

NCBA News



Spring, 2009

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Biomedical Association

Vol. 29, No. 1



Alan Koreneff, MBA
NCBA President

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

This year, members of the NCBA will see and experience exciting new changes the newly elected Board of Directors are working on to improve the top Biomedical Association in the country. A new education track for this years symposium, a new web site design, and quarterly educational offerings to meet the current needs of the membership in this tough economic time are only a few of the changes coming. Many other changes will be behind the scenes of the NCBA, but focused on strengthening and improving the organizational structure.

It is an honor and privilege to lead this organization in its 31st year of service to the Biomedical community. I ask for your opinions, thoughts and recommendations throughout the year. The NCBA belongs to its membership and can only improve through its membership. The NCBA was formed in the late 1970's. Today we have over 500 members. Our mission is to provide high quality low cost education for BMETs and Clinical Engineers. Our primary method of accomplishing that goal is through our annual Symposium and Expo and through regional seminars offered throughout the year. The NCBA is more than an association of allied-health professionals; it is a collection of friends and colleagues dedicated to sharing education and training with anyone to whom this information may be of benefit.

Our annual symposium is a great opportunity to take advantage of training concentrated into categories which offer something for everyone. We will also be offering stand alone classes during the year which are excellent opportunities to receive in most cases manufacturer training at a fraction of the expense.

Each year leaders are chosen by the membership to carry on the traditions of excellence which have brought the NCBA to national prominence. Six of our current board members each year will either rotate off the board, or run for reelection. The NCBA needs your experience and willingness to serve. Please consider offering your expertise by serving on a committee and/or including your name on the ballot for election to the Board of Directors this December.

Alan Koreneff

pres@ncbiomedassoc.com

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NCBA's 30th Symposium and Expo held at Pinehurst, NC Dec 1- 3, 2008



2009 Board of Directors

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Alan K. Koreneff
Presbyterian Hospital
Work Ph: 704-920-7244
pres@ncbiomedassoc.com

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Global Medical Imaging
Work Ph: 704-940-4068
vp@ncbiomedassoc.com

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Greg W. Johnson CBET
Southeastern Biomedical Assoc, Inc.
Work Ph: 828-396-6010
treas@ncbiomedassoc.com

Membership Secretary:

Lisa Morton
Moses Cone Health System
Work Ph: 336-832-7911
memb@ncbiomedassoc.com

Recording Secretary:

David Wilson CBET
Novant Logistics
Work Ph: 704-920-7224
record@ncbiomedassoc.com

Ex-Officio:

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Duke University Health System
Work Ph: 919-681-3172
exofficio@ncbiomedassoc.com

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BOD2@ncbiomedassoc.com

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Caldwell Community College
Work Ph: 828-726-2263
BOD3@ncbiomedassoc.com

Sam Collins
Novant Health - Forsyth Medical Ctr.
336-718-5001 – Business
BOD4@ncbiomedassoc.com

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Clinical Technology Services, NC
BOD5@ncbiomedassoc.com

Ronnie M. McBride CBET
WFU Baptist Medical Center
Work Ph: 336-716-4521
BOD6@ncbiomedassoc.com

Theresa Lord
UNC Hospitals
Work Ph: 919-966-6911
BOD7@ncbiomedassoc.com

2009 Standing Committees

Rules and Bylaws:

Alan Koreneff (Chair), Glenn Scales,
John Noblitt

Nominating Committee:

David Wilson (Chair), Lisa Morton,
Gordon Radke

Finance Committee:

Greg Johnson (Chair), Alan Koreneff,
Pat Lynch

Membership Committee:

Lisa Morton (Chair), Sam Collins, Pat
Lynch

Education Committee:

Pat Lynch (Chair), Sonny White, David
Wilson, Dave Francouer

2009 Special Committees

Apprenticeship Committee: Alan
Koreneff

Awards Committee:

Pay Lynch (Chair), Ronnie McBride

Golf Committee:

David Wilson (Chair), Gordon Radke,
David Francouer

Historian:

Glenn Scales (Chair), Obie Godley,
Mark Renfroe

Hotel Committee:

Gordon Radke (Chair), Greg Johnson,
David Francouer, Alan Koreneff

Internet Committee:

Jeremy Collins (Chair), Sam Collins,
Alan Koreneff

Newsletter Committee:

Sam Collins (Chair), Glenn Scales,
Jeremy Collins

Public Relations Committee:

Lisa Morton (Chair), John Noblitt,
Ronnie McBride

Scholarship Committee:

Ronnie McBride (Chair), Sonny White,
Sam Collins

Vendor Coordination:

John Noblitt (Chair), Greg Johnson,
Lisa Morton, Mark Renfroe

NCBA News is an information service of the North Carolina Biomedical Association (NCBA). It has a distribution of about 500 and is published six (6) times per year. Articles and ads are due on or before the first day of odd numbered months. The newsletter is mailed on or about the 15th day of the odd numbered months.

