Next Event: Tuesday, August 4

Windows 10
Wants to be your 'on-the-go' OS

President's File

APCUG IS AGAIN HAVING 3 contests. Both our newsletter and our website have been submitted. The third contest involves you. If you have any photographs that you are particularly proud of, please submit them to APCUG before August 26th. See the article for details about the types of digital photos to submit. Good luck!

The APCUG <u>Virtual Technology Conference</u> is fast approaching on Saturday, August 15th. (See article) There will be some great topics there. Check it out and sign-up. It's free.

We have all heard the hoopla about the free Windows 10 release. We will all have a chance to find out what is in store for us when we go through the free upgrade, by attending our August 4th presentation. You won't want to miss it.

Last month we had a very disturbing reality check on the current state of internet security and its potential impact on all of us unless cyber security is beefed up soon. We hope to make a recording of this presentation available to DACS members soon. This was a remote interactive presentation that felt like an in-person presence because of the technique used. Read more about how it was done in the excellent review of last month's meeting.

<u>**Unleash your creative talent**</u> by creating a video production. The last 4 General Meetings have been recorded with the hope that we can start broadcasting them via YouTube. I hope to produce a recording of our meetings on a regular basis but <u>we need your participation</u>! I encourage everyone who wants to learn to create, edit, produce and distribute good video, whether it's from your smart phone or using professional equipment, to participate in a new Video workshop. We will learn tips and techniques from each other. It will be hosted for DACS at Charter headquarters in Newtown, CT. To learn more just send me email at **VideoWorkshop@dacs.org**.

Tell us what <u>**new presentations**</u> 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 . . .

25th anniversary – We need your help! Let's make this yearlong 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. We need to prepare <u>now</u> for the Hacker Fair on October 17th.

As I am preparing this column I am getting ready to enjoy another summer retreat with my 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and significant others in Jamestown, RI. I hope you enjoy your summer.

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

—Dick Gingras, President

IN THIS ISSUE

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, *http://dacs.org/joining-dacs/*.

Member of

APCUG
An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

APCUG Large Group 1st Place 2012

Bill Saturno   APCUG Liaison
wsaturno@dacs.org

 Apple User Group

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

Directors' Notes

A meeting of the directors of Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS) was held at the Resource Center - 198 Main Street, Danbury, CT on Wednesday July 8, 2015

1. Board Meeting Called to Order at 7:10pm by President Dick Gingras.

2. Attendance: Dick Gingras, Bert Goff, Lisa Leifels, Jim Scheef, Cathy Quaranta, Andy Woodruff.

3. Observers: Steve Harkness (recording minutes).

Meeting Topics

1. June Meeting Minutes unanimously approved.
2. Membership report. See Bert's submitted worksheet.
   - 60 DACS Newsletters are now printed each month for mailing & other distribution.
   - 48 DACS Newsletters were mailed out last month.
   - For September newsletters: 29 to be mailed to members + 17 promotional mail = 46 to be mailed.
   - Charlie mails post cards to those with overdue membership dues.
   - There are currently 14 expired member
   - Previous months DACS Newsletters are available to members and non-members for free at each monthly meeting.
   - Current month DACS Newsletters are available for $2.00 each to members and non-members at each monthly meeting.
3. Attendance Report: 39 people were at our July 7th monthly meeting; 30 members, 9 guests.
4. Treasurer's Report by Bert submitted separately.
5. Program Committee Report by Lisa:
   - July 7th DACS meeting subject: Presentation was on Internet Security, with Ira Wilsker conducting an online audio session from Texas, with slides shown from the podium by Andy.
   - General consensus is that it was a great informative meeting.
   - The technique of offsite presenter with onsite slides was very effective.
   - Andy & Lisa effectively tested the technique twice before the actual meeting night.
   - Danbury Hospital does not allow Skype. We are to use voice over phone, then transmit the phone to the hospital sound system.

