



AITP The Printout

The Nashville Chapter
Of
The Association Of Information
Technology Professionals

November 2007
Chapter Newsletter

Project Management

Simple Observations on Project Management

Our November meeting is a joint meeting with the Nashville Chapter of the Project Management Institute. The meeting will be held at our usual AITP time (5:30 pm – Thursday, November 8th) and place (Holiday Inn-Vanderbilt).

Our program is presented by Walter “Bubba” Mullen, who has over 22 years of IT experience. Bubba will talk about what to do right and what not to do on IT projects. He calls these stories “Simple Observations” and expressed them in an article published in Midrange Computing. Bubba is also working on a book along the same lines.

A few of the project management topics will include:

- + Don’t pave the cow path
- + A pig and a chicken go to breakfast
- + If it aint broke; don’t fix it
- + Roller coaster safety
- + Don’t sweat the petty stuff and don’t pet the sweaty stuff

Bubba recently left his position as Director of Solutions Delivery and Support for the State of Tennessee to join the Oakwood Systems Group as Vice President and General Manager of the Nashville office. In his five years with the State of Tennessee, Bubba was involved in many large and complex projects.

Bubba started his IT career with Electronic Data Systems as a Systems Engineer in Dallas. He then moved to Price Waterhouse as a Senior Consultant, also in Dallas. Bubba relocated to Nashville in 1990 as the Manager of Consulting Services for The Everest Group. He became VP/CIO of Direct Insurance for three years, then moved to IBM for three years managing the image and workforce practice for Tennessee and the Carolinas for IBM Global Services.

Oakwood Systems Group is a business solutions provider that propels its clients to achieve their strategic objectives through the application of appropriate business and technology enablers. They were founded in 1981 and are headquartered in St. Louis. They have over 70 professionals on staff. Since 1981, Oakwood has received numerous business distinctions and industry awards.



Bubba has a BBA degree from Delta State University. He and his family live in the Nolensville area where he plays golf and enjoys going camping with his two daughters. Bubba is also a volunteer for the youth activities at his church.

Bubba’s “Simple Observations” is a fun, light, and informative look at project management and the business world. He promises that some of the stories will make you laugh, some may make you think, but the evening will certainly entertain you.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President	_____	Pg 3
Calendar of Upcoming Events	_____	Pg 5
New Member Information	_____	Pg 6

AITP Nashville Roster

President:	Mary Simpson Genesco Inc. 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775 msimpson@genesco.com
Vice President:	Marshall Messamore Vanderbilt University Medical Center 615/322-3647 fax: 615/343-1214 marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu
Secretary:	Ella McGill American General 615/749-1346 fax: 615/749-2840 Ella_McGill@agfg.com
Treasurer:	Beverly Gibson beverlygibson04@comcast.net 615/424-0135
Chapter Liaison:	Frank Reagor freagor@charter.net
Membership Director:	Joan Julius CGI joan.julius@cgi.com
Director of Programs:	Paul Saunders, CCP Saunders Systems Corp. 615/367-1717 paul@saunderssystems.com
Student Chapter Coordinator:	Dr. Gerald Marquis Tennessee State University 615/ 963-7096 gmarquis@yahoo.com
Newsletter Director:	Robert Wright 615/243-7837 r.n.right@gmail.com
Director of Meeting Arrangements:	Mary Simpson Genesco Inc. 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775 msimpson@genesco.com
Website Coordinator:	Mike Eischen Genesco Inc. 615/367-7068 meischen@genesco.com
Director of Publicity	Eddie Pardon Satyam Computer Services, LLC 615/653-7138 eddiepardon@gmail.com
Past President:	Dr. Charles Apigian Middle Tennessee State University 615/898-2375 capigian@mtsu.edu
Internet Information —	Web Sites
Chapter:	http://www.aitpnashville.org
Headquarters:	http://www.aitp.org
Region 7:	http://members.tripod.com/aitpreion7
AITP P. O. Box 22038 Nashville TN 37202	

**Dinner Reservation
and
Cancellation Policy**

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling **Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775** Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775
msimpson@genesco.com.

October Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Select - Vanderbilt
2613 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 327-4707

MANAGERS TRAINING

in

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Need a refresher on how to run projects?

ONE ON ONE SESSIONS

Will tailor to suit your needs and schedule

**WORK WITH A PROFESSIONAL
AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS**

Call for information

SAUNDERS SYSTEMS

615-367-1717

P.S. Tell your boss about this.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members and Guests,

Nick Holland, CentreSource, was our guest speaker at the October AITP meeting and his topic was "Open Source Explained". Wow, did we get some "explaining" or what?

