

## Ask the Gurus

It's that time again . . . We generally reserve our first Fall meeting for an ask the guru session. This is the time to bring your questions to the meeting and have a panel of experts on hand to help find the answers to your problems. Again, we are unable to meet on the first Tuesday of the month because the school won't be open. Instead, the meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**, in the Whitesboro HS cafeteria at 6PM.

Once again, Christopher Urban, Lecturer, Computer Science will head the panel of Gurus, and he will be bringing along some of his students from SUNYIT.

Chris presented a program on open-source software at our February 2009 meeting. His primary focus is the practical application of computer information systems (CIS) technology to satisfy real-world requirements. Chris holds an M.S. in Information Systems and an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies. He is a retired career Naval Officer with significant leadership, management, and project management experience, and he has served as a chief information officer (CIO). He has taught at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI.



**THURSDAY, September 9 — 6 - 8:30PM**  
**Whitesboro High School cafeteria**



# 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. 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.

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

### President

Jerry Finkelstein..... 797-5296  
..... [president@mvpcug.com](mailto:president@mvpcug.com)

### Vice President

Lisa Britt..... [vicepresident@mvpcug.com](mailto:vicepresident@mvpcug.com)

### Treasurer

Bill Gorrell..... 853-3256  
..... [treasurer@mvpcug.com](mailto:treasurer@mvpcug.com)

### Secretary

Helen Russell..... [secretary@mvpcug.com](mailto:secretary@mvpcug.com)

### Program Chair

Patricia Bruno..... [director3@mvpcug.com](mailto:director3@mvpcug.com)

### Directors-at-Large

Donna Gorrell ['10]. .... [director2@mvpcug.com](mailto:director2@mvpcug.com)  
Patricia Bruno ['11]. .... [director3@mvpcug.com](mailto:director3@mvpcug.com)  
Jim Pease ['12]. .... [director1@mvpcug.com](mailto:director1@mvpcug.com)

Our internet presence is at

<http://www.mvpcug.com>

### Web Master

Lisa Britt..... [webmaster@mvpcug.com](mailto:webmaster@mvpcug.com)

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jerry Finkelstein..... [president@mvpcug.com](mailto:president@mvpcug.com)  
Donna Gorrell..... [editor@mvpcug.com](mailto:editor@mvpcug.com)  
John Hunter..... [johnhunter@mvpcug.com](mailto:johnhunter@mvpcug.com)

## 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 . . .



The long hot summer is coming to an end and we are going to resume meetings. Boohoo to the end of one season; hurray for the new season.

Since school doesn't open until after Labor Day we can not hold a meeting on our regular meeting night. We opted to schedule the meeting for **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 6PM** at Whitesboro High School Cafeteria.

If there are any changes to this you will be notified by email asap. We do have your current email address, right? If not, better send it to Bill for inclusion in our database. Contact him at [treasurer@mvpcug.com](mailto:treasurer@mvpcug.com). Remember you can have an email with mvpcug.com simply by contacting Bill and giving him the name you wish to use. He can set you up right away and give you instructions on how to incorporate that address into your email program.

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  
M V P C U G  
PO Box 586  
Marcy NY 13403-0586

**Minutes of June 1, 2010**  
 — HRussell, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. There were 35 persons in attendance.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

The club will meet on September 9th , which is on a Thursday. After the Sept meeting the club will resume its regular schedule of the first Tuesday of the month.

Next Bill to give a treasury report covering for the month of 5/1/10 to 5/31/10, to the attending members. Those that are interested in the full treasury report can check either with the secretary or Bill Gorrell.

Next Jerry said that a vote will take place on whether to raise the dues from \$20.00 to \$25.00 yearly, starting Jan.1, 2011. After a lively discussion the members voted, 25 - yeas and six - nays. The measure was approved and passed to raise the dues.

Once again, Bill Gorrell explained how one can add an Email account from the club that can be easily added. Check with Bill by Email or phone.

As of date no one has volunteered to be a Moderator for the forum. If there is no response by Sept than the forum will be shut down and this will include “items for sale” column.

