

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.



No, this is not an April Fool's joke. Ermelindo Laraculente, Jr. was supposed to be our speaker in February, but because of a crime that happened in another area, he was not able to come to our meeting.

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 — 6 - 8:30 PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public — Free — Bring a friend

MINUTES

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



BUSINESS

The MVPCUG General Meeting was held at the New Hartford Library on 4 March 2014. President Jerry Finkelstein, with 13 in attendance, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 02/01/2014 to 02/28/2014, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary.

Jerry F. inquired if anyone was having any associated computer problems. Several of the attendees related some of their experiences with the “lurking bad world” out there while on the Internet, including:

a) While on the *Good Morning America*, an announcement popped up from the “FBI” stating the internet user is being reported for visiting porno web sites and gave a number to call. A call to the real FBI provided information that this was a scam that was around several years ago. Further advice was to take the computer to Best Buy for a cleanup [apparently BB has experience on this problem].

b) Our president [Jerry F., that is] received a call from “Time Warner” to get an upgrade and a number to call. Jerry already keeps up to date. He disregarded the message after doing some investigation.

The advice from the majority of the club members was avoid responding to any e-mail address from all unsolicited mail.

A query about how best to convert VHS tapes to more recent technology storage formats. Several suggestions were made. Stu Culp and Jerry Grega have experience in this type of transfer.

PROGRAM

Miss Kathryn McCauley, Technology Librarian for the Mid-York Library System, was introduced by Jerry F. to speak on the state of libraries in the past, present and future.

The main purpose for libraries has been the collection of information and learning. Statistics indicate that 75% of Americans have read at least one book in the past year. Estimates also indicate in the 30-49 age group at least 30% have read an e-book in the last year. Technology changes indicate that 15 years ago it was not common to see a person with a cell phone, now over 50% of the population have

smart phones. Libraries are now serving a different type of community who want information in new ways.

The library in the future will be going from a storage space to a collaborative space for people to get together in an impressive building. The discussion also centered about reading an e-book or a hard covered book. No one knows what you are doing with the e-book but it’s impressive for someone to read the title of a bound book in your hand. Another problem with e-books, who is the legal owner of the device? For a library, purchasing e-books is expensive and each publisher has different rules to abide with.

The library of the future will be taking many new technological steps and all are in different phases of transition. Utica is experimenting with self-checkout. This will free the staff for other tasks, beyond the circulation desk. Some have facilities to print in 3-D. The *Awesome Box* for books you particularly like that are being returned, another method for getting recommendations. The *Crayon Kiosk* for children, a way to introduce children to tablets, by having them pre-loaded with games. *Seed Library* – allows you to check out seeds in the Spring time, plant them in your own garden and return to the Library some of the seeds cultivated in the Fall. The libraries will continue to be a repository of information but in more of a digital format. Miss McCauley feels the younger generation is growing up with all this new and still more technology to develop, it will be interesting to see what will happen with the magnificent buildings, something only the future will tell us.

The Club thanks Kathryn McCauley for her enthusiastic and very enlightening presentation of the status of the Public Library System and the interesting changes that we should be preparing for in the future.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 Bic Pens. Jerry Grega
- 4X6 photo paper.. . . . Gary Virkler
- 20 pens. Don Pianka
- Copy paper. Stuart Culp
- Z-Grip pens. Bill Wilson
- 16 GB flash drive. Howard Netzband

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Copy paper. Kay Janowsky

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Penabad, secretary ♦

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!

* * * * *

INTERNET BACKBONES

Just like your spinal cord connects the tens of thousands of peripheral nerves in your body, massive high speed fiber optic lines connect major cities and regions. These “internet backbones” link the smaller networks built by individual Internet Service Providers, which in turn connect to the end user. When you send a file to a friend across the country, for example, the data leaves your home network, passes to the local ISP maintained network, and then from your ISP's local/regional network over one of the major internet backbones until the process is reversed to deliver the data from the backbone, to the regional network, and then down the final leg to your friend's home network.

ADDRESS BAR

The address bar is the GUI element of a web browser where the user inputs the web address (also known as a URL). In addition to web addresses, most web browsers also support additional protocols (such as ftp:// for FTP sites) and internal addressing (such as about:somefunction or chrome://) to access the internal workings of the web browser.

