The SAGATUG

INTERFACE

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The San Gabriel Valley Technology User's Group. The Club for TRSDOS and MS-DOS

From FBI: Code Red – The Aftermath and Behind the Scenes Look at the Worm

A visit to the website for the National Infrastrucutre Protection Center greets visitors with the following news release:

For Immediate Release

August 3, 2001 5:30 pm EDT

Washington, D.C. – Over the course of the past week, government and industry groups worked together to address the threat of the "Code Red" Internet Worm and to warn the public to take necessary preventative measures to combat its further spread. What is not well known is the "behind-the-scenes" efforts by technical security experts who did everything from monitor the spread of the worm to personally answering questions from concerned users on how to protect their computers.

After a new and stronger version of the Code Red worm appeared in mid-July, industry and government organizations realized the next outbreak could have much more impact on the Internet if users did not download the software patch to inoculate their system. Going public was not an easy decision, but the impact of not going to the public to ask users for help could have had even worse ramifications, especially if business and home users of the Internet were impacted due to slow response times. There was an unprecedented level of close coordination between government and private sector organizations. Nearly everyone involved in network security or critical infrastructure protection understood the seriousness of this threat. We believe this extraordinary effort significantly blunted the impact of this instance of the worm's infection. We are still not out of the woods—it will be in the "infection" mode until late August 19, 2001, when it switches to "attack" mode. At that time, we will be better prepared to assess how well these efforts paid off.

Because over 1 million individual software patches were applied within the past week, this represents an extraordinary effort for the govern-

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Founder of SAGATUG Now Attending Meetings

The founder of SAGATUG, Dan Dresselhaus, attended the meeting last month and intends to attend them in the future as his schedule permits.

Dan started the club in his apartment in 1979 and at about that time he said he sealed up a relatively new TRS-80 computer for possible future use .

His plan is to bring that sealed TRS-80 to the next meeting this Friday, unseal it, and set it up so it will start working again.

This will be like working cyber time capsule so come and enjoy the reminiscing.

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Code Red – Aftermath

ment/private sector partnership in battling Code

Red. Since the patch can be downloaded once and installed on any number of machines, the number of systems actually patched is no doubt higher. Microsoft observed a dramatic increase in the number of downloads during the week of July 30, which suggests that the effort to heighten customer awareness appeared to pay off. Few of the major web sites were affected by the worm, because many took action after this initial release. The worm would have had far greater an impact if so much effort and cooperation from other industry and government entities had not taken place in the weeks leading up to the Washington, D.C., news conference. Hopefully, public awareness has been raised that a computer needs continual maintenance, especially where security is concerned.

Many countries have processes for handling government security, such as FedCIRC, who is responsible for the security of U.S. government systems. They polled all agencies early in the week to ensure they had secured their internal systems. Getting to small business and home users is much more difficult, as was noted during the response to thousands of inquiries from users around the world. Without the help of volunteers across the security community, it would have been difficult to address, and when these volunteers contacted the owners of infected systems, they got even more cooperation. Comments from Code Red victims included "Thank-you. This is one of our partners' systems, housed in our remote data centre." "Thanks you for the notice. Somehow this box was missed when we applied the patches." "Thanks in advance…Oh, and thanks for tracking the Code Red scanners on everyone's behalf too. That is a Good Thing you are doing." These are the ones who are now patched. Over the next several days, an attempt to notify the remaining users will be made.

Here are some of the organizations that have been together, day and night, for six days. From the Federal Government: the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) of the FBI, Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office (CIAO) of the Department of Commerce, and Federal Computer Incident Response Center (FedCIRC) of the General Services Administration. On the private sector side: Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (CERT/CC) of Carnegie Mellon University, Systems Administration and Network Security (SANS) Institute, Microsoft, Internet Security Systems, Inc. (ISS), Cisco Systems, Inc., Partnership for Critical Infrastructure Security (PCIS), Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), Digital Island, Inc., Information Technology Information Sharing and Analysis Center (IT-ISAC), Internet Security Alliance (ISA), UUNet, and America Online.

Self-propagating worms that exploit vulnerabilities in commonly used software platforms will be a vector of choice by hackers as we move forward. These worms require no social engineering and require no action on the part of users, like opening an attachment. As we saw with Code Red, they can hurt us in two ways: they can consume Internet bandwidth during their propagation phase if the numbers are big enough and they can carry harmful payloads, like the instructions to launch against a chosen target. Anyone can be the next target as future worms may result in much more destructive activity.

