



www.ntpcug.org

North Texas PC News

2ND SATURDAY
Microsoft Las Colinas
7000 Highway 161
Irving, Texas

3RD SATURDAY
King of Glory Lutheran Church
6411 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway
Dallas, Texas

September 2010

VOLUME 30 • NUMBER 9

So Who Won the Raffle?

Two-three times each year, we build and raffle-off a desktop or laptop computer to our members using donated resources. The parts are provided by the Texas Center for the Visually Challenged (TCVC), and the hardware configuration and installation of various software titles is performed by one of our illustrious NTPCUG volunteers. Proceeds from each raffle are split between NTPCUG and TCVC.

Each raffle occurs over a two-month period, with the most recent raffle ending at our August meeting (August 21st). The August raffle was for an HP Pavilion Desktop a1630n with 2GB of ram, AMD Athlon 64 X2 Dual Core 2.4 Ghz, a 250 GB SATA II hard drive, CDRW / DVDRW Drive, and other miscellaneous features. The OS was DUAL BOOT - Windows Media Center & Windows 7 Ultimate.

So whose ticket was pulled at the August 21st Business Meeting? The winner was member Joe Wolf. ***Congratulations Joe.***



Winner **Joe Wolf**, Treasurer **Chuck Stark**, President **Bill Drissel**

Many of you may recognize that this is Joe's second raffle win. "What are the odds", you ask? The answer is simple, and at the risk of undercutting Joe's odds in the next raffle, I'll share his secret. Joe "stacked the deck" in his favor by purchasing a lot of raffle tickets.

Joe's win certainly wasn't guaranteed, so there is no question that Joe was being generous in purchasing so many tickets. But in the end, it paid off.

Will you be competing with Joe in the next raffle?

In This Issue ...

Who Won the August Raffle?	1
Prez Sez	2
Monthly NTPCUG Meeting Flyer — Can You Help Distribute?	2
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)	
2nd Saturday	3
3rd Saturday	3
More Patent Wars	6
Kodak sues iPhone, Blackberry	7
News from the Northwest	8
This Month in our History	11
Volunteering	11
Are We about to Enter a Post-PC Era?	12
Emeritus Members	13
Board of Directors	13
Calendar	13
Mailing Address	13

On Saturday, 2010 Aug 21, John Weston, Microsoft Evangelist, showed the North Texas PC Users' Group a video produced by the Microsoft Office Labs. John went to some pains to emphasize that "Everything in the video exists in prototype form; nothing is science fiction." If memory serves me, he made that statement five times before starting the video.

Some of the features (Project Natal) will appear in XBOX by this November. Those same parts will be available for Windows 7 by February '11. Other features are up to seven years away because of high price, inadequate battery technology or inadequate infrastructure (coverage and bandwidth especially). Only one thing in the video was impossible according to John.

There is, according to John, a spray-on material that can convert any non- or slightly-absorbent surface into a display - even a sheet of plastic. Note that there is no use of keyboard nor mouse in the video. Whenever selection is needed, a selector widget is projected on a surface and manipulated with finger gestures.

Use Internet Explorer to look now at: <http://www.officelabs.com/projects/productivityfuturevision/Pages/default.aspx>.

Did you see the "impossible thing"? The airliner scene was recorded in a mockup of the Boeing 787. Boeing says it's "impossible" that any airline in the world is going to give passengers three feet of legroom :-)

Chris Morgan has found that if you go to: <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/presskits/Officesoftwareplusservices/vision.mspx> and select "Microsoft Gives Glimpse Into the Future", then skip forward 21 minutes, you will hear Stephen Elop (Microsoft Business Division President) explain many of the features of the video.

One of our members who helps with the Texas Center for the Visually Challenged noted to John that everything in the video was visual and intended for sighted people - in fact, impossible for blind people to operate. John responded that Microsoft was working in that area as well. He showed us a box that measured about 6" x 8" x 3" thick, saying it was sort of a speakerphone. He plugged it into a USB port ... some fiddling ... then he asked for someone's phone number. Using only voice commands, without a single touch of keyboard or mouse, he dialed his server in Redmond and dictated an email intended for the phone in the same room with us.

The room was actually noisy, and this caused some repeating of commands. After a short delay, a phone in the room rang. The owner was astonished to find

that he had received both a text message **and** a voice message. The software had done a speech-to-text translation of his voice message in addition to sending the voice message itself.

John wound up his evangelism by recounting a tour of Microsoft's San Antonio data center. Under 11 acres of roof, MS houses 3.2 million servers. They are in standard shipping containers, mounted on standard "18-wheeler" trailers. If a server fails, a backup server takes over. When 12% of the servers in a container have failed, all the servers in it are switched to their backups. The trailer is then shipped back to the manufacturer and a fresh container full of servers is put into service. The center is operated by fifty people.

Even hard-core techies like me are impressed with the strides shown in this one hour presentation. I can hardly wait to see what the future has in store for us.

Monthly NTPCUG Meeting Flyer – Can You Help Distribute?

Each month, we send members a flyer listing the upcoming second and third Saturday SIG meeting information. We work to fit it all on one page so it can be easily printed and posted in offices and public areas. It can also be sent by email to family members, friends, colleagues, etc.

With your help we hope to generate increased interest in User Group activities, thereby helping us grow. We rely on members, SIG leaders, Board members and volunteers to share this information with others. We also need you to consider new options beyond the obvious – bulletin boards, etc.

