

DiLorenzo on Computer Crime

Now stationed at the Albany office of the State Troopers, Investigator **Michael DiLorenzo** will once again fascinate us with his true-life tales about Internet crime. He'll show us how to protect ourselves against criminals who take advantage of computer technology to fleece or injure us. He also promises a new twist in his presentation.

This will mark the third appearance of Mike DiLorenzo before our group and each of his previous presentations has been both entertaining and fascinating in terms of the rich details that he discloses about his important work.


With his vast knowledge of Internet criminal practices, Mike will grab and hold our attention just as though we were home watching an episode of *Law and Order!*

Mike studied Computer Science at Moravian College and after serving in the US Air Force for six years he attended the NY State Police Academy. He served as a road trooper in Middletown NY and in 1994 he transferred to Utica.

While in Utica he taught other troopers and investigators how to use software that was being developed for police use. Mike then became involved with the computer crime unit which opened in the Utica office. In 2001 Mike became an Investigator and transferred to the Division Headquarters in Albany.

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

 As winter will soon be upon us, we run the risk of cancellation of our monthly meeting if the Whitesboro High School closes. School closings are usually listed on the radio in the morning and a notice will also be placed on our web home page (www.mvpcug.com). Note that whether our SIG meetings are held is at the discretion of each SIG leader. Please phone or email your SIG leader regarding closings.

**Our Meetings
are open to
the public.**



**No admission
charge!**



The MVPCUG EXPLORER is published monthly by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc., PO Box 586, Marcy NY 1403-0586.

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The Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc. (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.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page — \$25 ♦ 1/2 page — \$45

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Our INTERNET presence is at

http://www.mvpcug.com

The Web Team

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HELP HOTLINES

Help is limited to times indicated below. Day calls: 9am to 4pm. Evening calls: 6 to 9pm. If your problem isn't urgent, please try e-mail.

Disclaimer: The individuals listed here provide voluntary services and information. Please be considerate when you call. Help hotline members reserve the right to limit the amount of advice and number of calls they will accept. Use these services and information at your own discretion and risk as they and the MVPCUG do not assume responsibility for any software or hardware failures that may occur. The club does not assume responsibility for any agreements made by participating parties.

- AOL Dave Askew
Basic Mike Smith
Batch Files Mike Smith
..... Tim Clinehens
dBase Mike Smith
Excel Bob May
Money Bob Schaffer
Troubleshooting Tim Clinehens
..... Bill Gorrell
WordPerfect Bob Schaffer

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Directors-at-Large Tim Clinehens ['04]
..... Dave Askew ['05]
..... George Bracken ['06]

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Our Special Interest Groups usually meet each month. Each SIG is independent and has its own leader.

Internet SIG — 3rd Mon at St. John's Episcopal Church, 135 Main St., Whitesboro, at 6:30pm. Learn about web pages and how to navigate the Internet. Tim Clinehens

Q&A SIG — Last Mon at St. John's Episcopal Church, 135 Main St., Whitesboro, at 6:30pm. Questions, whether simple or complex. Tim Clinehens.

WordProcessing SIG — doesn't meet monthly, but you can request weekly emails with tips for both WordPerfect and Word from Bob Schaffer

Genealogy Club —3rd Tuesday at Calvary United Methodist Church, 706 North Madison Street in Rome.

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Name _____
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MVPCUG
PO Box 586
Marcy NY 13403-0586

Minutes of October 7, 2003

– Marsha Thayer, Secretary

Minutes, Meeting of Tuesday, December 2, 2003

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro High School. Vice-President **Bill Gorrell** called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Business Meeting

Bill announced that the Q&A SIG would meet on the last Monday of the month—not the last Tuesday. The Internet and Basic Training SIGS will not meet in December.

The 2004 budget was discussed. The budgeted income of \$4000 is proposed to be partially satisfied from \$775 from our treasury. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the budget be accepted.

Treasurer's report: Income for the period of 11/1/2003 - 11/30/2003 was \$373.27; expenses for the period were \$428.19; the balance in the treasury as of 11/30/2003 was \$4603.09. The treasurer's report was accepted to be included with the minutes.

Dave Yeaton was the coordinator of the toy and food collection during the meeting.

Presentation

At 6:30, our presenter, **Marsha Thayer**, talked about some features of *Microsoft Word* and *Excel*. Specific features discussed included:

Word

- * use of headers and footers
- * text boxes
- * mail merge for envelopes and personalized thank you notes

Break - We took a break at 7:30 and resumed at 7:45.