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 10

Meeting Review

Internet Security

By Richard Teasdale

DACS BROKE NEW GROUND at the July General meeting, with a speaker who was remote from the audience. Ira Wilsker, an expert on Internet Security, spoke to us for over an hour from Texas, on the threats to the United States posed by hackers based in China and elsewhere. As Ira gave his narration via speakerphone in the auditorium, Andy Woodruff, a DACS board member, projected his presentation slides to the audience. The remote presentation was a further step in the developing DACS strategy to expand the reach and availability of General meetings, following the videotaping for broadcast of several recent meetings.

Ira Wilsker is an Associate Professor in the Business Department at Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont, Texas, where he teaches courses in business, law, and computers. He has given several presentations on cyber security and cyber war. Ira has served the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (of which DACS is a member) as an Advisor and Director, and is part of the Speakers Bureau.

The major objective of Prof. Wilsker's talk was to alert the audience to the magnitude of the problem that we face. Accordingly, the majority of his presentation was devoted to a catalog of ways in which the cyber infrastructure of the United States has been penetrated and compromised by foreign-based hackers. The highlights were as follows.

• Personnel data on 4.2 million current and former federal workers were stolen from the Office of Personnel Management. In a separate incident, "adjudication" data on 18 million applicants for security clearances were stolen. The personnel data were stolen by a hacking group working for the Chinese government (but not Chinese military hackers, who typically go after defense and trade information).

• Russian hackers have penetrated servers in the White House, stealing information from the General Counsel's office, Presidential schedules, and other data.

• Iran and Saudi Arabia are engaged in a cyber war against each other, but Iran's cyber offensive is targeted against other countries too, including the U.S.

• Hacking is done both by individuals and by foreign governments but the distinction is often blurred by the fact that in some countries, individual hackers are coerced into cooperation with their home governments and forced to share information that they steal.

• The U.S. Army's official website and the websites of a number of news organizations have been disabled and/or defaced by a hacking group that calls itself the Syrian Electronic Army.

• Many attacks have been mounted against U.S. retailers' point-of-sale (POS) systems, often resulting in major data thefts from them. POS malware is widely sold over the internet.

• Counterfeiting and theft of credit cards are rampant.

• The Chinese government has hacked various U.S. news media, in order to monitor and intimidate Chinese citizens who talk to western media organizations.

• Hacking of U.S. companies for economic intelligence has been conducted by various foreign countries but all others pale into insignificance when compared to the volume of such hacks coming from China. The purpose of the hacks: to steal research and development information. The risk for the U.S.: the loss of our economic competitiveness.

• China has hacked Pentagon computers and those of U.S. defense contractors, e.g. Lockheed Martin, to obtain key intelligence about weapons programs, such as the F-35 stealth fighter jet. Terabytes of information were stolen. The risk for the U.S.: compromise of key components of our defense capability.

• U.S. infrastructure systems, e.g. power grids, water systems, sewer systems, telecommunications systems, have been hacked and pieces of malware installed for sabotage purposes during a possible future conflict. A coordinated attack by a foreign power or even a "Cyber Jihad", mounted by terrorists, could shut down the entire country. Ira illustrated the scale of the damage that might be done by comparing the localized impact of disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Sandy to the effects of an attack that shuts down critical infrastructure nationwide.

Having discussed the key vulnerabilities of the United States, Ira initiated a discussion phase of the meeting, in which he took questions from the audience. The discussion was kicked off by asking a number of key questions:

• Are we really under cyber attack?
• Which foreign powers and organizations are our key adversaries?
• What can they do to us?
• What can we do about it?
• How can we protect ourselves?

Questions from the audience, with Ira's answers, included:

Q: How are financial companies faring?
A: It's as big a problem for them as for everyone else. For example, a few years ago, a well-known financial company based in Boston decided in secret to bear the loss of $74 million stolen by hackers from its account holders, instead of facing a potentially disastrous loss of public confidence in the company's stability and ability to continue its operations.

Q: Most hackers gain access via the internet. Why not disconnect from the internet?
A: Too expensive.

Q: Why is it so difficult / expensive to disconnect?
A: Because so much new hardware infrastructure would be required.

Q: Does the U.S. government hack targets in other countries?
A: Yes, but the U.S. is the most vulnerable nation because we have more cyber infrastructure and more information to steal than anybody else.

