

Fasoldt fixes eye on Microsoft, Apple

Al Fasoldt is hot to trot, having just returned from a trip with wife Nancy to “The Cape.” Which “Cape” will be revealed at our General Meeting on Tuesday, October 3.

We’re possibly just three months away from the release of the new Vista operating system. Does Al have advice for us? You bet!

According to a report on the TechRepublic website “it looks like Microsoft went out to collect the cool features from the MAC, Firefox and Google” for Vista’s new graphic face. Does Al have comments on this? You bet!

Is it possible we’ll have another Y2K scare? According to TechRepublic, one expert predicts that Windows Vista could overflow a part of the Internet’s infrastructure and cause “rolling blackouts.” Do you think Microsoft’s launch of Windows Vista will slow down or stall traffic on the Net? Does Al have some thoughts on this? You bet!

This is his umpteenth annual visit to the club and it’s fascinating to hear Al talk about things as they really are.

Al Fasoldt is the author of TECHNOFILE, a weekly consumer technology column for The Post-Standard, Syracuse. His website is www.technofileonline.com.



On our website
— **Links of Interest** —
Go to:
mvpcug.com/index1.htm
* [//techrepublic.com.com](http://techrepublic.com.com)
* technofileonline.com
Click on the links to find out more about these subjects.

In November there will be a proposal to change the Bylaws. See page 3 for information.
Also in November a slate of officers will be presented for your consideration. All officer positions (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary) are open and one directorship position is to be filled. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself) for any position, please contact Lisa at mvpcug@usadatanet.net.
Election of officers will be held in December.



explorer

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers. This non-profit organization consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the Whitesboro High School, Route 291, Marcy NY. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Initial membership fee for an individual is \$25. Annual renewal dues are \$20.

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| Meeting Agenda | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 5:30 | Meet and Greet |
| 6:00 | Business Meeting |
| 6:30 | Program, Part 1 |
| 7:00 | Break |
| 7:15 | Program, Part 2 |
| 8:15 | Drawing for Prizes |
| 8:30 | Adjournment |

Editorial notes . . .

Club meetings from now to the end of 2006 promise to be chock full, so mark your calendars.



We have a proposed change in bylaws coming up in November. In December, we will have election of officers. In both November and December we will be holding our annual Food/Toy drive, with Dave Askew in charge. In addition to all that we will be providing door prizes for the rest of the year that promise to be enticing.

Door prizes provided so far this year have cost almost our entire budget, but Bill Gorrell has been frugally seeking rebates which will provide us with money for the next three months. Extra tickets will be given for participation in the Food/Toy drive.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
\$25 for initial sign-up - \$20 for renewal

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ NY
 Zip _____ Phone _____
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Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
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Minutes of Sept 5, 2006
— John Hunter, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Utica Maennenchor. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. There were 35 persons in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

Treasurer **Bill Gorrell** reviewed the financial report for June, July and August with totals reflecting the August 31st balances. Bill reported income of \$416.88 (including a dues overpayment of \$5.00), expenses of \$529.85, and a balance of \$3991.44. During the three months, 16 members renewed and one new member joined. Expenses included payments for newsletter printing, liability insurance and Internet service.

In his opening remarks, President **Jerry Finkelstein** welcomed everyone to the first meeting of our new year. Jerry also reminded the audience that the October meeting will be held as usual in the Whitesboro High School cafeteria. Upcoming programs will include presentations by Lisa Britt and Donna Gorrell as well as Microsoft.

Jerry also remarked that the big speakers that were included in the surplus equipment sale in June were still available and probably could be used by band musicians or other organizations needing a large sound capability.

Lisa Britt reported that she was unable to log on to the MVPCUG web page to add the September Newsletter. Lisa expects that USADATANet will correct her log on problems in the near future so that she can upload the newsletter.

PROGRAM

At 6:15 p.m. the program began featuring our Annual "Ask the Guru Night" with **Lisa Britt, Bill Gorrell, Joe Madeira and Tim Clinehens**. The knowledgeable quartet fielded a variety of questions regarding disk memory, how to transfer cassette tape music to CDs, how to copy emails to CDs, and several questions related to Juno and Internet Explorer email questions.

