

The Databus

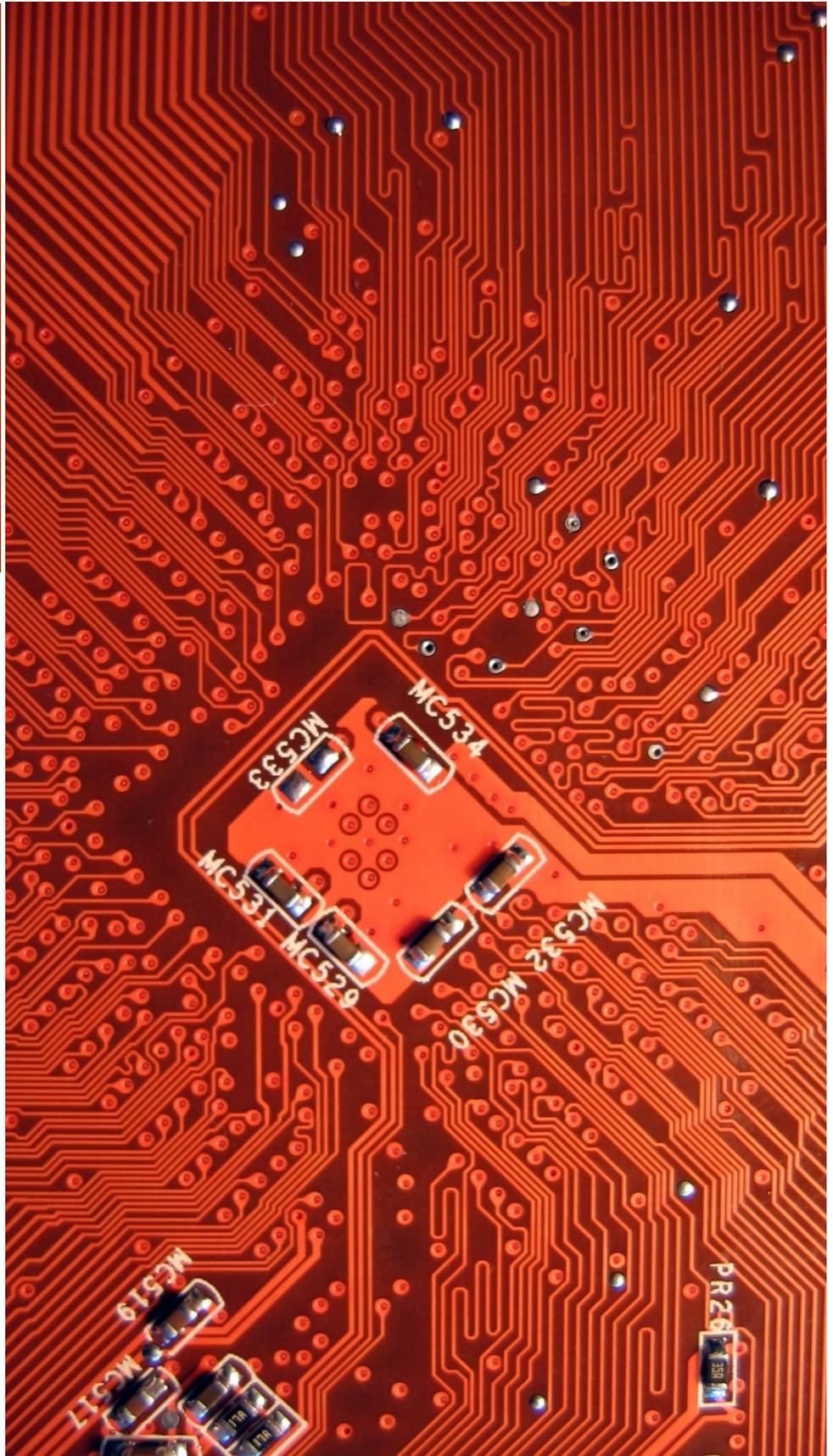
Newsletter of
THE DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATION

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Save a tree (or at least a branch)! If you prefer to read THE DATABUS as a “hard” (paper) copy and don’t need the Membership Form on page 12, *don’t print it.*

Volume IX
(New Series)
Number 3
March 2019





Post Office Box
4005
Dayton, Ohio
45401

Visit us at:

DMA1.org

Your 2018/19 Officers:

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Pater HESS

Vice-President

Patrick CRAIG

Secretary

Pat FLYNN

Treasurer

Glady CAMPION

Officers need not be Trustees.

