



# DACS.doc

A Computer & Technology Newsletter

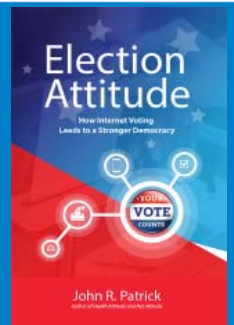
October 2016

Volume 27, Issue 10

\$2.00

**Next Event: Tuesday, October 4, 6:30 PM**

**Election Attitude: How Internet Voting Leads to a Stronger Democracy, with Dr. John R. Patrick**





# Directors' Notes

## Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS)

### Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:23pm by the DACS President, Dave Green.

In attendance were board members Richard Corzo, Dick Gingras, Bert Goff (Secretary & Treasurer), Dave Green (President), Jim Scheef, and Andy Woodruff. Cathy Quaranta and Tom Zarecki were not present. The minutes were taken by Richard Teasdale.

(Names in italics denote responsibilities for actions.)

The Minutes of the 8/3/2016 Board Meeting were accepted.

## Reports

- The Treasurer's report for August was discussed. Bert reported that dues receipts in August were much improved from July, and that expenses for the month were again less than usual. The year-to-date loss is about \$535, compared to about \$458 at the same time last year. *Jim* mentioned that the Civi reminders are still not working but he will send out e-mails to in-grace members tomorrow.
  - Jim* distributed a report showing 90 current members (including 4 new), and 19 in-grace, for a total of 109.
  - Jim* will investigate what membership type to use for Judy Taylour, of APCUG, to enable her to receive electronic copies of the newsletter each month.
- Marketing committee: No report.
- Press Coverage:

## IN THIS ISSUE

DIRECTORS' NOTES	2
HELP LINE	3
REVIEW: SAMSUNG PRODUCT LINE	4
PREVIEW: JOHN PATRICK: ELECTION ATTITUDE	5
WORKSHOP NEWS & NOTES	6
OCTOBER CALENDAR	7
ELECTION ATTITUDE: BOOK REVIEW	8
CHANGING TO ANOTHER EMAIL SERVICE	9
MANY WAYS TO JOIN DACS	9
WINDOWS 10 - RESISTANCE IS FUTILE	10
BUCKY MILAM CARTOON	10
BLUETOOTH ON YOUR DEVICES	11
FUTURE EVENTS	12

- Dave reported that the press release for the September general meeting was distributed last month at the usual time. Several responses were received.
- It was agreed to send the press release for the October meeting earlier than usual.
- Website:
  - Richard reported that the premium edition of Wordfence has been purchased. No further website hacks have happened since it was installed.
  - Some technical issues have been resolved.

## Old Business

- Programs:
  - Will Callahan* is writing the review article for the September general meeting.
  - Andy* reported on preparations for John Patrick's Election Attitude talk in October. The meeting will start at 6:30pm. Although few, if any, hospital staff may attend, Andy will ask him to publicize the meeting to staff members he knows. JP has agreed to donate approximately 25 copies of his new book, *Election Attitude: How Internet Voting Leads to a Stronger Democracy*. Andy is working to complete the preview article as soon as possible. He also will call a contact at the *News-Times* to ask about their sending a reporter to the meeting. Bert has spoken with a contact at the New Milford *Spectrum* (Debbie Rose) and we need to provide them with a press release. Andy is contacting the hospital staff member(s) responsible for the Auditorium and Robilotti Room, to ensure that space will be available in October. Andy will film the meeting.
  - Bert* has arranged with Al Fressola to talk about Intellectual Property at the November general meeting. He will write the preview article. *Jim* will ask Steve Harkness to write the review article.
  - Richard* will contact Bill Saturno, with a view to having him talk about "cord-cutting" in December. Other possibilities remain an astronomy presentation, in conjunction with the McCarthy observatory in New Milford, a session by Jay Ferron about Hololens, and a talk from Hi-Link, possibly about Hosting.
- Renovation of the Resource Center (RC): Nothing new to report.
- Topics which might be of interest to the DACS membership: (1) a workshop devoted to Network-attached Storage (NAS) systems, and (2) SLACK, a web-based communication system.
  - Jim* is working to create a Civi-based survey of the membership, to determine the level of interest.

## Membership Information

*dacs.doc*, ISSN 1084-6573, is published monthly by the Danbury Area Computer Society, 65 Legion Rd, New Milford, CT 06776. Annual subscription rates: \$60 to regular members, \$40 electronic access (included in dues).

## Postmaster

Send address changes to Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc., 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430.

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

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

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Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc.  
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## Officers

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**RESOURCE CENTER:** (203) 748-4330 • **WEB SITE:** <http://www.dacs.org>

## 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

◦ Richard volunteered to set up an experimental SLACK group for the Board.

## New Business

- Snacks for general meetings:
  - Dave (drinks) and Lisa (snacks) will make the arrangements in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

—Richard Teasdale

## 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/>.



Uncle DACS  
Wants YOU!

