

Just “Whittle While You Work” on your PC

Yes, it’s a terrible pun, but what’s wrong with a little fun? So our presenter this month is the well-known and highly respected Dave Whittle. On June 6 he’ll introduce some of his favorite technologies, products, and services that solve real problems for real people and make life a little—or a lot—better for us. These will include:

- * muvee™ Technologies (www.muvee.com) — autoProducer 5 is easy and elegant digital media software that even beginners can use to create home movies and DVDs. Sophisticated automation does remarkable things for you so easily. Steve Bass of PC World says, “You’ll be dazzled, I promise.”
- * iSeeMedia (www.iseemedia.com) — Photovista Panorama 3.5 takes a series of photos taken with the same camera from the same location and stitches them together automatically to provide users with a 360-degree interactive, immersive view.
- * ZipLink (www.ziplink.com) — This is a retractable cable line that’s been designed to revolutionize, simplify, and enhance your ability to plug in at home or on the road. It’s a *reel* solution to cable clutter. (Whoops! Another pun.) Simple and affordable retractable earbuds, mouse, Ethernet and phone cables, car chargers, hands-free headsets, and many other cables efficiency retract automatically back into the housing. Your laptop bag, pocket or purse will be less cluttered and you’ll find things more easily.
- * Invisus PC Security Solution (<http://myinvisusdirect.com/usergroups>) — This is a subscription service that offers maximum protection for your PC against Internet threats and intruders, plus identity theft insurance, and unlimited phone support. You get corporate grade—but easy to use—security programs and ongoing automatic updates. It’s like having your own team of security experts at your beck and call.

Dave Whittle is author of *Cyberspace: The Human Dimension*. He’s been active in the PC revolution since 1979 and an opinion-leader in the PC industry since his days as OS/2 Evangelist at IBM in the early ‘90s. Most recently he’s been writing for the excellent *Smart Computing* publication to which several of us in the club subscribe. *Working Woman Magazine* named him “one of America’s most original technological thinkers.”

Don’t miss learning about Whittle’s picks for the digital home! ❖

On our website
— **Links of Interest** —
Go to:
mvpcug.com/index1.htm
* digitalhome.com.au/news
* www.digitalhomemag.com/
* <http://tinyurl.com/bou99>
Click on the links to find out more about these subjects.

About Whittle’s Presentation

Dave will provide time for questions and comments.
He will contribute some valuable door prizes.
Informative handouts will be available to all in attendance.
You’ll have the opportunity to obtain the products that Dave will be demonstrating at significantly discounted prices, available only for user groups.
Check, cash, or credit card will be accepted.

Please note that we do not meet during the months of July and August. Enjoy the warmth and return in September for more great programs.



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 Whitesboro High School, Route 291, Marcy NY. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Initial membership fee for an individual is \$25. Annual renewal dues are \$20.

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The Explorer is printed by

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Meeting Agenda

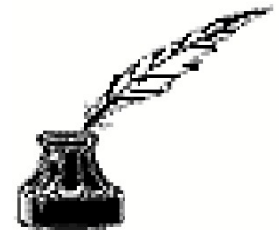
5:30	Meet and Greet
6:00	Business Meeting
6:30	Program, Part 1
7:00	Break
7:15	Program, Part 2
8:15	Drawing for Prizes
8:30	Adjournment

Editorial notes . . .

Welcome new members

David Salsbery

Frank Guilfoil



Look on our web site for a list of used equipment that will be available for sale at the June 6 meeting. If you are interested in any of the items but unable to attend the meeting, contact Bill at mvpcug@usadatanet.net to place a bid.

Summertime means the suspension of our club meetings. No meeting in July or August, but look for your newsletter in late August with info regarding the September meeting.

Enjoy your summer!

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
\$25 for initial sign-up - \$20 for renewal

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

Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
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Minutes of May 2, 2006
— John Hunter, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. There were 44 persons in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

Jerry announced that after the June 2006 meeting, no meetings will be held during the summer break of July and August. The September meeting place has not been confirmed, but Jerry indicated that the September meeting probably would be held at the Utica Maennerchor site in Marcy as in past years.

Jerry also indicated that the SIG meeting held on Thursday, May 6th at St. John’s Episcopal Church at 135 Main Street, Whitesboro, would be the last one held until the fall. No SIG meetings will take place in June, July, August or September.

The club will hold a silent auction during the June meeting to dispose of surplus equipment owned by the club. A list of items to be auctioned will appear on the club web site. Some of the items may be considered museum pieces that may or may not be operational.

