

## Did You Know – Live

Donna Gorrell, author of the DYK column in this newsletter will demonstrate some of the hints and tips that appear in the column. She will also show the reasons she uses WordPerfect rather than Word to publish the Explorer. Donna sends out .pdf copies of the files for web use and also to the printer. She'll show us how to make effective .pdf files for general or specific use.

### WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website [www.mvpcug.com](http://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](mailto: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** — What forerunner of mathematical computation is celebrated this month?

## Did you know . . .

that you will kill your laptop if you really use it on your lap?

Heat builds up inside the laptop if it is not on a solid surface and can cook your data fast! This happened to a neighbor when she sat her laptop on a pillow to elevate it so she could present a CD slide show to her friends.

**Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> — 6 - 8:30 PM**  
**New Hartford Library**  
**Meeting Open to the Public - Free**



# explorer

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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 . . .



Just when we think we've heard it all someone comes up with something that shatters that illusion. Patty Bruno emailed me about a scam that was tried on her. Some person with a foreign accent called her and said he was from Google and that she needed to let him have access to fix her computer. Of course, Patty has gotten emails and heard about a million and one of the scams that go around, but this is first time someone actually phoned in a scam.

Thanks to Patty for this heads up. She also said that her husband had gotten a similar call, but the person on the phone said he was from Microsoft. She gave me this link to check —  
<http://greekgeek.hubpages.com/hub/telephone-scam-computer-virus>

Check page 3 for the information regarding this scam and keep on your toes because as Patty says, just when you think you are safe someone out there has thought up a new way to attack.

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  
PO Box 586  
Marcy NY 13403-0586

**Minutes of 2 April 2013**

— Donna Gorrell, Secretary

**BUSINESS MEETING**

The MVPCUG General Meeting of 2 April 2013, with 15 people in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:05 PM in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library.

Bill Gorrell gave the Treasurer’s report. Details of which are available from Bill or the Secretary. He read a letter from Bill Wilson regarding the audit of the club’s finances for the preceding year. Bill has been doing our audit for several years and is more than qualified as he audited government contracts at GE for some time. Details of that report are also available from the Treasurer or Secretary.

In the Question and Answer segment, Gary Virkler asked if there was some way to get Outlook Express on his wife’s new computer running Windows8. Several suggestions were made and then a short discussion of Windows8 followed. One big gripe seems to be the lack of Start screen menu. Bill Gorrell said there was a program called Start8 that gives you the Start menu as it was in Windows7. Don Jennings said you can download and install the program from: <http://www.stardock.com/products/start8/>. It costs \$4.99 but is available for free 30 day trial. Don found this in Al Fasoldt’s column. “Start8 makes the PC boot up into normal Windows mode and even restores Start Menu.”

**PROGRAM**

Michael Haman set up a 55" LED TV and hooked up several games - PlayStation3, Xbox and Wii. He did live demonstrations of all the game consoles and had several of the members work the controls as he played various games [golf, bowling, etc.]. Mike also showed an action game that he played online with several other online players.

Most of the games cost \$60 or more and there are stores that rent or sell used games, but if you are interested in buying used or older games make sure that they will play on the game console you have. Xbox will only accept Xbox games and the newer consoles will not play older games. To play online games with Xbox you also will pay a \$50 per year fee, PS3 does not charge for online gaming.

**DOOR PRIZES**

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Lisa Britt
- Pens. .... Bill Wilson
- Memo cube..... Bill Gorrell
- Copy Paper..... Nelson Robinson
- 8 GB Micro SC Card..... Joe Madeira

[Donated by Jerry Grega]

- Logitech joy stick. .... Donna Gorrell

**Website Contest Winner**

- MVPCUG T-shirt. .... Lou Barile

The meeting adjourned at 8: 14 PM.  
Respectfully submitted, Donna Gorrell



Have you received a phone call from a person from *Google* or *Microsoft* warning you that your computer has a virus? The caller wants you to let him work on your computer so he asks for access. He really wants to install malicious software on your computer that will allow him to access all info and documents, track your typing, control your computer without your knowing, and even lock you out of your computer and damage or erase its contents or turn it into a "zombie".