Q: How can we protect ourselves (on an individual level)?
A: Practice safe computing, use good security software, beware of phishing attacks, limit the amount of personal information you post online (Facebook etc.). Some people are stockpiling to prepare themselves for long-term unavailability of power, water, groceries, etc.

Q: How secure are the new credit cards with RFID chips that are replacing swipe cards? A: The new cards are just as vulnerable to hacking as the old ones. Unlike the chip+PIN cards that are used in Europe, US chip-based credit cards use RFID technology that allows them to be hacked by someone close by with a scanner.

Q: Have you contacted any local politicians about the problems?
A: Yes, and they are very aware of the issues. The lack of action to address them comes down to an unwillingness to spend the money needed.

Meeting Preview

Windows 10

By Lisa Leifels

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T heard, Microsoft will be releasing its new operating system, Windows 10, on July 29th 2015. This is perfect timing to find out from one of our favorite past speakers, Jay Ferron, how to get Windows 10 up and running with ease. Jay will guide you through the upgrade process and demo some of the new features, which will get you over the learning curve much faster so you can be productive sooner.

As a speaker, Jay has presented at many events, including user groups, Computer trade shows, DOD and federal conferences, ISPCON, TechEd, and WPC. Jay is very active in APCUG and many of you may remember him telling us about other new products from Microsoft. Jay is the Principal of Interactive Security Training where he specializes in operating systems, deployment, Virtualization, Security, Cloud and high performance computing. If you want to find out more about Jay, you can check out his blog at *http://blog.mir.net*.

If you are using a PC, laptop, smartphone, or tablet running Windows, pop-up messages will appear prompting you to reserve your upgrade. Microsoft has said that Windows 10 has been built from the ground up so that it works well in the mobile and cloud computing world in which we live today. Windows 10 has been tested by over four million people all over the world and is the most beta-tested product Microsoft has ever released.

The Start Menu is back and it has been improved to make it easier for you to get to your most used applications. The search box is now located right on the taskbar making it convenient to get to whenever you need it. Windows 10 also comes with a new web browser that allows you to highlight and add notes to the web page before you send it out. OneNote is included with Windows 10 and there is integration with OneDrive so you can access your data on all of your devices. For the majority of home users Windows 10 is free, making it even more appealing to upgrade.

Jay's presentation will be very interactive, so please come with questions you would like to get answered. This meeting is also free and open to DACS members and the general public, starting at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, August 4th, 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 . . .?"

"Sir . . . you should understand, the Google car was programmed to track your normal driving history"

Workshops

Workshop NOTES: August 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: Sep 8

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*).

Online Business Workshop. Informal gathering of members sharing ideas on creating an online source of income.
Contact: Sean Henderson and Steve Harkness (*http://forum. dacs.org/forum-38.html*).
Meets second Monday in nearby Brookfield, or by Webinar
Next Meeting: Aug 10

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: Aug 20

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: Aug 26

Web Design and DTP. Learn how to work with HTML, CSS, CMS Systems, WordPress, SEO and more.
Contact: Annette van Ommeren (*avo@annagraphics.com*).
Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: Aug 18

Workshops News & Events

Apple. On June 30th Apple debuted its new music subscription service called Apple Music. There is a three-month free trial to see if you like the service. After that it is $9.99 a month for an individual or $14.99 for a family. To access it you need to update to iTunes 12.2 on a Mac or Windows, or iOS 8.4 on an iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. To start the free trial go to the For You link in iTunes or in the Music app on iOS.

The service will give you streaming access to most all of the iTunes music catalog, and the ability to save songs to play when you are off line. There is some music, for instance Taylor Swift's most recent album, 1989, that you will only be able to listen to on Apple Music but not on competing services like Spotify. This YouTube video, Apple Music vs Spotify: Which is Better? (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OtmgDRHdUQ), does an excellent job of comparing the new Apple Music service with its popular established rival Spotify.

I mentioned in the meeting that I had not tried the new service yet because I had heard there were some conflicts between the new Apple Music and the existing iTunes Match service, that I currently subscribe to for $25 a year. There is

now an iTunes 12.2.1 update that is supposed to address these issues, but I will also wait for an expected iOS 8.4.1 update.

