
Personal Protection

Data, Data Everywhere!

How can you protect your personal data?

Lisa Britt will explore high tech, low tech and no-tech methods to protect your personal information. Lisa is Vice President and webmaster of the MVPCUG.

She will discuss:

- ✓..... RFID [Radio-frequency identification]
- ✓..... Cell phones
- ✓..... Internet Security programs
- ✓..... Identity theft
- ✓..... Social networking
- ✓..... Webcams
- ✓..... Email
- ✓..... Online transactions

Come to the meeting and learn how to protect yourself and your data.

Coming in June

Best Buy returns with Kayleigh, Connor and Joe.

Learn what's new in the latest technology.

Tuesday, May 3 — 6 - 8:30PM
New Hartford Library



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.

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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 . . .



Once again the grass is green and my flowers are starting to bloom. Ah, Spring! It's time to get outdoors and clean up after the long, long winter we had and also to enjoy the fresh air.

Along with outdoor cleaning, now is the time to think about cleaning up some of our computer files. Empty your recycle bin and get rid of any other unwanted files that are not necessary.

The computer also needs a bit of care to make sure it keeps running properly. Make sure you turn off and unplug the computer before you do any cleaning and remember you need to ground yourself if you intend to open up that tower. Most of us are using laptops these days so there isn't much to take apart. But you can blow dust and dirt out from the keyboard; wipe the screen with a soft cloth made for that purpose and check underneath to make sure the fan area is clear of dust. It is amazing how much dust can build up on the fan casing.

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ NY
 Zip _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
M V P C U G
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Marcy NY 13403-0586

Minutes of April 5, 2011
 —Joe Penabad, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the New Hartford Library. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. There were 29 persons in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

Bill Gorrell’s Treasurer’s report, presented and accepted, included 4 membership renewals for the month of March. He commended Bill Wilson for auditing the MVPCUG Financial records of the 2010 calendar year. The records are available for review by any club member.

Jerry announced that there will be two more monthly meetings before the July and August summer break. A former club member from Rome offered to donate to MVPCUG, through Jerry, her outdated (1980-to more recent) computer artifacts . . . disks and books. Samples were picked up and will be available at MVPCUG meetings for the taking. Jerry F. or Bill G. can provide any member interested in the Rome collection with the contact number of the donor.

Patty Bruno reviewed the USC cyber security class, which included a presentation of cyber crimes in our area by the assistant Oneida D.A. She was impressed by the emphasis the course placed on always logging off if, in the work environment, you have to leave your computer station at any time. Patty shared the anti-virus information, those that are effective / ineffective, from the course with the audience and a lively discussion on internet addresses, links and security followed.

Donna Gorrell requested suggestions for subjects that Best Buy representatives should address at the May meeting. A short TV clip from Action News on the use of the SmartPhone and the dangers of taking and transmitting photos of children. Contact Donna or Bill Gorrell for a link to view this cautionary clip.

PROGRAM

Anatoly Bondarchuk, owner of BONDARTECH, in Whitesboro, spoke on the subject of free anti-virus and anti-spyware. Anatoly, who attended MVCC and was graduated in 2007 from SUNY IT, presented a very timely, interesting program, as measured by the

amount of active participation and as demonstrated by the animated response of the members in attendance. Anatoly noted that, in general, any anti-virus software is only as good as its latest update and suggested that if you suspect that you have a virus infection go to the RESTORE feature of your computer, then revert to the operational system that was functioning properly; thus, two computers help to avoid this problem. The major differences between free and fee anti-virus software prefaced Mr. Bondarchuk’s remarks re: specific anti-virus software programs, including “Microsoft Security Essentials” (his preferred program), “Hirens Boot - CD” (to check hard drive sectors), and Microsoft ‘s “Malicious Software Removal Tool”. Anatoly then discussed some of his “do’s and don’ts” when on the web.

The club applauds Anatoly for his enlightening, enthusiastic presentation. (Secretary’s note: If you were unable to attend, you missed a good opportunity to have questions knowledgeably answered).

