

Minutes of the NJCC Meeting, September 12, 2007

The meeting was held at the North Branch Reformed Church with 38 attendees.

The Random Access portion of the meeting was opened at about 6:45 PM. There was lengthy discussion of the problems a member was having transferring digital images from his camera to his PC, identifying, and sorting topically the JPEG files. Picassa, from Google, was recommended by several members for sorting and storing images.

A question was raised about the use of PowerPoint and some suggestions were made.

President Fred Sabin told about a program that inspects one's software and tells if the program is the latest version and if upgrades are available. This is a free utility program from <http://secunia.com>. It is not a virus checker. On that website there is offered Secunia Beta, for downloading, that checks 4,700 PC applications.

WindowSecrets (<http://www.windowssecrets.com>) gives helpful articles in a free newsletter for PC users.

Fred made two announcements, one was that our church hosts advised that they would like us not to use styrofoam hot cups for environmental reasons. The second announcement was that there will be a computer show in NYC, Interop, at the Javitts Center. The exhibits are free, but the workshops must be paid for. There was little interest among the members.

Doris Smith, the Memorial Awards Chairperson, received a gracious note from Michael R. Stigliano of Annandale, NJ, the student at Bloomsburg University who got the NJCC Memorial Scholarship Award. It was noted that the student doesn't receive the check for \$500 directly from the NJCC, but the Bloomsburg University Foundation credits the check directly to his account.

At 8 PM Doris introduced the speaker of the evening, Jeff Jarvis assisted by his son, Jake. (Jeff's impressive credentials were listed in the meeting announcement). As a journalist who uses BLOGS extensively he told of many of his experiences in writing and linking with others through his site, BuzzMachine. He said that there are some 70 million BLOGS worldwide and the number grows daily. He likens BLOGging to conversations online with participants all over the world. No longer a teen-age novelty, the system has grown to include politicians, CEOs, and Media giants who exchange and discuss trends and opinions from the public.

He detailed his contact with Dell, his writing of "Dell Hell", describing his troubles with a Dell laptop he'd purchased and with which he had innumerable problems. With his links from "Dell Hell" he learned of many more people who had difficulties with Dell equipment and service. Ultimately, Dell became aware of the extent of the public dissatisfaction and now has its own BLOG to try to help reduce the number of lost sales. (Jeff finally got a refund for his faulty laptop and bought one from Apple instead).

The two Jarvises demonstrated how easy it is to set up your own BLOG with one of several hosts, such as WordPress. In just a few minutes, Jake had set up a host page and could publish anything he wanted to the internet, to the world. The most valuable feature of the BLOG is the Link, the means of interacting with others. "Technocrati" is a program which records and totals all active links on all BLOGS. The BLOGS with the most "hits" are the most popular and important.

For the October Membership Meeting Fred will give a presentation on the USB Smart Drive. In November, Tom Kirk, from Creative Labs will visit. December will be the annual Holiday Party and auctions.

Fred belatedly greeted the visitors of the evening and invited them back again. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Len Kopf
Recording Secretary