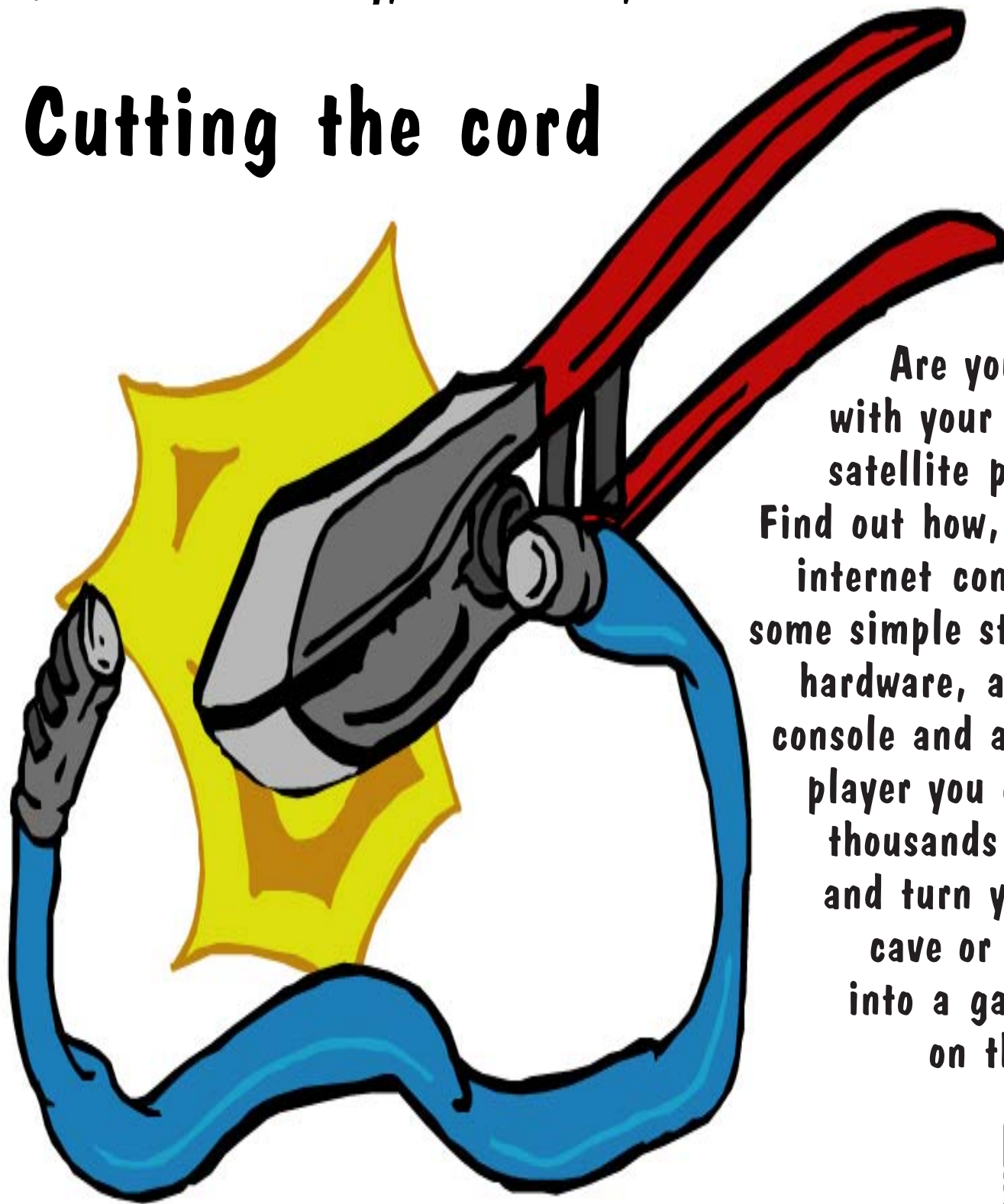


**Next Event: Tuesday, December 6, 7:30 PM**

## Cutting the cord



Are you fed-up with your cable or satellite provider? Find out how, with an internet connection, some simple streaming hardware, a gaming console and a blu-ray player you can save thousands in fees, and turn your man cave or TV room into a gala night on the town.