Patty Bruno, our Program Chair, advised the members of the up and coming programs scheduled for the months ahead, as follows:

- Sept - Guru - Ask Questions, Chris Urban, etc.
- Oct - Best Buy, either on iPad or 3-D television
- Nov - Nancy Fasoldt on Facebook
- Dec - Paula Flisnik, Software of the CABVI
- Jan - Guest night for members, TBA

**PROGRAM**

Jerry introduced tonight’s presenter Bill Gorrell. His presentation will be on how to backup your data on the computer. He named some of the devices that can be used such as, external hard drives, flash drives, DVD, etc. Bill gave a list of the several types of

backup programs that can be downloaded from your computer. Depending on how much you want to spend, some were costly and some were free. These backup programs can be a life saver. Nobody wants to lose their important data or photos. Bill showed us how to access these programs and if we should have any problems or need help we can Email Bill at [treasurer@mvpcug.com](mailto:treasurer@mvpcug.com). A fine, useful and important presentation given by one of our own MVPCUG member. Bill Gorrell.

**DOOR PRIZES**

**[furnished with club funds]**

- Flash Drive 4gb. . . . . Gary Virkler
- Pkg. Copy Paper, 8 1/2 x 11. . . . . Bill Wilson
- Memo Pads. . . . . Bill Wilson
- 4X6 Photo Paper. . . . . Rod St. Clair

**[Donated by Que Publishing]**

- Book - M/S Expression Web. . . . . Dave Hartnett

**[Donated by Rod St. Clair]**

- Pkg. Copy Paper. . . . . Bill Gorrell

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.  
 Helen Russell, secretary



**WEBSITES OF INTEREST: PHOTOGRAPHY**

<http://tinyurl.com/2awp6bs>  
 Info on TIFF, JPEG, etc. Old site but contains good info explaining each format.

[www.vividlight.com](http://www.vividlight.com)  
 Vivid Light Photography, a monthly online photo magazine.

<http://tinyurl.com/24sshq9>  
 A Megapixel calculator.

<http://tinyurl.com/arsjtb>  
 A good message board.

<http://tinyurl.com/2c5rgkx>  
 Library of Congress information on the “Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs,” with a table of photographic processes.

<http://tinyurl.com/6ec463>  
 CNET. Great reviews of digital cameras.

## Random Access

—Donna Gorrell

## ORGANIZE YOUR FILES INTO GROUPS

Windows offers a variety of options for organizing folders and files in the ways that work best for you.

## Windows 7

The easiest and most effective way to organize your stuff in Windows 7 is to use file arrangements in your libraries.

You can arrange files in the Documents library by author, for example, or you can arrange the Music library by artist if you're looking for an album or song by a particular band.

To arrange a library

1. In the taskbar, click the Windows Explorer button  
Windows Explorer button.
2. In the navigation pane [the left pane], click a library [such as Music].
3. In the library pane [above the file list], click the Arrange by menu, and then choose a property. For example, in the Music library, you can choose Artist to quickly arrange your music collection by artist.
4. When you arrange your files, Windows doesn't just put your files in a different order. Instead, they are presented in a completely different way. The arrangements work differently depending on which one you choose.

There are four default libraries in Windows 7, each with its own specific arrangements. You can also create new libraries and choose which arrangements are available for them.

## Windows Vista

Open a folder that contains several different subfolders and file types. Right-click any empty space on the window's contents pane, point to Group By, and then click your grouping choice.

## Windows XP

Open a folder that contains several different subfolders and file types. Right-click any empty space on the window's contents pane, point to Arrange Icons By, and then click Show in Groups. To arrange the window's contents, right-click again in any empty space on the window's contents pane, point to Arrange Icons By, and click Name, Size, Type, or Modified [the choices may vary depending on the contents].

## ADOBE FLASH

Whenever you update Adobe Flash, it is advisable to first uninstall the previous version.

1. Download the Flash Player Uninstaller at:  
[http://kb2.adobe.com/cps/141/tn\\_14157.html](http://kb2.adobe.com/cps/141/tn_14157.html)
2. Download the Flash Installers. There are two of them. One for IE and One for Non-IE [this is a plug-in]. Save the appropriate file to your harddrive.  
\* Flash Player 10 ActiveX [Internet Explorer only] at:  
[http://fpdownload.adobe.com/get/flashplayer/current/install\\_flash\\_player\\_ax.exe](http://fpdownload.adobe.com/get/flashplayer/current/install_flash_player_ax.exe)  
\* Flash Player 10 Plugin [All other browsers] at:  
[http://fpdownload.adobe.com/get/flashplayer/current/install\\_flash\\_player.exe](http://fpdownload.adobe.com/get/flashplayer/current/install_flash_player.exe)
3. Close all programs and browsers.
4. Run the Uninstaller that you downloaded in step 1.
5. Re-Boot your system.
6. After re-booting, immediately run the Flash Player Installers you downloaded in step 2.

