
Electronic Game Systems

Michael Haman, the home installation manager at The Big Apple on Seneca Turnpike, is back by popular demand. Aside from securing your home from the bad guys, knowing all there is to know about TVs and mobile devices, and being very smart about PCs, he's also quite knowledgeable about computer game systems.

On April 2th, Mike will present to us a world of computer video games. His talk will include a bit of history, the sort of game systems available, and the special needs of the PC for full game play. The highlights of the talk will be demonstrations of games, such as Play Station 3, Wii and the TBox 360 game systems. Members will be invited to join in the fun.

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 — For whom did Cuthbert Hurd work, and what did his team develop?

Tuesday, April 2 — 6 - 8:30 PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



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.

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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.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President

Jerry Finkelstein... 797-5296
..... president@mvpcug.com

Vice President

Lisa Britt... vicepresident@mvpcug.com

Treasurer

Bill Gorrell... 853-3256
..... treasurer@mvpcug.com

Secretary

Donna Gorrell... secretary@mvpcug.com

Directors-at-Large

Jerry Grega ['13]... director2@mvpcug.com
Vivian Burth ['14]... director3@mvpcug.com
Jim Pease ['15]... director1@mvpcug.com

Co-Program Chair

Grega/Burth... program@mvpcug.com

Our internet presence is at

<http://www.mvpcug.com>

Web Master

Lisa Britt... webmaster@mvpcug.com

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jerry Finkelstein... president@mvpcug.com
Donna Gorrell... editor@mvpcug.com
John Hunter... johnhunter@mvpcug.com

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 . . .



By the time you read this, Spring will have Sprung and the weather should be fantastic. Hopefully! All too soon our thoughts will be geared to being outdoors and all the activity that goes along with good weather. Only a few more months of meetings for the club and then a hiatus for the summer.

We need to hear what you want to see at our meetings, now and in the Autumn. Please send suggestions of what you'd like to learn to mvpcug@mvpcug.com.

What kind of tips and tricks are you interested in? I am just beginning to figure out how to use my iPad and soon I am going to be using that new computer running Windows7. Are you still using XP? Are you interested in learning more about it? Have some programs that you wish you knew more about? If you have any suggestions I sure would like to hear from you. Drop me at note at donna@mvpcug.com and tell me what you'd like to see in the Did You Know column.

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

Name _____
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Minutes of 5 March 2013

— Donna Gorrell, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting of 5 March 2013, with 20 people in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:00 PM in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library.

Jerry said that he didn't have any announcements to make this month.

Bill Gorrell gave the treasurer's report. That information is available from him or the secretary.

There was a question and answer period. Nelson Robinson has a problem with his cursor moving or jumping around when using his touchpad. Various solutions were offered.

PROGRAM

Bill Gorrell started the evening program by showing two small free programs that he uses. One is a password manager [*LastPass*] and the other is a bookmark synchronizer [*Xmarks*]. Both are produced by LastPass Company. LastPass [www.lastpass.com] works with most browsers and both Macs and PCs. It stores passwords encrypted on your own PC. Xmarks [www.xmarks.com] syncs all your bookmarks from one computer and browser to another. Works with Firefox, IE, Chrome and Mac OSX.

Bill showed us how he keeps the books for the club using *Quicken*. *TurboTax* is also an *Intuit* product and Bill also showed us how that works in conjunction with *Quicken*.

Another product that *Intuit* offers free is *Mint*. This program puts all your financial information in one place and apps are available for mobile devices.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Nelson Robinson
- Hilights..... Steve Gorrell
- Photo Paper..... Tony Ciancio
- Copy Paper..... Bill Gorrell
- Stickies..... Howard Netzbund

Website Contest Winner

MVPCUG T-shirt..... Father John LaVoe

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Gorrell ◆

WRITING A FAMILY HISTORY CAN BE EASY USING WORD'S RIBBON

Reference Tab has many useful tools organized into the following groups: Table of Contents, Footnotes, Citations & Bibliography, Captions, Index, and Table of Authorities.

A Table of Contents can be built manually or by using a wizard. Using the manual method, turn on the Show/Hide feature. Find that in the Paragraph Group on the Home Tab [a backward P]. Once you have completed setting up your tabs, you can turn off Show/Hide.