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Gary COY

Glady CAMPION

Patrick CRAIG

Pat FLYNN

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Brent KERLIN

Debra MCFALL

Gary TURNER

Webmaster:

Brent KERLIN

Webmaster Emeritus:

Dave LUNDY

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 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.



An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups



Submissions ...

THE DATABUS welcomes compliments, complaints, suggestions, and especially articles. We can accept articles in ASCII, or as attachments in Microsoft Word or Works, Open Office Writer, Word Perfect, or, yes, even WordStar (a word-processing program that goes all the way back to about 1980!). No PDF files, please. Send articles to:

Editor@DMA1.org

All articles are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, usage, and space. Always retain a copy of your work, as THE DATABUS cannot be responsible for loss. When articles are of roughly equal quality, those by paid-up DMA members usually 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, please seek the services of a competent professional.

***MARCH MEETING:** 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, the 26th, at T. J. Chump's, 7050 Executive Boulevard, Huber Heights 45424 (next door to Meijer's —click [here](#) for a map). Come at 6:00 P.M. if you want to join us for dinner. There's plenty of free parking. (Also accessible via RTA bus routes #18 & 19, but you must take a short walk over from the Meijer's supermarket.)*

Free parking—No charge—bring a friend!

MARTIN ARBAGI:

Investing for Nerds

The advent of the Internet and the World-Wide Web launched an information explosion of almost thermonuclear proportions. The Web has become our most important reference tool, as well as the source of nearly all our news. We've also become accustomed to getting much, if not most, of this information free.

Investing is no exception. Investment Web sites have proliferated. While most of these offer their free data as a “teaser” to tempt visitors into the paid portions of the site, the free information available is by no means trivial.

At March's meeting, MARTIN ARBAGI, leader of DMA's Investment Special Interest Group (SIG), will discuss four free Investment sites, [Investopedia](#), [Seeking Alpha](#), the “Dividend Aristocrats” list of [Dividend.com](#), and finally, [FinViz](#). He'll spend most of his time on FinViz, exploring this apparently complex but actually surprisingly simple and easy-to-use site. The emphasis will be on stocks rather than bonds or other securities, and on *free* information rather than data available only to paid subscribers.

Martin is longtime DMA member and Trustee, and a retired professor of Mediæval history at Wright State University—don't forget, stocks were *invented* in the Middle Ages! His presentation is free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

Additional information on the Dayton Microcomputer Association, and its many Special Interest Groups (SIGS), is available at <https://www.meetup.com/Dayton-Microcomputer-Association-Meetup/events/>



THE DATABUS apologizes for an error last month. No Minutes were printed in the last issue because there was supposedly no quorum for the January Trustees' meeting. It was actually the *February* meeting for which there was no quorum! Trustees MARTIN ARBAGI and GARY TURNER were absent. Martin had cataract surgery early next morning, and Gary was at the Ohio State University Medical School's Hospital for tests.

Minutes of the January meeting are printed below.

Time and place of the next Trustees' meeting will be announced at the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday (the 26TH). Trustees' meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. and are open to all DMA members. The Trustees often meet for dinner beforehand at a nearby restaurant that will also be announced at Tuesday's meeting. Whether Trustees will dine out, or if it's a "bring your own sandwich" meeting, will also be announced. Those wishing to dine with the Trustees should come at 6:00.

MINUTES—DMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting of Monday, January 7, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Peter Hess.

Trustees present: Martin Arbagi, Patrick Craig, Pat Flynn, Peter Hess, Gary Turner. Others: Mark Camden.

Excused: Gladly Campion, Gary Coy.

