

Ask the Guru Night

Lisa Britt, our Vice President, and **Bill Gorrell**, our Treasurer, will be on tap to answer your questions. Both of these gurus help members find answers to their problems so don't hesitate to ask your questions or look for solutions to your problems.

When posing a question, try to have all the information ready, i.e., operating system [XP, Windows7 or 8], kind of printer, name of program or app, etc.

Bring a friend to the meeting. Maybe we can help him/her solve a problem and encourage him/her to become a member.



Happy
Labor Day!



WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website www.mvpcug.com. [Usually on the Newsletter page.]

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 meeting. You need not be present to enter but will be responsible for picking up the prize if your name is drawn. All members are eligible so send in your entry.

This month's question — Jack Kilby along with Bob Noyce are considered the inventors of the integrated circuit – what did they prove could exist using this circuit?

Tuesday, September 3rd — 6 - 8:30 PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



explorer

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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, 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

Jerry Grega ['13]. director2@mvpcug.com
Vivian Burth ['14]. director3@mvpcug.com
Jim Pease ['15]. director1@mvpcug.com

Co-Program Chair

Burth. 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 . . .

I am being bombarded with email from Facebook and Twitter lately. I do have a Facebook account because I wanted to keep up with our daughters. However, when they post I get an email telling me what they posted and then a link to that posting. Do I need both? Invites to join Twitter go directly to my trash bin. I do not need to tweet/twitter or pinterst or view a facebook page. I have way too many other things to keep myself occupied. And I doubt anyone is interested in the everyday happenings in my life. If you want to tell me something, send me an email. I usually answer email promptly, which I wish everyone did.



Seriously, do we really need to tweet/pin/face or any of the other things out there? I tried to get a recipe from a magazine that instructed me to go to the website and when I got there I was to sign up for everything under the sun. And why should I give my contacts from Facebook to the Food channel in order to vote for the Next Star? I used to be paranoid, now I'm just plain disgusted.

Phew – thanks for letting me vent!

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 4 June 2013

— Donna Gorrell, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting of 4 June 2013, with 21 people in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:02 PM in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library.

Bill Gorrell gave the Treasurer’s report. Details of which may be obtained from him or the secretary.

Jerry announced that we have permission to use the Sammon room for the months of July and August and that Jerry Grega is willing to do a gaming SIG those months. Jerry Grega then told the group that he intends to set up an intranet for up to 7 players, each to bring his/her own laptop PC and mouse. Jerry will provide the necessary cables, etc. Meetings will start at 6pm.

A question and answer period took up the rest of the time before the presentation started. Richard Eades installed a program but when he tried to use it a note came up giving a file name and error message. A few people said they had similar problems but no one had a solution. Bob Angelhow used his iPad and googled the file name; there were several websites that dealt with this matter so he gave Richard the information.

PROGRAM

Stephen B. Waters, President and Publisher of the Rome Sentinel gave a very interesting presentation on the technology of newspaper publishing. He showed us photos of the original building and equipment that was used in publishing the Sentinel in the early 1900s. He touched upon what a newspaper should be and what is lacking in the education of journalists.

Stephen is willing to answer questions and can be reached at sbwaters@rny.com. He has also written a book, *Individuals, Journalism, and Society*, which should be available soon at Barnes and Noble.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 16 GB Micro SD card. Steve Gorrell
- Pens. Lou Barile
- Photo Paper. Vivian Burth
- Copy Paper. Hart Anway
- Sharpie Pens. Jerry Finkelstein

[Donated by Bill Wilson]

Copy paper. Bill Gorrell

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

Note cube. Don Pianka

Website Contest Winner

MVPCUG T-shirt. Nelson Robinson

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Gorrell ♦

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

An ISP, or Internet Service Provider, is the company that provides internet access between the internet infrastructure and the end consumer. In other words, it is the company you pay to provide “the last mile” of connectivity to your home or business. In addition to providing simple TCP/IP network connectivity, most ISPs also offer an array of peripheral services including email hosting, small personal web hosting, and phone and premium television access, too.