# Directors' Notes

## Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS)

### Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by the DACS President, Dave Green.

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

(Names in bold italics denote responsibilities for actions.)

- The Minutes of the 10/5/2016 Board Meeting were accepted.

#### Reports

- Treasurer's Report for October was presented. Bert reported that dues continue to lag and are now \$725. behind last year's.
- Membership Committee Report (**Jim**) - will be distributed 11/3. Cathy, via e-mail, reported 28 in attendance at the Nov 1st General meeting.
- Press Coverage Report (Dave) - **Dave** and General meeting.
- Webmaster's Report (Richard Corzo) - Our site was hacked and we restored from our backups. SiteLock notified us that our site was hacked as well as our Wordfence WordPress plug-in. We would need to pay SiteLock (initial quote is \$7.50/month) if

we want more than notification, such as more details.

#### Old Business

##### Cable TV Cord Cutting

- o Preview: Richard Corzo
- o Review: Jim spoke to Dave Mawdsley Jim Ritterbusch but neither has yet committed. He will follow up.

##### January 3rd: Jay Ferron — Microsoft HoloLens

- o Preview: Jim Scheef
- o Review: Richard will try finding a student, but there is no guarantee of success

February 7th: Jim agreed to follow up with Allan about the observatory

- o Preview:
- o Review:

##### • Renovation of Resource Center

- o **Andy** has been in contact with a retirement center that frequently replaces carpets. Feedback from them for enough lightly used carpeting is encouraging.

##### • Other Old Business

- o Slack - We added Annette and a #webmasters channel. We'll look for other board members to join. Both Dave and Dick indicated they will be joining soon.

- o **Jim** sent some board members the Survey Monkey credentials, so that a membership survey can be sent out about NAS and other subjects.

##### • **Richard** will follow up with Allan about honoring Bucky Milam.

#### New Business

- Snacks for December Meeting - **Richard** will bring beverages. Bert will ask Lisa if she will bring snacks. [Note: Lisa has confirmed that she will do it.]
  - Board member elections - Dick, Richard C. and Andy have agreed to run for reelection. Dave will contact Cathy.
  - The board voted to remove Tom Zarecki as a board member. He is no longer active as a board member and has not renewed as a DACS member.
  - There was a motion to reduce the board membership to 7. The motion failed so we can try recruiting some more members prior to the December general meeting.
  - We discussed whether it might be possible to offer co-working space at cheaper rate than the Hackerspace.
  - There was discussion about improving general awareness of DACS and all that we offer. Social Media was talked about and, in particular, how we could better leverage our Meetup group (currently has over 170 followers).
- Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## Membership Information

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### 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 |
|                 | Andy Woodruff       |

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

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Apple User Group

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**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:** Jim Scheef ([membership@dacs.org](mailto:membership@dacs.org))

**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



## 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!

## Shop at Amazon Smile

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





# November Meeting Review

## Software Patents and More - Al Fressola, Esq.

by Steve Harkness

**T**HE LAW FIRM OF Ware, Fressola, Maguire & Barber LLP was founded in 1921 and is located in Monroe, CT. The Firm specializes in intellectual property law.

AL FRESSOLA graduated from the University of Connecticut with an Honors B.S.E.E. and an M.S.E.E. Then he received an Honors J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Al was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1973 and then to the Bars of the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, the U.S. Court of Appeals - Second Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Al is also a registered patent attorney. He has served as the Chairman in the Intellectual Property Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. He holds memberships in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Al's 27 slides were very informative and presented in a very logical and methodical manner. He outlined the four different intellectual property types: patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets.

Al's first slide defined the difference between copyright law and patent law by showing one sentence from our US Constitution that empowers our US Congress "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors, the exclusive right

to their respective writings and discoveries." And reminding us that Science = writings = copyright law... and Useful Arts = discoveries = patent law.

Copyright protects original works of "authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression" like literary works, musical works, dramatic works, pictures, graphs, sculptures, audio & video, and architectural. Exclusive rights to these works prevents others from reproducing your work, displaying it publicly or even preparing a derivative work, such as a translation. A work prepared by an employee that is within the scope of his or her employment objective is considered to be the property of the employer. Generally, the owner of any resulting copyright is the employer. The company generally has an employee agreement that covers ownership of copyrights and other intellectual property.

