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## THE MANY FACETS of DRONES

Charles Thompson is the owner of [No Sheep Designs](http://www.nosheepdesigns.com) and has been creating websites for an incredible variety of clients since 2001. Over the years he has developed sites for not-for-profit agencies, municipalities, and businesses in a multitude of sectors. He not only creates the design but does all of the programming ensuring that the finished piece is as functional as it is beautiful.

When many people hear the word "Drone," they think of enemy combatants and foreign nations. There is another definition of the word familiar to a growing number of hobbyists, farmers, and filmmakers around the world. Multi-rotor sales have skyrocketed as people realize not only the multitude of applications to which drones are uniquely suited, but the ease of flight compared to traditional single-rotor helicopters.

As prices continue to drop and new models enter the market at an amazing pace, the FAA is struggling to enact a set of rules governing the use of drones for commercial purposes.

Charles will be discuss, demonstrate, and answer questions about drones.



<p>Tuesday, September 1, 2015 -- 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.          New Hartford Public Library          Meeting Open to the Public – FREE – Bring a Friend</p>
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**MINUTES**

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



The MVPCUG Meeting was held in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library. President Jerry Finkelstein with 22 members and one guest in attendance, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**BUSINESS**

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 5/1/2015 thru 5/31/2015. Details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary.

Donna Gorrell, our Explorer newsletter editor, suggested that anyone wishing to input any articles or bits of information into the Newsletter to contact her.

Q & A period: Bill G. noted for those with Win 7 or 8, 8.1, should be considering to preregister to upgrade to Win 10, scheduled for release by July 29th. It may or may not be free, depending on what version you have. Prices when purchasing, range from \$119 for the Home version to \$199 for the Pro version. He noted some Win 8 versions are not compatible with Win 10 for an upgrade.

Question about how to print a particular document. A death certificate received from Australia, will only print 2/3 of the page. Many techniques had been tried that were suggested by the members but all were unsuccessful. Donna suggested the member send the document to her to work on.

**PROGRAM**

Our speaker, Mr. Bernard Hyman, Oneida Co Asst DA and Prof of Economic Crime at Utica College, was introduced by Jerry F. to speak on the topic of Internet security and fraudulent crime.

He questioned if we had experienced one of the latest scams — when a Pop-up window appears stating “your Computer is now malfunctioning” and requests you call a number to fix the problem.

Who is at risk with the Internet? Bernard’s response is everyone. No matter how well protected you are, there will always be something new coming. One scam he mentioned that has been very successful is the Grandparent Scam. You receive an email from a supposed grandchild asking for money to be wired to him without delay. Our speaker had some general recommendations: 1] always keep your anti-virus software updated, 2] on any Social Media web site, don’t include any credit card info, SSN numbers, or even a street address.

Bernard noted he has a Facebook page, but is

against putting photos of his family on it.

Going on vacation? Don’t give every move you are planning or dates of arrival and departure.

Some of the scams doing the rounds, include: PHARMING—being directed from a legitimate to a fraudulent website by someone inside the legit company you are contacting. Typo squatting—typing into a web site with incorrect spelling, and winding up in a non-legitimate website. He noted some legitimate websites are buying up domain names that are not exact but similar. A member noted he is getting e-mail with his address prefix but the incorrect extension, he does not open the e-mail. Otherwise, this would have possibility of pilfering your address log. Another member noted he received e-mail info about a \$2.5M give-a-way, he answered back that he was forwarding the e-mail to the fbi.gov [a fictitious web site], this response alerts the culprit that he reach a valid web site. SPAM—Getting an e-mail from someone you don’t know or never contacted - delete. If you get something with typos, delete it, if it’s legit it will be sent again or you will be contacted by other means. Never click on any e-mail attachment with just a series of numbers. Spear Phishing—The scammer knows your name, but requests info from you such as account info or names of individuals to verify. Real Estate Fraud—many versions, such as offers for selling your home.

He also discussed what makes a good password: use words and numbers intermixed. Use one password for one site only and the words should not be familiar phrases. Another caution was to stay away from sites with multiple down load buttons, you may wind up some where you don’t want to be. He was in favor of on-line banking, because it gives you an immediate method to monitor credit card and bank statements and can be done at any time.

**DOOR PRIZES**

[furnished with club funds]

- 20 PENS. . . . . Don Jennings
- 15' HDMI Cable. . . . . Fred Cole
- 20 AA Battery Package. . . . . Jerry Finkelstein
- 16 GP Flash Drive. . . . . Bill Brunnett
- 12 Pens. . . . . Jerry Finkelstein
- Copy Paper. . . . . Bo Wozniak
- 3 Roll Tape. . . . . Bill Gorrell

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

18 Colored Pens. . . . . Jerry Grega  
The meeting was adjourned by Jerry F. at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Penabad. ♦

## 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!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **CAB**

CAB [aka Cabinet File or CAB File] is a compression file format from Microsoft that can hold multiple files in a compressed state and is used by installation engines and on software distribution disks.