Flash should be installed on your system.

7. To test the installation. Open Firefox and go to:  
<http://www.adobe.com/software/flash/about/>. You should see the Flash Animation and it should tell you the Flash version information in a little box. "You have version 10,1,53,64 installed". You can also verify your installation by going here:  
[http://kb2.adobe.com/cps/155/tn\\_15507.html](http://kb2.adobe.com/cps/155/tn_15507.html)

If Firefox asks you to install a plug-in, do so; this is the Flash Plug-in. It shouldn't ask, but, if it does, it is okay to install it.

## BOOKMARKLETS

First of all, what are they? *MaximumPC* says, "A bookmarklet is a snippet of JavaScript; a tiny, self contained program that can be stored in a hypertext link and saved as a bookmark. Later, when you click the bookmarklet, the code is executed by your browser and something happens. What exactly happens is different for each bookmarklet."

Read the online version of the August 2010 article at [www.maximumpc.com/bookmarklets](http://www.maximumpc.com/bookmarklets). There are 32 bookmarklets available on the website and you can use any that you'd like.

On page 3 of the lists I found a bookmarklet called *pwnyoutube* which allows you to save YouTube videos. You might find something else that appeals to you, such as *kittenify*. On the last page there is one that might prove valuable to newbies — *acronym and abbreviation finder*. Check it out. ♦

## THIS 'n THAT —Donna Gorrell

Windows7 puts a Windows Explorer Icon on the taskbar for easy access to your folders and libraries. This icon is also useful to use for getting to a favorite folder with only two clicks of your mouse. When you right-click the Icon on the taskbar a “Jump List” appears with folders you frequently access. Left click on the folder and it opens immediately. But suppose you want to have folders permanently on the Jump List. Mouse over the folder you want to remain on the list and click the pushpin icon on the right edge. That folder is now a permanent folder, whether it is used frequently or not. To remove the permanent feature of a folder, just click on the pushpin again.

Do you have a “smartphone”? If so, you may want to read the articles from *PCWorld* at <http://tinyurl.com/ygho8kn> and <http://tinyurl.com/yzfkm76>. Kind of scary when you think of all the things that are happening in the world today. GPS may help you find what you are looking for, but it also may help someone find you.

Speaking of “smartphones”, are you thinking of rushing out to the store to buy a new 4G phone—you know, the latest and greatest? Well, think twice before you spend money on something that might be useless. First of all, do any of us know what 4G and 3G really mean? The “G” stands for Generation of wireless services; and the number preceding it stands for the number of the generation. Got that? Does anyone remember 1G or 2G? Once again the ad men have come up with something none of us really understands, but sounds good, eh what? 4G offers between four and ten times the performance of 3G networks. Sound great, doesn't it? The catch is that very few places offer 4G services. If you live in Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia or Seattle you are lucky—the rest of us will have to wait awhile. And if you do purchase a 4G phone now, you may not be able to make a phone call because 3G and 4G are based on different frequencies. As always, buyer beware of the hype!

Do you have trouble finding that elusive mouse on your screen? I have my mouse setting to Large, but still find that it gets lost at times. One solution that is

common in Win7, Vista, and XP is a feature that will flash the mouse cursor briefly when you press the CTRL key. You can turn on this feature through the Control Panel in XP [Classic View] by double clicking the Mouse Icon, or in Win7 and Vista by typing Mouse in the Start menu Search Field and pressing Enter. When the Mouse Properties windows appears, click the Pointer Options tab, then under Visibility, put a check mark next to Show Location Of Pointer When I Press The CTRL Key, then click OK. If you don't like it, you can always remove the check mark and the mouse will revert to just sitting there waiting for you to find it.

While you are in the Mouse menu, check out the various tabs and see what settings are offered. My mouse has a side button and I have that set for “double-click”; so handy when I need to double click something and am not always as coordinated as I'd like to be. You can change any of the settings to your liking and you can also choose a scheme for your mouse. I use the Windows Standard [extra large] pointer, but there are many other to choose from. Check out the scheme that has a black mouse if you have trouble seeing the white mouse on your screen.