I also discussed a new GPS watch that I recently acquired, the Garmin fenix 3. We've all been hearing so much about the Apple Watch, but thanks to YouTube and a video it recommended I watch (*http://rizknows.com/post/115878706377/review-garmin-fenix-3*), I found a watch that much more suited my needs. I like to hike and am interested in tracking my hikes. I can try to do that with my iPhone or iPad, but on longer hikes this will completely drain my battery before the hike is even completed. The Garmin fenix 3 has a built-in GPS (unlike the Apple Watch) and great battery life. It's rated for up to 20 hours with the GPS turned on, easily a whole weekend of hiking, and just as a watch with the GPS off but the display on continuously (again unlike the Apple Watch), it can go a week or two on a single charge. The Garmin pairs with your iPhone or Android phone via Bluetooth so that you can receive notifications like other smart watches.

—*Richard Corzo*

August 2015
Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Jul 2015 S M T W T F S / 1 2 3 4 / 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 / 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 / 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 / 26 27 28 29 30 31 **Sep 2015** S M T W T F S / 1 2 3 4 5 / 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 / 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 / 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 / 27 28 29 30				**1**
2	**3**	**4** **General Meeting** 6:30 PM	**5** **Board of Directors** 7:00 PM	**6**	**7**	**8**
9	**10** **Online Business Workshop** 6:30 - 8:30 PM *onlinebizsig@dacs.org*	**11** **Apple** 7:00 PM Richard Corzo *macsig@dacs.org* **Cancelled**	**12**	**13** **Membership Committee** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	**14**	**15** **DACS.DOC Deadline**
16	**17**	**18** **Web Design& DTP** Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM *avanommeren@dacs.org*	**19** **Linux** 7:30 -9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley *linuxsig@dacs.org* **Off for Summer**	**20** **Single Board Computers Workshop** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	**21**	**22**
23	**24** **PR & Marketing Committee** 6:30 - 8:30 PM	**25**	**26** **Social Media** Tom Zarecki 6:30 - 8:00 PM *tomZshow@ gmail.com*	**27**	**28**	**29**
30	**31**					

