

Best Buy

Once again the team from Best Buy will be bringing the latest and greatest of the electronic gadgets.

Kayleigh, Conner and Joe will be demonstrating some of the newest technology and as always, will answer all our questions. This is our chance to see the new products and witness the way they work. Bring a friend to the meeting.



The Board of Directors will publish a directory of all members this September. If you do not want your name published, please contact Bill [treasurer@mvpcug.com] and ask that your name be removed from this listing. The list will be name only, no other information.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sept. 6 — Ask the Guru night

This is an opportunity to invite new people to our meeting.
Ask your friends to come with their questions.

Tuesday, June 7 — 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, 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 . . .



If you were unable to attend the last meeting, go to the website:

<http://mvpcug.com/tidbits.htm>. Or go

directly to the presentation page at :

<http://mvpcug.com/maypresentation2011.htm>. Lisa has

put her PowerPoint slide show "Data, Data, Everywhere" on this page along with various links of interest. All links are clickable. Those of us who attended the meeting could not copy the links fast enough so she graciously offered to post the entire thing on our website.

While you are looking at this—consider checking out the other links posted on the Tidbits page. After each meeting Lisa posts links that pertain to the subject.

After a long wait, we now have a new Program Chair. David Hartnett came forth and volunteered to take on this task. He will start with the September meeting. If you have any suggestions of what you'd like to see at future meeting, please check with David. Thanks David!

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
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Minutes of May 3, 2011
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the New Hartford Library. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM. There were 30 persons in attendance.

A lively Q & A period preceded the formal opening of the regular meeting.

Q1. When turning on the computer with Windows XP, why does the Icon display on the Desktop occasionally get rearranged?

A1. The phenomenon, confirmed by other attendees, assured us that the problem would vanish completely and spontaneously on its own. It was suggested that the scrambled Icon display may be caused by automatic updates. Programs are available that will memorize a desired display and with a click, you can return to the original display. (See Bill Gorrell for details.)

Q2. Recently, when turning on the computer two members using Windows XP received a screen warning: “You have 4 updates. Do not turn off computer”. Why?

A2. Have the “notify before updating” active, which is a good procedure to follow in case you don’t want an uninvited update installed, particularly if you have a Beta version program.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Jerry Finkelstein called the meeting officially to order at 6:20 PM. Bill Gorrell presented the April Treasurer’s report: 8 membership renewals and a net income of \$43.04.

Jerry F. advised the attendees that the position of Program Chairperson is still unfilled and that, since January 2011, member renewal dues have been set at \$25.00.

A question from the floor regarding the cost of newsletter mailings was addressed. Although the cost-of-mail issue has been discussed in the past, Jerry F. explained that bulk mail via Post Office requires a minimum of 200 copies be mailed; the club mails 80. Putting it on the web, however, generates other problems, i.e. some do not have an e-mail address or will not provide one and others do not have broad-band access. Lisa noted that anyone can opt-out

from receiving a newsletter and get it from the web site in PDF format. (Contact Lisa or Bill.)

PROGRAM

Jerry F. introduced MVPCUG VP Lisa Britt, who spoke on the subject of Data, Data Everywhere. Lisa recommended that members view the humorous video clip she uploaded on the MVPCUG web site in the Tidbits section, titled “Work till we die”, about Social Security and Medicare. She noted that since the term “personal data” is not defined in the U.S. and that our data privacy laws are very weak, it is appropriate to be aware of the methods to protect personal information. Lisa prefaced her prepared program defining the terms involved with data procurement, dissemination, problems and privacy concerns, and in-depth insights associated with them...and she delivered in detail in her discussion of radio-frequency identification (embedded chips), cell phones, internet security programs, identity theft, social networking, web cams, e-mails and on-line transactions. Lisa concluded with some of her personal commandments: (1) Unhook from the internet, (2) Don’t join Social Network sites, (3) Turn off computers, routers and modems when not in use, (4) Use a cross-shredder for personal information, and (5) Question authority when asked for identification.

