

Advanced Audio Coding

Do you have an MP3 player? They're in almost every digital device today—cell phones, tablets, iPods and MP3 players. The most popular format for digital music is the MP3 format.

Jerry Grega will discuss the history and why it was developed. He will also look at other data compression formats. You may be surprised by what you *don't* hear. In addition Jerry will also tell us about other related data to audio coding like metadata and Digital Rights Management. He will also present some PC software to rip and play music CDs, MP3s, WMAs.

Meeting will be held at the New Hartford Library, Sammon room

WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website www.mvpcug.com. [Usually on the Newsletter page.]

You have until the day of the next meeting to send in your answer. Type the answer and your name into an email and send it to mvpcug@mvpcug.com. A drawing will be held at the main meeting. You need not be present to enter but will be responsible for picking up your prize if your name is drawn. All members are eligible so send in your entry.

This month's question —What did Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments file a patent application for on 5 Feb 1958?

Tuesday, February 5th — 6 - 8:30 PM

**** New Hartford Library ****

Meeting Open to the Public - Free



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 New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Membership fee for an individual is \$25.

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Meeting Agenda

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

Editorial notes . . .



Here it is January and I am still using XP on my old laptop. Bill took over my new laptop to study Windows8 for the presentation last month. He did an excellent job in showing us the new and confusing operating system and suggested those brave enough to buy it do a lot of 'googling'. Thank goodness I got the computer with Win7 installed; that will be enough of a learning curve for me [I'm still using XP classic view].

In the meantime, I have been attempting to learn how to use my iPad. No easy task as I've been a PC user from day one. Apple is what Windows8 is trying to become and believe me, it ain't easy! Win8 and iPad share the same quirk about shutting down. There is no button, there are no instructions, and it certainly isn't intuitive.

Recently I've been able to download my favorite genealogy program to the iPad. I was thrilled—for a few minutes. Then I learned that I need to create an iCloud account as the iPad is not capable of storing the database. This means I'll need to send my database to the cloud—or maybe not.

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

Name _____
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 Zip _____ Phone _____
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Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
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Minutes of 8 January 2013
— Donna Gorrell, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 21 members in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:03 PM in the cafeteria of Whitesboro High School.

Jerry opened the meeting by talking about the meeting room. The general consensus was that we'd like to find a place that was more comfortable and less noisy. Jerry Grega mentioned that New York Mills had a meeting room that the historical society used. Vivian Burth also mentioned that New Hartford library was not cutting evening hours as they had previously decided. Jerry and Bill Gorrell will look into this, checking to make sure of the availability of places and that they meet our requirements.

Jerry announced that Vivian Burth was appointed as Director-at-large to fill the unexpired term of David Hartnett. Donna Gorrell was appointed to fill the position of secretary until Joe returns or a new secretary is found.

Bill Gorrell gave the Treasurers report for the period covering 1 Dec to 31 Dec 2012. Details of the report are available from Bill or the secretary.

In the question and answer segment, Kay Janowsky asked how she could alphabetize labels in Word. There was no definite answer although several work arounds were offered.

PROGRAM

Bill Gorrell gave us a peek at Windows 8. He made a dual boot on a Windows7 computer and although it was not a touch screen, he showed us the way we'd be using it on a regular computer.

Bill mentioned that it is not intuitive and took him a lot of "googling" to find out how to do things. There is no Start button or Shut Down button. So he found out how to shut down the computer and then made an icon for that and put it on the desktop. He installed Firefox and AVG but no other apps.

The general thoughts on Windows8—wait until absolutely necessary to acquire this operating system. The learning curve is very high.

Much of Windows8 is cloud computing. Go to <askbobrankin.com/nine_free_cloud-backup-services> for info on several free backup services.