BROWSER HISTORY

A browser history is the list of web sites you have visited using your web browser. Browsers typically allow you to view and delete the browser history, as well as set parameters such as how long of a browser history you wish to maintain (or if you want to maintain one at all).

PRIVATE BROWSING

Private Browsing, also known as Private Windows and Incognito Mode, is a feature included in modern web browsers that allows you to browse the web in a special window wherein no data will be stored

locally. There will be no links in the browser history, no cookie data, and no stored images or page content.

The privacy benefits afforded by Private Browsing mode are entirely local as it prevents other users of the computer from seeing what you have been looking at on the web but does not actually anonymize your activities in anyway.

BROWSER VIEWPORT

The browser viewport is a technical term for the portion of the browser window which actually displays the content of the web site you are browsing. The viewport stands in direct contrast with the browser's chrome (all the elements around the viewport such as the navigation buttons, address bar, status bar, and other GUI elements).

HYPERLINK

Hyperlinks, typically referred to simply as links, are a core component of the web browsing experience. Hyperlinks take the form of text and images that, when activated by the user, take the user to the document or file indicated by the link. Without the extensive use of hyperlinks the smooth experience of jumping from one document to another on the web would be greatly disrupted.

MASTHEAD

A Masthead is the graphic image, text, and/or navigation links at the top of a web page. A Masthead ‘identifies’ the website, and at times may also ‘identify’ a specific sub-section or subject area (category) of the website in question.

WEB CACHE

The web cache, or browser cache, is a mechanism for the temporary storage of web documents intended to reduce bandwidth usage, server load, and the user's perception of browser latency.

OFFLINE BROWSING

Offline browsing is a feature available on most modern web browsers wherein the user can access the web browser's cache and browse the pages there as if they were actively connected to the original web server. Offline browsing is most useful with static pages with completely embedded content—many modern web pages are modular and call many of their design elements in a fashion which does not translate cleanly or smoothly into offline browsing. ◆

More Random Access . . .

— Donna Gorrell

This month we have more news than will fit our regular pages so this is a bonus page.

Director-at-Large, Jerry Grega, resigned his position for personal reasons. At the March Board of Directors meeting president Jerry Finkelstein appointed Dee Pfohl to fill the rest of his term. The appointment was approved by the Board.

Bill Wilson, long time member of the club, reviewed the financial books of the club and gave his report to the Board of Directors. Bill Gorrell presented the findings at the March general meeting. In essence the club is fortunate to have a treasurer who is diligent in his record keeping and our funds are in safe hands.

Thanks to Jerry Grega for his time serving as board member and thanks to Bill Wilson for spending the time to do the audit of our books.

And thanks to Dee Pfohl for stepping forward to take the position of Director-at-Large. There are other positions within the club that could use filling — think about how you can make our club better and stronger — say yes! when asked to take on a task.

Webmaster, Lisa Britt, offered a website that she thought would be useful for Excel users. I checked it out and found a gold mine of information/instructions. Rather than give one at a time in the DYK column, I'm sending you directly to the link so you can explore on your own. There are many links from the original page so you can choose what you might need help with.

<http://www.excel-easy.com/>

Lisa has this site on the tidbit page of our website, but we know that many of you do not look at our own website. BTW, you are missing out on a lot of great information by not using our website which is at www.mvpcug.com.

Tips and tricks for Windows8

Right clicking the lower left corner of the screen brings up the Quick Access Menu. It gives you a direct line to system management functions, such as Disk management, Task Manager, Device Manager and Control Panel.

To organize your apps, drag all the tiles you want to assign to a single group to a vacant spot at the far right hand side of Start screen. Once satisfied with the assembly, use semantic zoom [on touch screen, squeeze fingers together; on keyboard, hold down Ctrl key and use mouse to zoom in and out] to get a bird's eye view of the desktop. Right-click the group or simply drag down on it and select the *Name Group* option on the left of the bar that appears below. Type in the name.

To closing apps, drag the app with your mouse or finger from top of screen all the way down to the bottom. As you drag, the app will minimize into a thumbnail, and when you reach the bottom it will disappear from view. Or close app by pressing Alt+F4, or use Task Manager.

