

# Microsoft's New Digital Image Suite

Microsoft® Digital Image Suite 2006, a powerful package of easy-to-use tools designed to help consumers organize, enhance and share their rising number of digital memories. The new digital imaging software helps consumers—from the novice to the sophisticated photographer—easily find their favorite snapshots and video clips and do more with them in just a few clicks.



Digital Image Suite includes intuitive tools such as the Hierarchical Keywords and Hover Thumbnail, offering a more personalized, easy way to manage photos and video. In addition, with filters and tone adjuster in the Black & White Effects feature, you can turn ordinary color photos into extraordinary works of art.

## FOOD / TOY DRIVE

**Dave Askew** will be coordinating the annual **Food and Toy drive**. During the meetings in the months of **November** and **December** he will accept donations of non-perishable food and new toys to be given to the needy of the area.



When you bring in any amount of food you will be given a door prize ticket; any amount of toys will give you a second ticket. You could hold three tickets for door prizes and it's possible that all three numbers could be winners. Non-members will be allowed to participate in the drawings if they donate food/toys, but they will not receive the normal free ticket given to all members.



Please open your hearts and pocketbooks one more time.

You may have contributed to help the victims of Katrina, but we have folks in our own area in need of your kindness. ❖

On our website  
 — **Links of Interest** —  
 Go to:  
[mvpcug.com/index1.htm](http://mvpcug.com/index1.htm)  
 \* Microsoft Digital Image  
 \* Taking Great Pictures

Click on the links to find out more about these subjects.

**There is never a charge for non-members!**  
**Bring a friend!**

☀ ☀ ☀

**Proposed 2006 Budget**  
 See page 3.

### 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

**November 1, 2005 - 6PM - Whitesboro High School**



# explorer

The **MVPCUG EXPLORER** is published monthly from September through June by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc., PO Box 586, Marcy NY 13403-0586.

Opinions expressed herein are the writers and are not reflective of the MVPCUG, nor are they considered substantiated by inclusion in this newsletter. All articles are copyrighted by their respective authors but may be reprinted by other User Groups provided credit is given to the author and this publication.

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.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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<http://www.mvpcug.com>

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## Smart Computing Special

MVPCUG members can now enjoy special benefits and pricing from the publishers of *Smart Computing*, *CPU*, *PC Today*, and *CE Tips*. Subscribe to one magazine and have access online to all four publications!

★ *Smart Computing* — For all skill levels, the plain-English writing style will help you improve your PC productivity and get the most out of your computer. For more info, visit [www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com).

★ *Computer Power User* — For the high-end power user with a taste for cutting-edge products and for those who enjoy the challenge of mastering and implementing new technologies. For more info, visit [www.computerpoweruser.com](http://www.computerpoweruser.com).

★ *PC Today* — Filled with practical Windows advice that PC users can put to work immediately. Step-by-step tutorials, the latest operating system news, hardware and software reviews, and PC gaming. For more info, visit [www.pctoday.com](http://www.pctoday.com).

★ *CE Tips* — Covers the world of consumer electronics from HDTV to your digital camera. For more info: [www.cetips.com](http://www.cetips.com).

For every five paid subscriptions MVPCUG will receive a free subscription. Members family and friends can order subscriptions. The unique code numbers to use when calling (800) 733-3809 to order are:

- ★ Smart Computing: 12659
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## GET A FREE MVPCUG MEMBERSHIP

- \* It's easy to do and you'll save \$20.00!
- \* Sign up two *new* members and *you* receive a one-year membership extension.
- \* You have 90 days in which to sign up

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail with a check payable to MVPCUG to

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**Minutes of October 4, 2004**  
 — Donna Gorrell, Secretary

*The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. There were 46 persons in attendance.*

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Treasurer **Bill Gorrell** reported that income was \$192.34, expenses were \$287.15, and there is a balance of \$3,853.40 as of September 30, 2005.

The Q&A SIG will meet on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings will be held at St. John's Church, 35 Main St, Whitesboro at 6:30 PM.

The Food/Toy drive was explained by **Dave Askew**. An extra ticket will be given for a donation of food and one for toys, along with the regular member ticket. Non-members will be able to receive a ticket for food and one for toys, but not the free ticket for members.