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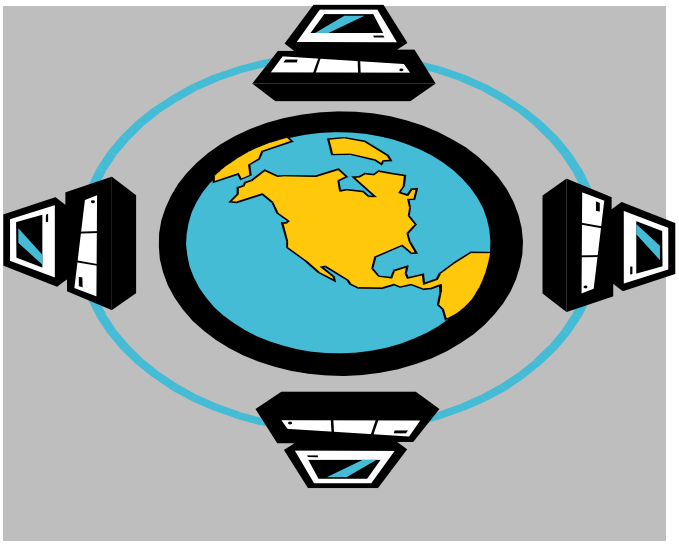

How to Create Danish Diacritics in PAF

Roy T. Beck

***Introductory Note**: As many of you know, I am in to genealogy, which makes considerable use of computers and database programs. I use a program entitled Personal Ancestral File, known as PAF. Diacritics (also known as diacritical marks)are those marks, points or signs attached to alphabetic letters in some other languages for the purposes of distinguishing between similar letters, indicating vowel pronunciation and adding emphasis. Examples are tildes, circumflexes, umlauts and the like. Some of these items are directly available on our keyboards, such as the tilde; most are not.*

In researching my paternal lines which come from Denmark, I desired to input place names with the correct Danish spelling, as opposed to the approximations used in English. The Danish alphabet has 29 letters, including three extra vowels. The following essay is the result of a little research on WORD and PAF to determine how to handle those three extra lettters.

The Danish alphabet has three additional vowels, Æ, Ø or Ö, and Å, which are, respectively, the 27th, 28th, and 29th letters. I have shown the upper case (UC) form of each, but each has a lower case equivalent.

These are usually transliterated into English in the following way:

Æ is shown as AE.

Ö and Ø are usually shown as Ø, occasionally oe.

Å is usually shown as AA.

It is my understanding that the Ö has long been superseded by the Ø, but of course, the Ö will be found in older records. The Å character was only officially introduced in 1953, so will not show up in old records.

The AE and AA representations were apparently created to get around the fact that English language typewriters lacked the Æ and the compound

AA symbols. The Ø symbol was handled by overstriking the letter O with a forward slash. Unfortunately, computers do not ordinarily permit over

striking. As International fonts were created to accommodate foreign languages, the Ø was made an available character, which obviated the need for overstriking. The Å was introduced at the same time to maintain the distinction between it and a double A.

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) has the ability to accept Danish diacritics, at least in Versions 3, 4 and 5. When entering new data from scratch, it is a simple matter to create the preferred symbols. The second column of Table A shows the PAF keystrokes, all of which are accomplished by holding down the ALT key while entering the 4 digit decimal string.

I had a more complex problem when entering data. I began by downloading an Ancestral File from the Family History Library. This included about 400 persons in my father's line, many of which had up to three place names for births, marriages, and deaths. Since none of these names had the diacritics in them, I sought a way to easily correct them. I have found a workable method to correct the spellings to include diacritics easily and consistently.

In case you didn't already know, a GEDCOM file is a plain "text" file as far as WORD for Windows or any other word processor knows. My plan was to export the PAF file as a GEDCOM file and then edit the place names in WORD, taking advantage of its global search and replace capability. Thus everywhere Aars appeared, I could replace it with Års in a single step without having to search out (in PAF) every place it appeared and change each one, one at a time. While working in WORD, I could replace every such spelling with the appropriate spelling with diacritics with a single Search and Replace sequence. Once I had all the spellings corrected, I could then import the edited GEDCOM file back into PAF and have a correct file. Be careful not to alter the form of the GEDCOM file, as PAF is fussy about the format.

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Diacritics

You can edit names, places, etc, but be sure to keep them in the same form as they originally appear.

The symbol table in PAF is accessible via the Help Key. Click on Help, Help Topics, Diacritics and Special Characters, and finally, Decimal numbers for Diacritics. This table formed the basis for Columns 1 and 2 of Table A. Incidentally, I discovered an error in the table; decimal 0230 gives æ, not è as shown.

Naturally, nothing this complex is as simple as it appears, and I had to iron out a few wrinkles. First, let me warn you that this method will fail if your printer is not able to reproduce the resulting diacritic characters. If it has a fixed printhead arrangement, such as an IBM Selectric, forget about it. But all lasers and most dot matrix printers have the necessary capability.

The major problem turned out to be that WORD and PAF did not use the same set of symbols! For example, PAF requires one to type ALT+0198 to input the Æ character, but WORD expects ALT+0165 for the same result. Bah, Humbug!

Since I could not simply type in the WORD string and get what I wanted, I had to analyze both programs to discover their translation values. Columns 2 and 3 of Table A show the results. My method for discovering the values to be used in Column 3 was to create a dummy PAF file containing all eight diacritics. I simply put all these values into a place of birth for an ancestor in the dummy file. I then exported this file (which I named Tester) into WORD and searched out in WORD's symbol table the keystroke sequence which would duplicate the symbols displayed in the Tester file.

