

**Next Meeting
August 6:**

**With Microsoft's Office 2013, You Can Save
Your Software and Your Files in the Cloud—
and Maybe Save Some of Your Wampum, Too!**



Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Attending were Richard Corzo, David Green, Bruce Preston, Lisa Leifels, Andy Woodruff, Bill Saturno, Drew Kwashnak, Annette van Ommeren. Visitor: Charlie Bovaird.

The minutes of last meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand 6/1/13	\$4,561.28
INCOME	
Dues:	\$371.49
Bank Interest:	\$0.12
Total INCOME:	\$371.61
EXPENSES	
Resource Center Phone:	\$82.84
Newsletter Printing - June (16 pages):	\$103.00
Newsletter Printing - July (12 pages):	\$88.00
Newsletter Postage:	\$42.24
Renewal Letter Postage:	\$6.93
Total Expenses:	\$323.01
Balance on hand 6/30/13:	\$4,609.88

Membership Report

MAY 7 - Health Care & Internet - John Patrick
 JUNE 4 - Twitter & Soc. Media - Jennifer Scott
 JULY 2 - PagePlus X6 - Bruce Preston

	MAY	JUNE	JULY
seat count	46	38	33
members signed in	34	31	27
visitors signed in	4	7	6
Paying members	124	124	121
w/ email address	107	112	111
new members	1	1	0

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DACSDOC			
printed	75	75	75
number of pages	12	16	12
mailed	64	63	64
mailed-members	45	44	45
mailed-other	5	5	5
mailed-free lib	14	14	14

Old Business

1. General meetings

- July 2: Bruce Preston - PagePlus X6 Desktop Publishing. Preview: Drew Kwashnak Review: Allan Ostergren. Sean H. filled in for Jim Scheef to do Ask DACS.

- August 6: Office 2013. Carolyn Bighinatti will attend with some speaker from the Microsoft Store. Preview: Richard Corzo Review: Richard Teasdale

- September 3: Ken Graff - digital photo editing, organizing, and sharing online. Preview: Lisa Leifels Review: (Andy backup)

November - Mike Kaltschnee - Danbury Hackerspace. Preview: Bill Saturno, Review: _____

• Possible future topics:

- Presentation on Facebook - Jim has worked with another organization (AMC) and they have gotten volunteers to post about 3 times a week. It is a long-shot as a meeting topic, but he hasn't crossed it off as a possible topic yet. We could ask one of the speakers from the Mad Hackers Conference (<http://madhackersconference.com/speaker-bios/>), such as Bill DeRosa. His bio includes mention of Pinterest, in case we also want that covered.

- Demonstrate apps for mobile devices-smartphones and tablets. This could be a meeting with multiple presenters for a full session, or it could be a small segment after Ask DACS. The iBook (Apple iTunes store), "The Telegraph: 500 Must Have Apps" would be a good resource.

- "SIG Open House" session where the SIG leaders set up 'tables' to discuss their activities. This would be done between the Ask DACS session and the featured presentation. It was suggested that the room across the hall would be a good location for this. Another suggestion made was that each SIG get a 10 minute session, one SIG per meeting. Perhaps start SIG presentation sessions in October.

- Jim was pursuing a presentation on Electronic Medical Records, etc. with *Directors' Notes*, Cont. on page 3

Membership Information

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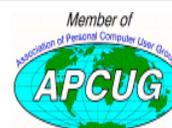
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Applications & Hardware to enhance *dacs.doc* are welcome.



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Apple User Group

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HelpLine

Our former telephone HelpLine has been replaced by our web-based DACS Community Forum at <http://forum.dacs.org>. We have topic-specific forums where DACS members can post questions. Questions may be answered by SIG leaders or other DACS members. If none of the categories fit your question, just post it to the Ask DACS forum.

Topic

Microsoft Access
.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

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

Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 2

Danbury Hospital. Since we haven't gotten a response after several attempts we will drop this. We will continue with "LifeStream" monitoring. Mike Kaltschnee mentioned FitBit (currently available at BestBuy) or other 'wearable electronics'. Considering session on wearable technology such as this for the January session.

° Mike Kaltschnee and Jon Gatrell volunteered to do a presentation in September on the Danbury Hackerspace and Innovation Center. There could be a tie-in with the World Maker Faire conference at Javits Center this September and the Danbury HackerSpace opening. However, Mike discovered he will be leaving town the day of the general meeting. He started to ask Sean H. to fill in, but Richard asked Mike to do it a later month.

° Windows 8.1 Blue - will be a free upgrade out later this year. We should have a presentation on the update from the Microsoft Store. It could also include information about the Microsoft Surface Pro (the Intel-based Microsoft tablet that will also run Windows desktop applications in addition to 'apps').