Portability

Tablets for Mobile Computing –
New to some; Useful for most

By Phil Sorrentino

WHEN MOST OF US THINK about Mobile Computing, we probably think of Laptops. Laptops are relatively light making them fairly portable, and are battery operated, making them just right for mobile computing or computing "on-the-go". Now that Tablets have come on the scene, it appears that they may be ready to take over some of the computing tasks previously done by laptops. Why, you may ask. Well, tablets are lighter than laptops, and they typically have a battery that allows for operation two to three times that of a laptop, usually enough for a full days work. If you are new to the thought of using a tablet for some of your "on-the-go" computing tasks, let's take a look at how a tablet might contribute. It is true, that the tablet does not have a Hard Disk Drive or an Optical Disk Drive, so the computing tasks for a tablet have to be able to be accomplished without these two resources. But, as it turns out, there are quite a few tasks that can easily be done with only the resources of a tablet, for example, checking your email, checking your calendar, Googling something, viewing pictures and videos, reviewing spreadsheets or documents, playing music, checking the weather report, checking your stock portfolio, reading the news, shopping on the internet, sharing comments and pictures on Facebook, and sending a tweet on Twitter. All of these things can easily be accomplished using an Apple iPad, an Android tablet, or a Microsoft Windows 8 tablet.
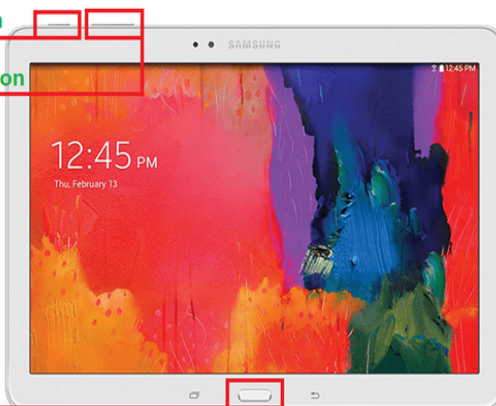
If you think a tablet might be the way to accomplish some or all of these "computing on the go" tasks, let's look at how to get started with your tablet. All the three aforementioned tablets can do the job, but there are differences and the differences are in the details. Android tablets have over 65% of the market, so I'll use an Android tablet for the details. Tablets, on the surface, are pretty simple devices. There is a screen, and a few basic controls. The first thing to do is to become familiar with these very few controls. Most of them are around the rim of the device. The power On-Off button is used to both turn the power on and off and also to turn off the display when you don't want to drain the battery. With the tablet on, a short press of this button will turn the screen off; a long press (approx. 4 sec.) will allow you to turn the tablet off. If the screen ever goes off when you are using the tablet, just touch the power button and the screen will immediately come back on. The other control is a Volume Up-Down rocker button, used for volume control and sometimes other functions depending on the App that is running. We'll get to Apps in a moment. You might find another button or so, possibly a "back" button, but the tendency is to have fewer hardware buttons and to make do with buttons that show up on the screen; software buttons. Two software buttons will show up on the screen (after the tablet has been turned on), usually at the bottom. These are the Home and the Back buttons. The Home button will bring you back to the home screen you started with, and the Back button will bring you back one step in whatever App you are running. (Yes, we are going to get to Apps.) The Home and back buttons typically look like this:
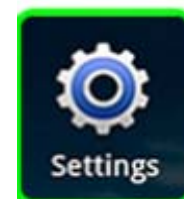
Once you have found all the controls, turn on the device and wait for the home screen. There will probably be 3 or 5 screens available, but typically the one in the center will be the home screen (the screen that comes up on initial power-on). This screen may have only a few or it may have many icons, depending on the manufacturer. Each icon is a shortcut to an App. The term "App", which is short for application, is used for most of the software programs that you will run on your tablet. (Don't complain to me, I'm only the messenger. Apple coined the term and it seems to have stuck.) Actually, you may also see the term "widget". Widgets are like Apps only they show changing data in their Icon. (Think about a "Weather Widget", which constantly shows the temperature and weather outlook for a given location, or a "Finance Widget" that constantly shows the Dow Jones average.) But, most of your interaction with the tablet will be through Apps.

Now, there are a few Icons that are extremely important. The most important icon, in my opinion, is the icon that lets you get to the store to acquire new Apps (most are free but some come at a cost). Most Android tablets will have the Google Play Store icon. Amazon tablets, like the kindle fire HDX, will have the Amazon Store icon (even though they use the Android Operating System). These two different icons take you to two very different locations on the internet. Shown here are the Google Play Store and Amazon Store Icons:

Google Play Store   Amazon Store

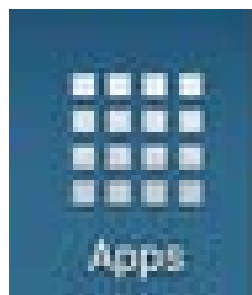Another very important icon is "Settings". The Settings Icon gets you to the settings App which provides information about the tablet and provides controls to set the general operations of the tablet. Settings icons may be different on different tablets, but shown here are two popular Settings icons:

1. Press and Hold Power Button

2. Press and Hold Voume Down Button

3. Press and Hold Home Button

The next most important Icon is the "All Apps" Icon. This Icon will typically be on the home screen, and possibly show up on all screens, and is usually in the upper right corner, or at least somewhere on the right side of the screen. This Icon gets you to the "All Apps" collection. This is where you can find all of the Apps that have been installed on your tablet. Touch this Icon for an alphabetically listed view of all of your apps. There are also a few different "All Apps" Icons. Shown here are a few examples:

Tablets are useful and fun to use, once you have set them up with the Apps that you want to use. The only way to get Apps on to your tablet, beyond the Apps that come with the device, is to download them from the Google (or Amazon) store, (which is somewhere out there on the Internet). On most tablets, the only way to get on to the internet is via Wi-Fi. (A few, more expensive, tablets also have the capability to get on to the internet via the cell phone system. This allows them to get on to the internet wherever their cell provider has coverage.) Without a connection to the internet the tablet would just be an old fashioned Personal Digital Assistant. In order to get on to the Internet we have to set up the Wi-Fi. In order to set up the Wi-Fi we need to get into the Settings. (Now you see why Settings is a very important Icon.) So, find the Settings Icon and touch it. The settings screen is split in two. The left side is for navigation, and the right side expands whatever was selected on the left side. Usually, Wi-Fi is the first entry on the left under "Wireless & Networks". If Wi-Fi is not on, touch the switch and turn it on. With Wi-Fi selected on the left, the possible Wi-Fi networks will be shown on the right. Select the network you plan to use and then provide the password if needed. (If the little icon next to the network name has a lock on or near it, a password will be needed. If there isn't a lock on or near it, the network is open and does not need a password.)