Announcement

Tim presented the information on the December CD and we gave the CD to each family/single who was present as a Christmas gift.

Presentation (cont'd)

The presentation resumed with these topics:

Word

- * Dealing with Word "Magic"—learning the autocorrect options

Word vs Excel - examined the differences between tables and spreadsheets for computations

Excel

- * Using canned and user-provided formulas (Mortgage analysis)
- * simple graphing

There was lots of interaction during the presentation. Everyone appeared to learn something.

Door Prize Drawing Winners

(The following prizes provided by MVPCUG)

- * McAfee Virus Scan - **Gary Virkler**
- * PCI card - **Stu Culp**
- * 15 CDRs with cases - **Bill Wilson**
- * 10 CDRs with cases - **Don Pianka**
- * Greeting card paper - **Sherm Stein**
- * Mouse - **Dave Yeaton**
- * 50 CDRs - **Jim Pease**
- * CD storage cube - **Don Jennings**
- * Set of club CDs - **Rod St. Clair, Jim Schmandt, Fred Cole, Dick Eades, Fred Schmandt, Stu Culp, Sherm Stein, and Joe Schraeder**

(The following prizes provided by Que/Sam's Books)

- * Mug / key chain/ pen - **Hart Anway**
 - * T-shirt - **Jim Schmandt**
 - * MS WinServer 2003 book - **Joe Madeira**
- (The following prize provided by Mindshare)
- * WinXP Plus Digital Media Edition - **Charley Goetz**
- (The following prizes provided by Tim Clinehens)
- * Milestones - **Joe Schraeder**
 - * CD project case / set of club CDs - **Helen Russell**
- (The following prize provided by Rod St. Clair)
- * T-shirt - James Praznik

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. ❖

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Donna's Data

— by Donna Gorrell

As we welcome the year 2004 let me tell you about some of the wonderful things that are planned for the club in the coming year.

Tim Clinehens and his committee have been producing a utility CD of the month, available at club meetings for \$5. At the December meeting, Tim gave each attendee a free CD as a Christmas present. This CD contained 198 programs which were either shareware, freeware, or demo/trial versions. The collection for December was entitled "Major Geeks" and included a trial version of the game "XIII".

Tim's committee will continue to produce a master copy of utilities and trial versions, along with a game each month. He is in the process of negotiating with a Syracuse firm to produce the CDs on a monthly basis.

The newsletter is now being produced using a pdf format that goes to the printer so the end product is much sharper and cleaner. The pages are then reformatted to another pdf file which our webmaster **Lisa Britt** posts on the newsletter page of the website. This file contains the full newsletter [minus the email and phone numbers on page 2] and is much more colorful. In the near future we may have to switch to an online newsletter only as the cost of producing a printed copy may become prohibitive. We need to know if you want to continue receiving a hard copy or if you would be satisfied by having it available on the website. If you wish to have the hard copy, are you willing to increase membership dues to \$25?

And while we're on the subject of the newsletter—we'd also like to hear what you want in that newsletter. We try to provide as much variety as possible and could always use additional assistance. **John Hunter** seeks interesting sites on the web each month.

The *DidYouKnow* column provides hints and tips garnered from a number of sources. If someone would like to provide us with a column on games, and another member wrote about technical stuff it would round out our coverage considerably.

The year 2004 will see new innovations in the form of Workshops of a short duration. Proposed subjects include Digital Photography, Video Editing, and Windows XP.

Starting the third Monday in January, **Tim Clinehens** will assume leadership of the **Internet SIG** and he will continue his **Q&A SIG** on the fourth Monday. He anticipates being able to begin the **Open Box** workshop on the fourth Thursday of January.

In the coming months you will be asked to respond to a survey to gather your ideas. Please be willing to participate and make your preferences known. ❖

Windows XP Tip-of-the-Month

— by Joe Madeira

The System Configuration utility is a powerful tool in Windows XP. With it, you can control the startup process or see what is running and what is stopped on your computer.

To run it, click on START, then RUN, then enter MSCONFIG and press enter.

Under the General tab you can select from:

- * Normal startup : loads all device drivers + services
- * Diagnostic startup : loads basic devices and services only
- * Selective startup : select what you want to start
- * Launch System Restore : create a restore point or restore back to a restore point

The Services tab shows what processes are running and what are stopped.

