



DACS.doc

A Computer & Technology Newsletter

October 2015

Volume 26, Issue 10

\$2.00

Next Event: October 6



**Mike
Kaltschnee
On:**

**Building an
Android
Application**



President's File

OUR RESOURCE Center is going through a facelift on Friday, September 25th. Thanks to Cathy Quaranta and Tom Zarecki, some WestConn students will be volunteering their time with a few of our members to help clean and repaint the walls and brighten things up. It won't be long before we can proudly display the dozens of awards and plaques we have received over the past 25 years in the entrance, for all to see.



While all this is going on I will be airborne to Las Vegas to attend the APCUG annual convention, where I will have the opportunity to compare experiences with other user group leaders. I expect to return with some fresh ideas for DACS, just in time for a special Board meeting on Wednesday the 30th.

I am looking forward to launching a new **Video Workshop series** to be held at Charter Communications in Newtown, CT on Thursday Oct 22nd. I just completed the Charter Spectrum Community Vision 192 summer Advanced Training Course along with Lisa Leifels. I now have experience with and a better appreciation for what goes into a video production. I am excited about what we can all learn at this new DACS Video Workshop.

I have made arrangements to have our **October 6th presentation recorded** by a fellow graduate of the video training course at Charter. I am hopeful that this will become a regular occurrence for all future meetings.

The **April Social Media Video** is now available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpGJhO0k7i4>.

[youtube.com/watch?v=cpGJhO0k7i4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpGJhO0k7i4). The May and June meetings will be available soon and also two **Vintage videos** from nearly 25 years ago because of the work done by Richard Teasdale to convert VHS tape to a digital format.

We have a new **WCSU Marketing Intern**. She will be assisting Cathy Quaranta and Tom Zarecki with Social Media and Public Relations, with the objective of creating more public awareness of DACS.

Thanks to Richard Teasdale for taking on the role of Recording Secretary and to Tom Zarecki for handling press releases. There are still many activities on the backburner just waiting for someone like you to take ownership. We need you to add value and help shape the future of DACS. Here are just a few areas where we need your help:

- **Program committee chairperson:** Help arrange for new speakers, meeting previewers and reviewers. You will get to meet very interesting people in the process. Lisa Leifels will help you get started. Just tell me or Lisa that you may be willing to help, see Cathy Quaranta at the check-in table, or email us directly at programs@dacs.org. This position will look great on your resume!

- **SIG/Workshop coordinator** to coordinate workshop formation, venues, schedules, expedite meeting reviews.

- **Membership committee:** Members maintain the CiviCRM membership platform and ensure membership data is kept current. Explore and Implement ways to increase DACS membership.

- **Newsletter & Website Editorial staff,** authors for meeting reviews and other articles.

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. **Use social media** to spread the word. Help plan and participate in the **Mad Hackers Technology & Innovation Fair on October 17th**.

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.

—Dick Gingras, President

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

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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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

Editors' Note: The board minutes for August, 2015 missed the deadline, and are included here, followed by the minutes of the September meeting.

August Meeting

A meeting of the board of directors of Danbury Area Computer Society was held at DACS headquarters, 198 Main Street, Danbury CT on Wednesday, August 5, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by president Dick Gingras.

Meeting audio was recorded by Sean Henderson and transcribed by Tom Zarecki

In attendance:

- In person: Dick Gingras, Richard, Jim Scheef, Lisa Leifels, Bert Goff.

- Guest: Sean Henderson

- By phone: Andy Woodruff, who arrived in person around 8:20 pm

- Late arrival: Tom Zarecki arrived 7:45 pm

- Absent: Cathy Quaranta., Bill Saturno.

Minutes of last month's Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was submitted separately by Bert Goff. YTD balance sheet comparison is \$640 better than last year.

Membership committee report:

• Current Members	93
• Grace Members	19
Total	112
• General meeting attendance	
members	27
total (head count)	51

No postcard mailing reminders have been sent out over the past few months. Jim Scheef agreed to provide labels to Charlie Bovaird, for post card mailing reminders for members more than 30 days past due and to members whose dues have recently expired. Currently, there is no automated way to send email or postcard reminders with our CiviMail setup. They are done manually each month. Jim will look into what needs to be done to automate this process.

Program Committee report:

- Excellent feedback from Tuesday GM attendees on Windows 10 presentation by Jay Ferron.