We ask you, our members, to think of places where you can post the monthly flyer and to e-mail it to anyone you know who may be interested.

We try mightily to get this out before the weekend preceding the second Saturday of each month so you have time to "do your thing".

With your help we can grow our Group and reach others who can "Share what you know, learn what you don't."

Where have you sent the September flyer?

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) ...

Sessions with presentations, discussion, and exchanges of information

2nd Saturday

These meetings occur at the Microsoft facility at 7000 State Hwy 161, Building 1. See map at <http://www.ntpcug.org/LocationMapsMicrosoft.html>.

.NET Developers – 9:00 am

Tuc Goodwin
tgoodwin@ntpcug.org

Ongoing Series – Learning C# 2010



At our September meeting, Shawn Weisfeld presented the second in our series. He did record it and will post his presentation and notes on his blog, at <http://www.shawnweisfeld.com/>. You can also find last month's presentation from Dave Stark there.

The book we are using is Teach Yourself Visual C# 2010 in 24 hours by Scott Dorman, ISBN: 0672331012, SAMS Publishing.

Join us in October as we go into Chapter 3 - Understanding Classes and Objects the C# Way.

SharePoint – 11:30 am

Ram Yadav
ram_yadav@hotmail.com



The SharePoint 2010 subject to be determined.

3rd Saturday

All meetings at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBJ Fwy in Dallas (between Preston & Hillcrest, north side of LBJ).

Alphabetically

Building Web Sites — 8:00 am



Bill Parker, SIG Leader
bill.parker@ntpcug.org

presented by Alan Lummus



Howard Lee Harkness will lead the SIG this month around the topic of how to use WordPress as a basic website. Bring your experience, expertise and questions for a lively discussion of all things WP. Alan returns in October.

Digital Photography — 10:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org



Our SIG has the prime objective to take better photographs. Discussions include scanners, lighting, several styles and prices for cameras, and what is likely the best for member's work and enjoyment.

This month we will include background information and practical differences of the photo sensors that have replaced film. These will encounter over a half dozen sizes with three dominant technologies.

Since sensors are made by just a few suppliers, we will find differences in performance between each particular type used in different makes of cameras. This is especially true as highly proprietary and often ingenious software used within the specific cameras for conversion into usable RAW data. The RAW data itself requires proprietary manipulation into standard imaging formats.

Our meetings will always have time for beginners thru advanced users for learning and sharing our digital photo knowledge. Come on in, bring your point-and-shoot or advanced cameras, and let's all enjoy.

Digital Photo Editing Software — 11:00 am

Spike Smith, NCE
harold.smith@ntpcug.org



The Photo Editing SIG is basically a continuation of our Digital Photography SIG in that it continues after the point of image capture and provides any necessary fine-tuning, preparation for albums, and special conditioning for marketing and sales.

Our motto for picture capture, as always, is to make it "right" in the camera. This should provide more time for great picture taking and less time necessary for correcting errors at your computer. Some time with your editor is often necessary when end results vary for the same image – as emailing, collages, bridal albums, and large framed pictures for the hallway. Of course, environmental conditions may force one into editing for optimum results.

Whatever editing we provide, make it tell an even better story.

Members with some fine examples should bring these to a scheduled meeting to show off your masterworks and teach us some new tricks.

Come on in and bring your friends. Volunteer.

Internet — 11:00 am

Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org



Managing Address Books and Distribution Lists

In this session, we'll discuss and demonstrate how Outlook rules can help you filter and control incoming e-mail so that the most important stuff is made prominent, and the routine items are kept from clogging up your Inbox. We'll also look at some Outbox rules that help you avoid sending e-mail that is lacking an attachment, and give you a chance to reconsider what you just wrote.

Investors - 1:30 pm

Gil Brand
gbrand@ntpcug.org



We will have an open Q&A session. Bring your questions and we'll try to answer them.

IT Professional — 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Larry Copeland, Co-SIG leader
Lacopeland2000@yahoo.com
Mark Phelps, Co-SIG leader
eytukan@gmail.com

For the Sept meeting, the IT PRO sig will discuss Best Practices and demo BP Analyzer on Gil's Windows 2008 R2 server in order to show what level of security Microsoft provides out-of-the-box. Also, bring your questions, and we'll try to answer them.

Making Money on the Internet — 9:00 am



Bill Parker, SIG Leader
bill.parker@ntpcug.org
presented by Alan Lummus



Howard Lee Harkness will lead the SIG this month with a presentation entitled: "Clickbank Gravity - less than meets the eye?" As time allows, Howard will also lead discussions around methods of getting back links, including article writing and spinning, and why spinning might be losing its value for link generation. Alan returns in October.

Microsoft Access SIG — 11:00 am



Larry Linson
larry.linson2@ntpcug.org

Jim Wehe
jimwehe@gmail.com



On September 18, Access SIG Co-Leader Larry Linson will continue discussion of creating a

simple Access database application to keep track of data useful in running a small club or organization. This month we will talk about the details of the data needed, and details of the functions the application will provide. Functions provided by the demo application will include: member contact information, membership payments and expiration dates, presentation topics and associated information.

Next month, at the October 16 Third Saturday meeting, we will put it all together and demonstrate the membership database application. Copies of the demonstrated application will be downloadable from the NTPCUG Access SIG SharePoint site. After the demo, we will discuss customizing the application to match the needs of your club, organization, or user group. The sample database will be created in Access 2003, but should run with little or no change in later versions of Access.

