

Penabad: *Minutes*. page 2
Random Access. page 3
Hunter: *Surfin' the Net*. page 4
Finkelstein: *Byting Remarks*. page 5
Gorrell: *DYK*. page 5
Club Info-Calendar. page 6

Chris Broedel, owner of *The Real Deal Geek* service company will discuss Windows 8.1, its differences from previous versions of Windows (i.e. the user interface, which is probably the most striking difference) and also take a look ahead at what we can expect in a rumored future iteration of Windows 8, currently codenamed **Windows 8.2**.

Chris has taken over the business from his father, Milt [Milt's PC Service], after receiving guidance and instruction from him for the past 11 years. Previously Chris worked at Par Tech and interned in the Computer Repair department at MVCC, where he received a degree with honors in Computer Information Systems. He also has begun teaching at BOCES.



Chris offers repairs, training, upgrades and more, at competitive rates for both onsite [yours] and inhouse [his] — with free in-house estimates.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 — 6 - 8:30 PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public — Free — Bring a friend

MINUTES

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



BUSINESS

The MVPCUG General Meeting was held in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library. President Jerry Finkelstein with 27 Members in attendance, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 04-01-2014 thru 04-30-2014, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary. Bill G. was commended for the use of available store credits to defray the cost of the new Club Projector.

The replaced Club Projector is available to club members for a minimum asking price of \$75.00, contact Bill G. if interested. If the projector is still available in the Fall, Bill G. will start advertising it on Craig’s List and E-Bay.

A comment was made that there were several other meetings on different subjects that were meeting tonight (04/06), perhaps making some having to select a choice of meetings.

A question posed by someone in the audience concerning if Internet Explorer (IE) is now safe to use. Jerry F. noted that your password should be changed and the password should always be a combination of letters (upper and lower cases) and numbers. Donna Gorrell stated she does not use IE, but continues to keep it updated because it’s required in the operation of her computer.

Jerry F. asked how many came in with the “Word for Tonight”? It was printed in the May Newsletter. Some were unaware of it and some others forgot what it was. The question becomes who is reading the on-line Monthly Bulletin, and why or why not?

A discussion on Windows 8.1 challenges came up.

PROGRAM

Our returning speaker, Michael Haman from The Big Apple, was introduced by Jerry F. to speak on the topic of Smart TV’s. A Smart TV can be connected to your home network or home wireless system and allows use of NetFlix, Roku, music and other devices. Smart TV’s come in 40 inch or bigger sizes. In general, smaller TV’s are becoming unavailable (smaller sizes are available in off-brands). A selection of Routers, which are critical for picture quality are also available. It was noted by Michael there is a big difference between a \$40 router and a \$100-\$150 one

(you should not need a \$300 unit).

Michael answered a number of questions on conditions for receiving good quality TV signals and the use of high definition cable boxes. Michael then answered many specific questions from the audience. The MVPCUG members thank him for his patience and expertise and we look forward to hearing from him again on the next technical breakthrough.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 20 Pens. Don Jennings
- 4 X 6 Photo Paper. Bill Brunnett
- Printer Paper. Stu Culp
- 12 Pencils. Crystal Eades
- 16 GB Flash Drive. Rod St Clair
- Sharpie Markers. Bill Wilson

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Keyboard. Don Pianka

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

- CD-RW Disks. Nelson Robinson

[Donated by Michael Haman]

- Roku. Fred Cole

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Finkelstein at 8:15 PM. Joe Penabad, secretary



EDITOR’S NOTES:

Last month our speaker, Michael, went beyond our expectations by bringing along all equipment for hookup to a 55" TV [including the TV] and then during the break, he ran back to the store to pick up a controller so that he might show us other things. He also brought a super door prize. Such attention to detail and generosity speaks of a dedicated person. Thanks, Michael for all you’ve done!



There are two extra pages this month - a letter from Gene Barlow which you’ll find after page 6.

Hopefully the word is out that there will be a secret word placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you tell Bo what the secret word is when you sign in, he will give you an extra ticket for the door prizes. Now go look for the **secret** word!

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!

* * * * *

ADWARE

Adware often comes along with spyware. It's any type of software that displays advertising on your computer. Programs that display advertisements inside the program itself aren't generally classified as malware. The kind of "adware" that's particularly malicious is the kind that abuses its access to your system to display ads when it shouldn't. For example, a piece of harmful adware may cause pop-up advertisements to appear on your computer when you're not doing anything else. Or, adware may inject additional advertising into other web pages as you browse the web.

