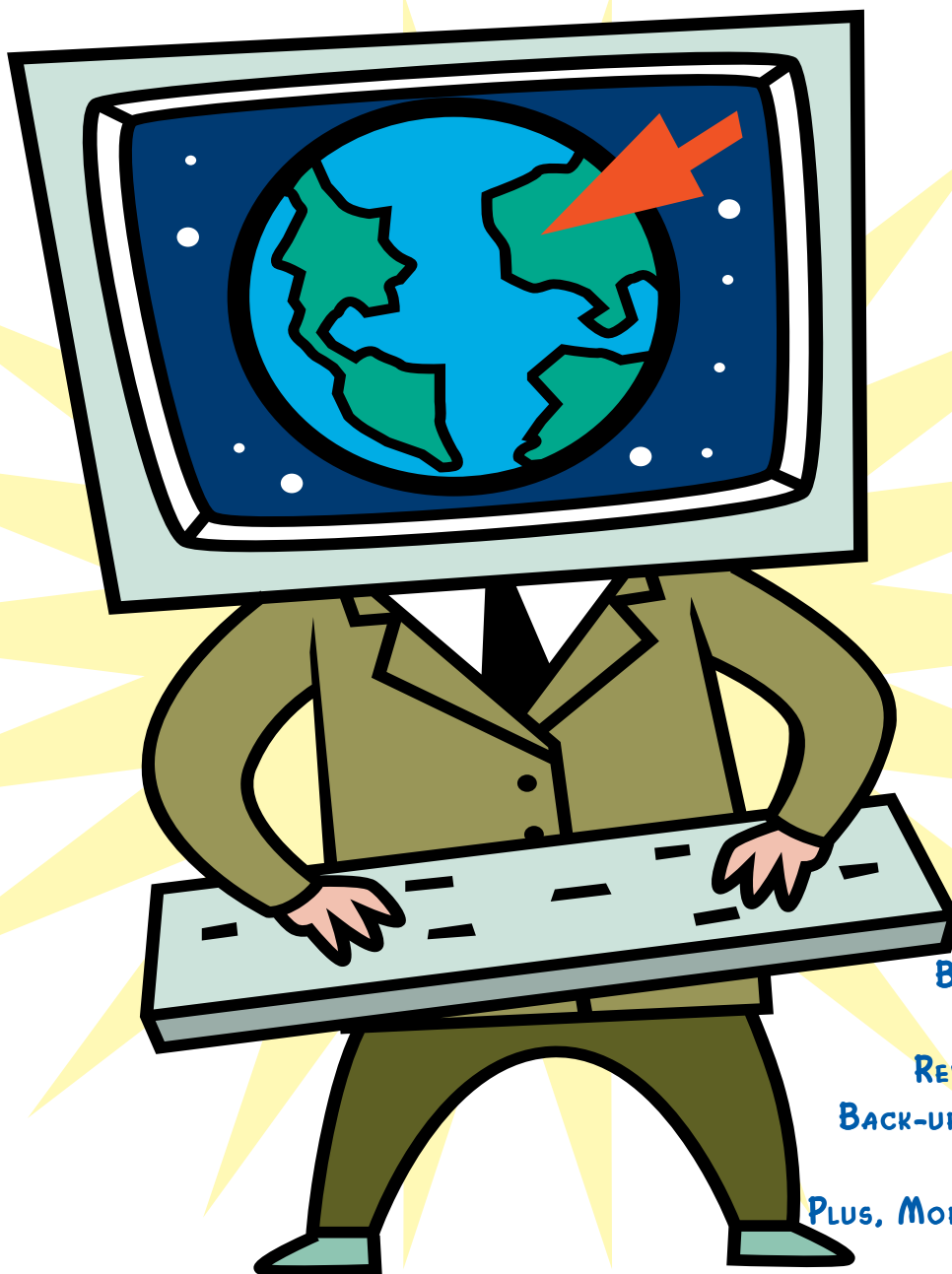


**NEXT MEETING,  
TUESDAY,  
MAY 4:**

**WORDPRESS IS THE FREE AND  
EASY TOOL TO SHARE YOUR  
IMAGE—AND ALL ITS CONTENTS—  
ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB**



## **INSIDE:**

**ONLINE OFFICE SUITES  
BLOGGING WITH WORDPRESS  
PRINT SERVER SET-UP  
REVIEWS: PARTITION MASTER,  
BACK-UP AND RESTORE STRATEGIES  
BEWARE OF WARES  
PLUS, MORE CLUB NEWS, CARTOONS,  
COMMENTARY AND Q&A**

## From the Editor

### What's Up, DACS

By Patrick Libert

#### DACS is Perking

Our first Board meeting under Richard's direction yielded several changes and additions thanks, in large part to everyone's active participation, and to many new ideas from our past President, Rob.



The presence of three guests helped us fill the long-vacant position of vice president of programs and to find a replacement for our secretary, Mary Tobin, who must devote her time to her demanding career.

Join me in extending our thanks to Chris Furey, our new VP of Programs, to Bruce Preston who will assume the Secretary's duties and to Rich Difrancio who will disseminate DACS' activities to the various media outlets.

Don't think that you are off the hook! We need the participation of ALL members for DACS to continue to succeed.

#### Program Preview

I can't wait to hear Bruce Preston's presentation on Creating a Blog with WordPress at our May 4 general meeting.

I enjoy blogging as a way to release my literary talents, limited as they may be. I had looked at WordPress two years ago but chose to use Blogger at that time because of its simplicity. It's not that WordPress is more complex but it offered many other options with which I was not familiar.

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Previewing Bruce's presentation convinces me that I should switch to WordPress in the near future. And, it will also encourage you to launch a blog and expand your communications network.

Don't miss this presentation! Tuesday, May 4, 2010 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Danbury Hospital auditorium.

#### New and Notable

I promised last month to have more comments on **Slacker Personal Radio**

I have set up a free trial account to experience firsthand PC World's recent review (<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2340024,00.asp>).

According to this article, Slacker is slicker...that is when referring to the site's interface and capabilities. It also claims that the sound quality is better than that of Pandora, but, since at this time I am only listening on my iMac's internal speakers, any difference would probably not be discernible.

The annual cost is slightly higher than that of Pandora if paid in one annual installment but if this allows me to tap a music library that is considerably larger than Pandora's, it's worth it.

I will make my final choice soon after I have begun streaming music from my iMac to my home stereo system.

I suggest that you try both free versions and let me know what YOU think.

While we're on the subject of music, here's an interesting fact: LP records are making a comeback. (<http://www.inquisitr.com/60017/the-return-of-the-lp-and-the-future-of-book-publishing/>)

Why? The younger generation is discovering that the LP's sound quality is much better than that of the mp3 format. No kidding. I could have told you that a few years ago as I held on to a few dozen of my favorite LP's for home listening. My Dual direct drive turntable has finally succumbed to advanced electronic old age, but there are viable replacements on the market.



## Membership Information

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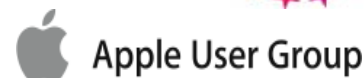
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## HelpLine

*Volunteers have offered to field member questions by phone. Please limit calls to the hours indicated below. Days means 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; evening means 6 to 9:30 p.m. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are calling. HelpLine is a free service. If you are asked to pay for help or are solicited for sales, please contact the dacs.doc editor; the person requesting payment will be deleted from the listing. Can we add your name to the volunteer listing?*

**d = day e = evening**

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## Directors' Notes

A regular meeting of your Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Charles Bovaird, Richard Corzo, Drew Kwashnak, Patrick Libert, Rob Limbaugh, Anna van Ommeren, Jeff Setaro, Jim Scheef, Joseph Tobin and Bruce Preston. Guests: Rich Difranco, Andrew MacGinitie, and Chris Furey.