MVPCUG wishes him success in his local computer service center.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

Flash Drive 4gb. Ed Sajdzikowski
 Pkg. Copy Paper, 8 ½ X 11. Bill Wilson
 4X6 Photo Paper. Don Jennings

[Donated by Que Publishing]

Book - Facebook. Lou Barile

[Donated by Donna Gorrell]

Matte Ink Jet Paper. Jerry Finkelstein

After door prize drawings the MVPCUG meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. ♦

Editor’s Note:

AVG2011 free edition is available for download [www.free.avg.com]. This is the anti-virus program that Bill and I use. It now includes a Social Networking Protection [useful when you connect on Facebook]. You must turn this feature on as it is not automatic. Go to Tools on the Menu bar, choose Advanced Settings and then scroll down the left sidebar to the bottom. Click on AVG Security Toolbar and then Install on the right side of the page. This will install the toolbar in your browser.

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Always Use Caution

A recent email from a large hotel chain informed me that a data breach suffered by their third party email marketer put my personal data at risk. The email warned me not to supply any personal data requested by the hotel chain because the request would be a phishing attack on my personal info.

Email marketer Epsilon Inc experienced the attack that put at risk customer names and email addresses from more than 50 large corporations including Walmart, Target and several international banks. If this warning comes as news, do not open any email from an Internet company that asks for personal data. There is more to risk here than phony Nigerian money schemes. As the tag line of the financial industry says, “Always know your trading partner.”

More Cell Phone Extras

Iphone owners who travel to New York City or San Francisco have another useful app to download. The tech site www.techcrunch.com noted that www.ubercab.com allows Iphone owners and Android phone owners to order private car service in these cities. The cars will appear within 15 minutes of the order. At sign up the site will verify the IP address and the location of the phone.

The order is placed by a text and the company will respond with the name of the driver and the expected time of arrival. The service costs about double the cost of a regular taxi, but convenience usually comes with a high price. The site automatically charges a credit card on file for the trip and the tip so end of trip pocket fumbings are omitted.

Maybe our club should acknowledge the increasing importance of cell phones and change its name to the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer and Smartphone User Group [MVPCSPUG]. Just kidding.

Huffington Post—7 Sites To Waste Time On

As a retiree I have come to realize that too much time without direction can be a bad thing. I have learned also that this may apply to those still working as well. For malicious, bored working-folks who want to scare company IT staff, click www.shadyURL.com. The homepage asks for a URL the user wants to hide. Instead of shortening the URL, the site will provide a

phony URL in its place. For example, spongebob.nick.com/backstage/characters/spongebob could become http://5z8.info/malicious-cookie_d5d2_hateminorities. I guarantee the company IT department will take notice. If you want to attract the attention of Homeland Security, you could change the spongebob.com url to http://5z8.info/amazon.com-phish_x6g7ss_alqaeda-message-boards which is both suspicious and frightening. Some people just have too much unproductive time to waste instead of working for a living.

Daily Deals

If you crave shopping deals and wish to be inundated daily with excuses to spend money, click on www.groupon.com. The site asks for a city near you and your email address. There is no listing for Utica, but you can use Syracuse. The site promises to send daily coupons to members that guarantee a 50% to 90% discount on items or services. If you decide to become a Groupon affiliate, the company will pay you \$10 for the name of each friend you refer to spread the word. Groupon coupons can be printed at your computer or downloaded to your cell phone.

At my visit to the Syracuse site, Cicero Laser Engraving was offering \$30 worth of engraving for \$15. A \$99 coupon for interior automobile detailing from Ziebart was also available. Happy shopping.

Onion Satire

The quasi- news site www.onion.com recently published an obscenity-filled but hilarious send up of Mark Zuckerberg (of Facebook fame). While giving Zuckerberg his due, the article refers to him as a pimply-faced little f***** you could kick in the family jewels without feeling remorse. I doubt that Zuckerberg cares about Onion’s opinion since he has more money than Steve Jobs and Rupert Murdoch. To read this send up go to www.tinyurl.com/2emxbd. Other Onion articles available at my visit included pieces with the headlines “US to hand Terry Jones over to Fundamentalist Muslims” and “GOP Completely Fixes Economy By Canceling Funding For NPR.” Laugh. Don’t just smile.