Adware is often combined with spyware — a piece of malware may monitor your browsing habits and use them to serve you more targeted ads. Adware is more "socially acceptable" than other types of malware on Windows and you may see adware bundled with legitimate programs. For example, some people consider the Ask Toolbar included with Oracle's Java software adware.

KEYLOGGER

A keylogger is a type of malware that runs in the background, recording every key stroke you make. These keystrokes can include usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, and other sensitive data. The keylogger then, most likely, uploads these keystrokes to a malicious server, where it can be analyzed and people can pick out the useful passwords and credit card numbers.

Other types of malware can act as keyloggers. A virus, worm, or Trojan may function as a keylogger, for example. Keyloggers may also be installed for monitoring purposes by businesses or even jealous spouses.

BOTNET, BOT

A botnet is a large network of computers that are under the botnet creator's control. Each computer

functions as a "bot" because it's infected with a specific piece of malware.

Once the bot software infects the computer, it will connect to some sort of control server and wait for instructions from the botnet's creator. For example, a botnet may be used to initiate a DDoS (distributed denial of service) attack. Every computer in the botnet will be told to bombard a specific website or server with requests at once, and these millions of requests can cause a server to become unresponsive or crash.

Botnet creators may sell access to their botnets, allowing other malicious individuals to use large botnets to do their dirty work.

ROOTKIT

A rootkit is a type of malware designed to burrow deep into your computer, avoiding detection by security programs and users. For example, a rootkit might load before most of Windows, burying itself deep into the system and modifying system functions so that security programs can't detect it. A rootkit might hide itself completely, preventing itself from showing up in the task manager. The key thing that makes a type of malware a rootkit is that it's stealthy and focused on hiding itself once it arrives.

RANSOMWARE

Ransomware is a fairly new type of malware. It holds your computer or files hostage and demands a ransom payment. Some ransomware may simply pop up a box asking for money before you can continue using your computer. Such prompts are easily defeated with antivirus software.

More harmful malware like CryptoLocker literally encrypts your files and demands a payment before you can access them. Such types of malware are dangerous, especially if you don't have backups.

Most malware these days is produced for profit, and ransomware is a good example of that. Ransomware doesn't want to crash your computer and delete your files just to cause you trouble. It wants to take something hostage and get a quick payment from you.

PHISHING

Phishing is when hackers or scammers attempt to steal personal information like usernames, passwords, or credit cards by pretending to be somebody else, usually through email. They might send a fake email that appears to be from your bank, Paypal, Facebook, or any number of other services, and then try to get you to enter your login details or even your credit card or bank information. ♦

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



It Had To Happen Eventually

My LG clam shell cell phone died recently. I accidentally drowned it in the washing machine. So, after many wifely promptings, I purchased a smart phone. Now I will be able to try out the cell phone apps that appear in this column instead of reading descriptions on the websites. The phone I purchased is a Samsung Galaxy Note 3, a very highly rated gadget. The device seems to do everything except the windows once I learn how to make it work.

The only trouble with this new technology is the learning curve. At the pace I'm going, I may master all the features by 2020. And by then I'll need another new phone that will do even more! I guess that with the good comes the bad.

Getting Your Money's Worth

Who doesn't like a bargain? One place to find bargains is an outlet mall. But outlet malls are sometimes not what they seem. The Federal Trade Commission provides consumer information about shopping at outlet malls at www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/outlet-shopping. At the site the FTC suggests the following rules to save money and get your money's worth.

Some times prices in outlet malls are not cheaper than regular store prices. When shopping, be familiar with item prices to avoid overpaying.

Some outlets sell manufactured items specifically for the outlets and these items may differ in quality from similar items sold in regular company stores. If you are not sure whether the store sells "made-for-outlet" products ask the staff.

Another suggestion is to shop for off-season goods. These items are typically cheaper than seasonal items. For other shopping hints, click on the site.

Teacher Salaries

Some of us believe that New York teachers are overpaid compared to teachers in other states. To address this idea a teacher oriented website compares average teacher salaries with state by state cost of living data and then compares salaries and what the salaries will buy. To find out how New York teachers compare, click on www.takepart.com/photos/average-teacher-salary-by-state.