- Upcoming events: September 1st, LinkedIn, by Don Wittman; October 7th; Android App Development, by Mike Kaltschnee.

- Lisa announced that she will no longer be able to chair the program committee. Someone else needs to take over those responsibilities, starting with the November GM. She suggested that the choice of topics for upcoming presentations be made

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 11

Meeting Review

LinkedIn Tips, Tricks, and Strategy

By Cathy Quaranta

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MIX of members and 'future member guests' filled the audience at the September 1, DACS General Meeting, eager to learn more about the popular professional networking phenomenon: LinkedIn. Perfect timing: the Fall hiring season is here.

Tom Zarecki kicked off the meeting with some DACS news – he mentioned the new Online Business and Social Media Workshops, noting that tonight's presentation would be about one of the new social media tools – LinkedIn. LinkedIn is one of the more powerful, positive and impactful social media programs to help people find jobs. LinkedIn has 'Connections' like Facebook has 'Friends'.

Tom introduced the featured speaker – Donald Wittman – a local computer guy who worked in IT, now has his own consulting company, and teaches a five hour Boot Camp to help people find a new job.

Don brought handouts with some of his LinkedIn tips, tricks, and strategy details – perfect for note-taking and then using the Profile Checklist at home. Thank-you Don!

There are three kinds of job searches. The 'Push' strategy includes sending your resume, responding to job postings, working with Executive Searchers, Headhunters or Recruiters. Second is Networking, to find out about openings and needs at other companies. Tonight Don concentrated on the 'Pull' strategy, which has people coming to you – it works best right now on LinkedIn. The goal is to provide a LinkedIn profile that headhunters and companies can search to find what they need in you.

Don described LinkedIn with some numbers – there are 380 million LinkedIn users, a good photo increases your views by 11X, listing Skills increases views by 13X, search firms have researchers who use LinkedIn exclusively to shorten the hiring cycle. 90% of recruiters use LinkedIn, 64% use LinkedIn exclusively, but 80% of people use only 5 keywords. Recruiters can't find you unless your profile is 'Pull-able' – i.e. found in a search. They use only the top 20-25 profiles that meet their requirements.

There are two main types of LinkedIn subscribers – Recruiters and Job Seek-

ers. Interesting note #1 – LinkedIn's income is from searching. Recruiters pay 64% of LinkedIn's income for three levels of subscriptions – about \$80 for the HR Lite subscription, \$800 for the full HR version, and some use one of the personal subscriptions. LinkedIn JobSeekers can join for free or upgrade to \$29 or \$99 subscriptions to conduct more searches and use other features.

Interesting note #2 – LinkedIn search results displays are a numbers game.

LinkedIn uses a combination of methods to display ('rank') the people found in the searches. Don explained what we need to do to be in the top 20-25 people found. You need to consider the following:

- Be in the highest 'All Star' LinkedIn strength (Don has 27 million connections – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and group. Some are 10,000 Super Connectors.

- Participation/activity on LinkedIn raises your profile rankings.

- Matching keywords in different sections have different values. (Details for finding the appropriate keywords are below.) You need about 200 points to be found at the top of the list. Title keywords are 7 points, Experience tagline keywords are worth 5 points for the previous job tagline and then 3 points for each of the 3 previous position taglines. Summary, Interests and Skills sections keywords are worth 2 points each.

- Give and receive endorsements and recommendations.

- Use a standard 'Location' setting. 'Greater New York City Area' is much more likely to be searched for than 'Danbury'.

- Joining LinkedIn groups has two benefits – it improves your number of connections, and being more closely connected to the 'searcher' puts you higher on their lists of search results.

- Adding LION (LinkedIn Open Networker) to your profile demonstrates that you are interested in social networking, especially important for marketing people.

- Adding 'HR', 'Hiring Manager', etc to your Interests section can help.

- A good Summary section is your marketing pitch.

Identification of Keywords – take the description of a job you want, strip out the company information, then copy & paste

it into a word cloud like wordle.net to find your keywords prioritized for you. Take the top seven and start to make 'Keyword Pairs' so you have exact matches. For example, 'Computer' might be one of your top keywords because the job posting had 'Computer Software' and 'Computer Hardware', so you need to use both keyword pairs in many sections of your LinkedIn profile to be 'found' at the top of a search list.

