



The Nashville Chapter
Of
The Association Of Information
Technology Professionals

AITP

The Printout

May 2006

Chapter Newsletter

BLOGGING FOR BUSINESS

Our May program is on the subject of blogging. Blogging was relatively unknown five years ago but is now recognized as a way to make your message available to many people for a low price.

Our speaker is Rex Hammock, President of Hammock Publishing, Inc. Rex will discuss blogging and other social media: Where we are and where we are heading. He will tell us what the reality and the mythology of blogging is all about - and the impact it is having on marketing, commerce, media, and business relationships. Rex will advise us on what to do, and what not to do, if you go blogging.



Rex Hammock

Rex describes himself as an "accidental expert" on the topic of blogging. His personal weblog, Rexblog

(www.rexblog.com), was started in 2000 and is recognized as one of the first-ever CEO-maintained weblogs. In late 2004, the alternative-weekly Nashville Scene named Rex, "Best Nashville Blogger," in its annual "Best of Nashville Awards." He writes and speaks at numerous conferences on the topic of blogging and was featured in Dan Gillmor's internationally best selling book on citizen's media, *We the Media*. According to the Washington Post, Rex is the first person to ever "blog a White House meeting with the President of the United States."

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Rex and his wife and two children, a daughter 18, and a son 15, live in the Belle Meade area where Rex enjoys Blue Grass music. He is a jogger and does gardening by the square foot method. Rex graduated from Samford University with a BA in Communications.

This should be a great insight into the world of blogging, especially for those given the task of establishing a weblog for their company.

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AITP Nashville Roster

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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 students, \$25.00 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.

May Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Select - Vanderbilt
2613 West End Ave.
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 327-4707

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is nothing better than knowing that May is finally here. At MTSU, the semester is winding down. I get to coach two different soccer teams with my kids and I am having a great time. All seems well, but then it happened. The worst thing imaginable occurred; my wireless network at home went down. Yes, to me the whole world did seem to stop. Nothing else mattered until I could get my network back up and running. So, with four kids sleeping and a wife begging me not to make any noise, I delved into the fun world of wireless networks determined to fix the problem before I went to bed. I was determined to finish before I was too tired to continue and then it hit 10:00PM, which is extremely late in the Apigian household and I decided it could wait until the next day. I guess I am not the determined techie that I thought I was.

Luckily, it was not that bad to fix, but isn't it amazing how dependent we are on technology. Could you go a week or even a day without checking email? How long could you go without googling a name or topic? Technology has definitely changed our lives and our presentation at the April did a fantastic job of making this point.

Our April speaker, Hector Hernandez from IBM, talked about innovation that matters for business and society. He stressed three themes; invention, insight, and innovation. His candid look at how technology has changed our lives and how anyone can be innovative was extremely entertaining and inspiring. I know I left the meeting ready to become a true innovator. Innovation is defined at the act of introducing something new.

Mr. Hernandez explained how innovation in today's IT world is a necessity by offering this insight:

- Why – Customers demand it
- How – Using capabilities that already exist
- What – What makes you special
- Who – What will you do with innovation
- When – The time is “Right Now”

At the meeting, we awarded Mohamed Ebrahim, a senior at Murray State, a \$500.00 scholarship for academic and professional achievements. He was very deserving of the award, and we look forward to awarding some more scholarships in the future. Special thanks go to Mike Eischen and Gerald Marquis, as well as our other members who were willing to be reviewers of the applicants.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. May's speaker is Rex Hammock and he will be talking about blogging for business. Blogging has become a quick phenomenon and I am sure you will want to hear about how it is changing how we communicate.

Sincerely,

Charles Apigian, PhD.
President, AITP Nashville Chapter
capigian@mtsu.edu
(615) 898-2375

IS YOUR PROJECT A POTENTIAL DISASTER ?

No board meeting was held this month. The project management tips below were provided courtesy of Paul Saunders of Saunders Systems.

IS YOUR PROJECT A POTENTIAL DISASTER ?

1. Are your users involved in the design, implementation, and testing of your project?
2. Does your project have the full support of your corporate management?
3. Does your project have clear objectives that deal with hard-core business issues?
4. Did you rigorously define your basic requirements before you began your project?
5. Is your staff trained, competent, and rewarded for good performance?
6. Does your project have small milestones that can be achieved and tracked?
7. Does your project have an experienced project manager?
8. Have you thoroughly planned the design, implementation, and roll-out?
9. Do you have full ownership of your project?
10. Is the project being designed and implemented by outside consultants?

Answer above questions yes or no. Tally points for each yes answer. Scoring: (1.) + 25, (2.) + 15, (3.) + 15, (4.) + 10, (5.) + 10, (6.) + 10, (7.) + 5, (8.) + 5, (9.) + 5, (10.) Subtract 25 points if answered yes.

Summary of total points:

80-100: Congratulations! You've got a project that has a good chance of success.

