

— The Databus —
Monthly Newsletter of
The Dayton Microcomputer Association
Volume XIII (New Series) n° 3 (March 2023)



Gary COY:
Spring Cleaning Your PC

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SAVE A TREE (or at least a branch)! If you prefer to print your DATABUS rather than read it directly from a monitor, don't print page 12 unless you wish to become a member or renew your membership.



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(777-3621)

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Your 2022/23 Officers:

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Gary COY

Vice-President

Mike STOCK

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Glady CAMPION

Treasurer

Pat FLYNN

*Officers need not be
Trustees.*

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Pat FLYNN
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Gary TURNER

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Dave LUNDY, †4/13/20

ESTABLISHED IN 1976, DMA is a group of Dayton-area professionals and enthusiasts in the field of computing and digital information technology. General Membership Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of each month. DMA has a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in areas ranging from digital investing and genealogy to the Linux operating system. Each SIG meets according to its own schedule. DMA is a member of the Association of Personal Computer Users' Groups (APCUG) and the Affiliated Societies' Council (ASC). Click on any of the logos—including our own (top left)—to go to that organization's Web site.



Submissions ...

THE DATABUS welcomes compliments, complaints, suggestions, and especially articles. We can accept articles in ASCII, or as attachments in plain text, Microsoft Word, Open or Libre Office Writer, or, yes, even in WordStar (a word-processing program that goes back to about 1980!). Send articles to:

Editor@DMA1.org

All articles are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, usage, and space. Retain a copy of your work, as THE DATABUS cannot be responsible for loss. When articles are of roughly equal quality and importance, those by paid-up DMA members receive preference.

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THE DATABUS is written and published by volunteers. We do not give professional advice on hardware, software, or network installation, repair, security, or troubleshooting. If you need expert assistance or repair for your digital device or network, please seek the advice or services of a qualified professional.

March Meeting: 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, the 28TH
No Driving—No Charge*

* This is a “hybrid” meeting: via ZOOM, but also in person. Come at 6 P.M. if you wish to join us in person for dinner at T. J. Chump’s Restaurant in suburban Huber Heights, next door to the Meijer’s Supermarket. Click [here](#) for a map. The restaurant has free parking. It is also accessible via RTA bus routes 18 and 19, but there is a short walk from the bus stop in the Meijer’s department store parking lot to the restaurant.

GARY COY has a list of tips to share on how to clean the cobwebs out of your PC and boost its performance. Keeping your PC tuned up can add a few years to its useful life.

These tips include things like checking the hard (or solid-state) drive for prob-

lems, making sure the operating system and antivirus are up to date, and removing the clutter from your collection of software. The procedures should be done periodically, but now is better than later. These steps are not complicated. It doesn’t take much time to complete the cleanup, but a well-tuned machine will save you plenty of time and frustration when you go to use the PC.



GARY COY is the DMA President, a Trustee, and also a frequent presenter. He is an IT professional by day and offers computer technical support via his company, “Gary’s Computers” (see advertisement, page 6).

Our meeting starts at 7 P.M. DMA members will receive an invitation by e-mail for Zoom. Others may request an invitation using <http://www.dma1.org/contact-us/> Or ... join us at TJ CHUMPS, 7050 Executive Blvd, Huber Heights OH. If you wish to order dinner, please arrive by 6:15. Click [here](#) for a map.

Minutes of the Trustees' meetings are normally published almost two months late, because the Minutes for, say, the February Board meeting must be approved by the Trustees at the *following month's* meeting. They would then appear in the March issue — this one — of THE DATABUS, published toward the end of the month.

Trustees' meetings are usually on the *first Monday* of each month, except when that day is a legal holiday, for example: Labor Day in September.

During the epidemic, Trustees began meeting via ZOOM. This was so successful that they decided to continue the practice indefinitely. Meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are open to all DMA members. Request ZOOM credentials (that's a fancy way of saying "an invitation") from Secretary GLADY CAMPION at Tuesday's General Membership meeting.

MINUTES — DMA Board of Trustees Meeting of Monday, February 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Gary Coy, via Zoom.

Trustees present: Gary Coy, Suzette de Guzman, Pat Flynn, Ed Skuya, Dave Schwab, Mike Stock, and Gary Turner. Absent: Ken Phelps, Chester Howes. Guests: Mark Camden, Gladly Campion, Edwin Davidson, Stephen Frey, Gary Ganger, and Peter Hess.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President – Gary Coy

The microphone seemed to work well at the January General Membership meeting. We will continue testing it.