After the break the amazing double duo fielded questions regarding external backup drives and dual layer DVDs. All in all, the night proved to be helpful and informative to all. The questions and the program ended at 7:45 p.m.

Just before the meeting adjourned, **Jerry Finklestein** noted that there would be no Q & A Sig in September. Jerry also reported that **Dave Askew** will again chair the Holiday food and toy drive beginning with the November general meeting.

The program concluded at 7:45 PM.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- Optical Mouse Loretta Sliwinski
- CDR 32X Don Jennings
- DVD-R Jim Schmandt
- 8 X 10 Photo Paper Bo Wozniak
- Home Theater Joe S. Madeira

[donated by Peach Pit Press]

- Book, *Shooting for Dollars* Ed Dembowski

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

John Hunter, secretary



NOTICE - BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Currently:
 Article VI OFFICERS
 B. The term of office for all officers is one (1) year, with a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms in each office.

Proposed:
 Article VI OFFICERS
 B. The term of office for all officers is one (1) year, with a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms in each office, *or until a successor is elected.*

Discussion will be held at the October 3rd meeting and a vote on the proposal will be taken at the November 7th meeting.

Word Processing Tips — by Bob Schaffer

Word — You can use a Word table as a substitute for a spreadsheet. Word doesn't have the capabilities of a dedicated spreadsheet program such as Excel, but it can often be an easy substitute. You can write custom formulas using 18 functions.

Click Table and Draw Table to bring up the Tables And Borders toolbar. Click the Insert Table button and create a table with three columns and six rows. The rest of the settings can be ignored for our purposes. Click OK. Enter random numbers in the table, leaving the last row and last column empty.

| | Budget | Actual | Difference |
|-----------|--------|--------|------------|
| January | 125 | 130 | \$5.00 |
| February | 130 | 125 | -\$5.00 |
| March | 140 | 145 | \$5.00 |
| April | 150 | 155 | \$5.00 |
| May | 160 | 165 | \$5.00 |
| June | 170 | 175 | \$5.00 |
| July | 180 | 185 | \$5.00 |
| August | 190 | 195 | \$5.00 |
| September | 200 | 205 | \$5.00 |
| October | 210 | 215 | \$5.00 |
| November | 220 | 225 | \$5.00 |
| December | 230 | 235 | \$5.00 |
| Total | 2000 | 2000 | \$0.00 |

You can add, subtract, multiply, and divide values in Word tables, along with more complex operations. Individual cells are identified by column letter and row number. As such, the top-left cell is A1.

You can create a budget with a table in Word, showing the differences in each expense and the total difference for the time period.

Click the empty cell C1. You always need to select an empty cell for the results of a function or you will overwrite information in the cell. Click the AutoSum button Σ on the toolbar. The number in the cell is the sum of the numbers in the row. C1 now contains a formula in a field. A field is simply a set of codes that tells Word to perform some action automatically. Click Table and Formula. The formula =SUM(LEFT) appears in the Formula box.

An equal sign begins all formulas. For AutoSum, it is followed by the function—in this case, SUM—and the data range that is to be processed (LEFT). Close the dialog box. Click the number that we obtained using AutoSum. Note that it turns grey, indicating that the cell contains a calculation function, not an inserted number. Double-click the calculation function and press DELETE.

Now we will specify a precise set of cells instead of (LEFT). Click the cell C4. If we wanted to add only cells A1 through A3 and individual cell B2, the formula would be this: =SUM(A1:A3,B2). Click Table and Formula and enter that information. You can also use the Paste Function drop-down box.

— by Tom Hancock

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WordPerfect — Who's Zooming Whom?

The Zoom feature doesn't do a thing to the printout of your document; it just controls how the page displays on your computer screen. WordPerfect's default zoom ratio is 100%, but you can change it as you like. This means you can ease your eyes as you type, while still meeting the office's formatting requirements.