With this comparison, Michigan places number

one with an average teacher salary of \$61,521 and a corrected cost of living salary of \$64,937. Indiana places 10th with average salaries of \$51,456 and a cost of living adjustment of \$56,795.

Massachusetts pays the most with an average salary of \$73,129, but with the high cost of living buying power lowers the salary to \$59,893. New York teachers do not make the top ten either in base salary or in cost of living adjusted salary. Who knew?

More Help From the Federal Government

People who say they want smaller government frequently want to keep helpful programs. West Virginians weren't too concerned about water quality until a chemical spill in January contaminated the water supply for hundreds of thousands of people. Now the Federal Government holds hearing and talks about more rules for businesses storing toxic chemicals. And West Virginians now see the value of rules and regulations on a national level.

Similarly, government health programs provide very useful services. For example, the Center for Disease Control recently released a New York state listing of "Geographic Access to Diabetes Prevention Program Sites" identifying sites county by county. For more info click on www.cdc.gov/. When the homepage appears type "Geographic Access to Diabetes Prevention Program Sites" in the search box at the top of the screen and up will pop a map of New York state counties with prevention sites identified by icon and the county shaded by degree of risk factors.

On the map Oneida County has two potential prevention sites located in both Rome and Utica. The closest operating site to Oneida is in Syracuse and several other Onondaga County towns. Other operating prevention sites are found in Binghamton, Rochester, Watertown, Johnstown and Albany.

Although Oneida County at present has no operating diabetes prevention sites, the county is identified on the map as having a lower risk factor for prevalence of the disease. Good news, eh?

Did You Know?

Did you know that five states have no minimum wage laws? They are: South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Four states have minimum wage laws lower than the Federal rate. They are Georgia, Arkansas, Minnesota, and Wyoming For more wage info visit <http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/>.

Until next time . . .





Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you could disable Win 8 login screen and log in without a password? Press Win+R or open your Search charm and type *run* to open the Run window. Type in **netplwiz** to access the User Accounts dialog box. Uncheck the box near the top that says, *Users must enter a user name and password to use this computer*. Then click OK, enter the username and password one last time to confirm your choice.

. . . that you could eliminate the Win8 lock screen? Open the run command box by searching for **Run** [press Win key+R or move the cursor to lower left corner of desktop], right click and select Run in the Quick Access menu. Type **gpedit.msc**, press Enter. The Local Group Policy Editor opens; navigate to *Computer Configuration>Administrative Templates>Control Panel>Personalization* in the left menu. Double click *Do Not Display the Lock Screen* option in the main pane to open a new window. Select the *Enabled* radio button, click *OK*.

. . . that you could master your User Account Controls? Open the charm bar, select the *Search* charm, highlight Settings in the search panel and type **UAC** in the search filed. Select *Change User Account Control* settings from the results, and the UAC Settings window will open. Drag the slider down one notch so Windows 8 won't dim the screen and will notify you only when an app tries to make changes to the system. Dragging the slider all the way to the bottom will disable all notifications.

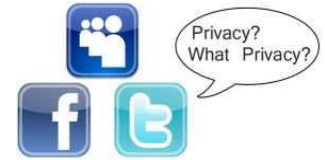
. . . that you could Shut down with a single click by pinning a Shutdown button to you desktop? Create a shortcut on your desktop by right clicking, then go to *New>Shortcut*. Enter **shutdown/s/t0** [zero] as the location of the item, and click *Next*. Name the shortcut [**Shutdown** or whatever you want]; click *Finish*. Next, right click your new shortcut and go to Properties. Choose Change Icon in the Shortcut tab, click *OK* to leave the warning box. Choose an icon from the list. Right click the shortcut again and select *Pin to Start*. Now you can place the icon anywhere on your screen.

. . . that pressing Windows key + E opens Explorer for quick access to folders? ◆



Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

They're working on it. Even now as you are reading this on your computer or some electronic device they're tracking you, they want your data. And they get it. Google and Facebook are out to get all the information there is to get from all over the world, and along with other technical companies they want to harness all the data that is you and sell it right back to you. Sometimes they hold on to it for later use.