Donna Gorrell indicated that one of our club members, Ed Hinge, recently donated property for the next “miracle house” to be constructed in Barneveld as a fund raiser for the Children’s Miracle Network. Donna congratulated Ed for his generosity.

Jerry informed the group that the results of the activity survey conducted at the last meeting revealed that most respondents wanted SIG offerings on digital photography. Only 13 members submitted suggestions. Donna indicated that we could incorporate SIG questions during the business meetings each month before the scheduled speaker’s presentation.

Treasurer **Bill Gorrell** reported that income was \$351.27, expenses were \$269.85, and there is a balance in the money market and the checking account of \$3,912.68 as of April 30, 2006.

PROGRAM

At 6:15 PM, Jerry introduced the evening’s speaker, Milt Broedel. Milt teaches computer classes at Oneida BOCES and the Utica Senior Center. Milt’s presentation focused on computer threats and the

actions computer users can take to protect home computers from pernicious attacks.

Milt indicated that about 70 % of his time is spent dealing with malware. Malware is malicious software code in various forms that attack computers through an Internet connection to cause damage. One of the more common vehicles used for computer infection are tool bars. According to Milt, free tool bars really constitute form of adware.

Outlook Express is the most used email program and so presents the biggest risks for users. Milt suggested that users not open email attachments from unknown senders. Another protection approach is to install hardware and software firewalls. Firewalls block intrusion by malware as well as blocking unauthorized outgoing traffic. Some very useful software programs can be downloaded for free. Milt also recommended that users install a router for increased protection.

After a break at 7:20 PM, Milt resumed his presentation at 7:32 PM He identified several good sources for spyware help: Spybot Search and Destroy; Adaware; and two sources online: majorgeeks.com and tucows.com.

The program concluded at 8:15 PM.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- Cross Direction Optical Mouse Gary Virkler
- Book-Microsoft Money 2004 Nick Dudish
- Print Publishing Guide (Adobe) Fred Schmandt
- Photo Paper Fred Cole
- 10 DVDs Hart Anway
- 15 CDs Bill Gorrell

[donated by Lou Barile]

- 56 K modem Bob Angelhow

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

John Hunter, secretary



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Most computer problems are caused by a loose nut between the chair and the keyboard.

Word Processing Tips

— by Bob Schaffer

WordPerfect — Publish To PDF (11/12) by Anne Steyer Phelps (*Smart Computing Magazine*)

WordPerfect 10 included a built-in utility that allowed you to export WordPerfect files to Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format). Publishing to PDF ensures that anyone can view your document exactly as you formatted it.

For version 11 and 12, WordPerfect tweaked the PDF utility for better control over fonts, hyperlinks, and output file size. WordPerfect's Publish To PDF is compatible with Adobe Acrobat 3.0 to 7.0.

Publishing Options

To create a PDF file from a WordPerfect document, open the document and go to the **File** menu. Scroll down to **Publish To**. Choose **PDF** from the options. A **Publish To PDF** dialog box opens with the **General** tab, the first of four tabs, on top. The first step is to give the PDF file a name and specify where you want to save it. Click **Browse**. In the **Save As PDF** dialog box, locate the drive and folder where you want the file saved. Before you click **Save**, enter its name in the **File Name** box.



Publish To PDF offers multiple options

Back at the **Publish To PDF** dialog box, you must specify an **Export Range** from the four available options. **Full Document** publishes the entire file. **Current Page** converts only the active page to PDF. If you want to publish a range of pages, select **Pages** and enter the page numbers you need. If you need only a small portion published, select that text prior to choosing **Publish To PDF** and then choose **Selection** under **Export Range**.

The next section, **Compatibility**, refers to the version of **Reader** required to view the PDF document. WordPerfect 11/12 offers compatibility with Acrobat Reader versions 3.0, 4.0, or 5.0. When WordPerfect 11 first hit the shelf, it made sense to set compatibility at 3.0 or 4.0 to ensure that more readers would be able to view your PDF. By now, Adobe is up to Acrobat Reader 7.0, so this is no longer much of an issue.

If you want the PDF file's **Document Properties** to reveal additional information, include the author and any useful keywords in those fields. Anyone viewing the PDF can see this information within the PDF by choosing **File** | **Document Properties** | **Summary**.

PDF Style

The final choice on the **General** tab is **PDF Style**. When you save a document you choose from three predefined PDF styles. You may also create a new PDF style or edit an existing one. The three styles each apply specific settings to a particular output.