Absent: Brent Kerlin, Debra McFall.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President – Peter Hess

- ✓ Peter is talking to Debra and Brent about their trusteeship duties.
- ✓ Peter tried to talk with The Dayton Foundation but no one was available.
- ✓ He is asking the Trustees to provide a list of examples of how DMA benefits the community.
- ✓ He is putting together a survey and will publish his President remarks in THE DATABUS.

Vice President – Patrick Craig

- ✓ Patrick has been in touch with APCUG and received a video on how to improve a user group like DMA. They sent him a video on revitalizing user groups.
- ✓ As liaison to the SIG groups, he attended the Linux SIG. Gladly mentioned she had trouble connecting with the Apple SIG and the Oracle SIG is still trying to reboot.
- ✓ Patrick agreed to put together and maintain an equipment inventory.
- ✓ He is working on Diode insurance payments.

Secretary – Gladly Campion

Gladly presented the Minutes for the previous board meeting. Pat Flynn moved the Minutes be accepted. Patrick Craig seconded and the motion passed with Gladly abstaining.

Treasurer—Pat Flynn

Pat presented his report.

REPORT ON THE
NEXT PAGE



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(MINUTES—Continued from page 4)

Pat, Gladly and Peter will be added to the accounts on February 4.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit – Gladly Campion

On hiatus until Jan 1

Fund Raising – Peter Hess

Peter wants the board to work harder on balancing our books; bringing in enough funds to at least equal our expenses and project costs. No luck talking to 5th/3rd Bank.

Membership – Gladly Campion

No report.

Net Administration Team – Ken Phelps, Gary Turner, Pat Flynn, Brent Kerlin

No problems to report. Pat Flynn updated the Meetup site. Brent setting up a development site.

Peter wants all passwords put in a safe deposit box for safekeeping. The Web site needs to be archived somehow.

Programs – OPEN!!! We NEED to find a Programs chair!!!

- ✓ January – Gary Coy will talk about Toys we got for Christmas
- ✓ February – Pat Craig will do a talk on Scientific computing.

Other suggested topics: Chromebooks, Bitcoin and Block chain, InitiativeQ.com, Internet Architecture; Smart Home technologies;

Publications – Martin Arbagi

The December DATABUS has been posted.

Marketing– Ed Skuya, Gary Coy, Pat Flynn, Peter Hess, Patrick Craig

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wright State Archives – Martin Arbagi, Gladly Campion

Still in progress

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be 7:00 P.M. on Monday, February 4, 2019 [EDITOR’S NOTE: The February meeting was the one for which there was no quorum, due to illness and other problems.] at the Fairborn Fire station #2, 2200 Commerce Center, Fairborn. Those who want to join us for dinner should meet between 6:00 and 6:30 at the Fire station. This is a “Bring Your Own Fast Food Night.”

The Fairborn Fire station #2 has been reserved through December 2018. Gladly will renew.

Summer Picnic – Martin Arbagi

Gladly is preparing the final report.

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

Fifth Third Checking	\$7,219.10
Fifth Third Savings	11,247.30
Pay Pal	85.16
TIAA CD	5,208.71
Wright-Patterson Credit Union Savings	5.00
WPCU Checking	1000.03
WPCU Money Market ...	3,998.97
Dayton Foundation ...	<u>+90,241.30</u>
Total	\$118,955.57

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(MINUTES—Continued from page 5)

Community Service

Peter Hess is working on details of a scholarship with Wright State University.

Holiday Dinner – Gladys Campion

We have a reservation for Wednesday, December 5, 2019, at T.J. Chumps, in the Patio.

NEW BUSINESS

APCUG 2019 Virtual Technology Conference

These conferences are held quarterly. The next is scheduled for February 9.

Survey – Peter Hess

Peter is preparing a survey for our membership to gauge their interests, expectations, and suggestions.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH/QUARTER/YEAR

Martin nominated Gladys Campion for volunteer of the quarter. Patrick Craig seconded. Motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Neither Martin Arbagi nor Gary Turner will attend the February meeting. Gary will be undergoing tests, and Martin has cataract surgery scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Pat Craig moved to adjourn at 9:02 P.M. Martin Arbagi seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patrick Flynn,
Acting Secretary
(in the absence of Gladys Campion)

Help DMA by using Amazon's "Smile" program!