60-75: Your project has a possibility of success, but there is trouble ahead. You might want to revisit some of your assumptions about planning and staffing, and create a get-well plan.

30-55: The average IT project. You're going to be late and over budget, and the system probably won't work as advertised.

Below 30: Get your resume ready. You've got a full-fledged disaster on your hands. Your best bet is to cancel the project yourself and work with your top management on damage control. It's not pleasant, but nobody said the job was easy.

If the above test results were not good, we suggest you review our Project Management & Control course. It may be too late for your current project but training may help on the next project.

For more information about Project Management or other programs available through Saunders Systems, contact Paul Saunders at 615-367-1717 or visit www.SaundersSystems.com

AITP

The Association of Information
Technology Professionals

Monthly Meeting of the Nashville Chapter

Date: Thursday May 11, 2006
Place: Holiday Inn Select -Vanderbilt

Cost: Members = \$25.00
Guests = \$30.00
Students = \$20.00

Meeting Schedule

5:00 -6:00 Social/Networking
6:00 - 6:45 Dinner
6:45 Business Meeting/Speaker

Early Registration Discount = \$5.00

Contact Mary Simpson for reservations at
615-367-8083 or msimpson@genesco.com

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Calendar of Upcoming Events 2006

Date	Event	Location	Information
May 11	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Select - Vanderbilt	Blogging for Business, Rex Hammock Hammock Publishing

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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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Abernathy, Clifford
Instructor
High Tech Institute
700 Patricia Dr. B-4
Nashville, TN 37217-1330
E-mail: newfocusstudio@yahoo.com

WELCOME TO AITP!

Please send any changes to:

Joan Julius, Membership Director
Joan.Julius@cgi.com
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AITP Student Scholarship

Congratulations to Mohamed Ebrahim who has been awarded an AITP Student Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. Mohammed was awarded the scholarship at our April meeting. The criteria for the AITP scholarship include academic achievement, the applicants demonstrated interest in information systems, recommendations by mentor, faculty or direct work supervisors, and an essay turned in with the scholarship application.

The Nashville Chapter of AITP plans to continue to accept applications for the AITP Student Scholarship award. If interested, please contact Dr. Charles Apigian for more information and an application.

Dr. Charles Apigian
Middle Tennessee State University
(615) 898-2375
capigian@mtsu.edu

Join Now and Save!

Guests, have you been waiting for the right time to join? It has arrived! Now through the end of May you will receive a \$25 discount from the regular annual dues rate of \$135. Plus, the one-time processing fee of \$15 has been eliminated, so all new members will be charged a flat rate of \$110 for a year long membership. Don't wait and let this great discount disappear June 1st. Start now to enjoy all the membership advantages and savings at the monthly educational meetings and with our affiliates' discounts for IT courses, conferences, hardware, software, printing services, insurance and more.

To see the details of these discounts, go to the AITP web portal at <http://www.aitp.org> Click on 'Affiliates' and then 'Vendors'. While you are there, it is quick and easy to join on-line .

New and Renewing Membership Packets

Did you receive your membership packet when you joined or renewed? If not, please send an email to Ashley Wood at aitp_hq@aitp.org and she will send it out to you within 24 hours. Headquarters received word from several chapter leaders that there are members who have yet to receive their membership packet.

Please contact me or any board member for any questions or suggestions.

Joan Julius, Membership Director Joan.Julius@cqi.com
CGI Information Systems & Management Consulting, Inc.

AITP New Member Spotlight

AITP New Member Spotlight - Clifford Abernathy

This month's new member spotlight features Clifford Abernathy. Clifford is an instructor at High Tech Institute, and is also self employed with a Photography/Graphics Design business.

Clifford's business provides a variety of products and services including photography, graphics, video and audio. In operation since 1995, Clifford's business currently employs 5 people. He has had some of his work published in local papers and has also won awards for some of his work.

Clifford has taken classes at TSU, Volunteer State Community College, UT Nashville, Nashville Tech and High Tech Institute. His has studied in a variety of areas including Emergency Medicine, Art, Photography, IT, Graphics and Design, and Animation. Clifford became involved in AITP through one of the AITP Student Chapters.

In his spare time Clifford likes to stay active. His hobbies and interests include painting, travel and spending time with his family.

Welcome to AITP Clifford Abernathy.

Each month we would like to feature a new or recent member in our 'New Member Spotlight' feature. This gives current AITP members a chance to get to know our new members. If you are a new or recent member and would like to contribute to the AITP Newsletter, please contact me for a New Member Profile.

Mike Eischen, AITP Newsletter Director
(615) 367-7068
meischen@genesco.com

Murphy's Laws of Computing

1. When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
2. When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.
3. The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you'd least expect to find it.
4. When the going gets tough, upgrade.
5. For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
6. To err is human...to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human, it's downright natural.
7. He who laughs last probably has a backup.
8. The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
9. A complex system that doesn't work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.
10. A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want it to do.

Source: www.lastjoke.com



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May 2006

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Address Correction Requested



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