A motion was made by **Dave Askew**, seconded by **Joe Madeira** that we use the rest of the budgeted amount of money for door prizes. The motion passed.

During the question and answer period a number of things were brought up:

1. To transfer data from an old computer to a new one, use flash drive, floppy, CD or DVDs
2. If you have a defective Cannon camera go to their website and use the 800 phone number to obtain information.
3. Lowe's and Home Depot both give 10% discount to active or retired military when they show an ID.
4. Suggestions for future programming include: Ipod, Music Players, etc.
5. **Bob Schaffer** reminded everyone that his tips on word processing is available by email, see the newsletter for how to sign up.
6. Bob also talked about the use of tutorials on company websites and the availability of help through various software programs that offer tutorials right in the program.

**PROGRAM**

At 6:45 PM, Al Fasoldt spoke to the group. He said that 84% of US citizens over 12 years of age have Internet access. He told us about the new features to

expect in MS Vista operating system that will replace XP. Al said that Lexmark Z816 is a good printer and that Photomatte Paper by Epson is very good.

**DOOR PRIZES**

[furnished with club funds]

- 15 CDRs ..... **J.F, Jakobiec**
- Photo paper ..... **Loretta Sliwinski**
- USB multi card reader ..... **Bob Kinsella**
- CD storage case ..... **Denny Hendrickson**

[donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

- Paper ..... **Joe Penabad**

[donated by Al Fasoldt]

- DVD Copy 3 ..... **Jo Antonik**
- Instant Music ..... **George Purpura**
- CD/DVD Maker 7 ..... **David Lantz**

*The meeting adjourned.*

*Respectfully submitted from notes by Bill Gorrell,  
 Donna Gorrell, secretary*



**2006 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Income	
Membership .....	\$2,300
Interest .....	78
Total Income .....	\$2,378

Expense	
Newsletter .....	\$1,446
Insurance .....	420
Charity .....	280
ISP .....	120
Door prizes .....	250
Misc + Equipment .....	150
Office supplies .....	50
Total Expense .....	\$2,716

This will leave a deficit of \$338 which can be taken from the bank balance.



**Editor's Favorite Aphorism**

***If, I am so frightened that I need to be loved by everyone, how can I then be honest to anyone?***

## Word Processing Tips

— by Bob Schaffer

### WORD —Give paragraphs a muted effect using shading and patterns (97/2000/2001/2002/2003)

There are many ways to make a passage in your document stand out from the rest of your document text. For instance, you can give it a different indent or jazz it up with emphatic font formatting.

However, instead of drawing readers' eyes to a particular passage, you'll sometimes need to give a passage a "played-down" or "muted" effect. For instance, many types of forms contain a "For Internal Use Only" area in which clients or customers shouldn't enter data.

One way to play down a paragraph is to apply it a light font color or small font size. Another common technique is to apply shading. However, you can achieve other types of muting effects by combining font formatting, paragraph borders, and shading with an overlapping pattern.

To begin, select the paragraph(s) you want to downplay:

- \* Apply the desired font formatting
- \* Then choose Format | Borders And Shading.
- \* Click on the Borders tab and apply a paragraph border if desired.
- \* Next, click on the Shading tab and choose the desired shading color.
- \* Now, you can apply a different colored pattern over the shading color you just applied.
- \* To do so, choose the desired pattern from the Style dropdown list
- \* Then choose a color for the pattern from the corresponding Color dropdown list.
- \* When you've finished, click OK.

### Here's a Neat Tip!

Would you like to receive a Word and WordPerfect Tip every other week via email?

Send your email address to [rdschaffer@adelphia.net](mailto:rdschaffer@adelphia.net)



### WORDPERFECT —Using a dot leader and changing the leader character.

How often have you wanted a blank line to follow some heading? For example, you want the name, address, and phone number to create a list of members of your organization. So you create a form to hand out to the members so as to collect that information. Here's one way in which you could create that form.

First, you would type the Name item (see immediately below). Then space twice after that item. Now hit Alt+F7 twice. Immediately a dot leader follows the entry to the right margin.

NAME ..... (Here is my right margin)  
 ADDRESS .....  
 PHONE NO .....

Now, suppose you want to use the same keystrokes (ALT+F7 twice) but you want a blank line instead of the dots. Easy to do!

