

## Web Site Design

(Postponed from last month due to closure of Library)

**Charles Thompson** is the owner of *No Sheep Designs* and has been creating websites for an incredible variety of clients since 2001. Over the years he has developed sites for not-for-profit agencies, municipalities, and businesses in a multitude of sectors. He not only creates the design but does all of the programming ensuring that the finished piece is as functional as it is beautiful.

Charles will be discussing web development as well as sharing his video and photographic expertise.



**Tuesday, April 7, 2015 — 6 - 8:30 PM**

**New Hartford Library**

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

**MINUTES**

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



The MVPCUG General Meeting was not held on March 1, 2015. The New Hartford Library made a last minute [5pm] decision to close at 6pm. An effort was made to notify everyone and we apologize if any of you were inconvenienced. ♦

**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

A big Thank You to Bill Wilson for once again doing the yearly audit of the club's treasury.



This month I will fill the rest of this page with more of our Random Access.

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**MORE RANDOM ACCESS**

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**Compiler**

A compiler is a computer program (or set of programs) that converts source code from the original programming language into another computer language. Typically, this process is used to convert a high-level programming language (such as C++) into a lower level language (such as machine code) so that the program can be run as an executable.

**Decompiler**

Just as a compiler turns high-level programming languages into low-level programming languages in order to run them on the computer, a decompiler reverses the process and takes low-level programming language (like machine code) and translates it into higher-level programming languages (like C++).

**High-Level Programming Language**

High-level programming languages are computer programming languages with a strong abstraction that provides a high degree of human readability. Unlike low-level programming languages which work by

directly interacting with the processor (and as such are machine, not human, readable), high-level programming languages provide natural language systems and structures (such as IF statements and other human-readable functions) that make it easier for programmers to work with the language.

**Low-Level Programming Language**

A low-level programming language is a programming language that provides little or no abstraction or divergence from the actual instructions the architecture of the computer uses to execute commands. Machine code is an example of low-level programming language and is the only programming language that allows for direct and untranslated interaction with a computer processor (despite being very difficult to work with and requiring an extreme attention to detail, it is still used when considerable speed and lightweight programming is required).

**Obfuscator**

An obfuscator is a program designed to make it difficult to understand or reverse engineer source code. The obfuscator takes the clean human-readable source code the programmer has created and does a thorough job shuffling it around, changing simple variables to confusing ones, and otherwise making it difficult for another person to sit down and read the original clean copy (but all while still maintaining the functionality of the source code).

**VHF Spectrum**

The VHF (Very High Frequency) spectrum covers 30Mhz to 300Mhz and is used for a wide variety of communications including television broadcasting, FM radio, as well as traffic control and marine communications.

**UHF Spectrum**

The UHF (Ultra High Frequency) spectrum, or 700Mhz communication spectrum (technically 698-806Mhz), was historically used for television broadcasting. Starting in 2008, the FCC began auctioning off sections of the spectrum in anticipation of the 2009 switch from analog to digital TV broadcasts. Thanks to the suitability of 700Mhz spectrum broadcasts for long distance wireless communication, a significant portion of the available blocks were purchased by large telecommunication companies like Verizon Wireless and AT&T. ♦

## 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!

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### **Inkjet Printing**

Inkjet printing is a process by which text and graphics are applied to a medium, typically paper, via a controlled and cold application of ink through micro-nozzles. Inkjet technology is used in a wide range of applications, including basic consumer home printing of small documents and the production of large banners; while the scale of the printer changes, the fundamental operation remains the same.

While inkjet printers have typically been quite expensive to use [the price of manufacturer produced ink is very high and modern smart cartridges have microchips embedded in them that make refilling them difficult], a significant secondary ink market has evolved that provides both new and cheaper 3rd party cartridges, inexpensive devices that can reset smart cartridges, and other innovations that have driven the cost of inkjet printing down.

