



DECconnection

A professional association representing organization of former Digital Equipment Corporation employees

Happy New Year!

A happy and healthy 2017 from your DEC Connection Board. Thank you for your support; and please keep sending us your activity updates and industry news of interest to all. We need to hear from you!



EVENT "HOLD THE DATES":

* Phoenix AZ Semi-Annual lunch for Spring will be April 1, 2017 at Santisi Brothers.

Contact: Galen Davis, galendavis@aol.com

* 15th Annual Digital Reunion planning for the Colorado Springs group (CXO) has begun and the contract is signed. This year's reunion will be held THURSDAY April 27, 2017 at the Academy Hotel. Please note change from years past on Fridays.

Contact: Lorrie Marzulla, lmarzulla@comcast.net

JOB OPPORTUNITY: DEC Connection Member Robert Ruiz has a req for a QA-Engineer with experience in DEC, PDP, VAX and Alpha experience. [Here is a link with job details](#); contact is Jason Singer, Exec Recruiter, Experis, 678-777-8626, jason.singer@experis.com

WANT SOME DEC GEAR? Dana Stephens has been collecting equipment for learning purposes for years. He is now moving and must find homes for equipment, source operating systems (some even on 3 1/4 disks), documentation, books etc. If you pay the packaging and shipping costs, they are yours. I live between Denver and Colorado Springs. Equipment includes: Delni-AA LAT Terminal Server, Celebris XL590, VT 420 terminal, DEC Server 9090L, 3 VRC 16 terminals, DEC 2000 AXP, Celebris GL 5120, Storage Expansion Alpha ST 400, 2 VT 320s, DEC 3000 400, VAX Station 3100 and more. Contact: Dana Stephens dscomputin@aol.com

Digital and the Industry



Yet another take on our Russian thread, from Bob Nusbaum (bob_nusbaum@comcast.net):

In 1996 I traveled to Warsaw, Poland to address a meeting of the Polish chapter of DECUS, which by then encompassed users of both legitimately purchased and smuggled / knock-off DEC computers. After my talk, I chatted with one enthusiastic customer who told me that he had "thousands of WAX systems". Figuring that the "W" I heard in "WAX" was just an artifact of differing phonetics in Polish vs. English, I asked "Do you mean VAX?". "No", he replied. "I mean WAX - W-A-X. That is the name of the VAX clones that were used everywhere in Russia, Poland, and the other countries where DEC was not allowed to sell during the Cold War! They run VMS perfectly right out of the box."

P.S. - A shout-out to Jack Mileski, my first boss at DEC (and now DEC Connection VP), who hired me fresh out of business school to product manage and bring to market an ease-of-use software package for the ill-fated PDT-11 desktop line. The PDTs didn't survive DEC politics, but the Forms Management System (FMS) that we built for them did quite well!

Dave Price recently found a vintage computer site and provided us with some interesting links to DEC computers, magazines, and brochures:

[Computers](#) Hm... anyone remember something called a HiNote VP or a Venturis?

[Brochures](#) same page, click on product and scroll down

[Digital Technical Journals, 1986-1988](#)

Keep 'em coming, Dave! dave@tekbasics.com

DEC Connection Member News

Welcome to our new and renewing members during December:

Fred Balfour (NY), Mary Cole (MA), Fred Darrow (ME), Alan Earls (MA), Marce Enright (MA), Stephen Jablonsky (MA), Aline Migrants (MA), Lori Noonan (NC), Robert Ruiz (FL), Alice Stapelfeld (MA), Karen Umbrello (MA) and Nettie Watson (MA).



It's a new year and time to RENEW your membership if you're due - members check the Member Service Center (instructions below). Other readers, if you are enjoying our e-newsletters please consider joining and sending in a brief update on your activities for our newsletter. Here is how to join or renew:

Membership Renewal Procedure

- Click link to see if your membership is current in our [Member Service Center](#) and pay online with a credit card. If you have paid dues since 2010 you will be there - use the email address we have on file - no leading or trailing spaces - email ava@deconnection.org for help.
- You can also join us (or renew) at [Join the DEC Connection online!](#)
- You can also send a personal check made out to The DEC Connection, c/o Bob Moore, 28 Fernglade Rd., Burlington MA 01803. \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years.
- If you prefer to use your PayPal account directly (not via our website), use our payment address: registrations@deconnection.org - do NOT use any Board member's personal email address.

