



# DECconnection

A professional association for networking organization for former Digital Equipment Corporation employees

## July-August 2024 News-at-a-Glance

### Events

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50 DEC Connection members, family and friends had a fun time at this year's game. Click [this link](#) to see the recap and photos (thanks to Rod Sutherland, Tom Austin and Ed Mierzwa for their photos).

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### DEC Connection Zoom: Listen to past recordings on the [Zoom page](#).

At right, photo from Sandy MacKenzie and the U.K. DEXODUS group showing progress on their 60th anniversary museum display called the Digital Reading Revolution.



We're working on a new Tech Talk! Speakers worldwide are welcome! To volunteer to deliver a DEC Tech Talk or Corporate Talk, please email [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org) with your name and a bit about your Digital background and what you'd like to present. We will get back to you.

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### Digital & The Industry

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Gordon Bell's family is having a Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 24 at 1 pm PDT/4 pm EDT at the Computer Museum in Mountain View CA.

[This is the link to the live stream](#) - all are invited to view this celebration of Gordon's contributions.

computerhistory.org was one of Gordon's passions; if you are considering a memorial gift that would be a great place to make a donation in his memory.

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## Fun and Games

### LUNAR LANDER:

The following articles may be of interest to some old DEC folks. I remember playing this game (Lunar Lander) when I first started DEC in 1973.

It was fun and challenging. I remember when you landed on the moon, an astronaut came out, walked to McDonald's, and ordered two burgers.

I remember playing it on either a GT40 or VT05.

The first article is an overview; the second brings back more memories

1. [From Arstechnica](#)
2. [From Technologizer](#)

Sent in by Dave Smolinski, DEC (1973-2004); now retired in Tampa FL  
[davesmoli@gmail.com](mailto:davesmoli@gmail.com)

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### SpaceWar is back! Rebuilding the world's first gaming computer

A large team of tech nostalgia enthusiasts have made a PiDP-10, a replica of the PDP-10 mainframe computer first launched by the Digital Equipment Corporation in 1966

Folks: DEC, PDP-10s, and Bob Supnik are all mentioned in a June article from *The Guardian* newspaper

[Click here for link to article.](#)

Sent in by Atlant Schmidt, Nashua, NH, USA, +1 603-320-0672. A Deccie from 1976 to 2000. [atlant@mac.com](mailto:atlant@mac.com)

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## **DEC Connection Member News**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR "OFFICIAL" DIGITAL RETIREES**

Thanks to DEC Connection president Nancy Kilty for this important update:

Effective April 1, 2022, Empower\* acquired Prudential's retirement business.

The Customer service number is: 1 (855) 756-4738

If you have begun to taking income from your Digital pension, the company now managing your account for distribution is Empower which bought Prudential's retirement business. However, although Empower manages your account, the actual distribution is still being handled by Prudential's Tax service.

If you need to change the bank account number for your distribution, you should call 1-800-392-4643 at Prudential Tax Service, LLC, 30 Scranton Office Park, Scranton, PA 18507-1796. Phone #: 1-800-392-4643

#### **\*Background:**

Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America is a retirement plan recordkeeping financial holding company based in Greenwood Village, Colorado, United States. It is the second-largest retirement plan provider in the United States.

The Empower brand represents products and services for both Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America formally known as Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company and Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York, formally known as Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York.

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## **Membership Updates**

Welcome to our new and renewing members during June and July:

Maureen Cicione Burness (CO), Cathy Cambal-Hayward (NH), Mike Carlton (LA), Edward Deary (MA), Bruce Dillingham (TN), James DiMauro (MA), Pete Durant (FL), Al Goldsworthy (MA), Ted Grenham (MA), Ken Haduch (MA), Diana Harotian (MA), Jim Higgins (MA), Anne Hunter (MA), Frank Ignachuck (MA), Annalisa Lafferty (MA), Jack Moore (MA), Norma Oakes (NH), Sue Rameaka (MA), Jack Richardson (MA), Gloria Roe (MA), John Rosala (MA), Kay Smith (ID), Phil Viscomi (NC), and Charlie Watson (RI).



Please 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](mailto:ava@deconnection.org) for help.

\* You can also join us (or renew) at [Join the DEC Connection online!](#)

\* You can send personal checks made out to DEC Connection to Nancy Kilty, 33 Forest St. Unit 416, Lexington MA 02421.

\* If you prefer to use your PayPal account directly (not via our website), use our payment address: [registrations@deconnection.org](mailto:registrations@deconnection.org) - do NOT use any Board member's personal email address.

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## **DEC Connection Member NewsBytes**

- New member **Kay Smith** writes: I was a DEC employee from 1982 to 2005. I supported VMS as a system manager, then provided internal support for Microsoft Windows until 2005, when I took early retirement. The last five years of my employment, I did both hardware and software support and managed my own SAN in Engineering. All my history is with DEC, Compaq, and HP in Colo Spgs. Moved to Idaho in 2021.
  - Member **Roland Hughes**, President of Logikal Solutions, has published another book in the "Minimum You Need to Know" technical series. This is an Emacs book covering EDT emulation from obtaining and installing Emacs to configuring EDT mode on both Windows and Linux.  
roland@logikalsolutions.com, (630)-205-1593.
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### **Sad News Department**

Our sincere condolences to friends and family of:

- \* C. Gordon Bell, 89, Coronado CA, 17 May 2024
- \* Jim Porter, Colorado Springs CO, 14 May 2024
- \* Chet Jacobs, 81, Stow MA, 7 May 2024
- \* Ron Eisenhower, 91, West Palm Beach FL, 1 February 2024
- \* Dorothy Alta Hoyt Pitman Smart, 94, 11 November 2023
- \* Dick Clayton, 84, Eastham MA, 22 September 2023
- \* Lee Mulcrone, 67, Park Ridge IL, 29 July 2023
- \* Nettie Watson, 90, Ayer MA, July 24, 2022
- \* David L. Smith, 72, Colorado Springs CO, August 18, 2021

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

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### **Website Features and Updates**

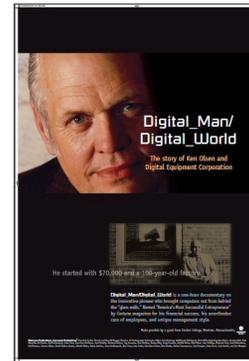
- Our **WEBSITE** uses a convenient drop-down menu. Send your suggestions to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org), and any content to [ava@deconnection.org](mailto:ava@deconnection.org).
- Use your **MEMBER SERVICE CENTER!** Use the Member Login menu under About Us if you have paid dues since 2010. There are queries to find members in your area, and forms to submit to update your profile, send your news, DEC stories, etc. You can check your dues status and renew your membership online. You can email a small photo for your profile, and contribute articles to Our DEC Stories, Member Publicity, or Members In Print.

- The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, **Digital\_Man/Digital\_World**, is available online at

[Digital Man/Digital World](#)

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

- Another URL to watch same documentary on your computer is: <http://video.wfyi.org/video/2282149336/>



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## HELP WITH RETIREE BENEFITS

- If you need info about your **Digital defined benefit plan/retirement**, start by calling the HP Retirement Services Center at Fidelity: 1- 800-457-4015.
- You can contact Empower (company that acquired Prudential's pension business) Customer Service at 1 (855) 756-4738 if your pension has been transferred there.
- For **Stock plan** info, try Morgan Stanley: 1-210-677-3652 or [this website](#)
- [Go to the HPAA website DEC page!](#) Don't miss all this useful information.

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