### **UPS**

UPS [short for Uninterruptible Power Supply] is a battery device or setup that allows a computer or larger system to continue running for a short while in case of an electrical power failure or unacceptable drop in power. This allows work and data to be saved and/or everything to be shut down in an orderly manner.

### **SOFT RESET**

In computing, a soft reset is a software initiated reset of the hardware and software states. The soft reset is started by the operating system (either automatically or at the request of the user) and a set process is followed to shutdown applications, close out system files, and otherwise gracefully bring the system to a halt before starting it up again. Soft resets are preferred to hard resets [which halt all processes on the hardware level and can cause file corruption and system instability].

### **OCR**

Optical Character Recognition [OCR] is the machine recognition of printed characters. OCR software takes a scanned document, photograph, or other digital source that includes printed text, and uses sophisticated algorithms to search out letter patterns in the text, converting it from a non-machine-readable image to a machine-readable [and human-editable] ASCII text. OCR technology is critical for increasing accessibility of printed documents to the visually disabled and in the digitization of old records, documents, and books.

### **Voice over IP [VoIP]**

Voice over IP is an umbrella term that refers to several modern telecommunication systems that encode and transmit traditional voice communications via the TCP/IP networking protocol—in essence, VoIP is telephone over the Internet.

### **FONT**

Traditionally, a font was a specific size, weight, and style of a given physical typeface [style of letters]. In modern computer-based usage, font has come to indicate the style, but not the size or weight, as modern publishing and design applications can easily scale the size and weight of the typeface on the fly.

### **VARIABLE WIDTH FONT**

Variable width fonts are typeface fonts that employ a dynamic spacing system wherein the shape of the letters and other characters are considered when spacing the letters on the line. By this mechanism, a “B” takes up more room than an “I” and the letter “a” in the word “Tan” is nested slightly under the “T”.

In contrast to a variable width font, a monospaced font allots an equal space to all characters and the letter nesting seen in “Tan” does not occur.

### **MONOSPACED FONT**

A monospaced font, or non-variable width font, is a font wherein each character in the font set is given equal spacing regardless of the size and shape of the letter. A common monospaced font is Courier [aka the typewriter font]. Monospaced fonts yield text that takes up more space on the page because there is no mechanism for adjusting the spacing and fitting the letters closer together based on their shape.

### **ROMAN TYPE**

In the context of typography, Roman Type refers to font characters that are straight up and down versus slanted [italic] or blackletter [bold].

### **LISTSERV**

Listserv was one of the earliest and most influential electronic mailing list applications. Released in 1986, the application is still going strong and in wide use around the world. Listserv introduced a wide variety of email list management features we take for granted today, such as automated subscribing and unsubscribing without the intervention of a human list curator, message templates, and spam filtering. ♦

## Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



For a look at Earth from a million miles away click on <http://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/africa-and-europe-from-a-million-miles-away>. The photo shows Europe and Africa. The old cliché of Earth, “the little blue marble,” still applies. Don’t you just love space science?

### Another Cell Phone App

Here is a useful cell phone, tablet or computer app from Google. According to Tech Crunch, Google search now offers an app that will tell you if the restaurant you want to go to is very busy with lines. After performing a search for a restaurant on Google and asking for an address and telephone, Google will now show the “popular times” and business open hours. This app helps you avoid wasted time standing in line when all you want to do is get a Starbucks’ coffee. For more info click on <http://techcrunch.com/2015/07/28/google-search-now-shows-you-when-local-businesses-are-busiest/>. This seems to be a very timely app especially for smart phone users who are in a hurry.

### More NASA Pics

The NASA news service released a picture of the ISS transiting the Moon with six astronauts on board. If you look closely at the photograph, you will see a tiny speck that is the space station. To view the picture go to [www.nasa.gov/image-feature/space-station-lunar-transit](http://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/space-station-lunar-transit). For the record, NASA took the photo on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Woodford, Virginia.

### How to Complain Effectively

Complaints 101. You have an issue with a business or service provider. You are unhappy. What to do? Complaining is a skill just like any other skill, and there are rules to follow and behaviors to avoid. Generally, when you call a business to complain, the person on the other end of the phone is not responsible for your problem and probably does not have the authority to fix your situation. So, even if you are frustrated, be nice. Second, describe the problem and ask to speak to the person who can

help you. If you have no luck, begin a paper trail to use in the future. The government has a sample complaint letter you can use to document your complaint. The format is simple - just put your information in the appropriate boxes. To download the form, visit [www.usa.gov/complaint-letter](http://www.usa.gov/complaint-letter). For more help, visit the FTC or other agency in state or national government that deals with your issues.

