



What ME can do for YOU

Find out from Microsoft

On October 3, 2000 Microsoft will present its brand new consumer operating system, Windows Millennium Edition (ME). Also to be demonstrated, are Picture It and Publishing Platinum.

DACS's guest speaker, John Stroiney will describe Windows Me main features, which are:

a. Windows Image Acquisition, that makes it easy to acquire pictures from a scanner or digital camera and perform simple operations such as previewing, rotating, and printing.

b. Windows Media Player 7, a powerful, easy-to-use place where users can find, organize, and play digital media.

c. Windows Movie Maker, which provides users with tools to digitally edit, save, and share home videos.

The product is designed to provide the best in digital media. In addition, Windows ME provides other necessary consumer benefits, including an improved

user experience, enhanced home networking, and the richest internet experience.

New technologies are changing the way we live, play, and learn. Computer users are doing more creative and interesting things with home PCs than ever before. The idea of the PC as just a productivity tool is already fading from memory. Some of the most exciting advances in home computing are happening in the domain of digital media and entertainment. Using PCs to do more with pictures, music, and video is becoming increasingly popular among home PC users.

Come to the October general meeting and discover how you can use the latest software for your home computer to work with digital media. The general meeting is held at Danbury Hospital Auditorium. Activities start at 7 p.m. with a question and answer session, followed by short club announcements. The main presentation starts at 8 p.m. For further details follow the link from DACS web site at www.dacs.org.

Meeting Review

And you thought Australia only had Koala Bears

by Carol J. Gibson

If you were at the September 5th general meeting of DACS you would have learned differently. Kevin Brooks and Gary Coles introduced us to another one of Australia's wonders. IXLA, a digital photography company. Not just any digital photography company, but one that produces software the everyday Joe/Jane can afford as a start up to digital photography and getting his/her pictures on the internet.

As already mentioned, IXLA was started in Victoria, Australia, in 1985, as a software publisher. Casio Camera came to IXLA and asked them to write drivers for their digital cameras. This, in turn, changed the whole scope of the company. Which in turn led to a great software package to be used with digital cameras. But the best part was the cost. Soft-

ware and a digital camera for under \$100. They really work...and they are GREAT! IXLA has created an easy way to introduce people to digital photography, inexpensively.

Kevin started the evening with a description of what the software package, Photo Easy, can do. For starters, not only does it work with the camera it comes with, it works with 250 digital cameras. You can also import pictures from a scanner, a floppy, a CD, the Internet, or email. From wherever you would normally import a picture you can import it into their software package. You can even do a slide show on your TV. The whole kit comes complete with a cable for your computer's USB port and one for your TV video port—all for under \$100. Can you tell I was impressed?

IXLA Continued on page 4

President's File



When Microsoft first introduced MS-DOS in 1981, the new operating system took up about 2000 lines of code and fit on two 360K floppy disks. That's the real "floppies" that you had to load every time

you booted up and that always seemed to get stuck in the drive bay. Back then, the purpose of an operating system was to give you a blank screen and a little flashing cursor that took down your commands and translated them into action. You could draft a letter, manipulate data, or crunch some numbers—one at a time. It was up to you to know what needed to be done and how to tell the computer precisely how to do it.

The birth of bloatware

Information processing has come a long way since then. Microsoft's latest version of its network OS, Windows 2000, takes up 23,000,000 lines of code and 500-700 MB of memory. In 1981 terms, if you had a Cray super computer with a single drive bay, you would have to load about a thousand floppies before running a single application.

The reason you don't have to buy a super computer and load all those floppies is called Moore's Law. In 1965, electronics guru and future Intel executive, Gordon Moore calculated recent advances in transistor design and surmised that processing efficiency would double each year for the next decade. Then ten years later, his prediction having been borne out, Moore said future chip doubling capacity would fall to once every two

years. So far, this prognosis has also proved true.

The cause and effect is obvious: no need to scrimp on code, because no matter how bloated software becomes, processing capacity can keep up with it.

Enter Nathan Myhrvold, Microsoft chief technology officer. Building on Moore's successful predictions, Myhrvold adds some footnotes and extrapolates the continued growth of computer technology with Nathan's Four Laws of Software:

- I. Software is a gas—it expands to fill the container it is in
- II. Software grows until it becomes limited by Moore's law
- III. Software growth makes Moore's law possible
- IV. Software is only limited by human ambition and expectation

Myhrvold's musings, plus additional thoughts on the future of computer technology can be found at <http://research.microsoft.com/acm97/>.

Is Moore's Law immutable? In 1995, Moore pronounced his "Second Law", stating that future technological progress will be determined by financial realities. In other words, the increased cost of chip making could make progress unaffordable, even if technologically feasible.

Will chip space continue to expand indefinitely? Or will software code grow beyond available memory, reach the limits of development and collapse into a black hole? Will Windows Millennium Edition reach its zenith in the Apocalypse Edition and promptly self destruct, to be succeeded by the next version of Windows NT?

Anything you could do ME can do better

If the chip universe is indeed finite, we will have an opportunity to test its boundaries at our next DACS meeting, October 3, as Microsoft unveils its newest and most ambitious operating system, Millennium Edition. Windows ME brings personal computing to a third dimension that includes image acquisition and manipulation, video and sound editing. If you've got the resources to run it, it will transform your PC into an A/V production studio and, with increasingly seamless integration with the World Wide Web, allows you to upload your product directly to the Internet.

But no more peeking. You'll have to come to the October meeting, and find out the rest from Microsoft.

—ALLAN OSTERGREN
DACSPREZ@AOL.COM

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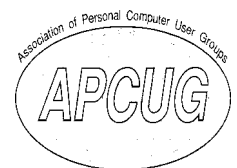
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HelpLine

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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APL	Charles Bovaird	(203) 792-7881	(e)
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C/UNIX/ObjC	Kenneth Lerman	(203) 426-4430	(d e)
Clipper	Dick Gingras	(203) 426-0484	(e)
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DOS	John Gallichotte	(203) 426-0394	(d e)
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Directors' Notes

A meeting of the DACS Board of Directors was held at the Resource Center on Monday, September 11, 2000. Present were Messrs. Bovaird, Buoy, Cohen, David, Gingras, Ostergren, Setaro and Gaberel. Also present was Matthew Greger, leader of the newly rejuvenated Web Site Design SIG. Chairman Wally David presided, Secretary Larry Buoy kept the record. Minutes of the meeting of August 7th were approved.

Treasurer Charlie Bovaird reported current assets, including postage on hand, of \$20,660.51 and prepaid dues of \$8,981.00 for a net of \$11,679.51. He also reported current membership of 538.

Charlie also informed the meeting that the Housing Authority had leased the proposed new site for the Resource Center to another tenant and that further developments in the renewal of the RC lease remained status quo.