While the NCBA makes every effort to assure that its content is accurate, articles are the products of individual authors and the NCBA is not responsible for the content.

NCBA News intends to disseminate information and ideas to its subscribers. While the NCBA News accurately reflects the source of the articles, the content is of variable quality and validity. The Newsletter Committee will attempt to verify all articles, but neither the Editor nor the NCBA is responsible for information.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!! Articles of interest to our readers are constantly needed and frequently in short supply. If you have written any articles that may be of interest to our readers, submit it to Newsletter Editor, Sam Collins, at editor2@ncbiomedassoc.com.

Novant Health Logistics Center-- Kannapolis, NC

NCBA Board Meeting Minutes for Jan 9, 2009

Meeting called to order- Glenn called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

Members present-David Wilson, Lisa Morton, Pat Lynch, Ronnie McBride, Glenn Scales, John Noblitt, Sam Collins, Greg Johnson, Alan Koreneff, Gordon Radke.

Guest- Jeremy Collins

Resignation and appointment of replacement- Glenn put in his resignation and nominations were taken from the floor for the board position replacement.

David Francoeur was nominated for the replacement for Glenn Scales, who goes into the ex-officio position...The nomination was accepted and passed with no objections.

Elections of 2009 Officers-

President- Alan K. was nominated by John Noblitt and seconded by David Wilson. Vote to approve was passed without acclimation.

Vice President- Pat Lynch was nominated. Motion to close nominations. Pat was elected by acclimation.

Treasurer- Greg Johnson was nominated. Motion to close nominations. Greg was elected by acclimation.

Recording Secretary- Lisa Morton was nominated but declined. David Wilson was nominated and seconded. Motion to close nominations. David Wilson was elected by acclimation.

Membership Secretary- Lisa Morton was nominated. Motion to close nominations. Lisa was elected by acclimation.

Review of minutes- Gordon had the minutes put up on screen. The minutes were passed.

Review and analysis of the 2008

symposium- The board discussed some of the problems that we had encountered. 108 total vendor spaces w/tent.

Discussion turned to an educational possibilities. There is a good possibility of a class called, "10 ways to save money in your biomed department" Pat will look into this and get this going. The next thing that was covered was trying to make a decision on the hotel committee.

Gordon was suggested for the chair and the committee will be...Gordon was appointed, Greg Johnson, John Noblitt,

Glenn Scales, Alan Koreneff will be on the committee.

Webmaster- Jeremy Collins

Newsletter editor- Sam Collins

Vendor coordinator- John Noblitt, assisted by Pat Lynch, Greg Johnson.

Golf Coordinator- David Wilson

Scholarship chair- Ronnie McBride

Scholarship report- Ronnie passed out a letter to Kevin Scoggin thanking him for his support for the Glenn Scales scholarship. Ronnie asked the board for its opinion on the possibility for a humanitarian award.

Membership report- we have 485 total membership. Symposium attendance was 205 corporate 219. Compared to last year down about 65 individuals.

Newsletter Report- goes out Jan 15, 2009. Sam is wanting to implement having the front and back page of the newsletter be in color. The color would look a lot more professional. The newsletter goes out on the 15th of the odd numbered months. Alan suggested that the board each send in one or two articles during the year. The article would need to be received by the first of the month. Ronnie will write an article for this months newsletter. John N. will write an article/thank you to the membership, for his scholarship. Pat L. will write an educational article. Glenn will write an article concerning AAMI and NCBA.

Internet Report- Jeremy and Sam had both thought about adding new colors to the website. Jeremy is also going

Continued on Page 12

NCBA News is accepting advertising that relates to biomedical equipment and of interest to our readers. Suggested subjects are: Positions Desired, Positions Available, Biomedical Equipment Wanted or For Sale (New or Used), or Announcements of Educational Opportunities or Service Schools in the area.

Advertising is open to all individuals, hospitals, and companies. The decision to carry a particular ad or classified will be the decision of the Editor with support of the NCBA Board. Either jpeg or tiff files of the actual size ads is required. **Corporate Members please remember what free advertisement your membership allows.** Please contact the Newsletter Editor for

other pricing.

Prepayment of all advertising is required.

Classified Advertising

Except "Position Wanted" notices by members (one ad per year – limit 50 words – no charge) the following ad rates apply:

Full Page	\$250. ⁰⁰
Half Page	\$150. ⁰⁰
Quarter Page	\$100. ⁰⁰

If the ad is a single page to be included as an insert, the advertiser will any pay all additional printing and handling costs. Placement of non-member ads is on a "space available basis. Advertising that is to be printed in color will include all additional costs to prepare and insert the color page.