The club applauded Lisa for her interesting and vitally informative presentation. Now we all can be as “paranoid” as she is knowing about all the potential security problems out there in space...but thanks to her, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- Flash Drive 4gb. Edward Sajdzikowski
- Pkg. Copy Paper,8-1/2X11. John Dylis
- Mini Note Pads. Jerry Finkelstein
- 4X6 Photo Paper. Jerry Finkelstein
- Pens. Gary Virkler

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

- CD - R. Patty Bruno

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Printer Paper. Bill Gorrell
- CD Cases. Don Pianka

The meeting adjourned at 8:14PM. ◆

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

iPhone Tutoring Help

The next poor report card your family scholar receives can be addressed by letting the kid use an iPhone to get academic help. This help is also available for users of iPads and iPods as well. For more information to avoid an unpleasant end of year situation click on www.tutor.com.

The **Tutor To Go** tutoring software can be used for free if a local public library or school already offers the Tutor.Com Learning Suite. The site makes tutors available 24/7 for math, science, English or social studies with no appointments necessary. The program archives every learning session so specific answers to earlier questions can be accessed easily. Tutees can use an interactive whiteboard and chat simultaneously with the tutor to solve problems. The site also offers regular homework help as well.

If free help is unavailable, a number of paid plans are available starting at \$34.99 for one hour per month; two hours per month for \$69.99 and \$99.99 for three hours per month. You can try a sample 30 minute session for only \$9.99 to see if the service helps. However, a really struggling student can put you in the poor house at these prices. The website states that to date over 6.6 million sessions have been logged. That is **big** money if you do the math.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Activities

One hundred and fifty years ago in April, South Carolina troops fired on Federal troops assigned to Ft Sumpter in Charleston Harbor, and the Civil War hostilities began. Many communities and schools are using war Civil War commemorative activities as teachable moments. To this end, the National Park Service developed a program of Civil War Reports consisting of daily Twitter tweets and Facebook posts written by a “war correspondent” geared to appeal to junior high and high school students. To sign up for these daily reports click on www.nps.gov/civilwar150.

Many of the issues that divided the nation 150 years ago loom large today as politicians argue about states’ rights, limited government and civil rights. At my visit the correspondent wrote in a tweet dated April 21st, “Reports say a Mass. regiment was attacked in Baltimore. If this is their welcome to Md, I hope they keep clear of Virginia.”

The site also provides lists of upcoming Civil War

related events, a listing of Civil War Parks, a searchable soldier database and listings of primary source documents assembled by the Library of Congress. History buffs should love this site and kids who generally dislike history may like it too.

Cyber War Continues

Government Computer News recently reported that China and the US are engaged in an escalating cyber war. To see how the US is faring, click on www.gcn.com/articles/2011/04/18/china-us-cyberwar-byzantine-hades.aspx?s=gcdaily_190411..

Paychecks Improve for Some

Much has been written lately about the pay given to corporate CEOs. Predictably, a number of sites keep track of this information. If you are interested in knowing how much an S&P 500 CEO makes, click on www.afcio.org/corporatewatch/paywatch/. For example, you will find that the average S&P 500 CEO brought home \$11,358,445 in total compensation in 2010. For specific data you can search by company names, industry, state and even find a list of the 100 highest paid CEOs.

For example, Occidental Petroleum Corps’ Ray R. Irani earned \$76,107,010 in total compensation in 2010. The pay for Susan Ivey, Mark Hurd, Mary Sammons and Michael Jeffries are also prominently listed. I wonder if these guys live paycheck to paycheck.

Did You Own a Commodore 64?

Another GCN report indicates that you can buy a new Commodore 64 in a retro case today. The new machine features an Intel Atom processor, an Nvidia graphics chip and lots of memory. The machine even features a HDMI port so you can hook it up to a big flat screen. To find out more about buying this iconic machine click on www.gcn.com/articlesk/2011/04/14/Commodore-64-is-back/. All this for \$595, a small price for nostalgia.

More Figures

Want to know how much debt there is in the world? Click on www.economist.com/content/global_debt_clock. The site provides an interactive world map with the debt recorded for most countries. In addition, the site provides a constantly updated number of the total debt begin amassed worldwide. And you thought only the US was in debt trouble. Not true. We have lots of company in the debt hole.