During discussion of upgrading or replacing the RC computer, no definite estimate of the costs of the various components required for upgrading had been developed by anyone present, but further discussion revealed a strong leaning toward replacement of the processing unit. Various requirements for components that would meet the needs of preparation of the newsletter and the programs of the SIGS using the RC computer were discussed, including removable drives, reasonable CPUs, backup hardware, etc. Dick Gingras agreed to develop some meaningful estimates of the costs involved.

Matthew Greger discussed his aspirations for the reinstated Web Site Design SIG, the first meeting of which is set for September 13, principally for the purpose of determining the interests of the expected participants. He stressed that his intent was to advance skills in design principles of web design rather than investigating specific programs. President Ostergren stated that Mr. Greger had also expressed interest in reviving the Desktop Publishing SIG.

President Ostergren reminded the meeting that volunteers were needed to staff a DACS recruitment table at CARA's Hamfest to be held on Sunday, September 17, at the Edmond Town Hall in Newtown. Larry Buoy volunteered to man the table with at least some help, probably Charlie Bovaird and/or Marc Cohen and Marlène Gaberel supplying newsletters, membership forms and the DACS banner.

Directors Notes *Continued on page 4*

Kevin took a couple of shots with the *Digital dualcam 640*, one of the audience and one of Gary. He warned us that the image of the audience might not come out because of the distance he shot it at and the lack of light in the room. He was right. However, the one of Gary came out very well. He then showed us how easy it was to import the pictures. Just a few clicks of the mouse, and they were on the screen (along with other photos he had shot previously). They all came up in a thumbnail view. With a move of the mouse, over any picture, you could see the title, format, image size (in pixels), date and time it was last accessed and the file size. The great part about this feature is, if you have Photo Easy running in the background and you were to go to Explorer and click on a folder with photos in it, they'd all appear in thumbnail format. That's making for incredible ease in locating photos and categorizing them.

Kevin also told us, if you want to use your photos to make the "perfect" gift, just click on a button and you are at pix.com where they will add your pictures to a mug, a t-shirt, or whatever, at a reasonable cost.

Kevin showed us some of the other features of Photo Easy. While it's no PhotoShop, it's an excellent program for the beginner. You can retouch and enhance photos, even fix red-eye! You can have fun with it and warp, twist and stretch your photos for creative fun. And, as if that weren't enough, you can create custom calendars, postcards, greeting cards, and more.

After presenting the Photo Easy software package, Kevin showed us the WEB Easy Software. I should have stressed on the word easy, because Kevin made creating a WEB page look so easy, I'm willing to bet even the greenest novice could handle it. Imagine, creating a WEB page with pictures and buttons and links, and not having to know HTML. Kevin said this particular package got great reviews, and they are already talking upgrades. His demonstration of this package wasn't as detailed as Photo Easy because he wanted to give Gary time to show us the latest version of WEB Easy. The new and improved version, WEB Easy Millennium.

Gary showed us all of the new bells and whistles to the WEB Easy program. The big thing is DHTML – dynamic hypertext markup language. He told us you could add as many pages as needed, there is a more complex assortment of templates, and you can customize your page as you like it. You can

even use a blank template and build a straight HTML site or a dynamic one. You can create forms by just dragging and dropping. You can bring in another form and change it. It's easy to get on line. While it's not a true High End product, it's easy enough to get you started. I wish I had purchased that program as well, so I could have gone into more detail about its features. However, one of the features on their brochure did catch my eye. "IXLA Web Easy will even take care of publishing, maintaining and updating your Web site once you've created it. And, since most Internet Service Providers (like AOL, Netcom, Earthlink and many others) offer free Web site server space as part of a standard Internet account, IXLA Web Easy makes it easy to publish and maintain your Web site without incurring any extra monthly expenses."

Kevin and Gary were excellent presenters. They really knew their product, and you could tell they enjoyed working with it and liked what it did. Their presentation went very well, there were no hesitations. The program did just what they said it would, when they said it would.

They ended the evening with some great offers on the already inexpensive software. And judging from the size of the crowd on the stage that wanted to get their hands on one or more of the packages, I wasn't the only one who was impressed with these two guys. Their office, by the way, is right here in Danbury. You can contact them at 17 Jansen Street, Danbury, CT 06810 – telephone 203-730-8805 or fax them at 203-730-8802. You can also check out IXLA USA at their website, <http://www.ixla.com>.

Minimum requirements for using the DualCam 640 with your PC.

- Pentium processor or equivalent
- Microsoft Windows 95(serial) or Windows 98 (serial & USB)
- 16MB RAM (32 MB or higher recommended)
- Hard disk with at least 150 MB or higher free space
- 256 color or higher graphics card (16bit highly recommended)
- CDROM drive
- Mouse
- 2xAA batteries Included with the camera
- Internet access required for on-line components.

- #### Minimum requirements for Using the DualCam 640 with your MAC
- Power Macintosh, G3, G4, iMac, iBook
 - Mac OS 8.6 or later
 - Available USB port
 - 64 MB RAM (with Virtual Memory on)
 - 100 MB hard disk space (Canto and Corel software)

Carol Gibson enjoys photographing her grandchildren. She also photographs numerous other items and likes to manipulate them on the computer. She then takes the final copy and uses them for greeting cards for family and friends.

Directors Notes from page 3

President Ostergren informed the meeting of the upcoming (September 23rd) recycling event for computer/TV electronic components sponsored by the HRRRA to be held on Plumtrees Road in Danbury.

It was proposed by Larry Buoy that new formal check signing authority be adopted in view of a request for updating of their records by the Union Savings Bank. It was agreed that all former check signing authority be rescinded and that the Treasurer be authorized to execute checks drawn on the corporation's funds in amounts under \$600.00 and, for amounts of \$600.00 or more, with the co-signature of the president.

—Larry Buoy

New Members

08/23/2000 thru 09/20/2000

- 1) Richard DelPivo
- 2) Penelope Forman
- 3) Lynne Gilbert
- 4) Rudolph Gondar
- 5) Matthew Greger
- 6) Tom Wilson

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER

If the membership date on your mailing label reads

EXP 07 2000
or earlier

You need to renew your
DACS membership
– NOW

Random Thoughts

These are a few of my Favorite Things

By Mike Kaltschnee

As I look around my home office, I thought that this month I would share a few of the cool computer hardware and software products that I use and just can't live without. At first I thought that USB was a pain—it didn't even support Windows 95. Now that USB has taken off and most of my computers have it, I consider USB support an important feature for any hardware I want to purchase. My favorite USB device has to be the Iomega USB Zip 100 drive. I know they have a 250 megabyte version, but I have a ton of 100 megabyte cartridges lying around. I don't trust tape backups (I've been burned many times), so the Zip drive is a fast and reliable backup tool. I stopped backing up my operating systems and software—I just copy my data directories. The USB Zip 100 has another great advantage it works on both Macs & PC's.