The Startup tab shows which programs are automatically loaded. Another way to control what automatically starts on boot up. If you change any, do so one at a time and try it. Most of these are Windows System processes. ❖

Word Processing Tips

— by Bob Schaffer

WORD — Selecting Text Columns

You most likely know that you can click at the top of a Word table to select the entire table.

But what if you need to select columns of tabbed text that aren't in a table?

To select columns of text:

- * Click where you want to begin your selection
- * Then hold down the Alt key while you use the mouse to select the desired text.

WORDPERFECT — Maneuvering Columns with Keyboard Shortcuts

If you often work in newspaper or parallel-style columns in WordPerfect, there are a few keyboard shortcuts you can use to help you move around more efficiently, as follows:

- * [Alt][Home]: moves the insertion point to the top of the column
- * [Alt][End]: moves the insertion point to the end of the column
- * [Alt][Right Arrow]: moves the insertion point to the next column to the right
- * [Alt][Left Arrow]: moves the insertion point to the previous column ❖

Did You Know . . .

. . . that you can learn how to burn a CD, among other things, at www.howstuffworks.com? This site will give you information about how a CD is stamped professionally compared to how we “burn” CDs at home.

. . . that your font list can get pretty clogged and may slow up your system? Every time you install a new program some fonts are also usually installed. Windows Operating Systems also load their own fonts.

Don’t just delete a font without checking to see if it might be a vital part of your OS or a necessity to some program.

Never delete: Arial, Courier New, Impact, Times New Roman, System, Symbol, Wingdings, Georgia, Verdana, Tahoma, Trebuchet, or anything that begins with MS.

If you want to delete some unused fonts, make a new directory [such as “Unused Fonts”] and move those fonts into it. They will not load in the font directory and will free up some of your memory. They will be available if you have to move them back into the Fonts directory.

For a list of fonts installed by Microsoft software go to www.microsoft.com/typography/fonts/default.asp

. . . that you can skip some typing when using the address bar in *Internet Explorer*? To add *www* before and *.com* after any text in the address bar—and to go to that site—simply type in the text and then press CTRL+Enter.

In *Netscape* it is even simpler, just type, for example, MVPCUG and press Enter.

. . . that you should update to the latest versions of software to avoid bugs that can crash your system? To update Office 2003, XP and 2000 users should go to <http://find.pcworld.com/38180> This will take you to <http://office.microsoft.com/officeupdate/default.aspx> There are a myriad of updates on this page—choose which is right for you.

To get the latest update for your version of Office, use the “Check for Updates” link. Follow instructions, download the scanner if necessary, select the update you need, then click “Start Installation”.

Office 97 users will find update version SR-2b at <http://find.pcworld.com/38141>.

. . . that if you use *Outlook* to send mail the recipient may receive an attachment “winmail.dat”? This file is annoying to those who cannot read it, which is anyone without *Outlook*. *Outlook* uses a *Microsoft Exchange* format called Rich Text that cannot be read by other email software, even *Outlook Express*. When an Outlook Rich Text message is opened in another program the recipient sees plain text and also an attachment with a .dat extension. It might be a variant of winmail.dat.

To stop sending Rich Text messages to non-Outlook users, click Tools|Options|Mail Format. In *Outlook 2000*, select “Plain Text or HTML” and click OK. In *Outlook 2002* and *2003*, click on the “Internet Format” button, “Convert to HTML Format” in the “Outlook Rich Text Options” drop down menu, and click OK twice. If you are receiving mail with these attachments, contact the sender and give them these instructions so they can make the adjustments. ❖

Computer Humor

- Q: What happened when the computer fell on the floor?
A: It slipped a disk!

COMPUTER DOCTOR LLC

5158 State Route 233
Westmoreland, NY 13490

(315) 853-5151



HOURS:

Monday4:30 - 7:00 pm
TuesdayOn Site By Appointment
Wednesday4:30 - 7:00 pm
Thursday4:30 - 7:00 pm
FridayOn Site By Appointment
Saturday9:00 - 12:00 noon

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

It's January. The holidays are over. Now what? How about relaxing in a hot tub, sniffing aromatherapy fragrances or experiencing a glorious massage? If a spa visit will cure your January ills, then click on over to www.spafinder.com.

The spafinder homepage includes the usual list of buttons to push to navigate the site. These buttons include: spa vacations, day spas, gift certificates, spa stores or spa lifestyles.

