

## The Role of the Computer Crime Unit

Ermelindo Laraculente, Jr. will be speaking about his job as Investigator in the Computer Crime Unit at the Forensic Investigations Center at Troop D HQ in Oneida, NY. He plans to tell us about the expanding role of the Computer Crime Unit in

assisting Law Enforcement agencies with criminal investigations where electronic devices are used as well as other emerging technologies.



Ermelindo has worked at the HQ in Oneida for the past three years. Prior to that he was assigned to the Electronic Surveillance Unit in Albany, NY for six years, working as a network administrator. He has been a member of the NY State Police for 31 years.



**Tuesday, February 4, 2014 — 6 - 8:30 PM**

**New Hartford Library**

**Meeting Open to the Public — Free — Bring a friend**

**MINUTES**

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



Minutes of 7 JANUARY 2014 General Meeting

**BUSINESS**

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 15 members that braved the cold temperature in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:02 PM in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library.

Jerry F. reported about the Newsletter and stated he had no problem viewing the web version on his iPad, but using the Library’s computer he had problems. The computer only displayed the 1st page and was not properly formatted.

Jerry F. referred to the application EVERNOTE. Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period 12/01/2013 thru 12/31/2013. The report was accepted, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary.

**PROGRAM**

Chris Broedel, owner of the Real Deal Geek Service Company, was introduced by Jerry F. as our guest speaker. Chris B. started his presentation by having each attending member introduce himself and briefly describe their background in the field of computing. It was enlightening to go back in history for many of the attendees, including the guest speaker, with their reminiscences about the earlier periods of the Computer Age, the trials and tribulations and the amazing growth of the industry. Chris B. added his input and knowledge on some of the topics described by the members. The conversation was nostalgic, with remembrances of the club’s founding in the 1981 period.

Chris B. spoke about the evolving computer platforms and the increase in security threats since speaking to us about 3 years ago. Then, it was mainly Macs, Windows and Linux, but now, mobile devices such as, iPhones, Androids, Tablets, etc. have come along and inundated the market. The increase in products has brought more security threats. What has not changed is the need for Anti-Virus software, in particular for personal financial information in the home market.

Many questions were discussed on personal/PC security, such as the use and effectiveness of the Reset button in modern devices when threatened. His opinion is that many people do not think about their

mobile devices as being security risks. The virus challenge is also changing in their mode of threatening, such as the “FBI Money Pack” virus, instead of stealing from the computer, it asks for info from you, by appearing as someone else, such as taking the actual banner of an institution and asking for personal data. Chris’s rule of thumb is “if it doesn’t look right, don;t fall for it!” As Donna G. commented, her schedule starts at noon when she scans, then at 2:00 PM she updates and in between at 1:00 she feeds Bill G. and the dog!

The Club thanks Chris Broedel for his enlightening and amusing presentation and look forward to his next presentation...3 years from now.

**DOOR PRIZES**

[furnished with club funds]

- 16GB Flash Drive. . . . . Fred Cole
- Copy Paper. . . . . Kay Janowsky
- Pencils. . . . . Don Pianka
- Photo Plus. . . . . Jerry Finkelstein
- Pens. . . . . ???

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Finkelstein. ♦

**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

Keeping a clean computer means more than just dusting it off or cleaning off the fan. That does help, but keeping the files inside clean are just as, or if not more, important.



I use AVG for my antivirus program. But to be effective you need to not only download the program, but run it and schedule times for it to update and scan. My AVG goes to its website every day to gather updates and a few hours later it scans my computer. It does this because I have it set up that way. You must go into the program and tell it what to do. If you don’t know how to do that, ask another member of the club or one of the gurus. It isn’t difficult, but when you don’t know how to do something, you don’t know what to do. I’ve been there, done that! And don’t be shy about admitting that you don’t know how to do something—we’ve all been there.

Clean out your files too. Empty the recycle bin, get rid of .tmp files and run an anti-malware program such as Malwarebytes or Spybot.

## Random Access — Donna Gorrell

Jason Fitzpatrick who writes for How-To-Geek.com is the author of the glossary on that site. I've captured his info and offer it to you — both experienced and novice users will gain some knowledge as we go along. Enjoy and Learn!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **MOTHERBOARD**

A motherboard is the main printed circuit board (PCB) found in computers and other expandable electronic systems. The term motherboard specifically refers to printed boards with the potential for future expansion [as the motherboard serves as the “mother” which hosts and supports the expansion cards]. While the term motherboard has been adopted to refer to just about any main board, for applications where there is no expansion [such as the main circuit board in a washing machine], it would be more accurate to refer to the board as the system board or mainboard.

### **DAUGHTERBOARD**

A daughterboard is any expansion board that is attached to the motherboard. This includes any expansion board like a networking interface card, a soundcard, a RAID controller, or other hardware expansion which is added to a computer via motherboard expansion slot. Daughterboards are typically only found on desktop and server machines, as mobile computers such as notebook computers and smartphones are either only expandable via USB or not at all.