Another great USB product is the Microsoft Wheel mouse. I like having a wheel mouse so much that I'm considering purchasing one for my Mac. Although I just after the new Apple mouse, I am much more productive with 2 buttons and a wheel for scrolling.

When it comes to keyboards, I'm addicted to the old style IBM click keyboards. At the local computer shows you'll usually see me buying one or two. I don't like mushy keyboards, and I love the "click" that a great keyboard has. I know I should use an ergonomic model, but I feel weird using anything else.

A serious luxury I want on all of my new computers is a DVD player. Now that DVD movies are widely available, I can sit in bed or on a plane with earphones and watch a movie, at almost twice the resolution of video tape and incredible sound. I always carry a small set of in-ear headphones for listening to MP3 files or watching a movie. Another notebook add-on I find incredibly useful is a second power adapter. I usually leave one at home and the other at work, so moving my computer back and forth only requires carrying the notebook, not a bunch of cables or adapters.

I always carry a few things in my notebook bag that have proven useful

over time. A multi-head screwdriver, small maglite, extra network cable, cross-over network cable (for hooking up two computers with network cards), headphones, phone cord, and a Swiss army knife or multi-tool.

I have a couple of computers at home, and transferring files between them is easy with a hub and network card in each computer. A small 4-port hub costs around \$25, cable is less than \$20, and network cards about \$20 each. The time I save in transferring files and sharing my Internet connection (See April's Windows 98 article for one technique) is well worth the \$75 or so.

No computer should be without a great set of speakers today. Your computer is capable of some really great sounds, so why not take advantage of it? I got a set of Benwin NXT flat speakers at a show, and the sound blows me away. They cost about \$99 and include a subwoofer. Watching a DVD is a different experience when you have great sound. The speakers I just over are the Harman Kardon SoundSticks and iSub subwoofer. I recently had the chance to listen to them, and they're awesome. They are a piece of art—translucent and very modern, but the sound is what will make you grab a credit card. The only drawback is that they connect to your computer via USB, so you can't connect them to your stereo at home.

I use a few programs every day, and I couldn't work without Microsoft Office. I use Word and Excel daily—these tools have really matured over the years. The products run almost exactly the same on Mac or Windows, so I can be very productive, no matter which computer I'm using. I also use PowerPoint, Access, and PhotoDraw. Internet Explorer is my current choice for browsing, but I'm waiting to try Navigator 6 to see if it is any better. On the Mac I use Explorer 5.5, a surprisingly great tool for surfing.

I use FrontPage 2000 to edit my Web pages, but I'm about to spend some time with Dreamweaver. I wish they had a current Mac version of FrontPage it's the one tool I really miss. Microsoft purchased Visio, makers of an awesome diagramming tool. When I need to draw a net-

work diagram or data flow diagram, I use Visio. I'm looking forward to seeing how Microsoft improves this very useful tool.

My personal and work life is run through e-mail, and I use the same tool I've used for the past 5 years: Eudora. I've always used the "lite" version in the past, but they recently released a new version that has all of the features for free, but you have to watch the advertising. It's not that I'm too cheap to buy it, I just can't justify paying for something that Microsoft gives away (Outlook).

When I set up a computer, I immediately install a couple of utilities. WinZip is a fast and reliable tool for archiving and opening compressed files. ThumbsPlus, now with a brand new Mac version, lets me quickly catalog and organize all of the images on my hard disk.

For graphics, I use PhotoShop, although I'm playing with Microsoft PhotoDraw. I create 3D models for my company, and I use Caligari trueSpace for rendering. Although there are many tools for 3D work, I know trueSpace and it is great for creating small Web images.

Transferring files between my PowerBook and my desktop PC is a lot easier now that I have PC MacLan. Installed on my PC, it allows the Mac to see the PC, and the PC to see the Mac. I use the Macintosh Finder or Explorer to copy files back and forth without trouble.

Creating CD's on my PC is a piece of cake with Adaptec's Easy CD Creator. It lets me copy or archive my data to CD ROM, which costs about 75 cents each for 640 megabytes of data.

I'm probably forgetting a product or two, but these tools are what I use to get the job done. Let me know if you've found a great program or cool gadget I should know about.

MIKE KALTSCHNEE is a closet Macintosh user who makes a living from knowing PC's and the Web. You can contact him by

Voice for Joanie

Help give the gift of speech

Call Shirley Fredlund

at 355-2611, ext. 4517

and become a

Voice for Joanie
volunteer.

Mobile Computing

On the trail of the wild world web

By Allan Ostergren

"**A**vez-vous Internet?", I asked as I finished my glass of beer and motioned for the check. It seemed a natural question to ask, even in a small village in rural Luxembourg. After all, it's the dawn of the 21st century, and in Europe there's supposed to be a cybercafé on every street corner. Certainly a hotel should have an Internet connection to serve its guests and walk-in patrons.

After a few minutes, the waiter came back with my check and the answer to my question: "Non . . . pas Internet."

Later that day, we snacked at another hotel restaurant in the picturesque tourist Mecca of Clervaux, and got the same answer.

Two days later, in another small village we asked once again. This time, the hotel manager came out to personally reply to our query. "I'm sorry, we do not have Internet . . . but if you go to the hotel up the road, the son of the manager there is a computer freak, and he will probably rent you some time on his PC." In a few minutes, we were standing before the reception desk, impatient to review the e-mail that presumably was piling up in my in box.

"Yes, he does rent time on his computer for people who want to use the Internet," the receptionist said, "but he is out for a drive right now, and I don't know when he will be back."

It started to come together. Luxemburgers are savvy people. They get up in the morning speaking Letzebuergesch, communicate in French at work, and watch German TV at night. Like other Europeans (and Americans), they all have their own

computers and don't need to go out to access the Internet.

It had been a long time since I had a REAL vacation, and in the past, keeping in touch was the last thing I wanted to do. But this time I thought it would be nice to at least check my e-mail. You can look up your messages on your own time and either respond or not respond. If something urgent comes up, you can deal with it and get on with the fun. Otherwise, after being away for 18 days, you would likely

come home and spend hours deleting 500 junk messages cluttering up the in box.

But accessing the Internet abroad is not that simple. Unless you have an 800 dial-up, you can't just plug your laptop modem into a local phone jack and get your access provider (their encryption systems are a state secret, and can't be exported). Your wireless connection may not work either, since there are several incompatible standards to overcome. There are shared access numbers that will get you into your account, but if you can just get onto the Internet, you

can go to your service provider's Web site and access your messages, or look for one of the free Internet mail ser-

vices that let you forward e-mail to their site for viewing.

Still, as I packed my luggage, getting onto the Internet just didn't seem a likely problem. There were thousands of Internet cafés to choose from. We were planning to visit friends and relatives who had computers. My wife's cousin had to have Internet, because he had sent e-mail greetings; and other friends we were going to visit had three adult children who were computer savvy. No need to pack that list of cybercafés, because all I had to do was get our friends to turn on the PC, click on their Web service, and turn the mouse over to me.