There was a wide range of LinkedIn user experience and questions throughout the presentation. Don kept it light.

Don teaches the Boot Camps on the last Saturday of the month at the Innovation Centers in Danbury, Hartford and Stamford. Eighty percent of the people who have taken Don's Boot Camp were hired in three months. For more information you can contact Don at Wittman Technology don@wittmantechology.com



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 . . .?"

Meeting Preview

Anyone Can Make a Mobile Application!

By Sean N. Henderson

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 7:30 pm

Location: Danbury Hospital
Creasy Auditorium

Presenter: Mike Kaltschnee

MIKE KALTSCHNEE from the Danbury Hackerspace will demonstrate how anyone can create a mobile application using MIT and Google's App Inventor. "You don't have to be a techie or programmer to create a real, working application using the camera, sensors, database, and other phone features. Have a great idea for an app? Build it yourself after this demonstration.

For those considering Android app development, there are several ways to develop applications. They range from all-code solutions to low-or-no-code solutions. A partial list of low-code software to develop Android applications includes AppyPie, MakeMeDroid, AppGyver, and Buzztouch. Other software tools to develop Android apps are the well-known Eclipse and Android Studio. However, none of these do it in quite the same way as the puzzle piece style building blocks in Google App Inventor 2, and Mike will show October general meeting attendees just how it is done.



MIT's App Inventor was created before Google Labs obtained it. It is now back with MIT but a Google account is required for authentication. Google App Inventor 2 (AI2) aims to be a fun low-code solution.

About the presenter - Mike

Kaltschnee is the business architect behind the Danbury Innovation Center, and co-founder of the hacker-space it houses. A hackerspace is a type of shared workspace for hobbyists and others needing a space, with a variety of tools and people around to help and with whom to

share ideas.

Without Mike's efforts, promotion, and gift of energizing those around him, Danbury would not enjoy its new Main Street tech offering that is Danbury Hackerspace. Besides the Danbury Hackerspace, Mike also started HackingNetflix.com - a blogging venture started just after writing an article about the video streaming service in 2003. The site became the premiere Netflix tracking site with more than 300,000 readers in 2011. Mike is also involved in publishing and media via his company Briki Media LLC.

Join Mike and DACS in October at this general meeting and learn how to create your app ideas for your Android device.

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

Danbury Area Computer Society (DACs) is a registered nonprofit and has been serving the region since 1990. Members receive an award-winning newsletter, members-only workshops and events.



Hold the Date!

Celebrate DACS' 25th anniversary with us on October 17 at the 2015 Mad Hackers Technology & Innovation Fair at Danbury Library.

More than 40 technology, craft and fun exhibits will be on display. It will be great event for kids of all ages!! **Tickets are FREE.**

Shop at Amazon Smile

and Amazon will make a donation to the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc.



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"Sir . . . your package from Amazon arrived after your accident, and has been forwarded here"

Workshops

Workshop NOTES: October 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: Oct 13

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: Oct 21

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: Steve Harkness (<http://forum.dacs.org/forum-38.html>).

Meets second Monday in nearby Brookfield, or by Webinar

Next Meeting: Oct 12

Single Board Computers Workshop. Explores small cheap computers like Raspberry Pi, Arduino, Netduino, Beaglebone, and more. Meets 3rd 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: Oct 15

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: Oct 28

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: Oct 20

Workshops News & Events

Online Business. Meeting was held at Brookfield Town Hall on 9/14/15. The topic was setting up online sales on various Web sites. A hard copy of an infographic on marketing was available to attendees. Sean has resigned as co-leader of this workshop, so direct any questions to Steve Harkness going forward. There is discussion on renaming to Small Business Workshop to better reflect subject matter.