President Richard Corzo presided and Secretary Mary Tobin kept the record.

Minutes of the last meeting held March 14, 2010, were presented and approved.

Treasurer Charles Bovaird reported current cash assets of \$5791.80, consisting of total bank and postal accounts in the amount of \$5757.42 plus postage on hand of \$34.38.

Subtracting a liability of prepaid dues in the amount of \$115.00 left a net equity of \$5676.80. He also reported that the current membership is at 179, 72 of whom receive the newsletter.

### General Meetings

Reviews – April: Patrick Libert; May: Rob Limbaugh; June: Joseph Tobin  
Previews – May: Rob Limbaugh; June: Andrew MacGinitie

### 2010 meeting topics

- **MAY – WORDPRESS BLOGGING—BRUCE PRESTON**
- **JUNE – MAKING A YOUTUBE VIDEO—SCOTT PRESTON**
- **JULY – TBD**
- **AUGUST – TBD**
- **SEPTEMBER – EBOOK READERS—BRUCE PRESTON**

### Suggestions for future meetings:

Richard emailed David Marra about a presentation on Apple products and asked for his availability.

Rob suggested possible topics for August and later months: virtualized arcade gaming systems, Office 2010 (once it is released).

Danbury Hospital notified Rob that the auditorium is not available for the October 2010 General Meeting. We have asked them what other date is available for that month.

### Announcements

- **JOHN LANSDALE RESIGNED FROM BOARD.**
- **JIM SCHEEF WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DO MEMBERSHIP.**

*Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 4*

*Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3*  
Old Business

- **Scholarship** – Discussion of whether this is something that we want to consider with a suggestion of \$200.00 for a start. Criteria to earn scholarship would be determined by a committee that has to be created. Thoughts: need to be interested in technology, open to all members and non-members. The goal is to hopefully attract interest in DACS. - Richard motioned for the \$200 scholarship (1 year) and the form of a committee – 9 approved – 1 opposed – motion carried
- **OPEN positions**  
VP of Programs – Chris Furey volunteered – the motion was made to nominate him and all voted in favor.  
Secretary – Bruce Preston volunteered for the position and was approved unanimously.  
We still need a backup/replacement for the Treasurer position –

New Business

- Connecticut Film Festival May 4-9 — Dave has gone to great lengths to improve the situation experienced last year and it will not be located in the Ice Arena — Rob will check to see if there are still booths available – the most efficient way for DACS to participate is to have an unmanned booth with banners and flyers.
- Rich DiFranco volunteered to send out press releases for future general meetings.
- Using Drupal for the DACS Web site— we need to start the process and have a schedule, need to think about the design of the site – those most involved with the task will meet soon to map out the process.
- DACS' 20th anniversary events: possibly a picnic which could be also used as a fund raiser
- Rob came across a company named Meritline.com that offers an audio device combination microphone and speaker to be used to record/transmit Board meetings – the price is \$19.00 - Richard approved Rob's purchase of the device.

Richard motioned to Adjourn, all seconded.

— Mary Tobin

## Meeting Review:

### Meeting Review – Microsoft Office Alternatives

By Patrick Libert

**J**IM SCHEEF'S excellent interactive presentation introduced us to several alternative programs to Microsoft's Office software.

These "on line" (cloud) programs are:

- **GOOGLE DOCS**  
[www.docs.google.com](http://www.docs.google.com)
- **ZOHO OFFICE**  
[www.zoho.com/](http://www.zoho.com/)
- **THINKFREE OFFICE**  
[www.thinkfree.com](http://www.thinkfree.com)

#### Google Docs

If one can live with the premise that using any Google product probably harvests details about the user, the suite is a good source of basic Office components.

These are:

- Documents (Word)
- Spreadsheets (Excel)
- Presentations (PowerPoint)
- Gmail (Entourage)
- Drawings – no Office equivalent
- Forms – no Office equivalent

This program is the most basic of the aforementioned three and it requires a Google account for login.

#### Zoho Office

This online suite offers twenty-two different applications, each offering several options. Comparing to Microsoft Office, the four major ones are:

- Zoho Writer (Word)
- Zoho Sheet (Excel)
- Zoho Show (PowerPoint)
- Zoho Mail (Entourage)

There are six other productivity and collaboration apps as well as twelve different business apps.

Zoho Office is fancier, offers themes in the Zoho Show application and in many ways, is closer to PowerPoint than Google's version.

Zoho is free for personal use with a 1GB storage limit, which is ample for most users.

#### ThinkFree Office

This suite has simple office applications which can be downloaded and used free for thirty days. After that time period, the cost is \$49.95.

ThinkFree runs on Java which means that it is limited to machines having the latest Java application.

ThinkFree uses Office file formats so that no conversion is necessary between programs. It is so similar to MS Office that the learning curve is practically nonexistent.

Jim chose to illustrate each application by using a PowerPoint presentation to show how it is handled by the alternatives.

If one is interested in all other MSOffice alternatives, please refer to the March 2010 AskDACs document available at: <http://www.dacs.org/archive/2010-03/ranotes.htm>



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# Meeting Preview

## Meeting Preview - Working With WordPress

By Rob Limbaugh

OVER THE PAST FEW years, social networking has certainly exploded. Every day we are bombarded primarily with Facebook and Twitter ads or links. Myspace and LinkedIn are still very much alive. While all of these center on the idea of being 'socially connected', they all still stem from the old idea of creating a running log of comments or journal entries on the web—weblogging.

DACS has covered 'blogging' before—how to get started, how to grow your blog, how to affiliate yourself with blog-centric aggregation sites like Technorati, and what to expect out of people responding. We've also recently (February 2010) covered social networking basics focusing on sites like Facebook and LinkedIn explaining how to use them to drive traffic to your main site and limit access to private information.

The great thing about the solutions and topics we've covered in the past regarding blogging and social networking is that they leveraged the largely free resources of the 'cloud'. What's the bad thing? Well, they leveraged the largely free resources of the 'cloud'. For most people, the free (or near free) existing solutions more than suffice—easy, cheap, and ready to roll. Often the cloud sacrifices total control and data longevity (remember Geocities websites?) and that may not be a good solution for a blog for business.

Of course, it's a really difficult task to set up your own customized blog site on your own host. You have to have a PhD, tons of money, a staff of 50, a fleet of trucks and planes, and a catchy name, know about databases and a lot of other techno-stuff—Right? WRONG! It's ridiculously easy!

How easy is it? Well, for our May 2010 meeting DACS' very own Bruce Preston will show us how to set up a custom blog site on a standard web server host in less than 20 steps using WordPress! It's actually less than 20 steps... but if I told you much less then you'd think I was joking.

You'll have to be there to find out!

This meeting is a **must see** for anyone who has been contemplating running their own blog for personal or professional use. Bruce will cover the basics of what is needed from the 'host' where the site will sit, installing WordPress (including configuring the database), adjust the basic features to your liking, and then start blogging! As always, bring your questions!

