

## Tim Clinehens takes a first look at Vista

**T**im has a long-established reputation for knowing computer hardware and software, so it's understandable that we wanted him to help us take an early look at Microsoft's new operating system, Vista, and give us a cautious evaluation.

Tim has installed Vista on a laptop which will be used for the 6:30 pm presentation on Dec. 5 at the Whitesboro High School cafeteria.

He'll explore the five flavors of Vista (different prices, different capabilities) and show us some of the new features.

Vista is the next-generation Windows client operating system and successor to Windows XP.

Microsoft claims that this new OS makes finding information, staying connected, and interacting with your PC much easier than ever.

To do some advance snooping go to the newsgroup forums at [www.windowsvista.com/community](http://www.windowsvista.com/community). You'll find a wide variety of concerns and opinions.

To experience Windows Vista right away just go to [www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getread/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getread/default.aspx) Microsoft urges us to "take advantage of the many features in Windows Vista that streamline your computing experience, ramp up your productivity, and take your media experience to a whole new level."

Well, we'll see what advice our resident expert, Tim, offers us. ❖

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

### Coming Attractions

#### January

Liz Rossi on Powerpoint

#### February

Beverly Choltco-Devlin on Mid-York Library *PLUS*

#### March

Lisa Britt on PC Secrets

#### April

*Smart Computing Magazine* on really smart computing!

#### May

Milt Broedel on computing more safely and securely

**Tuesday, December 5, 2006 - 6PM at Whitesboro HS Cafeteria**



# explorer

The MVPCUG *EXPLORER* is published monthly from September through June by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc. (MVPCUG), 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 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.

### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

#### President

Jerry Finkelstein ..... 797-5296  
..... demetrius28@adelphia.net

#### Vice President

Lisa Britt ..... ydaith@hotmail.com

#### Treasurer

Bill Gorrell ..... 853-3256  
..... lwgorrell@adelphia.net

#### Secretary

John Hunter ..... jhunter1@twcny.rr.com

#### Directors-at-Large

Jim Pease ['06] ..... jamesrpease@yahoo.com  
Bob Schaffer ['07] ..... rdschaffer@adelphia.net  
Helen Russell ['08] ..... hrcnb@capital.net

Our internet presence is at

<http://www.mvpcug.com>

#### Web Master

Lisa Britt ..... mvpcug@usadatanet.net

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jerry Finkelstein ..... demetrius28@adelphia.net  
Donna Gorrell ..... dgorrell@adelphia.net  
John Hunter ..... jhunter1@twcny.rr.com  
Bob Schaffer ..... rdschaffer@adelphia.net

The *Explorer* is printed by

**The Gallery**

4780 Commercial Drive - New Hartford  
315-768-7851

### Meeting Agenda

5:30	Meet and Greet
6:00	Business Meeting
6:30	Program, Part 1
7:10	Break
7:20	Program, Part 2
8:00	Drawing for Prizes
8:15	Adjournment

### Editorial notes...

Welcome new member  
Kathleen Gaffney



Just when you thought the elections were over  
- here they come again!

The nominated slate of officers is on page 5,  
along with the proposed budget for 2007.

The Food/Toy drive continues. Remember to  
bring non-perishables and new toys in  
exchange for a door prize ticket. An extra  
ticket will also be given for a donation of a  
computer item in excellent condition.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to  
M V P C U G  
PO Box 586  
Marcy NY 13403-0586

**Minutes of November 7, 2006**  
 — John Hunter, Secretary

*The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. There were 48 persons in attendance.*

**BUSINESS MEETING**

In general remarks at the beginning of the meeting, President **Jerry Finkelstein** noted that the weather was still cooperating. Jerry also indicated that December's program will feature **Tim Clinehens** and a preview of the Microsoft Vista operating system. January's program features a presentation on Power Point.

Treasurer **Bill Gorrell** reported that income was \$150.93. This included seven membership renewals. Expenses were \$168.84, or a difference of \$17.91 between income and expenses. Bill reported a balance in the checking and money market accounts of \$3752.48 as of October 31, 2006.

Jerry also reported that an audit would be conducted before year's end and reported to the membership in February 2007.