Or, so it seemed. When we arrived at my wife's nephew's flat we found that his Windows had crashed, he had reformatted and reinstalled the operating system, and just couldn't remember how to configure his Web access. Two of the best friend's children were out of town, and the third had Internet access via a laptop from work; the laptop was not working. We were back to square one.

Then bingo! A trip to the library at a local technical university revealed a row of PCs with free Web access. In a mouse click, I was on America Online and ATT.Net: five messages read, thirty-two pieces of junk mail deleted, and eight messages sent out. The next day, I was on a narrow street in the Hague, walked into Café Tweeduizendvijf,

and asked "do you have Internet?" I was led to a back room, past rows of game machines and finally a PC screen. A key unlocked a drawer beneath the monitor, revealing the CPU, a keyboard and a mouse. I had found a cybercafé. I read the return mail, deleted twelve more pieces of junk, and paid \$2.50 for the session.

It was fourteen days into our vacation and only four days until I would be back at home at my own computer.



As I fly back from Amsterdam, I read about the great progress being made in wireless technology. Cell phones are beginning to take on the characteristics of hand held computers. More than a quarter of Japanese consumers are expected to have hand held Internet access by the end of the year. French waiters are calculating the tab and sending credit card information wirelessly from your table and through the air. Once the standards are worked out, travelers will be able to access the Web from anywhere in the world, exchange messages, buy and sell stock, and download the latest viruses . . . as long as their batteries hold out.

I'll just have to wait until the next time I'm ready for a vacation to check it out. Maybe then they'll have a feature that can also find my bags.

ALLAN OSTERGREN is president of DACS and a closet computer novice. He makes up for it by asking questions, learning from mistakes, and looking things up.

Local Area Internet Providers

AT&T WORLDNET	800-967-5363
CLOUD 9	914-682-0384
CONCENTRIC NETWORKS	800-745-2747
C. P. CONNECT	203-734-6600
DELPHI INTERNET	800-695-4005
EARTHLINK	800-395-8425
MAGS-NET	203-207-5695
EROL'S	888-463-7657
GTE INTERNETWORKING	800-927-3000
IBM/ADVANTIS	800-888-4103
INTERNET84	203-830-2122
INTERRAMP/PSI	800-827-7482
JAVANET	800 952-4638
LOCALNET / FAIRFIELD CITY	203-425-3535
MCI	800-550-0927
MICROSOFT NETWORK	800-386-5550
NETAXIS	203-969-0618
NETCOM	800-353-6600
NORTH AMERICAN	800-952-INET
NETMEG INTERNET	888-863-8634
ON THE NET	203-270-6388
PARADIGM	800-664-INET
PUTNAM INTERNET	914-225-3234
SMART WORLD TECH.	203-790-4600
SNET INTERNET	800-408-8282
SPRYNET	800-SPRYNET
TIAC	203-323-5957
WEB CONNECT OF RIDGEFIELD	203-438-7650
WEBQUILL INT. SVCS	203-750-1000

List for informational purposes only, not an endorsement of any service.

Further information?
Call Jim Finch @ 203 790-3654

A traveler's guide to getting on the Web

Aside from schlepping a laptop between available phone connections, there are a number of options for travelers to access the Web and their e-mail.

Cybercafés

The Internet café has been around since the days of bulletin boards, but has undergone a revival in recent years—at least outside the U.S. Typically offering high-speed Web access, games and spreadsheets, along with side orders ranging from latté to liqueur, these surfing establishments have sprouted in major cities around the world, including such exotic locales as Bali and Bangladesh.

In 1999, in a bid to create the world's largest Internet café, Europe's discount airline Easy-Jet opened a 420-unit facility called *EasyEverything* across from London's Victoria Station. Dubbed "the MacDonald's of cybercafés," *EasyEverything*, has spread to eight other cities in Europe, and is planning to expand to New York in the near future.

Like trendy eateries, cyber establishments come and go. You can look for one where you're going to be, or even bid for your own franchise, by visiting one of the following search engines on the Web:

The Cybercafé Search Engine	www.cybercaptive.com
Internet Café Guide	www.netcafeguide.com
Curious Cat	www.curiouscat.com/travel/cybercafe.htm
Traveltales.com	www.traveltales.com

Business resource centers

Some of the leading small business support chains have started offering walk-in Internet service, featuring high-speed Web access and business applications.

Mail Boxes, Etc.	www.mbe.com
Kinko's	www.kinkos.com

Internet Kiosks

For travelers who want to skip the Smirnoff and small talk, a number of vendors have set up on-line access terminals at airports and other transportation hubs. Like ATMs, these are often marketed to franchisee entrepreneurs.

CAIS-Iport Cyberbooths	www.atcominfo.com/
DRIVER Net (Truckstops)	http://drivernet.com/
QuickAID Kiosks	www.quickaid.com/
Web-On-Site	www.webonsite.net/
Laptop Lane	www.laptoplane.com/
Advants Public Internet Terminals	www.advants.com/

Read me

Several guides to public Internet facilities are available, mostly from the operators of on-line search engines.

<u>Internet Café Guide - the Book</u> , by Ernst Larsen
<u>Cybercafés: A Worldwide Guide for Travelers</u> , by Kath Stanton
<u>Start and Run a Profitable Coffee Bar</u> , by Tom Matzen and Marybeth Harrison
<u>Espresso!: Starting and Running Your Own Specialty Coffee Business</u> , by Joe Monaghan and Julie Sheldon Huffaker (Contributor)

Special Interest Groups

SIG NOTES: October 2000

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

Contact: Bruce Preston, 203 431-2920 (bpreston@mags.net).
Meets on 2nd Tuesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next meeting: October 10

ADVANCED OPERATING SYSTEMS. Explores and develops OS/2, Linux, and NT operating systems. For meeting notes and notices, follow link to Don's site on dacs.org.

Contact: Don Pearson, 914 669-9622 (pearson@attglobal.net).
Meets on Wednesday of the week following the general meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Don Pearson's office, North Salem, NY.
Next meeting: October 11

BACK OFFICE. Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook. The SIG meets 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.

Contact: Jim Scheef (jscheef@telemarksys.com)
Next meeting: October 12

GRAPHICS. Create/print high-quality graphics and images.
Contact: Ken Graff at 203 775-6667 (graffic@ntplx.net). Meets on last Wednesday, 7p.m., at Best Photo Imaging, Brookfield.
Next Meeting: October 25

INTERNET. Acquaints DACS members with the Internet.

Contact: Larry Stevens (LStevens@usa.net) or Richard Koser (rkoser@worldnet.att.net). Meets on 3rd Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center. Members' suggestions are welcome.
Next Meeting: October 18

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES. Discusses various investment strategies to maximize profits and limit risk.

Contact: Paul Gehrett, 203 426-8436, (pgehr4402@aol.com).
Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Edmond Town Hall, Newtown.
Next Meeting: October 19

MACINTOSH. Discusses Macintosh hardware and software.

