

SCAMS, MALWARE, SPYWARE

Vice President, **Lisa Britt** and Treasurer, **Bill Gorrell** will be discussing the malware and spyware that is sent to our computers via email and by surfing the Internet. They also will explain how scams affect us — through computer, phone and email. Bring your questions.

If there is time we will also share some websites of interest.



Tuesday, May 5, 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 held in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library. Treasurer Bill Gorrell with 12 members in attendance called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM on April 7, 2015.

BUSINESS

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the months of February and March of 2015, because of the snow closing the Library on March 1st. Anyone wishing the report’s details please contact the Treasurer or the Secretary. There were 5 membership renewals in February and 3 renewals in March.

Bill G. commended the fine review of the Club’s finances by Bill Wilson for the fiscal year of 2014. Bill G. also noted that someone else in the club membership consider doing the financial review for 2015 and other years, in case Bill W. is unavailable. He has been doing it for a number of years and he willing will alternate with someone. Any Volunteers? Bill G.is waiting for your call.

President Jerry Finkelstein was unable to attend the meeting because of illness, consequently the normal order of business was not followed.

A question from the floor concerning the cost savings achieved by not printing and mailing out the newsletter was discussed and the net effect in curtailing the club’s expenses. This month the 2 year web hosting fee was paid and the dent in the financial balance was balanced by not printing or mailing out a newsletter.

Bill G. noted that both he and Stu Culp use *Eudora 7.1* for e-mail and there is a free mode and a paid mode. In the paid mode, a feature they like is the filtering provided for junk e-mail but it is not available in the free mode version.

PROGRAM

Bill G. introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Charles Thompson, he and his wife, Christy are owners of NO SHEEPDESIGNS, specializing in web site designs for mid-sized businesses and they can be contacted at Charles@nosheepdesigns.com. The operation began in 2000.

Charles began this presentation by giving a brief chronological history of the Internet. Internet planning began way, way back in 1961, first e-mail

was sent in 1971, and 1989 was the beginning of AOL. This was followed by a brief overview to the present time, 1992 first photo sent by e-mail and then TWITTER came along in 2006.

In the late 1990s, Charles realized that no web sites listed entertainment activities going on in our local area. They (he and Christy) started with small-area businesses in the 2000-2005 period using CSS and HTML programs for web development, there were many obstacles but now using CSS 3.0 it is very successful.

Charles commented about all the tutorials now available on the web, and how appreciative he is about all the possible solutions therein described for problem areas. He also enjoys all the clients he has come in contact with and has a good understanding of their problems.

He emphasized the need for a web site developer to test compatibility with all the web browsers around. He noted all web browsers do not follow the W#C consortium ground rules for compatibility.

Charles provided us with an entertaining and enlightening evening on the Thompson’s activities of web site development. The MVPCUG members thank him for his time and effort.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- Wireless mouse. Jerry Grega
- Note Pad Paper. Howard Netzband
- 3 Roll Tape. Bill Gorrell
- HDMI Cable. Lisa Britt
- Pens. Steve Gorrell

[Donated by Donna Gorrell]

- Pencils. Joe Penabad

[Donated by Don Pianka]

- Copy Paper. Stuart Culp

The meeting was adjourned by Bill G. at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Penabad, secretary ♦

EDITOR’S NOTES:

Even though we are still having that dreaded white stuff coming from the sky, Spring is definitely in the air. Daffodils are blooming and the pussy willows are budding – can warm weather be far behind?



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!

* * * * *

URL

A URL, or Universal Resource Locator, is the convention by which domain names are combined with file path syntax to create human readable addresses for internet stored materials. This convention was proposed by Tim Berners-Lee, the creator of the World Wide Web, in 1994 as a method of making web-based resources more accessible.

IP Address

An IP address, or Internet Protocol address, is the unique numeric identifier attached to all devices on an IP-based network. Every client, server, and network device is assigned a unique IP address to ensure that it can send and receive data on the network without interfering or colliding with another networked device.

Local Area Network [LAN]

A Local Area Network [LAN] is a computer network that connects computers and devices in a limited physical area such as a home, school, or commercial building.

Wide Area Network [WAN]

Unlike Local Area Networks [LANs], Wide Area Networks [WANs] are designed to transmit data across geographic regions, countries, and even between continents. Large corporations routinely deploy WANs to connect geographically diverse employee populations, enabling them to connect easily to shared resources and conduct business as if they were sharing a massive company LAN.

The principle elements that distinguish a WAN from a LAN are that WANs operate over large physical distances, WAN deployment is generally expensive as it requires an intermediary network run by traditional telecommunication companies to bridge

the two [or more] LANs, and the majority of nodes on a WAN are independent networks instead of individual hosts.