For those of you who are interested, the WORD symbol table is accessed by clicking on Insert, then Symbol. Be sure to select the font you are using. With the correct font displayed, double click on the desired symbol and it will be inserted into your WORD document at the cursor location. WORD will also allow you to create Shortcut Keys for the symbols, see the WORD manual. This will allow you to enter the diacritic by typing a keystroke string such as ALT A, for example when Æ is desired. You must be aware that the desired diacritic will not appear in the WORD file; instead, the WORD equivalent appears. However, after you Import the WORD (GEDCOM) file into PAF, the desired diacritics will appear.

For illustrative purposes, I have included the dummy GEDCOM file I created for this project.

Scientists Clones Himself Then Kills Obnoxious Clone

By Anonymous

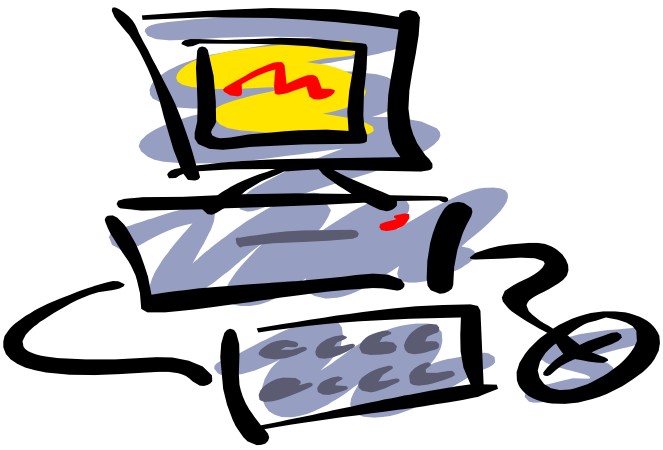
Not many are aware of the scientist who cloned himself years ago. At first it appeared that the clone was successful and there was a lot of celebrating. Soon, however, it became apparent that the clone, although a perfect double by appearance, had the opposite personality of its creator.

The scientist who did the cloning was an amiable, honest and popular person in town but the clone was obnoxious, dishonest and generally very unpleasant.

The scientists double began to blacken its creator's reputation when the town residents repeatedly mistook the obnoxious clone for him.

Fed up, the cloning expert took his clone up to the highest tower in the area and pushed it off the top.

That incident, my friends, became known as *the first obscene clone fall!*



Danish Diacritics Table A

Desired Danish Vowel	PAF Keystrokes	WORD Keystrokes	How it Appears in WORD
Æ	ALT+0198	ALT+y	¥
æ	ALT+0181	ALT+0181	µ
Ö	ALT+0214	CTRL+`, CTRL+e, then O	èO
ö	ALT+0246	CTRL+`, CTRL+e then o	èo
Ø	ALT+0216	CTRL+/, then c	¢
ø	ALT+0248	ALT+0178	²
Å	ALT+0197	CTRL+^, CTRL+e, then A	êA
å	ALT+0229	CTRL+^, CTRL+e, then a	êa

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Sample GEDCOM File

0 HEAD
1 SOUR PAF
2 NAME Personal Ancestral File
2 VERS 4.0.4.18
2 CORP The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
3 ADDR 50 East North Temple Street
4 CONT Salt Lake City, UT 84150
1 DEST PAF
1 DATE 2 AUG 2001
2 TIME 14:53:34
1 FILE tester.ged
1 GEDC
2 VERS 5.5
2 FORM LINEAGE-LINKED
1 CHAR ANSEL
1 LANG English
1 SUBM @SUB1@
0 @SUB1@ SUBM
1 NAME Roy Beck
1 ADDR 2153 Cedarhurst Drive
2 CONT Los Angeles, CA 90027
1 PHON 323-664-5059
1 _EMAIL roytbeck@ix.netcom.com
0 @I2@ INDI
1 NAME Hans Christian Hansen /Beck/
2 GIVN Hans Christian Hansen
2 SURN Beck
1 SEX M
1 BIRT
2 PLAC Danish letters ¥ µ èO èo ¢ ² êA êa
1 CHAN
2 DATE 2 AUG 2001
3 TIME 14:52:30
0 TRLR

SAGATUG Meeting
Time and Place:
7 to 10 p.m., Friday, August 10
Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center
405 South Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia.
(In the park just south of Huntington Drive)

Upcoming Events:

TRW Swap Meet, August 10
Last Saturday, monthly, Manhattan Beach

Pomona Fairplex, August 11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.)
Bldgs. 6 & 7 LA Fair grounds, Gate 14) - Admission $7 plus parking

Buena Park, August 4 & 5 (Sat. & Sun.)
at the Sequoia Conference Center, 7530 Orangethorpe, (Beach Blvd exit from 91 Freeway) $3 admission

Reseda, August 25 & 26 (Sat. & Sun.)
at the Sherman Square Entertainment Center, 18430 Sherman Way. Admission $3.

Glendora Seniors Computer Club
La Fetra Senior Citizens Center, 333 E. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

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Deadline For The Newsletter
The deadline for the INTERFACE is the last Saturday of the month.

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