



DECconnection

A professional association reuniting organization for former Digital Equipment Corporation employees

November-December 2022

Events



The Pittsburgh (PTO) Reunion on October 1st was a tremendous success!

71 ex-DECcies enjoyed a fantastic luncheon and afternoon, reminiscing with former DECcie friends and co-workers. Congrats to Mary Cozma for organizing and doing such a fantastic job. Love the cake (and the 2 Digital sweaters)!



The Colorado Springs (CXO) group also held their final reunion on October 21; it was a huge success with 185 attendees. Everyone seemed to come out in full force either because it was the last or because of the remaining Digital memorabilia give away. We still had a handful of first-time attendees, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Lorrie Marzulla, Maureen Burgess, and Rob Stubblefield deserve a big hand for their tireless energy in organizing 18 of these annual events!

In addition, Lorrie shipped some memorabilia to us, including some banners and a framed photo of Ken Olsen with the original Board of Directors. Our member Jack MacKeen, who is active in Maynard Town government, was successful in donating these to the Maynard Historical Society. We try to place Digital items where our legacy will be appreciated and will live long after us.



We are also delighted to learn from Zul Abbany (at left) that there is an active Digital reunion group of about 30 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. It is run by Dave Boone, who can be reached at deboone@telus.net. Dave's recap of their recent get-together: "What a great day! We had a record turnout with lots of new old timers and some old girls as well as old boys. We took over the bar at the Capri because our group was so large. We had such a great time that someone from another table came over on his way out to ask who we were that we were having so much fun. He seemed disappointed that he wasn't eligible to join the group. I hope to see lots at our future gatherings, as well."

Digital Tech Talks via Zoom - LAST CALL for AVRAM MILLER on Tue, Dec. 6



We're delighted that our upcoming Tech Talk will be presented by Avram Miller on Tuesday, December 6, at 11 AM Eastern Standard Time/8 AM Pacific/6 PM Israel.

Avram, at left as you may remember him, was the Program Manager for Digital's Professional Series of PCs in the early 1980s. He worked directly with Ken, Gordon, and other industry icons to accomplish this challenge. He recently published a book on his career in technology and is making the section featuring Digital available to us ahead of his presentation. [Click on this link to download](#). (You can read more about his career and the book on his blog, <https://www.twothirdsdone.com>, and his website <http://www.avrammiller.com>.)

Avram refers us to a 36-min. video posted on You Tube by the Computer History Museum called *DEC: Personal Challenge, 25th Anniversary Video*, [which can be found at this link](#). This corporate documentary produced by Digital Equipment Corporation chronicles DEC's two-year odyssey to bring three personal computers, the Professional 325 (PRO-325), the Professional 350 (PRO-350), and the Rainbow 100 to market a year after IBM launched their personal computer. The narrative follows the challenges of the CT Program Group - Avram Miller (project manager), Michael Weinstein (merchandising), Ron Ham (software), Art Williams (hardware), and Vah Erdekian (manufacturing), as they race to develop a personal computer to show at the June 1982 National Computer Conference in Houston.

We're providing these resources ahead of his presentation as food for thought to encourage a lively discussion afterwards. The advent of the PC has been blamed for Digital's demise and there are few people who understand the myriad of issues involved better than Avram. Please do some prep and be ready to challenge Avram with your own observations and questions... we'll have a terrific and fun session!

To sign up for Avram's Tech Talk, email info@deconnection.org. Provide your name, and email address for the Zoom invite.

DEC Connection Member News

Welcome to our new and renewing members during August and September: Jackie Awerman (FL), Luiz Camargo (PR), Jack Conaway (NH), Joe Dempster (FL), Richard Fiorentino (MA), Bernie Hall (PA), Bob Johnson (MA), Jim Kelley (NH), Richie Lary (CO), Patrick Lepkowski (WI), Larry Mello (SC), Leo Quinn (WI), Dennis Reardon (AZ), Gene Skayne (MA), Joe Supple (MA), and Helen Von Gunden (CO).