We rely on volunteers for all our activities. Current positions include:

**Vice President:** Help the president and eventually become new president.

**Social Media:** Help DACS post interesting technical content

**Painters:** Help with the renovation of our resource center.

**Workshop Leaders:** Organize a group, or join an existing one.

# September Meeting Review

## Samsung Devices

By William Callahan

**T**HE SEPTEMBER DACS meeting was truly a unique meeting; for the first time presenters from Best Buy showcased products and services from Samsung. The presenters, Cindy and Chris, provided a substantial amount of in depth information in a friendly and easy to understand manner.

Cindy and Chris started off by explaining the importance and process of backing up a Samsung device. Today, people are tied to their cell phones; we text one another, take countless photos, and use our phone as a media player. Our phones hold a significant amount of our lives that, if lost, could be devastating. Phones, when compared to personal computers, have a much higher risk of system failure; a simple drop from a few feet off the ground is enough to total your smart phone. To combat this issue, Cindy and Chris described two common methods to back up the data on your smart phone.

If a Samsung device supports the use of hot swappable Secure Digital (SD) cards, the user may utilize the Android system to back up specific user data. For example, a user may choose to back up their photos, texts, call log, and contacts. Additionally, the user may utilize other applications, such as Easy Backup & Restore that provide more comprehensive backup solutions to SD cards. By utilizing an SD card backup, the user can restore common data to a compatible Android OS if a system failure occurs with the original smart phone

The speakers also stressed the importance of using other backup methods such as Cloud storage. Imagine that you decide to only backup your data to an SD card. What if, for example, your smart phone had been dropped in water? Not only would the core components of the phone fail, but the SD card would

fail also. This is where the use of Cloud storage comes in handy. Using cloud storage provides the same functionality as SD card backups with the exception that the data is stored in a secure server somewhere around the world. Currently, Samsung is working towards releasing a new application called

the Samsung Cloud which will provide backup utilities. However, this application is still under development. As a result, Samsung users must default to a third party application, such as G Cloud Backup, until Samsung releases the Samsung Cloud. Of course backing up to a cloud requires an internet connection. To avoid unnecessary data usage fees, users should back up their system while connected to a wireless access point.

Transfer of existing phone data to a new Samsung device has never been easier. Samsung provides an application called Smart Switch that can pull data from an existing Apple smart phone or android device to your new Samsung phone. This includes your contacts, email address accounts, installed applications, and even the layout of those applications on your screen. Users start by downloading the Smart Switch application to their old device. New Samsung devices come with Smart Switch preinstalled. Once installed, the user connects the two devices with a USB cable or through wireless communication. From this point on, with Smart Switch open on both devices, the user only has to select the data they would like to transfer and start the process. Smart Switch makes transferring to a new Samsung device easy.

Samsung has stepped up the available authentication methods on the Note 7 by providing an Iris scanning capability. This method is said to be even more secure than fingerprint technology. This is due to the fact that fingerprints are left all over the things that we touch, including our phones. Essentially, we are leaving our password everywhere by using fingerprint technology. On the other hand, we do not leave traces of an iris everywhere we go. According to Cindy and Chris, both the new iris scanning camera and the algorithm behind the authentication is advanced enough to detect when a real eye is being shown to the phone. This should stop attackers from employing static images of your iris to unlock your phone. Unlocking your phone with Samsung's iris scanning is easy and reliable.

Samsung Pay provides payment methods using both Near Field Communication (NFC) and Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST). NFC is a new technology that uses paying at

supported terminals within a few inches of your device. The key point with this payment method is that the terminal must support NFC payment, which is not always the case. MST, however, allows the user to pay at almost any terminal that allows them to swipe their card. This technology works by transferring magnetic signals to the card terminal, tricking the card terminal into thinking a card was swiped. As a result, nearly all payment terminals are supported. Cindy noted that even if a cashier tells you beforehand that you cannot pay with your phone, as long as you are able to swipe a card, chances are that Samsung Pay will work.

Samsung provides an exciting new application called SideSync. With Samsung's SideSync, you can now mirror your Samsung phone's screen to any nearby Samsung tablet, PC, or Mac. SideSync provides the user with the ability to completely control all functions of their phone including making phone calls, getting notifications, and even controlling the camera! It is important to note the technologies through which you may connect to SideSync, however. Currently, SideSync allows the user to connect to another device over either WiFi or Bluetooth. For WiFi connections, the two devices must be on the same local network. You cannot, for example, connect to your phone at home from a business. Bluetooth, on the other hand, requires that the two devices be within the range limits of Bluetooth itself. Of course the connection range and reliability are dependent on interference from other devices and obstacles such as walls.

Cindy and Chris showcased a wide variety of products and services that Samsung provides. Much of the information Cindy and Chris presented is in no way well known by all Samsung users. Even I, a Samsung customer for over four years, was amazed to learn about many of the capabilities that my own devices have, which I have never utilized. Many thanks to Chris and Cindy for their wonderful presentation on Samsung devices.