Browser Engine

The browser (rendering) engine is the software component within a given web browser that renders the HTML code of fetched web pages into a human-readable interface. Competing browser companies will frequently tout the benefits of their rendering engine over a competitor’s rendering engine.

Although there appears to be dozens of various browsers on the market, behind their customized GUIs and other superficial tweaks, the majority of them share common browser engines. The Trident browser engine powers Internet Explorer and dozens of other Windows-based applications that need to call web-browser like functionality. WebKit is the browser engine that underlies both Google’s Chrome and Apple’s Safari browsers. Gecko is the Mozilla Firefox Engine and also powers the SeaMonkey browser.

One of the benefits of the browser engine remaining essentially separate from the actual browser GUI is that it is very easy to take the browser engine and incorporate it into other applications. Thunderbird, for example, the email suite published by the Mozilla foundation, uses the Gecko engine to render HTML-based emails. ♦

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

A New Worry

A new scam presented itself recently. AT&T reports that telephone scammers have a new trick; they call unsuspecting people and leave a message that the caller has information concerning a family member and ask that a return call be placed to a telephone number in area codes 809, 284 or 876 from the U.S. or Canada.

If a call is made to these area codes, the caller is billed **\$2,425 per minute**. When connected to these area code phone numbers, a recorded message is played to keep the line open for as long as possible. Should anyone fall for this message, getting rid of the charges becomes a nightmare.

Calls to the local phone company and the long distance carrier will not help as the carriers will not want to get involved and will probably respond that they are simply providing billing services for the foreign telephone company. The 809 area code services the Dominican Republic.

The scam message may also arrive by email so be careful about emails you respond to as well. For more information about this new scam, check it out at: www.snopes.com/fraud/telephone/809.asp.

Military Tries to Save Money

The Defense Department proposes changing the way some service members make telephone calls. DISA official Cindy Moran says the move will enhance the joint information environment connecting war fighters. Users connected to desk phones and computer screens will receive tablets or laptops with telephone applications as part of the provided software.

According to the Department, "An IP telephone to sit on a desktop today can cost anywhere from \$300-\$500 a telephone depending on capabilities . . . directories and what the features are," Moran reported. For telecommuters who need a headset and a \$50 licensing fee for the software, this proposal proves very attractive.

The program will pilot using Outlook Exchange, as well as desktop and phone switches in the next few months. For more information about this initiative click on www.afps@subscriptions.dod.mil. Does this mean that DOD has found SKYPE at last?

Toxic Water Remedies

According to a recent report from the **National Science Foundation**, a professor at The University of South Florida, Norma Alcantar, is using the "flesh" from Prickly Pear Cacti called mucilage to clean up oil and other toxins from water. The Florida engineering professor has spent the last few years confirming something that her grandmother told her years before – that cacti can purify water.

The project goes beyond national boundaries because it involves collaboration with researchers from the University of South Florida, two leading Mexican public universities and the National Institute of the Environment in Mexico. For more information about this research, click on www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/science_nation/cactus.jsp.

More Scams

Another Federal Government website recently reported that a woman contacted the government via **Facebook** to report that a government agency, U.S. Government Grants Department, contacted her and claimed she needed to pay more than \$600 in order to receive federal benefits totaling \$8,000. She paid the money, never received the benefits and asked for help in getting a refund.

The phone call is a scam; the federal grants department doesn't exist, and her money is gone. **The Federal Government will never call or text to ask for money.** Even though the woman wrote down the phone number, the scammer will be hard to trace because of tricks such as **caller ID spoofing**.

Reports of scams may be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov. This agency also provides more tips on spotting fake callers who pretend to be representing the government.

Individuals may also report scams to state consumer protection agencies such as the New York State Attorney General, Consumer Fraud Division with offices in Syracuse and Utica.