Think of the millions of selfies joyfully taken every day. They're not the pictures of olden days to fade away over a period of time. These digital pictures never go away. Children not even a day old are being passed around over Facebook. Parents are creating a Facebook account for their infants. Parents are fashioning a digital presence for their very young children, they are designing digital identities even for the unborn for the world to see and the tech companies to exploit. There's a digital history here and they're working on it.

Maybe there's a hope for privacy. Google Book Search, out to digitize all the books ever written, got into a mess with copyright law. And now Europe's highest court ruled that people had a right to influence what the world could learn about them through online searches. This puts limits on the free flow of information on the Internet. People can now request (Google, for instance) to be "forgotten." Think of it. In Europe you can now shape your own online personas. Here, everything is on our permanent records.

It's a global economy so this ruling is sure to be problematic. For one thing, international legal issues regarding free speech and privacy will cause difficult hurdles. But they're working on it. How will Google handle it? They'll have to do more than just open another office in Paris to handle the requests to "disappear." Can this ruling be enforced? No one seems to know right now, but be sure they're working on it. ◆

The secret word for June is "summer".

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.

Opinions expressed herein are the writers and are not reflective of the MVPCUG, nor are they considered substantiated by inclusion in this newsletter. All articles are copyrighted by their respective authors but may be reprinted by other User Groups provided credit is given to the author and this publication.

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

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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President

Jerry Finkelstein 797-5296
..... president@mvpcug.com

Vice President

Lisa Britt vicepresident@mvpcug.com

Treasurer

Bill Gorrell 853-3256
..... treasurer@mvpcug.com

Secretary

Joe Penabad secretary@mvpcug.com

Directors-at-Large

Vivian Burth ['14]. director3@mvpcug.com
Jim Pease ['15]. director1@mvpcug.com
Dee Pfohl ['16]. director2@mvpcug.com




Our internet presence is at
<http://www.mvpcug.com>

Web Master

Lisa Britt webmaster@mvpcug.com

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jerry Finkelstein president@mvpcug.com
Donna Gorrell editor@mvpcug.com
John Hunter johnhunter@mvpcug.com

what's.coming		~ National Safety Month ~			June 2014	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	4	5	6 D Day	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day 
15 	16	17	18	19	20	21 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	June 7 - National YoYo Day June 9 - Donald Duck Day June 14 - Family History Day June 15 - Day of Prayer for Law Enforcement Officers				

Windows XP has been Retired

*By Gene Barlow
User Group Relations
Copyrighted May 2014*

A major change happened to the Windows Operating System family on April 8, 2014 – Windows XP was retired and will no longer be supported by Microsoft. Since many computer users (20% plus) are still using WinXP, this is a major concern for them. This article will point out what this announcement means to WinXP users and what steps they need to take to better protect themselves from these added risks.

What Does this Change Mean?

You can breathe a sigh of relief; this change does NOT mean that on April 9th, your WinXP computer will stop working. It may continue to work just fine for the next several months or years, especially if you follow my suggestions in this article.

In the short term (a few weeks or months), your computer's safe-guards will probably be compromised and your computer will become the target of Internet attacks by Hackers. Once Microsoft discontinues its effort to correct any weak point in WinXP that Hackers use to gain access to your computer, your computer will become open to all hackers to enter your computer and cause mischief or damage. This is sort of like requiring that any home over 12 years old must no longer lock their doors at night. Now any thief can easily enter your house and steal what they want. Hackers will publish exact descriptions on how to break into WinXP computers and put these guidelines on secret hacker websites. By running crawler bots, the hackers can quickly find all computers still using WinXP and go after them in a mass attack. It will take hackers a few weeks or months to get this attack organized and running. If they miss your computer in this attack, you will be very lucky.

In the long term (many months or a couple of years), you will find that new computer hardware devices and new versions of the computer software that you use will not be supported on your WinXP computer. Making a decision to remain with WinXP means that you have decided to lock yourself in the past and you will not be able to move forward in your hardware or software. Just don't be disappointed when you cannot run that new printer you want or cannot install a new favorite software version on your old WinXP computer.

How to Protect your Computer?

There are several steps you can take to better prevent bad things from happening to your WinXP computer. Here are the most common steps you should consider taking.

Move to a New Computer: Microsoft will continue to support Windows Win7 and Win8 computer Operating Systems for several more years. So, if you still are running an old WinXP computer, now would be a good time to consider upgrading to something newer. Powerful new computers with the latest operating systems are widely available at great prices today. So, bite the bullet and move to a newer computer. While it may take a while to get use to the new computer, once you do, you will really enjoy the new system.