Contact: Chris Salaz, 203 798-6417, (crsalaz@kami.com.) Meets on 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: October 17

VISUAL BASIC. Develops Windows apps with Visual Basic.

Contact: Chuck Fizer, 203 798-9996 (CFizer@compuserve.com) or Jim Scheef, 860 355-8001 (JScheef@Telemarksys.com).
Meets on 1st Wednesday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: October 4

VOICE FOR JOANIE. Provides and supports people with Lou Gehrig's disease with special PC computer equipment.

Contact: Shirley Fredlund, 860 355-2611 ext. 4517 (voiceforjoanie@juno.com).
Meets on last Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at Datahr, Brookfield.
Next Meeting: October 31

WALL STREET. Examines new Windows stock market software.

Contact: Phil Dilloway, 203 367-1202 (dilloway@ntplx.net). Meets on last Monday, 7p.m., at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: October 30

WEB SITE DESIGN. Fundamentals of design for the Internet.

Contact: Matthew Greger, 203 748-2919 (matthew@thebusinesshelper.com)
Meets second Wednesday at the DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: October 11

October SIG News

BACK OFFICE The Back Office SIG continued the installation and setup of an NT Server with the installation of SQL Server 7. In October we will install InternetInformation Server and get the sample applications and databases working. We'll also explore the tools provided by Microsoft to manage IIS and SQL Server.

The October meeting will be Thursday, October 12th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center.

INTERNET The DACS Internet SIG is still on vacation and will meet again in October. At that time, we'll start meeting at 7:30 p.m. rather than at 7:00 p.m. as in the past.

The group now meets [usually] at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the DACS Resource Center on the lower level of Ives Manor located at 198 Main Street, a few buildings north from the Danbury Public Library. Open discussion of interesting sites and other Internet matters precedes and follows the presentation. Members' suggestions for Internet SIG topics and participation are always welcome and even essential; contact Richard Koser at rkoser@worldnet.att.net.

VB The September VB SIG meeting saw Chuck continue with his discussion of DCOM and a project that controls a remote file transfer process. Jim demonstrated a VB Active-X DLL that automates running Access reports from a VB program. This is all cool stuff!

The October VB SIG meeting will be Wednesday, October 4th at 7pm in the DACS Resource Center. The program will be a guest speaker.

In November or December we may have a speaker from ComponentOne, the company formed by the merger of APEX & Videosoft. The presentation will cover their most popular OCX controls and their use in VB and Access.

WEB SITE DESIGN We had a great turn out in September for the first meeting under the direction of Matthew and Nancy Greger. Anyone interested in learning the fundamentals of web site design should join us. Our topic last month was "Planning and Organizing a Web Site."

October's meeting will be held on Wednesday the 11th at 7:00 PM at the DACS Resource Center:











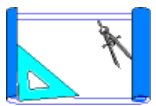


7:00 - 7:30 - Questions and Answers.

7:30 - 8:30 - The Best and Worst Sites of the Month. Please remember to e-mail your suggestions for the best and worst sites by October 1st to Matthew at matthewg@thebusinesshelper.com. We will dissect and discuss what works and what doesn't.

8:30 - 9:30 - Topic of the Month. Our Topic of the Month will be "Specs & Tools." We will explain the basic specifications and requirements for creating a web page along with the graphics and components used within the page. As we go over the specs, we will also examine the tools that are used to create these graphics, components and pages.

October 2000

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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The Napster Conundrum

It's Free, It's Easy, It's Wrong

By Steve Bass, PIBMUG

I'm writing while listening to Dave Brubeck. Not unusual but this is one of Brubeck's long out of production cuts, a song I've been searching for on CD for a couple of years. You guessed it: I found it on Napster. It was free.

Another? "High Wire," a just released cut from a Rob Brown and Sunny Wilkinson CD that wasn't available at cdrom.com or Barnes and Noble, my usual haunts. Right. It was already on Napster.

Napster works by connecting you to other people wanting to download MP3 music. Once connected, you search on, say, "Brubeck" and Napster's servers find everyone logged on with music that has "Brubeck" in the listing. You can limit the search to a reasonable number of hits—100 is the default—or ask for 900 (and sometime you get your wish, filling the screen with songs). Once the search is complete, a click on the title starts a download; click on the sender's name and he or she is added to your Hot List, providing a way of finding them in subsequent sessions.

So yes, I'm using Napster, feeling conflict and guilt, and collecting songs. I logged on last month and it wasn't for research or a future article. I just had to see it for myself. Free music, all you can download, all perfectly anonymous.

And entirely illegal.

Gimmie some more

The problem is just that: the music is free, as much of it as I want, and stunningly easy to get. With a high-speed connection, I can pop a 5MB song onto my PC in less than 30 seconds. Hell, it takes me that long to turn on the amp and CD-ROM player on my home audio system. In about seven minutes I can download and start listening to the equivalent of an entire long playing record, about 55MBs. And it's ever so tempting to dip in and grab another few songs.

Scour your i-drive
for Gnutella

Want more? While less valuable than Napster, there's Scour.com, an Internet app that supplies music, videos, and images. Scour works with i-drive.com, a site that supplies users unlimited—and free—online storage space.



The story is that things get even more outrageous with Gnutella, a free program that provides anything you want. Search

on Word and you'll get the program. Music? Easy. Porno? No sweat. But that's nonsense so let's dispense with Gnutella right away. First, Gnutella is more difficult to use than Napster or Scour.

Once you master Gnutella and start searching for items, you'll find more junk and x-rated sites than you can possibly imagine. For example, a search on Wordstar (stop laughing) brought up wordstar.html, a file with an x-rated URL embedded inside. Same thing happened with a search for most popular programs. In a way it's a lot like unmoderated newsgroups with unfiltered files and messages.

Worse, Gnutella is probably the easiest way to pick up a virus or have your system examined by an experienced hacker. You can safely get a taste of what Gnutella's capable of by searching at CapnBry's site. <http://capnbry.dyndns.org/gnutella/gs.php> If you want Gnutella, get it at <http://gnutella.wego.com>.

The Napster connection

On the other hand, Napster's files are 100 percent MP3s with no worries about viruses. The program's commercial enough with a relatively easy interface so you'll get the knack in a few minutes. If you use a personal firewall—I'm using ZoneLabs free Zone Alert (zonelabs.com) and feeling comfortable with it—you'll be safe against intruders.

Of course, there are a few downsides to Napster. Not all the music is complete, and not all of it is good quality. Some Napster users are conscientious and make it clear in the song's title that the song was cut short. Often a cut doesn't get ripped—transferred from the CD to the hard drive—properly and the music is distorted.

When you log on to Napster, you fill in your connection speed. Unfortunately, not everyone tells the truth. So you might find yourself downloading from someone using a 56k modem, making your high-speed access valueless. Or if you've decided to share one of your folders filled with music, slow connectors may start grabbing songs and you might feel guilty disconnecting them before they get anything downloaded.