The holiday toy and food drive will continue in December. Members donated 66 food items and 13 toys tonight. Jerry reminded those in attendance that extra tickets would be given for food, toys and prizes donated by club members.

Jerry then accepted a motion by **Rod St.Clair**, seconded by **Nick Dudish** to modify club by-laws. Article VI Officers: B. of the bylaws will now read '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.' The motion carried by a vote of 40 ayes and 3 nays.

Jerry also complimented Nick Dudish on his photography. Nick reported that he had won awards at the Herkimer County Fair.

**Lisa Britt** answered a question about freeware programs to combat spyware and viruses. Lisa indicated that AVG freeware from [www.Grisoft.com](http://www.Grisoft.com) worked well.

**PROGRAM**

At 6:25 Jerry introduced featured speaker Lorraine Deshane who presented a program on eBay buying and selling. One idea Lorraine stressed is that selling on eBay is work. Customer service is necessary to be

successful.

Lorraine explained that for the faint of heart, there were eBay Stores, that handled eBay transactions. She pointed out that the stores provided this service for a fee. Given the fact that many local eBay stores have gone under, she does not recommend this approach. After a two part presentation which focused on audience questions, Lorraine concluded her presentation at 8:17 p.m.

**DOOR PRIZES**

**[furnished with club funds]**

- 20 CDR case . . . . . Geri Erwin
- 15 DVDs . . . . . Lou Barile
- optical mouse . . . . . George Purpura
- 8 X 10 photo paper . . . . . John Hunter
- 4 X 6 photo paper . . . . . Dave Askew
- Serif 5 disk set . . . . . Fred Schmandt
- Ringtone studio . . . . . Bo Wozniak
- 512 mb flash drive . . . . . Kay Janowsky
- \$25 Best Buy gift certificate . . . . Jerry Finkelstein

**[donated by Rod St. Clair]**

- PC Stitch . . . . . Hart Anway
- 20 CD cases . . . . . Jerry Finkelstein

**Additional Donated Prizes Awarded To:**

- Nick Dudish**
- Jerry Finkelstein**
- Neville Hendrickson**
- Don Jennings**
- Fred Schmandt**
- Lisa Britt**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.*

*John Hunter, secretary*



**C.D. Consulting** DoughertyCA@adelphia.net

---

**Financial services for individuals and organizations**

QuickBooks setup, asset & debt management,  
 retirement planning, portfolio analysis,  
 financial checkups, and more...

Give us a call today!

Clinton, NY 13323  
 315.404.5364 315.735.1854 FAX



## Word Processing Tips — by Bob Schaffer

### Word — Split-screen view makes copying and pasting a breeze

by T. L. Thomas.

When working with lengthy documents, you may find it difficult to move or copy items from one place to another, especially if the source and destination are far apart. To make this simpler, you can split your screen to view and work on two different parts of a document at the same time.

There are two ways to split the screen:

1. Double-click on the split box, which is located just above the vertical scrollbar.
2. Choose **Window | Split**. That means, click on Window on the menu bar above—at the top of the screen—and then select **Split**.
3. A line appears on your screen with a double arrow in the middle. This means you can move the line in either direction of the arrow and when you click, the line will be placed in your document at the point where you clicked. (In 2004, Word automatically splits the screen; you can't pick where the split occurs.)
4. If you want to remove the line (bar) that is splitting the screen, go to **Windows | Remove Split**.

When the screen is split horizontally into two windows, each has its own scrollbars so that you can navigate to different parts of the document in each of them.

This tip courtesy of ELI Journals, Oct. 2006

### WordPerfect — Do over.

Macros can make quick work of repetitive tasks, but creating a macro can be too much hassle for simple, one-step actions you're only going to do five or 10 times.

In such situations, try the Repeat function:

1. Under the Edit menu, select **Repeat Next Action**.
2. Type in the number of times the action should be repeated.
3. Then press the button or keyboard shortcut you want repeated.

This tip courtesy of Corel website

## Commentary — by Bob Schaffer

A personal note

Some of my fellow members of the Board of Directors are wondering if I've gone off the deep end, lost my way, or just plain gone over to the enemy.