DEC Connection Member NewsBytes

Please send your update to: ava@deconnection.org [See our NewsByte archive page.](#)

■ **Karen Umbrello** writes that she worked at Digital for 20 years and then became part of the Compaq Corp team before our organization was eventually acquired by Intel Corporation in 2001. Still working at Intel (at the former Digital Facility) in Hudson, MA. Live in Westminister, MA and stay connected to many former DECies. Enjoyed the tour of the Mill in October 2016!! Thanks for the opportunity to become a member! kumbrello@comcast.net

■ We are reprinting this important note from **Jerry Bernath** (bernathbibi@gmail.com) who shared this TIMELY advice for DEC SERP and retirees who have been moved to a more expensive Medicare supplement plan by HP - Jerry noticed some fine print explaining how to use the AON Retiree Health Exchange with a benefit of \$1080 to select an alternative supplement to the one HP moved him to. Check this out: you'd have til December 7 to implement a plan beginning Jan. 1, 2017 but if you don't finish you can still start Feb. 1. Thanks also to Nancy Kilty for providing 6 pages of this document now on our [website at this link with further instructions](#). And explaining that if you left the HP plan, unlike previously, you have an option to try this plan but can return to HP options next time. You can also go directly to AON Retiree Health Exchange for HP, 1-800-975-0355, or <http://retiree.aon.com/hewlettpackard>

Sad News Department

Sadly, we have some deaths of former Digital employees to report:

- Deborah Swan, 61, Spring Hill FL, 17 Dec 2016
- Roland A. J. Belanger, Jr., 72, Hudson MA, 5 Dec 2016
- Ronald Glover, Esq., 64, Framingham MA, 16 June 2016
- Art Granfors, 88, Fryeburg ME, 29 July 2016

Details are on our [Memorial Page](#).

Website Features and Updates

- [Where to Donate your Digital Equipment gear](#)

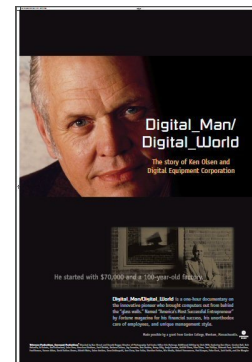
- The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, **Digital_Man/Digital_World**, is available online (\$25+s/h) from the PBS store:

[http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?](http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=13315614)

[productId=13315614](http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=13315614)

It's a wonderful hour-long nostalgia trip. Enjoy!

For those who prefer to watch the free version on their computers, the URL is: [Link to Ken Olsen/Digital Video](#)



■ **Use your MEMBER SERVICE CENTER!** Use the gold Member Login button if you have paid dues since 2010. There are queries to find members in your area, and forms to submit to update your profile, send your news, DEC stories, and business listings for our public online yellow pages. You can check your dues status and renew your membership online. You can email a small photo for your profile, access or request membership in our LinkedIn Group, and send info for articles such as Featured Entrepreneur.

■ **[DEC Stories]** submitted by our members and readers - We are still collecting your unusual, humorous or just favorite DEC stories. Email them to webmaster@deconnection.org. [Click on this link](#).

■ **Featured Member Entrepreneur** - Email ava@deconnection.org with details - 2-3 paragraphs about your business and your photo.

■ If you are a member you are entitled to join our [Linked In DECconnection Group]. Request from LinkedIn to be added or email ava@deconnection.org.

Hewlett-Packard Alumni Association info (membership not required) Thanks to Curt Gowan for sharing all of this valuable advice.

* US - Medicare webinar presentations and Q-and-A: Medicare is much more complex than one would think... and there can be some expensive surprises. Both speakers are very experienced, succinct, and practical.

<http://www.hpalumni.org/medicare>

- Part 1 -- Medicare Explained -- with Heads Up Warnings, by non-profit health insurance counselor Connie Corrales. - Part 2 -- Medicare for HP Retirees, by Aon Retiree Health Exchange analyst David Rew. - Part 3 -- Q and A.

* HP stock and options issues: <http://www.hpalumni.org/stock>

* Leaving HP? Use the HP Alumni Association's "ASAP Checklist" immediately. It has advice on the many things you have to do before you lose access to HP's internal systems. [Go to http://www.hpalumni.org/asap](http://www.hpalumni.org/asap)

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