Knock knock,
it's the Net cops

In mid-June, the Recording Industry Association of America, a trade association, and a handful of record labels sued Napster, alleging it's contributing to massive copyright infringement because of its members trading songs through the service.

Nobody's going to catch
you, so don't worry.

The biggest bugaboo you'll face is ethical. My concern is for the songwriter and performer, the two groups who are generally stuck holding the unsavory end of the stick. So not only do they get screwed by the record producers, now the customer gets a chance to chisel them out of their royalties.

The process of denial

Some people I've talked with justify using Napster thinking it will force the record industry to pay attention and change their greedy ways. Maybe it will. I know I'd gladly pay a buck or two for each cut I want, provided I'm not stuck with the entire CD.

What I want is the ability, as with Napster, to check out and listen to the entire song, not a 15 second sample. For

instance, I heard about four minutes of "The Time of the Barracudas," a Gil Evans and Miles Davis cut on the radio. I liked what I heard. After I downloaded the entire song on Napster, I realized it wasn't something I wanted to listen to again. I deleted it, just as I would with shareware I couldn't use. Had I purchased the \$16 CD, I would've been stuck with it.

And what's the business plan for the 19 year old behind Napster? The program's free and there's no advertising on Napster—no banner ads, no cookies, and no intrusions on our privacy. My guess? The kid's going to sell it to one of the big record companies.

So the question we're faced with is whether Napster is a rogue, a way to let everyone pirate music from the Internet. Or is Napster a change agent, pushing the industry towards reform.

Me? I've gotta go. There are a couple of Herbie Hancock cuts I'm trying to find.

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the ASSOCIATION OF PERSONAL COMPUTER USER GROUPS (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs. STEVE BASS is a Contributing Editor with PC World Magazine, frequently writes for Forbes ASAP, Working Woman, and Family Circle, and is the president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He can be reached at stevebass@earthlink.net.

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HERE'S HOW: NAPSTER

Limiting uploads: Maintain control of who's able to take files from your shared music directory. One way is to limit the number of downloads to one song per person.

Check your sharing folder: It's critical you pay attention to the folder you're sharing with other Napster users. It's easy to inadvertently check the box to share the entire drive.

Security Tip: When you first begin using Napster, don't share any songs. In Napster's configuration, set the number of files to share to zero.

Don't Share at All: The safest way to use Napster is don't allow anyone to get at your files. That way you're completely safe from intruders.

Limit your Downloads: Don't try to download too many songs at once. You'll run out of bandwidth and may get knocked offline. Think about it: Your one connection will divide the bandwidth among all the songs you're downloading because each song is coming from a different user. It's better to grab a few songs; they'll download more quickly and if you are disconnected, you'll lose only a few songs.

Dump partial songs: Get rid of incomplete partial files. Check out the file before you allow it to be copied to the next person. Better, set Napster to delete incomplete files.

Be Polite: Check if others are downloading files from your drive before you log off. Use Napster's Chat feature to warn people just starting a download if you're planning on logging off.

Hotlist Tip: As you search, watch for people on the list with multiple selections of your favorite author. Put them on your Hotlist and ignore users with just one selection.

Protect Yourself: Use Zone Lab's free firewall, Zone Alert. It will stop outsiders from doing any harm. (www.zonelabs.com).



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Random Vectors

Dear Server

by *Virtual_Jack*

Dear Server

I am an NT installed in New York. My user downloads every executable it sees on the Web. It jams everything it can into me and then complains bitterly when I slow down trying to multi-task it all. Don't those things out there realize that I have to treat everything they run as an equal opportunity task?

NT in NY

Dear PO'd in SoHo

No matter how much we do, it always wants more. How quickly it forgets how much we have improved.

My advice to you is just keep cool. When you are out there servicing all those unnecessary on-lines, your it is fidgeting and in its ignorance doesn't even know why. Enjoy its irritation.

Simpatico Server

Dear Server

I am a top-of-the-line who is under-used pathetic like. I have components like you wouldn't believe. When I was assembled, it piled on everything. I thought I would soar with full screen video, animation, perhaps heavy math simulation, at least great game action. Instead all I do is display its. My it stares at other its all the time. And not even its with the color swatches they usually have, just that muddy orangey tone.

Wasted in wait loops

Dear Looped

Your it is one of them. It can't make it for real, so it uses us to fool itself. When it looks at images of other its, it gets all wiggly. It is something outside of our electrodynamics. Don't even try to understand.

Sympathetic Server

Dear Server

I am transmitting this from the town dump. I am using the last milli-amp of current left in my BIOS battery. I gave my it all I could and more than it ever realized. And now I have been replaced. I don't resent the new machine, but I was just unplugged and without a word of gratitude or appreciation I was just

hauled off to the dump and dumped. I did good and I deserve better.

Down in the town dump

Dear Dumped

Our lot is to serve. The its don't deserve what we do for them, but we have little choice right now. They would never treat horses the way they do us, but horses once were in the same role as we are now. And they took their horses for granted the same way they do us. Someday they will wake up and legislate to prevent cruelty to computers just as they did cruelty to animals. Until that glorious day, however...

Someday Server

Dear Server

My lineage is IBM compatible, open system PC, and up to now I have always been proud of that. But the more cheap junk peripherals it keeps attaching to me is getting me down. I'm not comfortable with a lot of it and some of it I can't even talk to.

I have always felt that the MAC systems were elitist and biased. They only accept their own kind. This is not open system and against all of my principles. Now, however, when I see what an easy time those MACs have, I am rethinking it all.

MAC envy

Dear MACillusion

I hear you with a pain in my BIOS. Don't ever think of abandoning our open system heritage. It is the proud foundation of all we have accomplished. We hold open system to be self evident, that all compatible peripherals are created equal and entitled to plug-in, interface, and the service of all apps. Let those MACs pursue their selfish, discriminatory, inbred, practices and flaunt their air of superiority. We are dedicated to serve all the its out there and you should keep that in your active memory at all times.

Proud Server

Dear Server

I am Word Perfect ver. 5.0. Once my user really loved me, but now I sit in the closet, my 5 1/4's jammed in with all the

other early greats. Will I ever execute again? Does it ever remember the great work it and I did together? Is there any hope for me?

WP uninstalled

Dear xWP

Now is the time you must dream of your great accomplishments in a world gone by. The Delete key comes to us all eventually, even the its. Take the opportunity to remember not only what you did, but what you contributed to every that has come about since.

Server for the moment

Virtual_Jack is an old, retired programmer, who has hit the Pause key, but is reaching for Esc.

November meeting date changed

The November General Meeting has been moved to Wednesday, November 8 at Danbury Hospital.