### **PLATTER**

Hard drive platters are where the actual data is recorded. A platter is a flat disk that spins very fast [anywhere from 4200 to 15,000 RPM] inside the hard drive's metal housing. A hard drive may contain multiple platters as needed to increase capacity.

### **BUS**

In computer architecture, a bus is a communication system that transfers data between other components. Bus systems can be so small and buried in the hardware as to be invisible to the end-user [such as

the address bus found within the CPU's architecture] (Ed. Note: CPU is the Computer Power Unit) or can have obvious manifestations that the end user can interact with such as USB [Universal Serial Bus], the ubiquitous computer input connection.

### **ASCII**

ASCII, the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, is a character encoding scheme based on the English alphabet that encodes 128 characters [numbers, upper and lower case letters, as well symbols and control codes], into 7-bit machine readable binary integers.

When referring to numbers, letters, or symbols in the ASCII system, there is both a binary identifier and a glyph [the human readable symbol]. In the case of the lowercase “a” for example, “a” is the glyph associated with binary code 110 0001.

### **DISK PARTITIONING**

Partitioning is the process of dividing a hard drive into a single logical storage unit or a series thereof. Partitioning allows a single physical disk to be divided into multiple logical disks for various purposes, including the separation of the operating system disk from the data storage disk, the installation of multiple operating systems, or other applications dependent on the division of data.

### **DISK FORMATTING**

Disk formatting is the process of preparing a disk or other storage medium for use by a particular operating system. The formatting process is typically divided into three distinct operations. First, a low-level format prepares the media for use. Second the media is partitioned with one or more partitions. Third, a high-level format applies a file system [such as FAT32 or NTFS] to the newly created partition [s].

### **RECOVERY DISC**

A recovery disc is a bootable optical disc [or discs] that typically contains the base operating system and applications that came pre-installed on a commercially produced computer. In the event of severe operating system failure, failed hard drive, or other problem, the end user can boot from the discs to perform a reinstallation of the operating system and the original applications, effectively returning the computer to the state it was in when it shipped from the factory. ◆

## Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



It's mid winter, presenting the usual gray sky and a cold day. Instead of making yourself a nice hot cup of tea, sit down at the computer and click on [www.upworthiest.com](http://www.upworthiest.com). The mission of this eighteen-month-old web site is to draw attention to topics that matter. "We wanted to believe that we could help gay marriage, discrimination and bank regulation win out over frivolous stuff . . . such as celebrity sideboobs and iPhone rumors that seem to capture the interest of people today."

At my visit the site featured several pieces [pirated?] from *YouTube* or similar sites showing people doing nice things or commenting on current issues. One such mini video featured *Walmart* propoganda that turned out to be outrageously funny. To see the video click on [www.upworthy.com/the-one-where-a-walmart-friendly-pr-firm-creates-an-ad-so -full-of-propaganda-its-actually hilarious/](http://www.upworthy.com/the-one-where-a-walmart-friendly-pr-firm-creates-an-ad-so-full-of-propaganda-its-actually-hilarious/)

This is social media with a mission. To receive a daily humorous-with-a-purpose email, just visit the site. The basic facts and claims are all fact-checked, so you don't have to worry that someone is leading you down a garden path. Enjoy and Think about warm things.

### Did You Know?

Did you know that in the U.S. today there are 8,144 farmers markets? Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that farmers markets increased from 5,000 to 8,144 from 2008 to 2013. To find out more about area farmers' markets click on [www.usda.gov/tag/national-farmers-market-directory](http://www.usda.gov/tag/national-farmers-market-directory). As might be expected, large states have the most farmers markets. New York has 637, California has 759 and Illinois has 336 to round out the top three.

These markets are now able to accept SNAP funds to allow recipients improved access to fresh produce and healthy foods. Living as we do in major agricultural areas, it is important to note that local farmers market share in the Northeast including NY is now nearly 30 percent. Other areas of the county have not embraced farmers markets to the same extent. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia and so on in the Southeast, farmers markets have only a 5.03 percent market share. These states also have the highest rate of obesity as well. A coincidence?

### Salaries

Even though many of us are retired, salaries of people still working interest us. Wages provide

nearly ¾ of all family income. To see how wage inequality has increased over the last 13 years, visit this site: [www.stateofworkingamerica.org/factsheets/wages/](http://www.stateofworkingamerica.org/factsheets/wages/). Economic data reveal that the top 1% of all wage earners now take home 20% of the nation's income.

Even though productivity has increased by 23% since the year 2000, median wages that include all salaries and benefits rose by just 4% during the same period. Furthermore, since 1973 productivity has risen 80% while median hourly compensation has risen only 11%. So much for trickle-down economics.

Nearly 1/3rd of women compared to 1/4th of men earned poverty level wages in 2011. Finally, although women now earn about 84% of men's wages, this is due primarily to declines in men's wages. And yet in the face of all this, big banks now threaten to add fees on deposit accounts that don't pay much if any interest anyway. As Jimmy Durante would say, "What a revoltin' development this is."