Saving Energy

A new website provides consumers with a list of energy star rated products complete with product information. When researching the purchase of a new appliance, click on www.energystar.gov/productfinder. The list contains products from boilers to water heaters with additional product listings promised shortly. You may also sign up to receive notifications when new products are released.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that the @ symbol was first used in its familiar modern usage, sandwiched between the username and domain name of an email address, in 1972?

. . . that you could print a copy of your bookmarks? For IE Favorites, choose File | Import and Export from the menu. For IE7 press the F10 key to display the menu. Click Next, choose Export Favorites, click Next twice, check Export to a File, and select the location and filename for the resulting HTML file. Click Next, then Finish. This results in a HTML page containing all the Favorites, organized in outline form that corresponds to any subfolders within the Favorites collection.

Firefox bookmarks are already stored in HTML form; you just have to find the file. It's located in C:\Documents and Settings\username\Application Data\mozilla\firefox\profiles\peqyknnm.default\bookmarks.html. *Username* is your name and peqyknnm.default is a random folder name. To get a printout, simply open the HTML file in Firefox by launching it and then print it as you would any other Web page. To transfer the selections to another computer, transfer the HTML file using a USB thumb drive, e-mail, or even a floppy disk. Then import it into the other computer's browser.

. . . that the TCP/IP standard, the transmission protocol that underlies the entire Internet, was invented by Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn?

. . . that *StarCraft* was the first PC game to be flown into space? Although *Tetris* has the distinction of being the first video game of any sort ferried into space—it was taken aboard the MIR space station in 1993 by Russian Cosmonaut Aleksandr A. Serebrov — the distinction of first PC game in space belongs to the real-time strategy game *StarCraft*. In the spring of 1999, Mission Specialist Daniel T. Barry brought along a copy of the smash-hit game secured among his personal effects. The game completed the journey with him, traveled a total of 3.7 million miles over 9 days, and was shipped off to the Blizzard offices along with mission patches and signatures from the astronauts aboard Mission STS-96. No word on whether or not the game was played in Earth orbit. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

No end to summer reading, it's still coming at us, the sensational stuff. Reports on digital technology are no longer confined to the PC/digital/electronic papers and magazines. They are now right on the first page of your liberal/conservative/independent daily newspaper and weekly or monthly magazines. It seems that our modern technology makes it easier for people to get into trouble, to lie about it but also easier to be found out. Anyone remember David Petraeus, former director of the CIA? His affair with his biographer was brought to light by email metadata.

This summer's sensation, of course, was Anthony Weiner and his love affair with his smartphone camera. Late night comedians are still telling jokes about him. What exactly did he do to deserve such condemnation? Millions of high school and college students are "sexting" and sending pictures every day. Well, Weiner is an adult, married, a man with political ambition. He's a liar. And he's stupid. And we don't trust him. Maybe he didn't consider that if the director of the CIA can be caught in a lie, anybody can. Didn't he know that *all* our communications leave trails? His issues of privacy on the Internet, apparently, did not conform to reality. I think he should join a computer group in his neighborhood and learn a thing or two.



Edward Snowden, the NSA whistle blower, gave us the biggest technology news of the summer and, as of this writing, new leaks are still being revealed. News, really? Didn't we know that since the Patriot Act was signed Big Brother would be watching us? Facebook does it. Google does it. Copious and minutely detailed records of our lives are collected, stored. If a real person, not a robot or some electronic program, is looking at all these collections, he's got to be bored, bored, bored. On the other hand he may discover another Weiner in the pile and leak it to *The Washington Post* or *The Guardian*. "Yes, world," he will say, "*there is sex on the Internet!*" Right on the front page. ♦



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“Ask the Gurus”
Tuesday ♦ September 3 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Cancer Awareness Month ~ September 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 LABOR DAY	3 Monthly General meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	11	12	13	14  Yom Kippur
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Autumn 	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	September 2 - Labor Day - V-J Day September 8 - Grandparents Day September 14 - Yom Kippur September 17-23 - Constitution Week				