

ASK THE GURU

Our annual September meeting is devoted to answering your questions. Lisa Britt, our Vice President, and Bill Gorrell, our Treasurer, will be on tap to field the questions.

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.



The following appeared in the Chronicle-Express newspaper:

John Hunter is a retired educator who lives in Penn Yan, N.Y. He began working with personal computers in 1982, first using a TRS 80 Model Two and then using IBM PCs with his students in 1983. John's first Internet experience arose during the 1983-84 school year when some of his writing classes started using Compuserve, an ISP which at that time functioned more as a file sharing service than a true Internet provider. Since 2002 John has written a monthly "Places to Visit on the Internet" column for his computer club newsletter. ["Surfin' the Net" on page 4.]

Read his first blog at:

<http://www.chronicle-express.com/article/20140728/BLOGS/307289994/1646>

To read weekly blogs, go to www.chronicle-express.com and look on right side for blogs and choose the community tab.

Tuesday, September 2, 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 of 3 June 2014 was held in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library. Bill Gorrell started the meeting at 6:05 PM, presenting the Treasurer’s Report, which is available from Bill G. or the Secretary, with eventually 23 members in attendance. President and Secretary were initially detained due to circumstances. No other business was discussed.

PROGRAM

Mr. Chris Broedel, owner of the Real Deal Geek Service Company enlightened us with the subject of Windows 8.1 and previous and future iterations. Windows 8.1 from Chris’s standpoint added lots of user interface functionality as compared with previous designs and is quite different from previous Windows designs. Question came up as to how many attendees are using 8.1 or even 8.0, there were very few hands that went up. Rumors appear that the 8.2 version may/will reinstate the Start Menu and some other ideas have been cancelled reason being better to wait for the Win 9.0 version implementation. Chris B. then went thru some good and some forgettable history about the evolution from the various versions Vista, XP, Win 7 and Win 8.

Chris B. stated he feels that when Win 9 comes out it will be something special and spectacular. One item he touched on about Win 9 was that usually Microsoft updates are in the \$200 price range here the Win 9.0 version may be closer to the \$30 range.

The MVPCUG members thank him for his patience and expertise and Chris provided us with contact telephone numbers for specific questions we look forward to hearing from him on the next Windows rumored or real technical break-through.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 20 Pens..... Howard Netzband
- Copy Paper..... Dick Harris
- Photo Paper. Stu Culp
- 4 Pens (BIC)..... Bob Angelhow
- 8 GB SD Card. Ann Brunnett
- 7 Pens (ZGRIP). Don Jennings

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Finkelstein at 7:31 PM. Joe Penabad, secretary



This was a real memo sent out by IBM to its employees in all seriousness. It went to all field engineers about a computer peripheral problem. The author of this memo was quite genuine. The engineers rolled on the floor. Especially note the last couple of sentences.

“If a mouse fails to operate or should it perform erratically, it may need a ball replacement. Mouse balls are now available as FRU (Field Replacement Units). Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, a replacement of mouse balls should only be attempted by properly trained personnel. Before proceeding, determine the type of mouse balls by examining the underside of the mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls.

Ball removal procedures differ depending upon the manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop off method. Domestic balls are replaced by using the twist off method. Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive. However, excessive handling can result in sudden discharge.

Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse may be used immediately. It is recommended that each person have a pair of spare balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction. Any customer missing his balls should contact the local personnel in charge of removing and replacing these necessary items.

Please keep in mind that a customer without properly working balls is an unhappy customer.”

EDITOR’S NOTES:

This summer I discovered a wonderful “school” for users of Windows 8.1. It includes 10 lessons and it is FREE. This is the most helpful series that I have seen so far. Go to: howtogeek.com/school/windows-8-guide/lesson1/

If the link changes and you have a problem, just go to the How-To-Geek website [\[www.howtogeek.com\]](http://www.howtogeek.com) and click on ‘geek school’, then search for Windows8.1.

On their site today I learned about a “Mickey”, the unit of measure for the smallest detectable movement of a mouse in any direction. The length of a Mickey will vary depending on the particular equipment, but generally falls between 0.0039 and 0.005 inches [0.09906 and 0.127 mms].



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!

* * * * *

CPU

The Central Processing Unit, or CPU, is the proverbial brain of the computer. Modern CPUs are made from silicon and have a very high density of integrated circuits etched into silicon wafers.

POWER SUPPLY UNIT (PSU)

The Power Supply Unit (PSU) is one of the most critical components of a computer system. The PSU is responsible for converting the mains AC (the power from the outlet) into low-voltage and properly regulated DC power for the hardware components of the computer can safely utilize. Manufacturing defects in a Power Supply Unit can have catastrophic consequences for the attached hardware.