—Steve Harkness

SBC. At the August meeting of the Single Board Computer Workshop, we reviewed a version of Windows 10 called Windows 10 IoT Core, that runs the Raspberry Pi 2. We decided it was pretty lame. The user interface that comes on Win10Core shows the specs of the device and network information like

the computer name and IP address from the Ethernet connection. There is also a menu option to open the web-based user interface. The video interface is so slow as to be unusable. The web interface is much more responsive and shows much the



same information plus links to promotional information from Microsoft. Why would anyone use Win10Core on the RPi2? We asked that very question at the meeting. The only answer is so you can use the programming tools you already know. A windows developer using Visual Studio and the .Net Framework on Windows for regular or web-based applications would be right at home programming for Win10Core. However, several other operating systems have been ported to the Raspberry Pi along with associated programming tools that most people will find easier to use and more responsive when run. Python is the language promoted by the Raspberry Pi Foun-







web-based applications would



Workshops,, Cont. on page 9

October 2015

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
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Book Review

The Dark Net: Inside the Digital Underworld by Jamie Bartlett (2015: Melville House)

Reviewed By Jim Scheef

CYBERSPACE, IF I MAY use that term, is often divided into distinct parts. The news media does this every day, providing convenient compartments into which they stuff everything from politicians to television programs to

even criminals. The netherworld of the Internet is so far from our frame of reference as typical users, we cannot conceive what it's like. Of course that does not stop the news media. What we hear about in the news then is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Internet's underworld is actually far worse than the news stories depict. Fortunately *The Dark Net* is well researched and written with sensitivity to the real people depicted in the stories. The author's thoughtful analysis makes this book a valuable read for anyone interested in the human side of the Internet. The author lives in the U.K. where *The Dark Net* was researched and written.

The book has seven chapters plus significant Introduction and Conclusion sections. Each of these cover a significant part of the why and what of the digital underworld. The Introduction covers the impetus - what inspired people to write the systems that make it all possible. The cause was and remains liberty - individual freedom. In the 1980's, as the ARPAnet evolved into the Internet, users realized that this government-sponsored network made possible communication that seemed to be anonymous but in reality is not. Encryption is needed to ensure both privacy and anonymity. Phil Zimmerman provided one of these tools in the form of PGP or Pretty Good Privacy, a program for the exchange of encrypted emails. Ironically, the US government provided the research that led to TOR, or The Onion Router, a system of multiple proxies that first add and then remove layers of encryption making it virtually impossible to trace the origin of Internet packets. TOR was developed to allow secure US military communica-

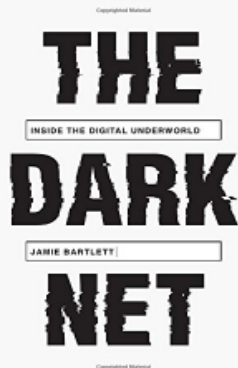
tions. The same technology has been implemented by volunteers all over the world to allow secure and anonymous communication all over the world, Chinese citizens, dissidents and whistleblowers to mention just a few, can browse the web and communicate securely. Of course it provides these same features to criminals and terrorists. To use TOR you install the TOR browser and you are good to go.

Chapter 1 covers Trolls, the bullies of the Internet. Trolls date back to the formation of Usenet news groups, the original Internet bulletin boards. "Flame wars" soon followed where one or more people posting anonymously attack another user. Today this can be unmerciful bullying or worse. The author covers where a user is "doxed." This is where the user's true identity is uncovered and the user's online behavior posted for the world to see and emailed directly to the user's family, coworkers and employer. This can literally destroy someone's life in the "real world". I cannot give more detail in here; you need to read the book to fully understand the context. The most common trolling we see covered in the news is on social media between junior-high and high school kids. The suicides that can result from this online bullying show the depth of the harm.

We hear in the news about how "lone wolf" terrorists are perhaps the most serious threat facing society today. This is always followed by pundits talking about people becoming radicalized "on the Internet". In Chapter 2 the author documents online forums supporting both extremes: the nationalists (sometimes "Christian") on the right and the "antifa" or anti-fascists on the left who compete for control of cyberspace. Both sides use their forums and chat groups to fuel and amplify the prejudice and fears of like-minded people. Both sides infiltrate and spy on the other side. A few of these forums are on the regular Internet, but most can only be accessed using TOR making it essentially impossible for law enforcement to identify and locate these people. The book covers British groups thru the author's interviews of people on both sides by email and in person. A must-read chapter.

Moving along, we come to the cyberpunks. These are the people who continue to develop new technology to solve problems of privacy and security. In this case security means freedom from state surveillance. The extreme of the cyberpunks are anarchists - the far, far-out end of libertarians. They see the crypto currency Bitcoin as a path to a future where people are totally free to live as they please without the constraints of government.

They may be right! Bitcoin's ability to allow virtually instantaneous movement of cash between individuals, whether locally or across continents at extremely lost cost can hide transactions not just from governments but from banks as well. Remem-



ber that governments cannot tax these unseen transactions. If an entire society were to adopt Bitcoin, it would de-fund government.