To find spas nearby in Canada and the US or as far away as Europe, the Pacific Rim, Asia, and Central and South America, type in a zip code or a geographic area and up pops a list of spas. I typed in the Rome, NY zip code and chose a 100-mile limit from Rome. These criteria produced three hits: Mirbeau Inn and Spa in Skaneateles, NY, 54 miles away; Vatra Mountain Valley Spa in Hunter, NY (no personal connection; it's in the Catskills), 94 miles away; and Copperhood Inn and Spa in Shandaken, NY (also in the Catskills) at 95 miles away. Each listing provides a picture of the spa, the number of rooms, the price range and a list of activities and services provided. Mirbeau, for example, offers 34 guest sleeping rooms, 10 treatment rooms, and a restaurant, all sumptuously decorated with paintings by Impressionist and Contemporary painters. Each guest room features its own fireplace and a "huge" two-person soaking tub plus a "spectacular view of impressionist gardens or pine trees." The site encourages honeymooners and romantic couples to consider sampling the sybaritic pleasures offered by the spa.

The discerning guest can choose from over 40 different European spa treatments such as Vichy shower treatments and individual massages ranging from Swedish to sports to Hinoki. Deep cleaning facials and bubbly body wraps and manicures and pedicures are also available.

Prices at Mirbeau range from \$300 to \$400 a night per person double occupancy in high season. These rates include three meals and one spa treatment a day. According to Mirbeau, the spa has an extensive wine list featuring Finger Lakes wineries (extra cost) and Hudson Valley Fois Gras, local apple crepes and Strawberry Gastrique and Maine lobster bouillabaisse. If you don't want to lay out serious cash or sell one of your children, you may wish to try something else.

Less expensive, but no less interesting, is a "virtual tour" of some of the world's most wonderful museums. The Franklin Institute Science Museum Online offers fascinating tours of many types of exhibits. The brick and mortar institution is located in Philadelphia, but you can go there by querying Google, Franklin Institute/Philadelphia. (I tried

www.sin.fi.edu, a URL I found in a magazine, but could not raise the web page.)

When I clicked on the Google link, I found the featured exhibit to be the Franklin Air Show. Centerpiece of the exhibit is the 1911 Wright Model B Flyer that was restored last summer by Aeroplane Works in Dayton, Ohio. The web site provides pictures and text, "to immerse visitors in the simulated environment of an actual air show and introduce them to the history, majesty, science, and technology of powered flight."

Another museum to visit is the Natural History Museum in London, UK. To get there type in www.nhm.ac.uk/interactive/index.html. The web site offers the visitor panoramic views of the exhibit halls in either *QuickTime* or *Surround Video*. According to the museum, as you walk along this virtual tour you will "find yourself face to face with the dramatic 26-meter long Diplodocus skeleton."

In addition to dinosaurs, the museum also features other rare and odd items you may view in *Quicktime Java*. *Quicktime Java* allows you to rotate the object for viewing from all sides. You need a broadband connection for this. But dial-up modem users can also view objects using *Quicktime* without the *Java* enhancement. I picked the two-faced sheep skull to view. According to the accompanying text, the sheep skull illustrates Victorian fascination with the odd or bizarre. The skull looked weird, but it didn't provoke nightmares.

You can also examine a photograph of Mars taken by the Mars Global Surveyor that provides accurate maps of Mars surface. The picture provides a topographic rendering of the Martian surface that is color coded by height. And, as with the skull, you can rotate the image to view all sides of the planet. By clicking on a button, the image rotates automatically, left and right, up and down. Cool.

If your tastes tend to flesh and blood exhibits, try the San Diego Zoo at www.sandiegozoo.org/. When I visited the site, the big feature proved to be Panda Cam pictures of the baby panda and Bai Yun, the proud mother, 24 hours a day. You can sign up for automatic updates if you provide your full name and e-mail address.

History and archeology buffs can visit the tomb of Tutankhamen at www.nationalgeographic.com/egypt/. When you click the URL, the link takes you to an archived section of the National Geographic Magazine for February 1923. The article provides pictures and text of the original 1923 story written by Maynard Owen Williams. The web site provides many extra pieces of information including excerpts from letters Williams wrote to Associate Editor Oliver LaGorce at the Geographic which reveal the challenges Williams faced covering this story.