PLATTER

Hard drive platters are where the actual data is recorded. A platter is a flat disk that spins very fast (anywhere from 4200 to 15,000 RPM) inside the hard drive's metal housing. A hard drive may contain multiple platters as needed to increase capacity.

FORM FACTOR (Computing)

In computing, form factor refers to the specifications of the motherboard and encompasses the physical size, mounting hole pattern, power supply type, the back-panel ports, and other design parameters.

PRIMARY PARTITION

A primary partition is basically the partition used to start an operating system, although modern OS's such as Windows Vista and Windows 7 can be installed on any partition. The boot sector (the sector containing the boot flag) must be located on an active primary partition and only a primary partition may be set as active.

DISK SECTOR

A disk sector is a subdivision of a track on a magnetic or optical disk. Each sector can store a fixed amount of data. When a disk is formatted, it is divided into 512 byte, 2048 byte [2K], or 4096 byte [4K] sectors.

SERIAL ATA (SATA)

SATA is an I/O interface for connecting mass storage devices to a computer's motherboard. SATA was created in 2003 and superseded PATA. SATA offers many advantages over its predecessor including a much smaller cable size, vastly smaller pin count [seven vs forty], faster data throughput, etc.

PCI EXPRESS (PCIe)

A computer expansion bus intended to replace PCI, PCI-X, and AGP. PCIe implements a smaller I/O pin count, smaller physical size, higher data throughput, and more robust scaling, among many other notable improvements.

SOLID STATE DRIVE (SSD)

SSDs are data storage devices which use flash-based RAM to store data persistently, meaning that unlike volatile memory, SSDs retain their contents even when unpowered. SSDs have no moving parts so they are less prone to shock and because they can recall data almost instantly, they are much faster than traditional HDDs.

CDFS

The Compact Disc File System is used for storing data on CDs. It is a standard published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) known as the ISO 9660 standard, which is readable on all popular platforms including Windows, Macintosh, and Linux.

FRAGMENTATION

File system fragmentation occurs when a file system does not store data on a disk in a sequential or contiguous manner. This increases the rate and time at which a hard disk must seek data and thus decreases throughput [the average rate data can be delivered or transmitted]. Fragmentation is common on mechanical hard drives and they must be regularly defragmented. It is not an issue with solid state drives and defragmenting is actually discouraged because it shortens the life of the device. ♦

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



Don't Worry. Be Happy

A popular song included this directive as part of the lyric. But what is happiness and can happiness be quantified? It can according to academics Daniel Kahneman and Angus Deaton. In a 2010 published paper, the two researchers analyzed the correlation between annual household income and day-to-day contentment.

A number of business journals reported that in the study there is a specific dollar amount above which more money has no measurable effect on day-to-day contentment. Researchers found this amount to be \$75,000. The study linked this figure to the well-being that one gets from pleasant or unpleasant life experiences. Individuals may gain overall life satisfaction if household income is higher than \$75,000, but above \$75K there is a point where no amount of money brings additional happiness.

When the authors adjusted for cost-of-living, in some states the happiness benchmark fell below \$75K and in other states the happiness benchmark landed higher. Not surprisingly in states such as Mississippi the happiness benchmark fell at \$65,850. Kentucky, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Alabama also fell below the national benchmark.

New York's benchmark hit \$99,150, The District of Columbia topped \$104,700 and Hawaii came in at \$122,175. To read the entire report visit www.advisorperspectives.com/dshort/commentaries/Happiness-Benchmark.php.

Health Games You Can Play

The Ebola disease outbreak in West Africa comes as close to us as an international airport. What keeps disease away from us is the Center for Disease Control. For game-players the CDC has a new version of its Outbreak app available for Android tablets and cell phones. The free app may be downloaded at Google and the app store.

Become a detective and earn a detective badge if you have what it takes to solve "The Queens Killer" scenario or the "Hiding in Plain Sight." The new release features sound effects and new scenarios, 12 in all. To find out more about the app, click on www.cdc.gov/mobile/applications/sto/index.html. Now, Android users, get your Sherlock on and sleuth away.

Money, Money, Money

If you had to guess which American company was the largest in revenue in New York State or any other state, what would your guess be? In New York, if you guessed Citibank or Bank of America, you would be wrong. Give up?

The answer is Verizon. In Tennessee, Federal Express has the greatest revenue. In Texas, it is ExxonMobil that rakes in the billions. To view the interactive map click on www.broadviewnet.com/blog/2014/06/largest-companies-by-revenue-billions-in-each-state-map/

The location in each state of the corporate headquarters determines which state gets to claim the company. This list may surprise some since a majority of major companies are headquartered in Delaware, at least in theory.