"The fair use of a copyrighted work...for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research is not an infringement of copyright." [quoted from Federal law:17 U.S.C. 107] Factors that determine if you may use the copyrighted material include non-profit, educational purpose rather than commercial use, the proportion of the work copied, and the effect of the use upon the potential market value of the copyrighted work. An infringer of copyright is liable to the copyright holder for damages. Statutory damages in lieu of actual damages may be available and can range from \$750 to \$30,000 or if willful up to \$150,000. For works created on or after January 1, 1978, the duration of a copyright is the lifetime of the author plus 70 years when the work is fixed in a tangible medium of expression. For works made for hire, the employer is considered the author and owns all rights of the copyright and is good for the next 95 years.

Software is a "writing" like a book and is copyrightable.

Trademarks include a word like "NIKE" or a design like the "Nike Swoosh" or check mark" or a combination of the two. A "3D-Object" may be a trademark, such as the 3D Coke bottle. A sound may be a trademark, such as the ESPN "sound" of a blaring megaphone. There are four categories of "Word

Marks" ... generic, descriptive, suggestive and arbitrary or fanciful. Generic marks are not registrable. The duration of trademark registration is in 10 year increments provided that there is a continued use of the trademark. Trademark infringement occurs when a third party uses a mark that is confusingly similar to the registered mark.

A trade secret is information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, process, drawing, cost data, or customer list that is considered and treated as secret by the owner. Trade secret law is a state issue and thus can vary between states.

A patent gives the patent owner an exclusive right to exclude others from making, using, offering to sell, selling or importing the patented invention in the United States, while the patent is in force (approximately 20 years from its filing date, but does not begin until the patent issues). There are 3 types of patents: 1. A utility patent protects a new or improved machine, article of manufacture or process; 2. A design patent protects an ornamental design of a manufactured item for 15 years from date of issue. 3. A plant patent protects asexually-reproduced new plant varieties for a period of 20 years. The patent office provides a quick reference flowchart that provides patent eligibility guidance for invented products and processes.

Certain computer programs can be patented if the overall invention is significantly more than an abstract idea.

There are 3 types of patent infringement... 1. Direct infringement for manufacture, use or sale of any patented invention; 2. Indirect / inducement states that whoever actively induces infringement of a patent shall be liable as an infringer; 3. Indirect / contributory infringement is for offering to sell a component of a patented machine, manufacture, combination, or composition, or a material or apparatus for use in practicing a patented process, constituting a material part of the invention, knowing the same to be especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of such patent, and not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial noninfringing use. Your remedies for patent infringement include... 1. Injunction against an infringer to stop the infringing activity. 2. Damages suffered by the patent owner. Attorney fees and increased damages may be available if the court finds that the case is exceptional.

This was a very interesting and informative subject, with several questions posed during and after the presentation.



# December Meeting Preview

## Cable Cord Cutting

By Jim Scheef

Date: Tuesday, December 6th, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Danbury Hospital Auditorium  
Presenter: Bill Saturno

**T**HIS SHOULD PROVE to be a very popular topic for those many of us that use cable TV to watch television. Our cable TV bills are so expensive, with packages that include many channels that we don't watch. And the price keeps going up each year.

DACS member Bill Saturno will explain all about "cord cutting"—stopping your cable TV subscription—and possibly saving over \$1,000 every year. The discussion will allow you to better understand how you can do this by adopting the lifestyle of a "cord cutter." Learn about all the alternatives to an expensive cable subscription and be informed before leaping into this ever changing new media consumption trend.

You will need to understand your viewing habits to determine what movie, television, and video services you'll need, and what hardware to use (streaming box, gaming console, TV, Blu-ray player) to get access to those services.

Bill Saturno has been a cord cutter for over 15 years and has stayed actively involved with all the current

trends and options. He will help determine if cord cutting is right for you, explain all the choices that are out there, and provide a road map on how to navigate all the options available to put together a package that best fits you.

Bill Saturno has a passionate interest and experience in innovation, technology, sales, marketing and media.

