



MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Denny's Restaurant
3315 N. Scottsdale Road (at Osborn)
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Meeting times:

Date: Thursday, October 11, 2007
Networking begins at 6:30 PM
Dinner begins at 7:00 PM
Program starts at 8:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

Every era has its own hot issues. I remember that, a few years back, whenever our organization would host a talk about the Internet or Web development, the place would be packed. These days the hot topics are "green" technologies and energy conservation. At our last meeting, Shields Fair's talk about Alter-Air, his environmentally friendly air conditioning system, generated a good deal of interest.

Anybody who's interested in learning more should plan to attend the Tenth Annual Green Building Expo, which will be held at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. This event will focus on products and services that support energy sustainability in homes, businesses and schools. The

keynote speaker will be Ed Mazria, an internationally-recognized architect and author of the well-known book, *The Passive Solar Home*. All events at the Expo are free and open to the public. More than 6000 people are expected to attend.

This is a topic that isn't going to go away soon. I believe that increasing global demand, as well as the troubles in the Middle East, will continue to push up energy prices. Even if you're skeptical of the media-generated hoopla about humanity's effects on global warming, green technology is still a good investment. If it involves saving money, I'm in favor of it.

Speaking of saving money, next month's talk will address the issue of more efficient use of computer resources. Austin Godber is a computer expert with experience in computer networking and security. He'll be speaking about virtualization, a technology that allows a single computer to simultaneously run different operating systems. You could, for example, run Windows on a Linux machine, Linux on a Macintosh, or even different versions of the same operating system. It's going to be an interesting talk. See you there!

Vaughn

EDITOR 'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

I guess Vaughn was a bit spoiled by last month's issue getting out early. Unfortunately, one of the reasons I didn't get started on it a couple of days ago was I went to the Green Building Expo. It was good!

I might mention that if you know anyone who is interested in taking the Mensa test, October 20th is "National Testing Day", and locally the tests will be given at the Mesa Public Library – Main Branch, 64 East First St., Mesa. Please see www.phoenix.us.mensa.org/testing for more info.

I had been having problems with slow network access speed, and it had been getting more and more annoying. It had gotten down to a whopping 0.5kB/sec download speed. I finally started some investigations, swapping equipment around, and noticing that whatever wireless router was closest to my firewall machine was having the activity light on the "wire" side constantly flickering. Believing that the

wireless router might be going dead, I swapped it with another (I have three in use) and got the same results. Then it dawned on me that the four-port switch was no longer doing anything useful in the current configuration, so I removed it from being between the firewall and the wireless router, and *voila*, I'm now getting download speeds (through the wireless routers) on the order of 167kB/sec for files around 1.8meg. Guess it's time to retire that old switch!

Off on a totally different tangent, I happened to come across a very interesting report on using LEDs as light *sensors*. It turns out, apparently, that an LED also behaves as a photodiode, and in applications with a microprocessor, it's fairly simple to use an LED that is normally pulsed to measure ambient light when in the "off" state (e.g., in the backlight LED for a remote control), or to use a single LED as both transmitter and receiver in a low-speed communications link. Mitsubishi Electronics Research Labs has an interesting report the idea at www.merl.com/publications/TR2003-035

See you Thursday!

Clark

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IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network October Meeting: Virtualization - One Computer, Multiple Personalities

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Time: Networking begins at 6:30 PM

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Abstract:

Computer expert Austin Godber will give a presentation on Virtualization. This technology allows the creation of "virtual computers" which can run different operating systems than the host computer. This is useful for better utilization of hardware resources, as well as testing, migration, disaster recovery, and more. Godber has a degree in Physics from ASU. He has experience in computer networking and security, and currently works for the server software company Jump Box.

For more information, contact Vaughn Treude, vaughn@nakota-software.com, or see the IEEE PACN website, ieeepacn.com.

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