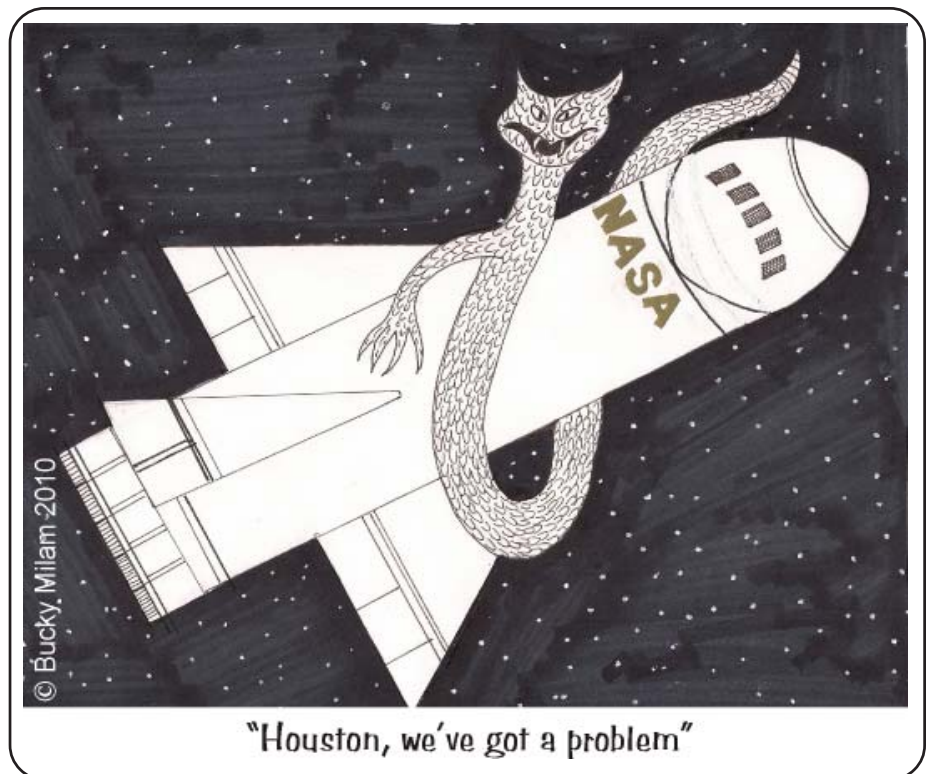
Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS) is a registered nonprofit that has been serving the region since 1990. Members receive an award-winning newsletter, members-only workshops and events, and access to volunteer phone support.

As a reminder, our General Meetings are free and open to the public so invite anyone you know who would be interested in this topic.

DACS meetings are held at the Danbury Hospital auditorium. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. with registration and casual networking. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with a question and answer period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and a short break. The featured evening presentation begins at 8:00.



Do you have a burning computer question, but can't make it to the meeting or just never seem to get your hand up in time? Email your inquiry to Jim Scheef, the answer guy, at [askdacs@dacs.org](mailto:askdacs@dacs.org), and your question will be taken up at Ask DACS at the next meeting.



# Product Review

## Setting Up a Print Server

By Bruce Preston

**I**N THE YEARS WITH Windows Vista and now Windows 7 I have run into many people who have problems with sharing printers on their local area network. This is often caused by differences between the installed operating systems on their various machines, such as a combination of Windows XP and, say Vista 64-bit or Windows 7 64-bit. The problem seems to stem from incompatibility issues when you try to set up peer-to-peer printer sharing between machines with very different operating systems.

In a peer-to-peer system, a specific machine hosts the printer, and that machine may have problems supporting the other operating system's requests. I have also seen problems caused by overly restrictive firewall settings. This seems to be the case more often with 3rd-party firewalls such as McAfee or Symantec/Norton or ZoneAlarm, rather than with the native Windows firewall.

A good solution is to install a mini print server as it is agnostic as to which operating system is sending the data to the printer. A mini print server is about the size of a deck of cards. It has an ethernet connection that goes to your router, and a USB connection that goes to the printer. It also has a small A.C. power adapter. There are also print servers that support the older parallel (Centronics) interface, but these are few and far between as are printers with only a parallel interface. I'll assume you have a printer with a USB interface. An added benefit is that you no longer need to leave a computer running just so that a printer connected to it may be used by others on your network. The print server consumes negligible power compared to a full computer.

I happen to like the Netgear PS121v2 print server. I have purchased and installed several over the years. On eBay they are often listed with a Buy-It-Now price under \$17 including free shipping. The ones I

get from eBay at this price are factory refurbished ("brown box") units, and I suspect that they were returned because the original purchaser didn't follow installation instructions to the letter. I have shared old LaserJet printers using this server with client machines running Windows 98SE, Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista 64-bit, Windows 7 64-bit, Mac OS X, and CentOS Linux - all without difficulty.



There are two ways to install the print server on a local area network. If you purchase the 'orange box' consumer packaging, you get a CD with software on it. For brown box, you may download from Netgear's site. However, I don't recommend this as the software installs a monitor utility on the computer(s) and I've seen support software for manufacturers other than Netgear that only supports two computers. The good news is that a print server can actually support an unlimited number of computers if instead you make use of the embedded LPR server and make use of the LPR interface already in the operating system. The following paragraphs describe how this is done.

Unpack the device and connect the power supply, plug the USB cable from the printer into it, and connect the device to your router using a Cat-5 patch cable (not supplied.) After a few flashes the red LED Error light will go out. On the bottom of the device, you will find a sticker with the model number, serial number, and the MAC address. The MAC address is a series of 10 hexadecimal characters (0 to 9, A to F) which is a unique identifier for the network adapter within. Write it down as we will need it in a minute. When you write it, it is customary to put dashes or colons between every second character, although this is not the way it is displayed on the bottom of the device.

As shipped, the device will make use of DHCP to obtain an IP address. This is

all well and good if you are using the Netgear client software as they find the device via a different mechanism. But for our purposes, we want to set a static IP address, and to do that we need to know the IP address that the device received when it booted. To set the IP address of the print server you need to know several things, all easily obtainable.

- The current IP address, so that we may use our web browser to get to the print server's configuration panel.

- The subnet mask for our local area network.

- The default gateway for your local area network.

To get the current IP address, download and install the free ColaSoft MAC Scanner from <http://www.colasoft.com>. This is a utility which displays the IP address, MAC address, Host Name (if available) and manufacturer of the network interface within a device. For the PS121v2 the manufacturer is Sercomm. Write down the IP address that has been assigned to the print server by the DHCP server in your router.

To get the local area network's subnet mask and default gateway, you will need a DOS command window.

- Windows XP: START -> RUN -> CMD.EXE -> [OK]

- Windows Vista/7 Search -> CMD.EXE -> <enter>

Once you have the command window, type IPCONFIG /ALL then <enter> - Note the space before the /ALL

You may have to scroll back a bit - you want the lines labeled IP Address, Subnet Mask, and Default Gateway. Make note of the values. Close the DOS window by typing EXIT then <enter>.

Your Subnet Mask is probably 255.255.255.0. This means that all devices on the local area network MUST have the same first 3 octets, i.e. if your addresses start with 192.168.1. Then ALL addresses must start with 192.168.1

For devices that don't move, such as desktop PCs, server machines, printers, and print servers etc., I don't like dynamically assigned IP addresses. The next step is to permanently assign a "static" IP address to the print server. Most DHCP servers in consumer routers default to an IP address pool of 192.168.x.100 to 192.168.x.149 where depending upon the manufacturer the 'x' is 0 or 1. I like to put print servers in the range of 192.168.x.240 to 192.168.x.249. (Note: The last octet may have values between 1 and 255, but must not collide with any other device.) You may identify other devices by looking at the ColaSoft MAC Finder screen again.

Here's how to set the address in the

Netgear PS121; other devices are probably very similar. For discussion purposes, let us assume that the ColaSoft MAC Scanner found the print server at 192.168.1.106. Open your web server and go to <http://192.168.1.106> where you will be asked for a logon and password. The PS121 logon name is 'admin' and the password is 'password'. You will now be presented with the control console for the print server.