Even Bitcoin transactions must be recorded somewhere to prevent a same lump of currency from being spent twice. Any transaction must irrevocably transfer the wealth represented by the Bitcoin from one person to another. This requires that the transaction be recorded in something called the "block chain" but this record does not name the people involved as does a bank check or credit card. [Please accept that this is true as the mechanics of Bitcoin are way beyond this article.] The catch in this process is that at some point, you must buy your Bitcoins with dollars (or other currency) in an exchange. Bitcoins only exist as long strings of seemingly random numbers, so it is not possible to exchange Bitcoins for a national currency like Dollars without using a computer somehow connected to the exchange. These transfers become the anonymity weak points from which Bitcoins can be traced.

In Chapter 3 we learn about Amir, a cyberpunk, and his project "Dark Wallet" which aims to make these transaction points more anonymous. This is a world of mathematics and cryptography that dates back to 1976 when Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman invented the public key encryption that we use every day to keep our online banking and other transactions safe and secure. What we see here is that this and any other technology can be used for both good and evil. Yes, drug cartels can launder money but foreign laborers can avoid the vampire currency exchanges that charge exorbitant fees at both ends to send the laborer's money to their family back home. Using Bitcoin the family can receive the money directly to a cell phone!

I'm going to skip Chapter 4 where the author discusses the darkest part of The Dark Net: the world of child pornography. I'll only pass on the author's finding that child porn had become almost impossible to obtain prior to the widespread availability of TOR. Unfortunately both the market for and the supply of have grown in recent years.

I found Chapter 5 to be the most interesting part of the book. Ross Ulbricht, the person allegedly responsible for the Internet market place, "Silk Road", was tried and convicted this past February. Except for the charge of attempted murder for hire, most of his crimes centered on excessive capitalistic free enterprise. Before the final gavel bang, several new

markets, including "Silk Road 2", were opening for business in a much more competitive online market. The author makes a strong case for these markets as the safest place to buy drugs.

What is it about eBay that gives us the confidence to buy things offered by people we do not know? Well, eBay keeps track of both the sellers' and the buyers' reputations in the form of a "feedback score". You know to stay away from any seller who has received bad feedback from other buyers. The mere threat of bad feedback keeps sellers honest in the descriptions of their listings. The Silk Road brought this same concept to the world of illegal drugs. A dealer who shorts his customers or misrepresents the quality of the goods does not last long. A clever three party system of escrow ensures that buyers pay and sellers cannot just run away with the money, which, of course, must be Bitcoin. Silk Road can only be reached using TOR, making anonymity "virtually" assured for everyone involved. That virtually part came to an end for Ross Ulbricht after months of investigation by Federal agencies. Regardless of your opinion about whether drugs should be legal or not, Silk Road and its successor markets make buying drugs far safer than "scoring" in person on some street corner. If the "icky" parts of the book bother you, this is one of the chapters you must read.

Chapter 6, entitled "Lights, Camera, Action", is about another market-based, free enterprise part of the underworld, the world of web-cams where mostly young women provide live entertainment for a fee. I get the impression that most web-cam sites are not porn in the hard-core sense usually associated with the word. Instead entrepreneurial young women earn a few extra pounds (which is the U.K. currency) entertaining regular viewers in exchange for "tokens". Practiced as described in the book, everyone "wins" and no one gets hurt. Again, this is a chapter you must read.

The last numbered chapter is about websites and forums that are the opposite of self-help. Sites that promote anorexia, cutting or self-mutilation, and suicide all have the ability to make the unthinkable seem not just normal, but desirable. "Pro-ana" sites promote the eating disorder anorexia nervosa. I can't summarize this here, you must read it.

The Conclusion is a comparison between two men, Zoltan and Zerzan. Zoltan (his real name) wants to live forever. He wears a medallion inscribed with

instructions on how to preserve his body for the freezing process he anticipates will allow him to "survive" until his mind can be transferred to computer memory - sort of like the movie Transcendence, but not really. Zoltan is a "transhumanist". On the other hand, Zerzan is an "anarcho-primitivist", the Luddite opposite who fears our society is sliding into dependency on technology and wants us to reverse this trend all the way back until society is mostly hunter-gatherers. The fascinating aspect to these polar opposites is that they both describe the same problem - we are destroying our planet. The difference is the solution.