To protect your privacy, press WIN+I, choose *Change PC Settings*. Select the *Privacy* option and personalize your settings.

If you want to control which programs run automatically, press Ctrl-Alt-Del to get to Task Manager or type *Task Manager* into the Search charm, then click the *More details* tab at the bottom, select the *Startup* tab at the top, then choose which programs you want to automatically run when you boot into Windows.

Boot to the desktop by going to the Start screen and typing in *Schedule* to search for Schedule Task in Settings. Click *Task SchedulerLibrary* to the left, and select *Create Task*. Name the task something like 'boot to desktop'. Select the *Triggers* tab, choose *New*, and use the drop-down box to select starting the task *At log on*. Click OK and go to the *Actions* tab, choose *New*, and enter *Explorer* for the Program/Script value.

Customize live tiles by right clicking on the tiles. A setting bar on the bottom of a tile will pop up with an option to turn the Live Tile on or off. Select the option you want. ♦

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



A Blast from the Past

Do you remember the first Internet provider you used and the year? My first Internet experience came in 1983 when IBM gave the high school in which I taught 15 personal computers each with two floppy disc drives, 250K of memory, a nine-color monitor and a one-year subscription to CompuServe. That was hot stuff back in the day. IBM even gave the school a super-fast dial-up telephone modem that used 300 baud, 600 baud or 1200 baud speeds.

I used CompuServe in my writing classes beginning that year to initiate students in the techniques of electronic job applications. Yes, people applied for jobs online even 30 plus years ago.

The November-December 2013 issue of *Oracle Magazine* gives a list of some of the technical breakthroughs computer technology achieved starting in 1969 with time-sharing on Compu-Serve. To visit click on www.oracle.com/oraclemagazine and on the left of the screen click on archives; and choose November/December 2013 and scroll down to Comment: Time Capsule.

The page indicates, for example, that online web service began in the 1980s with Prodigy, GENie and America Online joining CompuServe by adding consumer choices to the technology. Visit the page for a nostalgic walk down memory lane.

Discounts

For people of a certain age, sneakers become the preferred footwear. To score a discount on Reebok sneakers, visit www.aarpdiscounts.com/reebok3. This site gives visitors a 20 percent online discount for an online purchase, or a store purchase when customers show their AARP membership card at Reebok outlet stores. The URL takes you right to the Reebok discount website where you begin shopping.

For hundreds of other discounts click on www.aarpdiscounts.com and up comes a treasure trove of categories in which to save money.

Travel Time

Try a rail vacation. To score a discount on the tickets, both AARP and Amtrak provide travelers with ticket discounts. For a 25 percent discount train travel discount click on www.amtrak.com/rail-deals-every-week-25-percent-off-amtrak-across-the-us. This takes you to the Amtrak website where

the railroad provides weekly deals for train travel lovers.

Election Season is Right Around the Corner

In a few short months, the airwaves will bombard us with competing claims of candidates who all promise us the moon and plan to give us the gutter. To determine the veracity of incumbent candidates, click on

<https://www.govtrack.us/blog/2014/01/08/2013-report-cards-for-all-members-of-congress/>

This website provides the number of bills introduced and co-sponsored by each member of congress; the number of bills out of committee; missed votes; number of leadership positions held; ideology [liberal, conservative] and support for non-partisan bills. To see what your member of congress accomplished during 2013 visit this site.

For example, the site reports that Senator David Vitter wrote the most bills in 2013. Representative Pete Sessions got the most bills out of committee in the House. www.govtrack.us blog is a non-partisan website that provides accurate information on congress.

Avoid DWI Tickets

You are out to dinner with friends and have had a few drinks. Are you sober enough to legally drive home? Find out by clicking on www.breathometer.com. This site features a device that couples with a smart phone to tell within seconds whether you are sober enough to drive. Just plug the equipment into the audio jack of an iPhone or Android cell phone, and blow on a lighted port for 5 seconds. The device measures blood alcohol content above the national limit of 0.08 percent. The device and the app introduced in October of 2013 have sold tens of thousands of orders. The device costs \$49 online. The app is available for smart phone download at the App Store and some Android phones at Google Play.