Most of us are smart enough to recognize this as scam, but most of the scams have come through email, not phone calls. No large company like *Google* or *Microsoft* will email or phone individuals so just hang up the phone.

To be on the safe side disable remote connections so that no one can access your computer. Go to Start, click Control Panel, then System [or System Maintenance]. Click the tab 'Remote settings'. Uncheck the boxes +/or leave blank the user/group/location items. If at some future time you wish to give someone permission to access your computer [a legitimate tech or friend], follow the procedure and fill in the blanks. When you allow remote connections, Windows Firewall automatically opens the required port. If you are using another firewall, make sure the port for Remote Desktop [usually 3389] is open.

A Remote Desktop Protocol [.rdp] file contains all of the information for a remote connection, including the settings that were configured when the file was saved. People use .rdp files to log on to the desktop of a remote computer or to run just a program on that remote computer. For example, if you needed to access some business files on a remote computer, your administrator might give you an .rdp file so that you can log on to that remote computer.

## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

### Identity Theft

One of my sons recently informed me that someone filed a federal tax form in his name to collect a fraudulent refund. In his case, IRS informed him of the situation, and he has been working for some weeks to straighten things out. This was a clear case of identity theft since he had not yet filed a federal tax return prior to the IRS notification.

New York State also announced an initiative to protect New Yorkers from identity theft. The Department of Taxation announced a new web page it publishes that fights identify theft. If you suspect someone has stolen your identity, click on [www.tax.ny.gov/help/contact/identity\\_theft](http://www.tax.ny.gov/help/contact/identity_theft). The site lists specific actions to take so that New York State can begin to help. Also on the site are links to the IRS taxpayer guide to Identity Theft.

According to Commissioner Thomas H. Mattox, taxpayers frequently are unaware that their information has been stolen. Keep alert, people.

### Gun Laws and Gun Dealers

A web site sponsored by NYC Mayor Bloomberg, reports there are nearly twice as many registered gun dealers in the US as there are post offices, 58,344 federally licensed dealers to be exact. According to [www.demandaction.org/dealers/](http://www.demandaction.org/dealers/) there are 1,667 licensed gun dealers in New York State, more than 2.5 times the number of MacDonald's restaurants. In fact, the site says that 99.9% of New Yorkers live within 10 miles of a gun dealer. Whatever your views on gun ownership, these are startling statistics.

### Crazy Causes

The magazine *Mother Jones*, [motherjones.com/politics/2013/02/gabriel-possenti](http://motherjones.com/politics/2013/02/gabriel-possenti) reported that John Snyder is the founder of an organization devoted to making St Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother the patron saint of handgunners.

According to Snyder, St Gabriel protected his Italian village from attack by soldiers in 1859. A seminary student, Gabriel pulled out a Colt Navy Model and demonstrated his marksmanship by shooting a lizard 20 paces away and killing it with one bullet.

Snyder's campaign began in 1987 when he read an article in the magazine *American Rifleman* published by the National Rifle Association. According to the

Roman Catholic Church, however, the incident never happened, and the Church will not make St Gabriel the patron saint of handgunners. Snyder argues that the Church already supports patron saints for pawnbrokers [St Nicholas of Myra], a patron saint of ammunition workers [St Elmo], and a patron saint of arms dealers [St Adrian of Nicomedia]. So why not gunners?

The Church maintains the 1975 position that handguns produce a "threat to life." Undeterred, Snyder continues his quest and dismisses his critics as "pacifistic pruneheads." Snyder charges that the Church position denies "the masculine approach to Christianity."

### Did You Know?

Research published by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) that children who fail to acquire a basic math skill in first grade scored far behind necessary math functioning in adult life. A summary of results found at [www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/Pages/022713](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/Pages/022713) reports that by seventh grade, children who had the lowest scores on an assessment of number system knowledge in first grade lagged behind their peers in junior high school. This lag was not related to intelligence.

The researchers conclude that first graders with the lowest numeracy knowledge may never catch up to their peers and suffer adverse effects throughout school and into adulthood.