Once you are connected to a network you should see "Connected" under the name of the network you are using. Touch the "Home" software button to get back to the home screen.

Now that you are connected to a network, the internet is your oyster. You can use a browser to generally browse the internet or you can use your Apps to get specific kinds of information from specific websites. One of the first things to do is to go to your store and download something you want or just something for practice. When you get to your store, look for an App that sounds interesting and try to download it. Maybe an email App, or a game like Candy Crush, or Sudoku, it will be good practice and maybe even fun. Basically, touch your "Store" icon, then touch the "Search" icon (usually at the top on the right) and type in the App name. Select the Apps icon and then "Accept" the permissions and watch it install.

Once the App is installed, you can start to take advantage of some of the benefits of having a tablet, like checking your email, or reading the news, on the go. This might just make you feel that your tablet is useful for mobile, on-the-go computing.

PHIL SORRENTINO *is a member, The Computer Club, Florida (http://scccomputerclub.org;Philsorr.word press.com; philsorr (at) yahoo.com*

This article was published in November 2014, and is reprinted by permission for APCUG member groups.

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.

APCUG 2015 Summer Virtual Technology Conference (VTC)

APCUG's FREE 2015 Summer Virtual Technology Conference (VTC) will be held on Saturday, August 15, from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Eastern Time. The sessions are 50 minutes in length and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions via a chat window. Videos from earlier conferences can be found on APCUG's YouTube channel *www.youtube.com/apcugvideos*.

To register for this VTC, go to *http://bit.ly/APCUG_2015_Summer-VTC,* or click on the link on the DACS home page.

Back to Basics

Everything Google

By Jim Cerny

WHY CONSIDER GOOGLE at all? Google never seems to sit still. They are constantly offering new free tools and actively improving the ones they already provide. Using what Google has to offer has many advantages, here are the "pluses" in my book and I am sure there are many more. You can find out more about any of them by, well, "Googling" them!

I started by converting my email to Gmail. Gmail helped me forward my old email to my new Gmail address and copied over my contact list as well. But the sweet thing was, now that I had a Google account (your Gmail address is your Google account) I now had access to everything Google.

Google Drive (formerly Google Docs) allows you to create, from scratch, new spreadsheets, documents, presentations and more, all for free and saved on the Google Drive in the "cloud". Their tools are every bit as good as Microsoft's and easy to use. When you create a file on Google Drive it is available to you anywhere on any computer via the internet. These files are now also available to anyone else (who also has a Google account) to access them if you give permission for them to do so. It is an easy way to share files and photos with others. You can also give them permission to update or change the files if you wish. And no one has to purchase any software. If you (or anyone) already has files (spreadsheets, documents, presentations) in Excel or Word or PowerPoint you can copy them to your Google Drive and it will convert them to the Google format. Likewise, you can copy a file from Google Drive and save it as a Microsoft file type.

Google Earth is really an amazing and fun exploration tool. It is great just to explore other cities, countries, or any place on earth. There are many options and ways to use this app, but I just cannot get over how it amazes me. When it started the images taken from satellites were wonderfully detailed and you could zoom in and see even people walking in the streets. But more recently Google Earth has improved to include 3-D images showing the differences in elevation of mountains and even individual buildings in cities. When you learn to use the easy controls (mouse or fingers on touch-screens) you can "fly" over the earth and zoom in on anything you want. If you zoom in close enough, Google Earth changes to "street view" which gives you views as if you were standing on the street on that exact spot. If you are an engineer-type, you will enjoy learning how they did all this.