On August 21, Larry described the overview of data topics and functional capability needed for the membership database application.

We still need suggestions: We need to know what topics you'd like to hear, see, and learn. Come to the meetings and let's discuss them. Write some down, add your contact information so we can explore details if what you want isn't clear to us, and give it to **Jim or Larry**.

A continuing call for presenters: We want you to show us an Access database you created and use, a tutorial on an Access-related topic, other Access-or Office-related material, or to contact a friend of yours who'd be a good guest speaker. If you need help constructing the presentation, see Jim or Larry – we're not from the government, but we're here to help.

Valuable Prizes: You can download your valuable prize (a copy of the demo database and the PowerPoint presentation) from the Shared Files folder at our NTPCUG Access SIG SharePoint site, <http://sp.ntpcug.org/accesssig/>. They will be posted on meeting day or early in the following week..

For a little more detail on the Access SIG, visit our SharePoint page at <http://sp.ntpcug.org/accesssig/>.

Microsoft Certification SIG - 1:30 pm

Tom Perkins
tomperki@gmail.com

The intrepid CertSIGers will continue with hands-on development of the St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer Information website, concentrating on the creation of tableadapters and ObjectDataSource controls for some of the simpler web pages. If you'd like to experience the creation of a web page in a hands-on fashion, please bring your laptop -- a partially complete solution will be provided. All are welcome! We

meet periodically at the Thrift Store for development sessions. If someone is interested in joining our web site development effort, they can contact Tom Perkins (tomperki@gmail.com) or Jeff Frauenheim (txsystems@gmail.com) for more information.

Questions or comments?

Contact Tom Perkins (tomperki@gmail.com) or Chris Morgan (chris.morgan@ntpcug.org)

Microsoft Excel – 8:00 am

Frank Tubbs, SIG leader
ftubbs@sbcglobal.net

Topic to be announced.

Microsoft Expression Web — 10:00 am

Chris Morgan
chris.morgan@ntpcug.org



Over the summer I have been making enhancements to the NTPCUG website. I've focused on three types of changes. First, a redo of the menu. The existing menu system was generated from Dreamweaver and involved images that were difficult to change. It also acted strange in some browsers. The new menu system is generated by a product called DHTML Menu Builder. At the September meeting I will demonstrate how it generates Javascript code that is inserted into a web page.

Second, I have been adding rounded corner elements. These are produced by a product called Liquid Canvas, which is based on Javascript and jQuery. I'll show how it is added to elements of a webpage to make them have rounded corners and a gradient/shadow look.

The third area has to do with making more content on the home page of the website and show more info about our SIGs. These "teaser" elements link directly to the various areas of SharePoint where more detail is maintained by each SIG leader.

I would welcome any feedback at the meeting for other changes you think we need to do to our site. Come learn about what has been changed and how.

If you showed up at August's meeting and didn't find me, I was listening to the talk by John Weston of Microsoft. He was describing the vision Microsoft has for the future of computing over the next 5-7 years. It was a mesmerizing picture of what is coming. If you haven't seen it, go to www.officelabs.com and see the future.

Powershell – 10:00 - 11:00 am



Larry Weiss
lfw@airmail.net

Gil Brand
gbrand@ntpcug.org



Gil and Larry will share a few of their most recent PowerShell scripts. We welcome others to bring their scripts as well to show to the SIG.

Windows Inside Out — 12:30 pm

Glynn Brooks
glynn.brooks@ntpcug.org



Networking home computers running different versions of Windows

I get a lot of questions about how to make XP computers share files with Windows 7, so in this session we'll discuss what the issues are and how to solve them. If you are having problems in this area, please let me know. I will assist all NTPCUG members to resolve the issues.

Windows Tips & Tricks — 8:00 - 9:00 am



Gil Brand
gb1@ntpcug.org
Chuck Stark
chuck.stark@ntpcug.org



We will have an open Q&A session. As always, if you have a troubled system and want to bring it in, we will use it for a 'live, no net' troubleshooting session. Please contact Gil or Chuck prior to the meeting to discuss.

Wireless Communications — 11:00 am

Birl Smith
birl.smith@ntpcug.org



In September, we will be talking about sources of emergency power and renewable energy you can buy for less than \$500.00.

Word — 9:00 - 11:00 am

This SIG has been suspended pending the location of a new SIG leader. Please volunteer to lead.

WordPerfect — 11:00am - 12:00 pm

This SIG has been suspended pending a new SIG leader. Please volunteer to lead.

More Patent Wars

by Chuck Fiedler

If you remember all the patent suits reported by **Reagan Andrews**, you might find it interesting that the legal front has been relatively calm. Oh sure, there have been a number of skirmishes in the interim, but one gets the feeling that the lawyers weren't raking up quite so much.

Well, the quiet period seems to be over. The August 28th Wall Street Journal reports that Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen says he owns the technology behind the Internet experience such as pop-up stock quotes on a website, suggestions for related reading near a news article, videos along the side of your screen. Allen is demanding that some of the world's top Web companies pay up to use them.

A firm run by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is suing Apple, Google and 9 other companies alleging they are violating patents Mr. Allen financed more than a decade ago.

Allen sued much of Silicon Valley, claiming Internet giants such as Google Inc., Facebook Inc. and eBay Inc. have built their businesses around what he says is his technology.