Type the first entry for your ToC - for instance, "The Smiths." Press the Tab key, then type the page number for the first entry. You should see an arrow between the name and number; that arrow is called a tab stop. Using your cursor, select that arrow, go to the Page Layout or Home tab and click on the Paragraph group. Click on the Tab button located in the lower left corner. In the Tab Stop Position, type the number of inches you want between the name and number. Under Alignment, click Right. Under Leader, select the option you want; click OK. The page number should align right with whatever leader was chosen. Press Enter; start typing the second name and number, press the Tab button after each name entry.

To use the wizard, you need to use Headings in your document for any text that you want in the ToC. Select the text for the first item that you want. Next, click on either Heading 1 or 2 in the Styles group on the Home tab. Then, click on the spot where you want to place the ToC. Finally, on the References tab, in the ToC group, click ToC, then click the table style you want.

To add a footnote, place your cursor after the sentence where you want the footnote number to appear. Then, go to the Footnotes group and click on Insert Footnote or press Alt+Ctrl+F. A small superscript number will be inserted in the text at that point and your cursor will move to the bottom of the page, inserting a matching number under the Separator Line. After you finish typing your footnote text, press Shift+F5 to return your cursor to the spot in your document where the Footnote reference was inserted. Continue typing. As you add more footnotes, Word automatically numbers them consecutively. If you want to delete a footnote, delete the reference number in the main text. Not only will this delete the reference and the footnote text, it will also renumber all of the remaining footnotes. Endnotes operate in the same way except that the keyboard command is Ctrl+Alt+D. ◆

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Educational Improvement?

One summer four decades ago I taught third grade math and reading skills to inmates in a maximum security prison. These men needed remediation in order to qualify for the GED diploma classes available to them. Prisons today seem to be a bit different. A Reuters news item concerning education and business opportunities for inmates in California prisons caught my eye.

A click on www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/25 presented an article on prison computer startup proposals from inmates. The article illustrates just how dependent we are on computer skills to the extent that prisoners are able to access technology while serving time. According to the article, seven San Quentin inmates recently offered entrepreneurs at a prison “demo day” a chance to fund computer startups as part of the Last Mile program.

Prisoner Eddie Griffin pitched a music streaming idea for Smartphones. Currently serving a third sentence for drug addiction, Griffin has spent 15 years locked away. The article notes that California doesn't allow inmates to run businesses and prisoners use computers only under close supervision. Nevertheless, that inmates are able to discuss such proposals which may help them stay out of jail after they are released is remarkable.

Just think what Michael Milkin could have accomplished had he been given access to computer while serving his time in the slammer. Or not.

Humor

For those with too much time on their hands, a click on <https://twitter.com/theoldmoneydog/> should cheer up even the grumpiest among us. At my visit the tweet pictures the dog commenting on the family investment strategies. This is followed by a list of similar tweets on different subjects by tweet-dog followers. Each tweet is more outrageous than the last. Have fun.

More Government Help

A recent click on www.foodsafety.gov pulled up a list of foods which should be avoided by pregnant women. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH) pregnancy affects the immune systems of both mother and unborn baby. In addition to avoiding smoking and alcohol, pregnant women should avoid

many food categories. Unpasteurized juice or cider may contain *E.coli* for example.

At the food safety homepage, click on poisoning and risks to see the whole list. The list contains the food item, the harmful bacteria or poison and the action to take to make the food safe.

Credit Scores and Identity Theft

Emails and media ads tout the necessity for consumers to check credit scores for errors or identity theft. The Fair Credit Reporting Act [FCRA] requires the three credit reporting companies Experian, Equifax and TransUnion to provide one free credit report each year to everyone who applies.

The problem is that a number of other companies offer “free” credit reports but require consumers to ultimately spend money on additional credit monitoring or to provide these companies with personal information that may later be sold to still other businesses.

All consumers should visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports and click on the links provided to obtain the free request form. Remember: just because you are paranoid doesn't mean that people aren't out to get you. And if you schedule a separate credit report request every four months, the entire year is covered.

Keeping Up With Modern Slang

One way to know that you're out of date is to misuse a slang term in front of teenagers. The eye roll this sparks kills you. To keep abreast of current teenage slang or slang created by very smart, very hip people, click on www.urbandictionary.com.

At my visit the site featured a number of terms including: “*opprescedent*”— “an illegal and/or oppressive precedent.” The sample sentence used to explain how the term is used reads, “The embedding of biometric chips in or on the general population sets a dangerous **opprescedent** which undermines both privacy and safety.”