News From AAMI

AAMI's President to Retire in 2009

AAMI's president, Michael J. Miller, JD, has announced that he will retire in June 2009 after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to AAMI, first as its executive director and then as president. AAMI's Board of Directors has appointed a search committee to oversee the process of identifying a candidate to succeed Miller.

New CE-IT Website Launched

A new website has been created for medical and information technology (IT) professionals to access timely education resources and information about IT-related issues affecting the healthcare field.

The website was developed by a coalition of three national associations - AAMI, the American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE), and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) - which recently formed the CE-IT Community.

The website, which can be accessed at www.ceitcollaboration.org describes the new CE-IT Community and includes a copy of the groups charter; as well as news coverage about the collaboration, background information about the three sponsoring organizations, and details about how individuals can become involved.

Tech World: Successfully Transitioning to an In-House Service Group

When Grant Smith was hired two years ago as operations manager for imaging services in the Duke University Health System's clinical engineering department, the facility had no in-house service personnel devoted to the maintenance of imaging equipment. But today, Smith's growing in-house imaging service team is responsible for more than a quarter of a billion dollars worth of imaging equipment. In this edition of Tech World, he discusses the evolution of his department and provides advice to others who may consider doing the same.

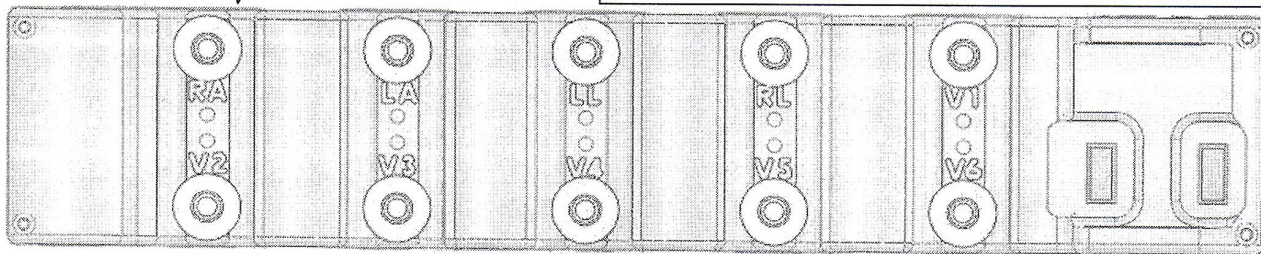
We have created an opportunity for our facility to save real money, and senior management understands and supports our endeavor. While it's too early to project how much money we will ultimately help the facility save, I can certainly take pride in knowing the imaging department that began two years ago with just me and complete reliance on OEM agreements has grown to a professional staff that services a quarter of a billion dollars worth of cutting edge imaging equipment.

Editors Note: Grant Smith is an NCBA member and is the current Co-Chair of the AAMI Program Committee Imaging Track.

Portions of this text appeared in the July/Aug 2008 issue of AAMI News from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation. Visit www.aami.org to learn more about AAMI or to view the current issue of AAMI News.

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10 Things

Every Biomed

Should Know

How to Do



The Toolbox October, 2008

Patrick Lynch, CBET, CCE

This list purposely does not include the fundamental stuff like 'perform a safety test' and 'know human anatomy'. It instead focuses on things that relate to job success, but that may not be taught in technical schools.

1 Operate a Computer – In this age of technology, computers are not only major components of the medical equipment which we support, but they are tools for the Biomed. An in-depth knowledge of operating systems, hardware, common applications, security, networking and wireless communications is essential to anybody in Biomed.

2 Tell a story that stays on subject – I am so tired of rambling, aimless narratives that zig and zag all over the place! Please, would people plan their stories like they would plan a trip in a car – identify where you want to go, and then do only what is necessary to get from here to there! And then stop when you reach your destination.

3 Give clear directions or instructions over the phone – Practice makes perfect. Close your eyes and visualize what the person on the other end of the phone is seeing. Do not use hand gestures. Start by identifying a common reference point which you both can find. Remember to speak in little steps, checking for understanding after each individual instruction. This makes sure that you are both still together. Then use very specific words to tell them what to do. Speak in simple sentences – avoid compound or run-on sentences. Pay attention to people around you that seem to be good at giving directions or instructions.

4 Give a Compliment – As Biomed, we often operate in stressful situations. Everyone around us is in a hurry, and it is easy to run in, do your job, and sneak quietly out. Don't ever miss an opportunity to tell others that they are doing a good job. Tell them that you appreciate them and their efforts. Amazingly, compliments tend

to reflect positively on the giver as well as the receiver. Give, give, give.

5 Take useful notes – No matter how good you think your memory is, you'll forget some of the details of a meeting or conversation. Take notes. Practice taking useful notes. If in a meeting with another person, ask if you can take notes. They'll always say 'yes'. It will raise you up in their opinion. It demonstrates that you think what they have to say is important and that you want to remember it accurately.