From the conclusion: "It's their views about human freedom rather than technology that constitute the real dividing line between the techo-optimists and the techo-pessimists. For the transhumanists, there is no "natural" state of man. Freedom is the ability to do anything, to be anything, to go as far as our imagination can take us." ... "For anarcho-primitivists, technology tends to distract and detract from our natural state, pushing us ever further away from what it really is to be free humans. It's freedom in a radically different sense: a freedom to be self-reliant, a freedom to be human without relying on technology."

The book is 240 pages plus 68 pages of acknowledgements, notes and suggested further reading. ISBN 978-1-61219-489-9. Released in the U.S. just a few months ago, it is available in book stores, both physical and online. I borrowed it from my local public library.

Workshop Notes, Cont. from page 6

dation, but just about every other language you can name has also been ported to the Pi. Raspian is a very nice version of Linux that comes "fully equipped" in the normal download and many, many Linux applications have been ported to the Pi. The consensus was that Win10Core can be safely ignored for now.

An expanded version of these notes is on the website at dacs.org/category/sigs/sbc-workshop/. That article covers Internet of Things, Raspberry Pi, and Windows 10 IoT Core and how they work together.

The September meeting will be over by the time this is published. The October meeting will be Thursday, October 15th, at 7 pm in the DACS Resource Center.

—Jim Scheef

Web Security

Google's New Spam-Fighting Tools

By Bob Rankin

GOOGLE ESTIMATES THAT nearly 60 percent of all email it processes is spam.

But like most Gmail users, I rarely see any spam in my inbox. Google claims that Gmail now blocks 99.9 percent of all spam. Read on to learn how you can get near-perfect spam filtering, even if you don't use Gmail...

Machine learning, an application of artificial intelligence, has been part of Gmail's spam filter program since Gmail's inception. On July 9, Google announced three new improvements to Gmail's spam filter.

Every time a user clicks the "Report Spam" or "Not Spam" button on a message, Gmail learns something that helps it filter spam better. But now, Gmail is attempting to learn on its own, without the user's clicks.

The spam filter now uses the same artificial neural network that Google Now and Google Search use to detect and block the "especially sneaky" spam that sometimes slips past users' radar.

Gmail Spam Filter

What's an "artificial neural network," you ask? The oversimplified answer is, a lot of computers connected to each other in an attempt to simulate the interconnections of human brain cells. It's expensive to build an artificial neural network; most are tiny, with 1 to 10 million connections.

Google has built an ANN with over one billion connections using the processors in its vast and far-flung empire of data centers. That sounds awesome, until you learn that the human brain contains several trillion connections! None the less, Google's ANN is capable of rudimentary human-like self-learning. That means you don't have to teach it what spam is.

In one experiment, Google's ANN was fed millions of still images of cats culled from YouTube videos. The images were not labeled as "cats" and programmers did not tell the ANN what a "cat" is. The ANN figured it out for itself, learning to recognize cats in virtually any image. If it can do that, it can recognize spam with greater accuracy than most humans can.

You don't have to do anything to use Gmail's spam filtering - it's automatic. But you can add your own filters to funnel messages into folders, forward to another address, and other actions. See my article *Tame Your Email With Filters* for help adding filters to Gmail, Yahoo, Outlook.com,

iCloud Mail, or AOL webmail. http://askbobrankin.com/tame_your_email_with_filters.html

But the ANN is still not perfect. Just as humans see UFOs in pictures of streetlights, Google's ANN sometimes sees spam in legitimate messages and mistakenly consigns them to the spam folder. Google claims that only about 0.01 percent (1 in 10,000) of legitimate emails are falsely labeled as spam these days. As the ANN learns more about email, that figure should fall even further.

Take a look in your Gmail spam folder, and see how it's working. If you do find certain messages are being incorrectly flagged as spam, you can create a Gmail filter for them, with a "Never send to Spam" action, so they'll be delivered to your inbox.

How does Gmail's spam filter compare to other free Webmail services, such as Microsoft's Hotmail/Outlook.com and Yahoo? I haven't been able to find any independent, rigorous studies of this question. I'll just note that Microsoft seems to think it's acceptable if less than 3 percent of the messages that reach your inbox are spam.