Click either "TCP/IP" or "LAN Settings" on the left (I've seen both on different devices, even though marked v2) to get the ethernet port configuration panel. Change the device DHCP Client from 'enabled' to 'disabled'. Put in an IP address that is outside of the pool, such as 192.168.1.240. **Reminder:** Make sure that the first 3 numbers are consistent with the addresses displayed by the ColaSoft MAC scanner. Put in the subnet mask (typically 255.255.255.0) and the default gateway (typically 192.168.1.1) and click the APPLY button. You should see a progress bar move across as the settings are changed. In about a minute you will get an error message from your browser that the connection was reset. This is expected as you have changed the address of the print server thus breaking the link from your web browser. If you want, you may re-connect by entering <http://> and the new address, but there is no need to do so.

Now that the print server has been set up, you must now go to each of the computers on your network that will make use of the printer to establish the connection to the print server. Open up the Printers and Faxes folder. How to get there varies is slightly different in XP, Vista, and Windows 7 - but should be straightforward. Click the Add Printer item to start the Add Printer Wizard.

Here is the one part that is definitely not intuitive - as far as the operating system is concerned; you are adding a LOCAL printer even though it could be in another room. Do NOT have it search for a Plug n Play device as it won't find it. In the dialog box select ADD PORT to specify a new port. Select "Standard TCP/IP port" and continue. This will start the Add Port Wizard. In the IP Address field, give it the IP address that you gave to the print server, in our example it was 192.168.1.240. The wizard will provide a port name consisting of those digits with "IP\_" as a prefix. That's fine, or alter the name if you wish. Continue and it will probably say that it can not identify the device - that's to be expected, we have to give it some additional help. Continue and you will be returned to the Add Printer Wizard where you specify the make and model of your printer

so as to load the appropriate printer driver. Load the appropriate driver for the OS you are running, i.e. make sure that it is a 64-bit driver if you are running Vista 64-bit or Windows 7 64-bit etc. For an older printer, you may have to go to the manufacturer's web site to obtain the driver. When you get to the options page, you do not want to share the printer since you aren't setting it up for peer-to-peer sharing. You may make it your default printer at your option. Do NOT select Print a Test Page at this time, we have a few more settings to perform.

When the printer appears in the Printers and Faxes window, right-click on it and select PROPERTIES. Click the PORTS tab. Scroll down and confirm that it is associated with the port that you defined for the print server. You may have to widen the column by dragging the break in the column header to the right so as to see the full port identifier. Click the CONFIGURE PORT button. Change the PROTOCOL from RAW to LPR. Name the print queue 'ps121v2' and put a check in the "LPR Byte Count Enabled" box. Click OKs until you are out of the printer properties pages. Now right-click the printer one more time, select PROPERTIES and on the GENERAL page click Print Test Page then OK. You should now be printing via the print server and OS driver incompatibilities or firewall problems should be a thing of the past.

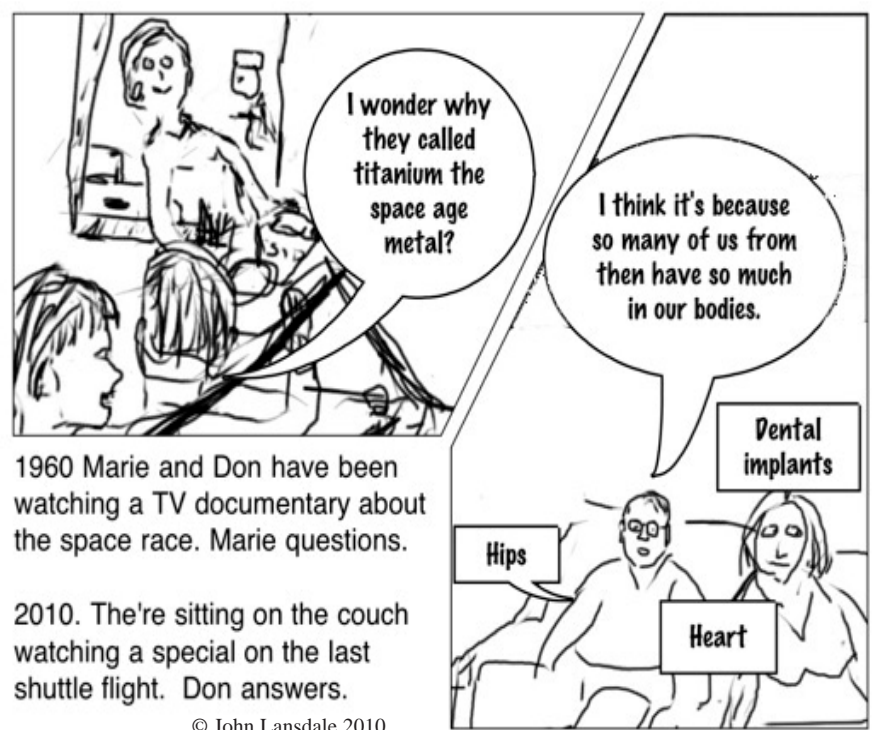


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I wonder why they called titanium the space age metal?

I think it's because so many of us from then have so much in our bodies.

Dental implants

Hips

Heart

1960 Marie and Don have been watching a TV documentary about the space race. Marie questions.

2010. They're sitting on the couch watching a special on the last shuttle flight. Don answers.

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# Special Interest Groups

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## SIG NOTES: May 2010

**Access.** Designs and implements solutions using Microsoft Access database management software.

**Contact:** Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920 ([bpreston@mags.net](mailto:bpreston@mags.net)).

Meets on 2nd Tuesday, 7p.m., by virtual connection.

**Next meeting:** May 11 (check Website for technical details)

**ASP.Net.** Focuses on Web site/server application development using Microsoft Visual Studio, C#, VB, Javascript and SQL Server programming tools. Starts with Random Access, followed by a programming discussion with examples.

**Contact:** Chuck Fizer, 4-6 p.m ([cfizer@dacs.org](mailto:cfizer@dacs.org)).

Meets 1st Wednesday, at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Virtual Meeting (check for details)

**Digital Imaging.** Digital cameras, retouching and printing.

**Contact:** Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 [graffic@bigfoot.com](mailto:graffic@bigfoot.com).

Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m.at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** May 26

**Jobs.** Networking and jobs search

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

Meets by e-mail.

Next meeting: TBA

**Linux.** Provides Help in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.

**Contact:** Jim Ritterbush, [linuxsig@dacs.org](mailto:linuxsig@dacs.org)

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

**Next Meeting:** May 19

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

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

Meets 1st Thursday at DACS Resource Center at 7 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 6

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

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

Meets irregularly, at the Resource Center, announced by e-mail.

**Server.** Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook.

**Contact:** Jim Scheef [jscheef@telemarksys.com](mailto:jscheef@telemarksys.com)

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

**Next meeting:** May 13

**VB.Net.** Focuses on Smart Client Windows application development using Visual Studio, VB, C# and SQL Server programming tools. Starts with a random access session , followed by Object Oriented discussions and programming with examples.

**Contact:** Chuck Fizer, ([cfizer@dacs.org](mailto:cfizer@dacs.org)) or Greg Austin, 845 494-5095 [greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org](mailto:greg.austin@ryebrookpba.org).

Meets 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center, preceded 1 hour with a shared cost pizza snack.

**Next Meeting:** In hiatus

**Virtual Computing.** This SIG will explore virtual computing technologies and how to leverage them as additional system resources. Our main focus will be on the free VMWare products, but we will also look at other technologies and tools.