AMAZON, the Internet's largest retailer (if you haven't noticed, Amazon isn't just for books any more!) has a "Smile" feature whereby Amazon donates a percentage of almost any purchase you make to a selected nonprofit organization. There is *no* extra cost to you. Click [here](#) to learn more or [here](#) to go directly to the sign-up page. Be sure to put DMA down as the beneficiary of your purchases.

—Printer Problems—

By David KRETCHMAR, Computer Hardware Technician, Sun City Summerlin Computer Club, NV

January 2019 issue, *The Gigabyte Gazette*

www.scscc.club/Tomburt89134 (at) cox.net

PRINTERS ARE THE MOST PROBLEMATIC piece of computer equipment, next to the computers themselves. Just like computers, you can't live with them and you can't live without them. Even if you've decided you *can* live without a full computer and have moved to a tablet or maybe just your smartphone, there are still going to be occasions when you want to have a "hard" (printed) copy of a document. Also, with the multi-functionality of most printers today, most of us have gotten used to the convenience of having a photocopier, scanner, and maybe even a FAX machine in our homes.

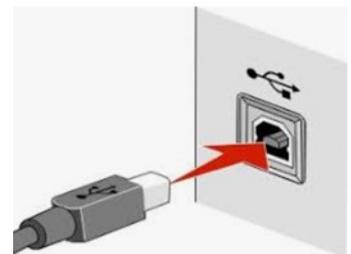
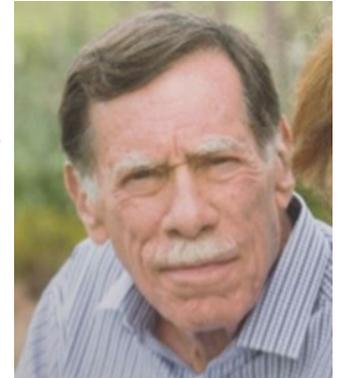
It's easy to understand why printers are such a pain; there are so many moving parts and opportunities for something to go wrong. Fortunately, you can address many printer problems using the techniques I'm going to describe. If none of the following work, it is probably time to bite the bullet and invest in a new printer. If something mechanical is shot in a printer, the fix is often prohibitively expensive (just buying some new printer heads can cost over \$100).

The USB connection

Unless you're using a printer wirelessly, you need a working USB connection between your computer and your printer. Sometimes a wireless connection is necessary, such as when printing from a cell phone, tablet, or from a computer not proximate to the printer. But if you are printing from a computer adjacent to the printer, a wired USB connection is always more reliable and highly recommended. Most of us know how to connect the standard USB male connector to our computer, but there is more confusion with the other end of that USB cable that attaches into (usually) the back of the printer (see the picture to the right).

Unfortunately, the printer end of the USB cable also fits into the similar looking telephone line connection on the printer. Usually there is a pair of these female telephone line connectors on printers that include FAX capability; at least one will often be covered with a plastic cap.

One way to tell if you are using the USB connection on the printer is to listen for the USB "handshake" tone from the computer. If both your printer and computer are on, you should hear a couple of notes then you plug in or remove a USB device. If not, most likely you have missed that USB connection on the printer. Be especially aware of this possibility if you are setting up a printer new to your system, or if for some reason the cable has become disconnected from your printer.



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(*PRINTER PROBLEMS—Continued from page 7*)

It is rare for the USB cable to go bad, but I have seen this on occasion.

Drivers can drive you crazy

The printer and the computer must be able to communicate with each other, and this is accomplished with specialized software known as drivers. Windows 10 has printing drivers for most of the newer printers available today, but I strongly suggest installing the drivers furnished by the computer's manufacturer. This is especially true if you want to do more than print, *i.e.* if you want to scan a document into a file. A new printer will usually come with a CD that can be used to load the drivers appropriate for your operating system. If you have a tab-



let or other device that does not include an optical drive you can go the printer manufacturer's Web site, *i.e.* hp.com/support, and download and install the appropriate drivers. If you have a

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(PRINTER PROBLEMS—Continued from page 8)

choice between downloading the basic or full featured software package, I suggest downloading the full featured package then doing a custom install, installing only the software you will be using. For whatever reason the full featured software package sometimes works when the basic package does not.