### Back to School Tips

Parents, school will begin soon. The feds just listed 10 things you can do to make the start of school easier. The tips page also includes links to other helpful information. Tips include making sure your kids have an updated immunization record and talking to kids about online safety. To read about all the tips click [www.kids.usa.gov/parents/health-and-safety/back-to-school/](http://www.kids.usa.gov/parents/health-and-safety/back-to-school/). Back to school can be hard on kids.

### Adverse School Start Times

The US Department of Education reported that only 18 percent of middle and high schools started at 8:30 a.m. or later. The study says that early school starts prevent students from getting enough sleep. The department blames busing schedules for early start times. According to Ann Wheaten, an epidemiologist at the Center for Disease Control, teenagers need at least 8 hours of sleep to perform adequately in school. To read more click on [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_153980.htm](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_153980.htm).

### Blog News

My blog is now carried by three Gatehouse Media newspapers: The Chronicle-Express, the Corning Leader and the Wellsville Daily Reporter. A new blog comes out every week so encourage the Utica-Observer Dispatch, another Gatehouse Media paper to feature my blog as well. I don’t know where all this will lead, but remember, it all started with the MVPCUG newsletter. Follow me on my blog at [chronicle-express.com](http://chronicle-express.com); look for Blogs, click on *Community*. New every week.

Until next time . . . ♦





## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Word 2013 has a feature called ‘read mode’? You can use print layout, webpage layout and now “read mode” so that you can view documents on devices such as a tablet. This mode adjusts the document according to screen size, not only for text, but images, tables, etc are included. You can page through the document horizontally for better viewing on tablets. NOTE: “Read Mode” is different than “read-only mode”. The “read-only mode” prevents changes from being made to a document in any layout for security purposes. The “Read Mode” is for changing the layout of a document for better and easier viewing. Learn more about it at: <http://tinyurl.com/qhkuw2v>.

. . . that you could turn off the sound in the notification area of Windows10? A notification area slides out from the right side of the computer to tell you when a flash drive is installed, a file is added to a cloud or just about anything Win10 thinks you should be aware of. This is accompanied by a “chime” sound which can be very annoying. To mute the sound click the notification area, then click “All settings”. On the main setting screen, click “System”. Click “Notifications and actions” category. There is a control to “Show app notifications”, which will turn the notifications off or you might want to specify certain apps. To disable sounds you have to go to “the Sound” control panel, then click on “Sounds” tab and you can remove system sounds completely or configure them individually.

. . . that we will be electing officers and a director in December? Most of us don’t want to bother thinking about volunteering for any duties, but think about this little story — This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. It all ended up that everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Will you be an Everybody, Somebody, Anybody or Nobody? ◆



## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Sometime over the summer, while our Group was on vacation and no one was looking, my car, a Jeep Cherokee, was hacked. Well, it wasn’t my Cherokee but it was a Jeep Cherokee. Needless to say I took this bit of news very personally. “They,” the hackers, took control of the car, stopped the moving vehicle dead on the road. My Jeep dealer got the news later than I did but now they’re putting a fix on it and other car manufacturers are addressing this hacking issue. As we learned in our program on security a few months back there is no such thing as being safe. Just not safe and safer. That’s the word, safer.

Browsing through *Slate*, one of my favorite news emagazines, I read of another cyberthreat. This one exposes a vulnerability to smartphone users. It seems your smartphone can be hacked by battery usage. And it’s not a phone they’re getting into, it’s your phone. It’s your battery that’s fingering your identity. And, of course, if your smartphone connects with other stuff - in your office, your home - all that other stuff becomes vulnerable to the hackers as well. Who would have thought – the battery! These are indeed wondrous days we are living in.

Hot off the presses of emagazines too was the announcement of the next coming of the new iPhone, the iPhone S. Due out in early September, or the announcement re the new iPhone will be out in September, there are expectations of “huge” changes. The pre-reviews are focusing on the changes in the use of the screen. There will be a Force Touch, a way you press the screen to deliver a different command. So far, a lot of benefit goes to the sketch artists and photographers. And there’s a huge benefit for gamers. We’ll see, as early September rolls around and the new iPhone is unveiled.

A word for my three favorite emagazines, *Slate*, *Huffington Post*, and *The Daily Beast*. They’re not all political although they cover the political scene, they’re into the news of the day and commentary on what is happening. They’re all into the big news but they report on the small and trivia stuff too.. And it is all free. Just go to their site and start scrolling. All the magazines update their “articles” throughout the day, you don’t have to wait for the next issue for the new news. Just spotted a new article, “100 Wonderful Ways to Live to 100.” Excuse me for a minute, got to read that one. ◆

# 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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what's.coming ~ Self Improvement Month ~ September 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2 - V-J Day September 7 - Labor Day September 13 - Grandparent's Day September 14-15 - Rosh Hashannah		1 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	8	10	11  Patriot Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 	24	25	26
27 	28	29	30	September 18- Air Force Birthday September 23 - Autumn Equinox September 26 - Johnny Appleseed Day September 27 - Gold Star Mother's Day		