He is president and cofounder of CT Hackerspace a 4,000 square foot volunteer community workshop (which includes a wood shop, metal shop, lecture/classroom area, library and more) located in Watertown, CT. He is a past hackerspace liaison with the Connecticut state government to provide insight and understanding on these new emerging spaces and the maker movement. He actively assists other local organizations looking to start their own makerspaces and hackerspaces.

He is also working with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to participate and help facilitate starting the Nation of Makers Organization, a national 501(c)(3) organization.

Bill is a long-time DACS member and former board member. You can check out his website at [PromoDog.com](http://PromoDog.com).



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.

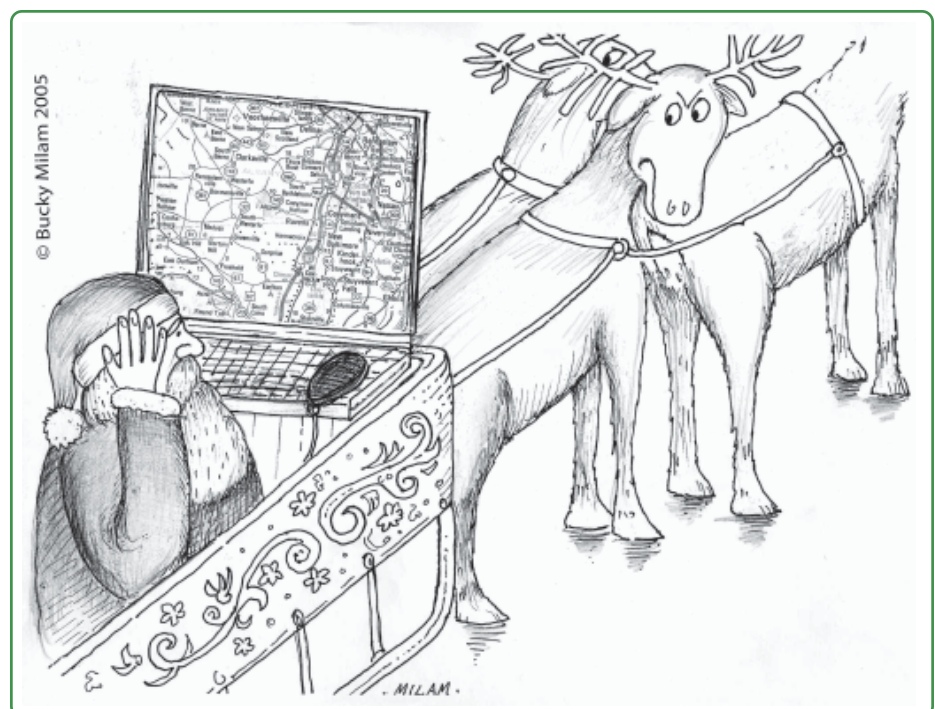
DACS holds its general meetings at Danbury Hospital, most often in the Creasy Auditorium, but occasionally in the Robilotti Conference Center across the hall from the auditorium. There is plenty of free parking in the guest parking garage adjacent to the auditorium. (Go to <https://dacs.org> to find directions and parking information).

## DACS Elections are coming in December



Be a candidate  
for the Board

Contact Bert Goff at [bgoff@dacs.org](mailto:bgoff@dacs.org), and say "I want to make a difference for DACS."



# Workshops

## Workshop NOTES: December 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:** Dec 13

**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:** Dec 14

**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:** Nov 17

**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 is on temporary hiatus. Would you like to take on the role of workshop leader? It's a great way to share information, learn new techniques, promote your business, and interact with like-minded people. Extensive web knowledge is not required, but a willingness to open a topic for discussion and enjoy the contributions and feedback from the attendees. Contact Annette for more information. Next meeting: Tentative start up again in April 2017.

**Contact:** Annette Van Ommeren ([avanommeren@dacs.org](mailto:avanommeren@dacs.org))  
**Next meeting:** Check [dacs.org](http://dacs.org)

## 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 discover-



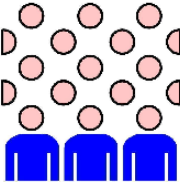









ing with others like you.

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 . . .?"