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

Contact: Rob Limbaugh [relimbaugh@dacs.org](mailto:relimbaugh@dacs.org), 203 648-9176

**Next Meeting:** Combined withServer SIG.

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

**Contact:** Annette van Ommeren([avo555@earthlink.net](mailto:avo555@earthlink.net)).

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

**Next Meeting:** May 18

# Special Interest Groups

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**Access.** The April SIG meeting featured three topics. The first was the use of a VBA source module to create test data using the internal random number generator within nested loops across a set of regions, products and dates. The second topic was the creation of a pivot table using that data. The third was to generate 'cross-tab' report based upon the pivot table query.

The May meeting will return to form design, and will probably touch the use of the TAB control and continue with sub-forms. As usual, random questions are encouraged.

**Mac.** In April we took a look at two Web applications. They run inside a Web browser, but often require installing some kind of plug-in before using them the first time.

Rosetta Stone (<http://www.rosettastone.com>) offers language-learning courses that run on a Mac or Windows PC. Depending on which of the 31 languages you choose, they may offer 3 or even as many as 5 levels in the language in boxed sets of the software. That's a good option if you're interested in concentrating on a particular language.

Last year they offered another option that was an online subscription where you could progress through as many levels as your own time permitted. You could even switch to another

language within the term of the subscription. I signed up for the French course last May and demonstrated one of the lessons in the SIG meeting. Once I signed in, the Web site checked my browser and system to see if it met requirements. On a Mac both Safari and Firefox are supported. It also installed a speech component to run in the browser.

Rosetta Stone emphasizes audio and visual learning so there are no English translations during the lesson. For example, after hearing an audio clip, I had to choose from a set of pictures the one that matched the phrase I was hearing. In some lessons, you also have to repeat or respond in the language, and the speech recognition component will tell you if you got it right.

The other Web application we looked at was Netflix (<http://www.netflix.com/>) streaming. If you are a Netflix subscriber with one of their unlimited plans (for example, 1 DVD out a time for \$8.99 a month), you can also stream movies to a Mac or PC or a number of set-top boxes that connect to your TV. If you have a gaming console or TiVo, or one of the new Blu-ray players that support it, and have the device connected to your home network, you can watch Netflix movies on your TV. Otherwise you can just watch on your computer.

*SIG Notes, Cont. on page 15*

# May 2010

## Danbury Area Computer Society

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# File Maintenance

## Backing Up and Restoring Files

By Ron Hirsch

**I**F I HAD TO PICK a single area where most computer users are extremely lacking, it's in the area of backing up and preserving the documents and other items that they generate during the course of their computer activities. Most people just dismiss the subject with "Oh I don't really have anything of importance, and even if I do, I can always redo it easily." These people may only use their computer for the Internet and e-mail. But, redoing your address book and bookmark listing can be a task in itself.

And, if you use a program such as Quicken or Money, you have lots of financial info that would be a real job to rebuild if all your files were lost. I reminded a friend about backing up his Quicken stuff, and he said that he really didn't have to, as Quicken always backs things up automatically, which it does. But it backs things up onto the same hard drive, into a different folder. So, about 6 months later when his hard drive failed, his backup was worthless, and he was a very unhappy person.

### WHAT DOES BACKUP REALLY MEAN?

Backup is the generation of duplicate files, often onto a removable medium, for all the things that you have generated on your machine. Generally, these are files that you have produced, not the program files which came on the CD. These duplicate files must be stored on something which can be separated from your machine, and definitely separated from your internal system hard drive.

Since most people have only one hard drive, it does not make good sense

to backup onto that same drive. And, if you have your main drive partitioned into say a C and D drive, you will still lose your backup if the drive fails. If however, you have a second hard drive

on your computer, you are much safer storing your backups there.

There are online services which offer "online backup" at a small cost, or no cost. This can offer access from another computer, when you might need that data. But I personally don't want my private data et al on an online computer, where it is possibly subject

to being hacked or having that operation go out of business.

**NOTE:** This article is only discussing backup of your personal files and data - it is not addressing a complete backup of your system drive, including your operating system (probably Windows). That is a separate topic which will be covered in another article.

The backup media should be stored in a place where they it will not become lost, stolen, or damaged. When I was in business (many years ago), we backed up all our files every day, with a rotating system of seven tapes. Copies were stored in a fireproof safe, and periodically, we placed a current copy in our safety deposit box at the bank. Just putting copies on the shelf doesn't protect against their loss in case of a fire. Obviously, most users don't have to go to such extremes. But, for important information, it's a good idea to periodically put a backup copy into a secure and fireproof place, such as a home safe, or your safety deposit box.

In order to be able to follow and use the material in this article, you must be conversant with using Windows Explorer, or a similar file manager. Ear-

lier this year, I presented several articles on this activity, with several exercises on the subject. If you are not familiar with using a file manager to copy files and add new folders and subfolders, I would suggest that you bone up on this subject first, and then get back to this article.

### WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FIRST?

First of all, the typical user who has programs in which files are saved, generally has no idea where they are. So, the first thing to learn is just that. When you are in a program such as Quicken, your files are generally saved in the same folder as the Quicken program. Other programs may use the My Documents folder, My Files folder, the Documents and Settings folder, or a special folder that the program has set up to store things.

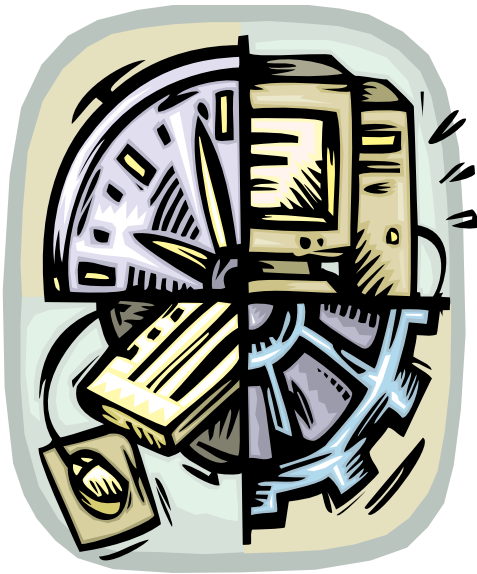
I personally set my own folders for storing things. And, fortunately, most programs allow the user to specify where things are stored. In WordPerfect, I have a master folder set up, name WPWIN. Under that I have about 56 subfolders for all the categories that I have defined. There is a folder named "BocaBits", which holds all the articles I've written for this publication. One of the main advantages of having your personal files organized in a master folder is that they are easier to copy to a backup medium. Just copy the main folder, specify to include the subfolders (if that is needed), and everything underneath will be copied. This is far easier than having to locate many different folders, and copy from each one individually.

Remember, using subfolders is a must. Some years back, one of my friends stored all his files for all his programs in the same folder, with no subfolders. Finding a file to use was almost like looking for a needle in a haystack. And, name your files using descriptive long filenames which all operating systems since Windows 95 can use. Which is easier to find "Letter to Jack re the new building.doc" or "let2jreb.doc"?

Here are some steps that I would suggest users consider - change the names to suite your desires.

1. Add a new folder on your C: drive, and call it "All My Stuff" (without the quotes.)

2. Add as many subfolders under it as you need. For example, (assuming



you have these programs) add one for Word, Quicken, Money, Excel, etc.. Then, add as many subfolders under each of the main subfolders you've added. For example, the "Word" folder can have subfolders named "Letters", "Faxes", "IRS correspondence", etc.. (Don't use the quote marks - they are used here for clarity.)