6 Listen carefully to others – Stay in the moment. (This is my biggest problem.) If you drift off into your own world, you'll miss part of what is being said. Often, an important point will be overlooked or misinterpreted.

7 Create a simple budget – The world runs on money. Every task, job, or project has financial implications. The ability to create quick projections of expected costs is critical in discussing options and plans with others.

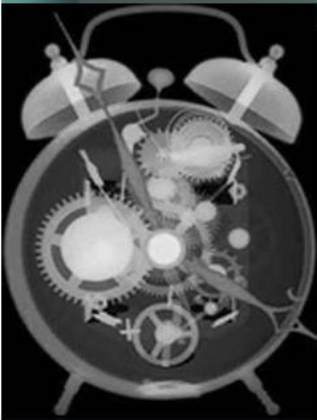
8 Remember Names – The most pleasing word for people to hear is their own name. It is a major advantage in dealing with other. It impresses them, and makes you special in their eyes.

9 Deliver Bad News – A fact of life is that there is good and bad news. As Biomed, we much often deliver bad news – not bad as in "You are going to die", but bad like "I cannot have this repaired by tomorrow." Bad news should be delivered straight up and direct, but followed by an option or two to solve the listener's problem. If you always come prepared with solutions, the bad news is never as bad.

10 Use Google Effectively – The world is at your fingertips like never before. A skill worth developing is the effective use of Google. It delivers any and all information on the Internet to you in a simple, easy to use format. "Google" is now a verb in the English language (and many other languages, too.) Google any of the words in this article to find out more. You'll be surprised at what you find.

Pat Lynch





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Tables: Diagnost 71/72/73, Diagnost 55/56/66/76, AD5, Omega III, Picker Clinx-R, RTE
Spot Film Devices: Scopo 25,65,73,76 & GE 8535, 8835, 88

Peripherals: Cameras, Monitors, Injectors, Cine Cameras, TV Chains
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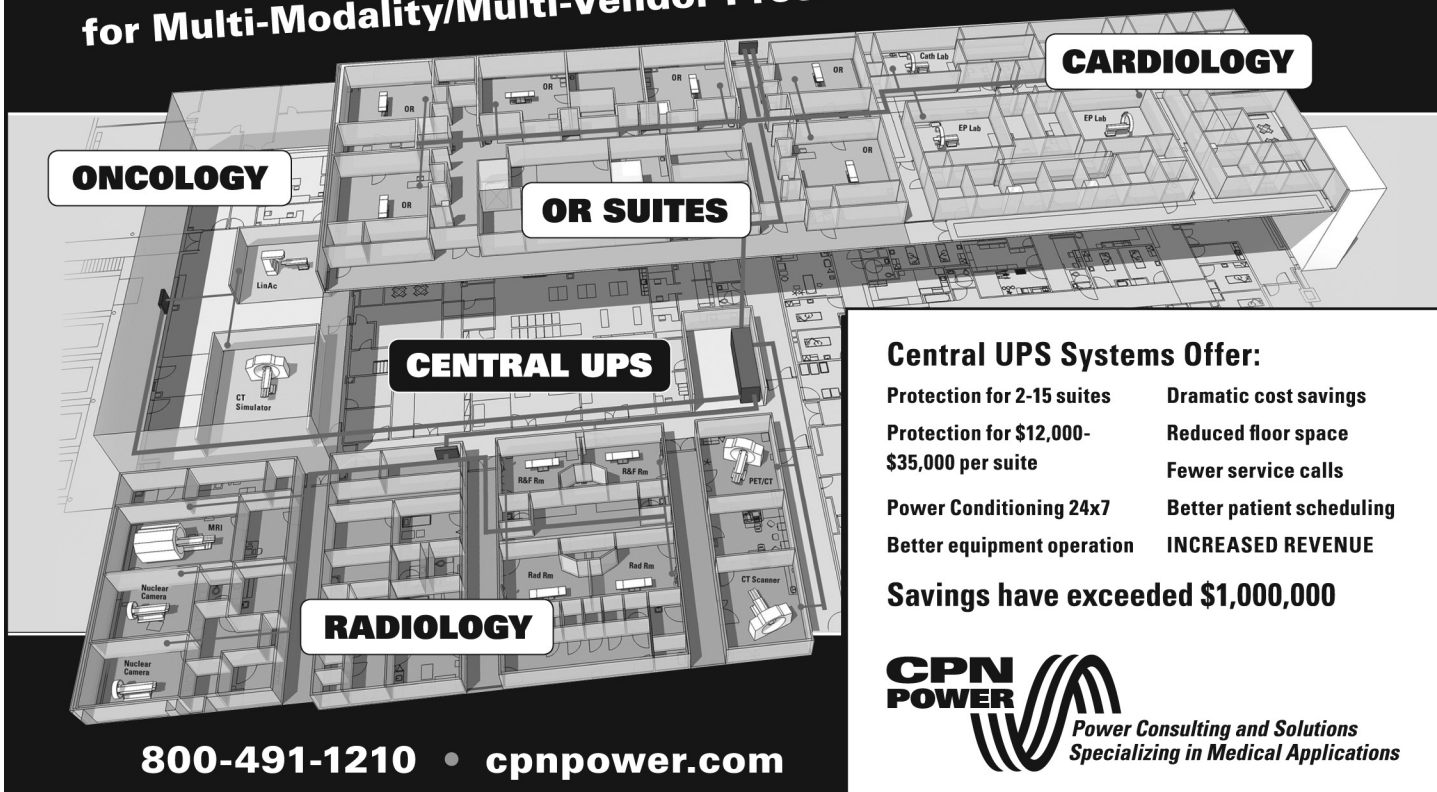
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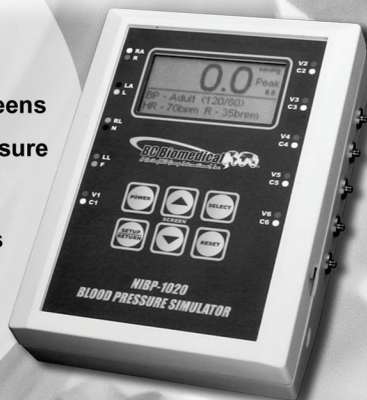
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IF