### Prescription Savings

The Department of Health and Human Services reports that US seniors saved over \$6 billion on prescription drugs as a result of the 2009 health care law [ObamaCare]. Read about the savings achieved at [www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/03/20130321a/](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/03/20130321a/).

The site reports that 6.3 million people saved this amount because of new provisions in the law. According to the site, in 2013 the law increases the discounts and savings to 52.5 percent of the cost of most brand name drugs and 21 percent of generic drugs. "By making prescription drugs more affordable, the Affordable Care Act is improving and promoting the best care for people with Medicare," Secretary Sebelius commented.

**"The world is the world of wild storms kept tame with the art and music of beauty." Tagore**  
Until next time . . .



## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that the National Park Service [NPS] publishes technical leaflets to help one preserve, repair, and conserve documents and other artifacts? Their publications, available for free online, are called “Conserve-0-Grams.” They cover a wide range of topics with simple, easy-to-understand procedures. Intended for NPS staff, they are great for many everyday preservationists and could prove valuable to those interested in genealogy. A number of the leaflets are a bit dated, but they do offer sound advice and strategies. Check out the website at: [www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/conserve0gram/cons\\_toc.html](http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/conserve0gram/cons_toc.html)

. . . that some folders [or files] might show a lock or shortcut arrow and trying to access them gets you nowhere? This might occur if you upgraded from XP to Windows7. Right-click the folder, then click on Security Tab. Select “Change Permissions” in the Advanced window. The next window should show various permission entries, one of which is “Deny”. Uncheck that and click “Apply”.

. . . that in Word 2010 there is a handy zoom tool in the lower right-hand corner of your screen? Use this easy slide tool to zoom in and out on your document.

. . . that Windows8 Start screen can become a cluttered mess if too many apps and other elements have been pinned to the screen as tiles? Take advantage of built-in organization tools that let you divide everything into labeled groups.

Drag all the tiles you want to assign to a single group to the far right-hand side of your Start screen in vacant space; the OS should gather the tiles together. Once you’re satisfied with the assembly, use the new semantic zoom feature. If you’re using a touch display, squeeze the Start screen with two fingers to receive a bird’s eye view of your entire screen contents. The feature is also available to mouse and keyboard users: Simply hold down the Ctrl button, and use the mouse wheel to zoom in and out to get a bird’s eye view of your 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 and you’re done! ◆

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Whatever happened to the PC? Have you seen the PC magazine on the stands recently? Memberships to PC user groups are down. Really down. Look at the *Barnes & Noble* section for computer magazines. *PC World* is still with us as well as those boasting the *Ultimate* and the *Maximum PC*. Magazines just for Windows are there, for both 8 and 7. One or two others. And that’s it. The shelves are crowded – with magazines just for Apple, those for the iPhones and the iPads are prominently displayed. There’s also a healthy selection for the “Android people.” The PC is being crowded out. Not only on the stands.

HP, the biggest PC maker in the world, is “shifting resources” from PCs to tablets. It’s joined with the rest of the world to shift focus to tablets, it has released its first Android.

Even as the PCs are looking more and more like tablets, the PC market is shrinking. As of mid-April the sales of PCs are at their lowest in years. The sales are really down. The shift to tablets is significantly established.

As the TV screens are getting larger and larger, the PCs are getting smaller, they’re looking more and more like tablets. The Ultra laptops are gorgeously slick, light, fast and expensive.



They’re on their way to becoming tablets. In any case, for the most part they, or any laptop, are not designed for serious game players. Buyer beware, for serious gaming you’ll need very expensive graphical horsepower.

To confuse the PC/Tablet issues further, recently released Apps for the tablet compete very well with full programs for the PC. Manage your finances, compute your taxes, Photoshop your pictures, write your cookbook or memoir or book, explore your genealogy, crunch the numbers of your life, whatever, all with your tablet. Apple or Android.

So, what’s your next one going to be? I bet you will be thinking of the tablet. ◆

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**Did You Know – Live**  
**Tuesday ♦ May 7 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library**



what's.com/ing ~ Clean Air Month ~ May 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 8 - National School Nurse Day May 12 - Mother's Day May 13-19 - Children's Book Week May 27 - Memorial Day			1 May Day	2	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 	13	14 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30	31	