## Meeting Preview

### Election Attitude - How Internet Voting Leads to a Stronger Democracy

by Andy Woodruff

**Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2016, 6:30 PM**

**Danbury Hospital**

**Robilotti Conference Center**

**Presenter: John Patrick**

*Note: This event is scheduled at 6:30 PM - an hour earlier than usual.*

**W**HEN INTERNET pioneer Dr. John R. Patrick spoke to us in May about "Net Attitude," he hinted he was also thinking about how elections could be improved with Internet voting. So we asked him if he could be ready to speak to us about this topic in time for the Fall 2016 elections. We were thrilled when he said yes! Indeed, John got to work and wrote another book during the summer.

In his new book "Election Attitude - How Internet Voting Leads to a Stronger Democracy," John explores how we register and vote in the United States, and how this system can be modernized and made more convenient, while maintaining Internet security and voting verifiability.

His previous two books included "Health Attitude", about computers and Internet usage in healthcare, and "Net Attitude," about the Internet. He utilizes the same principles in his research for "Election Attitude". First, he looks at what is wrong with the current

system. Then he looks at how these things can be made better with a new system. And he considers how this can be

John should know. He was a founding member of the World Wide Web Consortium at MIT in 1994, a founding member and past chairman of the Global Internet Project, and a Fellow of the IEEE. He is retired from IBM, where he was Vice President for Internet Technology. John has degrees in electrical engineering, law, management, and health care.

John knows how the Internet works, and he thinks a lot about how it will evolve and how we will utilize it. He is a guru who thinks ahead of his time. We have heard John's comments in his presentations in past decades, and we have seen his predictions come to pass in following years. John has long focused on systems that are ripe for computerization, and he is now looking at our election systems. He wonders: "Why has the mobile Internet permeated most aspects of our lives, except for voting?"

John recognizes problems in our current voting system:

- The United States has a low rate of voter participation. Voting is inconvenient, and many people do not make time for it.
- Millions of votes do not get counted, for various reasons. Some of these counting issues can be solved by improved technology.
- Most voter registration is performed with old non-computerized methods.
- Most voting is performed on old machines that run out-of-date software.
- "Physically going to a polling place is an old fashioned idea to millennials. They will begin to demand Internet voting."

"In my research for the new book, I found the situation in American voting even more archaic than in healthcare. I began to think there must be a way Internet technology can make voting more convenient, increase voter participation, and produce a stronger democracy."

John believes modernization, computerization, and Internet voting improvements are consistent with verifiable voting. He says that anti-Internet voting activists have convinced political leaders and election officials that the Internet is not good enough for voting. John points out how some states allow voting by US mail, where the risk of fraud is greater than with the Internet. John goes on to explain the details about how votes can indeed be authenticated, kept private, verified, and audited. Biometric methods can be utilized to identify voters. Modern blockchain technology



can be utilized to assure secure vote recording.

John maintains a positive attitude about the steps needed to modernize registration and voting. He quotes Internet pioneer, Vint Cerf, who said: "We can do this." There have already been pilot Internet voting projects in Arizona, Utah, and West Virginia.

John has graciously donated 20 copies of his new book, and we will give these copies to the first 20 DACS members who arrive. Additional copies will be for sale at a special DACS price of \$10. John will be available at the break and after the meeting to autograph books. Check out John's website at [johnpatrick.com](http://johnpatrick.com) to learn more about him, read his blog, and sign up for his weekly e-brief. Connect with him at [john@johnpatrick.com](mailto:john@johnpatrick.com) or Twitter @johnpatrick.

John has presented to us annually since the early 1990's. We are thrilled this will be his 25th presentation to DACS!

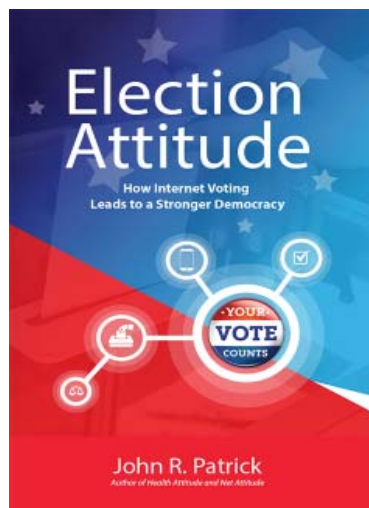
**Reminder:  
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event starts  
at 6:30 PM -  
an hour  
earlier than  
usual!  
Come ahead  
for best  
seating**



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# Workshops

## Workshop NOTES: October 2016

**Apple.** Focuses on all aspects of the Mac and iPhone operating systems.

**Contact:** Richard Corzo ([applesig@dacs.org](mailto:applesig@dacs.org)).

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Oct. 11

**Jobs.** Networking and jobs search

**Contact:** Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto: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](mailto:linuxsig@dacs.org)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** October 19

**PC Maintenance.** Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.

**Contact:** Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net)). Go to DACS Community Forum (<http://forum.dacs.org>).