° Bruce withdrew the topic of repurposing an old machine (such as an XP era machine, since XP support is being sunsetted) as various people have pointed out that it probably doesn't make sense to reuse really old components as they may be approaching hardware failure. Instead he will do a Virtual Machine session and show that an XP machine (or earlier) could be built to support legacy applications.

° Do a tour of Windows Live Suite: Photo Gallery, Movie Maker, Mail, Writer (blogs) etc.? Ken Graff will probably be mentioning Photo Gallery in his presentation.

° Now that the new OS X Mavericks release has been announced to come out in the fall, we should ask Dave Marra to do another presentation as the time draws nearer.

° Andy suggested a session on creating a web site of various types: blog, brochure, e-commerce site, etc.) - making use of such products/services as site builder (online or on PC), turn-key sites, etc. Andy suggested that as a computer group we should do some sort of session that would answer the question: "I think I need a web site, what

Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 5

Meeting Review

PagePlus: Electronic Publishing for the Rest of us

By Allan Ostergren



GUTENBERG'S BIBLE, published in 1455, signaled a revolution that would last for more than half a millennium—the transition of book publishing from a disparate group of monks, artists and essayists, to typesetters and printing houses. Only just recently, in the dawn of the twenty-first century, another information revolution is occurring—returning the power of the press back to the movers and shakers of human knowledge.

Information technology has enabled human beings to assemble and distribute ideas at breathtaking speed but there are still bottlenecks. Getting something published in 'trade press' now requires larger 'guaranteed' press runs, so it is harder for someone to publish limited distribution. At our July meeting, Bruce Preston outlined two solutions he has found for his IT clients who are looking to self-publish: e-books and print-on-demand publishing.

Desktop publishing has long been dominated by powerful design adversaries like Adobe (Pagemaker, InDesign) and Quark (QuarkXPress). Both platforms are complex, expensive, and tailored to the needs of graphics professionals. Microsoft Publisher, a more light weight option, insists upon the use of templates and comes in a proprietary format not accessible from other Office Products.

Bruce turned to PagePlus from Serif, a British independent that has been in the page design business since 1987. Serif has just released version X7 (\$99) but version X6 is still available at \$60, and a free starter edition is also available. Serif also publishes a variety of independent programs for graphics, Web design, photo editing, and other purposes, although much of this functionality is included in PagePlus.

In his presentation, Bruce went through the various tools and 'tabs' in PagePlus, which are similar to those with other mainstream applications. He explained the concept of enclosing text in frames, and showed the difference between regular text and artistic text. He imported a story from MS Word and demonstrated overflow options, creating a new frame on a new page and storing items on the clipboard to let the user create frames manually. He then demonstrated adding a photo to the article and flowing text around it.

PagePlus features line tools such as the "Smart Line", to create Bezier curves for flowing text. Bruce showed how to create a logo by using a line to create a winding path and then having artistic text follow the curve. PagePlus includes Logo Studio for more complex applications. He then showed how a lasso selection tool can be used to tie objects together so they are treated as one.

Bruce then demonstrated WritePlus, a full screen text editor, bundled in the program, that lets you edit your copy outside the bounds of the design workspace. A video - one of the approximately 700 tutorials included in the program - was used to show how to remove the background from an image.

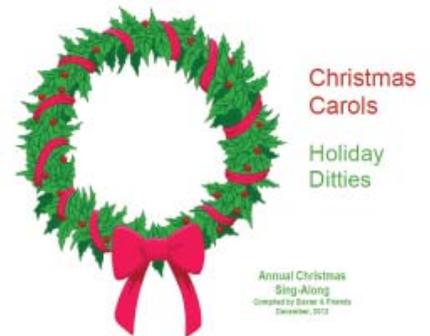
Advancing to the practical applications of the software, Bruce demon-



strated BookPlus - a bundled feature of the program - that lets you create chapter files and arrange them in order, edit and renumber pages, adjust styles, and create a table of contents and index. He showed how he helped a client publish a hard cover book consisting of 32 chapters - each a PagePlus document (.PPP) but tied together with a BookPlus project (.PPB), describing a mechanism for creating a table of contents and an index.

In finishing, Bruce showed how to create a business card that displays the

front cover of the book on one side and the table of contents on the other. He demonstrated creation of a "Press Ready" PDF file, and discussed the process of getting a book published. Then, on a festive note, he showed a booklet of Christmas carols and jingles - 50 on 28 pages, with appropriate clip-art, all created in PagePlus.



Note: If you want to download PagePlus, go to <http://www.serif.com/pageplus/>. The installation file is 1.6 GB, so you may have to wait several hours, depending on your download speed. When the file has downloaded, it will prompt you to select install.