Although the Internet, by definition, is the world's largest WAN it is not frequently referred to as such with the phrase Wide Area Network used more specifically to refer to smaller inter-regional networks.

Usenet

Usenet is a massive global distributed discussion forum. Long before web forums and news aggregation sites like Reddit and Digg, users were sharing and discussing content on thousands of subjects via Usenet. The significant difference between both older discussion mechanism [like email discussion lists and BBS discussion board] and newer discussion mechanisms [like web forums and news aggregators] and the Usenet system is that Usenet is the absence of any centralization. New articles and discussion responses are pushed out from their originating server to thousands of servers around the world. If any given server is taken out of the network of global Usenet servers, the other servers simply duplicate the content of that server and route data around the missing node.

Although Usenet was originally a strictly text-based system, enterprising users in the late 1980s began encoding binary files using ASCII text so that their files could be broken up into blocks of Usenet-compatible text and distributed through the Usenet system.

While the global Usenet network is still home to tens of thousands of discussion groups on every subject imaginable from pipe smoking to programming, it also houses more than 9 petabytes of shared files at any given time.

Link Rot

Link rot is a frustrating phenomenon on the world wide web wherein old or changed URLs no longer point to the resources they previously pointed to. For example, if a website used to have a directory structure for their articles like *somehost.com/articles/001.html* and they later switched to a new system like *somehost.com/articles.php001* all the old links would succumb to link rot and no longer direct to the correct resource [or, the site's 404 page aside, to any resource at all]. ♦

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



A new cookbook edited by the Institute of Culinary Education offers recipes with IBM's Watson Computer's ingredient suggestions for new dishes. While the artificial intelligence computer's ability to pair ingredients is impressive, the recipes require a human chef to turn the suggestions into something edible.

For example, Watson suggested a Hoof-N-Honey Ale with veal stock. Or how about Thai-Jewish chicken with potato latkes *and* rice balls? The best one is a shrimp cocktail as a beverage with actual shrimp in it. For more about artificial intelligence click on <http://tinyurl.com/msatdx8>. Have a good laugh at the computer's expense. Humans are still necessary!

New Technology

Volatile Organic Compounds, VOCs, such as acetone, benzene and formaldehyde among others appear in many products such as paints and may produce nausea, asthma attacks and cancer in people exposed to these chemicals over long periods.

The oil and gas industry contends that these chemicals are not produced by hydro-fracking. But... the oil and gas industry developed a camera to find leaks in transmission pipelines. A group of Colorado environmentalists used one of these cameras at a fracking site near a high school, and the camera produced images of toxic gases pouring out of the fracking well and floating over the high school. Oops! To read more click on <http://tinyurl.com/m9rbszr>.

History for PBS Fans

Viewers of the current PBS historical series "Wolf Hall" who may be confused by the number of "Thomases" in the series, may visit www.religionnews.com for an explanation. Thomas Cromwell, Thomas Wolsey, Thomas Cranmer and Thomas More played major roles during the reign of English King Henry the Eighth. The series covers the tumultuous period when King Henry attempted to produce a male heir to the throne in the 16th Century.

For biographical summaries of these men visit <http://www.religionnews.com/2015/04/10/splainer-many-thomases-wolf-hall>. Happy viewing.

Tax Relief, Maybe?

Both President Obama and the House of

Representatives recently issued tax reduction proposals. As predicted, House Tea bag congressmen propose a tax plan that will provide tax relief to top 1%ers while increasing taxes on the middle class.

The president's plan offers tax credits for childcare, more money for college students and a simplified tax filing form for most earners. To see how New Yorkers will fair under these proposals visit <http://tinyurl.com/o5bkdu7>. Which will you support?

Safer Food

One of the most effective and affective federal agencies is the USDA. The Department of Agriculture provides such a variety of services to people that the list becomes too long to enumerate. Visit www.usda.gov for a plethora of information about agriculture or otherwise. One such area comes from the USDA blog site.

A recent post highlighted the exponential growth of organic farms in this country as well as worldwide. A visit to "Organic Growth- 27,000+ Certified Organic Operations Around the World," and find out "A" the number of blogs by topic, and "B" the number of certified operations by state in the US. California, Washington State, Wisconsin and New York lead the nation in the number of organic farms in their individual state.

Some nutritionists recommend that a number of vegetables and fruits such as apples and sweet potatoes be purchased from organic farm produce in spite of the higher cost to avoid excessive pesticide residue. For more click on <http://tinyurl.com/mb3tz7k>. To access a larger map of organic farms by state visit www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/17155790782/.