Thought For The Day

“A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin.” H.L. Mencken.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Microsoft Office 2010 has some new photo tools? These tools are located on the left side of the Picture Tools/Format tab. One of the best new tools is Remove Background. You can highlight the part of a photo and remove all the background elements. You can concentrate on a person's face or isolate any object. There are also Corrections and Color buttons which will change a photo's brightness, fix its contrast, and recolor it.

. . . that if your Firefox browser seems to be running slow, clearing out the download file might speed it up? Open up the Downloads list by pressing Ctrl-J. Click Clear List which will delete the list. This doesn't delete your downloads, just Firefox's record of them.

. . . that Word 2010 has an obscure feature called the "Spike"? It allows you to collect noncontiguous text and move it to a new location or into a new document. To add text to the Spike, highlight what you want to move, press CTRL-F3, then repeat the process for any other blocks of text you want to relocate. This cuts the text, but does not copy it. After you have made several selections, place the cursor wherever you want the collected text to appear and press CTRL-SHIFT-F3. This inserts the text and empties the Spike. If you want the collected text to remain in Spike, instead of using CTRL-SHIFT-F3, type *spike* and press F3 and ENTER. The text remains in Spike so that you can use it again.

. . . that you could remove old versions of Java Console from Firefox? Java is constantly nagging you to update and when you do Firefox gets a new version of Java Console [a debugging tool that's useless to most users]. Unfortunately, the old ones don't get deleted. If you look at your Firefox Add-ons list [by selecting Tools, Add-ons], you may see several instances of Java Console. However, you'll also notice that the uninstall button for each one is greyed out. How can you remove the old Consoles? Simple: Exit Firefox, then run it as an administrator. To do so, right-click your Firefox desktop icon, then choose Run as administrator. Now, when you go back to the Add-ons list, you'll have the option of uninstalling Java Consoles. You can probably get rid of them all, though I'd keep the one with the highest version number, just in case the Java Runtime Environment needs it for some reason. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

A recent NY Times article reported on a case of Internet addiction. Apparently, the use of the Internet is potentially sick, a bad habit, an obsession, addictive. Just like food is for the obese, the Internet is a cause for anxiety and another reason for self-hatred. The people who call the shots tell us that the real world is preferable to fantasy. There are tests that assesses your real world vs fantasy psychological health. Neglecting housework, your laundry for instance, in favor of your 256 friends on Facebook is a warning sign.

It seems like yesterday when people pointed their fingers at other people and called them television addicts. I don't recall anyone calling anyone movie addicts. Or lovers of opera, opera addicts. Or people who are passionate readers reader addicts, they've got to be cured of their reading habits. Surely the millions of Harry Potter readers were obsessed, getting to the book stores at midnight, dressed in all kinds of Potter garb, getting home, reading 'til the wee hours of the morning. Was this mass hysteria? Culturally approved, of course.

But once upon a time reading was a bad thing — for the general public. The use of the Internet is indeed a suspicious activity. Parents and schools block sites. TV channels are also forbidden. After all, what are the little ones (children, adolescents, young adults) up to, alone in their room, with just their computer to keep them company? Alone? Each one has 256 cyberfriends and they are all connected. You do the Math.

People lose sleep playing video games. The obsession is intense. They also lose sleep playing chess or reading books. The passion for chess and reading is more respectable. It's the video games that get the bad rap. Just ask Dr. Drew. Better yet. Ask Dr. Phil. ♦

Just in case you didn't see the list of Board Members on page 2; at the meeting on March 8th Jerry appointed Jerry Grega as director-at-large for a three year term. He also appointed Donna Gorrell to fill the unexpired director-at-large term vacated by Patty Bruno. The Board approved both.

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Protect Your Personal Data
Tuesday ♦ May 3 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Clean Air Month ~ May 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 	9	10 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Armed Force's Day
22	23	24 Morse Code Day	25 Cookie Monster's Birthday	26	27	28
29	30 	31	May 1 - Law Day May 7 1945 - Unconditional Surrender of German Forces May 8 1945 - V-E Day [Victory in Europe] May 15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day			