There is a free version of the software, called PagePlus SE (Starter Edition). It is based on a previous version (PPX5). The user must download and install the program, then get an activation code through their email in order to unlock the software. Documents are limited to five pages and there is no output to PDF. The user has access to free designs and templates to download from the site. **Caution: When installing the PPSE, do NOT install the ACT.COM toolbar, let it become browser home page, or allow it to add PagePlus toolbar.**

If a person tries SE, they get a 40% discount offer towards the purchase of the current full product.



Meeting Preview

Microsoft Office

by Richard Corzo

THIS YEAR MICROSOFT released an updated version of its Office suite, Office 2013 or, as Microsoft is more apt to call it, Office 365. To explain it all to us, we will have a speaker from the Microsoft Store at the Danbury Mall, accompanied by Carolyn Bighinatti, the Community Development Specialist at the store. She last visited us at our December 2012 meeting on Windows 8, filling in at the last minute for our originally scheduled speaker whose flight was delayed.

Come learn about the new Office and what Microsoft has added and improved. Our speaker will cover it all, starting from the hardware and OS requirements you need to run the new Office. We'll learn how Microsoft is really promoting the convenience of its Office 365 subscription plans, so you can install Office on up to five computers, rather than buying an individual copy which can be installed on only one computer.

We'll also learn how the new Office is more cloud oriented so that you can store your documents in your Microsoft

SkyDrive cloud storage area, accessible from multiple computers, and even edit your documents in a Web browser when you're away from your computer.

This program will have lots of demos to show how it will make your work easier. Aside from the staples, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook, we'll find out more about the OneNote application, which is also available on mobile phones and syncs with OneNote across all your computers.

DACS meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. (Go to www.dacs.org to find directions and parking info). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration and casual networking. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with a Q&A period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and a short break. The featured presentation begins at 8:00 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

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.



Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

are my options?" This might involve a "high level" overview of the various approaches.

2. Open positions

◦ Bill Saturno is now our APCUG representative. He has the site credentials and is reviewing the DACS profile.

3. DACS had a booth at the Danbury Mini Maker Faire on June 8. We had 37 visitors leave us their e-mail address. We followed up with a welcome e-mail and a reminder of the July meeting. The meeting log and the log from the booth will be compared tomorrow to see if we got any July meeting visitors from that list.

4. Sean H. declined our offer to join the DACS board, but we will follow up with him with a mechanism to support and encourage his activities. A suggestion was made that he be asked to communicate with potential members (i.e. visitors to recent general meeting.)

5. Jim renewed our contact with TechSoup. We ordered the Adobe CS6 Design and Web Premium suite for the co-webmaster.

New Business

1. Paul Chayka of Robotics & Beyond has asked for some DACS member volunteers and some brochures to distribute at their summer camp:

The Robotics And Beyond summer camps begin on July 15 and continue to August 9, held in the New Milford High School library. We are always looking for experienced adults to stop in for a few hours on any given day, to serve as mentors to students working in areas of programming in various languages, operating systems, various electronics projects and various levels of computer hardware. The mentoring simply consists of talking to students and asking if they have any questions that the mentor might be able to answer. What would be the best way to extend an invitation to the DACS membership?

Also, I would like to again make DACS pamphlets available to parents and students during the camps. If available, these can be dropped off at the camp or mailed to the address below.

Charlie will hand-deliver brochures, and also send out an invitation to members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32.

— Bruce Preston

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: August 2013

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

Contact: Richard Corzo (macsig@dacs.org).

Meets 2nd Monday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Aug 8

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

Contact: Ken Graff at 203 648-9747 (thedigitalwiz@gmail.com). Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Aug 31

Drupal. Covers all things on Drupal, the open source content management system (CMS).

Contact: Jim Scheef (jscheef@dacs.org).

Meets on the second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center, or go to the DACS Community Forum (<http://www.dacs.org/forum/>) within the Members only area.

Next meeting: Aug 11

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: Sep 18

Mobile Devices. Focuses on smartphones, tablets, and e-readers of all makes and models.

Contact: Richard Corzo and Jim Scheef (Mobilesig@dacs.org)

Meets 4th Thursday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center

Next Meeting: Aug 25

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>).

Server. Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook. SIG is on hiatus and presently merged into the Drupal SIG.

Contact: Jim Scheef (jscheef@telemarrsys.com), or go to the DACS Community Forum: <http://www.dacs.org/forum/>, within the Members-only area

Web Design and DTP. Learn about Adobe software for web, graphics and desktop publishing.

Contact: Annette van Ommeren (avo@annagraphics.com).

Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Sep 16

SIG News & Events

Apple. At the July meeting we had a new member who was going to be taking over maintenance of a website. She had the URL (web address) and the FTP connection parameters to be able to upload or download files from the website. She had no previous experience being a webmaster, so we went over some basics.