3. Then in each of those programs go into "preferences" or "settings", or wherever is appropriate, and set your new path and folder name there as the place to keep stuff. In something like Quicken, it wants its files where it specifies, but when you call for a backup in Quicken, you can specify the path/folder. So this folder you set up will always have duplicates of Quicken's files, ready to be copied out to the removable media you choose.

4. For programs such as Outlook Express or AOL, it's a good idea to save your address book, and your bookmarks. Finding the names of these files, and where they are located will be a good exercise for you in using Windows Explorer, and learning more about your browser.

*NOTE: It is not absolutely necessary to do all of these previous steps if you're willing to do your backup work with all your files where they are now. These steps are just offered to make your job of backing up easier. If this is the case, you can skip to the section entitled "WHAT MEDIUM SHOULD I USE TO BACK THINGS UP."*

#### HOW DO I GET MY EXISTING FILES INTO THESE NEW FOLDERS

If you don't know or can't find where the program stores the files you create, go into the program, generate a new document, and do a save on it. When the "save" window comes up, it may well show you the path/folder that the program uses. So you can now go to that folder, and find all the stuff you have done previously. While you're in the "save" window, you can now specify your new repository for your files in this program, assuming it will cooperate.

If this does not happen, do a search in Windows (START>SEARCH) to find that file, and the location path will be available there.

Rather than move the existing files, I'd copy them into the new folder you set up. That way, if there are any "goofs" (perish forbid), nothing has really been lost. In the case of a program like Quicken, just open Quicken,

and press CTRL+B. This should open the backup window, and you can type in the path/folder you've just made.

Later on, when you know that everything has been safely copied into your new folder tree, you can safely delete the files in their original locations if you want to do so.

When you've done this for all your important stuff, you will now have a new "filing cabinet" with "drawers" for all your important files.

#### What Medium should I use to back things up?

In the "olden days", the choices were fairly limited. Floppy disks and tapes were about it. These days, those two media are not the ones of choice. Floppies have limited storage space, and most people don't have a tape drive, nor should they bother to get one these days.

The two choices that I would recommend are external USB drives, which many people have or flash drives which many people also may have. If you're not familiar with these devices, you should become familiar - they are very inexpensive now and are the perfect media for backing up purposes, transporting, and archiving files.. Or you can use a ZIP disk, if you have a ZIP drive, or use a CD rewritable disk.

To "burn" a CD, you must be familiar with this process. If you have a recordable or rewriteable drive on your machine, there should be a software utility to handle copying files. Usually this utility is on the CD that came with your hardware. But, it's possible that the utility wasn't loaded on at the factory. Check through the manual or help files to learn more about this.

Remember, once you get into the habit of backing things up, you can feel more comfortable about not losing lots of time and effort trying to reconstruct things. And, when you get a new computer, your new machine can take the backup medium you used, and copy it all (as desired) onto the hard drive of the new machine.

#### One further recommendation to save your "stuff"

One area that most users don't bother to consider, is the use of an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). These units plug into your wall outlet, and then the computer and monitor plug into it. Many don't feel that this is of any value to them, but I'll bet that

they've had a crash during a power blink. The primary use of such a device is to keep your computer and monitor running when there is a power failure, either an extended one, or momentary power blink. The purpose of a UPS is not to allow you to keep working for an extended period when the power goes off, but to allow you to save your work, and shut down in an orderly fashion. Or, when the power "blinks", your system doesn't crash, and you lose the work that you have on screen. Even a one tenth of a second blink can wipe out what you're working on. And, if you haven't just saved it, you've lost it.

Furthermore, all computers should be connected via a high end surge protector to protect against line fluctuations and power surges. A UPS is also just about the best protection that you can use here. And, these days, UPS units are available for not much more than the cost of a good surge protector. Check Costo for some good values here. A capacity of 300-500 VA is a reasonable range for most home computers. Remember, as a minimum, you need to have your computer and monitor connected via the UPS. Without a monitor, your computer isn't good for much.

So, HAPPY backing up - try it. The day will definitely come when you'll be glad you did. And once you get to be an expert at it, you can impress your friends by teaching them.

If you find this material useful, you may want to download this article in PDF format, from our web site [www.brcs.org](http://www.brcs.org). This allows readers to keep the material either as a PDF file, and/or print it out, and place it in a looseleaf notebook for future reference.

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# Commentary

## Circuit Writer Version 7.8

By Jim Scheef

### Safety in the Clouds

**L**AST MONTH, AS I was wrapping up my presentation at the General Meeting, someone raised the issue of security when using cloud-based software such as the programs I had just reviewed.



His question went something like, “Why would anyone want to keep their documents somewhere where they have no control?” This is an interesting question because it can be approached from so many angles. First, what kind of cloud are we discussing here? My comments are limited to the web-based document storage and office productivity applications in my April presentation. For those who arrived late, my presentation covered Google Docs, Zoho Office and Thinkfree Office. All are web-based replacements for Microsoft Office.

I find three safety or security issues:

1. Safety from loss
2. Safety from prying eyes
3. Convenience

Let’s look at issue #1, Safety from loss. Despite what John Patrick says, the cloud is not necessarily a safe, or even a good place for your files. The classic booo was when Microsoft lost T-Mobile Sidekick users’ data. One of the features of the Sidekick was that your data was continuously backed up in case your device failed. If your Sidekick locked up or the battery ran down to zero, your data would be restored to the device. From a Computerworld story ([tinyurl.com/yznr24t](http://tinyurl.com/yznr24t)) of October, 2009: “Contacts, calendar entries, photographs and other personal information of Sidekick users has almost certainly been lost for good, following a service disruption at Sidekick provider Danger, the Microsoft subsidiary said on Saturday.” Now ignor-

ing the irony of the provider’s name, this was a wakeup call mostly to service providers who no longer offer such services. The moral here is you must backup any files you want to keep.

So if the cloud is so risky, why are so many companies jumping on the bandwagon and should you jump too? For an assessment from the business side, I’ll refer you to a recent New York Times article ([tinyurl.com/y56tfof](http://tinyurl.com/y56tfof)) that talks about how Netflix is using cloud services from competitor Amazon.com. The web can make strange bedfellows. It often makes sense to buy a service rather than provide it yourself. It’s the classic make or buy decision. Box.Net is a good example of cloud services brought down to our level. This is a service I’ve been using for a couple of years to share files. Notice that my intention here is not security, but some degree of lack of security. Most people don’t have a server running in their basement, but I do. So I could configure it to allow public access to a folder in which I would place files that I want to share. This would mean negating a good part of the work I put in configuring the server to keep people out. So rather than purposely opening some part of my server to the entire Internet and all the bad people thereon, it is far safer and more secure for me to outsource this one application – file sharing – to a service provider who is in the business of running servers specifically to share files. How they make money doing this is a mystery to me because the service is free for 1Gig of space. Last,

any file you don’t want to lose should be backed up to your local computer. There is no security like redundant security.

The Office applications I reviewed at the General Meeting all offer a file sharing component while at the same time claiming to keep your un-shared files private.

Which bring us to the other side of cloud security, Issue #2: Safety from prying eyes.

You need to put your most private secrets somewhere. So is the cloud a good

place? Well, you might not want to keep files that document your criminal activities on a cloud site. Or would you? From years of watching “Law and Order” I know that computers are generally the first thing seized in a criminal investigation so maybe a cloud site not referenced on your local machine, would slow down investigators. Let me know if you get to test this and how you make out.

If you have something that you truly do not want anyone, not even the NSA, to see, then you need encryption and probably multiple levels of encryption using algorithms that are open source and time tested. If you are really paranoid, you should compile your encryption programs from source code that you inspected for backdoors. We’ll skip the discussion about good keys and passwords. Once you have this encrypted string of bits, where should you put it? You know my answer already – more than one place. And at least one of those places is not connected to the Internet.