Allen's suit, filed in federal court in Seattle, asserts those three companies and eight others are using technology developed a decade ago at his now-defunct laboratory in Silicon Valley. While Mr. Allen, didn't develop any of the technology himself, he owns the patents.

Patent litigation in general is on the rise, in what is becoming a lucrative endeavor. Ocean Tomo, a Chicago-based merchant bank that tracks the intellectual-property market, values the licensing market at as much as \$500 billion.

For Mr. Allen, the lawsuit marks new terrain. The four patents named in the suit were developed at Interval Research Corp., a Palo Alto, Calif., lab and technology incubator Mr. Allen financed with about \$100 million during the Internet bubble, but which closed down about a decade ago.

Mr. Allen wasn't available for comment.

"It sounds like the classic patent-troll case," said Mark Lemley, a Stanford Law School professor who specializes in intellectual property and has represented Google and Netflix Inc. in other cases. He said suits filed by holders of years-old patents over technology that's in widespread use can be difficult for a plaintiff to win.

Ron Laurie, a former intellectual property lawyer who now advises companies on patent licensing strategy, said Mr. Allen and his companies have

generally avoided aggressive litigation. "He's not been thought of as being in the troll community at all," said Mr. Laurie, who in past years advised another concern tied to Mr. Allen.

Legal experts said increasingly large settlements for patent holders in recent years have created an incentive for patent owners to file infringement suits, rather than sell intellectual property, even when patents are years old.

One patent allows a site to offer suggestions to consumers for items related to what they're currently viewing, or related to online activities of others in the case of social-networking sites. Accused violators are: AOL, Apple, eBay, Google, Netflix, Office Depot, OfficeMax, Staples, Yahoo, and YouTube.

Another enables ads, stock quotes, news updates or video images to flash on a computer screen, peripherally to a user's main activity. Accused violators are: AOL, Apple, Google, and Yahoo.

Yet another patent allows readers of news stories to quickly locate stories related to a particular subject, among other things. Accused violators are: AOL, Apple, eBay, Facebook, Google, Netflix, Office Depot, OfficeMax, Staples, Yahoo, and YouTube.

Another Microsoft veteran, Nathan Myhrvold, former chief technology officer has thousands of patents and hundreds of millions of dollars in patent-licensing deals from telecommunications companies and others. Mr. Myhrvold's Seattle-based firm Intellectual Ventures patents some of its inventions but also acquires patents to license.

An EBay spokesman said it was reviewing the complaint and plans a vigorous defense. A Facebook spokesman said, "We believe this suit is completely without merit and we will fight it vigorously."

Representatives from Apple, AOL, Netflix, Yahoo, OfficeMax and Office Depot declined to comment. Staples didn't return requests for comment.

Mr. Allen, 57 years old, remains one of the world's richest people. He pledged to give away much of his fortune shortly before filing his patent suit against Google and other Silicon Valley giants.

The suit, filed by Mr. Allen's Interval Licensing LLC, lists violations of four patents for technology that appear to be key components of the operations of the companies—and that of e-commerce and Internet search companies in general. The suit seeks damages but doesn't specify an amount.

Mr. Allen bankrolled Interval Research. At its

peak, the lab employed more than 110 scientists, physicists, engineers, “and was at the forefront in designing next-generation science and technology,” the suit says. The lab’s co-founder David Liddle, a former Xerox Corp. researcher, couldn’t be reached for comment.

Interval Research’s developments included cellular voice-processing technology and motion-detection technology used in games that allows a computer to “see” commands. It also created a “smart” toy called “Red Beard’s Pirate Quest” and later sold the technology behind it to Lego Group.

Work at Interval Research was phased out after plans for commercializing its technology didn’t pan out as expected.

Kodak sues iPhone, BlackBerry

By Chuck Fiedler

What is it that has stirred up so much legal activity lately? Is it possible that many lawyers are coming up against payments on their Ferraris?

According to Bloomberg News, Eastman Kodak, the company that popularized film photography, is trying to gain ground in the digital revolution by using its many patents to target Apple and Research In Motion (RIM).

Among its more than 1,000 digital-imaging patents is one Kodak says entitles it to royalties on every Apple iPhone and RIM BlackBerry with an image-preview camera feature. Kodak is betting the International Trade Commission (ITC) in Washington, DC, will back its complaint and block imports of the smartphones if a payment agreement isn’t reached.

Chief Executive Officer Antonio Perez is using Kodak’s history of innovation to help fund a shift to digital devices as a drop in demand for traditional film products cut revenue by almost half since he took over in 2005. Perez has said the company expects revenue from its intellectual property to average \$250 million to \$350 million a year for the next several years.

“It’s been an important component in getting some cash on the balance sheet,” said James Kelleher, director of research at Argus Research. “They don’t treat intellectual property as a sidebar; they treat it as a core competency.”

Steven Sasson, a retired Kodak engineer who was called as the company’s first witness Wednesday, said the preview feature is used in every digital camera and phone with a camera. Kodak contends it invented the digital camera and has picked other patent fights over the technology.

The Kodak patent in the Apple and RIM case, issued in 2001, is for an electronic camera that can preview low-resolution versions of a moving image while recording still images at a high resolution. Higher resolution requires more processing power and storage space on the electronic device.

“We have had discussions for years with both Apple and RIM in an attempt to resolve this issue amicably, and we have not been able to reach a satisfactory agreement,” said a Kodak spokesman.