The first task was to make sure she had a local up-to-date copy of the website. She had obtained a copy from the previous webmaster, but we needed to be sure that she had a copy that matched exactly what was on the web server. She had FileZilla installed, an FTP client application. We first figured out that the website was installed in the public_html folder on the server, and then downloaded a copy of the site to a subfolder of her Sites folder in the home folder on her Mac. Since we were getting timestamps based on the time of download rather than the original file timestamp, we found the option to preserve the file timestamps and downloaded the site again.

She was also new to learning HTML, the tag language from which websites are built. We found the local copy of the home page, a file called index.html, and using the text editor TextWrangler, commented out a link (an <a> tag) using the characters “<!--” and closing the comment with “-->”. We uploaded the file to the web server, and could see in the browser the home page without the link we wanted to get rid of. Going forward, she will learn to use Adobe Dreamweaver, so that

she can change the design of the web pages as well as edit the content.

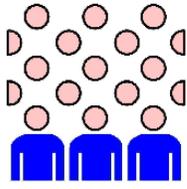
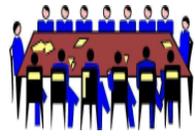
Mobile Devices. In June we answered a question about apps in Google Play being available on more than one device that you own. It turned out that there was some confusion for a member who bought a new tablet with the Google Play store on it. She had downloaded some apps on her new tablet and wondered why she couldn't on the old tablet.

The old tablet had an app store called Getjar built in. It did not have Google Play built in but she could browse to the Google Play website. If you log in to that website from any computer or device, it can show you what apps you have downloaded to your Android device(s) registered with the Google Play store. However, it does not mean that you can download an app to that particular computer or device unless you are viewing it from one of your Google Play-registered devices.

On the Windows 8 front one of the members said she was missing the New > Folder option on the context menu when right-clicking inside a folder in the File Explorer, so she had no way to create a new folder. As a workaround we suggested using the mkdir command in a Command Prompt window. To restore the missing menu option we found this possible registry fix online. It turned out that she had run a “cleanup” utility against her registry, which caused the menu option to be missing. I strongly recommend against using such tools.

August 2013

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jul 2013</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sep 2013</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				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				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						<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
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		 Web Design & DTP Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM <i>avanommeren@dacs.org</i> Cancelled for August		 Mobile Devices 7:00 PM Jim Scheef & Richard Corzo <i>mobilesig@dacs.org</i>																																																																																						
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Palm Computing

Tablets- a review with random musings

By Frank Ramsey

THOSE OF YOU THAT know me understand I have fallen in love with tablets. They are sweet in my mind. This doesn't mean that all tablets are created equal.

I thought it was time for some random musings on what I've found in the tablet markets.

My tablet journey has consisted of 16 tablets with something like 10 different models.

I've owned: Apple iPad 1, Apple iPad 2 (2 of these), Apple iPad 3, (all 9.7"), Samsung Galaxy Tablet 8.9 (4 different ones, all 8.9") a Sony S Tablet (9.7"), an Asus TF101 (10.1"), an Acer A500 (10.1"), a Toshiba AT305 (10.1"), an Acer W500 (10.1"), and a Google Nexus 7 (7").

I've also spent significant time with Lenovo's ThinkPad Tablet (10.1").

Of the tablets I've experienced, four have run Apple iOS, 10 have run Android of various versions (2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.x, 4.1 and 4.2) and one runs Windows 7/8.

I currently have 4 tablets, two iPad's, the Nexus 7 and the Acer W500.

Observations

My first suggestion is don't buy a cheap tablet. You'll be sorry. You'd be better to wait till you can afford the \$200 price of a Google Nexus 7 than spend \$100 on a low end tablet.

Why you ask? The low end tablets are under powered and have very limited storage. And they typically use resistive touch screens. Without getting into the dynamics, resistive touch screens are not as sensitive or responsive as the capacitive touch screens used on higher end tablets.

With the Google Nexus 7 selling for \$200, buying something less expensive to save a few bucks will only bring on frustration.

That brings another observation. Buy a general purpose tablet, not a reader.

Amazon and Barnes and Noble both sell very good tablets in the Amazon Fire and Nook Tablet.

However, all these are intended to lock you into their store. You buy your books and applications only from them. Unless you root the device. We'll talk about rooting a little later.

Give the Google Nexus 7, which is available for 200 bucks. Pass on the Amazon and Nooks and go for it as a fantastic general purpose tablet.

Customizability

By this I mean your ability to change how the tablet looks and works. This should be more than just changing your wallpaper.

iOS limits the customizability to what Apple feels you should do. Changing the wallpaper and organization of the applications is about all you can do. Even when

jailbroke, you cannot perform a lot more extensibility on iOS.