Vice President – Mike Stock

No report

Secretary – Pat Flynn, Gladly Campion

Gladly presented Minutes for the January Board meeting. Pat Flynn moved the Minutes be accepted. Mike Stock seconded and the motion passed with Gladly Campion abstaining.

Treasurer – Gladly Campion, Pat Flynn

Pat presented a report for January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

APCUG Representative – Peter Hess

Peter asked that Mike Stock be added to the alias (forwarding) address for APCUG-rep@dma1.org.

Peter contacted the Dayton Business Technology High School (DBTHS) to suggest that we might share speakers. DBTHS is a charter school in Dayton Ohio that offers classes to students in grades 9-12, students aged 18-21, and students over 22 who want to work toward a high school diploma.

Audit – Gladly Campion

In progress

Computer Museum – Peter Hess

Dave Schwab moved that DMA allow (not prohibit) its members to negotiate a fee or honorarium when speaking at non-DMA events. Gary Turner seconded, and the motion passed.

SimplySafe software used at the museum workshop needs to be updated. Mark Camden will look into the details.

—Notice—

Because of confidentiality concerns (for example, anyone could readily discover the financial institutions in which DMA holds its assets), Treasurer's Reports are not published. However, the latest Treasurer's Report is available to any DMA member on request.

(Continued on page 8)

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Have you heard....?

March, 2023

... Compiled by Gladys CAMPION

The last of the Floppy Disks

A surprising number of industries, from embroidery to aviation, still use floppy disks. But the supply is finally running out. When Mark Neece got down to his last four floppy disks at a rodeo in Mississippi in February, he started to worry. Neece travels to horse shows around the state, offering custom embroidery on jackets and vests: "All of the winners get a jacket with the name of the farm or the name of the horse or whatever on it," he says. The only way to transfer designs from his computer to the embroidery machine is by 3.5" floppy disk.

Even though the last major manufacturer of floppy disks stopped making them in 2010, machines that rely on them—from embroidery machines to plastic molding, medical equipment to aircraft—live on, relying on a dwindling supply of disks that will one day run out. The US military employed

the much-older 8-inch floppy disks in its nuclear arsenal until 2019.

Wired.com

Vinyl records outsell CDs for first time in 35 years

Vinyl albums have been making a comeback in recent years, and new data shows that for the first time since 1987, they've outsold CDs in the U.S. market. Just over 41 million vinyl albums were sold last year, generating revenue of \$1.2 billion, according to a report from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Only 33 million CDs were sold, generating \$483 million, according to a report from the BBC.

Digitaltrends.com

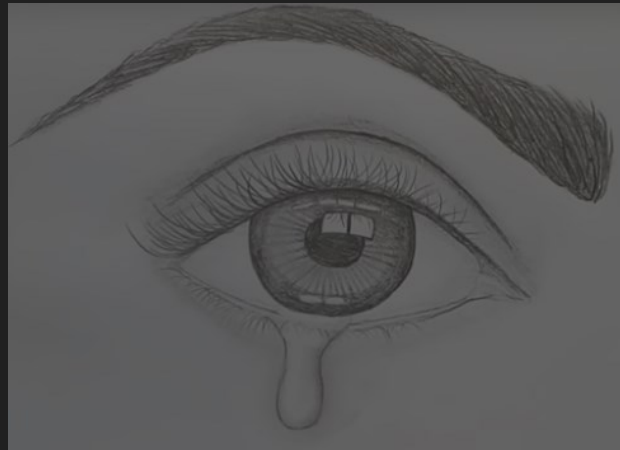
Microsoft bringing Chatbot Technology to Office

Office applications are getting new AI assistants called Copilots.

Microsoft has integrated the GPT-4 and ChatGPT functionality with Word, Excel, Teams, PowerPoint, Outlook, and other apps to enable users to create everything from marketing campaigns and business proposals to slide presentations. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said the new 365 Copilot chatbot will "radically transform how computers help us think, plan and act. "Going forward, we won't be able to imagine computing without copilots and natural language prompts that intuitively help us with continuation, summarization, reviewing, and modifying," he said. Copilot combines a large language mod-

(Continued on page 9)

Amazon has discontinued “Smile” at the end of February. This popular program permitted Amazon customers to have a percentage of their purchases contributed to any nonprofit organization (including DMA). Accordingly, THE DATABUS has discontinued our hyperlink to Smile as of the January issue. However, many *local* businesses, especially supermarkets such as Kroger or Dorothy Lane Markets, have similar programs, and we encourage DMA members to use these.



(FEBRUARY TRUSTEES' MINUTES—Continued from page 4)

Fundraising – Peter Hess

The Amazon Smile program is ending on February 20, 2023.