**Online Business Workshop.** Informal member gathering sharing ideas on creating an online source of income.

**Contact:** Steve Harkness ([onlinebizsig@dacs.org](mailto:onlinebizsig@dacs.org))

Meets second Monday in Brookfield, or by Webinar.

**Next Meeting:** Check [dacs.org](http://dacs.org).

**Single Board Computers Workshop.** Explores small cheap computers like Raspberry Pi, Arduino, Netduino, Beaglebone, and more. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the

DACS Resource Center.

**Contact:** Jim Scheef (860-355-0034)

**Next Meeting:** Oct 20

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

**Contact:** Tom Zarecki 914-548-4948; email: [TomZshow@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Video Production.** The Video Workshop explores all aspects of video capture and production, including both inexpensive and professional choices for cameras and editing software.

Meets on the 4th Thursday of certain months, typically at 7:00 pm at the Resource Center. Check the Calendar for details.

**Contact:** Andy Woodruff ([awoodruff@dacs.org](mailto:awoodruff@dacs.org))

**Next meeting:** Check [dacs.org](http://dacs.org)

**Web Development/Design** This Workshop meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7-9 pm, at the DACS resource center. Although we cover many web-related subjects, most meetings will feature WordPress ("Content Management System"). We discuss its pros and cons, learn about theme editing, CSS, plugins, security, customization and more.

**Contact:** Annette van Ommeren ([avanommeren@dacs.org](mailto:avanommeren@dacs.org))

**Next meeting:** Oct.18

## Let's join heads!

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 discov-



ering with others like you.

Just send an e-mail to [dacsprez@dacs.org](mailto: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 . . .?"

# October 2016

## Danbury Area Computer Society

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9	10	11 <div> Apple 7:00 PM Richard Corzo applesig@dacs.org</div>	12	13 <div> Membership Committee 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034</div>	14	15 <div> DACS.DOC Deadline</div>																																																																																				
16	17	18 <div> Web Development and Design Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM avanommeren@dacs.org</div>	19 <div> Linux 7:30 PM Dave Mawdsley linuxsig@dacs.org</div>	20 <div> Single Board Computers Workshop 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034</div>	21	22																																																																																				
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## Review:

### Could Registering Voters the Web Untangle Our Election System?

by Jim Scheef

#### ***Election Attitude, How Internet Voting Leads to a Stronger Democracy.***

By John R. Patrick

2016 Attitude, LLC

AS WE NEAR ANOTHER climax in the seemingly endless cycle of political campaigns, we will soon have the opportunity to actually vote. Recently a significant amount of news coverage has been devoted to the election process itself. After many discussions about how our government would function, the Founding Fathers left the running of elections entirely to the states. John R. Patrick puts aside any hint of politics and begins his latest book with the premise that our democracy will be made stronger when more citizens participate in the vote, so Election Attitude is about how to achieve that goal. The subtitle says it all, John's premise is that voting on the Internet is a leap forward that will strengthen our democracy.

At 122 pages plus 61 pages of notes and index the book presents this topic as succinctly as possible and, as I read the book, I started to understand the complexity of the subject.

Election Attitude starts with an assessment of voter participation in the US compared to other countries, along with notes about the voting methods used, including absentee voting. John makes the case that our lower participation rates are not entirely due to apathy. If voting were no more difficult than buying a book on Amazon, increased voter participation would

strengthen our democracy. The book continues with an overview of the current state of voting in a variety of states, along with how we got here. Voting is as much about the technology as it is about the process. We learned this the hard way in the Presidential election of 2000 in Florida. After which, even Congress understood that our country had a serious problem. The Help America Vote Act, passed in 2002, gave the states block grants to update their voting technology. The equipment purchased at that time is now a dozen or more years old. Are you still using your laptop from twelve years ago?

In Chapter 3, John explains what he means by an Election Attitude:

"An election attitude is a different way of thinking about the voting process. For election officials and voting technology vendors, an election attitude means putting the citizen first, making it easy to register and vote in a way which provides the security, privacy, accuracy, verifiability, auditability and reliability people expect."

There is much more innovation in voting technology in other countries. Chapter 4 discusses Internet voting around the world. Estonia does all voting over the Internet. The system they implemented uses layers of encryption to provide security along with privacy and auditability. It is very innovative but it relies on a government-issued citizen identity card; something that is controversial here. In this country there have been trials in several states beginning in 2000 to improve voting access for military and overseas voters by voting over the Internet. The normal absentee process is just not suitable for overseas military and civilian voters due to the time it takes to obtain and return a paper ballot by mail. Remember, these voters must receive the ballot appropriate for their jurisdiction so they can vote on all of the positions and issues up for election in their precinct.

Chapter 4 continues to review the technology presently available for Internet voting. None of this seemed to be ready for full-scale adoption so the principles of Net Attitude apply here in spades: "Think Big, Act Bold, Start Simple, Iterate Fast". Internet voting must overcome a Catch-22: Only through actual trials can it be proven trustworthy, but it must be trusted before it can be tested. This comes from the knee-jerk re-

action of naysayers that the Internet cannot be secure.