Android allows a lot more customizability. You can change the wallpaper, including live wallpapers that change while you view.

Android also allows you to change the default keyboard and other input methods and select alternate launchers. What's a launcher? Basically a launcher is the method you interface with the tablet. Think of this as the look and feel of the screens.

Overall, Android allows more extensibility than iOS.

Applications

Applications written for tablets typically use higher resolutions.

Applications written for phones use lower resolutions.

I know! . . . duh! . . . Right!

Screen Size

I like to hold the tablet in one hand in a vertical position and use my other hand to navigate on the tablet.

Given this, I find the traditional sized tablets of either 9.7" or 10.1" too big, bulky and heavy to hold comfortably in one hand for very long.

My favorite tablets are the smaller sized ones. 7" is a good size for personal

viewing of videos. It can be a little too small when viewing web sites. The 8.9" form factor is about perfect in my opinion; videos are great and web sites show clarity.

Storage

The presence or lack of expandable storage probably isn't too big a deal for me. Tablets typically come with some built-in memory ranging from 2 GB and up to 64GB or more.

The more storage, the more stuff you can store on the tablet. Another duh . . . right?!

I don't use my tablet to listen to music—a waste of good hardware in my opinion. I carry either an iPod or Sansa device to listen to music. That's what they were made to do and they do it very well. Music typically takes lots of storage; removing it saves a lot of space on the tablet..

I find 16GB a decent amount of internal storage. That's enough to store 10 or so movies for viewing on long flights.

Books and applications typically don't take a lot of storage, 16GB is a decent amount. Sure, you'll not be much of a pack rat with 16GB.

Larger amounts of storage allow you to get sloppy.

Expandable storage can be used to back the device up which we all should do, right?

Device memory

Here you have to watch. It's pretty easy to find the amount of storage. Much more difficult to find the amount of memory in the device. My experience is if the device has 512KB or less, stay clear. It's going to run out of memory and slow down.

iPads and most higher end tablets have at least 768k memory. Some have 1 to 2 GB. The more memory, the more applications. On a duh role aren't I!

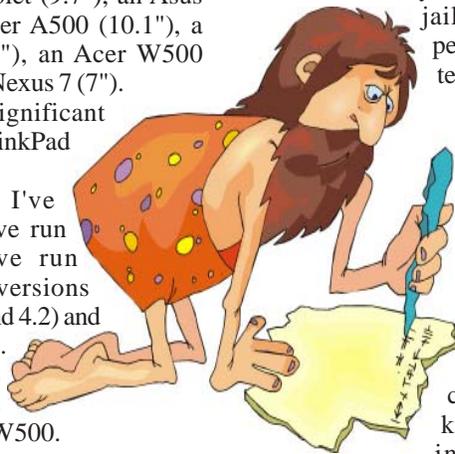
CPU

Again, here you may have to search to find the specs on the tablet.

The best tablet experience also has fast multicore CPUs. Didn't know tablets come with multiple cores on their CPUs, heh? Well it's true.

Quad core tablets are all the rage. The Nexus 7 uses a quad core CPU and it's fast and responsive.

Dual core tablets are normally responsive, but there may be times you experience a lag because either you don't have enough memory or enough CPU to do the task you're asking for.



My suggestion is get at least a dual core CPU running at least 1.0 GHz.

Battery Life

iPads have better battery life. Before you get ready to argue with me, this is my column with my observations, so I can write what I feel. So there!

However, this is backed up by a number of independent studies.

Why you ask? iOS is a single tasking operating system. The application that runs is in the "fore ground". Other applications simply pause. This saves battery life.

Android allows applications to run in the "background." You may find the features performed by the background applications useful, but they do affect your battery life.

Screen Resolution

The more expensive tablets come with better screens. Currently, iPad 3/4 and the Nexus 10 have the highest pixel count screen.

Can you see the difference? Absolutely. This truly is a time where more is better!

What price do you pay for the increased screen resolution? You will pay a price in battery life as the more pixels to be changed, the more power that it takes.

You may not see much difference when watching movies, although you can see the difference on the iPad 1 and iPad 2 with their lower resolution screens pretty easily.

Select a table that has at least 800x600 resolution. If you can afford it, go for 1280x800 (720p) resolution.

Cameras

Tablets have built in cameras, sometimes multiple ones, front and back.

They can be useful if you're Skypeing with someone. You will probably not use the cameras for much, although the higher resolution ones (5 mpixels and up) take great pictures.

An Android tablet running Ice Cream Sandwich (Android 4.0) typically has a panoramic view allowing you to have a scene that pans a wider area, much like a wide angle lens. It's a unique feature that you might find useful. There are multiple applications available to edit the photos on the tablet.

