guided by the needs and interests of attendees. The July meeting will be conducted in Virtual/Webinar.

Members are invited to connect with the workshop through the DACS Forum at <http://forum.dacs.org/forum-38.html>.

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

Skype is prohibited by Danbury Hospital for variety of reasons.

Before presentation at DH, audio/video inputs/outputs must be tested in order for Wilsker to do his presentation from a remote location, and backup plan for content needed in case the connection doesn't work that evening.

Windows 10 presentation by Jay Ferron. Scheduled for August 4th General Meeting.

Internship update: two students so far as IT applicants, still need marketing intern.

Discussion of requirements for marketing intern still needed.

Civimail still problematic: Dick suggests MailChimp as alternate email server

Further discussion of email account connectivity, no conclusions.

MS Office workshops could become a

DACS workshop series soon; wrapup meeting with Microsoft, SCORE, and DACS June 4 at 11am.

Jim Scheef agreed with others that student Rob Willard's student group presentation to Tom Zarecki's marketing class at WestConn was excellent.

Dick says the current DACS tag line is not consistently used throughout all platforms and should be until new tag line is created and approved. FYI current tag line is: "from mobile to desktop, we enlighten, inform and educate".

Dick considering attending APCUG conference in Las Vegas later this year.

New Business

PR piece for newly-elected DACS officers should go to press contacts – Tom Z to write

this and send to R. Teasdale for distribution.

Cathy – discussion of hashtags and handles for DACS; Tom Z provided some elaboration and explanation and possible options. No conclusions reached.

Board agrees to look into DACS t-shirts by size.

Some DACS Board members will attend the Virtual Density workshop on patents and trademarks at the Danbury Innovation Center tonight after this meeting.

New DACS workshops possible: MS Office and Video Production strong possibilities.

All DACS workshops need to be added to the DACS calendar, some are still missing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Zarecki,

Acting Recording Secretary

Workshops, Cont. from page 6

The iPad will get a lot of attention with the iOS 9 update in the form of multitasking on the screen. Slide Over will permit a side column from another app, such as Mail or Contacts, to slide over the top of the current app in view. Split View, limited to the iPad Air 2, will for the first time allow two full screen apps to appear side by side with an adjustable divider, just like in Windows 8.1 on devices like the Microsoft Surface. Picture in Picture will allow a small window, such as a video, to be moved anywhere on the screen over the top of the current app.

On all iOS devices Siri will continue to gain improvements. It will allow a deeper search that can find things buried within the apps installed on your device. A new proactive assistant will learn your habits on your Apple device, anticipating what you might want to do next, but, respecting privacy, it will not share this information in the cloud as happens with Google and its Google Now feature on Android devices. Speaking of which, Apple will have a Move to iOS app on both Android and iOS, to help people migrate from an Android device to an iOS device.

Finally, watchOS 2 will allow for native third-party apps. No longer will they have to suffer the performance penalty of running on your iPhone and only being able to display information on the watch that is supplied from the iPhone. Native apps will also gain access to more of the Apple Watch hardware features such as the Taptic Engine, Digital Crown, accelerometer, heart rate sensor, speaker, and microphone. So the Apple Watch is destined to become a more interesting device this fall when watchOS 2 becomes available. El Capitan and iOS 9 will also be available sometime this fall, all free upgrades from Apple.

The last announcement was a new Apple Music streaming service that will replace the iTunes Radio feature. So we finally have the expected fruit of Apple's acquisition last year of Beats Music. An Apple Radio station will have music curated by three DJs scattered across the globe. Much of Apple's iTunes music catalog will now be available for streaming (subject to negotiations with the music labels) for a fixed monthly fee of \$9.99. The service will kick off on June 30th with a three-month free trial.

—Richard Corzo

Single Board Computer. Home automation has been a fascination of mine since someone said a computer could control a thermostat. At the May meeting Tom Gerhard showed us several years' worth of his home automation projects. I was disappointed when we ran out of time just as Tom was going to get

into the bits and bytes of the code used in his Raspberry Pi projects. So this month I invited him back to do just that.

Tom is a former UNIX administrator so doing things from the command line is second nature for him. He runs his Raspberry Pi's "headless" which means there is no screen or keyboard. Instead of sitting at the Pi, he uses SSH to connect over the network from the comfort of his Macintosh.

This month we also had a surprise guest. William Kommritz is a student at RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) working on a Computer Science degree. He is our draft pick for the July meeting – topic to be determined.

—Jim Scheef

Social Media. The new Social Media workshop kicked off its first meeting in May. Meeting attendees talked about their personal experiences with social media and what they'd like to get from these workshops. The similarities and differences between the major social media, specifically Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, were explained. Ways to build your network of followers / friends / connections on social media were reviewed and we discussed these techniques.

We also discussed various ways to get followers (on Twitter or Instagram), friends (or Facebook), and connections (on LinkedIn), and reasons/ways to communicate with those you've connected with, or those that are connecting with you. We outlined typical concerns with privacy issues on each platform, and ways to privately message (Direct Message or Instant Message) others on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. There was a discussion of the hashtag, its role as a search index tool, and how results can be useful / meaningful / effective in your life and in building your own network. A roundtable dialog followed about a number of issues/concerns that others have concerning social media in general and about these platforms specifically.

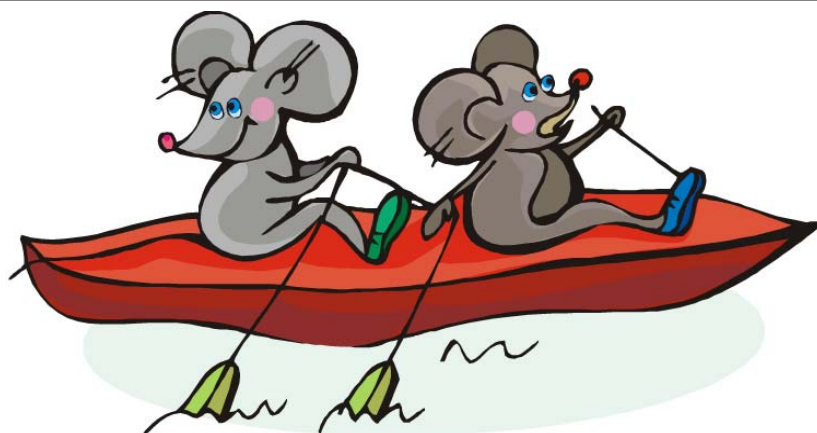
Finally, we decided to make the next meeting (June 24th) all about Twitter. At the next meeting, each person's Twitter account will be examined and ways to improve effectiveness from the user's perspective will be discussed. We will also cover the following: How Hashtags Help, Finding Followers Fast, Writing for thousands to see, What to look for...and why, and Posting to Twitter AND Facebook at the same time.

Next meeting: June 24th, 6:30pm - 8:00pm., at the DACS Resource Center, 198 Main Street, Danbury. Open to all DACS members.

—Tom Zarecki

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?



Voice
for
Joanie



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gift of speech
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at 203 770-6203
and become a
Voice for Joanie
volunteer

www.voiceforjoanie.org

Future Events:

July 7

Ira Wilsker
Internet Security

August 4

Jay Ferron
Windows 10

September 1

TBA

October 6

Mike Kaltschnee
Live demonstration on
building an Android
application