Journeying to these sites should keep you busy for the entire month of January. Until next month . . . ❖

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

This is the time for giving thanks, for spreading joy, for the giving of gifts. As you ponder your life's concerns at this time of year and before you make your New Year's resolutions, take a good hard look at your trusty PC and know that it's left Jack Benny, the Dolly Sisters and DOS in the dust, it's come a long way.

Digital cameras have gone from 2 pixels to 6 in what seems a matter of a year. Prices keep dropping; they're more affordable than ever for the serious photographer that you know is you. Give thanks that you don't have to wait any longer for your grandchild to grow up and get you one. Thanks too for the wizardry of DVD burners. According to accounts of some of our Club members they do work most of the time. Still, frustration must mount as you see all the coasters you've made ready to be tossed in the trash. But it is the season of cheer so look at the bright side: the price of the DVD disks keep falling. If the burner needs to make that coaster, this is the time to show its stuff. Eventually you do get your "backup" of The Attack Of The Killer Tomatoes.

Thanks too for all those XP patches. Microsoft is, after all, a reliable supplier of software: you can always count on them to hand out patches. Lots of them. Thanks for Homeland Security and all the latest software keeping me hacker-free and safe from identity theft. It must be comforting to know, however, that you can lose your identity—and adopt a fantasy one—in one of those thriving, savvy chat rooms or visit a dating website.

I know four eager-to-meet-someone people who met the love of their middle-aged lives online. You can bet they are thankful. And filled with cheer. Their tap tapping of the keyboard keys is making a joyful noise.

We have come a long way since Jack Benny and DOS. Everybody ready for the new year? ❖

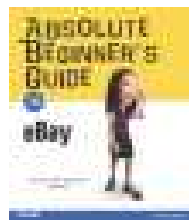
Q: What is an astronaut's favorite key on a computer keyboard?

A: The space bar.

Sams/Que User Group Program

This program offers benefits to our MVPCUG members that include book discounts and review copies of the very latest Que and Sams books. These valuable computer books have been showing up at our computer meetings as freebies for our end-of-meeting drawings. You will be entitled to keep any book that you review for our newsletter.

If there's a book that you'd like to review, contact **Bob Schaffer** at rdschaffer@adelphia.net. Bob is



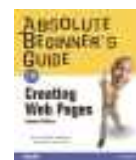
currently preparing a review for the *Absolute Beginner's Guide to WordPerfect 11*. This is but one in an impressive series of books under the title of Absolute Beginner's Guides. The ABG series covers a wide swath

of interests and does it with amazing simplicity and ease.

You can save 20% off Absolute Beginner's Guides. Visit www.quepublishing.com and register with Que to receive this discount as well as free shipping.

Some of the other ABG titles include:

- ★ Absolute Beginner's Guide to eBay
- ★ Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages
- ★ Absolute Beginner's Guide to Photoshop Elements
- ★ Absolute Beginner's Guide to Computer Basics



If you're a fixer-upper, take a look at the Absolute Beginner's Guide to Upgrading and Fixing Your PC. It provides step-by-step instructions for specific types of upgrades, fast and easy ways to troubleshoot common computer problems — and how to restore systems to working order after bad upgrades.



While you're at the Que site, check out Special Edition Using Microsoft Office 2003 by Ed Bott and Woody Leonhard. Most books written on Microsoft products simply parrot the information found in the Help files or the Microsoft Knowledge Base. Not this book.

Not only do Ed and Woody show you the best way to solve problems, they point out what works and what doesn't with a no holds barred approach.

Unlike most CDs pasted into the back of computer books, this book offers one that rivals the book in terms of value. You receive a FREE copy of Woody's Office Power Pack (WOPR) — the #1 enhancement to Office. This software regularly sells for \$49.99. ❖

explorer

Michael DiLorenzo on Computer Crime
Tuesday * January 6, 2004 * 6:00 PM * Whitesboro High School

what's.com/ing				January 2004		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!				1	2	3
4	5	6 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM	7	8	9	10 Peter Trapp Computer Show Syr Fairgrounds 10-4
11	12	13 Board of Director's Mtg St. John's 6:30 PM	14	15	16	17
18	19 Internet SIG St. John's 6:30 PM	20	21	22 Open Box A to Z Auto 1111 Oriskany St Utica - 6 PM	23	24
25	26 Q & A SIG St. John's 6:30 PM	27	28	29	30	31