Application Stores

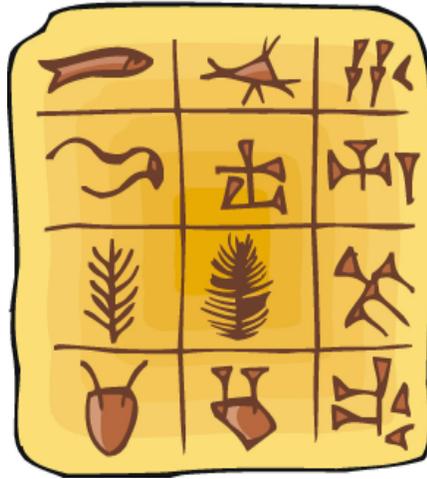
Applications written for tablets typically take advantage of a tablet's higher resolution screen.

The Apple Store has more applications than Google Play and more that take ad-

vantage of a tablet's higher resolution screen.

Having said this, you will find both stores have selections in almost whatever type application you desire. Lots of games, utilities, weather updates, etc.

Without jailbreaking, iOS applications can only be downloaded from the Apple Store.



Android tablets can download from the Google Play store, the Amazon store and other locations. You don't need to root the device to enable installation from other than the Google Play store, however.

Rooting/Jailbreaking

Both refer to the same thing, but on different platforms. You root an android tablet and jailbreak an iPad.

So what is rooting/jailbreaking? Basically it's removing the limitations the hardware vendor placed on you.

Jailbreaking an iPad means you can install applications from places other than the Apple Store.

Once jailbroke, an iPad can install applications from non-Apple Store locations. Additionally, you can customize the iPad interface somewhat. Not as much as Android allows, but you can add things like a mouse driver.

Rooting an Android device allows more control over the hardware. Typical things you can do include over or under clocking the CPU (running the CPU faster or slower than rated). Note: you don't really need to under clock, as the Android OS does a pretty good job of slowing the CPU down when it's not required. Another thing rooting does is allow for total backups. I know, you mean you cannot backup everything about an Android tablet without rooting? Sad, but true. While email accounts typically are synced with your Gmail account, application settings are not.

Do you need to jailbreak or root the tablet to enjoy it? Absolutely NOT! I used to jailbreak/root a device soon after acquiring it. Now I'm not finding the need to jailbreak/root it. Just enjoy the tablet is my current view

Expandability

By this I mean accessories, cases, hardware add-ons, etc.

iOS takes the cake here hands down. There are simply more add-ons available that use the Apple Dock connector. Radios, speakers, video games, even piano keyboards.

Apple has complicated this with the iPad 4. The Apple Dock connector was changed from the 30 pin one that has been standard. This immediately obsoleted many of the hardware accessories out there. Yes, there is an adapter from the old to new Apple Dock.

Android tablets have suffered and continue to suffer special connectors which limits the reusability of devices. Even power connectors can be unique to a tablet.

Android allows Bluetooth connectivity for keyboards and mice while iOS only supports Bluetooth keyboards. Both support Bluetooth headphones.

As previously discussed, iPad does not support addition memory, while many Android tablets allow you to use a SD or microSD card for additional storage.

I do encourage protecting the tablet with a case and possibly a screen protector.

There are a lot of different cases available. I prefer those that allow you to have the tablet vertically and horizontally. They're called 360 rotatable.

I also like cases that allow the tablet to be detached and protected. Not a lot of these are available in the 9.7" or 10.1" tablets. The 7" tablets have a number of better options.

Screen protectors are available for almost any tablet. Some will say if the tablet has Gorilla glass (a type of glass that resists scratches) you don't need a screen protector. Personally, I prefer a screen protector on every tablet, as the screen protector can improve readability in bright light situations.

Manageability/Backups

How do you manage the tablets?

iPad makes it easy. iTunes is the universal answer. You transfer music, movies, and applications within iTunes. You backup the device using iTunes. You restore to a new device using, yes, iTunes.

Tablets, Cont.on page 11

Commentary

Are we all turning into magnetic ink?

By Greg Skalka

I've miles

And miles

Offiles

*Pretty files of your forefather's fruit
and now to suit our great computer,
You're magnetic ink.*

(From "In the Beginning" by Graeme Edge, from the album "On The Threshold of a Dream" by The Moody Blues, 1969)

ARE WE ALL TURNING into magnetic ink? That poem was written over 40 years ago, before the Internet, server farms, Amazon.com, big data, social media and digital image recognition, yet it predicts a road we are traveling down now. In the liner notes, it is the "Establishment" that speaks these words, with the goal of turning man into a quantifiable set of data. Are we all on our way to being defined by our data?

