

The Nashville Chapter
of
The Association of Information
Technology Professionals

July 2009
Chapter Newsletter

Developing a Software Career

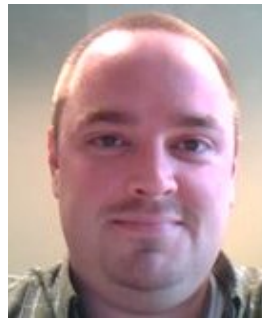
Our July program is on a subject that many of us are personally involved in: Developing a Software Career. Join us and compare how you are doing, or plan to do, with what another “expert” has done in the area of career development.

Our July speaker is Chris Gunderson who is a Senior Application-Architect/Consultant for Synergy Systems here in Nashville. Synergy Systems is an IT recruiting and contract firm focused on helping local companies succeed by locating and hiring the best technical personnel in a timely manner. Chris has been with Synergy Systems for one year, doing a diverse mix of architecture and design work for several clients. Chris has also founded Techometry, a faith-centered software development and consulting start-up company, based on Christian principles.

Chris will outline the various roles an IT professional may play, how the roles interplay, and how to progress in these roles. This will give the audience an opportunity to ask questions such as how to move from one role to another, how to progress in a role, and how to know when it is time to move on.

Chris will also discuss why he has started his own software company, and the problems of a start-up, especially in the software area.

Prior to Synergy Systems, Chris was employed as a Team Lead with Outdoor Central. He also spent three years as a Senior Consultant for Decision Source, Inc. and three years with the University of Tennessee Office of Information Technology.



Chris holds a BBA degree in Computer Information Systems from MTSU and also an MS degree from MTSU in Information Systems.

Chris and his family live in the Bellevue area of Nashville where he enjoys playing with his two daughters. Chris says he is absolutely unbeatable in tennis on the Nintendo Wii. Chris is also a Deacon at the Grassland Heights Baptist Church in Franklin, TN.

This should be an interesting discussion about developing a software career.

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Internet Information —	Web Sites
Chapter:	http://www.aitpnashville.org
Headquarters:	http://www.aitp.org
Region 7:	http://members.tripod.com/aitpregion7

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

July Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt
2613 West End Ave.
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

No slow down with summer time here! AITP continues to deliver excellent programs that are both timely and relevant. To make it even better, the caliber and quality of chapter meetings often generate interest and entertainment. Case in point - Larry Blankenship from Digital Dog did an outstanding job walking us through a brief history of web page design. We looked at the changes that have happened since business and individuals have had homepages along with the growth of E-Commerce. We had an entertaining and insightful trip through the developments of Webpage Design and looked at what clients are using and are interested in.

One of the internet technology elements that is increasing in value and demand is the availability of video integrated into web pages. Youtube and Hulu have leveled the playing field for making videos universally available. Your website could see major improvements in traffic and relevance with the creative and appropriate use of videos.

A major trend in web design is the focus around the user experience and from their perspective. The corporate mission statement is not what often drives users to a site. It is also not the programmers perspective or angle. It is fundamentally what the user experiences by getting to the site, navigating the site, finding what they are looking for and not getting lost in the process.

PHP versus Dot Net, Cold Fusion -The discussion was lively, the information relevant and once again AITP Nashville had an excellent program. If you have not made a reservation to a monthly meeting lately, you need to put it on your calendar. Check out the upcoming schedule online, along with this newsletter and other resources at www.aitpnashville.org .

I hope that your summer continues to be eventful and enjoyable...

Tom Clark

President, AITP Nashville Chapter

www.aitpnashville.org

AITP New Member Profile

Joe Blank



Our New Member Profile this month is on Joseph Blank who is a Site Engineer for Nortel. Joe has been with Nortel for 21 years. He has responsibility for the LAN, WAN, and WLAN topologies/support for the offices with 200 people and less in the United States. Joe looks after 40 plus sites. These sites are inter-connected using various WAN Solutions such as MPLS (single and bonded T1's), DS3, Frame-Relay, Cable Modem and DSL. Joe's responsibilities also include level 2 technical support for the operations team. He originally started at Nortel as a desktop support technician.

Nortel is one of the world's largest communications companies. They are headquartered in Toronto but have employees in 86 locations in the United States. Nortel has customers in over 150 countries and serves nine out of every ten Fortune 500 companies. Nortel was known as Northern Telecom in Nashville until 1999.

Nortel's Integrated Work Environment program enables individuals to work from any location supported by secure and seamless access to corporate systems. This has allowed Joe to work from his home during his career at Nortel. Joe utilizes a Comcast cable modem and has an AT&T DSL as a backup.

Prior to joining Nortel, Joe worked as the Service Manager for an IBM dealership in Nashville called Micro Mart. He also worked for NCR as a Field Engineer and Inacom Computer Center as the Service Manager. Joe attended Nashville State Community College.

Joe and his wife Glenda live in the Forest Hill area of Nashville and have four plus acres. This means that Joe has a BIG riding lawn mower plus an ATV to help with the yard work. Joe and Glenda are die-hard Tennessee Titans fans and season ticket holders. Joe hasn't missed a home game in nine years.

When you meet Joe at our next meeting, you can ask him about his hobbies of gardening, watching wildlife, fishing, and horse riding. You can also ask his opinion about the Titans quarterback situation.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2009

Date	Event	Location	Information
July 9	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select Vanderbilt	Developing a Software Career Chris Gunderson, Synergy Systems

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.

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AITP NEW MEMBER

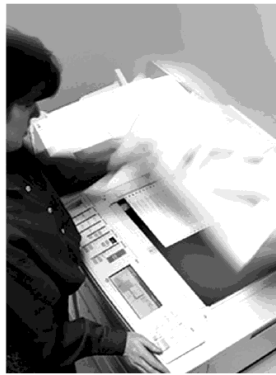
**Howard White
President
VCCH, Inc.
P.O. Box 95
Cedar Hill, TN 37032-0095
E-mail: hwhite@vcch.com**

Welcome to our new member!

We are honored



Marshall Messamore (I.) receives the Past President Award from Robert Wright for his service as chapter president for the year 2008. This award was presented at the March chapter meeting.



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You can find us in the Group Directory. If you have a question, please contact Walker Morrow at wmorrow@laserone.com

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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

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July 2009



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