In our polarized political society, naturally there are people totally opposed to Internet voting in any form, and they seem to be more organized than the proponents. The opposition takes the form of dogma as in: Internet voting is not secure and can never be secure. At several points in the book, John describes how this opposition compares Internet voting to an ideal voting system - something we do not have now. Such a comparison is unrealistic.

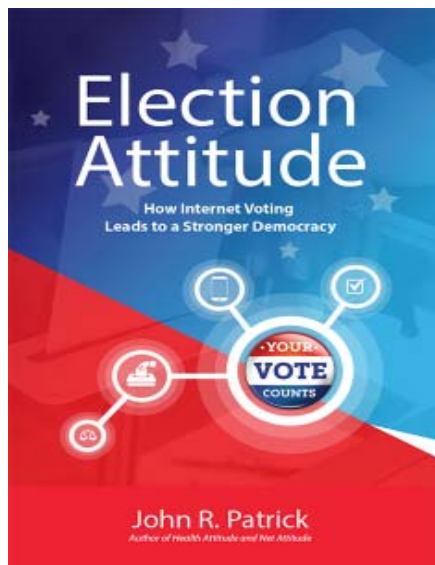
Internet voting is only one of the options to improve how we vote in this country. The states of Oregon and Washington have both adopted voting by mail which could be viewed as an interim step.

One of the possible technologies that could be employed to enable Internet voting is the blockchain. The blockchain is the basis for Bitcoin, the best known of the digital currencies. A blockchain is a distributed ledger that is maintained and synchronized across many servers which must all agree. Once a transaction is recorded in the blockchain, it can never be changed. Any attempt at altering a transaction would be refused by the other servers in the network, all of which follow the same rules. Anyone can add a server to this "system"; the software is all open source.

The same blockchain technology can be used for more than just Bitcoin. For example, it could record your automobile title. When you buy or sell your car, the transaction would be added to the blockchain. When you need to prove ownership or determine who owns a specific vehicle, the record could be retrieved from anywhere in the world. While votes may seem somehow different from money or vehicle ownership, they can be recorded and retrieved in the same way. The blockchain ensures the votes cannot be altered or lost once they are recorded. Naturally the book goes into more detail describing examples.

That John made all this logical and clear in a relatively short book gives credit to his writing style, which is clear and easy to read.

John has graciously allowed DACS to give a free copy of the book to the first twenty members arriving at the meeting on October 4th. Additional copies will be available for purchase.





# Back to Basics

## Changing to another Email Service

By Jim Cerny

**A**LMOST ALL COMPUTER users use email - and you are one of them, right? Have you ever had to change your email address or change to another email provider? Recently here in Florida (and I hear in Texas and California as well) our internet provider Verizon has been taken over by Frontier. As a result of this, EVERYONE had to change from Verizon to AOL for their email. Fortunately their Verizon email address will continue to be accepted by AOL (for now). The purpose of this article is to help you understand what steps are needed to change to another email. I do recommend Gmail because it comes with several other tools provided by Google and you most likely will never have to change to another email address.

Your first task is to go to the website and establish a new email account -- that is get your new email address and password. Please write it down and do not lose it! Once you have your new email ID

your major concerns are forwarding your old emails to your new email address, getting your address book (or contact list) to your new email and to notify everyone of your new address. Some emails (such as Gmail) may ask you what your other email address is and automatically bring your contact list and forward any emails from your old address to your new address. They want your email business. But if your address book is not copied over for you then you will have to do it yourself. By all means "ask Google" how to do it. For example, ask Google "How do I get my AOL address book to my Gmail contacts?" What you will most likely have to do is to create a file of your address book by "exporting" it and giving it a file name, then copying that file by "importing" it into your new email. After you do this you need to examine your entire address book, name by name, to see that all the data was copied correctly. You will probably have some editing to do to straighten things out. For example, some phone numbers may not have been copied over or a nickname may have been placed as the last name, etc.

Next it is helpful to have all your old email "forwarded" to your new email address. This way you do not have to hurry to notify everyone on your list that you have a new email. If this is not possible, you may have to go into your old email and actually forward those important emails to your new email. From now on, only use your new email address.

Finally, send a nice email to everyone telling them your new email address. It also is essential that you read the "help" or "options" for your new email so that you are aware of how to create new email folders, sort your emails, find emails, etc. Although every email can do these basic functions, how it is done may be different on different emails. And if you are converting to Gmail, be sure to check out the many apps that are available to you with your Gmail account ID. Now you are ready to enjoy using your new email.

One word of caution -- what if you have used your email address to establish accounts with various on-line businesses or services? Movie channels, banking, club memberships, etc. may be using your OLD email address as your account ID. Unfortunately, all of these accounts must be changed to your new email ID. This may entail you having to enter all new passwords for all these accounts as well. This can be a real pain if you have many accounts, but there is really no other way around this, sorry. Be sure to write down ALL your IDs and passwords for EVERY service or app which requires an account.

Good luck and please don't forget to Ask Google anything about your email. You will find very helpful instructions and videos to guide you. Now here's hoping that you will never have to change your email address again!