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 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 - do NOT use any Board member's personal email address.

DEC Connection Member NewsBytes

▪ **Tom Coleman** writes that he is retired and living in a gated golf community in Englewood FL. He joined Digital in 1974 as announcement manager for the PDP-11/70, reporting to Dick Clayton. Then he took a series of sales positions internationally. Tom's favorite assignment: I was regional sales manager for DEC's Far East Region in 1983-87, based in Hong Kong. Our management team



leased a 45-foot Chinese junk as a personal investment and named it DECADENCE. Hong Kong has many offshore islands with excellent beaches and great seafood restaurants. We were growing revenues 30 to 40% a year and the business pace was frenetic. Our management team and our families enjoyed our nautical outings almost every weekend. By far the best work environment ever and a memorable 4 years. tom930c@gmail.com

▪ **Lawrence Mello** writes: Spending my retirement in the South Carolina sunshine surrounded by golf courses. Miss many of my old Ed Services friends. lcmello1@att.net

▪ **Pete Durant** sent us a story of his hiring: In 1967 I'd been managing a memory test group at Honeywell when some DEC people I knew recommended I interview there. I set it up and set off to the Mill at Maynard to interview. I had a nice, but short, chat with the manager of the new PDP-11 development group, and then he said, "They tell me you're a good memory guy, so why don't you spend this time to pick out all the test equipment you will need for the work, and when do you think you could start"? Does the style sound familiar? Only at DEC! I spent 23 satisfying years there, until the special early retirement program in 1999, which my wife and I both took after we both worked the last 5 years in England." pvdurant@gmail.com

▪ **Bill Harris** writes: I joined DEC in 1980 as Canadian MIS Operations Manager, in 1982 moved to SWS Manager of the Canadian Customer Support Centre. When Canadian HQ moved from Kanata to Toronto built and managed the Application Centre for Technology. Moved to Marketing as Canadian Small System Market Manager then Client Server and Strategic Technology Marketing Mgr. Eventually moved to the PCBU, ran the Canadian NT Wizards program. When Compaq acquired became Commercial PC Group Manager then Storage Product Manager. Great times all! Still have lunch every other Friday with other ex-DECies, still going strong for 25+ years! Wrh@cdnharris.com

Sad News Department

Sadly, we were informed of these deaths of former Digital employees since last newsletter. Our condolences go out to friends and families of:

Denny (Denzil J.) Doyle, 90, Ottawa ON Canada, 26 October 2022

Kanailal Raha, Kolkata, India, 26 October 2022

Bill Burns, 79, Wilmington MA, 19 September 2022

Ted Sares, 85, North Conway NH, 30 August 2022

Rene Martinez, 68, Miami Beach FL, 19 July 2022

Carmine W. Tata, 77, Leominster MA, 15 May 2022

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

Website Features and Updates

- **Topics of Interest** tab: We've added a button on the left-hand menu that takes you to articles that have appeared in past newsletters. Here are some sample topics: Tech Talks; Digital Videos; Medicare Seminar & Research - 6/20; AON Exchange Feedback from retirees - 10/18; Harvard Business School's Baker Library (Ken Olsen Collection); and, David Mark's series of 11 articles on Digital - 11/19-3/20

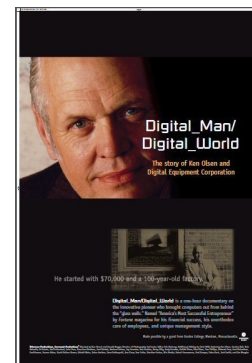
- [Where to Donate your Digital Equipment gear](#)

- The PBS video of the documentary about Ken and the history of DEC, **Digital_Man/Digital_World**, is available online 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/>



- [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, 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 info@deconnection.org. [Click on this link](#).
 - 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 the Prudential Pension Dept. at 1-877-778-2100 if your pension has been transferred there.
 - For **Stock plan** info, try Morgan Stanley: 1-210-677-3652 or [this website](#)
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