### **Dye-Sublimation Printing**

A dye-sublimation printer is a printer that uses heat to transfer ink onto the print medium as opposed to inkjet printing which sprays micro droplets of ink onto the surface of the medium. The name is derived from the process itself, during the heating and application process the dye sublimates from a solid material to a gas without transitioning through a solid state. While the majority of dye-sublimation printers are used for industrial and commercial processes, there are a handful of small consumer-grade dye-sublimation printers on the market, such as Canon's SELPHY line of printers, intended for small scale home photographic printing.

### **WYSIWYG**

WYSIWYG, or What You See Is What You Get, is a method of displaying text and graphics on computer in the same fashion they will either be rendered for the viewer on another computer or by a printer.

### **Adware**

Adware, a portmanteau of advertisement and software, is a term used to denote a hybrid between freeware and shareware applications. Like freeware, adware is generally completely free to use. Like shareware, the author wishes to receive compensation for their work. With adware this goal is achieved via in-application advertisements or the installation of browser toolbars or other external helper applications which present advertisements to the reader. In this fashion, the author of the application receives a stream of income from their application without directly charging the end user.

### **Shareware**

Shareware is a popular term which denotes that a given application is intended to be freely shared and distributed but that some form of monetary compensation is due the author. In most cases shareware functions as a sort of demonstration of the software which is either restricted by functionality [the user does not have access to all the functions] or by time [the user has full access to the program but only for the first 30 days]. After the trial period, the user is required to purchase a license or other method of unlocking the application to continue using it.

### **Freeware**

Freeware is a popular term which denotes that a given application is available for use either without monetary compensation to the author or owner of the application, or with a suggested donation [a sub-classification of freeware referred to as donationware].

### **Careware**

Careware is software provided to users free of charge, but is licensed to benefit, or encourages the user to donate money to a particular charity of the software creator's or user's choice. Commercial grade Careware includes a 'fee' collected for charity added to the price of the software. Careware is also known as Charityware, Helpware, and Goodware.

### **Digest**

A common feature of email discussion lists and newsgroup discussions, a digest is a daily or weekly summary distributed to the users. Digests make it easy to read all the new developments of that day at once instead of multiple individual emails or posts. ♦

## Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



In the Oh-my-goodness, what's-next department, a judicial committee voted 11 to 1 to allow federal judges to approve electronic surveillance warrants outside their current judicial district. This rule change, if adopted, will grant the FBI greater authority to conduct surveillance of individuals. Currently, the FBI supports the proposed rule change while the Justice Department and technology companies as well as privacy advocates warn that the proposal raises constitutional and geo-political concerns. To read more about this visit <http://tinyurl.com/lfvldju>.

### A Magnificent Money-Pit

In 2009 new streetcars arrived in the Port of Baltimore destined for the new District of Columbia light rail transit system. It is now 2015 and the streetcars have yet to carry a single passenger. The \$200 million boondoggle may be ended by the local District politicians after a decade of planning and construction before the Red Line carries its first passengers. Local government critics nationwide say that should DC cancel the program, the DC government will become the laughingstock of the country. To read more about your tax dollars at work visit <http://tinyurl.com/l8u3z7v>.

### Another Example of Duplicity

The research center *Good Jobs First* released a study that tracked government grants, tax breaks, loans and other subsidies for 100 of the top federal contractors. Good Jobs found that 49 of the largest contractors shared \$68 billion in contributions, ostensibly to create jobs. Top subsidy generator was General Electric which received \$836 million from the Defense Department and Energy departments providing the most money. Interestingly, while receiving all this government largess, GE paid little or no taxes during the study period. To read more about corporate double dipping visit <http://tinyurl.com/k2wr8fe>.

### WW Two May Be Ending Soon

World War II ended nearly 70 years ago in August, 1945. But did the war really end then? The answer is no if you consider that the DOD plans to destroy WW II chemical munitions stored in Pueblo, Colorado

beginning in mid-March, 2015. DOD issued approval to destroy 2611 tons of mustard-gas munitions stored after fighting ended in 1945. The chemicals to be destroyed constitute just 0.2 percent of all the chemicals stored in Colorado. To read the entire article click on <http://tinyurl.com/mckxywv>. This gives a whole new meaning to a "Rocky Mountain High."