In Windows Vista, you can add folders to Favorite Links in the navigation pane so that you can open them from any folder window at any time. To do this, first open the folder that contains the subfolder you want to add. Then simply drag its icon from the original folder to where you want it in the navigation pane. You can also click Folders at the bottom of the pane and drag a folder from the folder list up into the Favorite Links section of the pane. Note: You can't add individual files to Favorite Links, but you can add them to any folder in Favorite Links.

If you use Windows Live or have a Hotmail account be aware that Microsoft has access to your contacts. In the July 22 issue of the *Windows Secrets Newsletter*, Woody Leonhard of WindowsSecrets.com says, “Now, imagine my surprise when I discovered that the so-called new and improved, privacy-conscious version of Windows Live — the social-networking sphere containing Messenger and Hotmail — continues to share my personal information, even when I explicitly tell it to keep my info and communications private.” Read his full article at: <http://tinyurl.com/255oxa4>. ♦

## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

### Unlimited Texting for Free

We all appreciate a good deal and free makes any deal look good. For those who are addicted to text messaging, but are unhappy with paying telcos for the service, visit [www.TextForFree.net](http://www.TextForFree.net). This site allows you to send and receive free text messages from your PC to any cell phone. At the homepage, you follow simple prompts such as: enter the cell phone number you want to reach; enter a subject heading; and then enter the 140 character text message.

From an extensive list of providers, including all the majors such as AT & T and Verizon, click on the provider the message receiver uses and send your message. The company promises never to share your numbers with spammers. To sign-up, just supply a username, password and your email address.

You can also use this site to send group text messages, multi-carrier texting, and multi-language texting. And all this for free. And no ads to suffer through either.

Iphone owners can also use the following number to identify free texting: 60611. The web site for free texting is [www.textplus.com](http://www.textplus.com). The app works on ipads and Android phones as well. You can download the app for ipads, iphones and all SMS enabled phones. The free app includes advertisements you will have to endure, but there is an ad-free version for sale at the App Store.

Both these services suggest that users can set up twitter-like groups and exchange info all day long. For free. These are good deals since without the app, users pay to receive texts as well as to send them.

### Save Water and Save Money

*Better Homes and Gardens* recently published the following information. For every 1000 square feet of roof, a ½ inch rainfall generates 300 gallons of water. Who knew? To save this free runoff to water your garden, visit [www.BHG.com/rainbarrel](http://www.BHG.com/rainbarrel). The site provides a slide show that shows how to make your own rain barrel using common items and tools. A large garbage can, a power drill and a few plumbing fittings and you're in business. The same page also provides comments from readers who have made rain barrels.

The site will also show you how to screen your

compost heap and find 25 gifts for under \$50. And you thought magazines only published articles. Welcome to the new publishing world.

### Saving More Money

To find a seemingly unlimited number of daily deals, click on [www.dodtracker.com](http://www.dodtracker.com). This site lists daily deals from around the Internet and includes sites such as Amazon.com. But you probably have not heard of many of the sellers. If you are willing to trust to luck you can score big savings such as: a Seiko men's Seiko 5 automatic blue dial stainless steel watch for \$58 + free shipping and handling. Or, check out the page that lists categories such as: computers and electronics, home and jewelry and the all purpose miscellaneous. Deals last from one hour to several days and a handy chart lists the number of items left for sale at these low prices. Good Luck.

### Better Odds than Publishers' Clearinghouse

Ever wondered if you had money coming from someone or somewhere you knew nothing about? To find out if there is missing money in your future, click on [www.missingmoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com). On the homepage, you fill in your first name, last name and state. Then follow the prompts to check to see if your name comes up. The site will list names by last known address and indicate who owes the money and whether it is more or less than \$100. You may be surprised. Check all the states in which you have lived, and check by your maiden name if applicable as well as your current name. You can even check the names of deceased family members.

Another site that provides similar information is [www.unclaimed.org](http://www.unclaimed.org). This site will take you to a homepage that asks for the state and then links you to the state site. Hint: Avoid private companies that want upfront fees to find your money.