Although useful, Zoom can present a problem if you don't realize the program is set to something other than 100%—the whole document can seem unusually large or small. Zoom also causes problems when a few well-known bugs in the feature pop up. For example, sometimes varying the zoom level causes certain elements to disappear from the screen altogether. Signature lines and other lines can go missing, only to reappear again when you change the zoom. Other times, specific zoom levels can make fonts inexplicably appear bold or light when you know they aren't.

To adjust the zoom with the View menu, go to View and click Zoom. The Zoom dialog box appears with five preset percentages and four additional options: Margin Width (displays a complete line or block of text within a window, with minimal white space to the right and left), Page Width (displays the width of the page, including margins, within a window), and Full Page (displays all page margins in the document window). The final option, Other, allows you to set any zoom ratio you like.

Choose a preset zoom ratio or select one of your own. If you prefer to preview the zoom settings before making your selection, you'll want to use the Zoom button on the toolbar because it employs RealTime Preview. Look for the magnifying glass icon and click the drop-down arrow next to it. A menu appears listing all the preset options. Hover the mouse over a zoom ratio to activate RealTime Preview. If none of the presets work for you, click Other to open the Zoom dialog box to input a different ratio.

You can use the mouse for zooming, too. If you use a mouse with a scroll wheel, you can zoom in and out by holding down the CTRL key while moving the scroll wheel. Each notch on the scroll wheel adjusts the ratio by 10%. Scroll down to decrease the percentage, up to increase it.

— by Anne Steyer Phelps

This tip courtesy of Smart Computing Magazine
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SOFTWARE FOR EDITING VIDEOS

— by Kim Komando

Q. I've amassed a large amount of videos from my family vacation this summer. Now, I need to know my options for editing the video. I'm new to video editing, and I don't know what software I need to get the job done. Can you offer some advice?

A. If you're looking for an easy way to piece together your videos, I would suggest you start with Windows Movie Maker. This is included with recent versions of Windows. It will help you create a single movie from multiple files.

Windows Movie Maker lets you select options for video type and file size. It also offers rudimentary video effects. For someone new to video editing, it is ideal. But if you want to get fancy, you should look elsewhere.

If you visit an online retailer, you'll find many video-editing solutions. As with photo-editing programs, many of these will be more software than you actually need. For example, Adobe Premiere, Avid Liquid and Ulead VideoStudio Pro are aimed at more expert users. And the prices range from \$350 to \$1,000.

You'll even find video-editing programs more costly than these. Unless you're an expert, which it sounds like you're not, save your money.

You'll find more reasonable solutions for your needs. For example, Adobe offers Premiere Elements (a stripped-down version of Premiere for the average Joe) www.adobe.com/products/premiereel for \$100.

Other programs include Pinnacle Studio <http://tinyurl.com/z9egq> (from \$70), Ulead VideoStudio www.ulead.com/vs/runme.htm (from \$70) and Roxio Video Wave tinyurl.com/qofyh (\$50).

With the exception of Roxio's Video Wave, you can download free trials of these programs. I recommend you kick the tires before settling on a program.

First, you should look for ease of use. Video editing can be a complicated process. So you should look for a program that makes it as simple as possible. You should be able to clip and rearrange segments of video with relative ease. Also, controls should be easy to find and the help files, well, helpful.

Next, you should consider the features. Look for a

program that allows you to add special effects, titles and the like. These features can make a more interesting video.

You also want a program that creates high-quality video. The resolution of the videos should be high enough that they will look good on a large TV. If you want a program that handles high-definition video and surround sound, you'll find it. But expect to pay more for these features.

Finally, you'll want to package your movies. Look for a program that will create a DVD for standalone players. If you want to transfer the movies to a portable player, the program should optimize the videos for this.

Also, you should visit my Downloads section [<http://www.komando.com/downloads/categories.aspx?cat=Pictures%20and%20Video>]. I have a few video-editing programs. You might just find what you need there – for free!

Once you get the hang of your software, you'll probably want to transfer some of your old VHS tapes to DVD. I have a tip on that <http://tinyurl.com/lgz7l>.

And remember, video-editing requires a lot of drive space. So make sure you have plenty of room for your work. If you need it, add another hard drive to your computer or build an external one.