Another new spam-fighting technique that Gmail is introducing doesn't really tackle spam, in my opinion. Gmail now attempts to learn individual users' reading preferences and filter out even legitimate mail that goes unread. The company gives the example of email newsletters. One user reads them assiduously while another just lets them pile up unread, or deletes them without reading. Why people don't just unsubscribe from newsletters is one of life's mysteries. Hopefully, Gmail can distinguish between legit opt-in email newsletters and the ones that just arrive without your consent. <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook-com/compare/>

Finally, Gmail is providing help for legitimate, large-volume email publishers whose communications are sometimes wrongly condemned as spam. The Gmail Postmaster Tools will help airlines, banks, credit card companies, and other well-known firms analyze the fate of their emails and improve their delivery and reading rates. <https://gmail.com/postmaster/>

Even if you don't use or like Gmail, you can still use it to filter spam. Here's one technique that some people use to "pre-filter" their incoming emails. Instead of pro-

viding your actual email address when asked, give out a Gmail address that you've created. Configure that Gmail account to simply forward everything to your actual address. Gmail does spam-filtering BEFORE forwarding, so the messages that do get forwarded are virtually spam-free.

Gmail's spam filter is so reliable and accurate that I hardly ever check my spam filter for false positives anymore. I get hundreds of emails daily, and in 2015, I estimate I've clicked on the "Report Spam" or "Not Spam" button less than a dozen times. The spam filter just works.

Do you use Gmail? How is the spam filtering working for you? Your thoughts on this topic are welcome. Post your comment or question below...

BOB RANKIN hosts a free online tech service. This article appeared in the July 23, 2015 column Ask Bob Rankin (<http://askbobrankin.com>). He can be reached at bob (at) rankin.org

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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!

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

by the Board until a new program chair is found.

There was some discussion of having PR, Membership, and Program committee meetings meet together just prior to the Board meetings sometime in the near future.

The PR piece about Dick's and Bert's election as DACS officers was discussed. It is being prepared by Richard Teasdale and will be ready for publication later this month.

Guidance for running a SIG/workshop was discussed and outlined as follows:

1. Write the agenda for the evening
2. Send the preview to *webmaster@dacs.org*
3. Go to MeetUp and post the event
4. Do Social media promotion
5. At the event:
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Go through agenda
 - c. Announce length of meeting
 - d. Present your material
 - e. Open for questions throughout
 - f. Review key points at the end

There was further discussion about how SIG/workshop leaders should get access to post upcoming meeting content directly to the website. Until then, meeting announcements should be sent to the *webmaster@dacs.org*. Meeting reviews should always be directed to the newsletter editor (*DacsEditor@dacs.org*) for publication in both the newsletter and website.

New Business

Marketing committee preparation for Hackers Fair discussion was led by Jim and Sean in Cathy's absence. Hackers Fair is scheduled for October 17th at the Danbury Library. It hasn't been determined how many tables we will have, power setup, or where in the Library we will be located. We would like everyone who helps at this (and all future events) to wear similar if not identical jerseys with the DACS logo. Pricing has not been determined and color of the fabric was discussed but there were differing views. The most mentioned colors were white, light blue, and black which seemed to have the best contrast to our logo. Sean will look into pricing and availability at Café Press and also at Rankin Textile Printing in Danbury, and discuss further at the PR committee meeting. It was agreed that directors would each pay for their own shirts.

An activity being considered by the PR committee as part of the 25th anniversary is a Tech Crawl where people go from house to house looking at computer setups and end at Danbury Hackerspace. Other ideas and dates were discussed at the last PR/Marketing committee meeting and posted, but not mentioned specifically.

Tom brought up WestConn's 2nd annual Day of Service, where college students are sent around town to help commercial and non-commercial organizations in mid-September. DACS could get 2 students to help us clean our resource center. Jim says it would take 3 or 4 months to review which computers we keep or dump. It was noted that this has been an ongoing agenda item for more than a year and keeps getting pushed off by some individuals. Decision was made not to use the students for this reason.

Dick reminded everyone that an inventory of DACS resource center assets and replacement costs is still needed, which led into a discussion of what to do with the main meeting room and in what ways it can be updated, including new paint, new carpeting, tiled floor, and major decluttering of unused equipment. Andy said he would help create an improvement plan including cost estimates that we could use to raise money, but will not be available for this until October.