- \* You can specify not only any keyboard character for your leader, but you can also use one of the hundreds of symbols that are available to you when you press Ctrl+W, then choose a character, and click Insert.
- \* Place your cursor at the end of your entry (e.g., name). Space twice (or more) if you want space between your entry and where the leader begins.
- \* Leave your cursor sitting at the end of the two spaces. (This is important.)
- \* Click Format | Line | Tab set.
- \* Do not change Tab type or Tab position.
- \* Type your new keyboard character in the Dot leader character box, or select a symbol character (Ctrl+W) to go in the box.
- \* Type in a number in the Spaces between characters box (also called the Character spacing box). If you want your blank line to be continuous, then place a zero (0) in the box. If you want one space between each underline character ( \_ \_ \_ ) then place a one (1) in the box, etc.
- \* Place your cursor in the Character to align on box and hit the space bar one time.
- \* Click Set.
- \* Click Close.



**Did You Know . . .**

— Donna Gorrell

. . . that WindowsXP has a feature that will allow you to make your own screensaver slideshow? Screensavers are not necessary with modern CRT monitors, but you might still want to use one. To make a slideshow rather than a one image screensaver, drag and drop the pictures you want to use into the My Pictures folder of My Documents. Right-click an empty space on your desktop, select Properties, then click on the Screen Saver tab. Highlight the My Pictures Slideshow option. You can adjust the size and transition effects using the Settings button. You can check it by clicking Preview. If satisfied, click OK.

. . . that if you have an LCD monitor it is better to turn off the display than use a screensaver? Use the Windows feature that will turn off the monitor after a certain amount of inactivity. It saves energy and can extend the life of the LCD which uses a backlight. The backlight loses brightness over time so turning off the monitor also turns off the backlight. This can also extend battery life. Click on an empty space on your desktop, select Properties from the menu. Select the Screen Saver tab and at the bottom of that page click on the Settings button of Energy Saving Features.

. . . that you could burn a music CD without using a separate program if you have WindowsXP? Go to Start | My Music, then go to the folder with the songs you want to copy. On the left side of the window, select Copy All Items to CD. Or, highlight the songs you want to burn and click Copy To Audio CD. A single song can also be copied by right-clicking the file and selecting Copy to CD or Device.

. . . that you could use Microsoft PowerPoint to make photo albums? Select Insert | Pictures | New Photo Album. Under the Insert Picture From heading, click File/Disk, select the pictures you want and hit insert. Then specify the appearance of the album under Album Layout. Click Create.

. . . that you can email slides created in PowerPoint? Open the slide you've created and click View | Notes Page. Right-click the slide image; click Copy. The

image is now in your clipboard and can be pasted into your email program for emailing or resizing.

. . . that you can take shortcuts to open a link in a new tab in Mozilla's Firefox? If you have a scroll-wheel mouse you can click a link using the scroll button and the link will open in a new tab. This works if you have not assigned the wheel to any function. If you don't have a scroll-wheel mouse or if you use the scroll for another function, Hold the Ctrl key and left-click a link to open a new tab. Holding the Shift key while left-clicking will open the link in a new window.

. . . that Firefox allows you to choose how new tabs open. Click the Advanced section of the Options window to select one of three options: Open the page in a new window; open the page in a new tab in the front window; replace the current page in the front window.

. . . that in Firefox you can take a shortcut to an address? Press Ctrl+Enter after you've entered a word in the URL address bar and it will add http://www. to the beginning and .com to the end. Ctrl+Shift+Enter will add .org and Shift+Enter adds .net.

. . . that CDs are fast becoming obsolete? According to Bill Husted who writes Techno-Buddy for an Atlanta newspaper CDs are about to go the way of the floppy disks. He says that Windows next operating system, Vista, will come on a DVD. So if you are planning to upgrade your computer with the latest OS, you will also need to upgrade your hardware. For those of you who do not have a DVD drive, running Vista will be impossible. DVD drives will be able to read CDs so there is no need to panic. However, we all know that computers today do not even come with an A drive, much less a B drive. Does anyone even remember what a B drive is? That was the designation for the 5 ¼ inch floppy drive. I still use the 3 ½ inch disks and find them so useful for transferring small files or as backup. I keep my genealogy database backed up on a floppy. I put each month's newsletter files on a floppy in case I goof somewhere along the line. To use a CD for such a small amount of data seems to me a waste. ❖



## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

In the wake of the recent hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, many of us have given money and needed items to storm victims through various charities such as the Red Cross, Church World Service and Catholic Charities. Many other charities contact us regularly to help additional causes as well. While I don't question the needs highlighted by the requests, sometimes I am forced to question whether charities use my contributions effectively. To answer my questions about charitable organizations I have found a web site that examines and rates charities of every type. To obtain answers to questions you may have about individual charities visit [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org).

