

Ask the Gurus

THE PANEL

Dr. Gerard Thomas Capraro founded Capraro Technologies, Inc. [CTI] and is presently its President and Senior Scientist. He is currently an Adjunct faculty member at the L. C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University. Dr. Capraro's related areas of experience include: Space Defense Initiative consultant to RADC for signal processor architectures, software development and satellite autonomy using Artificial Intelligence techniques, program manager for a study of data architectures for very large knowledge bases; Program Manager for incorporating AI in CFAR radar processing; and developed the first design for automating the electronic reliability database on a state-of-the-art database management system for the USAF.

Josh Glassberg is an IT professional. Josh has a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from SUNYIT and works for Capraro Technologies as a System Analyst. Josh powered on his first computer when he was ten and has been addicted ever since.

Christopher Urban, Lecturer, Computer Science at SUNYIT. Chris' 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 US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI.

WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we will pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website [www.mvpcug.com]. [Sometimes on the first page, but not limited to that page, so look around.]

You have until the day of the next meeting to send in your answer. Type the answer and your name into an email and send it to mvpcug@mvpcug.com. A drawing will be held at the main meeting. You need not be present to enter but will be responsible for picking up your prize if your name is drawn. All members are eligible for this prize so send in your entry.

This month's question — who developed the LISP programming language?

Tuesday, September 4th — 6 - 8:30PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



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 New Hartford Library, 2 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.

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

Jim Pease ['12]..... director1@mvpcug.com
Jerry Grega ['13]..... director2@mvpcug.com
David Hartnett ['14]..... director3@mvpcug.com

Program Chair

David Hartnett..... program@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

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 . . .



Hot, hot, hot! Those are not only the words to describe the summer we are having, but words which describe the three men who will headline our Guru panel this September.

Chris, Gerard, Josh have all been with us before and are known to have most of the answers to our questions. Bring all the problems you need help with.

Don't forget to enter the website contest. The answer is not that hard to find as long as you follow the link. Hint: It usually has something to do with the day on which the meeting falls.

Love the T-shirt we give as a prize for the website contest and want to purchase one? Lucky you. We are selling the shirts at \$10 each. We have both medium and large sizes right now. If there is enough interest we will be ordering more.

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

Minutes of June 5, 2011
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 16 attendees, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:00 PM at the MBVT (Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers) facility on 06 June 2012.

Everyone was reminded that club T-shirts are available at \$10.00 each or by entering the web-site quiz and trying for a free one. In the May quiz, only two correct answers were submitted and by random selection, the winner was Don Jennings.

In July and August, the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Sammon of the New Hartford Library, there is scheduled a special interest group meeting on the subject of computer security.

The Treasurer, Bill Gorrell, gave a verbal accounting of May income/expenses. The actual figures for anyone interested are available from the Treasurer and/or Secretary, but will no longer be printed in future newsletters. One expense was questioned: the need for club insurance. How much “shopping around” was made to get a lower rate? Treasurer Bill Gorrell stated that he will do more research when the insurance is due again.

Problems and concerns were addressed by the collective experiences of attendees:

(1) Q. A Windows 7 on a member’s computer indicates it will not support a 64 bit software update.
A. Avenues to explore...manufacturer failure or a security issue.

(2) Q. Member is unable to delete or forward e-mails channeled to his computer in error.

A. Since it sounds as if the computer has been compromised by a virus, it must be purged from the sender's computer or shut down receiver’s computer, restart with a “research”, then hit “delete” when the program comes up with a box for “delete”.

(3) Q. How do you make an old and new password compatible on two different machines, one of which has a *Eudora* program and using the same server.

A. You must modify the *Eudora* program to reflect the new password.

PROGRAM

The presentation on Braille printing was conducted by Nancy Hester, Production Center Coordinator, and

volunteer transcribers, Jane Gwise, Eilene Edwards and Janet Burt. The MBVT was organized in the 1992-'93 era and became associated with CAVBI (Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired). The main effort at MBVT is the generation of Braille Textbooks by request for Kindergarten through High School for approximately 25 states.