You see, I've purchased an iMac computer with a 20-inch screen, 2 gig of memory, etc.

And while I've only used it for a couple of weeks, I'm sold on its qualities: faster, more stable, more efficient . . . than my Windows machines.

Next week I'll be attending the monthly meeting of the UAUG—Upstate Apple Users Group. Yes, there is a bit of a learning curve in adapting to the iMac, and I feel as though I've returned to those first days when I joined the MVPCUG and cornered everyone I could to learn new things and maximize the utility of my then new Gateway computer.

But I don't want you to think that I'm jumping ship completely, although I will be cutting back on my commitment to the MVPCUG.

Someone else will have to tell me how long I've been your program chair. I know it's been quite a few years. I'll be leaving that stimulating job at the end of this year. It's been a great opportunity to meet interesting people, make additional connections (e.g., the CNYPCUG), and influence what we'd be learning. Since I've learned plenty from both presenters and members, I hope many of you feel the same way.

I'll continue to help the amazingly hard-working Donna Gorrell—who I have long perceived as the heart and soul of the club—with the production of the newsletter, but after the June issue, I'll take a break from that.

Finally, I'll remain on the Board of Directors until my terms ends, but I shall not run again.

Nor does this mean that you won't see me at future meetings, for I still own half a dozen Windows machines and the otherwise wonderful iMac doesn't run my favorite wordprocessor, WordPerfect.

Actually, I'm typing this on the iMac, for I've got a wireless connection to my Dell so that I can, in effect, have WordPerfect on my iMac.

I'm thus vacating three jobs that I've valued greatly having. As Donna so regularly states, we benefit from those who are wise enough and generous enough to give us some of their time in a leadership role: members helping members. So now there are three opportunities for three of you!

**MOVING FAVORITES TO A NEW COMPUTER**  
— by Kim Komando

Q. I just purchased a new laptop and want to transfer my Favorites. Is this possible? And if so, how?

A. For those who don't know, you can keep Web addresses in Favorites. That way you don't have to remember those addresses. Nor do you have to enter them manually.

The Favorites feature is built in to Internet Explorer. Firefox has a similar feature, called Bookmarks. Either can be easily moved to a new computer.

Most programs that migrate data between computers probably will include Favorites. Windows XP has such a program—Files and Settings Transfer Wizard. According to Microsoft, it will transfer Favorites. However, Firefox is not listed among the programs with which it works. So it may not transfer Bookmarks.

Favorites and Bookmarks are also easy to transfer manually.

For Favorites, start by clicking File | Import and Export. A wizard will open. Click Next | Export Favorites | Next. Select the Favorites folder and click Next. Select a file or address to export to and click Next | Finish. You can burn that file to a disc and move it to the new computer. Or e-mail it to yourself.

On the new computer, click File | Import and Export. In the wizard, click Next | Import Favorites | Next. Browse to the place where you put the Favorites file, and click Next. Select the Favorites folder and click Next | Finish.

To export in Firefox, click Bookmarks | Manage Bookmarks. Click File | Export. Select a folder for the file and click Save. To import, click Bookmarks | Manage Bookmarks. Click File | Import. Select From File and click Next. Select the file and click Open.

Don't forget to back up your Favorites or Bookmarks. The process is similar, but I have a tip on my site that covers it

<http://komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=1722>. While you're there, you should also read my tip on organizing your Favorites

<http://komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=1432>. ❖

Copyright 2005 WestStar TalkRadio Network. Subscribe to Kim Komando's free e-mail newsletters at:  
[www.komando.com](http://www.komando.com)

Election nominees	
SLATE OF OFFICERS	
President . . . . .	Jerry Finkelstein
VP . . . . .	Lisa Britt
Secretary . . . . .	John Hunter
Treasurer . . . . .	Bill Gorrell
Director . . . . .	Jim Pease

Proposed Budget for 2007	
<b>INCOME</b>	
membership 110@\$20 . . . . .	\$2200
bank interest . . . . .	100
<b>TOTAL INCOME . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2300</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Newsletter . . . . .	\$1450
Insurance . . . . .	420
Charity . . . . .	280
Door Prizes . . . . .	250
Equipment/Misc . . . . .	150
Internet provider . . . . .	120
Postage/Office supplies . . . . .	50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE . . . . .</b>	<b>\$2720</b>
<b>DEFICIT . . . . .</b>	<b>\$420</b>
Deficit to be taken from treasury.	



## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

### Finally, Microsoft Delivers

At long last Microsoft delivered the first new iteration of its operating system in years in November. The company promises that Vista will solve many of the current problems users face with XP while introducing a new graphic interface for improved operation. We'll see. But before you run out to buy the first Vista copy to upgrade your system, you'd better visit <http://tinyurl.com/a655s> to determine the system requirements.

### What You Need

Microsoft says that at a minimum you will need a modern processor with at least 800 MHz, 512 MB of system memory, SVGA (800x600) and more. As is the case with most Microsoft products, bloated code is the culprit. The company suggests that a machine Vista Premium Ready will include a 1GHz 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor, 256 MB of graphics memory and graphics band with of at least 1,600 MB per second.

At this time of year, hardware manufacturers count on holiday buying for a substantial amount of business. Microsoft says Vista distribution to industry will begin in November 2006. The company will limit early distribution to enterprise customers [large corporations that purchase thousands of machines at once]. Consumer copies of Vista will not become available, however, until early 2007. If you purchase a new computer for Christmas, be careful that the new machine meets hardware requirements and is labeled Vista ready.

### More Travel Information

I'm sitting in my car switching radio stations waiting for my wife. By chance I hit NPR just as the interviewer asks the seat guru, Matt Daimler, how to find the best seat on a plane when planning a trip. [Last month we looked at sites promising low prices and realistic arrival times; this month it's seat location and optimum choices.]

Daimler says his site has current seat availability for every airline. In addition his site, [seatguru.com](http://seatguru.com), will tell you the leg room available for each seat in each type of aircraft, the types of amenities such as audio, video, ac power and so on at each seat location. Intrigued, I clicked on the site when I got

home. On the left of the home page, the site lists airlines alphabetically. Easy instructions allow visitors to find available seats prior to booking, and indicates whether the seat is next to an exit or the bathrooms or the galley.

A generic seat layout accompanied by color coded keys alert you to "be aware," "good seat," "poor seat," "power port," and so on for each type of aircraft and airline. Give this site a visit the next time you need to book a seat.

### Christmas Buying

Need a gift for a new grandchild? Visit [www.RightStart.com](http://www.RightStart.com). You can find educational toys, clothes, car seats, strollers, bath and potty items among many gift ideas. The site offers baby Einstein Pavlov the dog bath puppets for \$9.99. Or how about a bathtub jumbo toy hammock for just \$12.99? You can shop by brand, age, stage or category. The prices aren't bad either. Very convenient.

### Who, What, When, Where, Why

Have you ever wondered who pays taxes or doesn't in America? Is there such a thing as a socially responsible corporation? And how can you tell? The answers to these and other pressing questions are available at [www.askquestions.org](http://www.askquestions.org).

This interesting web site promises to "gather and disseminate information about public opinion so that media organizations become more responsive to public interests." The web site is a project of the Public Interest News Gate, a California nonprofit corporation located in Berkeley, California.

Cheryl Woodard, co-founder of PC Magazine, PC World and MacWorld serves as executive director. Board member, Mark Dowie, who broke the Ford Pinto safety story in 1977 while an editor at *Mother Jones* magazine, also serves as an investigative reporter. Ted Nace, founder of *Peachpit Press*, also serves as an organization board member. These folks bring a ton of street credit to the information party. The answers to the aforementioned questions are downloadable in PDF format. Happy reading.

*Please remember that Dave Askew heads the holiday food and toy drive. Be generous and bring new toys and nonperishable food items to the meeting. You will receive extra tickets if you bring one or both to the general meeting. Imagine, getting a reward for being generous. Happy Holidays.*

Until next time . . .



## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Amazon and eBay have phone numbers for customer service? If you have trouble with either and need assistance, try the following phone numbers: Amazon — 800-201-7575; eBay — 800-322-9266.