YouTube is a place to find videos. You will probably not find the latest movies here but most anything else you can. Enter the name of your favorite entertainer and you will find many videos of them doing a show or their spot as a guest on another TV program. Want to learn how to do something? - enter a question such as "How do I replace a window?" and get hundreds of videos showing you how to do it. Now think about this for a moment - you can ask YouTube "How do I create a group mail on Yahoo mail?" it will provide you with videos showing you how. It helps to be very specific with the product or version of what you want to learn more about. You can also view things such as classes recorded at major universities, cooking food, travel, movie trailers, old TV and radio programs, and, well, there is just no limit. Just think of YouTube as the "Google search" for just videos.

How many products, applications, and tools does Google have? I have no idea. Probably several more than they did a week ago. I think the key is to want to explore and find out. Get into the habit of "Asking Google" anything and you will be amazed.

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6. Microsoft is having a Windows 10 launch breakfast event July 29th 8-10am at their Danbury Mall store.
   • Dick is in communication with the Microsoft manager, Carolyn, to plan future MS/DACS informative hardware/ software product sessions.
7. Dick has registered to attend the APCUG annual conference September 25th.
8. Jim Scheef is working with the WCSU interns assigned to help DACS by Tom Zarecki
9. Jim Scheef will write the procedure for "Starting & Running a DACS Workshop". The procedure will include steps to notify & update webmasters, Meetup, securing a public venue, steps for using our Resource Center, etc. Membership Committee will approve the procedure.
10. The Board has continued discussing the DACS Tag Line recommendations on many occasions.
    • Current tag line approved by the Marketing Committee: "From mobile to desktop, we inform, enlighten, and educate".
    • The Board voted and APPROVED… 5 votes to approve; 1 vote to disapprove.
    • The new tag line will be used consistently across all media.
11. The Marketing Committee is preparing for the Hacker Fair to be held on October 17th at the Danbury Library complex.
12. Future meeting plans:
    • August: Jay Ferron to present MS Windows 10.
    • September: open
    • October: Mike Kaltschnee to present: Building an Android Application.
13. Tom Zarecki is continuing to plan and implement our Social Media Workshop.
14. Dick will email our membership on the level of interest in a possible Charter Video Workshop.
15. Our DACS Forum website is now active and shows 7 DACS members using it.
    • We need to develop a method of publishing and alerting people to some interesting subjects on the Forum.
    • We need to put the Forum Index on the DACS website.
    • We might require a person to login to the Forum after querying a certain number of screens.
    • We could create some 3 minute videos on various Forum subjects.
16. Board Meeting Adjourned at 10pm.

—STEVE HARKNESS

Online Business. Steve Harkness Portion

• Networking

  o Steve thinks that entrepreneurs should attend in-person meetings of any time to build their networks, including local job clubs

• Book Titles suggested by Steve include

  o Think and Grow Rich

  o Rich Dad Poor Dad

  o Seven Habits of Successful People - Steven Covey

• Elevator Pitch

  o Steve gave his own as an example of an elevator pitch

• Next Steps / Exercises

  o Steve suggested that workshop members list all interests, then list things that could make money if had customers, then select from best of those to build a business plan

  o Offered to show 12 items needed to actually build a business

  o Discussion on inviting original attendees to Aug 2015 Meeting

    o Steve offered to help get others with their 10-item business plan

• More on favorite books..

Sean N. Henderson Portion (Postponed to next meeting...)
                                    —*Sean N Henderson*

Single Board Computer Workshop. This month we had a special treat as William Kommritz gave a presentation on "Choices in Circuit and PCB Design"; basically a peek at his electrical engineering technology education at Rochester Institute of Technology. [I mistakenly said he was a computer science student in the meeting preview.]

Will's presentation was in two parts: first he showed us his senior project and discussed its design; then he took us thru the process of designing a very simple project and the steps to convert a breadboard prototype circuit to a printed circuit (PC) board that can be manufactured and soldered into a completed project.

Will's senior project was a "Temperature, Light and Sound Meter" consisting of an Arduino, sensors, a 2-line screen, LEDs, control buttons, plus a few resistors mounted on a custom printed circuit board. Will used Fritzing (fritzing.org), an open source application, to design the circuit board. More on this later. All of the components are housed in a small plastic case produced using a 3-D printer. The meter displays control menus and results on the two-line screen using software running on the Arduino.