Bill offered several web sites for reference:

- <http://www.techrepublic.com>
- <http://www.infopackets.com>
- <http://www.makeuseof.com>

These websites for specific info:

- Win8 Start Button
<http://tinyurl.com/bet4apm>
- Win8 Questions
<http://tinyurl.com/ay9174v>
- Win8 Getting Started
http://infopackets.tradepub.com/free/w_make92/
- Win8 Starter Guide
<http://tinyurl.com/cg8wmnds>
- Shutdown Win8 from Desktop
<http://tinyurl.com/ap2auqc>

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Ann Brunnett
- Pens. George Purpura
- Photo Paper..... Don Pianka
- Copy Paper..... Bill Gorrell
- Stickies..... Bo Wozniak

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Copy paper..... Jerry Finkelstein

Website Contest Winner

- MVPCUG T-shirt..... no winner was drawn
[next month there will be two drawings]

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Gorrell



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Jerry Finkelstein has secured the Sammon Room at the New Hartford Library for our meetings through June. There was confusion as the library Board voted to close the library in the evenings. The Town Board recommended that the library remain open for evenings and close on Friday morning instead.

The New York Mills community room was investigated and it was determined that this would not be an appropriate venue as there is no Internet connection there.

We have permission to meet at Whitesboro High School, but members felt the room was too noisy and seating is uncomfortable.

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Irritations

One of many irritations faced by TV viewers occurs when a program takes a commercial break. The sound volume of the program set at a normal level becomes a blaring message at twice the volume for the commercial break. To preserve threatened eardrums, viewers must lower the sound for the commercials and then raise the sound again to enjoy the program after the break.

The FCC moved last year to eliminate this irritating disturbance by enacting the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act. This new regulation allows viewers to complain directly to the FCC which has the power of enforcement. To file a complaint click on www.fcc.gov/complaint. This site allows citizens to complain to the FCC about junk mail, wired telephones, telemarketers, caller ID spoofing, do-not-call transgressions and broadcast, cable and satellite TV issues.

For more information about loud commercials go to www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/loud-commercials/.

More Federal Help

The first term of the Obama administration saw the push to make government more transparent by enhancing the usefulness of government websites. www.usa.gov team provides a daily update of useful information gathered from many government agencies. The post featuring the CALM Act also provided a link to a photo taken by astronaut Joe Acaba of the Southern Lights as seen from the International Space Station, for example.

In addition, the post also warned about the dangers posed by single-load liquid laundry packets for children. Another link in the blog provided a list of symptoms for colon cancer. While still another link provided information about the difference between headaches and migraines. All these useful tidbits presented in the same vehicle.

When you sign up for the daily blog, these and many other useful bits of information come to your inbox. And you thought that government concerned itself only by taking taxes and wasting the money.

Radon: The Silent Killer

Radon gas occurs naturally in the earth in varying intensity levels. In high levels, the gas becomes the

leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers in the U.S. and is responsible for an estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

According to the Central New York Coalition for Healthy Indoor Air 38 New York counties have been identified as possessing high radon levels. Radon levels above 4 picocuries per liter present a danger to residents in buildings testing at higher levels. In fact, Harvard University ranks Radon gas as the country's highest in-home hazard.

In the group of 38 counties, Oneida, Herkimer, Lewis, Madison, Broome, Schuyler and Yates present high radon levels in portions of their areas. Even in these counties, no uniform high contamination levels exist. Homeowners should test for radon levels present in their homes.

Residents may easily test for Radon levels by contacting www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon/testkit.htm. Kits may be ordered for \$8.50 by mailing a form available at the site. Local hardware stores may also carry the test kits. For more information regarding radon gas visit www.radonmonth.org. This site provides a map indicating radon levels across the U.S. and charts that rank cancer deaths by type of cancer. An additional site, www.radonplan.org provides information about the world-wide radon problem and the actions promoted by the United Nations to address this health risk.

Reading Lists for Boring February:

Or keeping the kids entertained and educated

To combat the February blahs, visit this site <http://govbooktalk.gpo.gov/2012/12/27/keeping-the-kids-entertained-and-educated>. The site lists age appropriate books for kids such as: ages 5- 12 Junior Paleontologist Activity Book where once the child has completed the activities, request online a free Junior Paleontologist badge from the U.S. Park Service. For kids 5-12 order *Discovering The Underground Railroad: Junior Ranger Activity Book* where kids can learn about the Emancipation Proclamation and the Underground Railroad. Finish the activities and go online and get a free ranger badge from the park service.

For older teens, order *Celebrating 30 Years of the Space Shuttle Program*. Program history and pictures focus on activities from 1981 to 2011. Prices are reasonable and can be ordered online.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Word 2010 has some great features?