you have a career and not just a job

you want to further your career and your professional maturity

you are dedicated to improving your performance and that of your peers through training

THEN

The NCBA is looking for YOU.

Calling all volunteers for a truly rewarding and gratifying experience serving on the Board of Directors for the NCBA. Director candidates should contact the NCBA recording secretary at record@ncbiomedassoc.com with your intent to run. You will be required to provide a short profile of biographical information. The election is held during the NCBA general meeting at our 31stth annual symposium on December 8th, 2009. Candidates are introduced while a short profile is delivered to the assembly. Terms are two years and you can be elected to two consecutive terms.

Benefits of serving on the Board of Directors:

- **Learn real life skills**
- **Work with extremely successful professionals with can-do attitudes**
- **Gain hands on experience in leading a non-profit corporation
Enjoy the satisfaction of giving back to your professional community**
- **Develop relationships with peers**
- **Create greater balance in your life**
- **Work with your peers to have an impact on medical equipment maintenance
Make an impact on patient care in our North Carolina communities**
- **Networking with your peers**
- **Knowledge and understanding of BOD functions and processes**
- **Pride in being part of one of the most respected and successful Biomedical association in the USA**

TIPS that help get candidates elected:

- **Volunteer to work with the BOD registering guests and vendors**



Hi to all Members,

I want to let you know who won the Scholarships at the Symposium this past year. First the big Scholarship “The W. Glenn Scales Scholarship” went to John Marshall Nobiltt. I think everybody knows who this guy is. He is the Biomed Instructor at Caldwell Community College. John is attending Western Carolina for his Master’s Degree. Way to go John, you will be done before you know it.

Next is the Eddy Whisnant Scholarship. It was awarded to George Houston Craddock. He is a student at Caldwell Community College. Way to go George. This Scholarship is sponsor by Greg Johnson, Boyd Campbell from Southeastern Biomed, and Mike Wade from Parts Source.

Next was the Norman ‘Red’ Reeves Scholarship. It was awarded to Reynaldo Romero. He is a student at Stanley Technical Community College. His Biomed instructor is Sonny Richards. This Scholarship is sponsor by the NCBA.

That is who won at the Symposium this past year. Students do not forget to send your Spring Semester Grades to the NCBA for your second Check for your Scholarships. I will be looking forward to getting your grades and sending you another check.

Students Study Hard and it will benefit you.

Ronnie McBride

Chair of the Scholarship Committee

continued on page 18

North Carolina Biomedical Association's 30th Annual Symposium and Expo Award Presentations



**Minutes continued from
page 4...**

through and redoing and updating the job postings page. Job postings will now be posted for 90 days and then taken down. Jeremy gave us a quick demonstration of how the new posting page will look and operate.

Vendor Report- Alan gave a short synopsis of the vendor response. John Noblitt offered to use Survey Monkey to get a quick response from the vendors.

Public Relations- Nothing to report

Rules and Bylaws- Glenn has requested that all of the outgoing officers update their job descriptions by Feb 20. Webmaster, Internet and golf Coordinator need to be added. Glenn will compile all of the information.

Old Business- None

New Business- John brought up the idea for the board to give a one time scholarship donation to the Terry Speth scholarship.

Biomedical Congress update- Pat filled the board in on some of the ideas like how the congress might benefit the bench BMET.

Jeremy and Sam are asking for payment for a Photoshop class. The board approved it.