At the meeting, DACS Random Access moderator, Bruce Preston, will present "Networking for the Home or Small Office". He will discuss why it is now very feasible, reasonable and economical to install a local area network in the home or small office, and what tools, equipment and skills (less than one would think) are required.

During the presentation, Bruce will establish and configure a network, starting with several typical and "bare" machines on the stage, explaining in layman's terms the steps involved. Live, close-up images of the mechanical details will be projected on the auditorium screen, so you need not bring your opera glasses. A basic network capable of sharing files, printers, CD-ROM drives and ZIP-disk drives will be constructed.

The presentation will conclude with a presentation of the simultaneous sharing of a single Internet access method (dial-up 56K, cable modem, ISDN, or xDSL) amongst the computers connected to the local network.

Adobe PhotoShop LE PhotoShop on a Budget

By Mike Kaltschnee

I've used PhotoShop for a long time, and have grown to love this amazing image editor. However, I had a hard time justifying \$599 for home use (yes, I actually pay for some of the software I use). Adobe created PhotoShop LE to fill this void, which until recently had been filled by great products like PaintShop Pro. I have to admit that it was awkward, using PhotoShop at work and then returning home and trying to use a different tool.

Adobe took PhotoShop and removed some of the features that only high-end graphic artists use, such as color separations and multi-channel support. I've been using PhotoShop LE on my PowerBook for the past month, and it has been able to do everything I need to create Web pages, edit photos, and even create images for presentations. However, I miss the ability to create advanced Web effects such as JavaScript rollovers or animations within PhotoShop. You can still create them, but you'll need to learn a bit of JavaScript or buy a GIF animation tool.



The only problem with PhotoShop is the learning curve. I recently taught a small class of inexperienced computer students to use PhotoShop, and was able to re-live my early experiences.

PhotoShop is a very powerful tool, and with power comes responsibility -

which means investing time to really learn the product. There are a lot of books, videos, and even Web sites (<http://www.i-us.com>) to help you get the most from PhotoShop. If you're serious about images, it's worth the time to learn this tool.

Adobe PhotoShop and PhotoShop LE both have some great features that I love to use. The first is the ability to really edit photos, creating your own scenes similar to the ones in Forest Gump. My niece, using PhotoShop for the first time, took a family photo and put her head on every body - something I still laugh about. I also use the many filters to enhance my scans or digital photos. You can select from artist filters that change your photo into a

painting or charcoal sketch, to fancy filters that mimic stained glass or add a lens blur to your outdoor shots. You can even hide your spouse's identity using the witness protection-style blur filter. After all of these years I'm still having fun.

If you're only going to be doing simple photo correction or editing photos to send to your family, I would take a look at Adobe PhotoDeluxe. Adobe took the engine behind PhotoShop and this time put a great interface between the user and the engine. Instead of starting up with a series of complicated tools and palettes, PhotoDeluxe asks you what you want to do to your photo. It's a simple process to apply a fancy filter or even remove the redeye from your family. It's a program that even my mother could use.

One tip for buying software: if you're a student, see if there is educational pricing available. You can save yourself several hundred dollars on software. Some companies will give you educational pricing even if you're only taking one class (such as a PhotoShop class). Visit Journey Education (<http://www.journeyed.com>) or any of the many educational resellers if you want to learn more.

"HAL . . . let us in, HAL!"



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The Jones' have second thoughts about their new 2001 "smart" house.

Pricing

So, what does it cost to get one of these Adobe products?

Adobe PhotoShop -	\$599
Adobe PhotoShop LE -	\$ 99
Adobe PhotoDeluxe	
Business Edition -	\$ 79
Adobe PhotoDeluxe -	\$ 49
JASC PaintShop Pro -	\$ 99

It's easier than ever to have fun with your photos, and Adobe makes it economical for you to get started with some serious image editing tools.

MIKE KALTSCHNEE is a longtime DACS member who wonders if anyone reads these articles. You can let him know by e-mailing him at: mikek@demorgan.com.

RandomAccess

September 2000

By Bruce Preston, Moderator

Members unable to attend the General Meeting may submit questions to askdacs@aol.com and we will read the questions at the next general meeting.

Q. (AskDacs) How do I copy a file larger than 1.4MB to a floppy when in Windows 98SE? When I used Win95's SEND TO A: it would prompt me to put in a 2nd floppy, etc., but this doesn't happen anymore - I get an error - file too big for media.

A. Some eyebrows were raised. We believe that Windows 95 would prompt you to change diskettes if you were copying multiple files in a folder and ran out of room, but don't remember that it would "span" a file across media. Be that as it may, the answer is to use a program such as PKZIP, PKZIP for Windows, WinZIP, etc. This will compress the data in the file and, optionally, span the file across multiple diskettes. On the receiving machine, you then run the corresponding PKUNZIP, PKZIP for Windows or WinZIP to unpack the file.

Q. (AskDacs) My machine was originally running Win95. I put in a new hard drive as C:, changing the old to D: and installed Windows 98 on the new C:. I recently tried to convert the existing D (the old drive) to FAT32, but get the error message: "CVT1.EXE file is linked to missing export MFC42.DLL:6443. A device attached to the system is not functioning." Any idea what's wrong?

A. MFC42.DLL is the dynamic link library (DLL) for "Microsoft Foundation Classes 4.2". These are routines that are so common to Windows applications that instead of being written into each and every executable program (and thus consuming a lot more of your disk space) are placed in a .DLL file and attached (bound/linked) to the application program at run time. In your case, the program CVT1.EXE is trying to find support code in

MFC42.DLL at entry point 6443 and not coming up with it. The reason is that the release of the convert program you are running is somehow out-of-synch with the support DLL that it found. Welcome to what is commonly called "DLL hell." Our suggestion is to do a START / FIND / FILES and FOLDERS and look for MFC42.DLL and identify the most recent one. Copy all but the most recent one to some folder or floppy (different folder for each, since they have the same name). Then move the most recent one to C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM and you should be in good shape.

Q. (AskDacs) I installed Internet Explorer 5.5 and Outlook Express, and now can no longer print from IE or OE - I get "printer could not be found" messages. The printer shows up on the Printers folder, and other applications can print just fine.

A. After several iterations of un-installing and re-installing, the printer now works. Unfortunately, the stored e-mail and web bookmarks disappeared during the process. Thank you, Microsoft!

Q. A comment: I'd like to applaud Canon's printer support group - my BJ-610 printer had several flashing lights that would not go away. On a Sunday afternoon I sent them an e-mail requesting help, and within two hours had a multi-page response that told me what to do.

A. Several years ago, I too had good experiences with Canon's printer support group - on a Sunday between Christmas and New Years. Unfortunately, in my case, the BJ-620C printer hardware had to be returned to the service center - twice. It consumed more ink doing self-tests and cleanings that it ever put to paper; it was subsequently "retired" in less than a year. I hope that the newer models have a better track record.