A spokeswoman for RIM said the company doesn’t comment on pending litigation. A spokeswoman for Apple, also declined to discuss the case.

The ITC judge’s findings are scheduled to be released in January



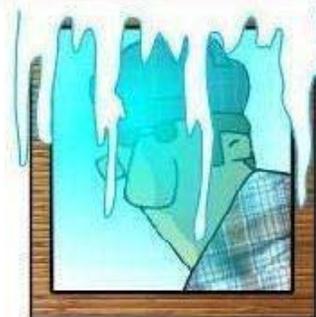
RAM

That thar thang what splits farwood



Hard Drive

Gitten home in the winter time



Windows

Whut ta shut when its cold outside

News from the Northwest

By Teresa Hennig

NOTICES and Events:

Taste of Tech-Ed 2010 -- online conference Wed, Aug 25, 7 - 3 PDT (Aug 2010)

Windows IT Pro community has created a one day online conference with the highlights of Tech-Ed 2010. See videos of Tech-Ed sessions, interviews, vendor demos and more. Sign up for the free online conference at www.vconferenceonline.com/shows/summer10/teched/?CID=EPDedToTEAug10VE_M1

Achieving Server Recovery in Minutes through Virtualization - Web Seminar -

Thursday, Aug 26, 9 AM PDT (Aug 2010)

Read more and register at www.vconferenceonline.com/shows/summer10/achieving/register/multireg.asp?newmem=1&cid=EPDedAppassureAUGWS01_M1

Five Free Online Services to Store, Sync and Share Files - (Itec Article) (Aug 2010)

Howard Wen, of ComputerWorld, reviews five free services that allow you to store, sync and share files.

<http://goitec.com/article.html?a=5-free-online-services-that-store,-sync-and-share-your-files>

Got a Slow PC --- Five Tips to Improve Performance (Aug 2010)

If you aren't ready to replace your PC, you may find other effective measures to recover some lost performance. Tech Republic has a wealth of tips, reviews, articles and blogs. To review this article visit:

<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/five-tips/?p=207&tag=nl.e101>

Windows IT Pro offers Free Fundamentals CDs (Aug 2010)

Register with Windows IT Pro and you can request your CD's ... shipped to you or download for free. Choose from: SQL Server, SharePoint, Exchange & Outlook, and Virtualization. Details at

<http://forms.windowsitpro.com/forms/fundamentals-cds-by-mail?/code=EUWAFundC&elq=ba5eef8b81fc4ca3b0ddf1b85d56f93d>

Microsoft's Visual Studio and Silverlight Launch Conference Sessions on Demand (Aug 2010)

DevPro Connections is offering a free online conference that includes 8 of the launch sessions. Learn about the new features, see great demos and listen to the experts.

www.vconferenceonline.com/shows/spring10/devproconnections/?cid=2ndOnDemand

Windows 7 Test Drive -- and chance to win Toshiba T115 Notebook (July 2010)

Virtual labs let you experience the features of Windows 7 directly through your browser. Videos with step-by-step instructions become a guide and learning tool. Return weekly for additional chances to win a laptop! www.microsoft.com/click/windowstestdrive/itpro

Microsoft Office 2010 Test Drive and Trials (June 2010)

Learn about the new features and benefits in Microsoft Office 2010; watch demos, review some deployment strategies, take a test drive, download trial versions of Office, SharePoint, Visio and SharePoint. http://www.microsoft.com/click/businessproductivity/it_professional/

Microsoft Deployment Toolkit 2010 (MDT 2010) - (June 2010)

A console, tools and guidance to efficiently deploy Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2. Downloads, training, videos and other resources to help you successfully automate deployments and create HyperV environments. <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/solutionaccelerators/dd407791.aspx>

Windows 7 Web Seminars on Demand -- Win- dows 7 (July 2010)

Get tips from the experts, best practices and discussions about common questions.

Upgrading to Windows 7: Why and How? www.vconferenceonline.com/shows/spring10/upgrading-windows7/register/multireg.asp?newmem=1&cid=EPDedHPApr2010WS02_Part5Promo

Windows 7 Migration: Quick Start to the Optimized Desktop www.vconferenceonline.com/shows/spring10/migratingwindows7/register/multireg.asp?newmem=1&cid=EPDedHPApr10WS03_Part5Promo

Hands-On with Windows InTune -- Article from Windows IT Pro (July 2010)

Learn about Microsoft's Windows InTune and how easy it can be to manage PCs via a hosted online service. www.windowsitpro.com/article/commentary/Hands-On-with-Windows-InTune.aspx

Hyper-V Live Migration: a Step-by-Step Guide -- (article from Windows IT Pro)

www.windowsitpro.com/article/windows-server/Hyper-V-Live-Migration-Step-by-Step.aspx

SP 1 for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 -- this fall (June 2010)

Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 are both on the same code base, but the service packs may

differ. SP1 for the server version will include some new features. But, we still have a while to wait as the first SP is typically about one year after the product release, so we may be looking at October. Until then, keep up with the product updates.