### Soylent Green Revisited

How many of us remember an early 70s flick titled *Soylent Green*? This anti-utopian story takes place in a world emptied of resources by over-indulgent ancestors. Basic foodstuffs become black market contraband and the police prey on the population for their own advantage. At the movie's end, the main protagonist finds out that the government dispensed food, soylent green, is based on recycled humans. Oh the future misery!

Science fiction? Not if Seattle's Katrina Spade has her way. At the moment, when we die we have just two choices for our bodies: burial or cremation. Ms Spade now offers a third choice: human composting.

Instead of a costly and environmentally expensive process that takes away resources rather than adding to the common good, Ms Spade envisions a process that will turn human bodies into organic soil. While this idea seems so absurd that one dismisses it immediately, just think about the societal benefits to be gained if the idea is adopted. Unless you're too creeped out by all this avoid looking further, visit <http://tinyurl.com/pqyus44>.

Maybe Spade's idea can be combined with a project in Newark, New Jersey that will change a derelict steel factory into the world's largest indoor farm. Consider adding organic soil to hydroponic growth medium to produce greens and beans in all seasons of the year. No drought to contend with, no soil-washing rains to battle, just provide heat and light and let the plants grow to harvest. For more on this visit. <http://tinyurl.com/nbqzumk>.

Follow me on my blog at [chronicle-express.com](http://chronicle-express.com); look for Blogs, click on *Community*. New every week.

Until next time . . .





## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you could make your tablet or smartphone's battery last longer by preventing it from automatically checking for new emails and other data in the background. By disabling all that background activity, you can place your iPad (or another tablet) aside and have its battery drain much more slowly.

Your tablet or smartphone uses less battery power when it's idle, doing nothing. If you have an account configured for "fetch," it's regularly waking up to check for new emails, contacts, and calendar events. Even if none are available, it has to wake up and check, anyway.

Apple's iOS automatically checks for new data in a variety of ways. If you're using a Gmail or similar type of email account on your iPhone or iPad, your device constantly tries to "fetch" new data from the server. This can be a drain on your battery.

To change these settings, open the Settings screen, tap Mail, Contacts, Calendars, and tap the Fetch New Data option. Ensure the Fetch option is set to "Manually". With manual fetch, your emails, contacts, calendars, and other data will be checked when you open the app and check manually.

You may also want to consider disabling Push for other accounts. Push should be more battery efficient, but having emails and other data constantly pushed to your device is just a waste of battery power.

Since iOS 7, apps have been able to automatically check for new data, even when you're not using them. "Background app refresh" means apps can use battery power in the background. To change this, open the Settings screen, tap General, and tap Background App Refresh. Disable this feature for apps you don't want to refresh automatically, or disable background app refresh system-wide. These apps will still get new data when you open them.

Android has similar features. On Android 5, open the Settings screen, tap Accounts, tap the menu button, and uncheck Auto-sync data to prevent your Android device from automatically syncing with your Google accounts in the background. You won't get email notifications from Gmail, but you can still open the Gmail app to check for new emails manually.

On Android 4, open the Settings screen, tap Data usage, tap the menu button, and uncheck Auto-sync Data. Depending on your phone, the option to control this may be in a different spot. ♦



## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

In lieu of Jerry's column here are some fun rules.

### RULES FOR BETTER WRITING

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid cliches like the plague. [They're old hat.]
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks [however relevant] are [usually] unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary + shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's high superfluous.
14. One should never generalize.
15. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
16. Don't use no double negatives.
17. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be ignored.
21. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
22. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
23. Kill all exclamation points!!!
24. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
25. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.
26. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
27. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
28. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
29. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
30. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
31. Who needs rhetorical questions?
32. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement. ♦

# 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 2015	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 - April Fool's Day April 5 - Easter April 10 - ASPCA Day April 15 - National Library Day			1	2	3	4
5 	6	7 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	8	9	10 	11
12	13	14 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	15 	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	April 15 - Income Tax Due April 20 - Boston Marathon April 22 - Earth Day April 24 - Arbor Day	