# December 2016

## Danbury Area Computer Society

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
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| 20   | 21     | 22   | 23   | 24  | 25     | 26  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 27   | 28     | 29   | 30   |   |        |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| S  | M      | T  | W  | T   | F      | S   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 1  | 2      | 3  | 4  | 5   | 6      | 7   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 8  | 9      | 10   | 11   | 12  | 13     | 14  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 15   | 16     | 17   | 18   | 19  | 20     | 21  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 22   | 23     | 24   | 25   | 26  | 27     | 28  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 29   | 30     | 31   |  |   |        |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 4  | 5      |  <p><b>General Meeting</b><br/>7:30 PM</p>  |  <p><b>Board of Directors</b><br/>7:30 PM</p>   |  <p><b>Membership Committee</b><br/>7:00 PM<br/>Jim Scheef<br/>860-355-0034<br/>Returns in January</p>  | 9      | 10  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 11   | 12     |  <p><b>Apple</b> 7:00 PM<br/>Richard Corzo<br/><a href="mailto:applesig@dacs.org">applesig@dacs.org</a></p>   | 14   |  <p><b>Single Board Computers Workshop</b><br/>Returns in January<br/>Jim Scheef<br/>860-355-0034</p> | 16     |  <p><b>DACS.DOC Deadline</b></p> |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| 18   | 19     |  <p><b>Web Development and Design</b><br/>Annette van Ommeren<br/>7:00 - 9:00 PM<br/><a href="mailto:avanommeren@dacs.org">avanommeren@dacs.org</a><br/>On Hiatus</p> |  <p><b>Linux</b><br/>7:30 PM<br/>Dave Mawdsley<br/><a href="mailto:linuxsig@dacs.org">linuxsig@dacs.org</a></p> | 22  | 23     | 24  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |
|    | 26     | 27   | 28   | 29  | 30     |                                  |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |

# Computer Security

## Ransomware - Protecting your ability to recover from an attack

by John Langill

A RECENT POSTING TO Yahoo.com reminded me that the key element to recovering from a ransomware attack is to have a reliable system image backup. Most computer users - you among them, I'm sure - are aware of this and have diligently performed regular backups. Some may have chosen to back up their systems to a Cloud-based service for which, if their backup files are sufficiently large, they pay a



monthly fee based on the storage capacity required. Others have preferred to keep things "close to the vest" and store their backup files on a local external hard-drive (never, ever store backup files on an internal hard drive) for which one with a three-terabyte capacity, for example, presently costs about \$100.

I fall into the latter group

Cost aside, both methods provide protection but also have their own particular drawbacks that are too often overlooked. What will happen, for instance, if some enterprising ransomware purveyor one day successfully manages to hijack (encrypt) all the client files that have been stored with the cloud-based service. Not possible, such services say. Well, that may be but just how sure of that are you really - or are they, for that matter? And, as sure as God made little green apples, you can bet that there is at least one someone somewhere trying to do just that.

The uncertainty of cloud-based services is what led me to rely on a USB-connected external hard-drive for storing my backup files; and I have been doing so for years with a blissful - and perhaps a false - sense of confidence that they would be secure and uncorrupted should they be needed. Ok, so what's the drawback in this method?

The fact is that a ransomware attack will - along with all files stored on the internal hard-drives - also hijack the backup files stored on an external hard-drive unless the drive is either powered off or physically disconnected from the computer at the time of the attack. Not a problem, said I - my USB 3.0 external hard-drive is equipped with an On-Off switch and I power it ON only for the time it takes to create a backup.

There's one other precaution I take and that's to set my cable modem to "Stand by" mode to disrupt Internet traffic during the time that a backup is created; thereby assuring that my system and external hard drives will not be vulnerable to attack while a backup is in progress.

Accordingly, I considered the risk of the backup files becoming corrupted was minimal.

And all was fine and dandy until I decided to swap a relatively low-capacity external hard-drive over to my laptop PC and to install two larger capacity USB 3.0 hard-drives on the desktop PC. The problem with doing this was that the newer drives did not have On-Off switches; and rummaging around behind my desktop PC (which, despite what it's called, is actually located under a desk) to connect and disconnect the USB cables from either the drives themselves or the PC was a real pain - it's a rats-nest back there, as many will probably know.