Nick really opened my mind to open source! I guess I had the same misconceptions about open source that a lot of people seem to have. I hear the term "open source" and I think of free software that's immature and of poor quality, and that's also unsupported. A lot of people also associate open source with hackers.

I had never heard, or even dreamed, of the more altruistic aspects of open source! Nick shared many facts about open source with us. Contrary to popular belief, open source is not really free – it's collaborative. Open source is a collaboration of ideas with input from many different people. People who have an innate desire to make a difference in this world – a good difference!

Open source starts when someone gets a cool idea. They mention it to other people who also think it's a cool idea. All of these people then get together to implement this cool idea in an attempt to change the world! Pretty neat concept! It's a "birds of a feather" or an "ant power" or a "two heads are better than one" kind of thing! One of the better known examples of this is the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) program. You may have heard of this project where individual computer owners can volunteer some of their desktop PC processing in the search for extraterrestrial life. Another recent example is the "one laptop per child" project that was started about four years ago. The goal was to build laptops for \$100 or less to enable more children around the world to have access to the Internet and e-mail. A prototype has successfully been built for \$100; this prototype is running Linux, which is open source. Look to hear more about this project!

Nick listed several of the more popular open source applications available today. Among them are Linux, Apache, Eclipse IDE, SugarCRM, Firefox, Thunderbird, Open Office, Pidgin, Wikipedia, and Clam AV. Nick's company is actually using Open Office. He said that it's not all roses but sometimes it's more about economics! There is a cost to switch to open products – there's retraining, issues with support, lack of features and/or focus, instability, and licensing (there are 31 different flavors of open source licensing). You just have to consider the value between features and cost. Sometimes you also have to consider the long-term costs.

There's a perception with a lot of companies that open source products just aren't good enough. Nick cited several statistics that prove otherwise. Thirty-three universities in Germany use Linux (over 560,000 students). Venezuela recently passed a law saying that all public agencies there must use open source applications by 2008. Starbucks, Honeywell, and NASA all use SugarCRM. A study conducted in 2002 stated that 64% of Japanese companies use Linux.

Open source code is actually at the heart of many applications available on the market today. Just to name a few, Linux, MAC OS X 10.5, Firefox, Beowulf, Gmail, Yahoo, Google, and Alfresco all use open source code.

As open source becomes more popular, support is also becoming more available. Some of the big guns are now supporting open source code. Dell, HP, Lenovo (Thinkpad), IBM, Sun (JAVA), Novell, Yahoo (uses MySQL), and Google (written in Python) are all good examples of big companies supporting open source software.

And, as always, I like to somehow make analogies from the presentation that relate back to AITP. I can make several from October's presentation. Just like open source, AITP is also collaborative and a way cool idea! AITP also supports those "birds of a feather", "ant power", and "two heads are better than one" philosophies. My personal favorite is "the more the merrier"! So, come collaborate with us at our November 8th meeting!

Mary Simpson
President
msimpson@genesco.com

AITP Member News

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Colonel Herb Grogan

This Section of the Nashville Chapter Newsletter normally is to spotlight Chapter members, especially new members.

We recently welcomed Herb Grogan, a former AITP member, who had retired after more than 30 years of military service in the U.S. Army. He said he was back for good and eager to be active in AITP again. After a month at home, and after we had pulled this information together, Herb told us that they wanted him back on active duty for another year. He has reported to the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA, where he will teach in the areas of counterinsurgency. We decided to go ahead with this article, even though it is not in our typical New Member Profile format.

Herb Grogan works for American General as a Project Coordinator when not on active military duty. Herb came to Nashville from Jacksonville, Florida, where he was working in the computer area for the Independent Life Insurance Company. American General purchased Independent Life in 1997, and Herb and his family relocated to Nashville after more than 13 years in Jacksonville.



Herb and his wife Paula were both raised in Massachusetts. Herb attended Worcester State College in Worcester, MA, where he earned a BS in Natural Science and a M.Ed. in Computer Science. They have three children and four grandchildren split between Spring Hill and Massachusetts. Paula is an elementary school teacher in Spring Hill.

Herb was called to active military duty in 1999 to manage the Army Reserve Y2K project. He also spent a year in Bosnia commanding a battalion and dealing with 32 other nations at NATO HQ in Sarajevo. Herb returned in 2001 to American General and to AITP for a few months until September 11th happened. This resulted in another active duty call to the Pentagon and to Baghdad as an Information Operations Officer. Herb was then back at American General in late 2003.