The homepage proclaims the organization mission: “. . . to advance a more efficient and responsive philanthropic marketplace by evaluating the financial health of America's largest charities.” In meeting this goal, Charity Navigator works to guide intelligent giving. The two broad areas Charity Navigator examines are organizational efficiency and organizational capacity. This information is derived primarily from IRS 990 forms each charitable organization must file annually with the federal government.

Specifically, charities are rated for their percentage of administrative expenses and the percentage of their fundraising expenses, compared to their program expenses, as components of their total revenue streams. For example charities that spend less than 10% of their revenue on fundraising rate four stars, the highest rating.

The site also produces many categorical lists of charities including: Ten Charities to Watch such as The Orphan Foundation of America; Ten Celebrity-Related Charities such as The Tiger Woods Foundation; Ten Consistently Excellent Charities such as the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research and Carnegie Mellon University; Ten Charities Stockpiling Your Money such as the Akron Art Museum; and Ten Charities in Deep Financial Trouble such as Mainstay Ministries.

The most interesting list features CEO compensation for low-rated charities. For instance, the CEO of the St. Jude Memorial Foundation receives a salary of \$554,487 while the charity itself rates a zero on a scale of 0-4 because it spends less than 60% of its budget on programs and services. Visit the site for more information on the charities you care about.

Teachers believe that current events trigger “teachable moments.” Obviously, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita provide such moments for many disciplines. If you have a school-age child you may wish to create your own “teachable moment” by visiting [tinyurl.com/9sken](http://tinyurl.com/9sken). This brings you to the Hazard and Data Resources of the

National Oceanic + Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

This site provides information on many natural events such as earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes. Each topic provides links to other sites with specific data and information. Click on the link Earthwatch and view satellite images of hurricanes in real time, if a hurricane threatens. Visit the link to the National Hurricane Center and you can view current global weather conditions provided by NOAA satellites. You can download and print tracking maps of cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes using Adobe Reader. And you may also view storm activity by month during the Atlantic hurricane season, June through November.

The site also provides links to other natural occurrences such as wild fires, flooding, Coastal Erosion and a United States Geological Survey (USGS) interactive earthquake search map. All this for free. Your taxes at work.

Another science site you may wish to have your kids visit is [sciencedems.house.gov](http://sciencedems.house.gov). The Democratic Caucus of the House Science Committee established a link from their web site to a tool designed to help teachers and students called “Science Education and You.” The link appears on the right-hand side of the web page. Click on the link and up comes a page with resources for teachers on the left and resources for students on the right.

There are links for younger kids as well as for older kids such as NASA Fun Sites that provide more links to space related activities. Older kids can blow up a planet, print out plans for spacecraft models or visit a site featuring Bad Astronomy. At this last site, an astronomer maintains a blog that debunks bad science and scientific hoaxes and presents examples of faulty science seen in various movies.

The link that may provide the most enjoyment for older kids is the link to Annals of Improbable Research. You may access this site directly as well by clicking on [improb.com](http://improb.com). This site, affiliated with Harvard University, lists the Ig Nobel Prize winners for research that causes laughter and then provokes you to think. The 2004 Ig Nobel Peace Prize winner was Daisuke Inoue, the inventor of karaoke. The homepage pictures Inoue being serenaded by several real Harvard Nobel laureates including Dudley Herschbach and Richard Roberts. Dr. Karen Hopkin accompanied the laureates. She is famed for creating the “Studmuffins of Science Calendar,” among other things.

Other Prize winners include: 1991 winner Jacques Benveniste for discovering that water, H<sub>2</sub>O, is an intelligent liquid and demonstrating that water is able to remember events long after traces of those events have vanished.