Your Tax Dollars At Work

A study published in the Journal of Medical Entomology and disseminated by The National Institute of Health reports that "Reducing the number of deer in an area can lower the incidence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections among people..." Researchers indicate that by reducing a deer population by 87 percent to a number of 5.1 deer per square kilometer, resulted in a drop of 76 percent in tick population as well as an 80 percent reduction in Lyme disease among residents

To read more about this, visit www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_147275.html.

Another Useful Government Site

Nextgov.com is a website produced for government CIOs and includes technology news of interest to tech types. One post recently described a breathalyzer that can diagnose cancer. According to Raed Dweik, a pulmonary vascular physician at the Cleveland Clinic, "It is like a breath fingerprint that can determine whether a patient suffers from cancer or a number of other diseases like liver disease, asthma and inflammatory bowel disease. Each has a unique signature that can be measured in people's breath."

To find out more click on <http://www.nextgov.com/health/2014/05/breathalyzer-can-diagnose-cancer/84313/>

Until next time . . .



? Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that by using the ALT key and numerical pad [right side of keyboard, or using function key and regular numbers on laptop] there are a lot of symbols that can be used? To type a special character, using an Alt+ keyboard sequence: Ensure that the Num Lock key has been pressed to activate the numeric key section of the keyboard. Press the Alt key, and hold it down [on laptop, also hold the Function Key]. While the Alt key is pressed, type the sequence of numbers [on the numeric keypad] from the Alt code in the table. Release the Alt key, and the character will appear. A full list can be found at:

<http://tools.oratory.com/altcodes.html>.

Character	Sequence
©	ALT 0169 – copywrite
®	ALT 0174 – registered
™	ALT 0153 – trademark
£	ALT 156 – Pound
€	ALT 0128 – Euro
\$	ALT 36 – dollar sign
¿	ALT 168 – inverted question mark
¡	ALT 173 – inverted exclamation
§	ALT 21 – paragraph
¶	ALT 20 – carriage return
†	ALT 0134 – dagger
‡	ALT 0135 – double dagger
...	ALT 0133– ellipsis
ø	ALT 0248 – slashed O
½	ALT 171 – ½
¼	ALT 172 – ¼
¾	ALT 0190 – ¾
%	ALT 0137 – percent
÷	ALT 0247 – division
°	ALT 248 – degree
±	ALT 241 – plus/minus
—	ALT 0151 – ‘m’ dash

. . . that you can you can close an app in Windows 8 by dragging it with your mouse or finger from the top of the screen all the way down to the bottom? As you drag, the app will minimize into a thumbnail, and when you reach the bottom, it will disappear from view. Alternatively, you can still close apps via Alt + F4 and through the Task Manager.

. . . that using Windows key + X opens the Quick Access Menu in Windows 8? ◆

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

The Russians are coming! Quick, call security! Too late, they’ve already arrived.



Early this August splashed across the front page of *The New York Times* was the news that a gang of Russian hackers managed to compile a database of billions (yes, billions) of stolen username - password combinations. It’s the enormity of the hacking job that is especially disturbing. The security experts are saying that if you use the same email and password for sites like PayPal, Amazon or Gmail look out, you may very well be in trouble. They know that the hackers got into 420,000 websites, but they are unnamed, they are not letting that information out. But if you shell out \$120 to a certain security firm they will let you know if you’ve been hacked. As of this writing, mid-August, no one seems to know what the hackers plan to do with this enormous trove of personal data.

Since the reporting of the hack job, articles have cropped up about putting the password to rest as a security measure and consider biometric systems in its place. Like fingerprinting. Eyeball recognition, anyone? Can’t be hacked. They’ve got their own problems, of course, So far, there’s the extra expense of the hardware and software. And they’re not felt to be all that precise. Not yet, anyway. In the meantime, keep changing your passwords. Use more than one. And do not use Password123.

And while we were gone for our Summer break Microsoft announced it was reigning in all the old versions of Internet Explorer. I guess we will always have jokes about the IE, but now we’ll sing some sad songs too. Although IE 6 and 8 still hold quite a bit of the marketshare Microsoft will stop supporting anything that isn’t the current version of IE. If you use IE 10 and the current version is 11 (and it is), you will have to upgrade or “things will start to break down.” It all goes into effect January 12, 2016. With all the groans we’ve heard through the years about IE I’m sure you will all be looking forward to the change. ◆

explorer

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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

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 \$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

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what's.coming ~ Self Improvement Month ~ September 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 	23	24 	25	26	27
28	29	30	September 2 - V - J Day September 7 - Grandparent's Day September 27 - Google's Birthday September 28 - Gold Star Mother's Day			