Picking which new computer system to move to requires a choice on your part. Let me offer you some suggestions. Windows 7 computers are stable and very reliable. You can still find companies offering new Win7 computers at great discounts. I would strongly recommend looking at a Window 7 computer to move to. Windows 8/8.1 computers are what you will find mostly in your local computer store. While this is the latest Windows interface available, it is dramatically different than WinXP, Vista, or Win7 computers. This major difference is why many users of Win8/8.1 computers are not happy. I would suggest you avoid the new Win8/8.1 computers for now and find a solid Win7 computer to replace your WinXP.

Making the move to a new computer system involves a lot of steps. Just getting to the new computer will take you some time. Moving the application programs that you use to the new computer can be a lot of work. And, having all of your important personal data files on your new computer is critical to continue using your computer. I wrote a technical paper a couple of years ago that identifies the many ways to move to a new computer system and it points

out the pitfalls and weaknesses of these ways. I end up recommending how best to move from WinXP to Win7 in the article, but this paper applies to moving to any new computer from any old computer. You can find this article at <http://www.ugr.com/nl0511.html>. Make sure you print out this article and follow it as you move to your new computer system.

Disconnect your WinXP Computer from Internet: I have heard many users say they plan on staying with their old WinXP computer, but will disconnect it from the Internet to avoid hacker attacks. Since many of the advantages of using a computer today are to stay in touch with email, Facebook, etc., and browsing the wealth of information available on the Internet. I find those pulling the Internet plug are a bit drastic. There are less dynamic changes you should consider instead of totally disconnecting from the Internet. A few years ago, we connected to the internet with a dial-up connection. The speed of dial-up was very slow and you always had to connect before you could use the Internet. Today, you are constantly connected to the Internet and that means your WinXP computer will be open to hackers 24 hours a day. To reduce this risk, you may be able to plug into the internet only when you need to. Then download your email messages and disconnect. You can compose your replies off-line, and then reconnect to the internet to upload your replies. If you use one of the web email clients, like gmail or hotmail, then this approach will not work. Also, greatly limit the amount of time you browse the internet. Staying under 15 minutes a day connected to the internet is much safer than staying connected 24 hours a day.

Strengthen your Other Internet Security Tools: If you are now going to live with open security doors in your WinXP computer, make sure you have the best other protection in place to protect your computer. Make sure your hardware router is strong and if you use a wireless router, make sure you password protect against those that can access it. You also need a strong bi-directional software firewall to keep hackers out and make sure this firewall is turned on at all times to protect you. Get rid of the limited free anti-virus software you might be using and invest in the best protection software available. Personally, I have used Vipre security software for the past several years and it is a strong product to protect you. If you chose to remain on WinXP, at least get the most powerful Internet protection you can. The free stuff is not nearly as good.

The most important security software that all users should use on a regular basis is a good backup utility. With unprotected holes in your WinXP operating system and even with strong internet security software, hackers can still break into your computer. You will end up with a crashed computer and all of your important files lost. If you do regular backups of your computer to an external hard drive, at least when the attack comes, you will be able to quickly get your system back up and working again. Since you are using a security weakened system in WinXP, you should backup more frequently than normal. A daily backup of your entire hard drive would not be unreasonable to do. This should be an image backup that will backup not just your data files, but your WinXP system and all installed application programs and settings. Disconnect your external backup hard drive between backups so that hackers won't have access to it and destroy your backups. A good backup is the ultimate line of defense against hackers. I highly recommend **Acronis True Image 2014** as the best backup utility available today.

To order **Acronis True Image Home 2014** from us, go to www.ugr.com and select the product you wish to purchase. Once you are on that product's page, click on the appropriate **Buy Now** button to place your order. We charge only \$25 for a single license or \$60 for a three license Family Pack. You can order a download copy or we can mail you a CD with the software on it. (There is a \$5 shipping fee per order if you order the CD.) When checking out of the shopping cart, enter in the special order code of **UGNL0514**. Not only do we provide the best prices for this excellent backup utility, we also give our customers much better support than they will get from Acronis or other distributors.

If you have questions about this article or the **True Image 2014** product, send an email to support@ugr.com and I will try to help you with your questions.