Till next time . . . Have a great summer! ♦

Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

At the end of March, *PC World*'s Rick Broida wrote a review of Firefox 4. He was annoyed with several things: The Reload and Home buttons were moved; tabs were relocated to the top of the screen, and some of his favorite add-ons didn't work. He found workarounds for these problems. If you would like to have things "the old way" use his suggestions as follows.

To relocate the Reload button:

Click the Firefox button [the orange one in the upper left corner], then choose Options, Toolbar Layout. Then Drag the Reload button to the left side of the address bar and, next to the navigation arrows, then drop it. Click done. He states that Reload button doubles as a Stop button so you won't see the Stop until you enter Toolbar Layout. If you drag the Stop button to the left so it stays with Reload, it will disappear when you exit. If you want it visible, leave it on the right side.

To put tabs back in their place:

Click the same orange button in the upper left corner, then choose Options, Tabs on Top to turn off that option. If you don't see the orange button, right click in an empty area next to your open tabs, then click Menu Bar. That'll turn off the more traditional drop-down menu toolbar and replace it with the Firefox button. (Actually, that same right-click menu also has the Tabs on Top option, so you can access it there just as easily.)

To fix the incompatible add-on problem:

Rick's biggest problem with Firefox 4 is incompatible add-ons [aka extensions], of which he encountered about a dozen after installing the update.

Rick cautions that if you turn off Firefox's compatibility check you might run into trouble as some of the add-ons could prevent your browser from running. Try these suggestions at your own risk.

Open a new tab, type *about:config* in the address bar, then press Enter. Right-click anywhere in the main window, then click New, Boolean.

Copy and paste in the following preference name: *extensions.checkCompatibility.4.0*. Click OK, then set the value to False [default]. Exit and restart Firefox. You should now have full access to your add-ons. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Lisa's presentation at our general meeting last month was a welcome examination, albeit a bit scary, of the need for security measures before "they" track you down and, as in one of the worst scenarios, steal your identity. The injustice may not be that "they" just want to sell us things. It turns out we're not just innocent bystanders; we're accomplices. We don't take the proper precautions. We don't guard the stuff we have in our machines, our PCs or in any of our electronic devices. We have to be watchful, vigilant, cynical. But then, we can only do so much.

Can we opt out of any of this? We can't. Give up the computer? You got to be kidding. What, you only have one credit card? One will suit "them" fine. And you need your cell phone to keep in touch with your grandchildren in Utah. How else will you remember what you went to Price Chopper for? No one wants to go back to the days of the Selectric typewriter and the local telephone operator.

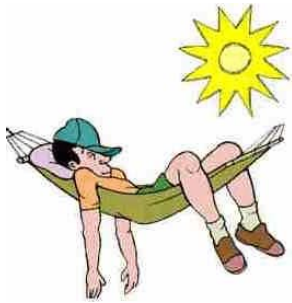
As if all this is too much for us to manage, Google has just come to our rescue. Lisa is going to love this. In hopes of overturning Microsoft, Google has a new enterprise, a new kind of computer, a Chromebook, which stores everything online. You no longer need to manage your computer. Google will do it for you. No need to back up because if files are lost or ruined all the data exists online. In the cloud. It will store all your data and the computer's software online. In the cloud. You can access any or all of your stuff from any computer that is internet-connected. Chromebook sure does have the WOW factor. Will you feel safer knowing that the management of all your PC affairs is in Google's hands? How quickly we forget; Sony's gaming network was just compromised for the second time and this time only 12,700 credit cards were stolen along with records listing bank account numbers. The first time around cyber-attackers gained access to personal information about its 77 million registered accounts.

Have a great summer. While you are having a fun time once in a while look back over your shoulder. Remember, "they" are watching you. ♦



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Tuesday ♦ June 7 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

what's.com/ing ~ Dairy Month ~ June 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 6 1944 - D-Day-Allied Invasion of Europe June 14 1775 - US Army founded - Flag Day June 22 1942 - Pledge of Allegiance accepted by Congress			1	2	3	4
5	6 D-Day	7 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	8	9	10	11 Belmont Stake's Day
12	13	14 	15	16 Fudge Day	17	18
19 Happy FATHER'S Day!	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	June 14 - Family History Day June 19 - Father's Day June 21 - Summer Solstice June 25 1950 - Korean War began	