**JIM CERNY** is chairman, Forums Committee, Sarasota Technology UG, Florida ([www.thestug.org](http://www.thestug.org); [jimcerny123\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jimcerny123(at)gmail.com))

*This article appeared in the June 2016 issue, Sarasota Technology Monitor, and is reprinted by permission granted to APCUG member groups.)*

## There are Many Ways to Join DACS



An easy way to join DACS is to attend one of the monthly general meetings. General meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month at Danbury Hospital. Or join right on our Website via the PayPal link, where you may also pay by credit card without a PayPal account.

General meetings are always free to the public, but only members benefit fully from DACS' many other events, activities, and publications. As a member you become part of a dynamic computer group in the Greater Danbury Area.

You will receive a subscription to *dacs.doc*, our award-winning monthly newsletter, packed with news and information pertinent to computer users of all levels. In addition to interesting feature stories, the newsletter contains a monthly calendar of events and a recap of the the previous general meeting and last month's workshops. Members may also post questions to the DACS Community Forum.

Members may also attend the monthly workshops, where topics relating to computers, peripherals, software, and operating systems are discussed. Workshops meet throughout the month at our Resource Center in downtown Danbury unless mentioned otherwise in the calendar. Occasionally, special topic sessions are also offered to members.

### Individual/Family Memberships

Annual membership dues are \$40.00 for individuals or for each family living at the same address. Annual memberships which include a printed newsletter are available for \$60.00 a year.

# Word for the Wise

## Windows 10 - Resistance is Futile

By Greg Skalka

IN THE FICTIONAL Star Trek universe, the most dangerous adversary ever faced by the starship Enterprise and her crew was the Borg. A far greater threat to the United Federation of Planets than the Romulans or Klingons, the Borg was a collective of beings that acted as one, like a hive of insects. Their goal was to seek perfection in advancing their race; the result was the elimination of individuality.

As individuals, the Borg were organic humanoid life forms of various species that were extensively augmented with technology (Is a cell phone seemingly permanently affixed to a hand our start down this dark road?). Not only were they injected with microscopic nanomachines, many of their organs and limbs were enhanced synthetic replacements, resulting in a race of beings that were part organic and part machine. Through implanted cybernetic devices, all Borg were connected to the hive mind, sharing thoughts over a Borg version of Wi-Fi internet. The Borg drive for "perfection" causes them to abduct and assimilate suitable beings they encounter into their hive collective, and incorporate captured technology into the collective for their own use. Borg seldom speak as individuals, but often send audio messages from the collective to other species they encounter, often using the phrases "You will be assimilated" and "Resistance is futile".

The Borg first appeared in the second season of the Star Trek: The Next Generation television series in 1988. In addition to other Star Trek: TNG episodes, they appeared in the Star Trek: First Contact movie (1996), many episodes of the Star Trek: Voyager television series (1995-2001) and one episode in the Star Trek: Enterprise series (2001-2005). The Borg are finally defeated in the Voyager finale.

Around the same time in our real universe, Microsoft Windows was far and away the dominant computer operating system. Windows 3.1 was released in 1992, a few years after we were introduced to the Borg on TV. By the time the Borg were making their final TV appearance, Windows XP was dominating the computing world as the most popular desktop/laptop OS ever. I think XP was a great OS (I'm writing this on my last remaining XP computer, and I still use XP at work), but some felt Microsoft's dominance in the OS and office software product areas made them seem like the Borg. One member of our group (I think it was the

original Ol' Whitebeard, Al Brengle) had a tee shirt with a picture of Microsoft's then-leader Bill Gates made up as a Borg, with the caption "Resistance is futile, you will be assimilated."