Does Your Child Like to Cook?

For budding chefs ages 8-12, the Whitehouse is sponsoring a "healthy lunchtime challenge." The recipes must follow the www.myplate.gov guidelines. For more information visit www.pbs.org/parents/lunchtimechallenge/home/. One recipe per state will be chosen and the lucky contestant and parent will be flown to Washington, DC to attend a kids state dinner this summer.

Follow me on my blog at chronicle-express.com; look for Blogs, click on *Community*. New every week.

Until next time . . .





Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Chrome creates a file with the extension “.crdownload” when you begin downloading a file? These files are renamed when a download finishes, but if there is an error it might stay in the download directory. A *.crdownload* file is a partially complete Chrome download, one in progress, failed or paused.

If a download is interrupted or incomplete the file will remain. If you don't need it to resume a download or there are no downloads running, you can delete the file.

. . . that you can automatically convert quotes to “Smart Quotes” in Word? These quotes curve inward at the beginning of the quote and outward at the end. This setting is on by default, but you can turn it on or off by changing the settings. Click on *File* tab. On Word's start screen click *Options* in the list on the left. Click *Proofing*, then *AutoCorrect Options*. Click the *AutoFormat As You Type* tab. To use SmartQuotes make sure the box is checked, or remove check mark if you want straight quotes. Other formatting may be done on this page. Click OK to save your changes. This can also be done in PowerPoint and Publisher.

Smart quotes can break commands or cause undesired functionality so if you copy and paste, remember to *paste unformatted text* rather than simply choosing *paste*.

. . . that you could find a lot of tips and tweaks for the Chrome browser at <http://tinyurl.com/8a2d7eg?>

. . . that you could find a lot of tips and tweaks for the Firefox browser at <http://tinyurl.com/brfa3rt?>

. . . that you can change where your downloads go in Firefox? I like to have my downloads go directly to the folders that I want — such as obits to my genealogy/obit folder — or marriage licenses to genealogy/marriage folder. Open *Tools/Options*, the *Downloads* section is the middle of the page. Check *Save files to* and choose desktop or browse to find a directory you want, or check the *Always ask me where to save files*. I use this setting so that I can choose what directory or folder I want my files to go to. Each file that you download will have a dialog box for you to assign a destination.

. . . that there are various methods for providing identity protection? An article in **AARP** magazine by Sid Kircheimer gives suggestions for how you can use free or low cost services to protect yourself against identity theft.

1. DO A CREDIT REPORT CHECK.
[Www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) will check your credit report for suspicious activity [new accounts being opened in your name] from each of three major credit reporting bureaus [*Equifax*, *Experian* and *TransUnion*]. This service is free.
2. DO A SECURITY FREEZE. Credit bureaus usually provide free to those over 65 or past theft victims. This restricts access to your report. If businesses can't see the report, they won't approve new financial accounts in your name.
3. USE A LOCKING MAILBOX. This is not free; but cost is \$18 and up.
4. USE A PREPAID DEBIT CARD. This can be expensive, but worth it as it limits the amount that can be stolen.
5. USE EXTERNAL STORAGE. It is not necessary to use the “cloud” — an external hard drive or flash drive will work and keep the info in your possession.
6. USE PROTECTION SOFTWARE. *Malwarebytes* [www.malwarebytes.org], *Panda Free* [www.pandasecurity.com/free_version], *AVG* [www.avg.com], *Avast* [www.avast.com] and *Bitdefender* [www.bitdefender.com] are all basic packages that are offered for free.
7. USE FREE MONITORING. Banks and credit card companies offer free, real-time alerts of any suspicious activity. *CreditKarma* [www.creditkarma.com] offers free, no-strings credit monitoring of your *TransUnion* credit report. *CreditSesame* [www.creditsesame.com] does the same with *Experian*. *Trustedid.com* [www.trustedid.com] can send you alerts if your Social Security and credit card numbers show up on scammer's black market websites. Monthly reports on public-record and commercial database activity are available at allcrearid.com/enroll.
8. DO NOT RESPOND TO EMAIL. Go directly to the site. Most scammers send you a false site that they control, by clicking their link you open your computer to malicious attack. This is not only for banking, but true of all emailed links. If you did not initiate a question or the correspondence, be wary of all unsolicited email. ◆

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.

Stay connected . . . to the M V P C U G

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\$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

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what's.coming ~ National Military Appreciation Month ~ May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 1 - May Day May 10 - Mother's Day May 16 - Armed Forces Day May 25 - Memorial Day					1 	2
3	4	5 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	13	14	15	16 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						