SQL Server 2008 R2 RTM (May 2010)

SQL Server 2008 R2 takes data management to “the next generation of computing.” Learn about the new and enhanced features from multi-server management to end-user reporting, watch a video, get links to training and other resources by visiting: www.microsoft.com/sqlserver/tour/en/default.aspx

Database Design Forum - NEW GROUP on the MSDN Community Website (Jan 2010)

Under the SQL Server group, this forum is focused on the database design. The discussions include Access database design. Several of the authors and editors from Teresa’s upcoming book on database design are among the founding moderators and contributors to the forum; including Doug Yudovich, George Hepworth, Jerry Dennison, and me. <http://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Forums/en-US/category/sqlserver>

The New Office Blog -- (Feb 2010)

Providing everything from announcements, videos, community tips and even contests! <http://blogs.office.com/>

Microsoft Access Blog (Feb 2010)

The Official Blog of the Microsoft Access product team! A great source for tips and current issues, including postings from guest writers. Check out the archives and recent posts for an excellent source of ideas and techniques to incorporate into your solutions! <http://blogs.msdn.com/access/>

Employment and Marketing Leads

Elance -- Marketing Opportunity for Access Developers (May 2009)

Microsoft partners with Elance. Expand your reach and opportunities by joining Elance -- the freelance marketplace. Microsoft is providing Access consultants another way to connect with people seeking help with Access projects. Learn more on the **Access blog** <http://blogs.msdn.com/access/archive/2009/03/19/interested-in-making-money-consulting-on-access-jobs-get-started-today-for-free.aspx>.

Ed. Note: There has been less-than-complimentary feedback from some users of Elance. Specifically, they say that no one checks qualifications and that unqualified overseas participants bid impossibly low rates.

DOWNLOADS and Other New Stuff:

For past postings and links, please check www.SeattleAccess.org. In addition to the links posted on the site, you can download previous newsletters and find additional information about events, resources and opportunities.

TLG Learning offers Free Seminars on Office 2010 (May 2010)

Learn about the new features in Office 2010 during 1 1/2 hour instructor lead seminars offered in Seattle and Bellevue. For more information visit: www.tlglearning.com/Courses/SearchResults.aspx?catlist=7.36

For complete list of their free seminars and other training, visit: www.tlglearning.com/Courses/FullSchedule.aspx

Six Free Apps from Microsoft (April 2010)

Visit www.SeattleAccess.org for listing and links.

Paste as Text -- Free Customizable Tool (April 2010)

PureText, developed by Steve Miller, removes rich formatting from text, including the font and paragraph formatting. It does not modify the actual text, remove or fix new-lines, carriage returns, tabs, or other white-space. It is not intended to fix word-wrap or clean up your paragraphs. It is an easy tool to install and to use it just switch from CTRL+V to Windows+V. For more information and the download, please visit <http://SteveMiller.net/PureText>

Data Encryption on the Fly with TrueCrypt (April 2010)

Free open-source encryption software that is easy to use to provide real-time, transparent data encryption. To learn more and download the documentation and software, visit TrueCrypt.org.

Microsoft Security Essentials --- FREE Anti-Virus software - Great Reviews (Oct 2009)

Microsoft Security Essentials provides real-time protection for your home PC that guards against viruses, spyware, and other malicious software. It works with Windows XP (Service Packs 2 or 3), Windows Vista and Windows 7 which goes on sale Oct. 22. Download from: www.microsoft.com/security_essentials

Windows Live Movie Maker (Sept 2009)

FREE ... turn photos into movies, create training and documentation for your solutions!

How about using this and doing a demo for the groups? www.moviemakerpreview.com

Tips and Techniques for Queries in Access 2007 (Sept 2009)

From the basics to advanced topics, Luke provides insights and discusses some of the subtleties that will really make a difference. <http://msdn.com>

microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd638587.aspx

The Basics of Writing and Testing VBA Code Part 1 and Part 1 (Sept 2009)

Learn about code modules, write and call procedures, use variables and even learn the benefits of documenting your code. <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd897495.aspx>

Front Runner SQL Server 2008 & Windows Server 2008 R2 - for Developers and Early Adapters (Update April 2010)

Need to ensure that your programs are compatible with Windows Server 2008 R2 and/or Windows 7? Want to learn more about SQL Server 2008? Check out Front Runner -- the early adapter program. Maybe you are or should become a Microsoft Partner ... learn more and sign up at <http://frontrunner.msdev.com/home.aspx>

Office 2007 Ribbon and Toolbar Overview - (Aug 2009)

Learn about the ribbon and how to create custom groups, controls and toolbars. Regretfully, this Microsoft tutorial only covers Word, Excel and PowerPoint. But, you can always ask for an auto-graphed copy of our book, "RibbonX, Customizing the Office 2007 Ribbon," if you want instructions and examples for Access.

http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/products/FX102774021033.aspx?ION_CL=4048

SecureAble - What can Your Processor do? (July 2009)

This great tool identifies some key features and capabilities of your processor chip, such as the bit length, if the memory can store non-executable files, and how it will support hardware virtualization. Did I mention it is free? Learn more and get the free download at www.grc.com/securable.htm

Community Clips -- Find and Create Help Videos (April 2009)

"Just show me HOW to do it!" How much time would you save if someone would just "show you how" whenever you need just a little help to get on the right path? Community Clips is a great venue for tapping into the vast wealth of expertise and experiences of fellow developers and users. Not only that, but you can SHARE YOUR tips with others by creating and submitting videos. Everything you need for getting started is available through the Community Clips site. <http://communityclips.officelabs.com/>

Access 2003 Solution Center --- (August 2008)

This is a great starting point to find solutions, downloads, current topics and links to the latest updates. [http://support.microsoft.com/?scid=ph;en-](http://support.microsoft.com/?scid=ph;en-us;2509)

us;2509

MSDN – Virtual Labs to Test-drive Code samples (August 2008)