EDIT AND CREATE MOVIES

One of the best things about the Internet is the ability to instantly share life's little moments. So instead of tossing your videos in a box, why not create one terrific movie. Or use this free program for important purposes, such as creating a movie of your assets in case of burglary, fire, flood or another disaster.

First, you'll want to edit your movies and here's where this freebie can help. You may already have it on your computer. If not, Microsoft offers its own little known and free program called Movie Maker.

Exclusively for Windows XP users, if you have not experimented with this gem, you're missing out.

By dividing the work area into four distinct sections, the program turns even the novice into a movie making pro. While the learning curve is not steep, don't expect to initially impress your audience as the next Spielberg. This is software, after all; you'll need some practice. Cost: Free

Link: www.microsoft.com ❖

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www.komando.com

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

A recent issue of PC Magazine [pcmag.com] ran an article titled "PC Magazine's Top 99 Undiscovered Web Sites." "Sites to Visit" readers will recognize one of the sites listed which appeared in a previous column, Charity Navigator. Nevertheless, the article identifies a number of useful/interesting sites you should consider visiting.

Free Downloads

The second entry on PC Mag's list is Concise Freeware at www.conciseware.com. The homepage offers freeware organized by type: Internet, games, art, maintenance, information and so on. I clicked on Internet and found a slew of free downloads that include a 3B browser that allows you to browse the web in a 3-D-like environment.

Other downloads include: Digital TV- you can watch hundreds of TV channels and listen to radio from all over the world; AM Deadlink- a program that fixes dead links in your browser's bookmarks; and Netstumbler - software that allows you to detect wireless local area networks.

Other Internet freebies include Gaim and Miranda - instant messenger connections that connect ICQ, MSN, Google Talk, Yahoo, IRC and AIM in a text-chat-only environment.

More

There are five file sharing programs you may download to share MP3's as well as Utorrent, a BitTorrent file sharing client that uses low memory. In addition, the site provides a bazzillion Firefox Extensions for those IE Explorer- bailers who now use the free Firefox browser from Mozilla.

Informative Health Sites

Two sites are recommended: Crazy Meds at crazymeds.org and Go Ask Alice at goaskalice.com. The Crazy Meds site is a must-see. The homepage observes that "[it is] your one-stop information portal for the mentally interesting." The site provides links to mental illness, mental help, bi-polar illness and mental health care among others.

The web master cautions that no one connected to the site is a doctor and that you should know your information sources. That said, the site immediately provides a drug list for various mental conditions,

starting with bi-polar medications. The medication lists runs down the left side of the screen. Beginning with Mood Stabilizers and Anti-convulsants, the list provides drug descriptions by popular name, generic name, drug interaction information and specific drug experience provided by individuals using the drug.

For example, information for Prozac includes the following in rank order: a link to the official drug web site, the generic name [fluoxetine hydrochloride], other drug forms [Prozac Weekly, Sarafem for PMMD, oral solution], Class-antidepressant (SSRI), FDA approved uses, Off-label uses and a jargon-free discussion of the pros and cons involved in using this drug as well as the side effects the drug produces.

All in all, this site provides very useful consumer information that should be discussed with your physician if you are taking any of these drugs.

Go Ask Alice

Go Ask Alice provides answers to potentially embarrassing medical questions. Answers come from the staff of the Columbia University Medical School's Health Promotion Program. As with the Crazy Meds site, the information is written for laypeople rather than clinicians.

When I visited the site, the Theme of the Week focused on exercise; specifically, running. Theme answer topics included: treadmill vs track; training for a marathon; future knee problems from running; sports bras stabilize rocking breasts; is running OK when pregnant and so on.

The site also provides a weekly poll question: how many hours of TV do you watch every week? And lists choices of less than one hour per week to more than 25 hours per week in 5-hour increments. When I participated in the poll, my response was compared to the responses of other poll takers. Given the tallied responses, many people lied. According to the poll 18 percent of respondents said they watched fewer than one hour of TV per week. The second category, one to five hours per week, was claimed by 31 percent; and 21 percent claimed to watch only 6-10 hours a week. Phooey! If this were true, American Idol and Survivor would be off the air.