PDF For Document Distribution is best used for documents that will be shared and printed on standard desktop printers. This is the default style and requires Acrobat Reader 4.0 and higher to view. Fonts are embedded and hyperlinks preserved.

PDF For Editing delivers a higher quality PDF and is optimized for later editing or professional printing. It embeds all fonts and includes hyperlinks, bookmarks, and thumbnails, as well as all images at full resolution. Not surprisingly, this choice creates the largest file size.

PDF For The Web generates the smallest file, but results in compressed text, line art, and bitmap images. It is optimized for viewing on the Web. Most fonts are not embedded, but the substitutions work fine on the Web. If you want a pristine document for printing, choose one of the other options.

Things To Note

When you've completed the style choices, name your PDF file and click OK. This is where another WordPerfect 11/12 improvement comes in—a status bar now lets you view the PDF conversion progress. The new PDF won't open automatically, though, so you'll need to go to the drive and folder where it was saved to view it. A double-click should open the document in your own copy of Acrobat Reader, assuming you've installed it.

There's not yet a fix for WordPerfect's inability to render font color changes on the same line of text in PDF docs. Stick to one font color on a single line. ❖

A Hot Tip!

Receive a Word and a WordPerfect tip every other week by email from Bob Schaffer. Send request to rdschaffer@adelphia.net

CABLE OR WIRELESS?

— by Kim Komando

Q. Mom is 89 and moving to an apartment in senior housing. She can't live without her computer. The home encourages wireless Internet, although she can get cable Internet. Her banking and investments are done online. How safe is wireless in such close quarters? And is wireless as fast as cable, considering possibly 100 of her neighbors may be connected to the same system?

A. You raise some interesting questions. They apply not only to senior housing, but also apartment complexes, dormitories, co-ops and any place where large numbers of people live in close proximity.

First of all, banks and brokerages use their own encryption. It works with the Internet browser your mother uses. So, assuming she keeps her software updated, no one is going to intercept and read those transmissions. Today's computers are not capable of breaking that encryption.

However, other things, such as e-mail and Web browsing, are not encrypted automatically. Your mom probably doesn't want people snooping into her personal business. So she has to depend on encryption in the wireless (Wi-Fi) system, if she uses that.

To explain this, I've got to hit you with some acronyms. There are three encryption standards for wireless—WEP, WPA and WPA2.

WEP stands for Wired Equivalent Privacy. It's worthless. WEP is easily intercepted and broken. Really, it is worse than worthless. People who use it may be misled into believing they are protected. They are not.

WPA stands for Wi-Fi Protected Access. This protocol was developed because the Wi-Fi Alliance realized that WEP offered no protection. WPA was an interim standard, used until the Wi-Fi Alliance formalized a protocol to replace WEP. There is some debate about whether it can be broken. I think it is adequate, but I prefer WPA2.

WPA2 is the second generation of WPA. It is currently unbreakable. It also is state-of-the-art in wireless encryption. This is my preference for encryption.

Without encryption, or if WEP is used, most of your mother's transmissions could be read. Who would do that? I'd say if you put 100 people on a system, and they have time of their hands, a few will start messing around.

The wireless signal also may stray outside the complex. Heaven knows who might intercept it. They also could read her transmissions.

WPA and WPA2 will protect your mother's transmissions both inside and outside. So, you need to ask the system administrator at the housing center about encryption. If it is WEP, or if there is no encryption, she should not use the Wi-Fi system. WPA is OK; WPA2 is better.

You should also ask the system administrator about speed. The wireless system is probably hooked up to the Internet through a cable or telephone company. Speed is going to depend on the capacity of the lines. I can't address that from here.

Even if your mother has her own cable connection, it could still be slow. Sharing bogs things down. If the wireless setup is using the same cable system, it may be much slower than what she has now.

All of these questions must be discussed with the system administrator. If the "system administrator" is a complex employee who runs the network on the side, beware. If you get a bad feeling about security, go with the individual cable hookup. You also could talk to the telephone company about an individual DSL connection.

When you get into wireless, you'll find there are several Wi-Fi standards. That's another bunch of numbers and letters.

MAKING SENSE OF WI-FI STANDARDS

Q. I have a wireless network, which I believe is 802.11b. I think I know what 802.11g is. But now I see 802.11n. Gosh. Can you explain these standards?

A. You're talking about Wi-Fi, which is shorthand for Wireless Fidelity. This would be a lot easier if they would just use names. But that's not the way technology is. So let's wade through all this.