A cell in Braille, corresponding to a space in a typewriter or a simple character (eg : a, b, 1, 2, etc.) consists of two columns with 3 dots per column. A standard 11 X 11 inch Braille paper contains 40 cells across and 25 lines vertically; consequently, a 7-page manuscript in English becomes a 44-page Braille document! The MVPCUG was presented with a brief description of the evolution of printing in Braille, from the manual technique through the process of computer software programs used presently. Braille transcription is done in multi-languages, again through the use of dedicated computer programs. To transcribe a typical textbook can take 3 people about 6 months to complete at a cost of about \$800.00.

The MVPCUG extended their appreciation for the hospitality and especially the opportunity to become familiarized with the vital and unsung work being done by MBVT. For additional information and to assist in their volunteer efforts on behalf of the blind and visually impaired, contact Nancy Hester at 797-2233 or e-mail: MBVT@cabvi.org.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Bo Wozniak
- Yellow note pads..... Jerry Finkelstein
- Copy Paper..... Nelson Robinson
- Pens..... Lisa Britt

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

- Memo cube..... Neville Hendrikson

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Penabad, Secretary ♦



Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Another September Rolls Around

As you read this column, September rapidly approaches and the swift slide into fall and winter starts. I hope you had a restful, relaxing summer doing all the things you wanted to do.

To prepare for the long cold nights we face for the next six months, visit bookstore.gpo.gov/. The government printing office site offers many interesting products available for sale. For example, click on Revolutionary War and up pops a list of publications relating to that conflict. These publications include informational posters such as "Philadelphia, 1976" that give detailed info about the city during the war.

Similarly, the poster "London, 1776" provides information about the English capital during the same period. Another publication titled "Mud & Guts: A Look at the Common Soldier of the American Revolution", provides text and drawings of military life faced by the common foot soldier during the conflict.

Additional interest areas found at the GPO include firearms, agriculture, aging and Africa among many others. All publications are modestly priced and some are available as E-books. Another useful service provided by your government. Read on.

2010 Census Factoid

Census data has always been of interest, especially as it documents where we all came from. Click on www.pewhispanic.org/census-2010/. The center tabulated 2010 census data and found that, unsurprisingly, 22.2% of New Yorkers are foreign born. This compares with California at 27.2% and New Jersey with 21.0%. West Virginia appears at the bottom with 1.2% and Mississippi next to last at 2.1%. The site provides a detailed spreadsheet for each state that aggregates data by county.

Locally, Oneida County includes a Hispanic population of 5 percent of 234,878 or 10,819. Anyone for a Spanish language class?

Useful Cell Phone App

Visit smart911.com to download an app that allows you to list information such as medicines taken and personal allergies that first responders can access when 911 is dialed. Local communities pay for this service. Thus, the service is not yet available nationwide. Check locally to see if your home county

supports this system. Good luck.

Senior Money Savers

Many retailers give seniors 55 years and older a discount. For a list of retailers [food chains], visit morewithlesstoday.com/grocery-store-discounts-for-seniors. The list does not include any local supermarket chains, but a call to a local store manager may provide unpublished discounts.

The site also provides lists of free or cheap products such as a top selling Amazon book for free, or a \$2.00 tee shirt. Free store coupons are also available for download, but some retailers refuse to honor some coupons due to the increased availability of forged coupons.

Save at the Post Office

Did you know that the US Postal Service has a special mail rate for books and printed music, CDs and DVDs? The package does not go first class, but the savings are significant. A one pound package sent from Maryland to New Mexico, for example costs, \$5.60 for parcel post, but it only costs \$2.47 for media mail. More bargains can be found at www.aarp.org/

School Lunch Additions

If your child or grandchild attends a K-12 school that participates in the Federal School Lunch Program, the USDA has added fruit smoothies to breakfast and lunch options. Details at fns.usda.gov/cnd/whatsnew.htm.

If your school does not begin offering smoothies in the fall, contact the school lunch manager and refer the district to the website listed above for all the rules. The rules seem easy to comply with and may provide kids with food they are interested in eating.

Whale Alerts

North Atlantic right whales are considered endangered because fewer than 550 are left on earth. Commercial shipping endangers these whales and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] has developed a free app available at <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/protect/whalealert.html> designed to be used in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The app is designed for iPhones and iPads that relays real time information taken from acoustic buoys that pick up whale sounds and report whale locations via satellite.