Back in the real world, I find that a mix of cloud and physical computing makes sense – for me. Since I bought my Droid and became involved with Google, while researching the presentation I found that Google Docs is a nice mix of simplicity, minimal security and convenience. Certainly I’m not going to keep the keys to the kingdom on Google, but the easy and flexible sharing can be useful for collaborating with friends and coworkers on a project.

Your mileage may vary which is the gist of issue #3: Convenience. It really is convenient to have access to your files from any computer with an Internet connection. Is that worth the cost of some degree of security? Only you can make that choice.

### Rogueware: Web of Deceit

Read this very interesting article in SC Magazine ([tinyurl.com/2bmbym](http://tinyurl.com/2bmbym)) about how “Tainted JavaScript, forged ads and indiscriminate surfing have snared millions of computer users into scareware scams.” Despite the security professional orientation of the magazine, this article is written for us mere mortals. Have you had your browser hijacked? Received pop-up messages that your computer is infected and the cure is just a credit card number away? If it hasn’t happened to you, I bet you know someone who has.

### Droid Does Yet Again

Verizon rolled out version 2.1 of the Android operating system to Droid users over the last couple of weeks ([tinyurl.com/yetlxqk](http://tinyurl.com/yetlxqk)). I received the update the first day, probably because I was an early buyer. The major new feature in the update is “pinch to



zoom” or Multi-touch in the Droid browser, Google Maps, and maybe some other places I haven’t found yet. Lack of the multi-touch interface was a big downer when the Droid was introduced so Droid owners can get over their iPhone envy. The 2.1 update also adds a native email client for Yahoo Mail so my Yahoo mail now works as well as Gmail on the Droid. Pretty cool.

### Milestones in the Timeline of Computing

Last month marked the passing of Ed Roberts, the father of the personal com-

puter. He was only 68.

In 1975, Ed Roberts’ company, Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (MITS), produced a \$395 kit that was the first commercially successful personal computer. The Altair 8800 appeared on the January cover of Radio Electronics Magazine where it inspired Bill Gates and Paul Allen to write a version of BASIC that became the basis of Microsoft.

Roberts was smart enough to sell MITS in 1977 at the peak of its success. From there he went to medical school and practiced medicine in Georgia.

Read more on the official Microsoft blog ([tinyurl.com/2woedml](http://tinyurl.com/2woedml)), ZDNet ([tinyurl.com/ykn92e2](http://tinyurl.com/ykn92e2)) where there are many links, Wikipedia ([tinyurl.com/yklelxq](http://tinyurl.com/yklelxq)), and the tribute to Roberts and the Altair on the DigiBarn site at <http://www.digibarn.com>. You can read a more historical view of Roberts and the Altair in books like *Fire in the Valley*, by Paul Freiberger and Michael Swaine (*Reviewed in DACS.doc*). The roll of Roberts in the founding of Microsoft is covered in many books about Bill Gates including *Hard Drive* by James Wallace and Jim Erickson.

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## Terms and Conditions

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### BeWARES!

By Betty F. Phillips

**T**HE WARES HAVE often perplexed computer users with numerous decisions regarding software. The multitude of wares have been even more confusing. Comware is commercial software which generally has more “bells and whistles” but requires the highest financial expenditure without the option to try the software in advance. Trialware is usually characterized on the Internet as a free download for a limited time but requires a purchase to continue using the software. Shareware is also free to download but often has features turned off or has an expiration date unless you purchase the software. Trialware and Shareware do offer an opportunity to use the software before making the decision to purchase. Freeware is free for personal use on the Internet but it may contain adware, viruses, or be poor software. Further, the marketing promotion of the wares can be even more misleading, causing you to download and then delete software that you thought was freeware when you discover it is, in fact, pay ware.

The world of wares can be very frustrating as well as expensive to the computer user. One can spend considerable time, frustration, and even expense downloading and deleting various wares on the Internet. Beware, retailers will not accept returned comware after it has been opened for a money back guarantee. Relax, my holiday gift to my readers is a solution to the problem that I have used for several years, saving me considerable time and money! However, I have had to endure personal com-

ments from some of my fellow computer users that I am “cheap!” Since my ancestry is Scottish who are known for being thrifty, I do not consider that comment an insult. However, I do prefer the use of the word “conservative” to the rather blunt, “cheap.”

Excluding my operating system, I have nothing but freeware downloaded from the Internet on my system! Aha, you are thinking, but what about adware, viruses, or poor freeware, and the considerable time in downloading and deleting it takes to find the best freeware on the Internet? There are several sites that contain only freeware. However, I recommend Gizmo’s Freeware site because I have used it for several years and found it to be very effective in reviewing freeware and efficient to use in going quickly via links to safe and secure freeware sites for downloading. I am reluctant to recommend other sites that I have not used for purposes of this article.

Gizmo’s Freeware is easy to use and makes it very simple to locate the best freeware on the Internet because it is extensively reviewed before it is recommended. Until July 2008 Gizmo was the editor of “Support Alert”, a highly recommended technical newsletter that was distributed to over 150,000 subscribers. The site evolved from his highly popular list of the “46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities.” The site grew well beyond 46 and reached the point that it could not be maintained by one person. Today, the site has grown into a kind of Wikipedia for Freeware utilizing con-

tributions of dozens of volunteer editors who edit and moderate suggestions from thousands of site visitors. As a result, the range of free software covered by the site is ever increasing and the quality of the reviews are ever improving. Gizmo’s Freeware has, in a real sense, become the “Wikipedia for Freeware.” I strongly suggest you check your freeware on your system against the recommendations of the best and consider downloading the best.

The primary purpose of Gizmo’s Freeware is to make it easy to select the best freeware product for your particular needs. The best freeware programs are as good or better than their commercial counterparts but finding the most appropriate programs can be challenging. There are dozens of freeware download sites but few of these actually help you select the best program for your needs. The site has no downloads just honest advice and useful guidance. Links are provided where you can safely and securely download the product you want. Furthermore, you will know that what you have selected is the best available. Gizmo’s Freeware is easy to use and will save you time, money, and lots of frustration!

**Be sure to bookmark Gizmo’s freeware, because you will use it frequently to solve problems—saving you money, time and lots of stress**

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/>

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# Ask DACS

April, 2010

Moderated and Reported by By Drew Washnak

**W**E WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM the floor at the start of our General Meetings. In addition, members who are not able to attend the General meeting may submit questions to [askdacs@dacs.org](mailto:askdacs@dacs.org). We will ask the question for you and post the reply in *dacs.doc* and on *dacs.org*. Please provide as much information as possible, since we can't probe during the session.

**Q:** *Coupons printed by an inkjet printer are not scanning at the store.*

**A:** *Inkjet printers shoot droplets of ink onto the paper to make the text, barcode, pictures or whatever. The ink will bleed as it gets absorbed by the paper and this problem is more prevalent with general purpose paper.*

**A:** It was suggested to either use premium paper, where it should bleed less, or reduce the amount of ink being printed so the bleeding will be less.

Another solution was to use a laser printer instead. Basic laser printers are going these days for about \$100 on up. All-in-one printers may cost anywhere from \$300 on up. Many come network ready.

**Q:** *For the past month the system lags for about 30 seconds every day. The system is a Netbook with an Atom processor running Linux and is connected to the internet over a cable modem. The system routinely has multiple windows open and the lag occurs whether browsing the web or not.*

**A:** The only suggestions were to clear out the cache and temp files, try rolling back any recent driver updates, open the system monitor and try to find if something is spiking the CPU usage every so often, and to visit the Linux SIG to see if anyone there has any better ideas. The Linux SIG meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM.