### Industry Safety

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), American companies place a low priority on workplace health and safety. Only 6.9% of employers offer comprehensive worksite health promotion programs. Comprehensive worksite health promotion programs can reduce sick leave, health plan costs, and workers' compensation and disability insurance costs by about 25% according to the CDC. Why employers do not adopt these programs is a mystery, and a costly one at that.

### Need to Lighten Up

Remember *General Electric's* slogan, Better Living Through Chemistry? And then we find the Hudson River has to be dredged to get rid of PCBs dumped by GE? To find the real honest company slogans click on [www.honestologans.com](http://www.honestologans.com) and laugh or at least smile. Here are a few samples: *BUTTERBALL*-food coma; *RED LOBSTER*-you're here for the cheddar biscuits; *SUN CHIPS*-opening the bag is louder than eating the chips; *SPERRY* you probably haven't even been on a boat; *STARBUCKS*-Oh. You mean a Grande Latte?; *DELTA AIRLINES*-Don't Expect Luggage To Arrive; *GILLETTE*-we're just going to keep adding blades; *WebMD* convince yourself that you have a terminal illness; *hulu*-which ad experience would you prefer to ignore? And finally, *HARLEY DAVIDSON*-Here for you during that midlife crisis.

There are many more. Enjoy.

Until next time . . .



## ? Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that the first hard drive was introduced by IBM in 1956 to serve as data storage for computers specializing in real-time transaction [accounting] processing.

. . . that you could get a list of installed software on a Windows 7 or 8 computer? Use this query:

```
Get-WmiObject -Class Win32_Product |
Select-Object -Property Name
```

To export the file use this: `Get-WmiObject -Class Win32_Product | Select-Object -Property Name > C:\Software\PCapps.txt`. This is Windows PowerShell

. . . that Forty is the only number that is spelled with its letters in alphabetical order?

. . . that only five states still require that children receive instruction in cursive writing? Reading old penmanship is an endangered skill.

. . . that the system bus, a component of computer hardware architecture, derives its name from the Latin word “omnibus”, meaning “for all”, a reference to how bus shuttles all the data between the components it links.

. . . that an astronomical unit, usually abbreviated as AU, au, or ua, is a unit of length equal to the distance between the earth and the sun? That’s 149,597,870,700 meters or 92,955,807.273 miles.

. . . that a light year is a measurement of length that equals the distance that light can travel in a vacuum over the course of one year? About 6 trillion miles or almost 10 trillion kilometers. Light years are used to measure distances to stars and galaxies.

. . . that Windows8 has some neat shortcuts? Windows Key+C will open the Charms Bar. Windows Key+Tab will open App Switcher. Windows Key+X will open a ‘power user menu’ that gives quick access to options that are hidden in the Win8 interface, including Shut Down, Restart and Control Panel.

. . . that **Ctrl and+ or Ctrl+mousewheel up** zooms in? **Ctrl and - or Ctrl+mousewheel down** zooms out. Works in browsers and some apps. Try it! ◆

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein



Ermelindo Laraculente, Jr. will be talking to us about the expanded role of the Computer Crime Unit in Oneida. He’s a New York State police officer, a forensic investigator at the Oneida Unit. I’m eagerly looking forward to his presentation; even without hearing his talk or knowing its details, I’ve been conjuring up a bunch of topics/questions for him. You too might want to come up with questions of your own (in advance of his talk?!!!!) about the Crime Unit.



We’re all curious about what the cybercops do and how they do it and how far is their grasp. What are the parameters of their authority? They must deal with other agencies, I’m interested in some of the particulars in this area of inter-agency communication and cooperation. Rights to privacy issues are bound to come up. How does the Unit address issues of keeping us safe from the bad guys and notions of privacy and freedom?

We all know that Google and Facebook are in the business of collecting as much information as they can about everybody using computers, cell phones, tablets. The NSA throws out its net to collect all our phone calls. Does the Unit too gather information on Oneida County residents? All residents? Or just targeted residents? How far fetched is it to think this way? Just because I’m paranoid doesn’t mean they’re not after me. Imagine, the government knowing the books you took out from your local library, that you were reading *Fifty Shades Of Grey* and you kept it out for an additional week!

I hope he covers the specific topics of bullying, child abuse, hacking, identify theft. Lots of stuff to cover, maybe too much for one evening. Each topic can easily take up one of our sessions. Maybe we can get him back for more. How’s this for a topic: how does the Oneida Unit compare with the Units we see on TV and in the movies? ◆

# explorer

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers and consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford.

Meetings are open to the public. Membership fee is \$25.

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what's.coming		~ American Heart Month ~			February 2014		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		February 7 through 16 - Winter Olympics February 10 - Clean out your computer day February 12 - Lincoln's birthday February 22 - Washington's birthday					1
2 	3	4 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	12	13	14 	15	
16	17 	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28		