Board meeting schedule for the upcoming year:

March 6, 2009 at CCCF&TI Hudson NC

May 1, 2009 Moses Cone Greensboro

July 10, 2009 Duke

September 11, 2009 Baptist

November 6, 2009 symposium sight

Dec 6-9 symposium

Jan 8, 2010 Novant

Feb 19-20 TBA

Motion to adjourn seconded....

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Notice to Students

Students at the two North Carolina community colleges who attend the NCBA Symposium in December are members of the NCBA for the following year and receive this newsletter as a benefit. When you graduate and get that first job, we really want to hear from you so we can update our records. It also allows you to keep getting the newsletter after you move and to receive Symposium announcements and updates. Please be sure to send the Membership Secretary your new mailing address and the name of your new organization. Please update your phone numbers and e-mail address as well. E-mail any changes to memb@ncbiomedassoc.com.

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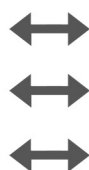
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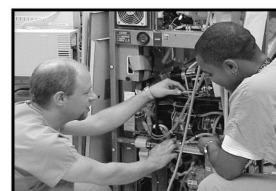
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Windows XP Tips, Part 1

by Glenn Scales, CBET

Just when you had finally gotten everything figured out about Windows, everything changes, or so it seems. Your new computer uses the new Windows XP operating system and now you want to take care of some of those annoying little issues that every system has. Here are some tips and tweaks that I've discovered from on-line articles as well as feature articles in several computer journals.

If you are like me and just can't leave things alone, I'd suggest that you go to the Microsoft web site and download the latest versions of Power Toys. These are mini-applications created by the WinXP development team, but were not included in the final release of Windows XP. The single most useful tool is TweakUI. At the time I wrote this article, the Power Toys download site was <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp> or just go to www.microsoft.com and search for PowerToys.

Tweak UI

Tweak UI, an essential tool from Microsoft for customizing Windows, is one of several unsupported tools from Microsoft that make up PowerToys. With it, you can set your system to log you on automatically at start-up, complete with password entry; set Windows to let applications steal focus or not; and specify how Windows should group applications on the taskbar when the grouping feature is enabled: less-used applications first, applications with the most windows open first, or grouping any applications with at least a specified number of windows open.

Customize the Start menu

The Start menu gets more real estate in XP than in previous versions, and it's more customizable. To make the Start menu display only the applications you want, rather than the default determined by Microsoft, right-click in an empty section of the Start menu's left column, and select Properties > Start Menu > Customize. Here you'll find a list of your most frequently used programs. (XP keeps track of what you use and what you don't, then updates this list dynamically.) To clear the list, go to the General tab, click Clear List, and set the counter to zero.

Swap Out the Defaults

In XP, your favorite programs are displayed in the top left column of the Start menu. Microsoft starts you off with Internet Explorer and Outlook Express. Want to display a different set of applications in this spot? Right-click an empty portion of the Start menu's left column and select Properties > Start Menu > Customize. At the bottom, deselect the program you no longer want displayed in the "Show on the Start menu" dialog, and, using Windows Explorer or My Computer, navigate to the program you want instead. Right-click the program and select "Pin to Start menu." To rename the new shortcut, right-click it and select Rename. Note: You can't pin files, just programs.

Change the Start Menu Style

Does the new Windows XP Start menu take up too much space on your desktop? You can easily change the look back to the Windows Classic Start menu by following these steps:

1. Right-click the Start button, and then click Properties.
2. Click Classic Start menu.
3. Click the Customize button to select items to display on the Start menu.

By default, selecting the Classic Start menu also adds the My Documents, My Computer, My Network Places, and Internet Explorer icons to your desktop.

Performance Increase Through My Computer

1. Right Click on My Computer and select properties.
2. Click on the "Advanced" tab. See the "Performance" section? Click on "Settings"
3. Disable the following:
 - Fade or slide menus into view
 - Fade or slide ToolTips into view
 - Fade out menu items after clicking
 - Show Shadows under menus
 - Slide open combo boxes
 - Slide taskbar buttons
 - Use a background image for each folder type
 - Use common tasks in folders

There, now Windows will still look nice and perform faster. These visual embellishments give WindowsXP its distinctive look, but it can slow down your system and cause unnecessary delays. All of these visual features use up your memory and I'd recommend disabling all that you feel you can live without. WindowsXP may not look quite as pretty as the original, but it should perform better.