How many times have you seen a code sample but didn't try it out because you didn't have the software configuration or you didn't want to risk unexpected impact to your system? Now there's a simple and convenient solution. MSDN provides virtual labs so that you can try out many of the code samples. Better yet, there's a split window so that people can read the MSDN article in one pane and use a second pane to contain the test environment! <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/cc511327.aspx?pr=flas>

RESOURCE Tips:

A couple of good sites to search for information and programming assistance are www.mvps.org and Office Developer Center on MSDN. And, we've been mentioning the newsgroups. You can search and drill through thousands of threads. Check out <http://www.microsoft.com/office/community/en-us/FlyoutOverview.aspx> for a comprehensive display topics. You may also find what you are looking for by using <http://groups.google.com> or try www.google.com/microsoft.html for Microsoft related pages or by setting multiple search criteria at www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en.

Access Blog – by the Access Team

Stay tuned to the community ... The team shares insights into their schedule, their favorite features, new features and how to use them. This is also an ideal avenue for the team to talk about issues that are of interest to the Access community. You'll learn about the people and some of the factors that are helping to shape the future of Access. Whether you're a seasoned developer or just learning about Access, you'll find invaluable information and techniques. From creating a database template to getting help when you need it, The Access Blog covers the gamut. <http://blogs.msdn.com/access/default.aspx>

Get Help When You Need It – Office Online

Available 24/7 on the Web! The Office Online Web site offers dynamically updated Help and online training as well as downloads, templates, and clip art for new and previous versions of Office. Check this out at: <http://office.microsoft.com/>

Database Issue Checker

Access MVP, Allen Browne offer tips and utilities for casual users through expert developers. The Issue Checker can be used during (Cont'd on page 12) development or to trouble shoot legacy files. Allen's site provides a host of other tips and resources, including a compilation of reserved words. <http://allenbrowne.com/AppIssueChecker.html>

MSDN magazine is available online ...

This Month in Our History

Well, here we are in September already and we seem to have broken the string of 100+ degree days. It's sure nice to have the windows open and to enjoy the sweet Texas air.

This month we'll look into the state of things for the NTPCUG in September 1985 and 1990.

The September 1985 issue presented a number of bylaws changes, not the least of which was dropping the "IBM" from the group name. It was noted that a growing number of PC users' machines no longer were manufactured by "Big Blue" but were built by a variety of foreign and domestic manufacturers and assemblers.

The changes were published over 3½ pages in the form of a ballot which the member could indicate his or her votes, sign and mail to the Secretary or bring to the September 14th meeting.

One advertiser offered a PC XT-compatible machine with monochrome monitor, 256K RAM, and two floppy drives noted at listing for \$1154 on special for \$999. Another advertiser listed an AT&T PC featuring a 29MB hard drive, 256K RAM, one DSDD floppy drive, monochrome monitor and MS-DOS for a mere \$2695.

In 1990, it was announced that NTPCUG membership stood at 1397 members. I have been pleased to see some of the leaders from those halcyon days at our recent meetings, including **Stuart Yarus**, **Fred Williams** and **Jim Hoisington**. There may be others that I didn't recognize.

Reagan Andrews wrote an interesting article titled *Learning to Love PostScript* in which he wrote of methods to add PostScript fonts to non-PostScript systems. How much easier things are today – no need to buy special software or hardware with everything you might want built into Windows.

The Variety Store by **Reagan Andrews** covered the usual panoply of subjects. Windows 3.0 was successfully fending off OS/2 as many buyers were waiting for the release of OS/2 2.0.

Computer prices underwent a significant reduction such that a 25MHz 386 cost less than a 1 MHz 286 a year earlier. He said, "...name a PC maker and I'll guarantee there are 15 – 25% discounts and price reductions available over prices a month ago almost across the board."

Reagan reported that Quantum announced a 425MB 3.5" hard drive for a mere \$1,600. Go to MicroCenter or Fry's and get a **1TB** drive for under \$100. And, as Chuck Stark is fond of saying, modern hard

by Chuck Fiedler
chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org

drives are among the best, failure proof mechanisms available. But as he and others are fond of saying, in due course, the drive WILL fail so backup your system frequently.

I hope you have found this information of interest. If you have reflections to offer, contact chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org and we will consider them for future issues.

A recent article in The Pit Blog consisted of comments by Apple CEO Steve Jobs and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. As one might expect, the two revealed sharply different views on the future of personal computing.

Volunteering

Every board member, officer, chairman, and SIG leader is a volunteer. No one in this organization receives any payment for their work. Without our volunteers, NTPCUG would not exist.

Please consider volunteering for one of these important jobs:

Information Desk — Charles Rem

crem@ntpcug.org

Assist with check-in process at 3rd Saturday. One or more hours will make a difference.

Program Director

Identify and arrange program topics for our vendor presentations.

Mentoring — Tom Sweet

tom.sweet@ntpcug.org

Communicate with new members to ensure they are aware of the benefits, SIG opportunities and help them in numerous ways to feel welcome and to know that we care about them.

Newsletter — Doug Gorrie, Chuck Fiedler, David Franke

doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org
chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org
davef81@gmail.com

Prepare, contribute to and distribute the monthly newsletter.