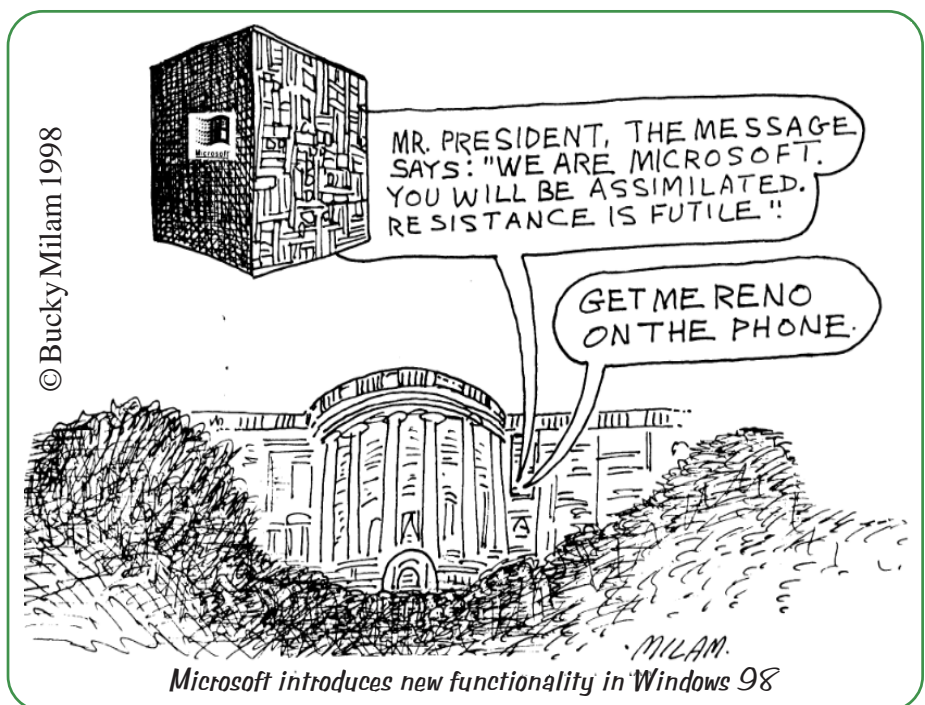
Unfortunately for Microsoft, they dropped the ball on seeking perfection, and later lost the war over computing device OS market dominance to a little robot (Google's Android) and a fruit (Apple's iOS). Their Surface tablet and Windows Phone OS could not compete after smart phones and tablets came on the scene in 2007 and have since become the dominant computing devices in terms of numbers. Microsoft still reigns supreme in traditional desktop/laptop (non-mobile) OS installations, but that slice of the overall computing pie continues to shrink.

Microsoft appears to share another attribute with Star Trek - the 'Alternating Good / Bad Syndrome'. For at least the early releases, the Star Trek movies seemed to alternate between good and dud, according to most fans. The first movie, Star Trek: The Motion Picture, and other odd-numbered releases, are not fan favorites, while the even-numbered ones, like Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, are generally regarded as superior. Microsoft seems to have followed the same pattern for OS releases since Windows 98, which was a success. The next offering, Windows ME, was kind of a flop. Win XP was a big hit, while Win-

dows Vista was generally a disappointment. Windows 7 is currently the most popular desktop OS (nearly 45% of desktops), while Windows 8/8.1, its immediate successor, has only one quarter of 7's market share. Though the pattern would predict that Windows 10 will be a success, it had a little less than half the market share (by browsing statistics) of Windows 7 in April 2016.

When Microsoft released Windows 10 on July 29, 2015, it appears to have desperately wanted a success, and have most users switch to their latest OS right away. Users had definitely shown a preference for hanging on to their old operating systems in the past. XP retained the top spot in use over Win7 until just before it lost Microsoft security support, and it is likely Win8 will never top Win7. To boost acceptance of Win10, Microsoft announced it would offer all legitimate owners of Win7 and Win8.1 a free upgrade to Win10 for one year from the release date. If you see the little Windows symbol in your system tray, you are entitled to the free upgrade.

My "if it's not broke, don't try to fix it" philosophy has so far led me to want to stay with Win7 on the four computers I've bought with it in the last four years. Windows 7 won't be getting any more feature fixes, but Microsoft is committed to providing security updates for it until January 14, 2020. By that time, I'll have probably lost interest in the hardware in these PCs anyway. Only once have I ever updated to a new OS on a computer (from ME to XP). When it is time to buy a new computer, I'll probably wind up with Windows 10 on it.





Microsoft's free offer was initially a soft sell. The Get Windows 10 (GWT) app got installed in every Windows 7 and 8.1 system tray, but it remained just an annoying pop-up on start-up. It was easy to decline the upgrade and continue with your business. Windows 10 started to appear under Windows Update, but only as an optional update. I have all of the computers I use set to check for updates, but let me choose when and if they are installed. I believe security updates are important, but am annoyed when I need to shut down my laptop to take it with me and am forced to wait on the shut-down while Windows installs updates. Since I don't get on my wife's desktop PC as often as I'd like, I have it set to automatically install important updates.

At some point this spring, Microsoft must have decided that we Windows 7 users were not adopting Win10 fast enough (this was predicted by Computerworld and reported by CNET - see links below). Apparently Microsoft became more like the Borg, insisting that our resistance was futile, and we would be assimilated. According to CNET, they changed the Win10 pop-up to trick users into scheduling the upgrade, and changed the upgrade from 'optional' to 'recommended' in Windows Updates.

I had heard rumors of this but it didn't hit home until my wife came running on Sunday, May 1, to tell me that Windows 10 was in the process of installing on her desktop PC. She claimed she didn't click on anything to initiate this, but I could imagine her being tricked fairly easily. Since the upgrade was in process, there was not much I could do but watch for 30 minutes or so while the upgrade completed. I spent some of the time on-line on another computer, researching how to undo the upgrade.

Once the upgrade was complete, the Microsoft software license screen appeared. By declining the software license terms, I was provided a choice to undo the Windows 10 upgrade. It only took about 10 minutes to uninstall, and then it appeared her Windows 7 installation was back to normal. I verified some of the basic programs she uses for work still worked, and then went back to my computer to research how to prevent this from happening in the future.