The app includes a map that lights up with yellow icons where whales were heard within the previous 24 hours so that mariners can plot courses and speeds that keep shipping away from whale areas.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you could alter the *Quick Launch* area of your Taskbar? *Quick Launch* is an area just to the right of the *Start* button. It holds icons for programs that you can click once to start. It's a handy time saver for me as I don't have to look through my program list or search the icons on the desktop. Right click on the Taskbar and choose Quick Launch from the drop down list. Then you can drag any of your program icons to this area. If you have too many icons in this area, some will be hidden and a double row of arrows shows up. You can click on those arrows to show the other icons. One thing I just learned is that you can also move the bar to show more of the icons. There will be either a bar or a vertical row of dots just to the right of those arrows. Hold down your mouse and drag those dots or the bar to the right and you will see more of your icons. If you can not see the bar or dots, your Taskbar might be locked. Right click in a blank area of it and choose *Unlock*.

. . . that there are lots of tips on
[http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/windowstricks.aspx?](http://www.microsoft.com/athome/setup/windowstricks.aspx)

. . . that you can find tips for Excel 2010 and 2007 on
[http://www.microsoft.com/atwork/skills/tipsexcel.aspx?](http://www.microsoft.com/atwork/skills/tipsexcel.aspx)

. . . that you could find articles on just about anything computer related on
[http://www.microsoft.com/athome/index.aspx?](http://www.microsoft.com/athome/index.aspx)

. . . that Facebook posts your location along with your message? Rick Broida of *PCWorld* states that this 'feature' could be turned off. He says, "When you click in the Update Status box, you'll see your closest city listed in the gray bar along the bottom. Mouse over that city and click the little 'x' to the right of it. Presto! No more location information tacked onto your status updates. If you want to restore it, just mouse over the now-blank area where the city used to appear, then click Add current city."

. . . that every week you should do some cleaning? On your PC, that is. Empty the Recycle Bin. Delete temporary Internet files. Clear browsing history. Update antivirus, antispyware, other security software. And most important — Backup your files. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

While the world is waiting for the next Windows PC upgrade, Windows 8, in time for Christmas, I went and did it. An upgrade. For my cell phone. Not so grand, maybe, as an upgrade for a desktop or to an ultra laptop, but an upgrade nevertheless. This is my life we're talking about and I decided to upgrade it to a life with a smartphone. No more the little device dedicated to telephone calls only, those electronic things that are already looking like little dinosaurs. No, it's not an android. Like I said, I went and did it.

It's an iPhone. And I love it.

There are lots of stuff you can do with it – it is, after all, a computer connected to the Net – and there are lots to learn, but your knowledge of working with the PC transfers easily to working with the smartphone. I've only had it a few weeks, I'm still finding it fun to use. I check the NY Times every morning (it's free), Donna won't believe me but I do check my email, do some texting, check the weather to see how hot it is. I've checked on restaurants, I've used the GPS, I've used the dictionary and googled for some information I needed in the middle of a discussion with friends. I've checked the movie schedules at the local movie house (the OD listings were incorrect). I do all this on my home computer. I do all this on my smartphone too, and I don't have to be home or carrying around a laptop to do it. The phone's got two cameras, but I'm not working with them yet. And, oh yes, at times I do use the phone as a phone.

Some complaints. It's size is small, and the fonts on some of the apps cannot be enlarged. The Siri part of it, the voice messaging, is fun, but it doesn't always work properly. Maybe it's me. My voice. Maybe I'm not giving her the message in a way she can understand it. I'm working on it.



So what did I do this summer? I was having fun using my new iPhone. ♦

explorer

Ask the Guru
Tuesday ♦ September 4 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~Self Improvement Month ~ September 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		September 3 - Labor Day September 9 - Grandparent's Day September 11 - Patriot's Day September 22 - First Day of Autumn				1
2 V - J Day	3	4 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	12	13	14	15
16 	17	18	19	20	21	22 
23	24	25  Yom Kippur	26	27	28	29
30						