An excellent, searchable resource. You can check out back issues, download articles and source code. Check it out at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/msdnmag>

A compilation of links to Access Resources

This site provides an impressive array of links to a variety of resources for Access developers and users. www.cbel.com/ms_access/

Conrad Systems Development --- CSD Tools Version 2.0

Jeff Conrad, former Access MVP, and one of the newest members of the Access Test Team, offers an Access Add-In for documenting your database objects. <http://www.accessmvp.com/JConrad/accessjunkie.html>

The Seattle Access site. You will also want to check the Links and Downloads pages at www.SeattleAccess.org

Are we About to Enter a Post-PC Era?

*by Chuck Fiedler
chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org*

A recent article in The Pit Blog consisted of comments by Apple CEO Steve Jobs and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. As one might expect, the two revealed sharply different views on the future of personal computing.

When asked by the Wall Street Journal about iPads eventually replacing PCs, Jobs said he felt that PCs will become 'like trucks' -- some people will continue to use them but most will transition away.

"When we were an agrarian nation, all cars were trucks, because that's what you needed on the farm. As people started moving away from the farm, the car started taking over," adding features such as windshield wipers and automatic transmission.

"PCs are going to be like trucks. They're still going to be around, they're still going to have a lot of value, but they're going to be used by one out of X people."

At that point Jobs, was speaking explicitly about both Windows-based machines and Macintoshes.

"The transformation will make us uneasy because the PC has taken us a long way... We like to talk about post-PC era, but when it really starts to happen it's uncomfortable for a lot of people."

Steve Ballmer sees PC use continuing to grow -- while also evolving into different form factors.

"I think people are going to be using PCs in greater and greater numbers for many years to come. PCs

will look different next year, year after, year after that."

presented sales data for the PC, refuting the idea that the death of the PC is imminent.

According to Windows IT Pro columnist Paul Thurott, "Apple and its CEO Steve Jobs are carefully promoting the iPad as the product that is ushering in the so-called post-PC era. But the facts refute this notion: PC makers are on track to sell more than 350 million PCs this year, and they collectively sell one million PCs every single day. Microsoft sells one million copies of Windows 7 each day and a half. But it takes Apple five weeks or so to sell just one million iPads. Sure, it's a successful business, but it's not replacing the PC..."

"Even the lowly netbook will outsell the iPad dramatically in 2010. Microsoft Corporate Vice President Frank Shaw points to an estimate of 7.1 million iPad sales for this year, though the figure could end being as high as 8.5 million units. But PC makers are projected to sell 58 million netbooks in 2010. These figures refute other recent claims -- baseless, but highly promoted -- that the iPad was somehow eating into netbook sales and would one day replace the netbook. As it turns out, netbook sales -- like PC sales overall -- are actually growing pretty dramatically this year, iPad or not. And another bubble bursts."

Certainly, PCs, Blackberrys, iPhones, Droids iPods, netbooks and other devices will continue to evolve at and deliver ever more futuristic features.

But do you notice the common thread throughout these comments -- they're still tied to the paradigm of discrete pieces of hardware. Oh sure, these will continue to exist for the foreseeable future in one form or another. But a significant paradigm shift is coming and it's not that far off.

At our August 21 ITPro SIG, John Weston of Microsoft showed a now-year-old video demonstrating new approaches to computing that don't involve traditional PC hardware. This video was truly remarkable in showing technology now developed and soon to be marketed. You can see the video at www.officelabs.com.

However, it is safe to assume that a traditional, 'sit at the desk' PC will always find a spot in the future world of personal computing. Writing a manuscript or managing a 2,000 row spreadsheet with a 3 inch smart phone screen or even the new technologies in the video just won't get the job done. Yes, the transition to any practical alternative for certain tasks is further away than we might think but some heady times are ahead of us for communications, presentations and other tasks.

Emeritus Members

John Pribyl (1924 – 1993)
Reagan Andrews (- 2006)
Connie Andrews (- 2008)
Phil Chamberlain
Jim Hoisington
Guy Andrews
Stuart Yarus
Timothy Carmichael
Mark Gruner
David McGehee
Tom Prickett
Kathryn Loafman
Fred Williams
Andy Oliver
Alex Lilly
Doug Gorrie
Claude McClure
Robert McNeil
Gil Brand
Bill Parker
Diane Bentley

Thank you!

from your 2010

Board of Directors and Officers

President: Bill Drissel
bill@drissel.us

President-Elect: Chuck Fiedler
chuck.fiedler@ntpcug.org

Directors: Doug Gorrie
doug.gorrie@ntpcug.org

Jesse Hastcoat
jesse.hastcoat@ntpcug.org

Arnold Krusemark
arnoldk1@juno.com

Chris Morgan
chris.morgan@ntpcug.org

Spike Smith
harold.smith@ntpcug.org

Secretary: Kathy Lee Brown
KathyLeeBrown@live.com

Treasurer: Chuck Stark
chuck.stark@ntpcug.org

Calendar

September

11 9:00 am—Noon **2nd Saturday**
at Microsoft

18 8:00 am—2:30 pm **3rd Satur-**
day at King of Glory

October

9 9:00 am—Noon **2nd Saturday**
at Microsoft

16 8:00 am—2:30 pm **3rd Satur-**
day at King of Glory

November

13 9:00 am—Noon **2nd Saturday**
at Microsoft

20 8:00 am—2:30 pm **3rd Satur-**
day at King of Glory

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 700055
Dallas, TX 75370-0055

Copyright 2010 North Texas PC Users Group All rights reserved.