How to Optimize Clear Type Settings on your Monitor

Windows XP includes a technology called ClearType that purports to improve the appearance of fonts on LCD and flatscreen desktop displays. Some people even believe it helps the font quality on traditional desktop CRTs. I've always wondered about this because every time I turn on ClearType it feels like I need new glasses because the fonts end up blurry. But many people really love ClearType fonts. If you want to find out if ClearType is for you, then try out the Microsoft ClearType Tuner Web page. It's a safe way for you to check out ClearType and optimize it for your computer:

Open Internet Explorer and head on over to:

<http://www.winxpnews.com/rd/rd.cfm?id=021015HT-ClearType> or

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/customize/cleartype/tuner/default.asp>

Put a checkmark in the Turn on ClearType checkbox. Don't worry about getting stuck with the settings. If you don't like ClearType, you can go back and turn it off.

Click on the link for Step 2: Tune ClearType Settings.

On this Web page you're presented with six boxes of text. Click on the box containing the text that looks best to you, then click on the Apply button. The fonts on your display will change based on your selection.

If you like the change, you're done! If you don't like the change, click the Back button and choose another box. If you don't like ClearType at all, go back to the first page and remove the checkmark from the Turn on ClearType checkbox.

Next issue I will continue this series by focusing on customizing WinXP using some of the built in configuration programs and by editing the Registry.



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Information Update

THE PROCESS OF DECISION MAKING

PROBLEMS / OPPORTUNITIES

The first step to effective decision making is to determine if the decision you need to make is required in order to solve a problem or to take advantage of an opportunity. This will aid in the determination of the desired outcome. It serves to set the goal or objective of the decision as well as clarify the urgency which needs to be assigned.

CATEGORIES

The second step in effective decision making is to categorize the decision as to its importance and complexity. By determining the importance of the decision, you will be able to allocate the requisite amount of time and effort into ensuring confidence in the outcome. Its complexity determines which decision making process needs to be applied.

The following figure demonstrates the process of categorizing decisions according to their importance as well as the process we can use for making an effective decision.

Parameters

Most of the decisions we make are not earth shattering by their outcome. What tie do we wear today? Where should we stop to have lunch? What flavor soft drink should I have?

These decisions can be handled by using parameters. Simply this means that you establish minimum criteria or standards which are acceptable and select the first option which meets them.

You're wearing a white shirt with a dark blue suit so a red, blue, or possibly a burgundy tie will do. You want a hot, quick lunch with no concern for caloric intake or nutritional value, so the first fast food place will do. To quench your thirst with a cold drink, any flavor soft drink should do.

This may sound overly simplistic but consider the amount of time wasted making decisions where one choice is really no better than another. Couldn't the time be better spent on more worthwhile endeavors?

Policies

This area of categorizing decisions is reserved for important decisions which can be covered by written or unwritten policies and your value system. These decisions are made much easier if your policies, procedures, and especially your values are well defined.

If your value system precludes you from keeping a customer overpayment, the decision to return it is simple. If your policy is to provide training for deficiencies in knowledge and discipline deficiencies in execution, the course of action when a task is not performed properly is clear.

Analysis

This is where you place the decisions which will have a right or a wrong outcome. This is the decision to do or not do something, the go or not go decision. If you perform the action, what will be the outcome. Essentially, there is only one course of action and you are trying to decide if the outcome will be the one you desire.

Judgment

This is where you place the decisions which have multiple courses of action which you can take. Each course of action will cause a particular outcome. Here you are attempting to determine which outcome is desired thus which action to take.

An example of this type of decision may be: Do I go immediately to college which means near starvation for four years; take a job for a while and try to save more money for college; remain with my parents which means never having to grow up; or do I get married and have a bunch of kids and not go to college at all.

Synthesis

Synthesis is the process of combining separate elements to form a coherent whole. This is where you place the Big decisions. The ones which require many factors to be analyzed in order to develop a solution which is not readily apparent. This is the decision where policies, analysis, and judgments do not apply because the problem itself is illusive.

No solution you can come up with seems to solve the problem. The desired outcome is not clear. This is where you must become very creative in generating a very unique solution where the outcome is not clearly defined.

An example of where synthesis may need to be utilized is: You wish to change careers because of declining demands for your present expertise. How do you determine your new, best career path while continuing to utilize the expertise you've attained and still ensure a good chance at success? The desired outcome is fuzzy, the choices are undefined, and the course of action is unclear. This calls for creative thinking!

Open Source Software

Alternatives, Part 2

By Glenn Scales, CBET

In the last NCBA News I discussed the use of several free, open-source software applications that have the ability to substitute for some of the more expensive, name brand software. For some of us on a budget, who may not need all of the specialized high-end functions, these open source applications offer an excellent alternative. Best of all most are free and in some cases are better than the original application.

Case in point is the Mozilla Firefox browser. Not only is it free, I feel that it is far superior to the Microsoft Internet Explorer that is integrated into Windows. The

ability to incorporate "Add-Ons" or helper applets, allows the user to customize the browser to fit their unique needs. Two of my favorite add-ons are IT Tab and Tab Mix Plus. IE Tab allows the Firefox browser to mimic the actions of Microsoft IE so that you can see pages displayed in the same way that IE displays them. It also allows web sites that require IE to function on Firefox.