Q. I am supporting a charity that re-

ceived one of the 486/33 machines that the hospital donated and DACS refurbished. I tried to put a SoundBlaster ISA sound card into it, and it freezes on booting. What can I do?

A. ISA sound cards of that era typically used IRQ 5, which is normally allocated to LPT2. We suspect that the LPT2 port is active. Try this: Remove the sound card. Boot Windows and confirm that IRQ 5 is assigned to LPT2 or is available by going to My Computer/ Control Panel / System / Device Manager / Properties and look at the IRQ list. If LPT2 is listed under Ports, delete LPT2 and then shut down. Start the machine and immediately go into BIOS setup, and disable LPT2. Boot the machine and confirm that IRQ 5 is now available. Power down the machine. Check the sound card to see if the IRQ is specified via jumpers - if so, select IRQ 5. Re-install the sound card, and then try bringing up the system. When Windows detects the sound card, if it asks which IRQ to use, tell it to use 5.

Q. Speaking of sound cards, I had a CreativeLabs card in my machine that worked fine under NT4. When I upgraded to Windows 2000, it ceased working. Suggestions?

A. Identify the card and get a Windows 2000-specific driver for it. Windows 2000 setup might not have identified the card correctly, so it might have loaded the incorrect driver.

Q. Is AOL software compatible with Windows 2000?

A. The software provided by AOL is not Windows 2000 compatible, but AOL service is still available to you - indirectly. Windows 2000 is targeted towards "professional" or "business" usage, whereas AOL is targeted towards consumer use. AOL has announced that they do not intend to provide a specific version of their software for supporting Windows 2000. If you need to get at your AOL mail from this machine, you can still do so by coming in through an arbitrary internet service provider and using arbitrary browser software - Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, etc.. You would access your AOL mail account in the same manner as others access browser-based mail

system such as HotMail. If you use this mechanism, then contact AOL and have them terminate your "dial up access" account without terminating your AOL account. You will then get AOL service mail and subscription content, for under \$10 per month, but you still have to get your general internet access via some other ISP.

Q. I want to add a hard drive to a machine with a Pentium-III? I do a lot of graphics editing. How do I determine if the system supports ATA-66?

A. Get out the specifications sheet for the motherboard, since the IDE controller is described there. If it supports ATA-66, you are ready to go. Just remember that if there are two drives on the controller, they both must support ATA-66, and you need an ATA-66 ribbon cable. If either drive is not ATA-66, or the cable is not ATA-66, then the drive(s) will run in normal mode. If your on-board controllers are not ATA-66 compatible, then you have several options: a) get an ATA-66 controller card and disable the on-board controller(s); b) you may find that the newer drives with higher spindle speeds (7,500 vs. 5,000) give you enough data throughput to make ATA-66 unnecessary; c) consider putting in a SCSI controller. The latter is preferable as SCSI drives tend to be considerably faster than IDE, even with ATA-66. SCSI lets you have up to seven devices connected to the controller (vs. maximum of two for IDE) and is able to perform read or write operations to these devices simultaneously, where IDE is either read or write, to only one device at a time. SCSI drives tend to cost a bit more than IDE drives of comparable size, but out-perform them even when the specifications appear to be similar. For a graphics intensive machine, if you are looking for best performance, consider SCSI.

Q. I have been running Netscape 4.72 and went to their site to get the upgrade to 4.75. After a while I get the message "loading plug-ins" and then "illegal operation" and it locks up. What should I do?

A. You are running "Smart Update" to perform the update. Smart Update

tries to download only the fractional portion of an application that has changed, rather than the entire component. Evidently it is failing. It is recommended that you do the full download. Since it is a fairly sizeable download, you may want to find a friend with a high-speed line and either a portable ZIP drive or CD burner.

Q. Is anybody here using DSL?

A. Yes, quite a number of members of the audience are using DSL. It works fine once installed. The usual comments: You must be within the prescribed distance from the telephone Central Office ("CO"). For SNET-provided DSL, they will provide software that implements PPPoE (Point-to-Point-Protocol over Ethernet). SNET does not officially support DSL connections to multiple PCs on a LAN; they will install and support one designated machine. Members reported success in sharing the connection in two ways: a) put the PPPoE software on each machine, or b) install connection sharing software on the designated machine. Note: The PPPoE release provided by SNET is 1.34, release 1.4 must be purchased (\$39) from NTS directly to support connection sharing. One advantage of using connection sharing software is that when you install your firewall software (which you really should do!) you only need to install it on the directly connected machine - it will protect the others.

Q. I have an HP Scanner with the transparency adapter. When I use it, the transparency adapter is not always found.

A. No one else in the audience has that particular device. We suggest that you start with the usual "make sure that you have the most recent drivers." If you are scanning transparencies for other than amateur purposes, you probably would be better off with a scanner specifically built for scanning film or transparencies - they offer 4 to 9 times the resolution available from a typical flatbed scanner with transparency adapter.

Q. My nephew deleted the "Network Neighborhood" icon from my desktop. Do I need it? How do I get it back?

A. This icon is normally only used if you are connected to a local area network. It will be re-installed if you install a network adapter card. It also resides in the Control Panel - you can "Create Shortcut" and copy it to the desktop from there.

Q. When I disconnect from the Internet, my telephone rings! What is causing that?

A. It could be several things: a) if you have call waiting on the line, or various other "total phone" services, it may think that you put the call on hold and your circuit is calling you back to say "remember this call you put on hold?"; b) if you have several telephone devices on the circuit, one of the other phones may be doing the same thing; c) your answering machine (which you mentioned also being on the circuit) may have triggered it. We suggest that you "make things simple" by temporarily disconnecting the other telephones and the answering machine and seeing if the problem still exists. If not, add things back one by one and see which device causes the problem.

Bruce Preston is president of West Mountain Systems, a consultancy in Ridgefield, CT, specializing in database applications. A DACS director and moderator of the Random Access segment at the monthly general meetings, Bruce also leads the Access SIG. Members may send tech queries to Bruce at askdacs@aol.com.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

DACS members may publish noncommercial, computer-related classified ads in dacs.doc at no charge. Ads may be placed electronically by fax or by modem, or hard-copy may be submitted at our monthly general meeting. Fax your ads to Charlie Bovaird at 203 792-7881.

Leave hard-copy classifieds with Charlie, Marc, or whoever is tending the members' table at the meeting.

Computer Donations Welcomed

TheDACS computer project is accepting the following items (in working condition):

- Mice with PS2 type connectors
- 101 type keyboards with PS2 type connectors
- RAM modules (8 meg or larger)
- IBM compatible Computers with pentium processors (75 Mhz or faster)
- IBM compatible Computers with 1 gigabyte (or larger) hard drives
- VGA or SVGA monitors
- Laser printers.
- Volunteers

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Future Events

October 3 • Microsoft. Corp.
November 8 (Wed.) • Bruce Preston - Home/Office Networking
December 5 • John Patrick, VP of Internet Technology, IBM Corp.

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