My solution: I purchased a powered 4-port USB 3.0 hub (under \$20) specifically for use with the two newly installed external hard-drives. Now, all I have to do is connect/disconnect the one cable between the hub and the PC. Fortunately, a USB 3.0 port on the front of my PC that makes this convenient and easy. The only thing I need to be careful of is making sure that the external hard-drives have both completed their respective operations before disconnecting the hub from the PC which, by the way, also removes power to the drives (i.e., acts as a defacto power On-Off switch).

Of course, if you use just one external hard-drive to store your backup files, and it has an accessible On-Off switch, you've no problem. Even if the drive doesn't have an ON-Off switch it's likely that restricting Internet access to it will be simply a matter of disconnecting the USB cable from the back of the device and that should not be much of a problem either.



Why do I have two external hard-drives? One is used to directly store backup files - which by the way, are always full system image backups - as they are created. The other serves to archive copies of previously created backups; that is, to back up my backups.

OK, so I'm paranoid when it comes to protecting my system image backups - it's not the worst of my faults. Admittedly, over the past 25 years or so, I can recall only once having to restore a system from a backup. I consider myself lucky on that score. But, with the chance of suffering a malicious attack rapidly increasing at the rate at which it is in today's world - and the risk will only get worse with time - I'd rather be overly cautious than suffer the consequences that could result from a lack of vigilance.

JOHN LANGILL is newsletter editor, STPCC (Southern Tier Personal Computing Club). <http://www.pageorama.com/?p=stpcc1979jlangill> (at) stny.rr.com.

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### 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/>.



# Data Entry

## Voice Control: HEY CORTANA, OK GOOGLE, SIRI & ALEXA

By Eric Moore

**R**EMEMBER DRAGON Naturally Speaking? It was, and still is, Voice Recognition software mostly used to control the operation of a word processor like Word. Certain words were used for very specific manipulation of the cursor and the text. Naturally Speaking came on the scene and became useful sometime around 1999 to 2003, depending on how much you needed to transcribe documents into the computer. Early versions had to be "trained" by the user to recognize their individual voice, and the speed and accuracy were sometimes acceptable, and sometimes not so much. Things have really improved since then; now the manufacturer, Nuance, claims in its advertising that "Dragon is 3x faster than typing and it's 99% accurate". So, Voice Recognition software has really come a long way.

(For those of you, who are not familiar with Naturally Speaking, it has three primary areas of functionality: dictation, text-to-speech, and command input. The user is able to dictate and have their speech transcribed as written text, or they can have a document synthesized as an audio stream, or they can issue commands that are recognized by the program.)

Naturally Speaking is an example of a local computer application or App. All the computing needed for it to operate is on the computer that runs it. Naturally Speaking doesn't take advantage of Client-Server technology. If you attended one of our classes, you will recall that when an application is implemented with Client-Server technology, the heavy lifting (computer processing) is not done locally, but rather at a Server that is very powerful and very fast, but remote from the Client. The remote Server is connected to the Client by the internet, which allows rapid movement of data between the Client and the Server. So the Client App runs on the local computer and is connected to the Server Software, running in the cloud, via the internet. This combination provides the total Voice Recognition & Control System. The client collects input from the user and sends it to the Server where all the really complex computing is accomplished. The Server analyses the input and develops the responses and sends them to the Client where the results are presented to the user in audio and/or display formats.

Naturally Speaking is certainly a useful product, but the voice recognition and control that has really gotten the attention of the public lately, are the intelligent personal assistants that are provided by some of the leading computer companies, Apple, Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. Apple was first on the scene with "Siri", followed by Google's "Ok Google", then, with Windows 10, came Microsoft's "Hey Cortana", and finally Amazon's "Alexa".

All of these are Client-Server implementations. The Servers are somewhere in the cloud and the Client resides on your smartphone, in the case of Siri and "OK Google", or on your laptop (or desktop, or tablet) in the case of "Hey Cortana", or on a special device that is placed centrally located in your home, in the case of "Alexa".