TabMixPlus allows the user to configure exactly how the tab function operates in Firefox. I have much more control on how my browser functions with this add-on than I would with MS IE. All these add-ons and hundreds more are available at <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/>

In the business world, the ability to open and read PDF files is essential. An open-source application called PDFCreator, www.pdfforge.org/products/pdfcreator, allows you to generate your own PDF files. It functions just like any other printer driver, so that when you choose to print, PDFCreator shows up in your printer list. When you select it you will then be prompted to give a name to the PDF document that you will then create.

This newsletter is created using a page layout program rather than a word processor. Page layout applications offer much more control on how material is arranged on the

page and how your document is organized. Page layout gives you far more control and flexibility than any word processor. Scibus, www.scribus.net/, offers an alternative that provides almost all the functionality of a \$500 application for free. It is very well designed and has few limitations in comparison to the Adobe or Microsoft products.

In the last issue I wrote about Mind Mapping software called FreeMind. Pat Lynch also had an article about mind mapping software in the latest AAMI Biomedical Instrumentation and technology. Another related product is software for producing diagrams. The better known, and pricy program, is Microsoft Visio. When I recently updated my MS Office Suite, the program did not come with Visio and I had to look for an alternative. You might want to look into Dia at their web site www.gnome.org/projects/dia/

Continued on next page



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Although this program does not have some of the very high end features of Visio, it is affordable and is very easy to use. The program has an extensive library of diagramming tools for network configurations, electrical circuitry and the like. The graphic to the right shows the toolbar panel for the Dia program.

Finally, I'd like to give you three sources for open source software. There are many more, but these two would make a good starting point.

<http://sourceforge.net/> , <http://www.opensourcewindows.org/>

From "NCBA Wants You", page 10

- Man the NCBA booth
- Talk with as many members as possible
- Get your profile into the recording secretary in a timely manner to ensure that you are listed as a candidate in the packet of material that members receive during registration.

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Come to symposium! Make sure you are there for the general lunch meeting at Embassy Suites on Tuesday, December 8th



<http://www.osalt.org/> and <http://www.osalt.com> . The osalt web site is interesting in that it allows you to pick a commercial software application and then see what open source applications are equivalent to it. For instance, when I selected Adobe Photoshop, I'm presented with six open source alternatives, including the very excellent program Gimp 2.4.

North Carolina Biomedical Association's 30th Annual Symposium and Expo Pinehurst, NC, Dec 1- 3, 2008



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The NCBA News has been undergoing a change over the past months. We have transitioned to a new Editor and are now using a new and much improved Desktop Editing software package to prepare and format the newsletter for distribution.

In order to be more environmentally and economically conscious the NCBA Board has voted to change our traditional practice of printing and mailing Newsletters. Starting with this issue the newsletter will be available online for download in a printable high resolution version and in a much smaller online viewable version. We will send out email notifications to all member that have given us updated email information as soon as each new issue is available. Please take the time to check your email address in our membership listings. If yours is missing or incorrect we would appreciate an update at your earliest convenience.

NCBA News will still be published six times per year and is available around the middle of January, March, May, July, September and November. All members are encouraged to send items of interest to the News-



letter Editor at e-mail address editor2@ncbiomedasoc.com for inclusion in the NCBA News. Letters to the Editor or to the Board of Directors will be published on a space available basis.

Corporate members are entitled to place two half-page ads each year in the newsletter as part of their membership benefits. ***Corporate Members please contact the Newsletter Editor as soon as possible to make sure your advertising graphics are not outdated or to send us your newest ads.***

Check our website for details about advertising formats and submission deadlines. Advertising for non-members is available on a "space available" basis. Check our website for details about non-member advertising.

Schedule of the NCBA Board of Directors Meetings for 2009/2010

May 1, 2009, Time: 10:00 a.m.

Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, NC
Host – Lisa Morton, Ph: 336-832-7911

July 10, 2009, Time: 10:00 a.m.

Duke Univ. Medical Center, Durham, NC
Host – Glenn Scales, Ph: 919-681-2525

September 11, 2009, Time: 10:00 a.m.

WFU Baptist Medical Center, Winston Salem, NC
Host - Ronnie M. McBride, Ph: 336-716-4521

November 6, 2009, Time: 10:00 a.m.

Embassy Suites in Concord, NC
5400 John Q. Hammons Dr.
Concord, NC 28027

December 6-9, 2009

2009 NCBA Symposium and Expo
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January 8, 2010, Time: 10:00 a.m.

Novant Health Logistics Center, Kannapolis, NC

February 19-20, 2010, Time: 8:30 a.m.

Board of Directors Planning Retreat
Location to be determined

Board Meetings are open to the NCBA Membership.

Please plan to attend.