The presentation now moved to the design process used to create the meter. To illustrate this process, Will used a simple timer circuit as an example. First we need a circuit, and Will showed us a typical breadboard prototype using a 555 integrated circuit to blink two LEDs. The goal is to produce a printed circuit board that does the exact same thing. To start, the circuit is transferred manually into Fritzing. Fritzing has a graphical representation of a breadboard. Very much like a CAD program, you place the electrical components on the breadboard exactly as they are on the prototype. Then you draw traces from point to point to create the circuit. When complete, it will look exactly like your physical breadboard except neater. Now Fritzing has a function that takes this circuit and makes a "rough cut" at a PC board layout. Again, Fritzing show the PC board on screen in the same colors and size as the final board. Now comes the tricky part, where you must unjumble the mess that Fritzing created automatically. While doing this, you must take design factors cross talk between traces and current loads into consideration. Fritzing has another helpful function that searches the layout for traces that cross or run too close. When you are satisfied with the design, Fritzing can then produce the files needed to have the board manufactured by several firms that provide this service to hobbyists as well as commercially.

The last step is to upload the design file (think of this as a CAD file) to the board manufacturer. The website Will used in the demo interpreted the design file and showed the board as it would be manufactured along with the cost for various numbers of boards. I was surprised at how low the price was for three copies of this very simple board. Will discussed several of these board manufacturers with their pluses and minuses.

Thank you to William Kommritz for his exceptional presentation. All in all it was a very informative meeting.

As of this writing, there is no topic for August. It would be nice to look at the world of Arduinos and similar microcontrollers. If anyone has a project you would like to share, even if it is not complete, please let me know. We could easily combine more than one project and discuss both trials and successes.
                                    —*Jim Scheef*

APCUG 2015 Photo Contest
By Richard Teasdale

APCUG is pleased to announce its 2015 Photo Contest. It will again showcase the talents of its member group photographers!

Somewhere inside each of us is a creative genius just waiting for the chance to grab the spotlight and APCUG wants to give DACS members that opportunity. Professional judges will select the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category; the "People's Choice" will be chosen by the 2015 International Computer & Digital Technology Conference attendees. So, grab those cameras and start shooting!
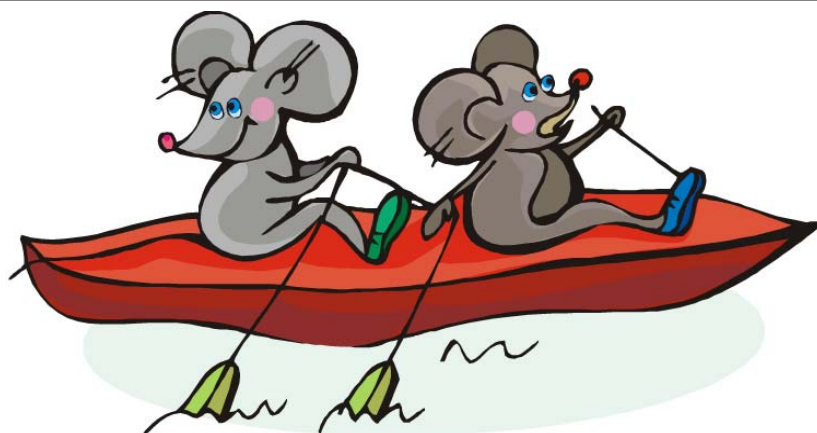
DACS is a member group of APCUG and the contest is open to all members of DACS. Full details of the contest may be found at

http://apcug2.org/2015-newsletter-photo-and-website-contests-begin-july-10-2015/

When e-mailing your photos, please include the name of our group: "DACS", and the President's name and e-mail address: "Dick Gingras", *dacsprez@dacs.or*g.

Good Luck to all DACS entrants!

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:

August 4
Jay Ferron
Windows 10

September 1
Don Wittman
Linkedin Tips & Tricks

October 6
Mike Kaltschnee
Live demonstration on building an Android application

November 3
TBA