Membership – Glady Campion

In January, we had 48 Regular, 4 Associate, 0 Student, and 5 Lifetime members, for a total of 57. There were 20 in attendance for the January General Membership meeting, 12 who attended in person.

Door Prizes: Matt Rizer won the Tynika large mouse pad gaming mat with non-slip base and RGB edging. Ed Skuya chose the digital antenna. Pat Flynn took home the Bone Conduction headphones. Chester Howes picked up the 4 port USB-C hub. And Eric Ottoson grabbed the PS5 Charging dock.

Web site Team – Mark Camden, Pat Flynn, Glady Campion, Gary Turner

The Web site continues to be up and running. No attacks have been reported. Mark responded to a request for help from one DMA member.

Programs – OPEN!

January – Gary Coy will be hosting his annual “Tech Stuff we got for the Holidays.” Please bring your latest gadget with you to the meeting.

Suggestions for future meetings:

The Tarnished Side of Cryptocurrency; Fiber Internet; Touchless security from Evolv Technology and how they spot threats such as concealed weapons using digital sensors. Also suggested were: Installing Linux on a Google Chromebook, or running Linux on the Windows subsystem for Linux (WSL), or installing Windows on a Linux Virtual Machine.

Publications – Martin Arbagi

The DATABUS was posted for January

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wright State Archives – Martin Arbagi, Glady Campion

Still in progress

Vanity Call Sign K8DMA – Dave Schwab

DMA has held an amateur radio vanity call sign (K8DMA) for many years, but it expired in March of 2022. George Ewing is listed as the trustee. Working with George, Dave Schwab applied for a renewal and is waiting for a response.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023. We will continue to use ZOOM.

List of DMA accounts – Glady Campion

Still in progress

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Flynn moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Dave Schwab seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
GLADY CAMPION,
Secretary

(HAVE YOU HEARD?/DIGITAL WHISPERS—Continued from page 6)

el (LLM) with the 365 suite and user data. Through the use of a chatbot interface and natural language processing, users can ask questions of Copilot and receive human-like responses, summarize online chats, and generate business products. "The user is always in control as the author, driving their unique ideas forward, prompting Copilot to shorten, rewrite or give feedback."

Computerworld.com

\$250,000 Prize

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, it destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Among the artifacts uncovered from the famously ossified ruins are the Herculaneum papyri, a collection of more than 1,800 bundles of scrolls carbonized by the intense heat of the explosion. Discovered in 1752, but too fragile to read, hundreds of the remaining scrolls have since been digitized. And while scientists have virtually unrolled them using x-rays, the ancient texts remain unreadable. Enter the Vesuvius Challenge. . Former GitHub CEO Nat Friedman and Cue co-founder Daniel Gross, in partnership with University of Kentucky computer science professor Brent Seales, are offering \$250,000 in prizes to the first team to read an unopened Herculaneum scroll.

All participants receive the same resources, including 3D x-ray scans of two unopened Herculaneum scrolls, and "the current best tools and techniques" for virtually unwrapping scrolls. The first team to read four passages from two intact scrolls—will win the prize.

Pcmag.com




Do you have an interesting news item related to digital technology you'd like to include in future columns? E-mail it to Editor@DMA1.org.

DMA Calendar of Events, 19 March through 22 April 2023.

(Click anywhere on the calendar, then scroll down for a fully updated version at our Web site.)

DMA Events for Mar 19 – Apr 22, 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 19	Mar 20 <i>First Day of Spring</i> 	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24 Python Self-Study Noon, Online See http://d8ndl.org	Mar 25 
Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28 MAIN MEETING 7:00pm Online -AND- TJ Chumps 7050 Executive Blvd Huber Heights	Mar 29	Mar 30 ...	Mar 31 Python Self-Study Noon, Online See http://d8ndl.org	Apr 1 <i>April Fools Day</i> Classic Computers 3:00pm By phone
Apr 2	Apr 3 DMA Trustees 7:00pm Online	Apr 4 <i>404 Day</i> 404 ERROR Page Not Found	Apr 5	Apr 6 Genealogy SIG 6:30pm Online gen-sig@dma1.org	Apr 7 Python Self-Study Noon, Online See http://d8ndl.org	Apr 8 SBC SIG 2:00pm DARA Clubhouse 6619 Bellefontaine Huber Heights
Apr 9	Apr 10 Network SIG 6:00pm Conf Rm Wlmgtn-Stroop Library 3980 Wilmington	Apr 11 <i>Pi Day</i> Investment SIG 7:00pm Online investment-sig@dma1.org	Apr 12 Dayton Dynamic Languages 7:00pm Innovation Hub / online http://d8ndl.org	Apr 13 NASAC 6:00pm Hustead Fire Station 6215 SpringfldXenia/Rd Springfield	Apr 14 Python Self-Study Noon, Online See http://d8ndl.org	Apr 15 <i>Hardware Freedom</i> Classic Computers 3:00pm By phone
Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18 <i>World Amateur Radio Day</i> 	Apr 19	Apr 20 Linux SIG 7:00pm 348 Russ Eng Wright State Univ. Colonel Glenn Hwy Beavercreek	Apr 21 Python Self-Study Noon, Online See http://d8ndl.org	Apr 22 <i>Earth Day</i> 