### Free Educational Opportunities

This column has listed the free course content provided by MIT. Another source for free study materials is [www.OpenCourseWare.us](http://www.OpenCourseWare.us). In addition to the MIT course materials, this site provides lists of free courses at other universities such as Tufts, Johns Hopkins and Carnegie Mellon. You can also download free books, free images and a plethora of free management courses. There is even a link for free multimedia at [www.ibiblio.org/mutopia](http://www.ibiblio.org/mutopia) that provides free classical sheet music in the public domain featuring Bach, Beethoven, Handel and Chopin.

Until next time . . .



## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that there is an easy way to locate files in a folder? Windows sorts files with characters first, then numerically, and then alphabetically. If you name a file and put a character or number at the beginning, that file will jump to the top of the list. You can use an asterisk [\*], an exclamation point [!], the at sign [@], or a number [such as 01, 02, etc.], then type the name you choose and don't forget the extension. Not sure what that is? At the end of every file name is a period or dot [.] and then [usually] three letters. This is the designation to tell Windows what program to use to open the file.

. . . that you could save a picture or graphic from a PowerPoint file? Normally, PowerPoint files have a .pps extension. You can't right-click and copy an image from that type of file. But, if you rename the file to have a .ppt extension you can open it in PowerPoint and you can then copy any slide you want. Right-click the image and choose Copy. Open up Paint or whatever graphic image program you have and choose insert image from the clipboard. Now you can save the image to your hard drive. Make sure you are not in violation of any copyrights.

. . . that if you want to know who appeared in a movie there is a website for that? [Www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) has all the information that you need. There are photos of your favorite stars and info about current movies along with what's on TV. Great for the movie buff.

. . . that I attempt to verify all the programs, tips or hints in this newsletter? At times, I do not check the tips, either because I don't have the correct operating system [I use XP] so can not guarantee that things will work in Vista or Win7 or because I do not have the time. If you try something and it doesn't work, please let me know. Also, if you try something and like or dislike it, please send me your reasons—let's make this a true members helping members kind of thing. I try to refrain from saying something is wonderful [unless I really think it is] so that you can make up your own mind about the product, program or tip. Your opinions count and you can help out your fellow members by giving your opinions on the things that appear in our newsletter. ♦

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Big news over the summer was the immense success of the iPad. It didn't, however, put Amazon's Kindle to rest. It turns out that the Kindle is a strong competitor. Reports indicate that at the end of this year over six million U.S. citizens will be reading their e-books on the Kindle. A friend of mine has both; he's researching their differences before he decides which one to return. There are real differences (price, weight, screen comfort, selection of books, etc.), you too might want to look into them before you buy.

More and more people are turning to e-books for their reading. Amazon reported they sold twice as many Kindle books as it did hardcover books (June report). It seems that the printed book is going the way of other print media – going, going.....gone?

Other reports this past summer were concerned with the loss of privacy with every click on your computer. Facebook revised their privacy policy without letting its members know about it. An article in the July 25th *The New York Times Magazine* argued the notion of the impossibility of erasing your posted past. Your recent and distant past is ever present to anyone who wants to look at it. Your new found goals, educational plans and plans for jobs and personal achievements are all rendered vulnerable. Right now your PC history is being looked at, evaluated and decisions about you are being made. The article is an interesting and scary read.

Does anyone see a conspiracy in this pattern? Get rid of the print. Go electronic for just about anything, especially now that cloud computing is well on its way. Gotcha. Now we know who you are. And we know where you live. ♦

### Editor's Note:

If Jerry's column doesn't scare you, try reading a book. Not just any book. Download if you must, or go to your local library or book store and get a copy of *The Scarecrow* by Michael Connelly. It's a murder mystery, but the scary part is all about computers. Actually, it has to do with how easily your information can be obtained by hackers and "cloud" computing. Nothing is safe online!





# explorer

## Ask the Gurus

**THURSDAY** ♦ September 9 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ Whitesboro High School



*Autumn*

what's.com/ing ~ National Apple Month ~ September 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 9 — Rosh Hashanah Sept 14 1914 — Star Spangled Banner written Sept 17 1787 — U.S. Constitution approved Sept 18 1947 — U.S. Air Force established			1	2	3	4
5	6 	7	8	9 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM Whitesboro HS	10	11  Patriot Day
12 Grandparent's Day	13	14 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18  Yom Kippur
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26 Gold Star Mother's Day	27	28	29	30	This is also National Honey, Mushroom, Rice, Beef, and Chicken Month.	