Companies compile more and more data about our habits and preferences, reducing our privacy and our ability to remain anonymous. From Google's targeted advertisements to Amazon's purchase suggestions, we are being reduced to a database of our likes and dislikes, ready for commercial exploitation. Our web searches are tracked so we can be presented with "more relevant" advertising, but the goal is more effective advertising, meaning more sales for less cost. It may be nice to be presented only with things we really would be interested in, but when algorithms are implemented incorrectly, it can lead to limiting and even inaccurate suggestions. I once bought my daughter a lamp she wanted as a gift from eBay; now I regularly receive suggestions for other lamp purchases, something I care nothing about. The history of one oddball purchase may haunt my account forever.

A bigger problem is privacy in this era of commercial digital surveillance. From all this seemingly innocent and inconsequential data being collected about us, we could become defined by our purchases (like the lamp) or our searches. It

has probably gotten to the point that one must be careful about what one searches for on Google, or any other search engine.

While the Internet represents an almost unlimited data resource, asking for the wrong things could get you in trouble, or at least earn you an undesirable label. This goes way beyond the obvious illegal activities like child pornography or online involvement with hate groups. Simply searching for information about embarrassing topics like incontinence or a gambling problem can put those topics into your "profile", so later ads reflect those issues. When you let someone else use your computer, those embarrassing issues may be revealed. And since that data is out of your control, who is to say that someday a record of your searches on cancer won't be sold to life insurance companies that could use it to deny you additional coverage.

Though the commercial world probably collects more data, governmental categorization of all of us is even more troubling. Repressive governments all over the world use data collected on their citizens in bad ways. Searching on the wrong topics in some countries can lead to imprisonment. Here we would hope to have more freedom and privacy, but some day, following another incident like 9/11, could we find a misinterpreted web search leading to a visit by the FBI or inclusion on a no-fly list?

There are also real criminals out there trying to collect data on us. Whether it is data to be sold or used for identity theft, or personal information from social media sites exploited for scams, home burglaries or child abductions, our data is sought after by malicious people intent on taking advantage of us. Once again, this may be data that we have no control over, stored on company servers, perhaps with poor safeguards.

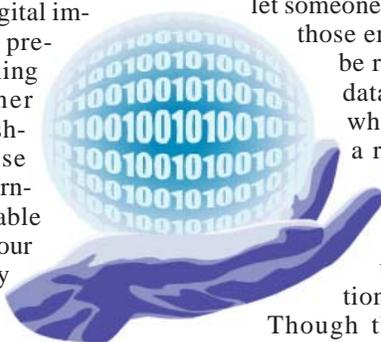
Unfortunately, we are often willing, though possibly unknowing participants in this conversion of our lives into data. All the information we freely share on social networking sites can be a treasure



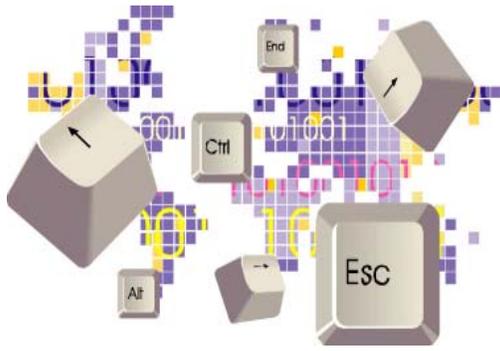
trove to marketers, prospective employers and anyone interested in taking advantage of us. As time goes on, new ways are developed to monitor each of us, from location tracking through our phones, keyword analysis of our emails and facial recognition and tracking of our movements through security camera images. Even data collected with the best of intentions can fall into the wrong hands, or the intentions of the collectors can simply change. Once lists are started for convicted criminals, sex offenders, the mentally ill and potential terrorists, how hard would it be to make more lists, like of those that complain about the government? After all, we are only data.

Where to Put All That Data

All the data we store, and that others store about us, has to be kept somewhere. Today it is stored not in the "magnetic ink" of magnetized domains on recording tape, but in magnetized regions



of spinning metal platters. Mechanical hard drives, though losing out in some applications like tablets and phones to solid state memory, are still the primary means of bulk data storage. Seagate recently shipped its two billionth unit, the first hard drive manufacturer to reach that milestone. That is a hard drive for almost every third human on earth. While



that seems amazing, what is really of interest is how they got to 2 billion. They have been making drives since 1980, and took 29 years to produce and ship their first billion units. Their second billion took only four years.

That is a tremendous amount of digital storage, especially since that last billion were probably each 100 GB or larger drives.

This exponential increase in cumulative drive capacity is necessary, as our need for storage grows exponentially. In 2007, we were uploading just over 5 hours of video to YouTube each minute. Now it is estimated that 72 hours of video is uploaded per minute to the site. To put this in perspective, if you were in the habit of watching YouTube 12 hours a day, every day, then in the five minutes it will take you to read this column, another month's worth of new content was put on the site. The break is over; get back to watching!