Free Food

Recently this column featured a post about farmers' markets in New York. For free food click on www.fallingfruit.org. This site provides places where individuals may harvest food for free. In a Google-like map, food sites appear and links to the Dept of Agriculture indicate times of harvest. The map finds sites all over the world, but sites in New York State are amply represented.

Until next time . . .





Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that the Windows taskbar appears on the bottom of the screen by default, but it doesn't have to? You can put your taskbar at any edge of the screen — at the left, top, or right. Placing it on the left edge of the screen can help on modern laptops, which often use widescreen resolutions with much more horizontal space than vertical space. This will give you more vertical space for web pages, documents, and everything else.

To do this, right-click your taskbar, select Unlock the taskbar, and then drag it to any side of the screen. Right-click your taskbar and lock it again afterwards. You can also right-click the taskbar, select Properties, and select a location from the Taskbar location on screen box.

. . . that the taskbar doesn't have to appear on screen all the time, either. You can make it automatically hide itself and only appear when you move your mouse to the position of the screen where you have placed the taskbar. This can help if you want to use your precious screen space for your programs, particularly on old netbooks with a very low screen resolution. To toggle auto-hide, right-click the taskbar, select Properties, and click the Auto-hide the taskbar box.

. . . that you can use a previous version of Taskbar in Windows 7? Windows 7 introduced a new style of taskbar that combined program-launching and window-switching with a single taskbar icon. However, you can still use the traditional style of taskbar. This can be useful if you just use a few programs — let's say you mostly use your browser and like having different browser windows that you can easily switch to from your taskbar. To choose the type of taskbar you want to use, right-click the taskbar, select Properties, and choose one of the options from the Taskbar buttons box.

. . . that along with customizing the type of taskbar entries you use, you can select whether to use large or small icons. To make taskbar icons smaller, right-click the taskbar, select Properties, and enable the Use small taskbar buttons checkbox. There are three tabs at the top of the Properties box; the Start Menu option gives you many choices for customization. ♦



Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

The Internet turned 25 years old this March, think of all the young adults born since the birth of the WWW and can't imagine a world without it. Is there anyone still around who can't imagine a world with it? Nowadays, we wear our technical gear or carry it around in our pockets, backpacks or easy to carry luggage. The idea is you take it with you. It's mobile. And wherever you go, from room to room you are connected, from home to town, from town to town to anywhere across the globe you're still connected. Or, if you prefer to stay at home, you can still become a global traveler. It's all a click away on your keyboard, a tap on your tablet. And best of all, at the end of the day when you're finished with your email, your texting, and gone through all the updates on your emagazines you can look in the mirror and say, "Gee, I'm smart."

Here are some bits and pieces taken from various emagazines, like Slate, The Daily Beast, Huffingtonpost . . . According to Twitter, people are happiest during the month of December. Twitter also reports that December is also the month that people are most likely to feel sad . . . The latest news from Congress isn't very good. What else is new? The CIA is being accused of spying on senators (who are supposed to be overseeing the CIA). Just a couple of months ago these same senators thought it was perfectly okay, and in the interest of national security, for the CIA to spy on the members of our club, the MVPCUG and every other US citizen. Right now the CIA is tapping into every click I'm making on my keyboard. That the CIA is spying on them has become an issue of huge importance. It's okay for the ordinary guy. Just don't mess with Congress.

More stuff from emagazines: PC World will no longer be publishing a print edition of its magazine. You'll get it online. Remember the era of the general interest PC magazines? Gone. New poll: One in three Christians are giving up technology for Lent. This means that they will be giving up social networks, smart phones, TV, video games and the Internet. Yeah, right! And there are those who are concerned about what is here, now on the Internet, what was and is lost. Well, the Internet is now being archived. Where do they put all that stuff? 25 years of the Internet! What will it look like in another 25 years? Want to hazzard a guess? ♦

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		~ National Garden Month ~			April 2014	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 - April Fool's Day April 4 - National D.A.R.E Day April 10 - ASPCA Day April 15 - National Library Day		1 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15 	16	17	18 Good Friday 	19
20 	21	22 	23	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30	April 15 - Income Tax Day April 17 - Ellis Island Family History Day April 23 - Secretary's Day April 25 - Arbor Day		