. . . that you can find out how and when to fly our nation's flag? For information regarding the rules go to one of these sites: [ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html](http://ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html); [usflag.org/uscode36.html](http://usflag.org/uscode36.html); [legion.org/pdf/flagcode.pdf](http://legion.org/pdf/flagcode.pdf). Orders to fly the flag at half-staff are given by presidential proclamation. If you want to see a list go to: [whitehouse.gov/news/proclamations/](http://whitehouse.gov/news/proclamations/).

. . . that you can back up your Favorites/Bookmarks or save them on a website?

\* In Internet Explorer [IE], click File | Import and Export. Click Next in the Wizard window. Select Export Favorites; click Next. Select the Favorites folder; click Next. Specify the name and location for your file; click Next, then click Finish.

\* To restore your list: In IE, Click File | Import and Export. Click Next in the Wizard window. Select Import Favorites; click Next. Select the "Import from a File or Address." Use the Browse button to locate the backup file; click Next. Select Favorites; click next. Click Finish to finalize the restore.

\* In Firefox Click Bookmarks | Manage Bookmarks. In the window that opens, select File | Export. Type a name for the file and click Save.

\* To restore your bookmarks, click Bookmarks | Manage Bookmarks. In the window that opens, select File | Import. Select From File; click Next. Navigate to your backup file; highlight it, then click Open. Favorites can be stored online. Furl [www.furl.net](http://www.furl.net), Spurl [www.spurl.net/](http://www.spurl.net/), and Del.icio.us [//del.icio.us/](http://del.icio.us/) are three websites which allow you to do this.

. . . that you can export saved e-mail and Address Book in Outlook Express. To Export the Address Book, click File | Export | Address Book. Select Text File [Comma Separate Values]. Click Export. Click Browse to select a folder, then click Next and select the fields you want to export. Click Finish and Close. To save e-mails: Click Tools | Accounts. Select the Mail tab and mail account, then click Export. Browse to the target folder; click Save, then click Close. ❖

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Wanted: your favorite websites to share with members of our Club. It seems like years ago we had a Net SIG that explored how to browse the internet, how to look up information; it was fun visiting favored sites. Lisa took members of a Basic SIG to various internet sites to answer basic questions as well as to show where members can go on their own to help themselves to the tons of PC information available in the wide world of the web. Most recently, John Hunter has been providing a wonderful, very practical, service writing his article on Net sites for this newsletter. It's proven helpful to many of our members, he's gotten great feedback. Donna, too, frequently dispenses with interesting and important websites at our meetings and scattered within her articles. Thanks to all.

I'd like to see this interest in favored websites more interactive. How about you commenting on the websites listed? Were they helpful? Perhaps you can provide a site that's comparable to the one listed, or maybe you can even better it. Jim Pease alerted me to the Best Websites article in the November 20<sup>th</sup> issue of the U.S. News & World Report; it lists 30 "best sites," evaluates them, and introduces you to the new Internet Explorer's tool of "tabbing." You might want to go to the magazine's website and make note of these 30 sites. You might want to make up your own list of 30. Or 10. And pass the list on to others. Submit it to the Explorer. We'll print it.

You know, of course, all papers, popular magazines, have their own websites. You can read most of them online. And the online edition has advantages, many of the hardcopy articles are expanded in the online version, there are often more articles, the magazines often archive the information appearing both in their hardcopy and online editions. Some even have audio and/or video webcasts. Indeed, TV programs can now be seen on your PC. If you missed Meet The Press you can catch it on your PC.

Bill Gorrell uses [buy.com](http://buy.com) and [ecost.com](http://ecost.com) for best prices and rebates. Other Board members recommend [taskforce21.com](http://taskforce21.com), a site from an Army medical unit in Iraq, [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) for detailed weather conditions anywhere in the country, [boatnerd.com](http://boatnerd.com) for anything you want to know about the St. Lawrence Seaway. One of my favorites is [slate.com](http://slate.com), an online magazine covering current political, cultural and entertainment events. Again, let's hear about your favorites.






Interests are diverse, let's share them. ❖

# explorer

## VISTA PREVIEW

Tuesday ★ Dec 5, 2006 ★ 6:00 PM ★ Whitesboro High School



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