He was again recalled and was in Colorado as the War Plans Chief for the Army Strategic Command, and then to Alabama as the Deputy Director of the Future Warfare Center at the Redstone Arsenal. During 2005 and 2006, Herb was back in Iraq as the Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Joint Staff for Training and Force Generation. After that, he spent a year at the U.S. Army War College. He came home and “retired” in 2007. After a month, he was back on active duty.

Herb says that his life goals, after this “last” tour, are to start a business in Spring Hill that is meaningful to the community. He continues to do market research to determine that cutting edge service that is not yet available to young families.

We wish Herb and his family the best of luck and a safe return to the Nashville area. When he left us in 1999, he had been a member of the AITP Board for several years, and had been elected Vice President. We would like him to complete his “tours of duty” with the AITP Nashville Chapter.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2007

Date	Event	Location	Information
November 8	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt	Simple Observations on Project Management Walter "Bubba" Mullen, Oakwood System Group
December 13	Field Trip	Chaffins' Barn	Guest Night for Dinner Theater and Play
January 10	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select	TBA

SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or Paul@SaundersSystems.com.

Computer Room Spot Cooling

Sales & Rentals



Port-A-Cool Distribution

P.O. Box 1152 Franklin, TN 37065 ♦ 615-794-8070

www.portablecooling.com

NASHVILLE AITP NEW MEMBERS

David Ferguson
IT Manager
BWSC
211 Commerce Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37201
ldferguson@bwsc.net

Tonya Pearson
Sr. IT Coordinator
Brandon Technology Consulting, Inc.
2501 McGavock Pike
Suite 203
Nashville, TN 37214
tpearson@brandontci.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW for the December 2007 AITP Meeting

This year your board is planning a very special December AITP meeting. We are going to Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre for dinner and a play. The play is "The Game Show Show" which will be in the backstage theater of the facility. Dinner is served buffet style with waiters available to get your drinks.

The play is described as a hilarious evening where audience members join 'celebrities' to play all-time favorite game shows with a holiday theme. It should be a very festive evening with an opportunity to win some 'fabulous prizes'.

What makes this evening even more special is the prices.
AITP members and spouse/significant other will pay \$20.00 each.
AITP guests will pay \$40.00 each.

The normal pricing at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre is \$45.00 per person, so this is a bargain any way you look at it. The prices include the cost of the meal, play, and taxes. A small gratuity is also included, but you may want to leave your waiter or waitress a little extra gratuity if they have done a really good job. Soft drinks, tea, and coffee are included in the price, but alcoholic beverages are not. You may order them from your waiter/waitress.

You need to make your plans soon. We do have limited seating, and we must have PAID reservations no later than November 8, 2007. Mail your check made payable to AITP to:

AITP
P.O. Box 22038
Nashville, TN 37202

If you prefer, you can give it to Beverly Gibson at one of our meetings.

Please make your plans now, and get those checks in as soon as possible. We do expect this event to sell out. See you there!

The DATAVAULT

a division of

RICHARDS & RICHARDS

OFFICE RECORDS MANAGEMENT

242-9600

**OFF-SITE DATAVAULT STORAGE
CLIMATE-CONTROLLED PROTECTION
BLANK TAPE CARTRIDGE SALES**

Discount prices for AITP Members:

Maxell DLT4 40/80 GIG Blank Tape Cartridges \$37.00
Maxell LTO1 100/200 GIG Blank Tape Cartridges \$37.00
Maxell LTO2 200/400 GIG Blank Tape Cartridges \$47.00
Maxell Super DLT 110/320 GIG Blank Tape Cartridges \$49.00

Thanks to our advertisers:

Portable Cooling & Heating Systems

Richards & Richards

Saunders Systems

Promote your Company's Products or Services

The Printout (this Newsletter)

Half Page	(5" x 8")	\$300 for 12 issues
Quarter Page	(4" x 5")	\$150 for 12 issues
Business Card	(2" x 4")	\$ 50 for 12 issues

Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

AITP
P.O. Box 22038
Nashville, TN 37202
Address Correction Requested

The Printout

November 2007



TRAINING FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

IN HOUSE AND CUSTOMIZED COURSES
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES
INCLUDING PART TIME AND WEEKENDS

- * **SYSTEMS ANALYSIS**
- * **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
- * **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**
INTERVIEWING, SPEAKING, WRITING
- * **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEWS**



ALL COURSES CONDUCTED BY IT PROFESSIONALS
REAL WORLD TRAINING
LEARN TECHNIQUES THAT ARE CRITICAL TO YOUR SUCCESS

SAUNDERS SYSTEMS

Visit www.SaundersSystems.com or call us at: **615-367-1717**