All of these assistants use a Natural Language User Interface to answer questions. You'll need a microphone on your device to take advantage of this capability. The Client app, on the device, uses the microphone to listen for a "Wake Phrase". After this phrase is recognized, the following intercepted speech is then sent to the Server where it is analyzed via speech recognition software, and converted to commands. The Server then uses these commands to gather answers to the original spoken inquiry. All of these assistants can make recommendations and perform various actions via their Server capabilities. (For example, a verbal request for the "weather" might yield various audible statements about the weather in your location. Or, a request for "traffic" might yield audible indications of the traffic in your location, or possibly maps indicating traffic problems. Or, a request for the best restaurant might yield a list of restaurants near your location. Or, if you have things set up, the statement "Add eggs to my shopping list" will yield an updated shopping list including eggs.)

Here are some descriptions (and advertisements) found for each of these Voice Recognition & Control Apps.

- Siri (Speech Interpretation and Recognition Interface) is a computer program that works as an "intelligent personal assistant" and "knowledge navigator", according to Wikipedia. "The software adapts to the user's individual

language usage and individual searches with continuing use, and returns results that are individualized", also from Wikipedia. "Hey Siri" is the wake phrase, which can be turned on or off.

- OK Google lets you do things like search, get directions, and create reminders. For example "OK Google do I need an umbrella" to see if there is rain in the weather forecast. To use "OK Google", make sure you have the latest Google Search App and turn on "OK Google detection" in settings.

- Cortana is an App with which you can use your voice to make a call, send a text message, search the web, or open another App. Cortana can help you: schedule a meeting, set a reminder, get up-to-date weather or traffic. (Note: you need a Microsoft account to use Cortana.) "Hey Cortana" seems to be tied to the "Notebook", and thus is setup in the Notebook-Settings, which may not be obvious. (You get to the Notebook-Settings by clicking in the search bar on the Taskbar, then selecting Notebook [the square icon under the home icon], and finally Settings.)

- Alexa is the name of Amazon's assistant that comes with the Amazon Echo. Echo is a wireless speaker and voice command device. The device consists of a 9.25-inch tall cylinder speaker with a seven-piece microphone array. "Alexa", the "wake word" is always on and can be changed by the user to either "Amazon" or "Echo". The device is capable of voice interaction, music playback, making to-do lists, setting alarms, streaming podcasts, playing audio books, and providing weather, traffic and other real time information. It can also control several smart devices. Echo requires a Wi-Fi internet connection in order to work. The Echo must be plugged in to operate since it has no internal battery.

If these personal digital assistants are successful, many more may show up. I just read that the company that brought us the SoundHound App also has a personal assistant called Hound that they hope to embed in other applications so that those Apps can be voice controlled. Imagine setting up an Uber ride by voice. (If you will recall, SoundHound is like the Shazam App, just hum a tune and it will tell you the tune's name.) With all these personal assistants around, we certainly will never have to feel lonely.

*PHIL SORRENTINO is contributing writer, The Computer Club, Florida (<http://sccccomputerclub.org>; [Philsorr.wordpress.com](mailto:Philsorr.wordpress.com); [philsorr@yahoo.com](mailto:philsorr@yahoo.com)). The article is reprinted by permission for APCUG member groups.*

## Candidates

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The following DACS members have been nominated for the Board of Directors for 2016 -2018. Please show your support by voting at the annual meeting, December 6, or by volunteering to serve on our Board.



**Richard Corzo** (incumbent) – Richard Corzo has been a computer programmer for 40 years starting on IBM mainframes and working his way down to personal computers and now doing web applications. He's been a PC user and DACS member since 1993 and a Mac user since 2000. He has written many articles on operating systems and utilities for the DACS newsletter and has twice been a general meeting speaker. He has been leader of the Macintosh/Apple SIG since the spring of 2004, coleader of the Mobile Devices/Windows 8 SIG since April 2012, and is interested in keeping DACS current with the latest technology. Richard was DACS president from April 2010 through March 2014.



**Dick Gingras** (incumbent) — Dick Gingras has been involved with computer user groups for nearly 37 years, and held leadership roles in the Danbury Osborne Group (DOG), and the Western Connecticut Microcomputer User Group (WCMUG). He was one of the founding members of the Danbury Area Computer Society in 1990 and elected president, a position which he held until 1995, and later from 2014 to 2016.