The meeting ended at 9:27 pm after informal discussions of some new and lingering topics carried forward from past Board meetings.

September Meeting

A meeting of board of Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS) was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Dick Gingras. In attendance were Richard Corzo, Dick Gingras (President), Bert Goff (Treasurer & Secretary), Cathy Quaranta, Andy Woodruff, Tom Zarecki. Charlie Bovaird was present as a guest, and the minutes were taken by Richard Teasdale.

- The Minutes of the 8/5/2015 Board Meeting were approved.

- The Treasurer's report was received from Bert Goff and reviewed. Expenses exceeded income by \$141 during August, due to two non-monthly expenses and a smaller than usual number of dues receipts.

Committee reports

- Membership committee:

1. Numbers of Current members and Grace members: Unknown - Dick will get counts from CiviCRM. Total members: 119.

2. Membership renewal effort status: No postcard reminders have been sent yet. Cathy will contact Jim Scheef re address labels.

3. 9/1/2015 General Meeting attendance: Head count 41; Members 24; Guests 17.

4. Dick reported CiviMail statistics for the e-mail reminders that he sent before the Meeting

- Program committee:

1. September General Meeting discus-

sion: The meeting feedback cards were reviewed and analyzed. Possible ways to improve the capture of guest information were discussed.

2. October General Meeting - Android App Dev in < 1 Hour. Cathy to ask Sean Henderson re writing Preview. Reviewer: Andy.

3. November General Meeting - Amateur Radio Emergency Service network. Andy to confirm Mike Walters' availability.

4. The urgent need to find a new leader for the Program committee was discussed.

- Marketing committee:

1. Preparations for the Hacker Fair on October 17th were discussed. Table count, location in the library, power availability, hours, list of members helping, list of props needed, etc., all remain to be decided. Cathy to get information from Mike Kaltschnee.

2. DACS jerseys - available on Café Press - status and specifications were discussed.

3. Promotional/Marketing plans

- a. Tom outlined the DACS requirements for a Marketing intern, which were discussed at length. Tom has announced the opportunity to his classes at WestConn. The deadline for acceptance is approaching.

- b. Responsibility for Press Releases will be transitioned to Tom from Richard Teasdale.

Old Business

- The progress of video recordings of DACS General Meetings was reviewed and discussed. Tom's April presentation about Social Media is now on YouTube. Andy is working with John Patrick to prepare videos of the May meeting on the Future of Healthcare.

New Business

- The next board meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00pm, due to scheduling issues on the regular date.

- Dick's attendance at a recent meeting of the Trumbull PC User Group was discussed, together with possibilities for cooperation with that group.

- Possible ways to appeal to current members to step up their involvement with DACS were discussed.

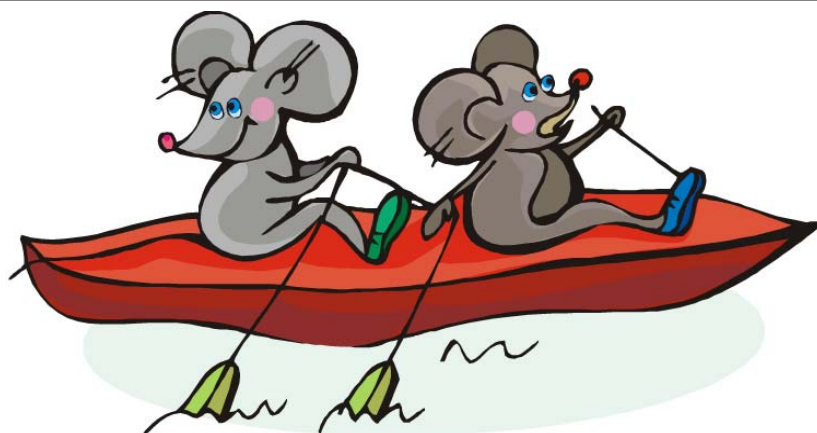
- Charlie brought to the meeting copies of the DACS newsletter going back to 1991, together with photographs, received from Allan Ostergren. These will be used for the DACS 25th anniversary celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm

—Richard Teasdale

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

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

www.voiceforjoanie.org

Future Events:

October 6

Mike Kaltschnee
Live demonstration on
building an Android
application

November 3

Amateur Radio
Emergency Service
Network

December 1

TBA

January 5

TBA