ABOUT THE DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATION, Inc. (DMA)

By Peter HESS, DMA President, 2018-2020

ALMOST FIFTY YEARS AGO, a small group of computer enthusiasts from the Dayton, Ohio area gathered around a kitchen table looking at, and playing with, an early personal computer called the Altair 680 that one of them had purchased. This computer had been featured earlier on the cover of the January 1975 issue of *Popular Electronics* magazine. Paul Allen had shown the selfsame article about the Altair to Bill Gates, and later, they wrote software together for that computer. Still later — and still together — Allen and Gates founded the Microsoft Corporation.



Shortly thereafter, those Dayton-area computer enthusiasts joined with many others to form THE DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATION (DMA), now one of the oldest (if not *the* oldest) continuously operating computer user groups in the world. Typically, computer user groups, and the newer iteration, technology user groups, are volunteer-run operations. The DMA is an all-volunteer led, organized, and run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Now, there are hundreds of computer (or technology) user groups in the world, all of which continue to foster improved communication between technological equipment and software publishers, and users of their products. User groups (both computer and technology) provide an environment where more experienced technology users introduce additional and advanced techniques to novices.

DMA offers both monthly General Membership Meetings, which cover new and innovative topics including a wide range of generic technological topics, and its Special Interest Groups (SIGs) which address concerns about specific technology interests. There are eight different SIGs sponsored by the DMA, covering such topics as the Linux operating system, various programming languages such as Python, the use of technology to investigate genealogy, and digital aids to investing. Neither SIG members nor attendees at DMA General Meetings need be members of the parent organization, though they are encouraged to join so DMA can continue providing its services to the public.

Annual dues for DMA membership, which have not been raised for decades, are \$25 for Regular Members, and \$12.50 for Family/Associate Members (someone living at the same address as a Regular Member). Nonvoting Student Memberships are *free* to students through age 22. Door prizes at General Meetings, picnics, banquets, and other DMA events, and a variety of both product and service discounts are available to all DMA members.

... TDB

Dayton Microcomputer Association Membership Form

Today's date ____/____/____

NEW Please credit the DMA member who recruited me: _____
 RENEW Contact information below is new Y N

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR
 Name _____ Home / Work (____) ____ - ____
 Email _____ Mobile Phone (____) ____ - ____

ASSOCIATE Family Associate membership is for a family member living at the same address as a Regular member. Name of Regular member: _____
 Name _____ Home / Work (____) ____ - ____
 Email _____ Mobile Phone (____) ____ - ____

STUDENT Free Student membership is available to those under 22 years of age, enrolled full-time in a program of higher education. Name of School: _____
 Name _____ Home / Work (____) ____ - ____
 Email _____ Mobile Phone (____) ____ - ____

Home Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____

INTERCHANGE

Skills & interests you might share with DMA _____
 What you hope DMA will provide _____

SHELL ACCOUNT A shell account on the DMA web server provides file storage, hosting of a personal non-commercial website, @dma1.org email alias (forwarding address), all for a one-time fee of \$10. A username must be 8 alpha characters. The usual default is last name and first initial, no caps or punctuation. DMA reserves the right of final decision on all usernames: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

DUES AND FEES

Regular membership	\$25.00 x <input type="checkbox"/> 1yr <input type="checkbox"/> 2yr <input type="checkbox"/> 3yr	\$ _____
Family Associate membership	\$12.50 x <input type="checkbox"/> 1yr <input type="checkbox"/> 2yr <input type="checkbox"/> 3yr	\$ _____
Student membership	FREE	\$ 0.00
One-time setup fee for Shell account	\$10.00	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

**Note: \$10.00 fee will be charged for any returned checks*

Make your check payable to: **Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc**
 Mail check and application to: **PO Box 4005**
Dayton OH 45401-4005
 Or use Paypal to send your payment to: **membership@dma1.org**

DMA use only

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