High-Tech Pants

I just bought a new pair of my favorite kind of pants, Costco's Kirkland blue jeans, and got a surprise. Costco jeans have gone high tech. The product label advertises a new feature I'd not seen before - a cell phone pocket. It seems that Costco has tinkered with the classic five-pocket design and turned the small right front coin pocket into a cell phone pocket. They made that pocket deeper and a bit wider, so it could hold a standard cell phone. A large smartphone would probably be a tight fit. Of course, making that pocket so much deeper makes it useless for holding (or at least extracting) coins.

Most people today think that fifth pocket was designed for coins, but in the days before cell phones and wrist watches, it was meant to hold a pocket watch (the kind on a chain). That was the intended purpose of that pocket on the first Levi's 501 jeans introduced in 1890. If this cell phone pocket thing catches on, it would thus be appropriate, as many people have stopped wearing wrist watches, using their cell phones as timepieces instead. If we get to the point where we also use our phones for making retail purchases like they do in Japan, then we won't need to worry about where to put our displaced coins either.

Just A Minute

Intel has produced a graphic and video outlining what happens today in an Internet minute. It shows 639,800 GB of global IP data transferred on the Internet in a minute, with the amount of various activities in that time listed. Some numbers are staggering (6 million Facebook views, 204 million emails sent), some are crazy (320+ new Twitter accounts, 1.3 million video views) and some are scary (20 new victims of identity theft, 135 botnet infections). And just as with hard drive shipments, future growth for the Internet appears to be exponential. Today the number of networked devices equals the global population; by 2015, it will be 2x. If the Internet and the number of devices on it keep growing this way every minute, it won't be long before humanity is minute by comparison. < <http://intel.ly/wjibt1> >.

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Tablets, Cont. from page 9

Android doesn't have an iTunes. Most of the manageability is drag and drop. Want to copy an application to the device? Drag the install file from your laptop to the device. Need to copy a movie? Same thing, drag and drop. Music? Ditto!

Backup of an Android tablet requires an application. Yes, you can "mount" the tablet's internal storage on your laptop and copy the files from the tablet to the laptop.

Without rooting the Android tablet, backups do not include application settings. Want to preserve your high score or customized settings on your favorite game? The only way is to root the tablet and run a program like My Backup Pro or Titanium Backup Pro

Whew! Are you as tired as I am?

You've probably noticed a lack of Windows tablets? Ok, the Acer W500 is a Windows tablet and it's currently running both Windows 8 and Android Ice Cream sandwich.

I simply cannot afford a Windows Surface tablet. They do look very interesting. The main claim to fame seems to be the ability to run Microsoft Office. Hummmm, is this enough to sell a \$500 device? Stay tuned!

We've been through a lot, and hopefully, you have a better idea about tablets and some pointers on what to look for when shopping for a tablet.

What other things might you find?

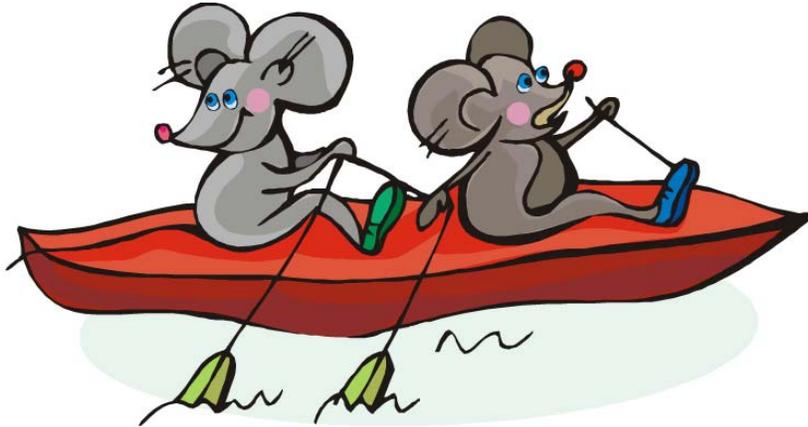
FRANK RAMSEY is newsletter editor, Akron Canton PC Users Group, Ohio (www.acpcug.org; Aframsey@yahoo.com).

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Something's Missing!



Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to record some portions of the Ask DACS session at the July general meeting. We will print an expanded report in the September issue of DACS.doc.



When you come to the next DACS meeting,
why not bring a friend?



Voice
for
Joanie

Help give the
gift of speech
Call Shirley Fredlund
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and become a
Voice for Joanie
volunteer
www.voiceforjoanie.org

Future Events:

August

Microsoft
Office 2013

September

Ken Graff
Organizing, Editing
& Sharing Photos

October

TBD

November

Danbury
Hackerspace