Other terms include “soft googling”, “Hollywood Historian”, and “coupon karma.” Visit the site to find the meanings of these terms. While there, subscribe to daily emails with more terms. Keeping up with modern slang may rejuvenate your career or at least make you “tolerable” around your children and grandchildren.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that there is a Reveal Formatting Feature in Word 2013? Are you used to the Reveal Codes feature in WordPerfect? These codes show you your text with integrated formatting codes that seem similar to HTML formatting. However, if you're using Word, there is no comparable function.

WordPerfect treats text and formatting codes the same, putting start and end codes around text as you format it. When you display the Reveal Codes window, you see the formatting code markers integrated with the text. You can select the code markers and even insert and delete them manually. For example, if you manually delete an end code, the rest of the document will be formatted according to the start code that now has no corresponding end code.

In Word, text and formatting are treated completely independently. Word stores the formatting for the text in a different part of the file than the text to which the formatting applies. It is not inserted in the text stream. Instead, Word tracks the character and paragraph formatting you apply throughout your document, and doesn't concern itself with start and end codes.

Whereas WP has both modes, WYSIWYG ["what you see is what you get"] and Reveal Codes, Word only has the WYSIWYG mode. Apply bold to text and you see that text as bold text, but you cannot see the bold codes around it.

However, there is a way to see how selected text is formatted. When you select some text in Word and press Shift + F1, the Reveal Formatting pane displays. Word shows you, in list format, how the selected text is formatted with respect to the Font, Paragraph, and Section.

If you want to change the formatting of the selected text, you can do so using the Reveal Formatting pane. If you want to make the selected text not bold, but italic instead, click the Font link in the Reveal Formatting pane. The Font dialog box displays. Make any changes you want; click OK. The text reflects the change as does the Reveal Formatting pane.

Do not confuse the Reveal Formatting pane with the feature in Word that shows hidden formatting symbols. Clicking the paragraph symbol in the Paragraph section of the Home tab, shows hidden symbols such as spaces, tabs, and paragraph marks. These are different than the formatting listed on the Reveal Formatting pane.

NOTE: You can also press Ctrl + * to show and hide the formatting symbols.

You might want to show both the Reveal Formatting pane and the hidden formatting symbols to easily track your formatting and the spacing between words and paragraphs and tabs. ◆

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

A beef. A complaint. More than just an annoyance, a real grievance. Given the average age of our club members I think you'll be with me on this one. The thing is I know we all have come across this but I never heard anyone talk about it. It's about the fine print you find in the general mainstream news magazines that has now invaded the PC magazine market. It's become unreadable.

We know that all the print media is in trouble. Newspapers have folded. The print version of *Newsweek* is gone. Most magazines have gathered in their troops, retrenched, cut personnel. They've also refashioned the look of the pages in their magazines. The new design of a page may now include color, a lot of white space, different faces and sizes of fonts. Like ads throughout the magazine they offer you fashion with the meat and potatoes of the article you are reading. Try to tell the difference between the article and the ad. For a moment you are asking, is this an ad or the real thing? Only the editor knows.

The design of the magazine is something we'll get used to. Change is sometimes difficult, but we eventually go along with it. It's the fine print on the page that is impossible to manage, it stops you dead in your tracks. I'm talking about real small font size. Like really, really small. You've got Superman's eyesight if you can read that. No kidding, I measured. How about 25 lines to an inch! And some of these lines are white against an orange background, or white on black. You'll find this stuff in issues of *Maximum PC* and *Windows 8: Expert Tips and Tricks*. Many of the tips were delivered 30 lines to two inches. Again, I measured. Who can read this stuff?




You do wonder about who is the intended readership target for these magazines. Do young people pick them up? Is that how they are ruining their eyes? What do you suppose is the average age of those people reading *PC World*? At last, I saw the magazine just for me, *Windows 8 for Seniors*. Can't go wrong, right? Wrong. Page after page, step after step the font size was too tiny to read. The shiny pages looked swell. You just couldn't read them.

The magazines don't come with magnifying glasses. You have to supply your own. ◆

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Games, Games, and more Games
Tuesday ♦ April 2 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Autism Awareness Month ~ April 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Monthly General meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	3 First iPad sold 2010	4	5	6
7	8	9 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	10 ASPCA founded in 1866	11	12	13
14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19 National Garlic Day	20
21	22 	23	24	25	26 	27
28	29	30	.April 4 - National D.A.R.E. Day April 13 - Thomas Jefferson Birthday April 22 - Earth Day April 26 - National Arbor Day			