The 802.11 base standard covers a family of applications. All deal with wireless networking. These standards allow consumers or businesses to link computers, along with peripherals such as printers. They also allow a network to use one modem, which connects to the Internet.

There are several of these standards that wireless consumers should understand. So, here goes:

-802.11a runs on the 5 gigahertz frequency. It is pretty fast, transferring data at a nominal rate of 54 megabits per second. It is not compatible with the other standards. Nor is it compatible with most commercial hotspots. So it's probably not the best standard for traveling businesspeople.

-802.11b runs on the 2.4 GHz frequency. This standard dates from 1999, and was widely installed by consumers. It transfers data at a nominal rate of 11 Mbps. This is a good standard to take on the road.

-802.11g also runs on the 2.4GHz frequency. It is compatible with 802.11b equipment, and also works well on the road. It transfers data at 54 Mbps, nominally.

-802.11n runs on the 2.4 GHz frequency, and should be compatible with the b and g standards. This standard has not yet been finalized. Equipment is emerging, and is referred to as "pre-n." Some makers are claiming speeds exceeding 100 Mbps. It also improves the signal's range. That is very important for homeowners.

-802.11i is a standard for security, not hardware. Security has been the Achilles heel of Wi-Fi.

Note the word nominal. Wi-Fi typically runs at less than half the stated rates. But for most consumers, speed is not critical. Most people use Wi-Fi to hook multiple computers to a modem. On the Internet, the network cannot run any faster than the modem. So Wi-Fi speeds are only important when exchanging files between computers. ❖

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www.komando.com

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Paranoia Revisited

The subject line read “Read ASAP,” on the email I received from a friend in late April. I read the message that said, “do not open any message with an attached file with the title ‘Invitation.’ Embedded in the file is a virus that will burn your hard disk-McAfee has no repair for this virus and the virus will spread through your email list”. Several hours later, another email from the same friend included a link to www.snopes.com/computer/virus/invitation/asp.

I clicked on the link and immediately came to the “Urban Legends Reference Pages.” According to this site, the above mentioned “Invitation” virus is just another iteration of a hoax that started in 2000 or earlier. Relieved, I investigated the site offerings.

The homepage indicates that www.snopes.com serves as a clearing house for all things computer related as well as a number of things that are not. The site offers interested visitors a place to learn about urban legends, strange news stories, netlore, superstitions and folk wisdom. You can find out about alligators in sewers, HIV-loaded needles in theater seats, business cards for a dying child or \$250 cookie recipes.

You can also sign up, free, for a weekly RSS feed if learning about all this is too much to miss. For more, click on the virus hoaxes and realities tab at the top of the homepage. An extensive list of subjects can be found at the left of the homepage as well.

A Note to the Ladies

Father’s Day is coming up. To really show the man in your life just how much he means to you, visit www.disgruntledhousewife.com. Parts of this site contain some naughty, off-color sections, but if you stick to the category “Meals Men Like” you will find tempting recipes for your special man.

At the beginning of this section, women are cautioned that men love meat. And any man who doesn’t is probably a sissy. Similarly, canny cooks are cautioned to avoid any non-starchy vegetables because men love corn and potatoes, but avoid broccoli, Brussels Sprouts and zucchini. Garlic is good and so are onions.

The attentive housewife is urged to keep Velveeta and ground beef around as comfort food. If your

man’s a snob, give the dish a catchy name and he’ll never know the difference. And the smart woman knows that EVERYTHING goes better with bacon and butter.

Ladies, if you aren’t in the mood to please a man, click on the section “Stupid Crap I Bought Last Week.” Web mistress Nikol Lohr admits she purchased a furry purse with 3 zippered pockets for only \$9.99 and shoes designed with silver oven-mitt quilted sides for \$16.99 that she swears she’ll wear. For a good life and a little titillation, visit this site

Want To Save Money?

We are all ready for bargains. Right? Visit www.alotofthings.com and save money on print cartridges. This site specializes in ink cartridges for Epson, HP, Canon and Lexmark as well as refill kits, Epson chip reset software and other tools, software and directions that allow you to substitute independently manufactured cartridges for name brand printers. I cannot attest to the quality of the products, but given price of the name brand ink cartridges, this may be something to look into.

Key Into New Trends

Want to know what the cutting edge is? Are you a trend leader, trend follower or trend ignorer? If the answers to these questions create a burning desire to really know what the future holds, visit www.BoingBoing.net.

At the time of my visit, the lead article featured a BMW thermal-imaging-capable vision system that uses a thermal imaging camera to spot animals, humans and objects in front of cars before the headlights pick them up. A link to another site offers a demo video of this system.