New questions for the week included: How could someone get chlamydia on my bed!?!; and, What are the side effects of laser hair removal? These questions appear to be concerns of college-age individuals, but are important questions all. Until next time . . . ❖

Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Word saves changes and information in documents that you may not want to share? Word inserts metadata [information about data] to help identify keywords, author names, titles, and print and save dates. If you create a document at work, this could include information about your company, such as the organization's name, network server name and any comments that have been added to a document. This data is within the document whether or not you can see it. It is helpful when you want to track changes made to a document, but could be a disaster if you don't want the recipient to see those changes. A software company studied Word, Excel and PowerPoint files on the sites of several companies and was able to identify thousands of user names from these documents. There are several ways to ensure that your personal or company data stays with you:

- * Turn off Fast Save. This feature speeds up saving a document by saving only changes made to a document. Microsoft recommends turning off this feature to eliminate any chance of deleted text remaining in the document. Click Tools | Options. Click the Save tab. Clear the "Allow fast saves" check box and click OK.
- * Remove personal information from a document when you save it. In Word 2002/2003, click Tools | Options. Click the Security tab. Under Privacy options, select "Remove personal information from file properties on save" and click OK. In Word 2000, click Tools | Options. Select the User Information tab. Clear the information in Name, Initials and Mailing Address and click OK.
- * Turn off the Track Changes tool. In Word 2002 and 2003, click Tools | Track Changes. In Word 2000 and earlier versions, click Tools | Track Changes | Highlight Changes. Clear the check mark in the "Track Changes while editing" box. Check the status bar (located at the bottom of every document). When Track Changes is enabled, TRK appears in the status bar; when disabled, TRK is dimmed. Track Changes must be disabled before writing the document.
- * The Remove Hidden Data add-in tool from Microsoft available at tinyurl.com/2qaax will delete hidden text and comments from individual files or a batch of files at once. ❖

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

What does it take to buy a laptop? A lot of forethought? A lot of research? Certainly a lot of comparison shopping. What got me was the sale price on a Hewlett Packard at Best Buy. I'm usually more responsible than this. Some club members might remember how I agonized for months before joining the computer world. This time around I guess I was ready. The ad spoke to me. I listened. I bought.

I'm not a power user. I'm not traveling much these days. I'm not the kind of guy who wants to turn on a laptop while I drink coffee at Panera's. And I haven't used the kitchen table for "homework" since my days at grammar school. So why on Earth would I want a portable PC, a laptop? Let's say that my PC was out of commission for awhile. It's getting old, I was told to "watch it," it won't last much longer; I thought of getting a back up. What a rationalization! It sounded good to me. Still, why a laptop? Why climb the mountain?

Still, buyer beware. It happens that the laptop on sale was not on display at the store. It was under wraps tucked under the counter. I asked about certain aspects of the keyboard. Nobody could answer the questions without opening the packaging. If I didn't want to pay the expensive restocking fee, I would have to buy it to get my questions answered about the keyboard. The clerk said this was Best Buy's policy. It made sense, first buy the merchandise, then open it. Buy it sight unseen. Get your questions answered after you purchase the item. I asked to talk to the manager. The manager brought someone else over, and this guy brought another guy over (the boss? CEO?). After awhile we came to an agreement. Questions were answered. Best Buy made the sale. I think I'm happy with the purchase. No, I haven't taken it to Panera's. And I don't do PC in the kitchen.

What's your excuse for a laptop? Maybe you've been seduced by the TV ad of a young man/woman alone on a stretch of gorgeous beach a million miles from anywhere typing away on his laptop.




Yeah, right! ❖

Japanese Computer Message
Yesterday it worked. Today it is not working. Windows is like that.

explorer

Fasoldt fixes eye on Microsoft, Apple
 Tuesday ★ October 3, 2006 ★ 6:00 PM ★ Whitesboro High School



| what's.com/ing | | | | October 2006 | | |
|----------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2  Yom Kippur | 3 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS | 4 | 5 Q & A SIG 6:30 PM St. John's | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Board of Director's Mtg 6:30 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31  | Fire Prevention Week - October 8-14 | | |  |