Another winner in 1991 was Alan Kligerman, the inventor of Beano. Enough said. The 1997 winners for Biology, T. Yagyu and his colleagues, won for research that measured brainwave patterns in people while they were chewing gum. Important discoveries all.

Until next time . . .



**Bob Schaffer Reviews**

**SHOOTING FOR DOLLAR\$: Simple Photo Techniques for Greater eBay Profits**

by Sally Wiener Grotta and Daniel Grotta  
Peachpit Press, 2005

It's a simple fact of life. When you're selling on eBay, better product shots directly translate into higher bids and greater profits. *Shooting* brings a step-by-step solutions-oriented approach to the printed page. This includes practical tips and tricks, successful eBay users' shared experiences, graphic before-and-after shots that demonstrate how and how not to take photos, and practical assistance in working with eBay's photographic rules and procedures.

You'll find everything you need to know, including:

- \* Buying the appropriate digital camera for eBay photography
- \* Assembling a shooting studio out of inexpensive photographic equipment or commonly available household items.
- \* Getting the right exposure, focus, color, and lighting without a lot of fuss.
- \* How to set up and shoot great shots of a wide range of typical products.
- \* How and when to scan your items, rather than photographing them.
- \* Easily organizing, improving, and perfecting your pictures and software.
- \* Preparing and posting photos of products on eBay.

John C. Dvorak, technology columnist for PC Magazine wrote: "Sally and Daniel Grotta are two of the most renowned experts on digital photography in the world, but they manage to make their knowledge accessible and useful for everyone, from rank amateurs to top pros. eBay sellers need this book."

The Grottas have been buying and selling on eBay since 1998. Their book is replete with excellent pictures to illustrate their how-to techniques.

They write that a great eBay shot should be:

- \* Appealing, but still be an honest, accurate representation of the item for sale
- \* Tightly framed with no extraneous items or unnecessary empty space
- \* Isolated and unambiguous as to what is for sale
- \* Illuminated well, precisely in focus, and perfectly exposed.

This book will be offered as a door prize at an upcoming meeting. ❖

**Byting Remarks**

— Jerry Finkelstein

Thanks to broadband the Internet is taking over big chunks of our lives, how we shop, how we keep up with the news, how we look for information. More people are shopping online and advertisers, responding to this new trend, are shifting their budgets for ads in the print media to ads online. Small newspapers don't seem to be feeling the pinch as much as the big dailies; *The New York Times* is letting go of 700 jobs. Furthermore, weekly magazines and daily newspapers both offer Web exclusives, articles not found in their print editions. And much of the Web editions are free. Ads in these online editions are cheaper than those in the print. Again, the print industry (newspapers) loses out on its revenues. Soon though the online editions will be charging for some of their content we now get for free. In the meantime, there is the march of the readers (penguins?) from the print to the online format.

You'll notice too that the online editions update their news several times during the day. And if you're a reader of blogs, you're getting up to the minute chatter on current events. For instance, the conservative right's response to Bush's nomination of Harriet Miers was immediate. Like the rest of the Net, you don't have to wait until the next day or for the evening news to get the information you want; it's all there. All updated by the time you click the key.

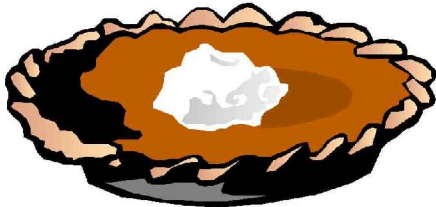
We're enjoying this new broadband way of managing our lives. Unfortunately, this wonderful expansion of the use of the Internet is leaving the newspapers and news weeklies financially troubled and with a severe identity crisis. ❖


**Proposed Slate of Officers to be Elected in December**

- President . . . . . Jerry Finkelstein**
- Vice President . . . . . Lisa Britt**
- Treasurer . . . . . Bill Gorrell**
- Secretary . . . . . John Hunter**
- Director . . . . . Helen Russell**

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**Microsoft's New Digital Image Suite 2006**  
**Tuesday ★ Nov 1, 2005 ★ 6:00 PM ★ Whitesboro High School**



what's.com/ing			November 2005			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS	2	3 Q & A SIG 6:30 PM St. John's	4	5
6	7	8 Board of Director's Mtg 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	Happy Thanksgiving !		