**Q:** *What to do if you have a 5.25 in floppy disk?*

**A:** Hope to God you have a drive.

**Q:** *One laptop key sticks and I have already tried popping off the key*

*and cleaning out from underneath.*

**A:** Try taking the "rubber spongy" (technical term here) off. It is a suction cup spring and if something got underneath, like a beverage, or it is otherwise sealed then that may be causing the sticking.

**Q:** *In a Mac and Windows environment, the computers do not show up in each others' network browser, yet are accessible by manually entering the computer's name. When the Mac boots into Windows there is no issue, only when it is running Mac and Windows.*

**A:** Windows uses what is called a Master Browser. "The Master Browser is responsible for the browse list within its respective subnet and portion of the domain on its subnet." ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain\\_Master\\_Browser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain_Master_Browser)). The computer that gets the Master Browser is the one that has the highest ranking system. When they are equal, the two systems fight for the position.

It is possible that the Apple machine running Windows has the Master Browser and when it is rebooted into OS X, the other Windows system doesn't re-assert itself and expects the Mac to be the Master Browser.

So the suggestion is to look in the Mac's Windows system under services for something like "computer browser" or "network browser" and turn that off. See if the problem doesn't go away after a few days. Also check to see if there are any firmware updates with the router.

**Q:** *The CT Film Festival is looking for 6 laptops and webcams to be*

*used for 3 days for getting instant feedback after events.*

**A:** That all depends on you. Although it was also recommended to check out I ComputerLand in Danbury as they refurbish computers and may have some for use.

**Q:** *When using an Apple computer in a public library, I keep getting a message like "lowmein is installing"*

**A:** No, this doesn't mean it is hungry for Chinese food! The thought is that the message is "logmein" which could be the remote access program LogMeIn (<https://secure.logmein.com/US/home.aspx>). It is possible the Library is using this for remote management of their computers, or that somebody is trying to hack the system.

**Q:** *Looking for a way to independently accelerate or overclock the gpu side of the processor in a laptop*

**A:** The first place to look at overclocking is Tom's Hardware (<http://www.tomshardware.com>). Another possibility is to look at the graphic chip manufacturer's website for overclocking. If all else fails, google "nvidia overclocking" or "ati overclocking", depending on what kind of chip set to overclock.

An Update: There was an update to the March DACS presentation on Backups regarding the online backup company CrashPlan (<http://b2.crashplan.com/landing/index.html>).

CrashPlan offers unlimited backup space that either costs \$60 per year or nothing, the latter being ad supported. It is cross-platform (Windows, Mac, Linux and Solaris) and allows for backing up to a USB drive, another computer or to their online repository. It also allows you to backup from multiple machines and even different operating systems to the same account. You are given a code which all of your computers use to backup to your account.

CrashPlan encrypts the data before it is sent to their online storage and retains changes between backups. If you have a lot of data to back, for \$100 you can send them a USB drive, CD or DVD and they will seed your backup.

One thing to keep in mind for enterprise users is that CrashPlan does not have an agent for SQL or Exchange servers. In these instances it is recommended that you use the existing backup services and dump the backup into a directory which is being backed up by CrashPlan.

**Product Overview:** Roxio and Nero are the most well-known CD/DVD burning programs. An alternative which is small and free is CDBurnerXP (<http://cdburnerxp.se/>). It may be simpler and not have all of the bells and whistles that Nero or Roxio has, but it was also noticed to have burned at the drive's actual advertised speeds.

**Q: What is a good free video editing program?**

**A:** Cinerella (<http://www.heroinwarrior.com/cinelerra.php>) is a powerful video editor that takes a little bit to learn, but is very powerful. It is available for GNU/Linux.

It was said, while all consumer level video editors are weak, Adobe Premier Elements is less weak. It costs \$80 alone or just over \$100 when bundled with the image-editing Photoshop Elements.

Are you up to your nose with computer questions?. DACS Special Interest Groups may have the answers. If not, let us know, and we'll try to create a new SIG that helps you find them.



### *SIG Notes, Cont. from page 8*

Netflix streaming works in Safari, Firefox, or Internet Explorer (if you're on a Windows PC). It requires the Microsoft Silverlight plug-in, which is an alternative to Adobe Flash. One nice feature of Netflix streaming is the ability to keep track of where you are in the movie, even if you start watching on one device and continue on another.

**Server.** In April, we discussed the coming implementation of Drupal for the DACS website.

In addition to the regular website content, our goal is to offer the members a single sign-on place for discussion (DACS Community Forums), a members only content with the ability to update your DACS personal information like your membership and email address.

This is a big undertaking as the [DACS.org](http://DACS.org) website has grown since we first opened it up in November of 1995. There are so many challenges, that we have yet to figure out how much work there really is. Our efforts are starting with a non-public development site where we can make those painful initial mistakes without jeopardizing the current public site. If you would like to help and learn to use Drupal in the process, please let me know at [jscheef@dacs.org](mailto:jscheef@dacs.org).

I am in the process of closing the Yahoo Group email list that has served (sic) the SIG well for many years. SIG announcements will move to the DACS CommunityForums([dacs.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=16](http://dacs.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=16))

Please join the forum. An RSS feed makes it easy to stay up to date.

The next Server and Networking SIG meeting will be Thursday, May 13 at 7p.m. in the DACS Resource Center.

**Web Design.** At the April Web design SIG meeting, we continued to look at the Drupal content management system.

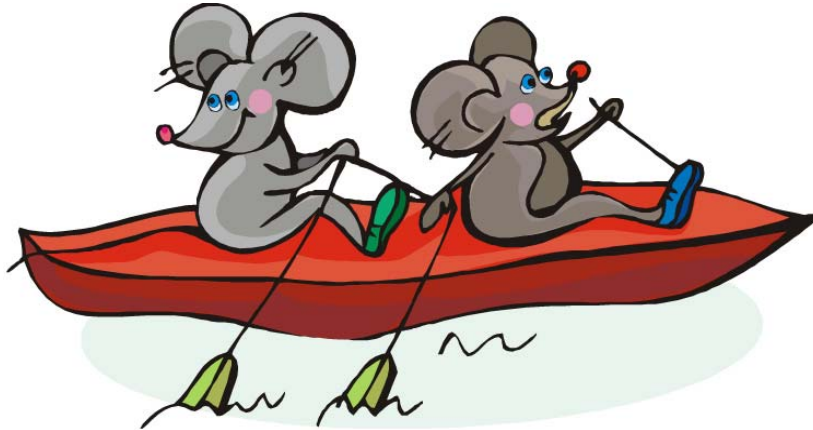
Jim Scheef graciously spent some time explaining and troubleshooting installation issues that members may have. We looked at some customization options, and how to set up a contact form and the default Drupal forum. The administrative panel has many settings that control the site, and it takes a little determination to locate the required options.

At the May meeting we will direct our attention to the graphics. Setting up the functionality is only half the battle - the front-end design is equally important. How the viewer reacts to the visual appearance can make the difference between a successful site and one that the viewer dismisses in the first few seconds. Is it easier to customize an elaborate pre-made Drupal theme, or is it best to start with a simple theme and create most graphics and CSS from scratch?

We will try to answer that question, and explore more options at the May meeting.



Do the General Meetings leave you thirsting for more?  
Find all that after the meeting at the DACS Pig SIG.



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

**May 4**

WordPress Blogging  
Bruce Preston

**June 1**

Youtube Video  
Scott Preston

**July 6**

TBA

**August 3**

TBA