When I came back to her computer a while later, I found that Windows 10 was once again in the process of installing. I had to wait again for the install to complete, and then once again decline the license agreement, so that Windows 7 would be again restored. I had read online about remedies to this upgrade problem, but most were rather complex. There were things I'd have to do to prevent the upgrade, and things I'd had to do to remove the upgrade from her hard drive

(now the large update file was sitting on her hard drive, taking up space, just waiting for the opportunity to install).

In the end I chose a simple but so far effective way to stop the installation - I set her Windows Update settings to only update when and if I agree. This means the Win10 upgrade file is still sitting on her hard drive. I now must schedule myself to check for updates on her PC on a regular basis. Since Windows Update now always recommends the Win10 upgrade, I must go through a few more steps and deselect it from the list of recommended updates.

I do have one Windows 7 computer that I am considering allowing the free Win10 upgrade on; I need to figure this out soon,

as their offer may run out in a month. I wonder what will happen after July 29, 2016. Will Microsoft stop trying to assimilate my computers? Will they extend the free upgrade deadline, due to the poor acceptance of Windows 10 so far? In either case, I do hope resistance is not futile, and that no matter which OS I choose (and it remains my choice), my computers will live long and prosper.

**GREG SKALKA** is president, *Under the Computer Hood User Group*. ([www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org); President (at) uchug.org)

*This article was published in the July 2016 issue, Drive Light, and is reproduced by permission.*

## Soundtracks

### Using Bluetooth on Your Smartphone and Tablet

By Julie Mahaffey

**B**LUETOOTH IS WIRELESS and a way for devices to communicate with each other over a small distance. Created in 1994 Bluetooth® technology is a wireless alternative to data cables. Data is shared through radio waves rather than hooking a cable to a device.

Bluetooth connects the Internet of Things (IoT), machine to machine (example: smartphones, tablets, head-



The international symbol for Bluetooth

phones, speakers, etc.). A Bluetooth product, like a headset or watch, contains a tiny computer chip with a Bluetooth radio and software that makes it easy to connect.

See more at: <https://www.bluetooth.com/what-is-bluetooth-technology/bluetooth#sthash.BvuWBzJz.dpuf>

#### Bluetooth Facts:

- Bluetooth is everywhere - Smartphones, tablets, headphones, speakers, TVs, computers, cars, medical devices, etc.
- Bluetooth is low power - Runs off of small button batteries.
- Bluetooth is easy to use - When two Bluetooth devices want to talk to each other, they need to pair.
- Go to settings, turn on Bluetooth on both devices, hit the pairing button and wait for Bluetooth to connect.

- Bluetooth is low cost - Today Bluetooth is included in most devices but it can be added for a small cost.

#### Bluetooth Devices:

- Headsets - fits over your ear to make phone calls or listen to music
- Speakers - connect to tablet or smartphone for music listening
- Home Deadbolt Door Lock - lock or unlock a deadbolt lock with a smartphone
- Smart Pen for iPad - write and draw
- Weight Scales - connects to smartphone
- Armband Sensor - sends pulse rate to smartphone
- Keyboard - connect to computer or tablet
- Bluetooth Car Kit - hands-free phone call

#### Works Cited:

*Bluetooth Technology Basics* (Bluetooth. Bluetooth SIG, February 19, 2016).

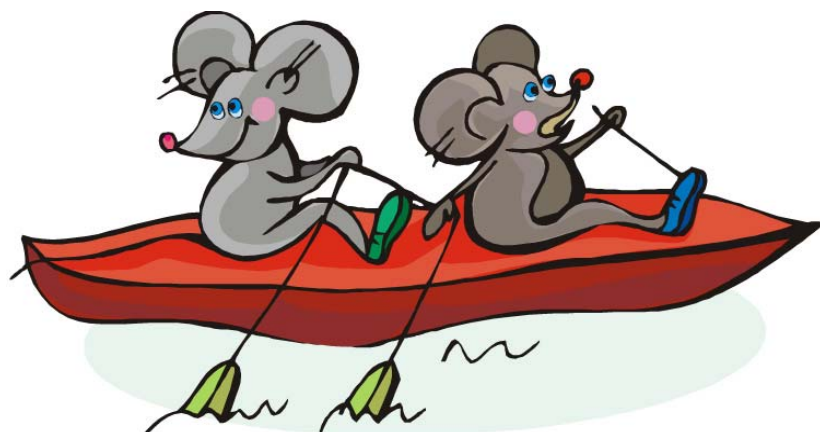
<https://www.bluetooth.com/what-is-bluetooth-technology/bluetooth-technology-basics>. [www.iconusersgroup.org](http://www.iconusersgroup.org) Cejmmahaffey (at) gmail.co

**JULIE MAHAFFEY** is a member of ICON (Interactive Computer Owners Network).

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When you come to the next DACS meeting,  
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## Future Events:

**October 4**

John Patrick  
Elections  
Technology

**November 1**

Al Fressola  
Intellectual Property

**December 6**

Bill Saturno  
Cable TV Cord Cutting

**January 3**

TBA