Manufacturers will often keep their Web site drivers more up to date, fixing bugs that have appeared after the printer has been on the market for a while. So, if you are having issues with your printer it's a good idea to download drivers from their Web site.

When you do the custom install of your printer software, I suggest you deselect features such as the customer participation programs and supply ordering programs. I would also pass on the free optical character recognition (OCR) program, unless this is something you will use. OCR programs can be a real resource hog.

After the driver installation and a reboot see if any new programs are loading automatically by seeing if there are any new icons appearing on the right side of your taskbar. If so, you might want to open MSCONFIG and stop these programs from loading on startup. If you get a popup asking

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if you want low ink notifications immediately or “only when printing”, select “only when printing”, so this program will not be running constantly. [EDITOR’S NOTE: This is especially important.]

If you are buying a printer to use with a wireless device such as a Kindle Fire, Smartphone or iPad, do some research and make sure you are getting a printer that is supported by your device.

As you might expect with the popularity of the iPad, many printers will support the iPad with a free download from Apple. I’ve noticed that especially newer Hewlett-Packard wireless printers are made to be compatible with the iPad.

... TDB



Have a business card? Are you a DMA member?

ANY PAID-UP MEMBER of the Dayton Microcomputer Association is entitled to a *free* business card-sized advertisement in THE DATABUS. Send a good-quality image to Editor@DMA1.org, or give your business card to **Martin Arbagi**, the Editor, at any DMA meeting. We can embed a link to your Web site (if you have one) in the image of your card. Under weird IRS regulations, your Web site may not include discount coupons for DMA members, although discount offers may be included in the advertisement *itself*. See the example on page 11 (facing page on the right), which includes a member discount. But the advertiser could not have put the discount on his Web site.

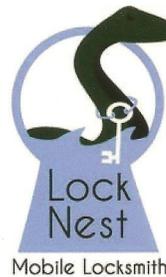
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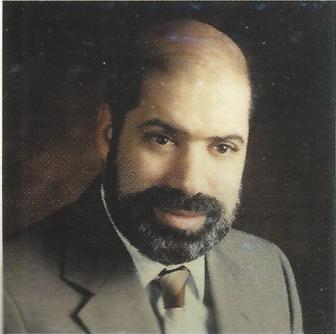
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Dayton Microcomputer Association Membership Form

Today's Date: ___/___/___
(dd/mm/yyyy)

New Please credit the DMA member who recruited you:

Renew Please list below any *changes* to your contact information. No changes? Don't bother filling out this section of the form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (landline or cellular): (_____) _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____ @ _____ . _____

Skills or interests you can share with DMA:

✓ _____

✓ _____

What do you hope DMA can provide you? _____

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

Regular (\$25.00 annually)

Associate (\$12.50 annually—For someone living at the same address as a Regular Member.)

Student (Free—For full-time students through 22 years of age. Student members *cannot* vote in DMA elections.).....

SHELL ACCOUNT: A Shell Account on the DMA server provides file storage, hosting of a personal *noncommercial* Web site, and a **DMA1.org** e-mail alias (forwarding address), all for a *one-time* fee of \$10.00. A user name must be no more than eight alphabetic characters. The usual default is your last name and first initial, with no caps or punctuation (for example, jsmith or sjones).

DMA reserves the right of final decision on all user names.

First choice: _____ Second Choice: _____

TOTAL \$ _____ . _____

Make checks or money orders payable to DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATION, and mail this Form and your payment to: **Post Office Box 4005 Dayton, Ohio 45401.** (At this time, we can only accept payment by check or credit card at meetings.)

DMA USE ONLY:

Member# _____ Exp. ___/___/___ Check# _____ Cash Processed by: _____

Member# _____ Exp. ___/___/___ Check# _____ Cash Processed by: _____

Member# _____ Exp. ___/___/___ Check# _____ Cash Processed by: _____