Word 2010 Ribbon: **Page Layout Tab**

If you are thinking of publishing a book, the Page Layout tab may be the most important one in Word.

Themes. The first command group on the Page Layout tab enables you to change the way that text, tables and special elements are formatted in your document. When you choose a theme, the settings are applied to styled elements in your document. There are also Theme Colors, Theme Fonts and Theme Effects to choose from in this group. Experiment with the different options and remember that positioning your cursor over a selection creates a preview of how the document will look.

Page Setup. The Margins drop down arrow in this group offers preset choices or the option to select custom margins. It is recommended that 1" margins be used. Options for establishing page and section breaks in a document can be found under the Breaks drop down arrow. The Page Setup dialog box can be accessed by clicking on the arrow in the lower right corner of the group.

Page Background. The Watermark, Page Color and Page Borders tools are all located in this grouping.

Paragraph. This is the second tab on which you may access the Paragraph command group. It is also located on the Home Tab, but this time Indent and Spacing is what you see. However, clicking on the drop-down arrow in the lower right corner will take you to the same Paragraph dialog box available from the Home Tab.

Arrange. This group of tools can be used after you have inserted shapes, images, clip art, or WordArt into a document. Text Wrap, Bring Forward, and Send Backward also are located here. In order for the Bring Forward or Send Backward commands to work, the Text Wrap option for the inserted object must be changed from In Line With Text to one of the other options. Rotate and Selection Pane options are also available in this group. Although the Selection Pane seems to be similar to the way layers are presented in graphics software, its use here is rather limited. Clicking on an eye on the right side of the Selection and Visibility pane will make an image invisible. You can change which object is on top of another by using the Re-order arrows at the bottom of the pane. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Bill's talk last month about Windows 8 got us to look at the "look" of the operating system and alerted us to consider that there will be a bit of a learning curve. Things seemed hidden in other things; one more time, how did you find the program you were looking for? Nothing seemed intuitive. One customer at our local Best Buy gave up after working on it for ONE day. He returned it. George, a club member, recently bought a Windows 8 machine with touch screen monitor. It swivels, bends over backwards so the screen can be seen on the outside of the case, and does all kinds of tricks he's still finding out about. He loves it and advises us to stick with it. We will love it too.

It seems that if you are out for a PC and you buy it at a local store it will be bundled with Windows 8. I checked with Best Buy and Gregg, a friendly salesman there, informed me that all PCs selling at the store come with the new operating system. You may well be able to get Windows 7 online. Online, *not* at the store. If you were a bit befuddled buying a PC before, buyer better take care, there are more choices now. There are the Ultra Thins, light as a feather laptops, fast, no CD/DVD ROM drive, very expensive. Most laptops (not the Ultra Thins) come with the DVD drive, some don't, so check on it. The prices vary, some laptops go for well over \$1000. Gregg recommends the ASUS. It will do what the general user wants it to do, and do it well. If you're at Best Buy, talk to Gregg.

Doug, on the other hand, the friendly salesman at our local Staples, recommends the HP ENVY dv6-7210us laptop for ordinary, business or personal use. Not the greatest of machines, but one that will satisfy the general user. Again, Windows 8 will be bundled with it, like it or not. Get online for Windows 7. Again, a DVD drive does not come with the Ultra Thins, most of the laptops do come with that flimsy tray. Check on it. Doug is one of the guys to talk to at Staples.

So everyone has his/her favorites. What do you recommend? Are you going to give Windows 8 a try? What are you waiting for? It's not going to get easier. ♦






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Advanced Audio Coding
Tuesday ♦ February 5 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



Is it Spring yet?

what's.com/ing ~ Chocolate Lover's Month ~ February 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 1 - National Freedom Day [commemorates the signing of the 13 th Amendment] Feb 2 - Candlemas Feb 8 - Boy Scout Day Feb 10 - Chinese New Year					1	2
3	4	5 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM Whitesboro HS	6	7	8 	9
10	11	12 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	13 	14 	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	Feb 12 - Mardi Gras Feb 13 - Ash Wednesday Feb 14 - Valentine's Day Feb 18 - Presidents Day	