Another story reveals that an add-on to the Firefox browser, allows computer users to travel the Internet anonymously. The Tor Onion Router Project and Firefox wrapped up in a USB stick allows you to bring a great browser to the work place with complete anonymity. The combination can be used to bypass paying for Internet access in a WiFi café, connect a school computer to the Internet without filters or surf shopping sites while you are at work without your boss finding out. All surfing activity is encrypted and stored on the USB stick that you take with you when you leave. Interesting.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that there is a difference between your computer running slow and a connection to the Internet being slow? If you are doing email or browsing the Internet and things slow down, it is not your computer. If you are writing a letter in Word or doing a spreadsheet in Excel and your computer is slow you may have a problem. Add more memory; delete old unused files; or defrag your system gain more speed as well as free up space on your hard drive.

. . . that you can disable some of the built in services of Windows XP? You can find a list of installed services in XP by launching Services.msc from the Start menu's Run command. The services you can delete are:

Computer Browser. Do not delete if you share folders and printers over a network.

Error Reporting Service. When you suffer an application error, a dialog box that pops up asking if you want to send an error report to Microsoft.

Fast User Switching Compatibility. Used to improve the operation of applications in Fast User Switching mode. Unnecessary unless you have multiple user accounts set up.

Indexing Service. This service is the support of Windows' search feature. It is a resource hog. Before you disable this service clear the check box next to Allow Indexing Service To Index This Disk For Fast File Searching on each of your hard drives. [You can find it by going to My Computer, right-clicking each drive icon, and selecting Properties.]

Infrared Monitor. If you don't use your infrared port to transmit data or synchronize with a handheld device, you can switch this service off.

Messenger. This is not related to MSN but rather is used to send administrative alerts between networked PCs. It's not important for stand-alone PC or those on home networks.

Remote Registry. This is found on XP Pro and is useful on corporate networks for tasks such as software distribution and system auditing.

Secondary Logon. This service allows you to run a program or start a software installation process using an account other than the one currently logged in. It is useful when you want to install a program for someone with a limited account without logging them off the system first.

Server. Lets you share files and printers with other systems on the network.

System Restore Service. This is what lets the system restore feature undo changes and roll your system configuration back to a particular point in time. This feature can be handy, but it also consumes a lot of space.

Task Scheduler. This service schedules tasks to be performed on specific days and at specific times.

Wireless Zero Configuration. If you don't use your system to access a wireless network, deactivate this service. ❖

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

As mentioned previously in this column, there are loads of media watchers on the Net. There are the dedicated fact checkers, the bloggers and the sites committed to reporting, spinning, correcting, commenting on the news media and sites claiming conservative, progressive, right and left of center views of the news of the day. Along the way through these websites you figure out what these reports are up to, you soon become aware of their spin. You come back to some, you let go of others. You have only so much time, your interests go just so far. But some sites are standouts and you click them into your "Favorites."

One such standout is the new website dedicated to browsing the mainstream media and evaluating their reporting on medical, drug and general health care issues. The website is Healthnewsreview.org. [If you have trouble going to this site, try getting there through google.] It scans the top newspapers, magazines and other media outlets and rates their coverage for accuracy, balance and completeness. Five stars is top rating. There are quite a few of one star reviews. This is health care journalism, given one to five stars. The site is not handled by any medical or pharmaceutical company. It's an independent site, its interest is in public service.

I'm not suggesting that paying attention to this site will save your life. But stick with this site and you do get smarter re the reporting of vital health issues in the popular media channels. Check it out. ❖

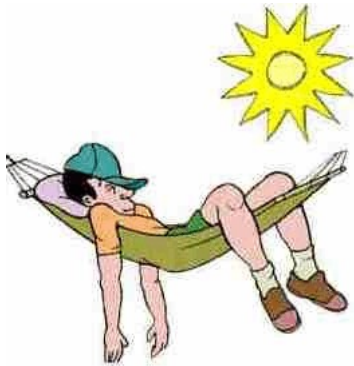
Silent Auction

At the June meeting we will hold a silent auction of used computer equipment. A list of all equipment will be available on our website www.mvpcug.com. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to bid on any items, contact Bill at mvpcug@usadatanet.net.

explorer

Dave Whittle's Picks for the Digital Home
 Tuesday ★ June 6, 2006 ★ 6:00 PM ★ Whitesboro High School

Enjoy the summer



what's.com/ing				June 2006		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dairy Month				1	2	3
4	5	6 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	