He is a graduate of the UConn school of Engineering and an avid UConn basketball fan. He transitioned from a career in electrical engineering to software development influenced by his passion for computers and involvement with DACS. He is a principal of PC Solutions, a software consulting company. For over two decades he has developed several large business and internet applications for GE Capital, Price Waterhouse, Duracell, Chevron, United Health Group, AMS Consulting, The Hartford, and XL Insurance.



**Andy Woodruff** (incumbent) — Andy Woodruff has been on the DACS Board since 2010 and a DACS member since 1991. He also has previous experience on the boards of nonprofit organizations of various sizes. He served five years as a board member and chair of the Finance Committee at an organization that is much larger than DACS and runs a 7-figure budget ([www.rowecenter.org](http://www.rowecenter.org)). He also chaired the startup committee that wrote organizational bylaws and obtained IRS 501(c)(3) status for a new nonprofit organization ([www.ctswing.org](http://www.ctswing.org)). Andy has dual careers as an engineer and professional cellist, both on a contracting basis. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has degrees in physics and electrical engineering from Brown University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Andy has participated in the DACS Program Committee, and various workshops, including Web Design, Digital Imaging, and Video Production.



**DACS Members** — Residents of one of our regional towns and members of DACS since joining who are interested in computers, but do not feel they know everything there is to know about them. They attend meetings regularly, and feel DACS should have an important role in educating the public on new computer technologies.

These members have volunteered for local organizations and community service, but so far think their background is not up to the level of those gurus on the board. Perhaps these persons think that computer clubs are different from other non-profit community groups that serve beginners as well as advanced users.

# Ballot

I (we) hereby appoint Dave Green or Bert Goff proxies to vote in my (our) stead at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. as follows:

The election of the following to serve as directors for a term of two years and until successors shall be elected and shall qualify (vote for no more than five):

• Richard Corzo

• Dick Gingras

• Andy Woodruff

• \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

(Membership in DACS is a family membership. If there are more than one member in your household, all please sign.)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

## Notice of the Annual Meeting of Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 6, 2016

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. will be held at the Danbury Hospital Creasy Auditorium, at 24 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing directors. The number of directors is fixed at seven individuals in two alternating classes of three and four. Each class serves for a term of two years, and this year the individuals named above have agreed to stand for re-election or election to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Members to be held in the year 2018.

If you do not plan to attend the meeting, please return the attached proxy to:

Bert Goff  
65 Legion Rd, New Milford, CT 06776  
to arrive prior to December 6, 2016 and express your preferences.

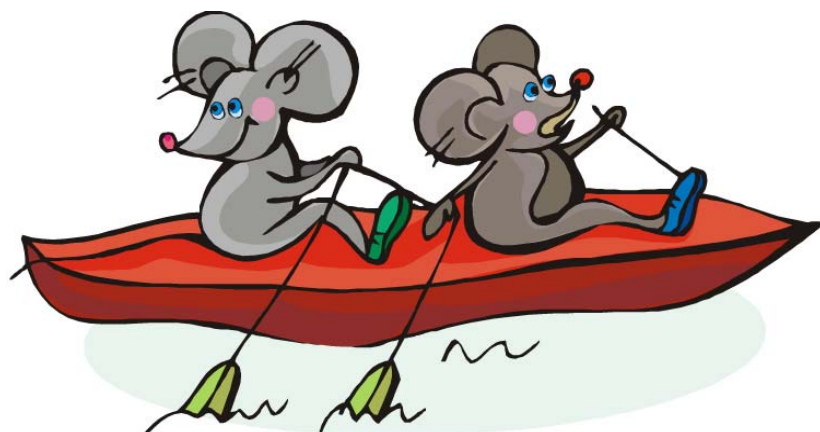
Your presence in person and participation in the meeting would be appreciated. Come and hear not only what we accomplished this year, but what - with your help - we hope to do in the future.

Respectfully,  
David Green, President



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?



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gift of speech  
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[www.voiceforjoanie.org](http://www.voiceforjoanie.org)

## Future Events:

**December 6**

Bill Saturno  
Cable TV Cord Cutting

**January 3**

Jay Ferron  
Microsoft HoloLens

**February 7**

TBA

**March 7**

TBA